Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt attends coordination meeting on Myanmar Maritime University and Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University.

YANGON, 16 July — The coordination meeting on Myanmar Maritime University and Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University took place at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha here at 4 pm today, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt. Also present on the occasion were Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, the ministers, the Chief of Staff (Naval), the deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, rectors and professors of the universities and officials.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said that the government has been making strenuous endeavours for enabling the nation to keep abreast with the development of the world’s nations. With a view to producing highly-qualified persons in maritime and engineering sector, the universities were established the previous year, he added.

Daw Suu Kyi, the NLD Party and Our Ray of Hope —9

We left for Myitkyina before 6 am, the next day. When we arrived at Nan Kwe Bridge at the entrance to Myitkyina at about 8 o’clock in the morning, a spectacle of a group of local people who had gathered to protest and denounce our party gave me a shock. A look at the strength of the people lining the curbside deterred members of our convoy from confronting the demonstrators as we did earlier on the trip. So we were subdued as we entered the town.

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

The ceremony started with the three-time recitation of Namo Tassa.

The Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt and the congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa.

Next, member Sayadaws of the Sangha recited the metta sutra.

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt offered 1,200 dozens of exercise books and 400 dozens of pencils for trainee monks, novices and nuns to the Sayadaw and Dhammacariya course instructor Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Sukatabhivamsa, who later delivered a sermon.

After the sermon, Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt and the congregation shared the merits gained from the good deeds.

A total of 900 monks, 150 novices, and 150 nuns are attending the three-month Dhammacariya Course. — MNA

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt presents exercise books and stationery for student members of the Sangha and nuns to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa. — MNA.

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt attends opening of Dhammacariya Course

YANGON, 16 July — The opening ceremony of the three-month Dhammacariya Course during the Lent was held at Alosawpi monastery of Aungmyre Bodhidhamma Yeiktha in Tamwaylay Ward, Tamway Township, here this afternoon.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony and donated exercise books and stationery to trainee monks, novices and nuns.

Also present on the occasion were Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Alosawpi, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa, member Sayadaws of the Sangha, 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, and guests.
Towards successful realization of educational objectives

Human resources being the key to the progress of a nation, the State Peace and Development Council has been endeavouring for the emergence of highly-qualified human resources. Therefore, it has been spending a large sum of money on the construction of universities, degree and technical colleges, computer colleges and technologi-
cal colleges to turn out intellectuals and intelligentsia.

General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council and Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee, on 14 July visited Bago Degree College and, hearing the reports by responsible personnel, fulfilled the requirements.

In his meeting with the local authorities and the teaching staff of the degree college, the Secretary-1 said that the Government of Myanmar has been systematically implement-
ing the national education promotion plans so that the educational standard of the nation will be on a par with that of the countries in south-
east Asia and other parts of the world. He added that it has also been taking necessary measures in order that there is no educational gap between states and divisions and that informa-
tion technologies are being taught even at the basic educational level.

In the higher education sector, there were only 32 universities and colleges in 1960 and now the total number of universities and colleges has reached 154.

Thus, the youths in each and every region of the states and divisions in the Union can easily pursue higher education. Previously, only Taunggyi, Lashio and Kentung had universities and colleges, but now, as Panglong University, Panglong Technological College and Panglong Computer College have been opened, higher education is within the reach of the youths in 11 townships of Loilem District.

Similarly, there was only a university in Kachin State, but a degree college has now been opened in Bhamo and another degree college is under construction in Mohnyin. Tanintharyi Di-
vision has now two universities — one in Dawei and another in Myeik.

As the Government has opened new col-
leges, raised the numbers of universities to turn out well-qualified human resources for the develop-
ment of the nation, it is up to the teaching staff to throw themselves heart and soul into the national education promotion plans. Only then will the educational objectives of the nation be successfully realized.

Dental treatment given at youth training schools

YANGON, 16 July — The opening ceremony of the Training of Trainers Workshop on ART, organ-
ized by GC Asia Dental Pe Ltd in cooperation with the Health Department (Dental Section) and the World Health Organization of the Netherlands, took place at the Health Department here this morning, with an ad-
dress by Director (Public Health) of the Health De-
partment Dr San Shwe Win. Consultant Professor Dr Joe E Frencken of the Netherlands WHO ex-
plained the purposes of holding the workshop. The workshop was held for five days — from 10 to 14 July — and altogether 10 train-
ees attended it.

School uniforms, stationery contributed

YANGON, 16 July — Loikaw Township Supervisory Committee for Maternal and Child Welfare Asso-
ciation on 7 July provided school uniforms and station-
ery to needy children at No 2 Basic Education Middle School in Loikaw.

Next, a doctor gave talks on prevention of SARS and the diseases infected from animals. — MNA

Measures for successful holding ASEAN meetings coordinated

YANGON, 16 July — The coordination meeting for successful holding the 9th ASEAN Transport Ministers’ Meeting and the 16th ASEAN Senior Transport Officials Meeting to be hosted in Yangon took place at the Ministry of Transport on Merchant Street here this morning.

Present on the occasion were members of the Leading Committee on Holding the ASEAN Meetings, Minister for Rail Transportation Brig-Gen Aung Min, members of the work committee and subcommittees; Deputy Director-General of the Transport Department Lt-Col Win Pe, on expenditure for the meetings; and Minister Brig-Gen Abel, on holding of the meetings.

The chairman made concluding remarks. — MNA

Books for IPRD libraries

YANGON, 16 July — Wellwishers donated books for the Information and Public Relations Libraries of the Ministry of Information at the hall of IPRD on Panodan Street here this afternoon.

Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein accepted the books and expressed thanks. Also present on the occasion were directors-general and managing directors, deputy directors-general and direc-
tors of the ministry and officials and wellwishers.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein accepted 1,000 medical magazines pre-
empted by Deputy Director-General U Aung Kyaw of Health Department; 110 po-
etry books by Police Inspector Maung Than of Dawbon Police Station; 100 books by U Kyaw Kyaw Myint (temporarily in Tokyo) of Shwe Lin Yon Co.; 400 books by U Tin Shein (Retd) of the Shwe Lin Yon Co.; 100 books by U Soe Moe Aung and wife Daw Wai Wai Kyaw (temporarily in Tokyo); 500 books by Naing Ngan Gon (temporarily in Tokyo); 700 books by U Zaw Tarawzan of Bo Ya Nyunt Street in Dagon Township; and 100 books by U Soe Nyunt-Daw Khin Aye Myint of Ya’paw Publishing House.

A wellwisher ex-
panded the purposes of the donation and the ceremony ended. Altogether 10 wellwishers presented 970 books, 1500 magazines and 90 dozens of exercise books by Managing Editor U Myat Thu Win of Shwe Min Tha Co; 60 books by Col Khin Maung Thaung (Retd) (Moe Moe Tarawzan) of Bo Ya Nyunt Street in Dagon Township; and 100 books by U Soe Nyunt-Daw Khin Aye Myint of Ya’paw Publishing House.

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Iraq groups warn against sending troops to Iraq

DUBAI, 16 July — Two previously unknown Iraqi groups on Tuesday warned countries against sending troops to Iraq, where US troops are facing daily attacks, Arab television channels said on Tuesday. “We strongly reject and will resist with weapons any military intervention under the umbrella of the United Nations, the Security Council, NATO, or Islamic and Arab countries,” a group calling itself the Iraq Liberation Army said in a statement shown on the Dubai-based al-Jazeera television.

Thirty-two US soldiers have been killed in guerrilla attacks in Iraq since President George W. Bush declared major combat over on May 1.

Troops from Spain, Poland, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, the Baltic states and possibly from the Philippines, Thailand, Mongolia and Fiji are likely to be part of the peacekeeping forces in Iraq breathing tension.

Bangladesh and Pakistan, both Muslim nations, have also been asked to take part in peacekeeping operations but they have not announced any decision yet and there is considerable domestic opposition to the proposals.

India said on Monday it would not send troops to Iraq without a United Nations mandate, rejecting a request from Washington to help in the war-torn nation.

Kuwait-based al-Jazeera television also showed a statement from another Iraqi group—the “Iraqi National Islamic Resistance, 1920 Revolutionary Brigades,” in reference to Iraq’s history fighting British colonial rule—warning against further foreign intervention.

““It implied Arab and Islamic countries about the seriousness of sending their troops to Iraq,” al-Jazeera quoted the statement as saying.

It said that US attacks had forced Washington to seek help from multinational forces and speed up the creation of a Government Council, which was launched on Sunday.

A group claiming to be an Iraqi branch of Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaeda network claimed responsibility for attacks on US soldiers in an audio tape broadcast on al-Arabiya on Sunday but it rhymed sounding more typical of Saddam supporters than Islamic militants.

— MNA/Ruters

Asian ministers express strong will to revitalize tourism

HONG KONG, 16 July — Asian tourism ministers and high-ranking officials Monday expressed their strong will to join hands in revitalize Asian tourism.

During the plenary session of the ongoing International Cooperation for Tourism Development Under A New Paradigm conference, nine voices voiced their will for multi-layered effective cooperation among countries and regions in the Asian Pacific Region.

Thai Tourism Minister Sontaya Kunplome said tourism is a sensitive industry and the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) epidemic has reduced the number of arrivals to Thailand by 20-25 percent in the first half of this year.

He said, in the past, each country had to encounter with the crisis, either a terrorist attack, an epidemic, or natural disasters by itself. The effective control of SARS indicated the necessity for regional or global cooperation in fight against the crisis.

Toshihiro Nikai, chairman of All Nippon Travel Agents, said the tourism industry has shown a remarkable development in various areas in the globe since the latter half of the 20th Century and has also become one of the pillar industries for Japan.

He said four million Japanese are serving as tourists every year.

The international tourism sector has become one of the pillar industries for 1995-2000 and has also become one of the pillar industries of the world economy.

The tourism industry has also become one of the pillar industries for most Asian countries.

— MNA/Xinhua

Bush defends CIA intelligence as “darn good”

WASHINGTON, 16 July — President George W. Bush on Monday defended the quality of CIA intelligence as “darn good” as he tried to put out a firestorm over his disputed allegation that Iraq sought uranium from Africa for nuclear weapons.

Having just returned from Africa, Bush and his White House team found themselves facing tough questions about whether he misled the country to justify the Iraq war, as US troops there die on average of one a day under attack by Saddam Hussein loyalists.

Democrats and even some Republicans were raising questions about the President’s use of faulty intelligence when he said in his State of the Union speech last winter that Iraq was seeking uranium from Africa in its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. “I think the intelligence I get has been backed by good intelligence,” Bush said.

Bush said the administration believed the claim was true but when he made it and only afterwards learned there were doubts about it. “When I gave the speech, the line (about African uranium) was relevant... Subsequent to the speech, the CIA had some doubts,” he said.

As Bush again blamed the CIA for giving him the information, Pennsylvania Republican Senator Arlen Specter suggested Bush bears ultimate responsibility.

As President Harry S. Truman said: “The buck stops with the President of the United States.” It’s just a matter of finding out what went wrong and making sure that it doesn’t happen again,” Specter said in Philadelphia.

— MNA/Ruters

Uganda secures $25m for mining sector

KAMPALA, 16 July — The Ugandan Government has secured a total of $25 million US dollars for developing its mining sector.

Ugandan Minister of Energy and Mineral Development Syda Bbumba was quoted by Tuesday’s New Vision newspaper as saying that the World Bank will provide 50 percent of the money while the African Development Bank and Nor- dic Development Fund will contribute the rest.

“Although Uganda has been recognized as one of the countries with the highest concentrations of minerals on the African continent, we have not even managed to exploit one quarter of it,” the minister said.

She said the high risk involved with investing considerable money to find key indicators for mineral presence, has turned away many prospective investors.

— MNA/Xinhua

Uranium may be missing from Iraqi plant

UNITED NATIONS, 16 July — At least 22 pounds of uranium compounds could be missing from a looted Iraqi plant, UN nuclear inspectors said in a report obtained Tuesday. But they said the material couldn’t be used to make nuclear weapons.

The report from the International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed that the vast majority of uranium stolen from Iraq’s largest nuclear research facility at Tuwaitha after Iraqi troops fled on the eve of the US-led war had been recovered, though it gave no figure.

The Tuwaitha facility was thought to contain hundreds of tons of natural uranium and nearly two tons of low-enriched uranium, which could be further processed for arms use.

Shiite Muslims hold anti-Governing Council sit-ins during a meeting at Al Kadhimiya holy mosque in Baghdad, Iraq on 15 July, 2003. The Governing Council, selected with major input by L. Paul Bremer, the American administrator of Iraq, was announced on Sunday as a first step in returning political power to the Iraqis.

— Internet

Ukraine may be missing from Iraqi plant

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**Emboldened Democrats step up attacks on Bush over Iraq intelligence**

WASHINGTON, 16 July — Democrats sharpened their attacks on the George W Bush administration, emboldened by persistent questions over prewar intelligence on Iraq's pursuit of nuclear, biological and chemical arms.

US Central Intelligence Agency director George Tenet has taken the blame for President George W Bush's January claim that Iraq had tried to buy nuclear material from Africa. In a surprise statement last week, Tenet said the reference — based on information from Britain — should not have been included in the president's January 28 State of the Union address because it had not been corroborated by US intelligence.

The White House has said that as far as they are concerned, the issue is over and done with, but Democrats refused to let the matter die, with the party's biggest guns taking to the floor of the Senate, holding news conferences, and taking to the airwaves to keep the controversy alive.

One leading Democrat accused the White House of a broad pattern of dissembling in making its case for waging war on Iraq.

"The misleading statement about uranium is not an isolated incident. There is a significant amount of troubling evidence that it was part of a pattern of exaggerations and misleading statements," Senator Carl Levin of Michigan said on the floor of the US Senate.

"It was not inadvertent. It was not a slip ... It was calculated. It was misleading." Massachusetts senator Ted Kennedy, one of the most senior Democrats in Congress, described what he called a "bankrupt" US policy toward Iraq.

"The great tragedy would be that American service men are risking and losing their lives in Iraq based upon flawed, distorted and failed intelligence," Kennedy told NBC television.

"But there's a broader issue, and that is the failed policy toward Iraq. It's a bankrupt policy, it's a policy that adrift. And the individuals that are paying the price for it are the American service men and women."

"Some of those in the White House are trying to pin it on George Tenet. I think the buck stops in the White House." — Internet

**France denies it gave Britain, Iraq nuclear intelligence**

PARIS, 16 July — France denied on Monday it had supplied Britain with the intelligence behind London's assertion that Saddam Hussein's Iraq had attempted to import uranium from Africa.

"Contrary to the insinuations that have appeared in the British Press, France is not the origin of intelligence published in the British report dated September 24, 2002 and relating to Iraq's nuclear programme," the Foreign Ministry said in a terse statement.

The Financial Times reported on Monday that two foreign governments it said were "thought to be France and Italy" had supplied Britain with information which added to now-discredited domestic intelligence services.

A diplomat in Vienna told Reuters he also believed Britain's evidence came from French intelligence services.

**Pentagon says Iraq war costs $48b so far**

WASHINGTON, 16 July — The military campaign in Iraq has cost the Pentagon about $48 billion so far, a number expected to rise by $10 billion by the end of September, the military's budget chief said Tuesday.

Dov Zakheim, the Defence Department's comptroller, said in an Associated Press interview the estimated cost so far includes the combat phase, which started 20 March, postwar stabilization efforts and $30 billion in prewar expenses such as moving troops to the region and building facilities there.

Although officials have receipts and actual costs only through April, they believe the cost of the military's part of the campaign beginning in January is averaging $3.9 billion a month.

The cost was some $350,000 for January, peaked at over $5 billion during the heavy combat phase and has fallen back below $4 billion a month now that some troops have been sent home and major combat is ended, officials said.

Some 2-1/2 months into stabilization efforts, Zakheim said he cannot yet estimate reconstruction costs for next year because the size of the future US military presence needed there remains unclear. The picture will be clearer once international troops arrive to help with peacekeeping, he said.

"By the end of September, we will see additional forces, ... will see the state of the country," he said. "Then we'll be in a better position to estimate."

General Tommy Franks said last week that US forces in the area will stay about the same size for the "foreseeable future."

In April, Congress approved an extra $62.6 billion for the Pentagon, which already had a budget of $364 billion for the current fiscal year. The new money was for war in Iraq and the global war on terror.

Zakheim said he expects all but $4 billion of that will be needed this fiscal year, which ends 30 September. The estimated monthly average of $3.9 billion includes $1.1 billion in salaries for reservists called to active duty, $2.6 billion for such requirements as logistics and transportation; and $200 million for food, health costs and other support.

Over the nine months, that $3.9 billion average comes out to $35 billion. It doesn't include replacement of damaged equipment and replenishing munitions and other materiel consumed in the war.

Those expenses amount to a further $23 billion, for the total $58 billion expected by year's end, Pentagon calculations show. It also doesn't include salaries of active duty soldiers, sailors and airmen, who would be paid with or without war. None of the figures include what has been spent on several hundred American civilians working since the end of the war as part of the occupation authority. They are from the State Department, Treasury, FBI and other agencies, which pay their salaries.

— Internet

**Thailand to oversee ASEAN tourism and aviation plans**

BANGKOK, 16 July — Thailand is to oversee regional tourism and aviation issues under a new Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) directive to boost intra-regional trade to no less than 30 per cent of the region's total world trade within the next two years.

Speaking on return from a special meeting of ASEAN economic ministers (AEM) in Bali, held on July 12-13, Commerce Minister Adisai Bodharamik said that the ministers gathering for the meeting had agreed to increasingly work within a cooperative trade framework, according to a report of Thai News Agency on Tuesday.

ASEAN member countries voted for closer cooperation within the grouping in solving trade-related issues on the road toward an ASEAN free trade area (AFTA).

The meeting also discussed initiatives on promoting intra-ASEAN trade and investment and service liberalization in Asia, said the minister on Monday. Noting that last year intra-ASEAN trade was valued at only 22 per cent of the region's total world trade, Adisai said that the ministers also discussed what could be done to rectify this situation.

The meeting agreed to draw up a product-by-product operational plan, divided by type of product and service.

The Philippines was asked to oversee products involving computers and equipment, while Indonesia was asked to supervise automobiles and furniture.

Adisai expressed belief that the new plans would not only serve to increase the value of intra-regional trade, but also encourage ASEAN members to produce their own brand name goods which could be exported across the world.

— MNA/Xinhua

**Embassy of the Republic of Union of Myanmar**

A British soldier, watches Iraqis as they gather at the British headquarters in Basra, 600 kilometres, 373 miles south of Baghdad, Iraq on 15 July, 2003 to protest against the newly inaugurated Iraq Government Council. The 25-member governing council, which comprised of prominent Iraqis from all walks of political and religious life, is tasked to rebuild the Iraqi political system.

— Internet

**Children walk through piles of disabled anti-aircraft guns on 15 July, 2003, inside a military base which were destroyed during coalition bombing of Iraq's military facilities including this one in the Duda neighbourhood north of Baghdad, Iraq. — Internet**
Few nations send troops to Iraq

BAGHDAD, 16 July—Although a few nations are sending peacekeeping troops to Iraq, near daily guerilla attacks—mostly from local Iraqis and from non-Iraqi insurgents—have created a dangerous situation in the country. The United States is raising questions about Bush’s statement in his State of the Union speech that all US-led forces would now be out of Iraq by August. Instead, the Bush administration has announced that it will keep US forces in Iraq until the situation improves. The US military has been forced to withdraw from several bases and has had to increase security measures in response to growing violence. The decision to keep US forces in Iraq is controversial and has been met with criticism from some US allies and on Capitol Hill. Some members of Congress have called for a full withdrawal of US forces from Iraq, while others have called for a phased withdrawal. The US military has also faced criticism for the treatment of Iraqi prisoners and for the conditions in which they are being held. The military has acknowledged that abuses have occurred, but has denied that they constituted a pattern of systemic violations. The situation in Iraq remains uncertain, with the future of the country and the role of international forces in it in question.
**Team from new Iraq Council to visit UN**

UNITED NATIONS, 16 July—A delegation from Iraq’s new Governing Council will visit UN Headquarters next week and hopes to address the Security Council, UN officials said on Tuesday.

During its visit, tentatively slated for next Tuesday, the delegation also hopes to convince the United Nations to grant it the seat in the 191-nation UN General Assembly formerly reserved for the government of Saddam Hussein, toppled on April 9 by a US-led invasion, the officials said.

The visit would mark one of the first official acts of the 25-member council, which held its first meeting on Sunday after being appointed by the US-British coalition governing Iraq.

It requested its address the Security Council is approved, as expected, the delegation will appear before the 15-nation body on the same day as Sergio Viera de Mello, the UN special representative for Iraq, who is due to deliver his first progress report on UN efforts to help rebuild Iraq.

Working with Iraq’s US administrator Paul Bremer, de Mello played a key role in shaping the council. Bremer initially planned to give it a purely advisory role but de Mello pushed for it to be given real powers.

Convincing the United Nations to accept an ambassador named by the Governing Council as the representative of a new Iraqi government that does not yet exist could be a problem, but only if the General Assembly’s credentials committee makes it a problem, UN diplomats said.

The Americans are hoping that no UN member will raise an objection to the unusual request, they said.

Under General Assembly rules, credentials are typically issued by a country’s head of government or foreign minister.

But Iraq is still governed by the widely represented US-British military occupation.

**Chirac sees no prospect of French troops in Iraq**

PARIS, 16 July—President Jacques Chirac, speaking on Tuesday for the first time about the possibility of French involvement in Iraq, reiterated his country’s position that this was not on the cards.

France spearheaded international opposition to the US-led war on Iraq and has called for a stronger role for the United Nations in leading reconstruction efforts and helping to form an interim Iraqi Government.

Chirac’s spokesman said he made the comments in a meeting with Czech President Vaclav Klaus.

“As the Foreign Minister has indicated, this is inconceivable in the current framework,” spokesman Catherine Colonna said, referring to a hypothetical French military role in Iraq.

American senators have encouraged President George W Bush to request troops from NATO and the United Nations to back US operations in Iraq.

Thirty-two US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since Bush declared major combat over on May 1.

**Germany has problems about sending troops to Iraq**

BRUSSELS, 16 July—With the German military grappling with peacekeeping operations in three continents at present, it has big difficulties to send troops to Iraq as US requires, officials say.

Karsten Voigt, coordinator for German-US relations in the German Government told the Tagesspiegel daily Tuesday that the Bush Administration was not expecting a quick German contribution in Iraq and was aware that the German military was stretched to the limit.

Voigt added Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, currently in the United States, would not be “pressurized” by US President George W Bush on the issue.

With about 9,000 soldiers scattered in the Balkans, Afghanistan and as far as the Horn of Africa, the German Army has its hands full.

At present there is a discussion in Germany over an Iraq deployment following a request last week by the US Senate to the NATO military alliance for support to reinforce the American troops serving as occupying forces in Iraq.

Continuing resistance from Iraqi groups, mounting American and British casualties and rising costs of maintaining a huge peacekeeping operation in Iraq has forced the United States to seek broader international support.

Though no concrete request has come in as yet from the United States, German Government spokesman Rola Anga said over the weekend that it was possible a request would be received at the NATO Council in Brussels after the summer break.

So far the reaction from NATO Councils, presumably Germany and France, has been lukewarm. Both say there is no adequate United Nations mandate to legitimize their presence in Iraq.

France, like Germany, is also heavily involved in foreign military deployments in the Balkans, Ivory Coast, Congo and Afghanistan.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, speaking on Monday for the first time about the possibility of a German presence in Iraq, said in a television interview last week that his government would not send troops to Iraq except in a NATO context and only with a specific mandate from the United Nations.

**ADB provides $350m aid for Pakistan’s judicial reforms**

ISLAMABAD, 16 July—The Asian Development Bank (ADB), has provided a technical assistance worth 350 million US dollars for judicial reforms in Pakistan, English newspaper Dawn reported Tuesday.

The purpose of the assistance is to initiate pilot projects that will build institutional capacity within the judiciary of Pakistan in preparation for a proposed access to justice programme.

A recent report by ADB said that the Justice Department in Pakistan was massively underfunded.

This led to an unchecked decline in the quality of judicial service in the country despite efforts of many dedicated judges, said the report titled “Strengthening of Institutional Capacity for Judicial and Legal Reforms”.

**Australian, British wartime flyers buried in Germany**

BERLIN, 16 July—Six crew members of a World War II Australian bomber were buried in Berlin on Tuesday, nearly 60 years after they were shot down while on a raid near the German capital.

The men, four Australians and two Britons, were serving with 467 Squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force when their Lancaster bomber went down in January 1944 over the town of Osnabrueck, 25 miles north of Berlin.

Ivan Durston, Philip Gill, Robert Ludlow, Jack Sutherland, Francis Aver and Harold Fry were interred next to a seventh crew member, Sidney Griffiths, who was buried in the Berlin War Cemetery in 1947.

**US Embassy in Philippines worried over terrorist’s escape**

MANILA, 16 July—The United States Embassy in Manila on Tuesday expressed its worry over Monday’s escape of a convicted Indonesian terrorist bomb expert once detained at the Philippine National Police headquarters.

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Philippines expressed on Tuesday concern over the escape of a convicted Indonesian terrorist bomb expert.

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Philippines, expressed concern over the escape of a convicted Indonesian terrorist bomb expert.

“Obviously, we are deeply troubled by the escape of Fathur al-Ghozi, because it raises the threat of terrorism for Filipinos, for Americans, for everybody here in the Philippines,” Acting US Embassy spokesman Frank Jenista told reporters.

“Of course, we look for ward to full and immediate investigation. But we are confident that the Philippine Government is spending every effort on the manhunt and we expect the terrorists will be brought back in their prison cells as soon as possible,” he added.

But the United States and the Philippines suffered from terrorist violence against innocent people and the United States is helping the Philippine in its fight against terrorism,” he noted.

 desirable for the war, their salaries, paid by US administration in the centre of Baghdad, on 15 July, 2003. The US military announced thousands of key soldiers would be staying in Iraq indefinitely even as the number of American combat deaths neared the 1991 Gulf War total...INTERNET

**Women in Libia’s witness protection program**

TRIPOLI, 15 July—At least 39 women and children are under witness protection in Tripoli, the capital of Libya, and another 114 are in hiding, state-run Libya News Agency (LNA) reported Tuesday.

The number of women and children who received refuge has increased after a series of terrorist attacks, said the report.

LNA said that 185 women and children had received protective measures, but that number had dropped to about 150 because of the end of the war.

**Philippines offers $300,000 bounty for Philippine’s militant**

MANILA, 16 July—The Philippine government offers a bounty of five million pesos (roughly 100,000 US dollars) for the recapture of al-Ghozi, two suspected Abu Sayyaf terrorist and Filipinos Abdulmukim Edris and Omar Lasal, the presidential palace said.

Lina said Tuesday that the government offers a bounty of five million pesos (roughly 100,000 US dollars) for the recapture of al-Ghozi, two suspected Abu Sayyaf terrorists and two suspected Abu Sayyaf terrorists.

Former high-ranking Iraqi army officers wait in a queue controlled by US soldiers to receive, for the first time after the war, their salaries, paid by US administration in the centre of Baghdad, on 15 July, 2003. The US military announced thousands of key soldiers would be staying in Iraq indefinitely even as the number of American combat deaths neared the 1991 Gulf War total...INTERNET

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MANILA, 16 July—The Philippine government offers a bounty of five million pesos (roughly 100,000 US dollars) for the recapture of al-Ghozi, two suspected Abu Sayyaf terrorists and two suspected Abu Sayyaf terrorists.

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Iranian trade delegation to visit Iraq

TUESDAY, 16 July — A high-ranking Iranian trade delegation is scheduled to visit Iraq soon, the official IRNA news agency reported on Tuesday.

The upcoming visit of the Iranian delegation is aimed at studying avenues for trade relations between the two countries, IRNA quoted Iran’s commercial attaché to Iraq Janali Halvaei as saying.

Stressing that Iran attaches great importance to trade with neighbouring Iraq, the diplomat called for promotion of trade ties between Iraqi Kurdistan and Iran’s western province of Kordestan, saying Iran is an appropriate route for transit of goods from Asia to Europe.

Meanwhile, an economic delegation from Iraqi Kurdistan is currently visiting Iran to explore the best possible way for Iran’s presence in Iraqi economic affairs and its role in the development and reconstruction of the war-torn Gulf country.

Iraqi Kurds believe that Iran is the best and safest way for transit of foreign goods to Iraqi Kurdistan and then to entire Iraq. — IRNA/Anikhou

Roche launches test for SARS virus

ZURICH, 16 July — Roche Holding AG has launched a test to detect the virus that causes severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) after an eight-week dash to develop the tool, the Swiss healthcare group said on Tuesday.

The flu-like illness that emerged in southern China late last year has infected nearly 8,500 people in 30 countries and killed more than 800, but health officials say it already appears to be on the wane.

The test is available for research use only until regulators approve it for wider distribution, said Roche, a drugmaker which is the world’s biggest diagnostics firm.

Roche has said the test will be available in July. It worked closely with virologists, hospitals and government agencies in SARS hot spots to develop the diagnostic device.

Roche certificates, its most widely traded form of equity, eased 0.4 per cent to 112 Swiss francs in early business, while the DJ Stoxx healthcare index fell 0.5 per cent. Analysts said the news was widely expected.

Still, the World Health Organization has said reliable, large-scale SARS tests are essential to controlling outbreaks by identifying quickly who is infected and needs to be quarantined.

Tests can also give authorities insight into when patients are most infectious and the best time to administer drugs.

“Even if the infection rate with the SARS virus isressive, we do not know if we will have to face another outbreak in the future,” said Heinz von Prondzynski, head of Roche’s diagnostics division.

“In the meantime, researchers will use our product to answer questions still open about the incubation time, the point when patients are most infectious or how long the virus can survive outside the body.”

Roche officials have played down the potential profits a SARS test might generate, noting its annual sales were unlikely to be much above 10 million US dollars. — MNA/Reuters

Oil prices hold as dealers eye storm

NEW YORK, 16 July — Oil prices held firm on Monday as a tropical storm in the energy-rich Gulf of Mexico posed a threat to refineries on the Texas coast at the height of the US driving season.

US crude settled down 1 cent at 31.27 US dollars a barrel while London Brent shed 23 cents to 28.97 US dollars a barrel, after gains last week on fears Tropical Storm Claudette would thrash through the Gulf’s offshore rigs and hit refinery row.

“Precautionary production shut-ins in the Gulf of Mexico over the weekend appeared larger than expected, although the storm is projected to hit land well south of refinery and most production systems,” said Jim Ritterbusch, market analyst and president of Ritterbusch & Associates.

Recent strength in oil prices owing to storm worries and low supply from war-torn Iraq caused producer group OPEC’s basket of seven crudes to jump to 28.14 US dollars a barrel Friday — outside the oil cartel’s chosen price range of 22-28 US dollars, the OPEC news agency said Monday. — MNA/Reuters

Forest fires start blazing on Croatian coast

ZAGREB, 16 July — Forest fires flared up across Croatia’s picturesque Mediterranean coastal region, just as the Balkan tourist season reached its peak. A clutch of blazes took hold on Sunday night, state radio reported on Monday.

Hot, dry weather makes forest fires an annual nightmarish threat on the rental along the Croatian coast, which is a popular holiday destination for tourists from across Europe.

One fire has cut the main coastal road between the holiday towns of Seline and Novi Vinodolski after engulfing more than 40 hectares of scrubland. Around 100 firefighters are tackling the blaze.

On the southern island of Brač, a blaze destroyed 50 hectares of pine trees and olive groves near the village of Milna before firefighters brought it under control.

The state emergency centre reported three smaller fires on the mainland were put out on Monday morning. No casualties were reported. — MNA/Reuters

US troops in Falluja shocked by move to keep them in Iraq

FALUJA (Iraq), 16 July — Under fire and unwanted by Iraqis, soldiers in the US 3rd Infantry Division in the volatile town of Falluja were bitterly disappointed on Tuesday by a decision to keep them in Iraq indefinitely.

“We were told three weeks ago that we had been killed in the war and its aftermath. US troops have come under fire loyalists of top-placed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, Assadollah Assadi, and those hoping to avenge relatives killed by US troops.

After seeing them would head home several times, 3rd Infantry soldiers were stunned by news that the gritty streets of Falluja would continue to be home for the foreseeable future.

“It’s a big shock,” said Sergeant Josh Holt of Montgomery, Alabama.

Facing mounting threats in Iraq, the US military said on Monday thousands of soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) would stay in the country despite previous plans to bring them home in July and August.

The division was the first American unit to enter Baghdad during the war and has been in the Gulf since September. Thirty-seven soldiers from the division have been killed in the war and its aftermath.

The commander of the 3rd Infantry Division, Major General Buford Blount, said former troops, including himself, were ready to go home but needed to remain committed to the mission.

“The soldiers have here been about 10 months after training here in the desert for six months. They are doing hard work,” he told Reuters Television. — MNA/Reuters

WASHINGTON, 16 July — The US State Department has lifted the remaining restrictions on the use of US passports to go to Iraq but advised Americans on Tuesday to stay away from the country because of the dangers.

The United States imposed the passport restriction in 1990 after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. It relaxed them a little in April and May to make it possible for contractors, government employees and members of Congress to visit.

The State Department said it bans the use of US passports solely for security reasons but its practice over the years suggests that politics also plays a part. The only country now on the list is Libya, where American tourists have not faced unusual security problems.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Iraq was safer for Americans now than it was before the US invasion because of the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein.

“There was a hostile regime which sought to sometimes use Americans as human shields and intentionally put them in harm’s way. Now there is a government structure in Iraq that seeks to protect all people,” he said.

In fact, Iraqi guerillas have killed 32 US soldiers in the weeks since President George W. Bush declared on May 1 that “major combat” in Iraq was over.

The State Department acknowledges the danger in a formal travel warning. “Travel to Iraq remains dangerous. Remnants of the former Baath regime, transnational terrorists and criminal elements remain active,” it said.

“Coalition-led military operations continue and there are daily attacks against Coalition forces throughout the country. Travel at night is extremely dangerous,” it added.

But a senior State Department official said the government wanted to open the doors for the ways for more Americans eventually to visit Iraq, including tourists and business people. — MNA/Reuters

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Daw Suu Kyi, the NLD Party and Our Ray of Hope — 9

Maung Yin Hmaing

The scene of the talks given by Daw Suu Kyi who was later driven out by Presiding Sayadaw of Wuntho Monastery in Myitkyina on 17-5-2003.

An NLD youth member taping the local people who peacefully stage demonstrations holding placards against the NLD convoy at the entrance to Kaungywa Village, Tanai Township, on 15-5-2003, during the organizational tour in Kachin State of NLD members led by Daw Suu Kyi.

Local women stand to protest the NLD convoy of Daw Suu Kyi holding the signboard bearing “Oppose those relying on external elements” at Naungtualay Village, Waingmaw Township, on 18-5-2003.

“How to weather the rain and storm with these people?”

When our group entered Tanai, it was already 12:30 in the afternoon. Almost immediately after arriving, a party signboard hoisting ceremony was held at the residence of U Kason Sinwa Naw in Ginzar Ward although the occasion was scantily attended. For about 2:30 in the afternoon, matters that required attention in Tanai had been attended to. So, from Tanai we retraced our steps to Nama-ti.

The car carrying Granduncle U Tin Oo and another vehicle however did not stop at Tanai but carried on. Auntie Suu’s car and the cars carrying the rest of her entourage parked haphazardly in front of the house of U Chit Thaung, a ward-level party member of Nama-ti, for a brief rest. We would be resuming our journey to Myitkyina before 6 O’clock the next morning.

16 May

We left for Myitkyina before 6 am the next day. When we arrived at Nang Kwe Bridge, we were welcomed by Granduncle U Lwin, a member of the NLD Youth group who had gathered to protest and denounce our party gave me a shock. A look at the strength of the people lining the curbside deterred members of our convoy from exchanging insults and alighting from the cars to confront the demonstrators as we did earlier on the trip. So we wereubbered as we entered the town.

Auntie Suu then instructed U Hla Min, a member of her entourage to contact Granduncle U Tin Oo and party who had left Tanai to advertise their arrival in Myitkyina to Myitkyina townfolk as not deserted earlier. Then as a message sounded over the P.A system requesting all to take their places as the signboard raising ceremony was about to begin, our group headed by Auntie Suu, proceeded to the venue on foot. On this occasion Auntie Suu was not dressed as usual but in full Kachin national costume.

I would like to give a description of how “Auntie Suu” was guarded on her way to the ceremony, which was being held just one house away from where we were staying. As usual, the members of the NLD Youth with hands linked surrounded her on both the left and right flanks. In the eyes of someone unaware of what was taking place it would appear as though they were playing the Myanmar version of “Here we go round the mulberry bush.”

Actually proper arrangements should have been made to separate the girls from the boys to join hands as escorts, so there would be no criticism. But when the boys in our group from Yangon, always quick to take advantage seized the hands of the girls from the Myitkyina Youth group as though they were only doing their duty. So voices began to be raised in criticism from youths watching from the sides, saying in effect that: “These guys from Yangon are just too crafty and slick.”

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Granduncle U Tin Oo who had drawn up the programme so that he too would have a role to play up to muster his usual mantra for protection against all kinds of danger. He also distributed printed pamphlets of the victory mantra and exhortations to pray for the fulfillment of their goals. This is what he usually does at such ceremonies, but at Myitkyina there was something extra, in addition to the traditional Buddhist mantra. The pamphlets contained this extra prayer:

“Our Father who art in heaven … Bless all our undertakings. Bestow your blessings on the plight of our people and our kinsfolk the national races. May your love and compassion remove our fears and give us back our courage. Watch over our children so that all the national races of the Union may attain their goals of democracy, human rights, national unity and the peace of this great Union. I pray to thee in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord, Amen.”

While I was thinking that Granduncle U Tin Oo would most probably say an assortment of religious prayers if a multiparty democracy should come into being and put in effect a lot of new ideas, and just when the thought occurred to me that next he’ll be praying to Allah when I heard a voice of discontent erupt from the crowd and it said: “What trick is this old man trying to pull? What about party members of the Hindu faith please him? Does this mean that we don’t count because we are a minority of just two and a half persons?” This is most irregular. I’m not pleased at all and I’m going to report it to Auntie Suu.”

So what now?
Aerospace Engineering University is opened temporarily in Meiktila. The magnificent university is being built in the town. Arrangements are being made for development of respective technologies to ensure international standard universities. In this process, he said that it is needed to create opportunities for the students to study technologies advancing in the world. The faculty members of the universities are being sent abroad for further studies. At the same time, plans are under way for promotion of technological cooperation.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 invited those present to hold talks to the full satisfaction about tasks being undertaken and future tasks for the development of the universities and technologies, requirements and assistance to be rendered by the government.

Next, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe reported on acadeamic matters, management and staff affairs of MNA. The Second Annual General Meeting of MNA (ASEAN) Women’s Friendship Association was held at Wathunthi Palace Hall, Shindethaparmouk Building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Paya Road at 10 am today.

It was attended by Leader of the Panel of patrons of MAWFA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, wife of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt, members of the Panel of patrons Daw San Yon, wife of Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, and Daw Khin Shwe Soe, wife of Deputy Minister for the Affairs of People’s Desire Phyu submitted financial statement for the year 2002-2003 and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, honourery married wives of ministers, executive committee members of the ASEAN Embas- sies in Yangon and members of the association.

First, Dr Daw Khin Win Soue made an address on the occasion. Chairperson of the executive committee Daw Khin Hnin Nyunt extended greetings. Next, Secretary of the association Daw Khin Nan Nyunt presented report of the executive committee for the second year 2003-2004. Daw Khin Win Shwe accepted K one million kyats of ambassador of Thailand Mme Viparanee Maolanon, on behalf of Myanmar CP and Daw Aung San Su Kyi. It is too much like a personality cult. This is not a good sign because when the majority of the people are in wane, the party will also wane, much like a personality cult. It is too much like a personality cult. It is not a good sign because when the majority of the people are in wane, the party will also wane, much like a personality cult.

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To reach Mandalay from Yangon within 10 hours

The Union of Myanmar is home to over one hundred national races and the national brethren have been living in the Union through thick and thin since years countable by the thousand.

The Government, with the conviction that all-round development of the national brethren will contribute to the consolidation of national forces, is taking systematic measures to promote their living standard.

Transportation plays an important role in national development and that only when there is easy transport will there be improvement of socio-economic life of national people.

Moreover, easy access to one region from another contributes much towards flourishing of national unity and Union Spirit among national brethren as they can make more contacts with one another and exchange views and knowledge among them.

Nowadays, Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway is being upgraded into a modern one with a view to contributing towards the economic, trade and social development of the State. In doing so, the State has allotted sections of the highway to national entrepreneurs and the latter are now actively engaged for upgrading and extension of the highway section-wise.

Dagon International Ltd is undertaking the upgrading and extension of the Union Highway at 48 miles long Yedashe-Pyinmana road section between mile posts 194/0 and 242/0 in Bago Division. They are carrying out the upgrading tasks using heavy machinery. The Kanbawza Pathfinder Industries Ltd is responsible for upgrading and extension of another road section at Zeyawady-Yedashe road section between mile posts 146/0 and 194/0.

Olympic Highway Public Co Ltd is also taking part in the tasks. It carries out the upgrading tasks at the 48-mile long Nyaung-lebin-Zeyawady road section.

Upgrading and extension tasks for Bago-Nyaunglebin road section from mile posts 50/0 to 98/0 is being undertaken by Shwe Thanlwin Highway Co Ltd.

Yamehin-Pyinmana road section upgrading tasks are being undertaken by Asia World Co., Meiktila-Yamehin section by Yuzana Co and Mandalay-Meiktila section by Hong Pang Co.

They are undertaking tasks related to earthwork, construction of bypass, bridges and conduits.

Apart from these tasks, upgrading of the old highway sections, extension of a new road, building of big and small bridges on the respective road sections are also being undertaken.

With the support of the State, the private entrepreneurs are now engaged in nation-building endeavours and due to their efforts, a modern Union Highway between Yangon and Mandalay will emerge in the near future and the trip will take only ten hours.

Do not be bolstered whenever flattered.

The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River.
Development made in …

(from page 16)

He said further development will be made in the region with the combination of better economic conditions of boosting production of paddy, extended cultivation of rubber and mineral extraction and improved water, air, rail and road transport linking Myeik, Dawei, Mawlamyine and Ye.

In his address, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann said Dawei region is a developing one on which both the State and Taninthayi Division relies. Development has been made in the region due to active cooperation of local people and efforts of district, township, ward and village officials and service personnel.

Local administrative bodies are grassroots level organizations linking the State and the people and serving the interest of the State. Taking significant characteristics of the regions into consideration, emphasis must be placed on further progress, prevalence of law and order and perpetuation of national solidarity, he said.

He said the most basic level Ward and Village Peace and Development Councils are formed with those who wish to serve the interest of the region. It is important for them to discharge noble duties. As they serve the interest of the people in unity based on patriotism, greater development will also be made in the region, he added.

He said national economic life will be strong through the development of town, district, state and division and building of strong national economic life must be based on own internal strength. He urged all to work hard in unity.

Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win presented exercise books for basic education schools in Dawei District to Assistant Division Education Officer U Hla Win.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, the Secretary-2 and party greeted those present. They went to the government technical college in Dawei, where Principal Daw Kye Yi reported on strength of faculty members, students and courses. They gave instructions and inspected machine shop and auto-tech shop. Dawei government technical college was opened on 2 December 1999.

They proceeded to Dawei Education College, where they were welcomed by Acting Principal Daw Htwe Htwe Tin and faculty members. She reported on the strength of the faculty members, courses being conducted, teaching aids and lecture halls. Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung gave a supplementary report.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye reported on assistance provided for the education college. Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann gave instructions on outstanding students to be nurtured.

The Secretary-2 presented cash assistance for Dawei Education College to Acting principal Daw Htwe Htwe Tin. Next, they inspected the computer room and teaching aids. They also cordially conversed with the trainees who are attending the Pre-on-job training Course No 7.

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party went to the Government Computer College in Dawei. Principal In-charge Daw Myint Myint Maung and teachers conducted them round the computer room and lecture halls. The college was opened on January 2002. On arrival at the Dawei General Hospital (200-bed), they were welcomed by Director-General Dr Win Maung of the Health Department, officials and staff. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, the Secretary-2 and party inspected the paediatric ward, and the orthopaedic ward and the operation theatre and gave words of encouragement to the patients and staff.

(See page 15)

Another bridge soon to emerge

Tin Maung Than

From Putao near the snow-capped mountains in the far north to Kawthoung, a town in the equatorial zone, at the southern end, and from Mongyawng, a border town, in the eastern tip to Maungtaw, a sea port, in the western corner of the nation, a network of motorways including Union Highways and strategic highways have been built to ensure smooth, speedy and secure transport in the whole nation.

A large number of new motor roads and bridges large and small are being built all around the nation, and the existing ones upgraded, for the nation to enjoy a modern road network system that helps facilitate the national development drive.

States and Divisions such as Ayeyawady Division, Rakhine State and Taninthayi Division which had only few miles of roads in the past now have more miles of motorways and are also linked with other states and divisions through modern highways and motorways.

And also in Taninthayi Division, a thin stretch of land lying between the Taninthayi Mountain ranges bordering Myanmar and Thailand in the east and the Andaman Sea in the west, a coastal Union Highway linking Kawthoung and Mawlamyine through Dawei, Myeik and Bokpyin is under construction. The Union Highway links another highway connecting Yangon and Mawlamyine at the latter city.

Especially, the government or the State Peace and Development Council has been giving priority to building roads and bridges in the regions were the sector of road transport was weak.

In the past, the coastal sea lane was the only major means of transport in Taninthayi Division.

But now, a number of large bridges including Winwa Bridge, Palaw Bridge, Palauk Bridge, Pathueng Bridge and Taninthayi Bridge were opened on the coastal Union Highway. In addition, the gigantic Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) on Yangon-Mawlamyine Highway and the Kyweku-Kyaunkphy Bridge on the coastal Union Highway are under construction at present.

Located in Myeik Township on the Myeik-Dawe section of the coastal highway, the final touches are under way at the Kyweku-Kyaunkphy Bridge that is 3,612 feet long. Cars are now travelling of the tarred Myeik-Dawe section, Dawei-Mawlamyine section and Taninthayi-Myeik section of the highway.

Construction of the Kyweku-Kyaunkphy Bridge began in 2000 and will be completed in the near future. So, we are looking forward to the emergence of another important facility to serve the national interest.

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Chinese Vice-Premier meets German banker

BEIJING, 16 July — Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyun met here Monday with Michael Cohrs, global CEO of the investment bank under the Deutsche Bank.

Zeng said that in the first half of this year, the Chinese economy had stoed the test of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) epidemic although some industries were affected.

Overall, the foundation of the Chinese economy remained strong, reforms in various fields progressed smoothly and the national economy maintained fairly rapid growth, Zeng said. He expressed hope that Deutsche Bank and other international financial groups will actively participate in China’s construction and reforms.

Cohrs said that China’s economy recovered rapidly from the impact of SARS, indicating that it has benefited from an innate dynamic momentum. China, which enjoys political stability and good prospects for rapid economic development, is an important driving force for the recovery of the global capital market, he said.

He said that the Deutsche Bank is closely following China’s reforms and development and is willing to contribute to its economic construction.

Senior Chinese CPC leader meets Nigerian delegation

BEIJING, 16 July — A senior leader of the Communist Party of China (CPC) said China will make joint efforts with Nigeria to promote friendly and cooperative ties between the two countries.

Luo Gan, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks here Monday during a meeting with a delegation from Nigeria’s ruling party, the National Movement for Social Development (MNSD) in French—Nasser.

China has enhanced cooperation with Nigeria in the political, economic and cultural fields since the two countries resumed diplomatic ties in 1996, Luo told Habt Mahamadou Salissou, head of the MNSD.

Luo said China appreciates the Nigerian Government’s adherence to the “one-China” policy since 1996. He suggested that the CPC and the MNSD increase exchanges and cooperation to better handle inter-party and state affairs.

In response to Luo’s suggestion, Habt Mahamadou Salissou said his party will continue to support China in its goals of modernization and national reunification.

FAO to help Angola in agricultural development

LUNDIA, 16 July — Jacques Drouf, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, said here Monday that the FAO will help Angola with its agricultural development. After meeting with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, Drouf told local Press that he discussed with the President mainly agricultural development in the country.

Dos Santos underlined the need of the preparation of plans of action toward fisheries, water supply, agriculture and some other areas.

Upon his arrival in Angola on Sunday, Drouf said the African country has potential to develop agriculture, what did not happen due to the conflicts that lasted two decades.

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV “MANDALAY” VOY NO 102/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “MANDALAY” Voy No 102/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 17-7-2003 and will be berthing on about 18-7-2003 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily between 8 am to 1:30 and 12 noon to 4 pm in claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

No Claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE

MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone: 293147, 296507, 295754

INVITATION OF TENDER BIDS

UNDP, Yangon wishes to construct a one-storied fitness centre at No. 6 Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township. Construction will be awarded through sealed bids to the lowest bidder. Detailed layout and floor plan of the building are available at the above address. Interested parties/individuals are invited to view the Plan during office hours from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm from 21 to 23 July 2003.

Sealed bids can be deposited in the Bid Box at the Reception Counter of UNDP office at the above address up to 2:00 pm of 31 July 2003. Successful bidder/bidders will be informed by 6 August 2003. UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Construction of the building should be completed within a maximum of two months from the date of commencement.

UNDP can be contacted at telephone No. 542910-11 during 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (attention: Mr. Walter Kaing).
The Government has been laying down and implementing plans for bringing about all-round development in the whole country. For extension of agricultural tasks, dams and reservoirs are being built throughout the country. The 600-foot long rail-cum-road Donthami Bridge linking Kayin and Mon States was opened on 19 January 2002 near Dayinsweik village in Thaton Township, Mon State. Located on Yangon-Hpa-an Road, it has a 13-foot wide motor way flanked by 4-foot pedestrian lanes on both sides. Construction of the bridge started on 1 April 2000 and completed on 20 December 2001.—MNA.

The Government is striving for development of the transport infrastructure which is the main requirement for socio-economic progress of the citizens. Transport development has contributed not only to further improvement of trade and production, but also to development of the socio-economy and strengthened relations among the national brethren. A network of motor roads and rail roads were built throughout the country. The 600-foot long rail-cum-road Donthami Bridge linking Kayin and Mon States was opened on 19 January 2002 near Dayinsweik village in Thaton Township, Mon State. Located on Yangon-Hpa-an Road, it has a 13-foot wide motor way flanked by 4-foot pedestrian lanes on both sides. Construction of the bridge started on 1 April 2000 and completed on 20 December 2001.—MNA.

Due to the natural barriers, transport was difficult in Kachin State. In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, roads linking the states and divisions have been upgraded and extended stage by stage to become Union Highways. Bridges large and small have been constructed on the highways. The aim of building highways is to ensure an easy link between the southernmost regions and the areas between the eastern end and western tip in all weather conditions. Improved communication links among the regions including border areas will lead to development of the manufacturing, social, education and health sectors. Moreover, it will also contribute to strengthening love and understanding among the national people. Tanai Bridge spanning the Tanai River on Tanai-Nanyun Road in Kachin State was opened on 12 February 2002. The bridge is 942 feet long and 12 feet wide and can withstand 30-ton loads.—MNA.

Tatmadaw men are engaging in nation-building endeavours. The photo shows Tatmadaw men building railroad at Namsam-Punchaung railroad section, part of Namsam-Saikhaung railroad in Shan State. The section is 55 miles long between Namsam and Punchaung. (PHOTO BY YAN CHIN MYINT)

The Government has been laying down and implementing plans for bringing about all-round development in the whole country. For extension of agricultural tasks, dams and reservoirs are being built spending a large sum of money. By opening the Loinanpha Dam, agricultural works can now be extended further in Kayah State. Loinanpha Dam will irrigate 2,150 acres of land. The dam was built on Tikellya Creek near Loinanpha village, Dimawhso Township, Kayah State. The earthen dam, 60 feet high and 1,690 feet long has 1,300 acre-feet of water storage capacity. The dam has one main canal, 10 feeder canals and 172 small canals. The construction tasks of the dam began in 1999-2000 and it was constructed at a cost of K 209.875 million. The dam was opened on 6 March 2002.—MNA.

Tatmadaw men are engaging in nation-building endeavours. The photo shows Tatmadaw men building railroad at Namsam-Punchaung railroad section, part of Namsam-Saikhaung railroad in Shan State. The section is 55 miles long between Namsam and Punchaung. (PHOTO BY YAN CHIN MYINT)
**United close in on Ronaldinho**

**MANCHESTER (England), 16 July — Manchester United are close to completing a deal for Brazilian midfielder Ronaldinho, manager Alex Ferguson said on Tuesday.**

United have been involved in lengthy negotiations with Paris St Germain and are reported to have offered the French First Division club up to 20 million pounds (32.24 million US dollars) for the 23-year-old World Cup winner.

“We are pursuing the Ronaldinho thing very intensely now. It’s getting to that stage where it’s maybe just about there,” Ferguson told a news conference.

“We don’t want to say it’s certain until it actually is certain, but we’re very close.”

Ronaldinho’s agent and brother Roberto told the press the deal would be concluded this week.

“We are very optimistic for this week,” he told Reuters by telephone. “Ronnie is still in Brazil and we’ll wait until it’s over to bring him back. I don’t think we’ll have to wait for a long time,” he said.

“Things are moving quickly. I don’t think Ronnie will sign anything this week because he has a lot of things to do in Brazil but he is happy and so am I.”

Ferguson said joining the Premier League champions would be the right move for Ronaldinho. “I think we have plenty to offer here. This is one stadium where there is a full capacity every week. There’s not (another) stadium in Europe can do that.”

“But the signs are okay. I’m very positive about that. We just want to get that seal on it and then we can talk about it more openly,” Ferguson also said the club were “pursuing an interest” in Ronaldinho’s Brazil team mate Kleberson, the 23-year-old Atletico Paranaense midfielder.

A successful move for Kleberson could determine whether Juan Sebastian Veron stays at Old Trafford. Media reports have linked the Argentina midfielder with a move to Chelsea.

“There has been an enquiry but that’s as far as it’s gone. The player may not want to go. He’s happy here,” said Ferguson.

“He’s enjoying his football here so I’m happy with that. The circumstances may change simply because we don’t know what the offer is.” — MNA/Reuters

**CONCACAF Gold Cup wins for US, Cuba**

**FOXXBORO (Massachusetts), 16 July — Brian McBride struck twice before halftime to lead the United States to a 2-0 CONCACAF Gold Cup Group C victory over Martinique on Monday.**

In earlier game, Cuba scored a shock 2-0 win over Canada in Group D. The US powered through to the quarterfinals by securing their second successive win in the tournament.

In the first-ever meeting between the two sides, Martinique posed little threat in attack but the Americans were also below their best.

The defending champions dominated the match but rarely tested Martinique goalkeeper Eddy Herlin in his first-ever for the Cubans in the regional championship, and also their first against the Canadians.

The US, who defeated El Salvador 2-0 on Saturday, went in front after 39 minutes when Steve Ralston crossed for McBride to head in. Four minutes later, McBride grabbed his 23rd international goal with an another header from a centre by Ralston.

“We’re happy with the win and we have four or five days to patch up our team after two games in three days,” US coach Bruce Arena told reporters.

“We were very sloppy in the second half, we lacked sharpness and had a bit of fatigue.”

Martinique came in here, obviously, to get a point,” said Arena, “so that first goal was big. The second one made it easier for us and we took our foot off the gas in the second half.”

Martinique were reduced to 10 men in the 90th minute when Yann Giresse-Dufourbier was sent off for a second yellow card after a tackle on Landon Donovan.

Earlier, Lester More scored twice in Cuba’s 2-0 victory over Canada.

The Group D win was the first-ever for the Cubans in the regional championship, and also their first against the Canadians.

Canada, who beat Costa Rica 1-0 on Saturday, are now level on points with Cuba, who play Costa Rica on Wednesday in the final match of the group.

Cuba, who lost two warm-up matches against Panama last month, attacked from the start against Canada and went ahead in the 15th minute.

Jaime Colome crossed from the right and More stole in behind defender Paul Frenwick to give goalkeeper Lars Hirschfeld no chance.

At the other end, Odelin Molina made several fine saves to deny Canada an equaliser. Richard Hastings gifted the Cubans a second goal 20 seconds into the second half when he gave the ball away to Pedro Faife, who set up the unmarked More 12 metres out.

Canada poured forward in a bid to get back into the game but Paul Stalteri, who won the winning goal against Costa Rica, missed two late chances. — MNA/Reuters

**France’s Moreira says in talks to join Arsenal**

**LONDON, 16 July — France striker Daniel Moreira says he could move to Premier League side Arsenal if manager Arsene Wenger can offload forward Nwankwo Kanu.**

“Wenger got in touch with my agent last week and they are going to have lunch to get together on this,” Moreira said on Tuesday.

“I know that Wenger likes me a lot and I think I could end up at Arsenal.

“The problem is that Wenger has too many strikers right now. He needs to sell one of them and he is hoping that Kanu will leave soon,” added the RC Lens forward, who has also been linked with French champions Olympique Lyon.

Nigerian striker Kanu, who joined Arsenal for 4.5 million pounds (7.25 million US dollars) in 1999, saw little action last season and scored only six goals.

Arsenal declined to comment on any player movements. — MNA/Reuters

**United keep Howard joins Manchester United**

**LONDON, 16 July — English Premier League champions Manchester United have signed US goalkeeper Tim Howard on a four-year contract, the club said on Tuesday.**

Howard, 24, signed from the New York/New Jersey MetroStars for a fee of 2.3 million pounds (3.71 million US dollars), United said in a statement to the London Stock Exchange. He has won nine caps and was twice voted US Goalkeeper of the Year.

“We have wanted Tim Howard for a while and Tony Coton (United’s goalkeeping coach) has followed him for some time through his contacts in the US,” said United manager Alex Ferguson.

“Tim’s emergence alongside America’s number one goalkeepers Brad Friedel and Kasey Keller tells you how highly regarded he is in the States, and we are delighted to bring such a promising young keeper to the club.”

MNA/Reuters

**Five players, referee banned after Brazilian brawl**

**RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 July — Five players and a referee were banned on Tuesday following a brawl in last week’s Brazilian championship derby between Corinthians and Santos which ended with one player going to a police station.**

The most severe punishment was handed out to Corinthians defender Fabio Luciano, who was suspended for 60 days. Referee Salvo Spindola was banned for 20 days.

Corinthians said that Fabio Luciano had been sold to Turkish club Fenerbahce and it was not immediately clear whether the ban would apply outside Brazil. Spindola was found guilty of “omission” by Brazilian football’s disciplinary tribunal after failing to send off any of the players and then describing the incident as “a bit of pushing and shoving” in his report.

Spindola and several of the players were present at the three-hour hearing in Rio de Janeiro, during which members of the panel watched several replays of an incident which shocked the public.

The trouble in last Wednesday’s match began when Santos goalkeeper Fabio Costa crashed into rival striker Liedson. This triggered a pitch battle in which Corinthians goalkeeper Doni charged into Santos midfielder Fabiano’s back with a two-footed lunge while Fabio Luciano thumped an opponent with a scissors kick. Fabiano later went to the nearest police station to make a formal complaint against Doni.

Doni was banned for 40 days, Santos pair Fabio Costa and Fabiano four matches apiece and Corinthians defender Cesar three games. — MNA/Reuters

**Spain’s Rafael Nadal returns a ball to Germany’s Philipp Petzschner during a first round match of the Mercedes cup ATP tennis tournament at the Weissenhof in Stuttgart, southern Germany, on 15 July, 2003.** — INTERNET

**Brazil’s soccer players celebrate after scoring a goal against Honduras’ team at the Azteca Stadium in Mexico City, on 15 July, 2003 during a game for the Gold Cup tournament.** — INTERNET

**CONCACAF Gold Cup tournament.**

**United close in on Ronaldinho**
Thai delegation visits National Defence College, National Museum, Drug Elimination Museum

YANGON, 16 July — The visiting delegation of Thai Command and General Staff College led by Col Chusak Meksuwan, accompanied by senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and Thai Military Attaché Col Kasum Nakpun and officials, visited National Defence College on Shwedagon Pagoda Road in Dagon Township this morning. At the meeting hall, Commandant Maj-Gen Moe Hein of NDC extended greetings and explained the history of the college with video tape. Director Police Col Sit Aye of International Relations Department of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, Deputy Director-General Lt-Gen Myan Lin of Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director-General Daw Khin Than Nwe of Planning Department of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development also explained tasks of the respective depart- ments. Commandant Maj-Gen Moe Hein and Leader of the delegation Col Chusak Meksuwan exchanged souvenirs. A member of the delegation spoke words of thanks. Next, they visited the college.

At 1 pm, they arrived at the National Museum on Pyay Road in Dagon Township. Assistant Director U Htay Myint and officials of the museum welcomed and conducted them round the museum. At 2.30 pm, they went to Drug Elimination Museum at the corner of Hanthawaddy and Kyundaw streets in Kamayut Town- ship. Deputy Director Police Lt-Col Hse Maung of CCDAC and officials explained facts about the museum. Later, they left the museum.

Minister inspects retransmission

YANGON, 16 July — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan on 14 July inspected retransmission of the Ministry of Information and the TV programmes. The minister gave instructions on matters relating to security of the station, cleanliness, fire prevention, tree plantation and staff welfare. At Dawei District Information and Public Relations Department, he saw over modern library of the department.

He next met with officials and staff of township IRPDs in the district, Myanna Motion Picture Enterprise and the station, and urged them to put more efforts into their work including making the locals gain general knowledge and union spirit via information tasks as well as emergence of self reliance libraries.

Indian delegation leaves

YANGON, 16 July — Indian delegation led by Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry Mr Arun Jaitley left here this morning. They were seen off by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, the directors-general and the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar. The delegation arrived here at the invitation of the Commerce Minister.

National C'Ship Basketball tournament opened

YANGON, 16 July — The opening of the year 2003 National Championship Basketball Tournament, organ- ized by Myanmar Basketball Federation, was held at Aung San Gymnasium here this morning. On the opening day, two matches (men’s), two matches (men’s under 18) and one match (women’s) were held. The tourney con- tinues tomorrow.

DANGAN

Col Chusak Meksuwan and party at the National Museum — MNA

The City Hall of Dawei. — MNA

Dawei University in Dawei. — MNA

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 17 July, 2003 15
YANGON, 16 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 Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Coastal Region Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, the ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department, arrived at Dawei by helicopter on 14 July morning.

They were welcomed by Brig-Gen Hein Win of Dawei Station, heads of department and officials of Dawei District and Township. They met chairmen and members of Dawei District and Dawei, Yebyu, Longlon and Thayetchaung Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials, service personnel, social organizations and chairmen and members of Ward/Village Peace and Development Councils at the city hall in Dawei.

Chairman of Dawei District Peace and Development Council Li-Col Khin Maung Kywe reported on cultivation acreage and cultivable land in Dawei District, extension of monsoon paddy cultivation acreage, use of high quality strains, efforts for rice sufficiency in the region, cultivation of oil palm, rubber and pepper, measures undertaken for meat and fish sector, breeding of domestic fowls, mineral exploration and extraction and education and health conditions.

Secretary-2 delivered a speech. He said he toured Kawthoung, Myeik and Maungdaw regions and witnessed peace and stability and development in the regions and local people working hard.

He said Taninthayi Division would continue to develop.

Peace and stability and unity as well as coordination and cooperation among departments are needed for development of a region. Therefore duties were assigned to regional administrative bodies to encourage coordination and cooperation and provide necessary assistance to them.

He said the State Peace and Development Council is a revolutionary government transforming one system to another while governing the country in accord with the law, rules and regulations. As the government is repaying historical debt of lagging behind in development of the past in a short time, there are a great deal of tasks to be undertaken. A lot of work has to be done in unity as most of the tasks are implemented simultaneously, he said.

He spoke of the need to implement the regionwise and sectorwise tasks in harmony through cooperation. He also spoke of the need for local authorities and service personnel to undertake the tasks properly and systematically after realizing the situations.

Regional development and solidarity should in no way be hampered by personal weakness in morale and discipline, he said.

He said the government removed restrictions on rice trading that hinders the market-oriented economic system and practised free trading of rice.

Farmers are now cultivating more and more paddy. He spoke of the need for any government department and local organization not to purchase paddy at a set price for any reason.

Administrative bodies such as Ward, Village and Townships and Development Councils are organizations that directly deal with the people and they are responsible for safeguarding economic, education and health opportunities of the people including rice trading. As they have to deal directly with the people, they should not distance themselves from the people, he pointed out.

(See page 11)