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

**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 accord 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 and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the nation
Towards emergence of highly-qualified human resources

Human resources being the key to the progress of a nation, the State Peace and Development Council, in its drive for the advent of the Union of Myanmar as a modern and developed nation, has been giving top priority to development of highly-qualified human resources. Accordingly, the Government has been opening new universities and colleges — the birthplace of intellectuals and intelligentsia — wherever necessary in all states and divisions, including special regions for development.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt, also Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee, on 27 July, observed the tasks being carried out in Meiktila for human resource development. In his meeting with the responsible personnel at Meiktila College, the Secretary-1 said that the opening of new universities and colleges was for the emergence of highly-qualified human resources in accordance with the national education promotion programme and the 30-year long-term education plan.

In Shan State, as regional development tasks are being carried out not only in Taunggyi, Lashio and Kengtung, but also in Loilem, one of the special development regions. Loilem District is made up of 11 townships and one of them is Panglong Township, the cradle of the Union of Myanmar. Therefore, a university, a technologically college and a computer college were opened in Panglong.

Similarly, new universities, degree colleges and colleges were opened in Bhamo region of Kachin State, Maubin region of Ayeawady Division and Myeik region of Taninthayi Division. Degree colleges and Government Technical Institutes are under construction in Mohynin of Kachin State and Myeikyan of Mandalay Division, though they are not included in the special development regions. As Magway and Meiktila are strategic regions in the central part of Myanmar, an institute of medicine, a university of community health, an institute of economics, a technological college, a computer college, an education college and Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University were opened there.

At a time when the Government has been constantly attending to all the requirements to open opportunities to youths they will be able to pursue education without difficulty, we would like to call upon all the teachers to try their level best to realize the education goal of the State by turning out highly-qualified human resources more and more.

Do not be frightened whenever intimidated

Executive U Hla Maung and officials of the UMFCCI left for Thailand by air on 29 July to attend the ‘Workshop on AFFA and MSP’ to be held at Chiang Rai, Thailand from 29 to 31 July 2003. They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by UMFCCI President U Win Myint. General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing and officials.—MNA

Leading Committee for Nutrition Week meets

YANGON, 29 July — Chairman of the Leading Committee for Nutrition Week Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint delivered an address at the meeting of Leading Committee for Nutrition Week being held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Health on Pyaydaungsu Yeiktha street, Dagon Township this afternoon. Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, President of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, directors-general, managing directors, deputy directors-general, directors of departments and officials of social organizations. At first, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint made a speech on the occasion.

Next, Secretary of the Leading Committee for Nutrition Week Director-General of Department of Health Dr Waun Muang reported on work plan for nutrition week and Joint Secretary Director of Department of Health (Public Health) Dr San Shwe Wan reported on progress of work. Afterwards, those present took part in the discussion and passed resolutions.

After that, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint made a concluding speech and the meeting came to a close. — MNA

Management Committee of F&R Ministry meets

YANGON, 29 July — The meeting of Management Committee, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, was held at the ministry this afternoon, attended by Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

Also present were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Tun, the governor and the vice-governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, directors-general and managing directors under the ministry and officials.

At the ceremony, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun delivered a speech. — MNA

Special trains for Taungbyone festival

YANGON, 29 July — Special trains will run between Yangon and Mandalay during the Taungbyone festival beginning 31 July.

The Up train leaving Yangon at 1.45 pm and arriving Mandalay at 5 am the next day will run from 1 to 11 August on odd days, and the Down train leaving Mandalay at 11.15 pm and arriving at Yangon 4.15 am the next day will run from 31 July to 12 August. The Down train will run on even days in August.

The special trains will stop at Bago, Nyaungshwe, Pyu, Toungoo, Pyinmana, Pyawbwe and Thazi stations. Tickets will be available at the respective stations for two first coaches and eight ordinary coaches.

Attorney-General meets law officers

YANGON, 29 July — The attorney-general and state, division and district law officers held the 23rd work coordination meeting at the meeting hall-2 of the attorney-general’s office this morning.

Present on the occasion were Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, U Han Shein and U Myint Naing. Director-General of the Attorney-General’s Office U Mya Nyein, Deputy Director-General of the Attorney-General’s Office (Mandalay Branch) U Tin Myint and officials. The law officers and directors presented their respective reports. Next, the deputy attorney-generals and the director-general made speeches. Later, the attorney-general gave concluding remarks. — MNA

The Construction and Engineering Co of the National Development Company Group launched its special sales of its housing estates at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyuang Street on 26 July and attracted a lot of people. On that day, over 200 apartments were sold out. — NNM
Athens lawyers to file suit against Blair over Iraq

ATHENS, 29 July — The Athens Bar Association was scheduled to lodge a complaint with the International Criminal Court against Prime Minister Tony Blair government for what it said were crimes against humanity in Iraq.

The President of the association, Dimitris Paxinos, said in a radio interview Monday that he did not expect the court to summon Blair to testify but added that this was a decision to be taken by the tribunal in The Hague.

The 20,000-member bar association alleged that US and British military forces in Iraq breached international treaties such as the UN charter, the Geneva Conventions and the statutes of the International Criminal Court.

The action also cites Jack Straw, the British foreign secretary, Geoff Hoon, the secretary of defence and Adam Ingram, the minister of state for the armed forces.

It is now up to the prosecutor of the court, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, to decide if there is any substance to the 47-page complaint, and whether it should be prosecuted. Blair would have to appear before the court is there is “indication of guilt”, said Paxinos.

“I don’t think that’s very probable, but that does not concern me. I think that is my duty (to bring the action),” he said.

The court, which was inaugurated on March 12, was set up last year to conduct investigations and prosecutions of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. However, the court is only able to act when national courts are unable or unwilling to investigate or prosecute.

The Greek public and all the main political parties overwhelmingly opposed the US-led war in Iraq.

However, the United States has challenged the court’s jurisdiction over Americans and has put pressure on other nations not to extradite US troops and other Americans charged with human rights and war crimes.

Paxinos said the bar association had not brought a similar case against US President George W. Bush because the United States had not ratified the treaty setting up the International Criminal Court and is therefore outside its jurisdiction.

If the case is heard, the bar association said it would summon a number of high-level personalities as witnesses, including UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, former UN weapons inspector Hans Blix, the president of the European Commission, Romano Prodi and the EU’s foreign and security policy chief, Javier Solana.

Arab foreign ministers to discuss Iraq next month

CAIRO, 29 July — A group of Arab foreign ministers will meet in Cairo on August 5 to discuss the future of fellow Arab state Iraq and Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts, Arab League Secretary-General Amr Moussa said on Sunday.

Moussa said the League had invited ministers who are following up recommendations of an Arab summit held in March to attend the talks at the headquarters of the 22-member pan-Arab body in Cairo.

An official said the foreign ministers of Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain and Libya had already agreed to attend. The League was still awaiting a response from Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinians, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco.

1,020 criminals arrested in joint operation in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 29 July — Bangladesh Home Secretary Muhammad Omar Faruque Sunday announced that 1,020 criminals including 71 listed ones were arrested so far in a joint operation in southeastern Bangladesh, reported the official Bangladesh News Agency. Muham-mad Omar Faruque dismissed any possibility of winding up the ongoing operation “Spider Web” in southwestern districts jointly carried out by the police, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and ansars (militia), adding the operation will continue until its goal is achieved.

Indian PM urges farmers to boost grain exports

NEW DELHI, 29 July — In a bid to accelerate foodgrain exports, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sunday called upon farmers to reduce cost of production and become more competitive in the world market.

“Many countries in the world are experiencing food shortages but they want to buy at low prices. Now that I am meeting you personally, I advise you to reduce cost of production to become more competitive,” Vajpayee told farmers who gathered at his residence to thank him for reducing interest on agricultural loans.

He said that the government will arrange remunerative prices for the farmers in the international grain market but input costs then must be reduced.

Vajpayee said, “The world is surprised that from a grain importing country, India has now become an exporter. It sends grains to a number of countries.”

Thailand’s Hall of Opium to be officially opened in October

BANGKOK, 29 July — Thailand’s Mae Fah Luang Foundation will officially open its Hall of Opium in October to spotlight the drug’s 5,000-year history and the dangers of using it, the Bangkok Post reported Monday.

Disnadda Diskul, secretary-general of the foundation, said that the museum, located in the famous Golden Triangle in the Chiang Saen District of Chiang Rai Province 900 kilometres north of Bangkok, would become an international information centre and serve as an effective tool in turning farmers away from opium cultivation.

A US soldier orders an Iraqi man leaning on a walking stick to leave the scene of a weapons raid. The US said that 30 nations have thus far agreed to participate with in an international stabilization force for Iraq.—INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

A British Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Athens Bar Association had called on International Criminal Court against Prime Minister Tony Blair government for what it said were crimes against humanity in Iraq, the court said on Monday.

Members of the Athens Bar Association have called on International Criminal Court (ICC) Chief Prosecutor Luis Moreno Ocampo to investigate 22 alleged incidents involving British forces in the war, the court said in a statement.

The Greek lawyers handed a dossier containing 74 press reports and 13 video tapes of news reports from the war in Iraq to the prosecutor.

The Office of the Prosecutor handed a written letter acknowledging receipt of this dossier to the Greek lawyer, the Greek police, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and ansars to decide if there is any substance to the 47-page dossier, “The Hague-based court said.

Experts of the Athens Bar Association prepared 22 charges referring to specific incidents and requested the Office of the Prosecutor to exercise the jurisdiction of the Court in crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide,” the ICC said.

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A British Foreign Ministry spokesman said London was aware of the reports but had “nothing to add by way of comment, except to say the British government has acted in accordance with international law throughout the conflict.”

The ICC has received around 500 complaints from 66 countries since the global court came into force in July 2002. It has not yet initiated a full investigation. Britain and Greece are among 91 countries that recognize and support the court.

More than 100 complaints so far have concerned the US-led war in Iraq, most of those protests against the war itself. The United States does not back the court.

The ICC, set up to tackle war crimes and crimes against humanity, can only act if national courts cannot or will not, and has jurisdiction solely where crimes were committed by nationals of a state party to the court or on such a state’s territory.

The prosecutor said earlier this month he was focusing on the Democratic Republic of Congo for what could lead to his maiden formal investigation. His examination of complaints of atrocities in Congo’s northeastern province of Ituri could produce the court’s first case.

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MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
Iraqi killed as shooting erupts at anti-US protest

Kerbala (Iraq), 29 July — An Iraqi man was killed and three wounded in the Shiite holy city of Kerbala on Sunday when protesters clashed with US troops and Iraqi police, witnesses and hospital workers said.

Marines said two Kalashnikov rifle shots were fired during the protest and they returned fire. Reuters journalists saw troops fire in the air to disperse stone-throwers angry at the killing of another man by US troops on Saturday.

Doctors at a hospital in the city, home to one of Shia Islam's holiest shrines, said the man killed in Sunday's protest had been shot and showed the wound to a Reuters correspondent. One of the wounded, Shaer Abbas, said he had been hit with an electric cattle prod.

“During the protest, two rounds were fired from a building,” a Marine officer told Reuters. “They were fired from an AK-47. We’re investigating to make sure the firing has stopped.”

Residents said unrest began on Saturday when locals accused US troops of encroaching on the grounds of the revered Imam Hussein Mosque. In resulting clashes, they said, an Iraqi died.

The Marine officer said the Iraqi killed on Saturday had been shot by troops because he was armed and posed a threat.

The death sparked Sunday's protest, with hundreds of men marching from the famed, gold-domed mosque waving banners and shouting anti-American slogans. As gunshots rang out, Marines dived for cover behind walls and many Iraqi police fled.

Soldiers arrested several protesters. At least one of the detained Iraqis was carrying a Kalashnikov AK-47 assault rifle. In angry confrontations, Marines threw several protesters to the ground and pointed their weapons at the crowd.

The funeral of the Iraqi killed on Sunday was due to take place at 5 p.m. (1300 GMT) on Sunday afternoon, and was expected to be another potential flashpoint in the tense city.

MNA/Reuters

Bahraini Co told to stop Iraq operation

DUBAI (United Arab Emirates), 29 July — The Bahraini telecommunication company that set up a cellular network in Bagh-
dad without permission from the US-led authority in Iraq has been ordered to cut off the service.

Bahrain Telecommunication Co., known as Batelco, had begun service July 22, carrying calls for people with phones on the GSM network standard common in the Middle East and Europe. Batelco said it had spent nearly $5 million setting up the network and had given out 1,000 free phones to police, fire and emergency crews in Baghdad whose communications have been hampered by the devast-
ings of the city's landline phone networks.

"It's a pity that we had to stop. We really put in an effort and felt a cheer coming toward us from all over the world," Rashid al-Snan, Batelco's regional operations manager, told The Associated Press by telephone Monday from Bah-
rain.

Al-Snan said Batelco received a letter from US authori-
ties two days after the service started, saying the company needed a license to operate in Iraq. Batelco responded with a request for a license, but was told to stop the service and that provisional authorities were still working out a licens-
ing regime.

Al-Snan said Batelco had not thought it needed a license to get started and had planned to apply once licensing began.

US authorities formally began seeking bids for three mobile phone licenses in Iraq on Sunday, telling prospective licensees they will be required to begin installation within 20 days of being hired.

“We are more than willing to work within the regula-
tions available and will apply for a tender,” al-Snan said.

A spokesman for the provisional authority, speaking on condition of anonymity, told reporters in Baghdad on Sun-
day that two companies that had been providing service without authorization in Iraq had been asked to stop because their operations interfered with the signal of MCI, the US company that provides mobile service to officials from the authority, the United Nations and some government departments.

Internet

Vietnam's seafood exports in first seven months rise

HANOI, 29 July — Vietnam is estimated to make seafood exports revenue of 1.17 billion US dollars in the first seven months of 2003, a year-on-year rise of 11.6 per cent, according to the Ministry of Fisheries on Monday.

In July alone, the country shipped abroad 251,000 tons of seafood worth 210 million dollars, recording lower growth than previous months.

The Ministry of Fisheries said the catfish dis-

Rights report criticizes US, allies on Afghanistan

KABUL, 29 July — Human Rights Watch has sharply criticized the United States and other foreign power-brokers in Afghanistan for failing to stem right abuses in the country, which it says could derail elections due next June.

Violence, political intimidation and attacks on women and girls were discour-
ging political participation and endanger-

MNA/Reuters

Indian urges Pakistan to react substantively to peace initiative

NEW DELHI, 29 July — India on Monday urged Pakistan to react substantively to Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s peace initiative and show “sincerity” in creating the right atmosphere for dialogue to enable them to move ahead.

“If there is sincerity in creating the right conditions, then we can talk about dialogue,” he said. There is still no word from the Paki-
stani side on dates for discussions of the technical level teams for resumption of civil aviation links between the two countries, which were stopped in the wake of the De-
bacle 13 terror strike on Indian Parliament last year.

The spokesman made it clear that India was following a “step-by-step” approach in normalizing ties with Pakistan.

Internet

Vietnam to increase cigarette taxes

HANOI, 29 July — The Vietnamese Government will impose higher taxes on cigarettes from January 1, 2004 in a bid to reduce the number of smokers.

All kinds of cigarettes will carry a value-

MNA/Xinhua

Mexican hold posters during a demonstration in front of the United States Embassy in Mexico City on July 26, 2003, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Cuba's Moncada attack. The demonstrators protested against the US for its longtime blockade of Cuba.—AFP
A resident of a Baghdad University student building waits outside the building as a US Army 1st Armoured Division soldier stands guard Monday, on 28 July, 2003, in Baghdad, Iraq. The soldiers wanted a residence hall of Baghdad University to be evacuated for security reasons because it overlooks the US soldiers' camp. — Internet

Another Pakistani child undergoes heart operation in India

New Delhi, 29 July — Close on the heels of the surgery on Noor Fatima which generated much interest on both sides of the Indo-Pakistani border, eight-year-old Pakistani boy Junaid Khalid Monday underwent a complex open heart surgery to plug a hole in his heart at a super-specialty hospital in Bangalore.

Junaid, the second child operated on in a week with the 57 rural district councils having applied for grants, is one of the 200 protesters who gathered Downtown yesterday morning at Tenth Street and Penn Avenue to demonstrate against President Bush’s appearance at the National Urban League Annual Conference.

“We are not picketing against the Urban League,” said Yvonne Brown, 57, of the Hill District. “We are protesting against George Bush because he is the cause of what is happening in Iraq. The moment he said the war was over, they started killing our soldiers one by one. This is still war.”

The protesters, young and old alike, men and women representing a variety of races, shouted slogans, banged on drums and carried signs:

“We want an elected president.”

“You shall not covet thy neighbour’s oil fields.”

“You shall not bear false witness.”

“Stop the war.”


Her father is Staff Sgt Charles Pollard, 43, also of Perry.

She said her father, who serves in the 307th Military Police Company, has been in Iraq for almost a year.

Robin’s mother, Deshanna Ponton, said that every time the news announces another soldier has been killed in Iraq, Robin fears she will hear her father’s name.

It’s said whenever we are reading letters from [Charles] and they sound like they are the last letter he’ll ever write.

We want him to come home,” Deshanna said.

The Pontons were not alone in their desire to see all the US soldiers return home.

Cathy Troiani, of Zelienople, Butler County, wife of Army Staff Sgt Phillip Troiani with the 444th Personnel Services Battalion currently in Kuwait, was holding a placard that read: “Bring home Gabriella’s daddy.”

“My husband wants to come home,” she said. “I support my husband. I don’t support the war. I don’t support the president. It’s dangerous. It’s gotten more dangerous since the president declared victory.”

Many conference attendees who made their way out of the David L. Lawrence Convention Center were unaware that a protest was taking place.

“I’m shocked,” said Lillian Haydel, a convention delegate from New Orleans. “I didn’t know it was going on. You can’t tell from inside the convention. I think it’s freedom of speech and everyone is entitled to it.”

The protest was organized by the Thomas Merton Center and included other organizations. There were no arrests.

Across the street, a handful of counter-protesters supported Bush’s appearance. — Internet

Development projects to create jobs in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 29 July — An estimated 6,000 new jobs will be created after the Zimbabwean Government floated about $2.43 million US dollars to rural district councils for development projects linked to the land reform programme, according to the president.

“On Monday in Harare, this is a further effort by the government to ensure that the agrarian reform programme, which has been successful in erasing the new era in the country’s social, economic and political landscape.

Most of the councils have applied for projects, which give priority to employment creation in rural and resettlement areas while boosting agricultural development.

Among the projects lined up by the councils are small-scale irrigation schemes, fishing cooperatives and conservancy operations.

The money is being disbursed on a first-come-first-served basis and according to the needs and projected future opportunities of each project. The application period ended last week with the 57 rural district councils having applied for projects. — MNA/Xinhua

US soldier killed, three hurt in Baghdad attack

BAGHDAD, 29 July — A US soldier was killed in a bomb attack in broad daylight in Baghdad on Monday, bringing to 50 the number of US soldiers to die from hostile fire since Washington declared major combat over on 1 May.

The US military said three other troops were wounded when an “improved explosive device” was dropped from a bridge onto a US convoy in the capital’s Rashid district, the latest in an increasingly bold and deadly guerrilla campaign.

“Fueled by a cycle of fear and resentment between American occupiers and ordinary Iraqis, people in Baghdad accused jammy US troops of killing five passers-by on Sunday in what looked like a botched raid in the hunt for Saddam Hussein. US spokesmen declined all comment on Sunday’s incident, adding to an air of mystery over precisely what occurred.

The US commander in Iraq, Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, warned the country’s becoming a “terrorist magnet” and said attacks on his forces were becoming more sophisticated.

A previously unknown group, apparently Iraqi Muslim militants, said in a video tape aired on Arab television it would fight a “holy war” against President Bush.

A masked gunman from the Salafist Jihad Group said: “America, you have declared war on God’s soldiers... You will have no security... You will have no peace of mind as long as you are an infidel and fighting a war against Islam.”

About a third of the US deaths since May 1 have occurred in the past 10 days alone, although US officers say the number of attacks is constant at an average of about a dozen a day.

Some fear the attacks will remain unseen and US commanders have been playing down the possibility Saddam may be orchestrating them or that the killing of his once powerful sons a week ago should slow the attrition rate.

Saddam, they say, has little room for maneuver as troops hunt him down. — Internet

Photo exhibition on HIV/AIDS held in Tanzanian capital

DAR-ES-SALAM, 29 July — A photo exhibition on HIV/AIDS opened in Dar-es-Salam, capital of Tanzania, on Monday with the aim of increasing the public awareness of the deadly epidemic.

The exhibition will also challenge the negative prejudices and fear surrounding HIV/AIDS and highlight the global response to the disease, according to sources from the Action Aid-Tanzania, organizer of the photo exhibition at the National Museum.

The photos and text documents are intended to reflect the daily lives of people infected with the virus that could lead to AIDS from around the world, they said. — MNA/Xinhua

Central Iraq still ‘warzone’

BAGHDAD, 29 July — Central Iraq, from Baghdad to Tikrit, was still a war zone, the top US military commander said today during a stop in Iraq.

“Eighty per cent of the security incidents are happening there,” General Richard B Myers told a news conference in New Delhi, as he referred to attacks on US troops in central Iraq.

“It’s fair to say it’s still a war zone in that area,” Myers said. “It’s still a very challenging environment, a very hard environment.”

Myers said he was not contradicting US President George Bush, who had declared that major conflict operations were over in Iraq.

Myers said Bush had used “specific language” to refer to “major conflicts” and the general said that was true.

“Militarily we won’t be defeated in Iraq,” Myers said. “We will stay until the job is done.”

He said US analysts believe that most of the resistance to US troops came from remnants of the ousted regime of Saddam Hussein, members of his Ba’ath Party, the Republican Guard, plus criminals he had released from prison.

“Foreign fighters are also perhaps coming in,” Myers said, but did not elaborate. — Internet

200 protest Bush’s appearance

30 July — Bush heralded a downtown crowd of some 200 protesters who gathered Downtown yesterday morning at Tenth Street and Penn Avenue to demonstrate against President Bush’s appearance at the National Urban League Annual Conference.

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Southern Iraq provisional coordinator leaves post

COPENHAGEN, 29 July—The Danish coordinator for the US-led provisional authority in southern Iraq said on Monday he has ended his term in office and will be replaced by a British diplomat.

Ole Woelch Nielsen, who has been critical about the lack of support for his reconstruction efforts, told a news conference it was an “appropriate time” for him to step down as Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) coordinator for the Basra region, one of four such administrative zones set up in postwar Iraq.

Olsen held the CPA post in the southern Basra region for two-and-a-half months with a contract for a maximum of six months. He will be replaced by British diplomat Hilary Symonds, the Danish Foreign Ministry said.

The three other administrative zones in Iraq under the CPA are led by Americans.

The ministry said that as focus on tangible reconstruction tasks increases, the administration of Iraq will become decentralized.

So-called governors will be established in Iraq’s 18 provinces, led by an international governor of American, British or Australian nationality.

“The attrition of south Iraq was far worse than I had expected,” Olsen told reporters on Monday.

One month ago, the Danish Muslim told Danish radio that the Baghdad headquarters of the CPA were not providing him with enough resources.

“My people in the administration office have no security guards with them as they move around either — and I’m not happy about that,” Olsen said.

He said on Monday that providing electricity in the region was considered one of the most difficult tasks due to sabotage.

Denmark participated in the US-led war in Iraq with a submarine and a ship and has offered around 400 military personnel and police officers to provide security during its reconstruction.

Lieutenant General Kofi Annan at a Senate Foreign Relations panel hearing last week said the United States has not been transparent about intermediaries.

“By its actions, the Bush Administration threatens to give a bad name to a just war,” Lieberman said.

The photo taken on 27 July, 2003 shows part of a bamboo curtain drawn with characters of the “Dream of the Red Mansions”, a great classical Chinese novel. Based on the three great classical Chinese novels of “Dream of the Red Mansions”, “Romance of the Three Kingdoms” and “The Water Margin”, the craftsmanship which is more than 300 meters long and 0.85 meter wide was shown at the 10th Bamboo Culture Festival in Wangjianglou Park in Chengdu, capital of southwest China’s Sichuan Province.

Russia concerned about situation in Iraq

MOSCOW, 29 July—Russia is concerned about the situation in Iraq, which destabilizes the stability in the entire Middle East region, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov said on Monday.

“The lack of due order and the reign of crime in Iraq fuel extremist moods of different kind and also serve as nutrient medium for continuous terrorist acts,” Fedotov said in an interview with ITAR-TASS.

“All that destabilizes the situation in entire region,” he noted.

Meanwhile, Fedotov reiterated Russia’s support to the recommendations put forward by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan at a Security Council opening session on July 22.

The recommendation would boost “efforts by the international community under the UN aegis to help the Iraqi people overcome that crisis and form their own legitimate government as soon as possible,” he said.

Fedotov called upon the UN Security Council to approve the recommendations at an early date. He also urged the early creation of a UN mission in Iraq.

Russia, a main opponent to the US-led war against Iraq without the UN backing, has been calling for a bigger UN role in Iraq’s postwar reconstruction.

Liebermann criticizes fellow Democrats on Iraq

WASHINGTON, 29 July—Senator Joseph Lieberman on Monday criticized fellow Democratic presidential contenders who do not recognize the war to oust Iraq’s Saddam Hussein was justified and make Democrats appear weak on defense.

Lieberman, who strongly supported the war, said, “Some in my party threaten to send a message that they don’t know a just war when they see it, and, more broadly, are not prepared to use our military strength to protect our security and the cause of freedom.”

Seeking to emerge from the pack of nine Democratic contenders, Lieberman of Connecticut said he felt he represented his party’s “mainstream position,” saying “being strong on defence is part of what it means to be a Democrat.”

In a speech at the Capitol, Lieberman also slammed President George W. Bush for post-war bungling and not taking responsibility for a dubious claim on Iraq’s pursuit of nuclear weapons in his January State of the Union address.

“By its actions, the Bush Administration threatens to give a bad name to a just war,” Lieberman said.

China’s mall alliance issues product pledge

BEIJING, 29 July—One hundred shopping malls Sunday announced they would refuse to sell products that do not obtain the required compulsory certification after August 1.

A joint declaration by the malls said, “Starting from August 1, we will not trade in products on the government’s list that do not carry the China Compulsory Certification (CCC) mark”, according to Monday’s China Daily. They said the declaration, released at a ceremony organized on Sunday in Wangjingtian, Beijing, is aimed at ensuring product quality and safety and at protecting the interests of consumers.

In December 2001, China’s product certification watchdog announced plans to introduce the mandatory scheme for 132 products and it originally set a starting date of May 1 this year, but the deadline was held back until August because of the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

Chen Fang, deputy director of the Certification and Accreditation Administration of China, highly praised the malls for their active role in helping enforce the compulsory certification.

“I expect all commercial enterprises to follow their example in ensuring the full implementation of the system,” Chen said.

Chen also urged Chinese and foreign enterprises that have not yet applied for certification to do so.

China’s Gov’t web site to rate intermediary agencies

BEIJING, 29 July—The Ministry of Education has set up a web site to publicize both excellent and substandard intermediary agencies that help students go abroad to study.

The web site, will list Chinese intermediary agencies that are officially authorized by provincial and municipal-level education departments and also list qualified foreign schools that receive Chinese students, said a ministry spokesman, who did not give a specific timetable for when this would happen.

Any illegal or misleading activities by intermediary agencies will be disclosed.

Chongqing city taps tourism around Three Gorges

CHONGQING, 29 July—Chongqing City on the upper reaches of the Yangtze River plans to build the Three Gorges Reservoir area into one of China’s most popular tourist destinations.

The reservoir, which began to fill with water last May, is a part of Three Gorges Project, now has a water level of 135 metres.

An official from the municipal government said that tourism development would be carried out step by step to make the most of the new dam.

In accordance with the requirements such as sustainable development, the municipal government has compiled a development plan regarding tourism development around the Three Gorges Reservoir, said the official.

He said that they would step up construction infrastructure for tourism, especially building of major tourism works so that the Three Gorges area would have a new appeal for tourists.

The city hopes to host 20.6 million tourists, including 600,000 overseas tourists, and rake in 15 billion yuan (about 1.81 billion US dollars) in total tourism revenue in 2007. The figures are expected to further rise to 23.8 million tourists and 20 billion yuan (about 2.41 billion US dollars) in total revenue in 2010. — MNA/Xinhua

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Li-Gen Thura Shwe Mann... (from page 1)

The personnel are to avoid carrying out tasks only when assigned duties. They are to be not only dutiful but also capable of handling emergency cases. Furthermore, they are to make concerted efforts consciously for regional and national interests.

He said they were born and have grown up in the nation and they have to spend the rest of their lives in the nation as well. So, all of their efforts ought to be in the interests of the nation and the people, he noted. The accomplishments already gained are the fruitful results of the cooperation of the State and the people exerting their own strength and technologies. Facing various challenges, the government and the people have managed to achieve such accomplishments, he said. Next, the Secretary-2 presented exercise books to the basic education schools in the district, and cash assistance for the families of the Sangha at Kalay. The Secretary-2 and party inspected construction of small bridges and Kalaywa-Monywa Road. Li-Gen Thura Shwe Mann then gave instructions on early completion of the road. Chairman of Kalaya Township Peace and Development Council U Aung Mon Latt reported on requirements for development of the township. Li-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and Secretary-2 Li-Gen Soe Win reported on progress of construction of Myiththa Bridge (Kalaywa) in Kalaywa. The 1,320 feet long and 28 feet wide suspension bridge linking Kalaywa and Shantat Village on the other side of the river is on Monywa-Ahlon-Yagyi-Myoma-Kalaywa Road. The bridge links Kalaywa-Tamal Road and Kalaywa-Monywa Road and it will contribute to wards better transport to Chin State. Li-Gen Thura Shwe Mann met officers. Taungyin and Kyigon Districts. Li-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party inspected printing press, offset press and practical printing work. The Secretary-2 and party arrived at Kalay University where they were welcomed by Pro-rector U Kyaw Ye Tun and professors. The Secretary-2 met the pro-rector, professors and faculty members at multimedia lecture theatre. Pro-rector U Kyaw Ye Tun reported on upgrading of college to university, lecture halls, courses, strength of administration and teaching department staff and welfare for the service personnel. Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-2 Li-Gen Soe Win said as today is a knowledge age the role of faculty members is important. They are learning to gain knowledge for themselves as well as shaping the students to become educated and brilliant ones. Only when there are plenty of intellectuals and intelligentsia can a modern nation be built with the strength of brilliant human resources. This is why universities, colleges and basic education schools are opened in states and divisions and other major regions. He said Kalay region is economically and socially an important one for not only Tamu and Mawlaik region in Sagaing Division but also regions in Chin State (North). Many students from Chin State (North) are attending Kalay University and colleges in Kalay. Over 200 patients from Chin State are receiving treatment at 200-bed district hospital. Kalay region is economically, socially and geographically in a central point.

He urged the teachers to nurture the students to be educated ones on whom the State relies and to be good citizens with Union Spirit whom the State is proud of. The Secretary-2 and party went to local battalion and inspected Maung Myanmar Super Jeep manufactured in Kalay industrial zone. They also inspected invention of off-set press and practical printing work. They also inspected turbine, dynamos, small-scale hydel power generators, hand pumps, spare parts of weaving machines, farm implements and veterinary projects. Li-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Li-Gen Soe Win and Li-Gen Ye Myint arrived back here in the evening.

On 25 July, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected wall bulleting, TV room and library at Kalay District Information and Public Relations Department. The minister met district head and deputy heads of Kalay, Minkin, Phaung-pyn and Milwadwe IPRDs, officials of TV relay station and sub-printing house and service personnel. The minister went to the sub-printing house and inspected printing press, Internet room, photolotho room. Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein inspected raising of layers at the Kyigon Station on 26 July. He met service personnel of Fisheries Department and livestock breeding entrepreneurs. He also inspected the fingerling camp, poultry farm and piggery of Fisheries Department and Kalay Station.
It is a common knowledge that the whole 1988 unrest was not only with the needs for democracy. The demand for democracy was a wrong-headed idea. But there were a lot of interferences during the unrest.

Slogans such as “...Give us democracy at once.” and “...Democracy or death” were unusual. As is known to all, the leftists and rightists groups placed democracy in the fore in launching the movement, with the slogans, saying that the people wanted democracy. The leftist and rightists groups never did accept the Burma Socialist Programme Party government’s assurance to hold the election within three months; instead they demanded the for- mation of an interim government that would introduce democracy in the country. They were those from the external interferences. The leading persons themselves who made the demand had already prepared to form the interim government.

The situation then can be said the most violent power struggle in Myanmar history after the restoration of independence. The opportunists were happy as the whole situation was burning with unrest and those who upheld the policies of the United Nations and the Federal Polit- ical Front. Some corrupt politicians even recklessly used the method of political blackmail and tried to push the people into an abyss for the anarchy to reign in the entire nation through a civil commotion. Could such acts lead to democ- racy?

In reality, the materialization of democracy will have to be based on the objective condition of the nation concerned. There are a lot of basic requirements. Those who do not believe this may study the formation of democ- racy in the Asian countries. How can the situation in all countries be the same? The formation of democracy in the western countries are much different from that of the oriental coun- tries.

When we study the forms of democracy in Asian countries such as Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Republic of Korea and the Philippines, we will find that there is much difference between one country and another. Each country has its own style of democracy. If the democracy can solve every problem, it is sure that these Asian nations will be enjoying cent per cent peace and stability and all-round progress at present. However, they all have their own political, eco- nomic and social problems that are the consequences of the past and have not ended yet. Even the countries which are called the grandfathers of democracy also have their intern- al problems. They are not free from flaws and weak- nesses.

We can take Thailand as an example. The country does not have to worry about the problem of unity of ethnic races due to border extemities, but how much time has it taken for the flourishing of democracy?

For about a century, the country had to make strenuous efforts to reach that end. However, it hasn’t had the cent per cent democracy yet. That means it is true that for the Tatmadaw government, which has taken the duties of the State during the period of transformation in Myanmar, the transition for flourishing of democracy cannot be com- pleted overnight.

If I will have to recount the history, the Tatmadaw, that is implementing the transition task at present, always understood the wishes and aspirations of the people and accord with their wishes. If the Tatmadaw government can set up a disciplined democracy State. It has introduced the law to do politics in accord with the correct methods and princi- ples. They are inclined towards making confrontations, creating problems and tricking the people to incite unrest. In this regard, we should review from the start to find out which of the forces have acted responsibly and which irresponsibly. The extent of losses suffered during the 1988 unrest was alarmingly as the incidents occurred not only in Yangon, but also in other townships in the country. The situation in some towns was so grave that even a dusk-to-dawn curfew had to be imposed there.

Concerning the incidents that had occurred and were happening in Yangon and other places, on 10 August 1988, the Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Commit- tee asked the government and the entire mass of the people, including monks and people with no political affiliations, to refrain from committing acts of vio- lence as it might cause harm to peace and stability of the State. The Islamic, the Hindu and the Christian organiza- tions had also made similar requests to the public.

As the number of disturbances, strikes, interfer- ences and terrorist acts was on the rise in the whole nation then, the people’s lives were in danger. Thus, the then Prime Minister of the nation and the then Commanding-in-Chief of the Defence Services had announced that the Tatmadaw was responsible for the restoration of peace and security and the rule of law in the nation; that, it would have to carry out the demands of the people to peacefully make their demands within the framework of law and to refrain from committing anarchic acts.

When the situation in the country was in confusion, the Burma Socialist Program Party Central Committee held its 11th meeting on 19 August 1988, followed by the fourth emergency meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw in the afternoon. At the emergency meeting, the directives of the State economic policy, reforms and long-term and short- term work programmes were laid down as follows:

...The good social conditions may emerge while the political problem of the current unrest is being solved through political means and the economic problem through economic means. The entire people are required to render collective assistance in carrying out the long-term and short-term tasks. In doing so, only the public wishes and demands that are presented within the framework of law and will be accepted and considered. Although some of the public submissions concerning the matter have already been received at present, the Pyithu Hluttaw will form a commission for ascertaining the desires and aspirations of the people to study the people’s opinions more swiftly and comprehensively. The finds and presentations will be stud- ied to serve the people in every respect.

If we study the finds and presentations, we will obviously see the then existing government’s efforts to correctly assess the objective conditions with the aim of striving for the national development and welfare.

Sadly, the unrest never lost steam. Thus, the com- mission for ascertaining the desires and aspirations of the people had to be dissolved, and another plan was made to hold the referendum for the constitution. But the referendum was not accepted by the people. The demands had moved a step forward with the slogan “Formation of the interim government”. But there were signs of national disintegration, and some big foreign coun- tries’ attempts to make Myanmar their minion by using the...
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects …
(from page 16)
Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected No 2 Water Pumping Plant of Ywathit river water pumping project, water pumping to the main canal and maintenance of the main canal. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party at 1.30 pm arrived at Simikhon Section-2 river water pumping project in Myingyan Township, and inspected pumping of water from Ayeyawady river to the main canal, and pumping of water from the main canal to the second-level main canal.

At the briefing hall, Assistant Director of Myingyan District Water Resources Utilization Department reported on progress in implementation of Simikhon Section-2 and Simikhon Section-1 river water pumping projects, and future tasks. Next, the Chairman of Myingyan District Peace and Development Council gave a supplementary report. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into the Simikhon Section-2 extended main canal. Officials reported on condition of pumping of water to the main canal and work to be carried out to Lt-Gen Ye Myint who gave necessary instructions.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Myingyan river water pumping project and inspected the project. The river water pumping project will benefit 4223 acres of farmland in the region. Owing to the river project, 148 acres of land are now being put under monsoon paddy. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party at 4 pm arrived at the Government Technological Institute construction project site in Myingyan. At the briefing hall, Project Manager of Eden Group Construction Co U Yu Tin reported on work being carried out and arrival of construction materials to Lt-Gen Ye Myint who gave necessary instructions.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected construction tasks and stopped over the night in Myingyan. — MNA

West-East Economic Corridor Development on 11-12 Aug
YANGON, 29 July — The Ninth Working Group Meeting on the West-East Economic Corridor Development, co-organized by the Ministry of Rail Transportation and AMIECC (AEM-METI Economic and Industrial Coopera-
tion Committee) will be held at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road on 11 and 12 August. Representatives of ASEAN Secretariat, ADB, METI, UNIDO, UNESCO, FAO, Cambodia, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Singapore, Thailand and Myanmar will attend the meeting. — MNA

Transport Minister inspects construction works of MPA, IWT
YANGON, 29 July — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, together with Deputy Minister U Pe Than, this morning arrived at Botahtaung Jetty No 5 and 6 of Myanmar Port Authority and inspected tasks being undertaken for beautifying of the jetty and gave necessary instructions. They next went to Panodokan (Dalla) Jetty and also inspected construction work. Managing Director of the Inland Water Transport U Soe Ti and officials reported on progress of work. Next, the minister and party proceeded to Ahlon Shipyard of IWT and saw over renovations to the Shipyard. Officials concerned reported on repairing ships, strength of staff, usage of docks and electric power and fuel.

Afterwards, they arrived at Asia World Wharf in Ahlon Township. At the meeting hall, responsible officials briefed them on mooring of ships and progress of construction work with the use of charts. The minister attended to the needs and inspected construction site at Ahlon Jetty No 3. — MNA

Minister inspects factories in Yangon
YANGON, 29 July — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Tun and officials concerned arrived at Diamond Soh Drinks Factory of Myanmar Foodstuff Enterprise here this morning and inspected production process of soft drinks, factory and its environs, condition of roads and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister and party proceeded to Win Thuza shops on Wadan street, Lamadaw Township and inspected sales of goods from the Ministry of Industry-1. Afterwards, the minister arrived at Candy Factory of the MFE in Tamway Township and inspected the factory and its environs, condition of roads, production process of candy and gave instructions on functional matters.

Next, at the briefing hall, he met with officials and gave instructions on production, measures to be taken for production to exceed the target and distribution of candy through Win Thuza shops. After that, the minister proceeded to Win Thuza shop on Thuminingala street, Ward-7 South Okkalapa Township and inspected sales of goods and left necessary instructions. — MNA

Industry-2 Minister Inspects MIDB (Mandalay Branch)
YANGON, 29 July — President of Myanmar Industrial Development Bank Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin yesterday arrived at MIDB (Mandalay Branch) in Chanaythyazan Township in Mandalay and inspected banking services. Next, he proceeded to Industrial Training School (Mandalay) in Aung- myathazan Township and inspected arrangements for opening of welding training course. He also urged officials to test jeep cars assembled by Mandalay Industrial Zone in accord with the standard set. — MNA

Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Kyoung-woo and officials attend the Myanmar-Korea Economic Seminar at the Traders’ Hotel. — MNA

Myanmar, ROK hold business talks
YANGON, 29 July — The Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Korea held a seminar on business, under the arrangements of the Korean Embassy, at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning. At the seminar, Korean officials and Myanmar private entrepreneurs discussed the products manufactured by nine companies in Daegu, ROK. Mr Lee Kyoung-woo, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar, Korean Commercial Attaché Mr Choi Yoon-Tae and embassy staff observed the discussions. — MNA

Do not be softened whenever appealed
Enchanting land in progress

Tin Maung Than

In the north-west sector of the nation lies the mountaneous region, where Chin brethren live with their fine traditions and culture, and where the landscape is decorated with flowers of the Taungzalat (Rhus dodendron arboreum), beautiful gorges, pristine forests, raging streams and rivers and the Reed Lake, a famous natural water body whose shape is likened to a human heart. Once, the region of our kinfolk, which is called China State, lagged behind in development, as it is located in the far corners of the nation and its poor transport, a result of its rough terrain, and the heavy monsoon rains also made the region less accessible. But thanks to the nation-building endeavours of the State Peace and Development Council government, the Chin State region is on the correct path to progress and prosperity like other states and divisions in the whole nation.

In the transport sector of the region, four major roads — Kale-Falam-Haka Road, Gangaw-Haka Road, Haka-Matupi Road and Mindat-Matupi Road — and 17 other roads have been built or upgraded and extended. Kale-Falam-Haka road is over 115 miles long. Till now 82 miles and two further longs of the road has been tarred and the remaining sections will be tarred stage by stage. The 70-mile Gangaw-Haka Road is a gravel road, and will be tarred in accord with the year-wise plans. An earthen facility, the Haka-Matupi Road is over 172 miles in length. Plans are under way to upgrade it into a metallic road. Of the 102 miles of the Mindat-Matupi Road, the 71-mile section is a gravel road, and the remaining part of 28 miles is an earth road. The entire road will be upgraded into the gravel facility.

In addition, a number of bridges have been built on its wild rivers and streams. As it is a mountaneous region, a massive land reclamation programme is under way to set up 42,000 acres of highland farms in Chin State. Another mammoth agricultural programme is the tea plantation plan to turn Chin State into a major tea producing region of the nation. With the assistance of the government, over 2,450 acres of land were put under tea during the period from 1998-99 to 2002-2003. The plan covers putting of another 10,000 acres of land under tea. Chin State also sees the increase in the number of basic education high schools in the region from 17 in the past to 25 at present, the middle schools from 76 to 83, the elementary schools from 988 to 1,059, and the post primary schools from nil to 193.

The state is also experiencing progress in all sectors including the health, communication, livestock breeding and social sectors. Now, the enchanting Chin State does not lack progress any more, but is on the right track to catch up with other states and divisions of the nation in all sectors.

Bridges on Kalay-Gangaw Road serving interests of Yaw Region

Yaw longyi is a popular product of this region. The government has built new roads and bridges aiming to develop Yaw Region where Yaw longyis are produced. Those who had never seen trains before are now traveling by train. Those who were filled with anger when railroads were built in their region are now smiling with the sense of gratitude towards the government.

Kalay and Gangaw regions are in Yaw Region. They are located on the plains between Pontaung and Poonya mountain ranges in the east and Chin mountain range in the west. Therefore, the population is sparse. Moreover, situated between the two mountain ranges, it is difficult of access to Yangon and Mandalay. Let alone Yangon and Mandalay, transport link between the towns of Gangaw and Kalay is poor because Myitta River and Manipur River pose as barriers to them. In waterways, only bullock carts could be used. Therefore, transportation was very difficult in the past. The Tatmadaw Government took responsibilities of the State in 1988. Since then, the government has constructed major roads and bridges, and dams for all-round development of the State. Yaw Region has rapidly developed. For development of the region, new roads and bridges have been built and Taung- khynan Dam has also been constructed. Now, Minywa Dam, and Myaungchaung Dam and Razajo Dam are under construction in Kalay Township and Gangaw Township. Electricity will be generated using hydel power from Minywa Dam and Razajo Dam for Kalay and Gangaw regions. The two bridges have also been constructed across Myitta River and Manipur River which obstruct the way between Kalay and Gang-gaw. Saidu Bridge has been built across Myitta River which flows between Chin Mountain Range and Yaw Region.

Myitta River over Myitta River was opened on 21 April 1995. It is significant that Yaw Sayadaw drove a stake for the bridge construction. It is a rail-cum-road bridge and 880 feet long and 14 feet and seven inches wide. The construction work started on 23 March 1994 and was completed on 17 April 1995. Kambari Bridge crossing Manipur River near Kayawya Huetaw in Kalay Township was also inaugurated on 16 June 1995. It is also a rail-cum-road bridge and is 595 feet in length. On that day, Saidu Bridge crossing Myitta River was also opened next to the opening of Kambari Bridge. Due to the construction of three new bridges, Kalay-Gangaw-Chin Mountain Range are easily accessible now. Now, a train shuttles between Kalay and Yemyetnyi passing over these three bridges. Therefore, local people in Kalay and Gangaw regions can travel easily across the country. After completion of the rail-road tunnel being constructed through Pontaung and Ponnya mountain ranges near Yemyetnyi Village in Htilin Township, local people in Kalay and Gangaw regions will reach Mandalay and Yangon within a day. Launggat Bridge across Launggat Creek in Gangaw Region and Panmonchaung Bridge crossing Panmon Creek near Natchool Village in Kalay Township are also being constructed by the State. Panmonchaung Bridge has the length of 220 feet and efforts are being made to complete it this year. Being a local of Yaw Region, I must forever express my thanks for the construction of roads and bridges which will help develop the State.
Implementation of projects for equitable development of regions in the country

THE 595 feet long rail-cum-road Kabani Bridge was built across Manipur River between Kalay and Gangaw and it was opened on 16-6-95.

The Government has been striving for enabling the nation to keep abreast with the world's nations in terms of development. In the process, it has laid down national development projects and region-wise development plans and work is well under way for bringing about harmonious development in economic, health and education sectors across the nation and narrowing the development gap among all parts of the nation.
Megawati to inaugurate Sumatra-Singapore gas pipeline

JAKARTA, 29 July — Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri and Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong will inaugurate the 470-kilometers long gas transmission pipeline which connects South Sumatra of Indonesia and Singapore on August 4, an oil executive revealed on Monday. The inauguration will be held at Panarum, Batam Island, a gas state firm director WNP Simanjuntak was quoted by Detikcom online news service as saying.

The development of the pipe network which passes South Sumatra and Batam Island of Indonesia before stopping in Singapore is done by a gas state firm and it is now ready to operate. This pipeline will be able to supply gas as much as 350-600 million cubic feet of gas per day (MMSCFD) and will yield the country’s foreign exchange of US $700 million annually,” said Simanjuntak.

He said the development of the pipeline would be a historical milestone of the development of the so-called Trans ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Gas Pipeline. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnamese police discover 6,800 drug-related crimes

HANOI, 29 July — Vietnamese police discovered 6,800 drug-related cases across the country in the first half of the year. The police arrested more than 10,000 defendants, seizing 9,000 kilograms of heroin, 2,000 kilograms of opium, and 93,000 addictive tablets at the same time according to a local report here on Monday.

The volume of heroin seized in the period is three times higher than the corresponding period last year, reported the newspaper Young.

In Ho-Chi Minh City, the country’s biggest economic hub, local police discovered 959 cases of drug selling, trafficking and using, arrested 1,736 defendants, and seized 2,626 synthetic drug tablets in the period.

International drug crime organizations have been using Vietnam as a drug consumption area and a drug transit point to a third country, said Hung Vuong, Head of Police Department of Drug Crime Prevention in order to reduce the number of drug crimes, Vietnam is coordinating with Cambodia, Laos, China, and Hong Kong SAR in exchanging information about drug crimes and tracking down the crimes, said Vuong.

In 2002 alone, drug addicts in Vietnam rose by 20,000, raising the total number to 142,000. As many as 42,000 drug addicts were detoxified. However, the rate of drug relapse was still high, at 80-90 per cent in many localities across the country. — MNA/Xinhua

Shanghai reports record number of driving licence holders

SHANGHAI, 29 July — An average of 500 residents in this eastern Chinese metropolis has obtained driving licences every day during the first half of this year, hitting a new high. The Shanghai Municipal Automobile Ad- ministration issued a total of 91,000 driving licences in the first half of this year, up 6 per cent on year-on-year basis.

The number of Shanghai residents holding driving licences is 1.6 million at present, accounting for 10 per cent of the total population. Men account for 80 per cent of new licence holders. In the past, it was rare for a Chinese to be able to afford a private car and driving was usually not considered a daily skill but a full-time job.

However, an increasing number of Chinese citizens have purchased or are planning to buy cars for family use. It has become a common practice for Chinese people to learn to drive.

There are 120 driving schools in Shanghai and the number of people learning to drive was 170,000 in 2002. There are 700,000 cars in Shanghai now. In July, the local car administration issued a total of 6,000 automotive licences, hitting a new monthly record. — MNA/Xinhua

Oil prices ease but markets quiet ahead of OPEC meet

SINGAPORE, 29 July — Oil prices slipped below 30 US dollars on Monday as Iraqi crude output slowly increased, but many traders stayed out of the market ahead of an OPEC meeting later this week. US benchmark crude was down 21 cents at 29.96 US dollars per barrel.

Prices are down about 5 per cent from their highs in early July after hedge funds last week took profits from a rally that had pushed up crude nearly 25 per cent since early May, traders said.

Traders were playing it safe ahead of the Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting in Vienna on Thursday, although the producer cartel that controls half of the world’s oil exports was not expected to change output levels.

OPEC is likely to maintain its current ceiling of 25.4 million barrels per day (BDP), because prices have held in the 22 US dollars-28 US dollars target range, an OPEC Oil Minister said on Sunday.

On Thursday the price of OPEC’s basket of crudes was 27.33 US dollars per barrel.

“The likelihood is that the meeting will continue the production ceiling as it is at present,” U.A.E Petroleum & Mineral Resources Minister Ahmed bin Saif Al-Nasser was quoted as saying by the United Arab Emirates state news agency WAM. Traders said OPEC was also counting on a return of oil exports from Iraq to keep prices capped. Iraq’s oil production has risen to just over one million bpd from steady levels of 800,000 bpd, a senior Oil Ministry official said on Sunday.

“I’d expect that to downplay downward pressure on prices, but it’s still a fairly precarious situation. All you need is one good hit on a pipeline and you’re back to square one,” said David Thurtell, commodities strategist at Commonwealth Bank in Sydney.

Iraqi has signed new crude export contracts with foreign oil companies, the second set of such deals since the overthrow of president Saddam Hussein.

An official at the State Oil Marketing Organization (SOMO) said on Sunday the contracts for August 1 to December 1 were sealed with European refininers Shell, BP Plc and Total and Brazil’s Petrobras. The contracts were based on higher than current international crude prices.

Iraq’s crude exports are expected to rise sharply as the country begins to exploit its offshore oil fields.

Chinese Exporters in the Gulf — MNA/Xinhua
Hu Jintao hails success of anti-SARS drive

BEIJING, 29 July — Hu Jintao, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee on Monday, hailed China’s success in fighting SARS saying that the victory further indicated the eminent superiority of socialism and made the people of all ethnicities in the country more confident in taking the socialist road with Chinese characteristics.

While achieving a major victory in the anti-SARS campaign, China had maintained relatively rapid economic growth, said Hu, the CPC President, attributing the achievements to the staunch leadership of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, the correct guidance of Deng Xiaoping Theory and the important theory of “Three Represents”, and the united efforts of the Party and the people.

Hu made these remarks at a national working conference on the issue of SARS prevention and control, presided over by Premier Wen Jiabao, a member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau, who also addressed the meeting.

Also present at the meeting were other members of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee Wu Bangguo, Jia Qinglin, Zeng Qinghong, Hu Jintao, Wu Guanzheng, Li Changchun and Luo Gan.

In his speech, Hu recalled the arduous course China had experienced in the fight against the disease. On behalf of the CPC Central Committee, he extended cordial and lofty greetings to the country’s medical workers, scientists and all those who had devoted themselves to the anti-SARS campaign. Hu also expressed his heart-felt thanks to the overseas Chinese and Chinese nationals residing in other countries, as well as foreign countries, institutions and individuals who had contributed vocal or material support to China’s anti-SARS drive.

"At this moment, we want to extend our condolences to the martyrs who laid down their lives in this battle as well as those compatriots who have been deprived of their lives by SARS," he noted. Hu went on to sum up the experience China had accumulated and obtained in the fight against SARS and emphasized that the leadership of the Party was the key factor for the country to promote its undertakings and overcome difficulties.

MNA/Xinhua

Water trading seen key to saving Australian rivers

SYDNEY, 29 July — Farmers and environmentalists have joined forces to launch a 2.5-billion-Australian-dollar (1.7-billion-US-dollar) plan to save Australia’s rivers, and a national system of water trading is a key element of the 10-year rescue package.

Drought-gripped Aus-

tralia is the world’s highest user of water per person despite being the driest in the world of all continents. Environmental experts say more than a quarter of its rivers are in danger of dying up because of water now taken for agriculture.


The volume used for irrigation rose 76 per cent.

Dryland salinity now covers an area across 1.5 million hectares and more than a third of freshwater fish species in Australia’s longest river system, the Murray-Darling basin, are endangered, say green groups.

Farmers, and now envi-

ronmentalists, said on Mon-

tday that to save Australia’s river systems, the water which flows across the country must have a realistic value and be better used.

The National Farmers Federation, made up of state farming groups and commodity councils, says a na-

tional trade in water will help achieve this.

In New South Wales and Victoria water is freely tradeable, but in many other states, Queensland and South Australia for instance, the system doesn’t represent a more uniform system of trading across the country," said Peter Corish, president of the federation, which rep-

mresents 110,000 farmers.

The rivers rescue plan, which also demands a dec-

ade of environmental tar-

geting, will get the full plan, water trading, still has some stum-

bling blocks.

One sticking point is whether, and by how much, individual farmers should be compensated for reduc-

tions in water rights. An-

other is who actually owns the many billions of gallons of water whose usage has of-

cen been sanctioned away by long-standing customary and practice and thus clearly spell-out rights.

MNA/Reuters

Beijing invites bids for bioengineering, medicine industrial base

BEIJING, 29 July — Beijing will invite international designers to submit bids for a key project, a bioen-

ineering and medicine industrial base.

The Beijing Daxing Dis-

tRICT government announced Monday that the six top selected plans will get 1.25 million yuan (about 150,000 US dollars) each.

The bioengineering and medicine industry is one of the four pillar high-tech indus-

tries in Beijing during the 2001-2005 period.

The industrial base, to be located in Daxing industrial development zone, covers 28 square kilometres of land and has already attracted two bil-

lion yuan (about 240 mil-

lion US dollars) of invest-

mment.

Sales volume is expected to reach 10 billion yuan (about 1.25 billion US dollars) in the next five years.

The design plan will fo-

cus on developing the bio-

engineering and medicine industry and improving its ability of technical innova-

tion and industrial competi-

tion, so that it will become the country’s largest bioen-

ineering and medicine indus-

trial base within 10 years.

An official from the Daxing District government said the appraising commit-

tee would be composed of nine renowned urban plan-

ners, architects and econo-

mists.

The work has started and the bid results will be available by November 12, 2003. He said that anyone interested in the bidding can check the website: www.dida.net.cn.

MNA/Xinhua

Spain’s tourism up 2.8% in first half of 2003

MADRID, 29 July — Tourism in Spain posted a 2.8-

percent increase in the first half of the year, a senior official told the Press on Monday.

Juan Costa, Secretary of State for Trade and Tour-

ism, highlighted the 4.68-

million-euro investment channelled into this sector during the past 11 months, as a result of cooperation among public sectors.

During the inauguration of expansion and renovation works on the Benicalap Tourism Inn, Costa said 327 million tourists visited Spain in 2002. For this summer, the government has set a 1.5-per-cent to 3-per-cent increase in the number of tourists over last summer, he added.

Tourism had become the country’s number one sector of Spain’s economy, producing 12.1 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) and contributing 10 per cent of job posts in the country, Costa said.

Meanwhile, Costa an-

nounced that 45,000 mem-

bers of security forces will be deployed throughout the country to ensure the safety of tourists.

In order to continuously guarantee the personal secu-

rity of tourists, Spain has taken a series of security measures, he noted.

Opinion polls among tourists show that Spain “is perceived as a country that offers security and a sensa-

tion of freedom”, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistanis Senate leader donates blood for rain victims

ISLAMABAD, 29 July — Chairman of Pakistan’s Senate Muhammadmian Soomro Sunday visited hos-

pital in Karachi, capital of the rain-flooded Sindh Prov-

ince, and donated blood for the rain-affected patients.

According to a report of the Associated Press of Pa-

kistan (APP), the country’s top news agency, at least 47 people were killed so far and hundreds reported missing in the downpour started from Friday in all parts of south-

western Sindh Province.

A report of The Nation newspaper reaching here ear-

lier on Sunday said heavy rainfall, coupled with hum-

dearth, continued for more than 40-hours in the province “intermittently”.

It said the fatality was mainly caused by the flood water, collapsed house roofs and damaged power cable.

The report quoted official sources as saying that Pakistan Army forces are busy conducting “round-the-

clock” rescue operations in the affected areas and so far they have established 19 relief camps for the around 5,000 evacuated people.

Military and state agencies said the torrential rain will continue in the province for several days.

MNA/Xinhua

Fire forest fires in Portugal

LISBON, 29 July — More than 200 firefighters strug-

gled to contain a forest fire in central Portugal on Monday after working through the night to tackle the country’s second big blaze in a week.

Firefighters struggled against strong winds and steep slopes near the town of Fundao, 140 miles northeast of Lisbon, and asked for reinforcements from the capital.

“The wind blew hard all night, this way and that, and we did not manage to put the fire out,” local fire brigade commander Antonio Antunes told state radio RDP.

“We are now fighting on two fronts.”

Last week a fire laid waste to 9,900 acres in central Portugal and was burning for two days.

About one-third of Portugal is covered in forest and firefighters are on permanent alert for fires during the country’s hot, dry summers. — MNA/Reuters
**SPORTS**

**Van Nistelrooy thanks surgeon who saved his career**

**LOS ANGELES, 29 July —** Manchester United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy has thanked surgeon Richard Steadman for saving his career.

The Dutch striker, who recently returned to full fitness after a knee operation, paid tribute to his former surgeon during a training session in Kunming, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 28 July.

“I was very happy to invite him here today with his grandchildren and nephews. I was happy to see him because he was there too. It was a good day,” van Nistelrooy told reporters.

**Nakata blasts “false” transfer rumours**

**TOKYO, 29 July —** Parma midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata has blasted media reports linking him to Italian rivals Lazio, insisting such stories were “pure rumour”.

“You shouldn’t believe everything you read in the newspapers or see on TV,” the Japanese captain told his official website.

“Most of it is pure rumour. People spin the truth to start rumours all the time. The Press should stick to reporting the facts.”

Nakata has struggled to establish himself at Parma since joining from AS Roma for 26 million US dollars two years ago and has been linked to a number of European clubs, including Chelsea and Liverpool in the English Premier League.

Nakata, the most marketable player in Asia, has recently been linked with Lazio by newspapers in Italy and Japan.

**Baros, Heskey shine as Liverpool thump Hong Kong**

**HONG KONG, 29 July —** Forwards Milan Baros and Emile Heskey, battling to earn a regular starting berth along- side Michael Owen, each scored twice as Liverpool thrashed the Hong Kong national team 6-0 in an exhibition match on Sunday.

The English Premier League side maintained their unbeaten pre-season form in the last game of their Far East tour, playing before a capacity crowd of about 40,000 in their first appearance in the former British colony in 20 years.

Czech midfielder Vladimir Smicer, undermounting pressure since the signing of Aus- tralian Harry Kewell, struck the opening goal after 14 minutes but the second did not arrive until 12 minutes after the break.

Heskey, who produced an aggressive display despite the swirling heat, beat the off-side trap to score in the 57th minute and capped off the game with a booming drive in injury time. In between, the impressive Czech forward Baros scored in the 76th and 89th minute, while newly- signed 18-year-old French striker Anthony Le Tallec was also on the scoresheet after an hour having replaced Owen.

French keeper Warmuz joins Dortmund from Arsenal

**BERLIN, 29 July —** French goalkeeper Guillaume Warmuz has joined Borussia Dortmund from Arsenal, the German First Division club said on Sunday.

Dortmund gave no de- tails about the transfer, which follows German goalkeeper Jens Lehmann’s move from Dortmund to Arsenal.

Warmuz, who was a re- serve keeper at Arsenal, is expected to become Dort- mund’s number two. Romanian Weidender, 22, should take over from Lehmann as the club’s first-choice goal- keeper.

The 33-year-old Lehmann was flying to Aus- tria to meet up with his new teammates at a pre-season training camp.

**Hackett achieves rare world treble in 1500-meter freestyle**

**BARI, 29 July —** Olympic champion Grant Hackett achieved a rare treble when he won the men’s 1500-metre freestyle world title on Sunday for the third time in succession.

Hackett won in 14 minutes 43.14 seconds to match fellow Australian Ian Thorpe, who last Sunday became the first swimmer to win the same event at three consecutive world championships in the 400 freestyle.

“To be in the company of (Alexander) Popov and Ian who also did three in a row is huge,” said Hackett.

Russia’s Popov won the 100 freestyle for the third time at the world championships on Thursday.

“I don’t look at myself as that sort of performer,” added the Australian.

Hackett was in a race of his own as he won by an enormous margin of nearly 20 seconds.

He was leading by one-third of the length of the 50-metre Palau Sant Jordi pool at the half-way stage from Ukrainian Igor Chervinsky, bronze medalist behind Hackett in the 800 freestyle, with the rest trailing way behind.

American Erik Vendt overhauled Brit- ish Graeme Smith and David Davies by the 1,000-metre mark and came up to Chervinsky in the adjacent lane for a fierce battle for silver over the final 200 metres.

Chervinsky hung on to take the silver in 15:01.04 and Vendt took the bronze in 15:01.28, with Davies fourth in 15:05.04 and Smith, bronze medalist at the 1996 Olympics, fading to sixth.

Hackett has won every major champion- ship 1,500 he has entered since he won his first world title in 1998. His haul in Barce- lona comprises gold in the 800 and 1,500 freestyle and 4x200 freestyle relay silver, in the 400 freestyle and bronze in the 200 freestyle.

“It has been a really big week and it has taken its toll on my body,” Hackett said.

**PSG bid for Swiss international Yakin**

**ZURICH, 29 July —** Paris St. Germain have made a bid for FC Basel’s Swiss international Hakan Yakan, the Swiss side said on Sunday. PSG are looking for a replacement for Brazilian Ronaldinho who moved to Barce- lona last weekend.

“We received a concrete offer via fax for Hakan Yakan from Paris St. Germain,” a Basel spokesman said. “We confirmed that in a telephone call to the PSG president.

“On Monday we will make a decision on the offer. Until then Hakan Yakan will remain a Basel player.”

**Brazil’s Nilmar tops battle for the ball with Mexico’s defender Omar Brizeno during the first half of the final of the 2003 CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer tournament match at the Azteca stadium in Mexico City, 27 July, 2003.—Inpress.jpg**

**Man Utd score impressive win against Club America**

**LOS ANGELES, 29 July —** Manchester United’s impressive pre- season tour of the United States continued on Sunday with a comfortable 3-1 victory over Mexico’s Club America at the Los Angeles Coliseum.

United’s prolific striker Ruud van Nistelrooy was once again the star, breaking the deadlock in the 40th minute after an evenly-fought first half.

The Dutch striker ran on a flick from Uruguay’s Diego Forlan and held off two defenders before slotting home a right foot shot from the edge of the penalty box.

The goal seemed to stir United into life and three minutes later Forlan himself extended the lead, heading home a cross from Quinton Fortune. Club America appeared to have got back into the game in the 52nd minute when Alvaro Ortiz curled a beautiful free- kick into the top right hand corner of the net but American referee Ali Saheli disallowed the goal for a push.

Forlan capped a lively performance with his second goal in the 79th minute. A long clearance by United goalkeeper Ricardo was flicked on by Ole Gunnar Solskjær and Forlan fired home from just inside the penalty area. Christian Patino scored a consolation goal for the Mexicans in the 87th minute.

**Luis Figo (C), midfielder of Spain’s football giant Real Madrid, runs with his teammates during a training session in Kunming, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 28 July. 2003.—XINHUA**
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
Wednesday, 30 July, 2003

WEATHER
Tuesday, July 29, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours (MST): During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy to cloudy in Chin State and lower Sagoing Division and rain or thundershowers has been isolated in Kayah State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Hkamti (598) inches, Bago (4.88) inches and Maungdaw (3.25) inches.

Maximum temperature on 26-27-2003 was 33.0°C (91.4°F). Minimum temperature on 29-27-2003 was 21.4°C (71°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 29-27-2003 was 93%.

Total sunshine hours on 26-27-2003 was 7.7 hours approx. Rainfall on 29-27-2003 was 9 mm at Yangon Airport, 30 mm at Kaba-Aye and 366 mg (0.071 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 16 mph from Southwest at 15.16 hrs MST on 29-27-2003.

Bay influence: Moonsoon is weak to moderate in the Bay of Bengal. Rainfall is expected until evening of 30-27-2003. Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Ayeayawady and Yangon Divisions and isolated to scattered in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls. Peak speed for the next two days are 33.5 knots (63 mph) for Rakhine and Mon States and 27.5 knots (51 mph) for upper Sagaing Divisions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-27-2003: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty (100%).
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects river water pumping projects in Myingyan District, Mandalay Division

YANGON, 29 July—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Col Thein Naing of the Central Command, officials of the State Peace and Development Council, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Construction and the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, inspected the river water pumping projects in Myingyan District, Mandalay Division this morning. At 10:30 am, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to No 2 Water Pumping Plant of Kyauktalon river water pumping project. Officials of Myingyan District Water Resources Utilization Department reported on the salient points of the river water pumping project and officials of Mandalay Division Water Resources Utilization Department gave a supplementary report. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected extraction of coal in Shan State (North) for energy and maintenance of the main canal of Kyauktalon river water pumping project and gave necessary instructions.

The river water pumping project will benefit 2,500 acres of farmland in the region. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at No 2 Water Pumping Plant of Ywathit river water pumping project in Ngazun Township at noon. At the briefing hall, officials reported to Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party on digging of the 8,000 feet long main canal, and progress in cultivation of 951 acres of paddy out of the targeted acres of 2000. Next, officials reported to Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party on cultivation of poppy substitute monsoon crops and future work programmes. In response to the report, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on cultivation of quality crops, set-up of model plantations for ensuring distribution of quality strains, wider use of fertilizer and minimizing of loss and wastage. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected thriving of groundnut and sunflowers, beans, and pulses coffee, and pigeon pea. They then inspected the 1000-acre project site. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Hsinshweli model paddy pilot-plantations, where the agriculturists reported on the salient points in cultivation of Hsinshweli paddy. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on search work, wider cultivation of the special high-yield paddy, increasing the per acre yield, cultivation of quality strain paddy, distribution of quality strains and agricultural techniques to farmers and self-sufficiency in rice and edible oil. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and party inspected thriving of hybrid paddy plantations and Hsinnyadanaw model paddy plantations.—MNA

Lt-Gen Tin Aye looks into coal extraction and agricultural undertakings in Lashio District

YANGON, 29 July—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint and departmental officials, on 26 July arrived at the coal extraction site in Hsintaung region, Lashio Township, where work site in-charge Lt-Col Myo Chit reported on finding and extraction of coal, prospects of production, use of machinery and future tasks. Next, Lt-Gen Tin Aye gave instructions, saying that efforts are to be made for exploration and effective use of natural resources in the nation, efforts are to be made with goodwill in the interests of the nation and the region, it is required to extract coal for the factories and mills which use coal-fire and it is needed to pay heed to worksite safety. Next, Lt-Gen Tin Aye inspected extraction of coal with the use of machinery and attended to the needs. Next, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party proceeded to the coal extraction site in Nahlyan region at the exit of Lashio. At the briefing hall, the commander reported on extraction of coal at the respective regions in Shan State (North) and work to be carried out. Worksite in-charge Lt-Col Myo Kyin reported on extraction of coal in Shan State (North) for energy sector of the State, an official on quality of coal and volume of coal deposit underground, prospects of production. After attending to the needs, Lt-Gen Tin Aye gave instructions, saying that coal is to be extracted for factories and mills of the State to ensure national development. He then inspected extraction of coal in Nahlyan region with the use of machinery. They proceeded to the 1000-acre project site of poppy substitute monsoon crops cultivation zone at the exit of Lashio. At the briefing hall, the commander reported on cultivation of poppy substitute crops and future tasks, project in-charge Lt-Col Nay Lin Aung on progress in cultivation of poppy substitute crops and future work programmes. In response to the report, Lt-Gen Tin Aye gave instructions on cultivation of quality crops, set-up of model plantations for ensuring distribution of quality strains, wider use of fertilizer and minimizing of loss and wastage. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party inspected thriving of groundnut and sunflowers, beans, and pulses coffee, and pigeon pea. They then inspected the 1000-acre project site. Lt-Gen Tin Aye and party went to Hsinshweli paddy pilot-plantations, where the agriculturists reported on the salient points in cultivation of Hsinshweli paddy. Next, Lt-Gen Tin Aye gave instructions on research work, wider cultivation of the special high-yield paddy, increasing the per acre yield, cultivation of quality strain paddy, distribution of quality strains and agricultural techniques to farmers and self-sufficiency in rice and edible oil. Next, Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the commander and party inspected thriving of hybrid paddy plantations and Hsinnyadanaw model paddy plantations.—MNA

Kale University in Kale, Sagaing Division. (News on page 1)—MNA