Secretary-1 respect-paying ceremony for parents held

YANGON, 3 Aug — State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt attended the 14th respect-paying ceremony for parents, organized by the University of Catholic Youth Apostolate (Yangon), held at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road at 6 pm today.

First, Secretary of UCYA (Yangon) Bosco Yan Naing Soe said prayers on the occasion.

Next, Chairman Ma Judith Zelsankyin read out the message sent to the parents.

Then, Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt made a speech. He said:

“It is an auspicious occasion because in accord with the teachings of Christianity, knowing the attributes of parents and paying respects to them every year is following the noble tradition.

In the Ten Commandments, which is accepted as the highest practice of Christianity given by the God, the fourth one states that revere thy parents.

In Christian literature, there always include the teachings to revere parents and follow their teachings.

It is sure that with the following of religious teachings, members of Catholic Youth Apostolate will become dutiful citizens and the ones who can serve the interests of human society. Member youths of the Catholic Youth Apostolate are the honourable ones because they are undertaking the tasks leading the other youths to revere the parents, to follow the teachings of parents to become polite and obedient ones, to avoid evil doings by devoting their religion and to raise the morale of youths.

(See page 7)

No 2 Day Nursery, BEPSs No 47, No 4 opened in Hlinethaya

YANGON, 3 Aug — The ceremony to open No 2 Day Nursery built by Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development was held at the nursery in Hlinethaya Industrial City at 9 am today, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were ministers, deputy ministers, the vice-mayor, President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, local authorities, teachers and students.

MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Director-General U Arnt Kyaw of DHSHD and Director-General U Sit Myaing of Social Welfare Department formally opened the nursery building. Next, the Secretary-1 and party, MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and guests viewed the nursery.

Afterwards, the General and party attended the opening ceremony of new school building of Basic Education Primary School No 47, built by DHSHD, in Hlinethaya Township. Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe and Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt formally opened the new school building.

The ceremony to mark the opening of the new school building of Hlinethaya BEPS No 47 was held at the school. Director-General U Arnt Kyaw of DHSHD reported on the

(See page 7)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
For cultivation of paddy and other crops in arid zone

Myanmar, a nation with rich soil, is an agro-based country and paddy is its main crop. Apart from paddy, beans and pulses, edible oil crops, long staple cotton, maize and sugarcane are also grown in all the suitable regions of the country.

As a result of the harmonious efforts of the various organizations and the people, the number of the districts covered by the greening project has increased up to thirteen.

After surveying the possible water resources, the Government is spending a large sum of money on building dams and reservoirs, river water pumping projects and projects for tapping the underground water in the arid zone with the aim of growing crops all year round, supplying potable water and greening the environment.

Nathadaw Dam which was built near Nathadaw village in Ngazun Township, Myingyan Division, Mandalay Division was commissioned into service on 28 July. It is sure that emergence of dams and reservoirs in the arid zone like Myingyan District where there is 20 inches of rainfall a year contributes much towards the agriculture sector of the region.

Altogether, 14 dams including the Nathadaw Dam have been built in Myingyan District alone. The Nathadaw Dam is the 37th facility of its kind in Mandalay Division and 149th in the nation. In addition to the dams and reservoirs, 269 river water pumping projects have been implemented. With thriving of paddy as well as cotton, sugarcane, beans and pulses and edible oil crops, Mandalay Division is the one on which the State can rely economically. As the Government is building irrigation facilities in the interest of the farmers, the latter, on their part, are to make efforts to boost per acre yield.

Thanks to the emergence of the irrigation facilities, the farmers who had never experienced growing paddy previously are now engaging in paddy cultivation. It is targeted to put over six million acres of land under monsoon paddy and 200,000 acres under summer paddy for the year 2003-2004 in Mandalay Division.

Farmers are urged to make most efficient use of the water supplying facilities built by the State and grow paddy and other crops.

Secretary-1 attends foundation-laying ceremony of Wityi housing complex

YANGON, 3 AUG — A foundation-laying ceremony of Wityi housing complex being built by the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development, the Ministry of Construction, and Tawwinn Family Co was held at the site of the building on Pyay Road in Dagon Township at 8 am today.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony. Also present were Ministers, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, construction entrepreneurs, the chairman of Tawwinn Family Co, officials and guests. First, Adviser to the State Calendar Advisory Board Master of Ceremonies U Kyaw read out the agenda of the ceremony.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party took their positions at the place where the foundation-laying ceremony was to be held. U Kyaw then read the stone plaque. At the auspicious time, the Secretary-1 placed the nine-gem casket on the foundation. The Secretary-1 and party placed nine gem bricks into the foundation. The Secretary-1 next placed the stone plaque on the foundation, and performed rituals of gold and silver showers to mark the success of the ceremony.

Afterwards, Chairman U Ko Ko Htwe of Tawwinn Family Co reported on construction of Wityi housing complex. The Secretary-1 gave instructions on construction of the housing complex to meet set standard and selling the apartments at reasonable prices. Tawwinn Family Co presented K 10 million for educational purposes to Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt.

Next, the company also handed over the documents related to a saw-mill worth K 15 million and a site for the construction of the staff quarters of Myanmar Police Force to Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing. After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 inspected the scale model of the housing complex. The 25-storey complex with the height of 260 feet will be built on 2.412 acres of land. The basement and ground floor will house restaurants, shops, a cinema, a gymnasium and a playground. The complex also has a car parking where 700 cars can sit, 408 apartments with four towers, 10 elevators and six escalators. — MNA

YCDC Wut Association holds Waso robes offering ceremony

YANGON, 3 AUG — The Dhammaçakka Wut Association of Yangon City Development Committee held the Waso robes offering ceremony at YCDC Dhammayon on 31 July attended by YCDC Chairman Mayor U Ko Lay and wife Daw Khin Khin.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Mahanayaka Sangha, and guests.

The mayor and wife and officials donated Waso robes and provisions to members of the Sangha. Joint Secretary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Açinnabhivamsa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. After the ceremony, ‘somen’ was offered to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. — MNA

Sports Minister inspects construction of Gymnasium, Sports and Physical Education Institute

YANGON, 3 AUG — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint inspected construction of the gymnasium in Kyaukose on 2 August.

The minister gave instructions on timely completion of the construction works with meeting set standard. On arrival at Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay), the minister gave words of encouragement to coaches and sports teams and presented track suits and K 100,000 to them.

Next, the minister inspected construction of lecture halls, the gymnasium and staff quarters. Afterwards, the minister attended semi-final matches of the Second Myanmar Boxing Federation President’s Cup C-Class Boxing Tournament at Balihor Gymnasium. Altogether 71 boxes from 16 teams are taking part in the tournament from 31 July to date. — MNA

Foreign Affairs Minister sends felicitations to Jamaica

YANGON, 4 AUG — U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Keith D Knight, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Jamaica, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Jamaica which falls on 4 August 2003. — MNA

Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
Arab League chief willing to meet with new Iraqi Council

CASINO, 3 Aug— The head of the Arab League is willing to meet with representatives of Iraq’s Governing Council if they approach him, the league’s spokesman said Saturday. Secretary-General Amr Moussa had previously shown little enthusiasm for the US-appointed council, saying it would have had more credibility if elected by the Iraqi people. But Saturday’s comments showed the Arab League accepts the 25-member council and is willing to work with it.

“If the Iraqi Governing Council wants to meet with the secretary-general, the secretary-general will be welcoming that,” spokesman Hisham Youssef said. “The secretary-general assured them more than once that the door of the Arab League is open to any Iraqi interested in the future of Iraq.”

Youssef said nobody has yet asked for a meeting.

On July 13, members of the new Iraqi council appealed to the Arab League and other Arabs to work with them, saying they did not want to be isolated.

The Arab League was deeply divided by the US-led war to topple Saddam Hussein, and some have debated whether a government appointed by coalition authority should be allowed to represent Iraq in the league.

Youssef said that if the council presented a request to join the Arab League as Iraq’s representative, it would be decided by Arab League members, not the secretariat.

On Tuesday, an Arab League follow-up committee will meet to discuss the future of Iraq and its representation in the league. — Internet

Gold bars found in Iraq turn out to be mostly copper

WASHINGTON, 3 Aug— Gold-coloured bars seized by US forces in Iraq appear to be melted-down shell casings made mostly of copper, rather than gold, the White House said in a report obtained on Friday.

The US military announced the discovery of truckloads of gold-coloured bars in May.

One haul was estimated to be worth as much as 500 million US dollars. Another was estimated at 100 million US dollars, though the driver of the truck said the bars were actually copper.

In a report to Congress detailing US reconstruction efforts, the White House budget office said 1,100 gold-coloured bars were recovered in Iraq and that samples were taken to Kuwait for testing.

“Analysis of the initial sampling of ingots revealed they were compromised of approximately 64 per cent copper and 34 per cent zinc. Consultation with metallurgists indicates the bars analyzed to date are most likely melted-down shell casings,” the report said.

US forces also found about 800 million US dollars in Iraq. Just over 7 million US dollars could not be authenticated because the notes were wet and damaged, according to the report.

But the White House budget office said the Pentagon was working with the US Federal Reserve to exchange the damaged notes for “quality notes that can be utilized.” — MNA/Reuters

China’s first Great Wall regulation takes effect

BEIJING, 3 Aug— China’s first regulation to protect the Great Wall took effect Friday, restricting the shooting of films and television programmes and large-scale gatherings on the world heritage site.

According to the regulation, it is the responsibility of all Chinese citizens and local governments involved to protect the Great Wall.

The regulation also calls for efforts to dismantle and relocate structures deemed unsafe and harmful to the surroundings of the ancient wall.

Kong Fanshi, vice-director of the Cultural Relics Bureau of the Beijing municipal government, said facts have shown that booming tourism and development around the wall poses a growing threat.

Luo Zhenwu, a Great Wall expert, said the regulation represents a milestone in protecting the world’s longest cultural relic. The Great Wall section in Beijing is 629 kilometres in length, including some of the most historically valuable parts built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), said an official. — MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lankan police nab human smuggling mastermind

COLOMBO, 3 Aug— The international human smuggling mastermind involved in the massive human trafficking racket centred on Sri Lanka has been arrested by the Criminal Investigations Department (CID), the official Daily News said on Friday.

Police has revealed that the suspected Jayarajun Nanayappa Hewage Munasinghe is alleged to have been involved in bringing Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis to Sri Lanka in order to send them illegally to Western Europe, mainly Italy.

Investigations also revealed that the suspect is the owner of a vessel which would have been used by him to transport human cargo to Sri Lanka to be sent abroad.

The suspect has been living in luxury hotels around the country while directing the illegal immigration racket, the investigators said.

About 800 illegal immigrants from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh in South Asia who are suspected to be heading for European countries have been arrested recently by police in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka has become a transit point for illegal immigrants to Europe as the country last year relaxed visa regulations to offer visitors from its neighbouring countries in South Asia entry visas on arrival.

China’s auto import quota raised 15%

BEIJING, 3 Aug— China’s import quota for motor vehicles and key automotive parts and components for 2004 has been set at 10.5 billion US dollars, up 15 per cent from 2003, according to a government bulletin.

The bulletin, issued Thursday by China’s Ministry of Commerce, also said that applications for the quota should be submitted to the ministry from August 1 to 31.

China has pledged to completely rescind quotas and licence control on imports of motor vehicles, motorcycles and related key parts and components by January 1, 2005.

It has also pledged to lower import tariffs for motor vehicles to 25 per cent and that for automotive parts and components to 10 per cent by July 1, 2006. — MNA/Xinhua
US soldiers pray for safety on Baghdad streets

BAGHDAD, 3 Aug — Every time Private Kyle Jason leaves his Baghdad barracks, he asks God to protect him from attacks that have killed 19 US soldiers in the past two weeks.

“I just say a little prayer to myself. I just ask him to watch over me and keep me safe, to let me see my family again,” said the US soldier fromDetroit who has just turned 19.

“I feel there is danger… I feel a threat every time I walk out the gates, and I ask God to watch over me.”

The streets of the capital have grown deadly for US soldiers as shadowy attackers try to drive out the forces occupying Iraq since the invasion that deposed Saddam Hussein.

Fear also stalks Iraqi civilians who never know when they might be caught in the crossfire—the US military has admitted killing up to five innocent people who strayed into the path of troops hunting for Saddam in a Baghdad suburb this week.

The soldiers all say they try not to think about the danger, but it is never far from their minds.

“The way I look at it, if you can hear the gunshot, that’s good. It probably didn’t hit you,” said Private Rory Mannino of Texas as he smoked a cigarette atop an armoured vehicle. “You’ve got to have a different mindset,” he said.

In the latest fatal assault, a soldier died on Thursday when his armoured personnel carrier hit a mine on the road to Baghdad airport.

The US military says the attacks have not multiplied in recent weeks, but have become more sophisticated and lethal.

German finds explosive surprise in old sofa

BERLIN, 3 Aug — German man bought a second-hand sofa only to discover it was stuffed with 1.4 kilos of dynamite, police said on Friday.

In the Torres case, Japan had hoped for a quick handover before indictment, while US military personnel suspected of committing crimes in Japan.

“Although both sides expended considerable effort to refine and explain their respective proposals, substantial differences continue to exist,” the US State Department said.

US and Japanese officials met in Washington on Thursday and Friday in a final round of talks in the hope of reaching an agreement by the target date of Friday, it said.

The 45-day period began after the United States agreed on June 18 to hand over Marine Lance Corporal Jose W Torres, 21, who has pleaded guilty to raping a 19-year-old Japanese woman on the island of Okinawa, where most US forces are based.

In the Torres case, Japan had hoped for a quick handover before indictment, while US military authorities wanted guarantees of proper treatment by a legal system that has been criticized for failing to protect suspects’ rights.

The State Department said: “The discussions focused on procedural measures that the US has requested since the beginning of negotiations that led to the 1995 agreement creating the possibility of pre-indictment custody transfers.”

“The two sides continue to study each other’s proposals and will report the outcome of the series of meetings to their respective senior officials for the consideration of future steps,” the statement added.

US, Japan disagree on justice for troops

WASHINGTON, 3 Aug — Japan and the United States ended a 45 days of discussions on Friday without an agreement on new arrangements to deal with US military personnel suspected of committing crimes in Japan.

“The two sides continue to study each other’s proposals and will report the outcome of the series of meetings to their respective senior officials for the consideration of future steps,” the statement added.

Iraqis mistrust US “liberation” motives

WASHINGTON, 3 Aug — Elation at Saddam Hussein’s downfall has so far failed to overcome ordinary Iraqis’ suspicions of the United States, US researchers said on Friday.

Recent interviews with Iraqi civilians and politicians also revealed a longing for public life in post-Saddam Iraq to reflect Islamic values, said analysts working for the National Democratic Institute, which promotes democracy around the world.

“This is the period to give Iraqis the opportunity to experience democracy,” said Melia. “We have the right to expect Iraqis to respect human rights,” she said.

Melia based his findings on focus group discussions with an unspecified number of Iraqis from June 30 to July 9.

While most said they were eager for the departure of US troops and the establishment of an Iraqi democracy, many also expressed fears that liberty would bring loose morals, civic disorder and violence.

“They want an infusion of Islamic values in the political system,” said Melia. “But among every community we interviewed… we found strong hesitations about too strong a role for religious figures in the political arena.”

Many urban professionals, including women, felt particularly left out of efforts to rebuild Iraq’s political system.

“We think it is crucial that mechanisms be established soon to allow for a broader political debate in the country,” said Les Campbell, director of the National Democratic Institute’s Middle East programmes.

He said tribal and religious leaders now had the edge over the West’s interests in the country.

Two killed in Spanish heat wave

MADRID, 3 Aug — A forest fire forced the evacuation of some 1,000 residents in central Spain on Friday and two people died of heat stroke in the south as the country baked in temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius.

About 1,500 homes were hurriedly evacuated as blazes spread to a housing estate 63 miles east of the capital Madrid on what local media said was the hottest day of the year.

“Although both sides expended considerable effort to refine and explain their respective proposals, substantial differences continue to exist,” the US State Department said.

US and Japanese officials met in Washington on Thursday and Friday in a final round of talks in the hope of reaching an agreement by the target date of Friday, it said.

The 45-day period began after the United States agreed on June 18 to hand over Marine Lance Corporal Jose W Torres, 21, who has pleaded guilty to raping a 19-year-old Japanese woman on the island of Okinawa, where most US forces are based.

In the Torres case, Japan had hoped for a quick handover before indictment, while US military personnel suspected of committing crimes in Japan.

“Although both sides expended considerable effort to refine and explain their respective proposals, substantial differences continue to exist,” the US State Department said.

US and Japanese officials met in Washington on Thursday and Friday in a final round of talks in the hope of reaching an agreement by the target date of Friday, it said.

The 45-day period began after the United States agreed on June 18 to hand over Marine Lance Corporal Jose W Torres, 21, who has pleaded guilty to raping a 19-year-old Japanese woman on the island of Okinawa, where most US forces are based.

In the Torres case, Japan had hoped for a quick handover before indictment, while US military personnel suspected of committing crimes in Japan.

“Although both sides expended considerable effort to refine and explain their respective proposals, substantial differences continue to exist,” the US State Department said.

US and Japanese officials met in Washington on Thursday and Friday in a final round of talks in the hope of reaching an agreement by the target date of Friday, it said.

The 45-day period began after the United States agreed on June 18 to hand over Marine Lance Corporal Jose W Torres, 21, who has pleaded guilty to raping a 19-year-old Japanese woman on the island of Okinawa, where most US forces are based.

In the Torres case, Japan had hoped for a quick handover before indictment, while US military personnel suspected of committing crimes in Japan.

“Although both sides expended considerable effort to refine and explain their respective proposals, substantial differences continue to exist,” the US State Department said.

US and Japanese officials met in Washington on Thursday and Friday in a final round of talks in the hope of reaching an agreement by the target date of Friday, it said.

The 45-day period began after the United States agreed on June 18 to hand over Marine Lance Corporal Jose W Torres, 21, who has pleaded guilty to raping a 19-year-old Japanese woman on the island of Okinawa, where most US forces are based.

In the Torres case, Japan had hoped for a quick handover before indictment, while US military personnel suspected of committing crimes in Japan.

“Although both sides expended considerable effort to refine and explain their respective proposals, substantial differences continue to exist,” the US State Department said.

US and Japanese officials met in Washington on Thursday and Friday in a final round of talks in the hope of reaching an agreement by the target date of Friday, it said.

The 45-day period began after the United States agreed on June 18 to hand over Marine Lance Corporal Jose W Torres, 21, who has pleaded guilty to raping a 19-year-old Japanese woman on the island of Okinawa, where most US forces are based.

In the Torres case, Japan had hoped for a quick handover before indictment, while US military personnel suspected of committing crimes in Japan.

“Although both sides expended considerable effort to refine and explain their respective proposals, substantial differences continue to exist,” the US State Department said.

US and Japanese officials met in Washington on Thursday and Friday in a final round of talks in the hope of reaching an agreement by the target date of Friday, it said.

The 45-day period began after the United States agreed on June 18 to hand over Marine Lance Corporal Jose W Torres, 21, who has pleaded guilty to raping a 19-year-old Japanese woman on the island of Okinawa, where most US forces are based.

In the Torres case, Japan had hoped for a quick handover before indictment, while US military personnel suspected of committing crimes in Japan.

“Although both sides expended considerable effort to refine and explain their respective proposals, substantial differences continue to exist,” the US State Department said.

US and Japanese officials met in Washington on Thursday and Friday in a final round of talks in the hope of reaching an agreement by the target date of Friday, it said.

The 45-day period began after the United States agreed on June 18 to hand over Marine Lance Corporal Jose W Torres, 21, who has pleaded guilty to raping a 19-year-old Japanese woman on the island of Okinawa, where most US forces are based.

In the Torres case, Japan had hoped for a quick handover before indictment, while US military personnel suspected of committing crimes in Japan.
Belarus attacks US over Iraq, NATO

Moscow, 3 Aug — Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko railed against the West on Friday, denouncing the United States and NATO in a tirade sure to further isolate the leader.

Lukashenko, criticized by the West for his lack of reform and systematic crackdowns against the opposition, also warned of the opposition in the ex-Soviet state to calm their protests or else face the prospect of him extending his term by referendum.

Politically and economically isolated by the West and increasingly by former ally Russia, Lukashenko said the US-led war against Iraq was unsupportable and that the troops should now quit the country to allow Iraqis to live in peace.

“They killed Saddam (Hussein’s) two sons and it was greeted like a great victory. Look how low we have stooped,” Lukashenko said, adding the Belarussian Army would be ready to retaliate.

He criticized Russia’s Putin for going cold on the idea of union between the countries and stood by Minsk’s decision to shut the office of a Russian television channel for “slander the government”. Moscow said the closure showed disrespect for democracy and was typical of a totalitarian regime.

Lukashenko, first elected in 1994, extended his first term by referendum in 1999 and was then re-elected in 2001 by polls criticized for fraud by Western groups.

He is due to step down in 2006 but the opposition fears he will again extend his rule.

“If I see instability or I see the start of it, I as a president could not throw the country or my people away,” he said.

President Bush has decided to further develop the fast growing air market in China by increasing flights and expanding its network to China.

Speaking at the welcoming reception for a group of Chinese journalists here on Friday night, Michael Tan, senior executive vice-president of SIA, said that SIA will next month bring its flight frequencies to both Beijing and Shanghai back to the level before the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), which has forced SIA to cancel a lot of flights to China and other Asian countries.

With plans to inaugurate new services to south China’s Shenzhen and Fuzhou in December this year, SIA’s vice-president said, adding that he was confident of a favourable recovery of the travel market between China and Singapore.

Indonesian export up, import down in June

Jakarta, 2 Aug — Indonesia’s export in June this year stood at $5.28 billion US dollars or 3.72 per cent higher than the same month in 2002, the highest figure since 2001, the Central Bureau of Statistic (BPS) announced here Friday.

According to BPS head Soedartti Surbakti in a Press conference, the June figure is also 7.53 per cent higher than that of the previous month.

Surbakti said that export in the first six months this year was $30.35 billion US dollars, representing a 10.53 per cent increase from the same period last year.

The increase of export in June was attributed to the rise of the oil and gas export which reached 1.06 billion US dollars or 5.84 per cent higher than the previous month.

China’s top legislator meets Vietnamese guests

Beijing, 3 Aug — Wu Banggou, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People’s Congress (NPC), met here Friday with a delegation of the Vietnamese National Assembly led by its vice-chairman Truong Quang Duc.

Wu said China and Vietnam were friendly neighbours.

New progress had made in the development of relations between the two countries and the two parties.

The leaders of the two countries had maintained frequent contacts and agreed on the major principles and policies to develop the China-Vietnam relations in the new century.

China and Vietnam had kept close coordination and cooperation in the regional economic cooperation and made key achievements in economic and trade cooperation, Wu added.

He said friendly relations would continue to be developed along the lines of long-term stability, good neighbourliness and comprehen-

sive cooperation.

Wu said Chinese NPC had attached importance to the development of friendly co-

operative relations with Vietnamese National Assembly.

“We are willing to strengthen the exchanges and cooperation in legislation and supervision with the Vietnamese National Assembly,” he said.

Truong Quang Duc said Vietnamese leaders valued relations with China, and would promote friendly cooperation according to the guideline established by the two countries.

He said the Vietnamese National Assembly had co-

operated successfully with China’s NPC. He hoped to learn more about China’s economic legislation and budget examination.

Singapore Airlines to further develop air market in China

Singapore, 3 Aug — The Singapore Airlines (SIA) has decided to further develop the fast growing air market in China by increasing flights and expanding its network to China.

Speaking at the welcoming reception for a group of Chinese journalists here on Friday night, Michael Tan, senior executive vice-president of SIA, said that SIA will next month bring its flight frequencies to both Beijing and Shanghai back to the level before the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), which has forced SIA to cancel a lot of flights to China and other Asian countries.

With plans to inaugurate new services to south China’s Shenzhen and Fuzhou in December this year. SIA’s vice-president said, adding that he was confident of a favourable recovery of the travel market between China and Singapore.

Virus causing encephalitis identified in Vietnam

HANOI, 3 Aug — A virus causing acute encephalitis found in a child treated here has been identified as a member of the Bunyaviridae family, marking its Vietnamese debut, according to a report of Vietnam News Agency on Friday.

The virus was identified with help from the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention in the US state of Colorado.

While the virus has only infected one child, who is still being treated, hospital director Nguyen Thanh Liem said the identification of the new virus will be the cornerstone for finding a treatment.

SARS: more than 52

52 US soldiers killed in combat since May 1, totalling 167

Baghdad, 3 Aug — On Saturday, the military said a US soldier was killed and three were wounded Friday in a rocket-propelled grenade attack on their convoy east of Baghdad.

That death brought to at least 52 the number of American soldiers killed in combat since May 1, when President Bush declared major fighting over. So far, 167 Americans have died in combat in this Iraq war, 20 more than in the 1991 Gulf War.

Over 100 residents hold a demonstration outside the White House in Washington on 1 Aug, 2003, demanding the Bush administration to withdraw the US troops stationed in Iraq. —AFP
Explosions in Tikrit follow burial of sons of Saddam

BAHRAIN, 3 Aug — Saddam Hussein’s two elder sons and a grandson were buried as martyrs Saturday in rocky soil near the deposed leader’s hometown, where insurgents afterward attacked U.S. troops with three remote-controlled bombs.

L. Paul Bremer, chief of the American occupation administration, blamed incessant attacks against U.S. forces on foreign terrorists and three groups aligned with the ousted Saddam regime. He implied those fighters do not represent the larger Iraqi population.

At least two American soldiers were injured in the remote-controlled explosions in Tikrit after elders of Saddam’s tribe buried the ousted dictator’s sons, Odai and Qusai, along with Qusai’s 14-year-old son, in an outlying village.

Tribal leaders chanted prayers over three side-by-side graves in the family plot in al-Uja, where the Iraqi leader was born. The family wrapped the three bodies in the nation’s flag, designating them as martyrs for the Iraqi cause.

The army flew the bodies to an airfield just north of Tikrit and sent them in Iraqi Red Crescent Society ambulances to the cemetery, said Lt. Col. Steve Russell of the Tikrit-based 4th Infantry Division.

The Red Crescent acted as intermediary between Saddam’s family and the U.S. military, which had kept the bodies in refrigerated storage at Baghdad International Airport.

Also Saturday, the military said a U.S. soldier was killed and three were wounded Friday in a rocket-propelled grenade attack on their convoy east of Baghdad.

That death brought to at least 52 the number of American soldiers killed in combat that since May 1, when President Bush declared major fighting over. So far 167 soldiers have died in the Iraq War, 20 more than during the 1991 Gulf War.

The Red Crescent television broadcaster Al-Jazeera reported that another U.S. soldier also died Saturday morning in an attack north of the capital, but the military had no details on that.

The military announced Saturday that US soldiers, firing in self-defense Friday, had killed a woman who was standing near where attackers dropped an explosive from an overpass onto the US convoy below. — Internet

Head of British intelligence service MI-6 to retire next year

BAGHDAD, 3 Aug — Britain’s government has announced that the head of its foreign intelligence service, MI-6, will retire next year.

The government said on Saturday that Richard Dearlove will step down from his post in August 2004.

The government said his departure has nothing to do with the controversy surrounding Britain’s involvement in the war against Iraq.

France registers 26,000 more jobless in June

PARIS, 3 Aug — France registered about 26,000 more jobless people, which means a 1.1-per-cent rise in the unemployment rate in June, the Ministry of Social Affairs announced on Thursday.

The unemployment has risen by 6.3 per cent year-on-year since the end of June 2002, amounting to 2.4 million people of the active population, said the ministry.

The revised unemployment rate stood at 9.5 per cent of the active population at the end of June this year if calculated by methods of the International Labour Organization, said the country’s statistics bureau INSEE.

Earlier in the week, French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin announced that starting from September following the summer holiday, the government will take measures to tackle the worsening job market, which remains a priority for the French economy and authorities. — MNA/Xinhua

NATO awards Russian General for role in Kosovo

BRUSSELS, 3 Aug — The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has awarded Russian General Vladimir Logsinov a medal for his role in the peacekeeping operations in the Balkan region.

The awarding ceremony was held Wednesday in Mons, Belgium, where NATO’s Operations Command is based, a NATO Press release said on Thursday.

The event was also a farewell meeting for General Logsinov with NATO officials because he has ended his assignment at NATO military headquarters and deputy for Moscow Thursday.

Lieutenant-General Vladimir Logsinov has held the dual-hatted post of deputy to commander of NATO’s operations headquarters for Russian forces in Stabilization Force in Bosnia and military representative of the Russian Ministry of Defence for Kosovo Force since September 1999.

Logsinov has worked extensively with the leadership “at the NATO’s military headquarters on operational matters regarding Russian participation in the NATO-led peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Kosovo, the Press release said. He kept NATO informed of the various reductions and optimization efforts of Russian forces in both theatres as well as the withdrawal of Russian forces from the Balkans after 7 years of NATO-Russia peackeeping. — MNA/Xinhua

First regional civil aviation meeting opens in Nicosia

NICOSIA, 3 Aug — General directors of Civil Aviation from Cyprus, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt met here Thursday to discuss ways to realize a protocol for cooperation in air traffic management.

It is the first meeting among senior aviation officials from the five countries since the protocol on the Europe-Middle East Air Traffic Management Coordination (EMAC) was signed here last February.

Director-General of Cypriot Ministry of Communication and Works, Symeon Matsis said that Cyprus has undertaken the initiative for the establishment of EMAC, adding that Cyprus “can become the bridge between Europe and Middle East region in matters of air traffic management”.

The cooperation in air traffic management among the five countries is reportedly aimed at reducing costs in civil aviation control and increasing civil aviation management and safety in the air.

Matsis stressed that cooperation among the five countries sets the milestone for further cooperation in the whole region and will make skies “safer, more efficient and cost efficient”. — MNA/Xinhua
The Union of Myanmar is like a family. The national brethren who reside in the Union are of a family regardless of race and religion, and the government is like their parent. If members of the family live in unity and amity, sharing weal and woe under the shade of the parents, there will emerge a family enjoying peace and happiness. If such conditions can be created, the ill intention of foreign nations will surely fade away.

This being the case, the nurturing of youths by the Catholic Youth Apostolate in line with the noble teachings of the religion is of great help in ensuring the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation and in realizing the national objectives to honour the parents, sang songs. After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted those present. Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe ministers, the Yangon mayor, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, ambassadors of foreign embassies in Yangon, resident representatives of UN agencies, invited parents and guests, the chairman of University of Catholic Youth Apostolate (Yangon) and executive committee members and students of University of Catholic.

No 2 Day Nursery...

Chairman of the Day Nursery Management Committee U Min Aung Aye and K 6.5 million for 3.6 million for BEPS No 47 is K 720,000 by Myanmar Tokiwa Corporation. Next, the Secretary-1 accepted K 6 million for No 2 Day Nursery donated by factories and workshops in industrial zones of Yangon Division. K 1 million each by Catholic Youth Apostolate (Yangon) and Foundation of Myanmar-Tokkwa Co Ltd; U Aung Myint of Aung Aung Enterprise, Myanma Shwe Tharaphu Co Ltd and Flower Co Ltd and ACE Co Ltd and K 300,000 by U Khin Shwe of Dagon Industrial Co Ltd; and U Win Aung of Dagon International Co Ltd. Similarly, Minister for Education U Than Aung gave a speech. He said that education plays an important role in building the modern and developed nation. Therefore, the Government laid down and is implementing 30-year long-term plan for enabling the Myanmar society to pursue education. Multimedia teaching centres have been established throughout the nation. All BEHSs have been installed with three multimedia platforms. In doing so, multime dia teaching centres were established at BEHSs in the entire nation due to cooperation of education families and people under the leadership of the Myanmar Education Committee. Later, the minister thanked the wellwishers for their donations for construction of the school buildings. After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party viewed the new school building.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party attended the opening ceremony of the new Basic Education Primary School No 4 in Hlinethaya Township.

About the development of the nation and the race. With an increase in such good families, the nation led by good leaders will emerge.

If parents guide their children to be polite, to behave according to the teachings of their faith and to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation and for enhancing the national brethren gives a great calm which cannot be compared with anything.

He wished the Christian youths to be able to serve the interests of the State and the people hand in hand in amity in the national brethren.

With an increase in such good families, the nation led by good leaders will emerge.

If parents guide their children to be polite, to behave according to the teachings of their faith and to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation and for enhancing the national brethren gives a great calm which cannot be compared with anything.

He wished the Christian youths to be able to serve the interests of the State and the people hand in hand in amity in the national brethren.

Chairman of the Day Nursery Management Committee U Min Aung Aye and K 6.5 million for 3.6 million for BEPS No 47 is K 720,000 by Myanmar Tokiwa Corporation. Next, the Secretary-1 accepted K 6 million for No 2 Day Nursery donated by factories and workshops in industrial zones of Yangon Division. K 1 million each by Catholic Youth Apostolate (Yangon) and Foundation of Myanmar-Tokkwa Co Ltd; U Aung Myint of Aung Aung Enterprise, Myanma Shwe Tharaphu Co Ltd and Flower Co Ltd and ACE Co Ltd and K 300,000 by U Khin Shwe of Dagon Industrial Co Ltd; and U Win Aung of Dagon International Co Ltd. Similarly, Minister for Education U Than Aung gave a speech. He said that education plays an important role in building the modern and developed nation. Therefore, the Government laid down and is implementing 30-year long-term plan for enabling the Myanmar society to pursue education. Multimedia teaching centres have been established throughout the nation. All BEHSs have been installed with three multimedia platforms. In doing so, multimedia teaching centres were established at BEHSs in the entire nation due to cooperation of education families and people under the leadership of the Myanmar Education Committee. Later, the minister thanked the wellwishers for their donations for construction of the school buildings. After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party viewed the new school building.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party attended the opening ceremony of the new Basic Education Primary School No 4, donated by Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development, Eisitan Co Ltd, Golden Flower Co Ltd and ACE Co Ltd and K 300,000 by U Myat Thin Aung of Aung Aung Enterprise Co Ltd, U Kyaw Aung of Bin Ha Trading Co Ltd. U Thein Han of Tokyo Pipe Factory, Great Wall Co, Southern Metal Industries Co Ltd and 247.35 and the Psyco Factory donated K 200,000 each, U Ohn Hsaing of New Golden Flower Co Ltd, U San Htoo of Tharaphu Vermicelli.

A beautiful scene of No 2 Day Nursery in Hlinethaya Industrial City — MNA.
No way or destination in sight

Nga Xin Ngoo

(Continued from 31-7-2003)

It was also for the nation to be able to retain the respective leaders of the underground elements (UGs) of the Burma Communist Party in time, when Daw Suu Kyi was on the verge of following the way of defiance of authority because of the confrontation, in connection with the 42nd Anniversary Arzani Day on 19 July 1989.

Because, the BCP UGs had already designated the 42nd Anniversary Arzani Day as the second revolution, and prepared to launch a series of events on all fronts to shed a bloody bath in the nation.

If there occurred a confrontation and unrest between the public and the security personnel, the BCP UGs would have pushed forward an opportunity to seek an overthrow of the government. The aboveground and underground elements of the BCP were expecting that if the confrontation and the clamor broke out as planned, they would be able to form an interim government when the political image of the existing Tatmadaw government would tarnish and the public hated for it would intensify.

The reasons behind the scheme to encourage and push Daw Suu Kyi onto the path of defiance of authority were: she had placed the political interest of an individual.

On the other hand, she herself had never lived for a long time in the nation; she did not have sufficient knowledge about the nature of the Myanmar people; and her attempts to place her popularity she had gained only during the 1988 unrest in the Tatmadaw, with personal hatred in the core. In my view, because of these reasons, she had become a favorite of the ones who wanted to use her for their own interest in multiple sectors.

Be that as it may, Daw Suu Kyi, prompted and pushed by leftist elements, confronted and opposed both the Tatmadaw and the State and made fabrications in various forms to cause divisions within the Tatmadaw in addition to instigating the Armed Forces (“face-off”) in her attempt to incite the people to hate the institution.

From my point of view, it was apparent that Daw Suu Kyi was only anxious to play the role of the main dancer on the political stage, while failing to realize the fact that the disintegration of the Tatmadaw will be followed by the breaking up of the nation.

To the extent of my knowledge, the random acts of Daw Suu Kyi in her party are also interesting. Nobody can deny the fact that the Daw Suu Kyi who had taken control of the NLD party placed in the fore in fulfilling her sole wish. During the early period of the founding of the party, she had presented some of the work programmes after coordinating in advance with the academic group made up mostly of left-learning persons.

And at the meetings, mostly, the decisions were reached after obtaining the approvals by force. A friend of mine, who was a writer and was included in the academic group, once told me that the NLD NEC had to approve the opinions which had already been decided by Daw Suu Kyi. It is also known that even the patriotic war veterans could do nothing, but had to stay idle at the party meetings.

An ex-member of the academic group, who has recently entered the literary profession again, also said: “Ridiculous! Despite the shouts calling for democracy and human rights, let alone democracy for the whole nation, there is not even a slightest hint of democracy within the party itself. The party members are trying to materialize the idea of democracy that is an individual.”

There was a matter which annoyed Granduncle Nu (U Nu) so much. It was the incident that occurred during the meeting headed by leaders including Granduncle Nu, U Wi, U Hlaing Tun, Maungtaw, Bo Kyi Nyunt and others. Tha Bae, representing the 158 parties they had united the, to discuss the matter concerning the unity and integration of the political bodies. As soon as the doyen politicians were arriving at the meeting, Daw Suu Kyi said that the NLD party under her leadership had already integrated 33 parties then; that the parties had been united as her subordinate organizations; that she would not respect the matter to integrate these parties in an equal status; that if they would follow her arrangements, she would acknowledge their parties as her subordinates; that of the 450 seats for the members of the parliament, she was sure to win at least 250; and that she could even immediately form a government by herself. She also told Granduncle Nu and doyen politicians that she didn’t need to rely on anyone; and that she was better and more successful than her father Bogyoke Aung San in the organizational task. So, Granduncle Nu was not wrong to be annoyed.

At last, the authorities had to impose restriction order on Daw Suu Kyi who was fond of making confrontations in any manner to pursue her policy of doing individual stunts. We can see that Daw Suu Kyi received a lighter punishment if the extent of her perpetration is compared with the degree of action taken against her. It cannot be said that the situation of restriction order on Daw Suu Kyi had improved. But with much magnanimity, the Tatmadaw Government allowed the NLD party to continue its organizational campaign. The Tatmadaw had permitted the NLD party which was full of faults and wrongdoings that it could be announced as an unlawful organization. Although the continued existence of the NLD was the result of the goodwill of the Tatmadaw, in my view, the situation was like keeping a viper in the pocket.

The multi-party general election was held on 27 May 1990. Of the 235 political parties that came into being then, only 93 could enter the election. And only the 27, some of them had had only one candidate elected. Anyhow, the problem of having too much political parties in the nation was solved.

When the NLD won the majority of votes, the local politicians and the media of the west bloc praised the election acknowledgment as it is a free and fair one. But if NLD lost in the election, it is sure that they would put the blame on the Tatmadaw, followed by a series of unrests.

During the election, although the Tatmadaw strictly stayed neutral and never sided with any party, some political forces used unlawful means to win the votes. There were many kinds of unjust acts including gang-wise intimidation to win votes, the threats to burn down the wards if the ward people did not vote for their party, and coercion against the personnel working at the village and ward level Election Commissions.

The problem of power transfer arose after the election. It is a well-known fact that the Tatmadaw had already declared that it would only transfer the State power to the government that emerged in accord with the Constitution. But there appeared forceful demands to grab power, with the presumption that winning the election meant getting the largest number of political support.

Here, I would like to express my concern on the condition of the four parties that were elected representatives to the extent of my knowledge. A rich person living at a residence on U Wisaya Road in Yangon poured a large amount of money into the funds of the three big parties to buy the offices for his men to take part in the election as candidates. A religious extremist, the rich man had the intention of splitting the Buthidaung, Maungtaw and Rathedaung regions as a separate area from the country. Some of his men under the mask of the respective parties won in some constituencies.

The political parties expecting to get power began to extend close relations with embassies and delegates of the West. The picture became clearer that those parties were many kinds of unjust acts including gang-wise intimidation to win votes, the threats to burn down the wards if the ward people did not vote for their party, and coercion against the personnel working at the village and ward level Election Commissions.

The Tatmadaw had to build the national reconsolidation to conven the National Convention. It tried to make peace with the underground armed groups, while patiently trying to solve the political quarrels with the abovementioned political forces by cause the emergence of a durable Constitution approved by the majority depends on the national reconsolidation.

As the efforts to end the armed conflicts alone was not enough for building the national reconsolidation, the Tatmadaw had to solve the aboveground political conflicts that were heading toward armed struggles that could be followed by the destruction of the national security. Thus, the task can be said more delicate and serious.

(To be continued)

(Translation: TMT)
With better transport in the ....

(From page 16)
Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win made a speech. He said that Homalin Airport opened today was just the one at which the small aircraft could land and take off in the past. The runway was then the 2900 feet long gravel one. Since then, aircraft could not use the airport. Homalin, Lashi and Htamanthi were difficult of access. The airport was built to ensure better transport in Sagaing Division and An Airport was built in Rakhine State. With a view to ensuring better transport in Sagaing Division, Hmawya Airport and Homalin Airport were upgraded simultaneously. There is an increase in tourist arrival in Myanmar day by day since Myanmar has introduced the Market-Oriented Economic System. To ensure better transport for tourists at home and abroad, modern airports are of paramount importance. Nowadays, modern airports in Myikyina, Kengtung, Tachilek, Kawthoung, Myeik, Sittway and An, at which jet planes can land and take off, have emerged in addition to Yangon International Airport.

Irrigation facilities including Thaphaneshik Dam, the biggest in the nation, were built one after another in Sagaing Division for agricultural purpose. With the emergence of those water supplies, Sagaing Division has now become the granary of Upper Myanmar. To be able to transport agricultural produce and can travel from one place to another with peace of mind, thereby contributing to uplifting of their socio-economic life and trading. The government has been making earnest efforts with goodwill with the aim of enabling the nation to keep abreast with the global nations and of enabling the people to enjoy the fruits of development.

With better transport in the states and divisions which lagged behind in development for various reasons, of bringing about harmonious development in all parts of the nation, of ensuring better transport across the nation. Roads running south and north as well as those running east and west were upgraded. The highway leading to Putao of northern-most part of Myanmar via Sagaing-Shwebo-Myitkyina-Yangon-Dawei-Myeik-Myitkyina-Mandalay-Yangon-Dawei-Myeik and airport buildings are being upgraded. There are six airports in Upper Myanmar which has now become the granary of Upper Myanmar. In the past, there was only Yangon International Airport in air transport with foreign countries. Mandalay International Airport has been now opened. Yangon International Airport is now being upgraded. Likewise, Magway Airport was opened on 6 June 2003. Other airports in the nation are being upgraded in order that Boeing 737-400 aircraft can land and take off. Homalin is difficult of access. The airport was built in accord with the guidance of the Head of State to ensure better transport and uplift of the living standard of the local people as well as regional development. After speech, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing made a speech. He said that Homalin Airport is of great help for trading with foreign countries as it is located along Upper Chindwin River, Homalin, Khanti, Lashi and Lahe can be accessible by it. It took three days from Monywa to Homalin by waterways and about one day by land in the past. With the emergence of the airport, it now takes only one hour from Mandalay to Homalin by air. He expressed thanks to Head of State Senior General Than Shwe who had given guidance for the emergence of the airport, the Myanmar engineers and technicians who contributed their shares in building the airport and local people who rendered assistance in the project.

Next, U Tun Min Aung of Homalin, on behalf of the local people, spoke words of thanks.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win greeted those present and performed rituals of golden and silver show for opening ceremony. He said that Homalin Airport to Homalin Airport, it is 304.2 miles away. In the past, there was only Yangon International Airport. To ensure better transport for tourists at home and abroad, modern airports are of paramount importance. Nowadays, modern airports in Myikyina, Kengtung, Tachilek, Kawthoung, Myeik, Sittway and An, at which jet planes can land and take off, have emerged in addition to Yangon International Airport. Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing speaking at opening ceremony of Homalin Airport. — MNA
Prawn breeding industry in Ngwe Hsaung region

Article by Aung Naing Oo, Shwe Tin Ohn & photos by Htay Aung (Kyemon)

Ayeyawady Division is rich in natural resources, better than any other parts in Myanmar. Ayeyawady River, which originates in the northern part of Myanmar, making itself into many branches, enters the Myanmar sea. It has led to the emergence of a fertile delta as well as many creeks and lakes, fundamentals of agriculture and livestock breeding sectors. Thus, Ayeyawady Division possesses good foundations for its development.

At the meeting with hoteliers and livestock breeding entrepreneurs during his tour of Ayeyawady Division on 19 June this year, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that the government has been rendering necessary assistance to national entrepreneurs, feeling confident of exerting their cooperation in building up a modern developed nation. Only when the nation is built through the cooperation of the government and national entrepreneurs, will there emerge a developed nation in a short time, he added.

Strenuous efforts are to be exerted for the development of the nation with the use of investments based on agriculture, livestock breeding and forestry sectors at a time when measures are being taken for changing the nation to an industrial one, he noted. Yearly, over US$ 300 million is realized from fish and prawn breeding industry and efforts are to be made for extended breeding of fish and prawn. Now, national entrepreneurs are capable of breeding fish and they can also operate modern prawn breeding industry. However, it is still needed to extend fisheries. Myanmar is blessed with good conditions for breeding prawn. The meat and fish sector will effectively contribute towards national economy only if annual income of prawn industry reaches US$ 400 or 500 million. Respectful officials are therefore to organize and encourage national entrepreneurs to significantly improve modern prawn breeding industry after laying down a short-term plan, he said.

Now, Yuzana Prawn Breeding Group is running sea prawn breeding industry in 226 ponds, Golden Mollusc Co Ltd, in 32 ponds, Shwe Family Co Ltd, in 34 ponds and Max Myanmar Co Ltd, in 16 ponds in Ngwe Hsaung region.

In Ngwe Hsaung region, Yuzana Prawn Breeding Group is running four prawn breeding farms — Alechaung, Bawdhiyin, Phone Maung Gyaw and Min Lan. Of them, Phone Maung Gyaw and Min Lan farms are running a hatchery each and producing fresh water and sea water shrimps. Each hatchery can produce some 70 million shrimps a time. They distribute the surplus shrimps to other prawn breeding farms. Yuzana Prawn Breeding Group employs over 700 staff in its prawn breeding farms. In other words, the group has created job opportunities for over 700 people. And the local people have a golden opportunity to observe modern prawn breeding industry.

The group produced over 460 tons of prawn in 2001-2002 and over 1,100 tons in 2001-2002. Up to June this year, it has produced nearly 600 tons of prawn for 2003-2004. Being fertile, Ayeyawady Division can produce over a quarter of the nation’s paddy yield. So, it is described as the region of the nation’s rice bowl. Due to its rich natural resources, encouragement of the State and strenuous endeavours of the national entrepreneurs, Ayeyawady Division’s meat and fish sector has met great success. Therefore, Ayeyawady Division has also become the region of the nation’s curry bowl.
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

360 feet long Thalatkwa Bridge which is on the road to Ngwe Hsaung Beach from Pathein.

Panglong Telephone Exchange which is one of the development projects for Panglong region.

Engine used for short-range journey which is manufactured by Insein Loco-Shed of Myanma Railways.

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.

Upgrading tasks of Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway in progress on Mandalay-Meiktila road section carried out by Hong Pung Co.

The western part of 5610 feet long Ponnyaung tunnel was successfully built by engineers of Myanma Railways on ChaungU-Pakkokku-Gangaw-Kale railroad.

Machinery used to sink artesian wells as deep as over 1000 feet in the dry zone.

The Ahlon natural gas turbine plays an important role in sufficient supply of electricity.

Photo: Ministry of Electric Power
Transnational park to open soon in Africa

MAUNA, 3 Aug — A transnational tourism project, involving Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Zambia, is in an advanced stage of preparation before its effective implementation, local media reported Friday.

The project, known by the acronym ZIMOZA park, is to cover some areas of western Mozambique, northern Zambia and eastern Zimbabwe, and is aimed at establishing a common management between the three countries, to conserve and manage the forest and wildlife resources, and promote tourism in those areas.

The members of the Implementation Technical Council, representing the governments of the three countries, have been consulting with the people dwelling in the covered areas to work out a management plan that caters for the needs of the people.

A joint management office has been set up in Livingstone, Zambia, with the task, among other things, of between the government, the private sector, local communities, and non-governmental organizations, as a means to ensure sustainable development in the conservation areas.

Explaining the advantages to implement ZIMOZA, Namante said it will help control and bring order to the circulation of people from one country to another because, “as you know, there is no border demarcation fence in that region.”

The Great Limpopo Park is another transfrontier tourism initiative, which is now under consolidation, covering the parks of Kruger in South Africa, Gonarezhou in Zimbabwe, and Limpopo in Mozambique.

Environmentalists warn of roads, dams in Amazon

BRASILIA (Brazil), 3 Aug — A group of environmental experts urged on Friday that Brazil rethink four infrastructure projects in the Amazon that have caused a rush of deforestation even before building has begun.

The report on world’s largest tropical forest, by international environmental experts charged with advising Brazil and rich countries donating to a programme which has channelled $350 million US dollars to conserving the Amazon, came after data in June showed the Amazon deforestation rate jumped 40 per cent last year.

“The situation really is critical but the ministry is aware of this,” said Mary Allegritti, the Environment Ministry’s secretary of the Amazon. “This report underlines our worries about infrastucture projects.”

The group visited the locations of four proposed projects, including paving 485 miles of dirt road running through the heart of the Amazon, building a gas pipeline through forests touching on Indian lands and developing two hydroelectric dams. The projects are slated to be included in an economic development plan the government is putting together.

“The mere possibility of big projects is opening the possibility of new frontiers,” of deforestation, said Roberto Simultani, who heads an international group and is also director of Friends of the Earth in Brazil.

“There are illegal land seizures, which in general leads to deforestation,” he said, explaining that illegal loggers and farmers were moving into areas where projects were planned on the mere anticipation of reality becoming real.

He said that threatened a repeat of past populating of the Amazon, such as in the 1960s when a major highway was opened in the eastern Amazon, allowing loggers and farmers to move deeper into the forests and accelerate deforestation.

New Delhi, 3 Aug — In a historic flight, India’s Light Combat Aircraft Technolo-
gy Demonstrator-I (LCA-TDI), Tejas, attained the supersonic speed for the first time, the Aeronautical De-
velopment Agency (ADA) said Friday.

“Tejas crossed the sound barrier when it crossed the mach 1 and reached mach 1.08 speed at an altitude of 11 kilometres during the flight test carried out by ADA,” a senior official of the ADA said.

It is the first Indian-designed combat aircraft has been able to accelerate in a level flight to supersonic speed and hold at that speed, he said.

“Today’s flight, piloted by Wing Commander Vikram Singh, is Tejas’ major milestone in expanding its flight envelope,” he said.

Two other Indian Air Force aircraft, Mirage-2000 and MiG-21, accompanied Tejas, he said, adding that all the three aircraft flew at supersonic speed together during the flight.

India’s light combat aircraft attains supersonic speed

While another 30 per cent would go into the provincial government’s coffers, 30 per cent for the central government, and seven per cent for the programme’s management technical committee.

Luis Namante, tourism director in Tete, called for closer economic partnership with the African countries which usually stone tombs which usually and a paved path leading to the chamber, making it unusual from typical Han brickstone tombs which usually had no annexes to the coffin chamber, the archaeologists said. Among those objects un-earthed were well-preserved cooking utensils made of pottery, including a kitchen range, plates and spoons, which the experts said were helpful for the research of the economy, culture and life during the Han Dynasty.

Local cultural workers were searching further, and details of the specific time of the tomb’s construction and ownership could not be con- Birthcats (Brazil), 3 Aug — A group of environmental experts urged on Friday that Brazil rethink four infrastructure projects in the Amazon that have caused a rush of deforestation even before building has begun.

The report on world’s largest tropical forest, by international environmental experts charged with advising Brazil and rich countries donating to a programme which has channelled $350 million US dollars to conserving the Amazon, came after data in June showed the Amazon deforestation rate jumped 40 per cent last year.

“The situation really is critical but the ministry is aware of this,” said Mary Allegritti, the Environment Ministry’s secretary of the Amazon. “This report underlines our worries about infrastucture projects.”

The group visited the locations of four proposed projects, including paving 485 miles of dirt road running through the heart of the Amazon, building a gas pipeline through forests touching on Indian lands and developing two hydroelectric dams. The projects are slated to be included in an economic development plan the government is putting together.

“The mere possibility of big projects is opening the possibility of new frontiers,” of deforestation, said Roberto Simultani, who heads an international group and is also director of Friends of the Earth in Brazil.

“There are illegal land seizures, which in general leads to deforestation,” he said, explaining that illegal loggers and farmers were moving into areas where projects were planned on the mere anticipation of reality becoming real.

He said that threatened a repeat of past populating of the Amazon, such as in the 1960s when a major highway was opened in the eastern Amazon, allowing loggers and farmers to move deeper into the forests and accelerate deforestation.

New Delhi, 3 Aug — In a historic flight, India’s Light Combat Aircraft Technolo-
gy Demonstrator-I (LCA-TDI), Tejas, attained the supersonic speed for the first time, the Aeronautical De-
velopment Agency (ADA) said Friday.

“Tejas crossed the sound barrier when it crossed the mach 1 and reached mach 1.08 speed at an altitude of 11 kilometres during the flight test carried out by ADA,” a senior official of the ADA said.

It is the first Indian-designed combat aircraft has been able to accelerate in a level flight to supersonic speed and hold at that speed, he said.

“Today’s flight, piloted by Wing Commander Vikram Singh, is Tejas’ major milestone in expanding its flight envelope,” he said.

Two other Indian Air Force aircraft, Mirage-2000 and MiG-21, accompanied Tejas, he said, adding that all the three aircraft flew at supersonic speed together during the flight.

India’s light combat aircraft attains supersonic speed

While another 30 per cent would go into the provincial government’s coffers, 30 per cent for the central government, and seven per cent for the programme’s management technical committee.

Luis Namante, tourism director in Tete, called for closer economic partnership with the African countries which usually stone tombs which usually and a paved path leading to the chamber, making it unusual from typical Han brickstone tombs which usually had no annexes to the coffin chamber, the archaeologists said. Among those objects un-earthed were well-preserved cooking utensils made of pottery, including a kitchen range, plates and spoons, which the experts said were helpful for the research of the economy, culture and life during the Han Dynasty.

Local cultural workers were searching further, and details of the specific time of the tomb’s construction and ownership could not be con-
Eritrea slams US in journalist row

ASMARA, 3 Aug — Eritrea has hit back at Washington in a row over a detained journalist, dismissing US charges that he was held for reporting news at variance with the government version of events.

The Eritrean Embassy in Washington said Akhlilu Solomon, an Eritrean Voice of America journalist, had been called up into the Armed Forces after dodging national service.

Akhlilu was taken from his home on July 8 by security officers two weeks after he filed the story that Washington says led to his arrest.

"Utilizing deception and other methods, Mr Akhlilu has been ignoring and dodging his national obligations until he was caught not too long ago," the Embassy said in a statement received in Asmara on Thursday. The statement described as "baseless allegation and fabrication" a US assertion that Akhlilu was held for reporting a story that differed from the state's version.

"The real reason for his arrest appears to be a news story he filed for the Voice of America on June 23," the US Government said in an editorial on VOA.

"He reported that families of Eritrean soldiers killed in the 1998-2000 war with Ethiopia wept in sorrow when the names of their dead relatives were announced. This contradicted Eritrea's state-run media, which claimed that the families cheered with pride at the news," the editorial said.

Eritrea has been Africa's biggest jailer of journalists since 2001, according to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists.

The United States said Akhlilu had a medical certificate exempting him from military service and was being held in a military camp.

But Eritrea said he was not in detention but was carrying out military service.

White House says still too many looking for jobs

WASHINGTON, 3 Aug — The White House said on Friday the Bush Administration was not satisfied by a drop in the US jobless rate because there were still too many people looking for work.

The jobless rate for July fell from 6.4 per cent to 6.2 per cent but employers cut 44,000 jobs. The drop in the rate was attributed to an exodus of people from the labour force.

"The unemployment rate did go down... but there were job losses and there are still too many people looking for work. The President has always been focusing on acting to make sure that this is not a jobless recovery," said White House spokesman Scott McClellan.

McClellan said there have been a number of positive signs recently in the economy, such as indicators that businesses are investing and consumers are spending.

"But the President is not satisfied that the economy is growing fast enough. And he won't be satisfied as long as there are people looking for work who cannot find a job," he said. — MNA/Reuters

HK, Mainland praised for cooperation against terrorism

HONG KONG, 3 Aug — US Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection Robert Bonner on Friday praised the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government for effectively implementing the Container Security Initiative (CSI).

He also thanked the Chinese Mainland for working in cooperation with the United States against terrorism.

Bonner made the remarks at a news conference in Hong Kong after watching the operation of CSI at the Kwai Chung Container Terminal, where CSI has been implemented since May 12, after a declaration of principles was signed between Hong Kong and the United States in September 2002.

Under the initiative, Hong Kong Customs officials will check each and every cargo destined for the United States against terrorist contraband.

"Let me tell you that I am impressed. Yesterday I met with Commissioner Wong. Today, I went to the Kwai Chung (Container) Terminal, the larger container port here in Hong Kong, and I saw CSI in action first-hand."

"I met the CSI Hong Kong team this morning, and I was amazed how quickly they have gotten this programme off the ground," he said. Bonner said that in talking with the CSI team of the Hong Kong Government, he was struck by the friendliness of the Hong Kong Customs staff, as well as their strong leadership and professionalism.

"I want to say on behalf of the American people, we express our deepest and sincere thanks for the efforts that are being made here," he said. "...I am convinced that CSI Hong Kong will be a model for all CSI ports throughout the world," the US official affirmed. — MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh to regulate high-rise building construction

DHAKA, 3 Aug — Any project of building a high-rise structure in the capital of Bangladesh will have to take clearance from 13 relevant authorities before going for construction, reported the Financial Express on Saturday.

The draft policy prepared by the Public Works Department titled “Dhaka Metropolis Multi-storied Building Construction Policy 2003” was completed by the end of July and has been sent to concerning bodies for views. The draft stipulates that clearance from 13 authorities including the land Ministry, the Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry, Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, as well as other authorities in charge of electricity, water, gas supply and transportation must be obtained before the construction of any high-rise building in the capital Dhaka.

It is estimated that nearly 300 multi-storied buildings were constructed in Dhaka during the last one decade, while in most cases the builders do not follow the rules and regulations required for high-rise structures, thus posing a threat to the city dwellers’ lives, property and environment, according to the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK: Capital Development Authority).

Moreover, the residential areas in the city are being encroached by commercial buildings step by step, creating serious problems like traffic jams, noise pollution, deteriorating sanitary conditions to the urban residents. There is a National Building Code, but the high-rise building makers never felt it mandatory to follow the code due to lack of a full-fledged policy from the RAJUK.

Now the newly drafted policy stipulates specific rules for the plot’s adequate land, the foundation level to keep the building free from water logging, the enough space between two buildings and the distance from the adjacent road, adequate parking place, and even the height of the building’s boundary wall. — MNA/Xinhua

Forest fire forces evacuation of 1,800 in Canada

VANCOUVER (British Columbia), 3 Aug — Hundreds of people were ordered to evacuate their homes on Friday as a wind-whipped forest fire defied efforts to control it and roared through the tinder-dry mountains of British Columbia.

Officials ordered the 1,800 residents of Barriere, British Columbia, about 185 miles northeast of Vancouver, to leave immediately, having issued a similar order on Thursday to about 30 families in the community of McLure.

The fire that began on Wednesday had grown to an estimated 10 square miles by Friday morning and was slashing through the forest, with rugged terrain hampering the ability of crews to reach it, officials said. Water-bombers were also being used, but officials said conditions were so dry that it took repeated attacks by the fire-fighting aircraft to even slow the blaze. “It’s burning right through the fire retardant we’re putting on the ground, that’s a real indication to us that it is like no other year that we’ve seen,” said Steve Bachop, of the British Columbia Forest Service. — MNA/Reuters

A fan shows a poster of David Beckham at the Beijing Workers Stadium before a match between the Chinese Dragon Team and Real Madrid on 2 Aug, 2003. — Xinhua
Wenger happy with Vieira's comeback from injury

Glasgow, 3 Aug — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger expressed his happiness at captain Patrick Vieira’s return from injury in Saturday’s 1-1 pre-season friendly against Rangers. "I thought 30 minutes or so was just enough for him considering he has not played for three-and-a-half months," said Wenger, whose side face Scottish champions Rangers in their next friendly at Ibrox on Tuesday. "I may still try to give him 45 minutes against Rangers but I was happy with him and we’ll see where we go from here," he told reporters.

"Celtic are very hard to play against because they work so hard, but the positive thing is that he had no pain and looked free in his movement. He helped us a lot and won us space and time when he came on." Wenger said again he was confident Vieira would sign a new contract before the start of the Premier League championship. Vieira’s present contract expires at the end of the season.

"I hope we won’t be devastated. Patrick is 27 and has the best years in front of him and that’s why we don’t want to lose him," Wenger said.

Bowie fires 66 for British open second-round lead

Lytham St Anne’s (England), 3 Aug— American Heather Bowie produced what she described as the finest round of her career to move two shots clear of the field after the women’s British Open second round on Friday. The 28-year-old whose best result in three years on tour was a tie for second at The Office Depot Championship in Los Angeles in April, reeled off six birdies on her way to a blemish-free 66, finishing the day at eight-under 136.

Tied for second at six under were South Korea’s world number two Pak Se Ri (69) and American Sohieh Cup player Wendy Ward (71).—MNA/Reuters

Beckham wins Chinese hearts on Real debut

Beijing, 3 Aug— David Beckham received a rapturous reception as he made his Real Madrid debut in their 4-0 victory over the China Dragon select team on Saturday.

"I thought 30 minutes or so was just enough for him considering he has not played for three-and-a-half months," said Wenger, whose side face Scottish champions Rangers in their next friendly at Ibrox on Tuesday. "I may still try to give him 45 minutes against Rangers but I was happy with him and we’ll see where we go from here," he told reporters.

"Celtic are very hard to play against because they work so hard, but the positive thing is that he had no pain and looked free in his movement. He helped us a lot and won us space and time when he came on."

Wenger said again he was confident Vieira would sign a new contract before the start of the Premier League championship. Vieira’s present contract expires at the end of the season.

"I hope we won’t be devastated. Patrick is 27 and has the best years in front of him and that’s why we don’t want to lose him," Wenger said.

Beckham, 3 Aug— David Beckham received a rapturous reception as he made his Real Madrid debut in their 4-0 victory over the China Dragon select team on Saturday.

Luis Figo, Fernando Morientes (twice) and Javier Portillo scored the goals for the Spanish champions in one of the most widely watched sporting spectacles to be staged in China.

Hundreds of millions of people had access to the match via Chinese state broadcaster CCTV and millions more in Asia and Europe tuned in to watch England captain Beckham’s debut alongside the rest of Real’s dream team.

Some 65,000 fans waved five-starred Chinese flags and roared on their compatriots every time they broke down Real’s attacks and countered.

But the soccer-smitten crowd, many clad in white Real jerseys, reserved gasps of anticipation and shrieks of excitement for the moments when playmakers Beckham and Frenchman Zinedine Zidane had the ball.

Beckham, signed from Manchester United for 35 million euro on July 1, was marked tightly by Chinese international defender Li Weifeng. He produced a series of quick passes to prompt early attacks but the Chinese defence quickly smothered the danger on each occasion.

The England captain’s brightest moment came in the 20th minute when he curled a trademark free kick towards the top corner only for goalkeeper Sun Gang to punch the ball away at the last moment.

Beckham arrowed another free kick just wide of the post in the 35th minute and also produced a string of accurate long-range passes.

He was eventually substituted to loud cheers from the adoring fans after 75 minutes, clapping hands above his head in appreciation.

Real opened the scoring in the 40th minute when Portuguese winger Figo, moved to the left flank by new coach Carlos Queiroz to accommodate Beckham on the right, touched the ball past goalkeeper Sun from a neat pass by Ronaldo.

Real’s fringe players embellished the scoreboard with three late goals in the second half.

Morientes enhanced his claim for a first-team place when he scored Real’s second from a rebound in the 74th minute after replacement goalkeeper Jiang Jun could not hold a Roberto Carlos thunderbolt.

Morientes then cleverly dummyed the goalkeeper and the Chinese defence before firing high into the net to make it 3-0 after 85 minutes. Three minutes later Portillo stabbed home the fourth.

Feisty Chinese striker Li Yi created a series of chances for the China Dragon team but failed to get a clear shot on goal. He caught Real goalkeeper Iker Casillas far out of position in the 30th minute but lobbed the ball wide of the goal.

Real’s defence, criticized for lacking experience after the departure of former captain Fernando Hierro, looked slightly disorganised in the first half.

The game was the first of four pre-season friendlies on Real’s much-hyped promotional tour in the Far East. —MNA/Reuters

Lille tame French champions

Paris, 3 Aug— Midfielder Jean Makoun scored on his debut as Lille kicked off the Ligue 1 season with a surprise 1-0 victory over champions Olympique Lyon on Friday.

The 20-year-old converted a fine cross by Gregory Taffarone to beat Lyon’s international goalkeeper Gregory Coupet from close range in the 12th minute.

The defeat extended Lyon’s appalling record of not having won their opening game of the season since they returned to the top flight in 1989. The visitors dominated for most of the match but Lille proved disciplined in defence and Lyon created just one clear chance to equalise — when defender Edmilson headed a free kick from Vikash Dhorasoo just over the crossbar on the hour.

It served to highlight the fact that Lyon have not yet found a reliable replacement for goal scorer Sonny Anderson who joined Spanish side Villarreal after his contract with Lyon ended in May.

Lyon chairman Jean-Michel Aulas said the club was set to sign a striker on Saturday but refused to provide any further details.

Lille also missed a great opportunity to wrap up the match when striker Mile Sterepovski hit the woodwork 15 minutes from time.

"Lille are always a difficult side to play," Lyon midfielder Eric Carriere said. "They defended really well tonight and we found it hard to break through."—MNA/Reuters
Secretary-1 attends opening …

(Taken from page 7)

Factory, U Tin Maung Yi of Ngwe Chinta Fibre Glass Factory, U Ohn Kyu of Moe Pale Sunflower Seed, New Way Industries Co Ltd, Daw Aye Aye Thin of AYN Co and U Tha Anye and Daw Sein Nyunt of Shanchung Street K 100,000 each. Minister for Education U Than Aung accepted the donations.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 presented K 5.2 million donated by the wellwishers for the school to Headmistress Daw Ohn Chit who spoke words of thanks.

Next, Minister for Education U Than Aung gave a speech. He said that measures are being taken for the development of the education sector under the leadership of the government and the close supervision of Myanmar Education Committee. Opportunities have been created for every school-age children to be able to pursue education. Now, there are 40,007 basic education schools all over the country. Every five wards/villages have three schools. It also means that every 2-mile parameter of a ward has at least one school. He continued saying that under 30-year long-term plan for splitting the Myanmar national education, measures are being taken for the school-age children to go to school during the first five-year plan. So, the number of the children who go to school has increased by year year starting from 1999-2000.

816.5 grams of raw opium seized

YANGON, 3 August — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and the special anti-drug squad in Tanoum on 10 July seized 816.5 grams of raw opium from Anyi (a) Lun Kho Gin, between border checkpoints 1 and 2 in Tanoum.

Transport Minister inspects Bhamo Airport

YANGON, 3 August — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe this afternoon inspected extension of the runway at Bhamo Air- port in Bhamo and its envi- rons and attended to the needs.

Officials of Shwe Thanbinway Highway Co Ltd and Director-General of the Department for Civil Aviation reported to the minister on construction tasks.

The runway will be upgraded to 7,500 feet long and 100 feet wide asphalt concrete — MNA

WEATHER

Sunday, 3rd August, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy to cloudy in Chin State, lower Sagain and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Upper Sagain and Mandalay Divisions and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Taninthayi Division. The noteworthy amounts of rain fall recorded were Myeik (5.43 inches) and Dawei (5.04 inches).

Maximum temperature on 2-8-2003 was 30.5°C (87°F). Minimum temperature on 3-8-2003 was 21.5°C (71°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 3-8-2003 was 96%. Total sun shine hours on 2-8-2003 was (0.8) hours approx. Rainfall on 3-8-2003 was 7 mm at Yangon Airport, 7 mm (0.28 inch) at Kaba-Aye and 12 mm (0.47 inch) at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 1289 mm (50.75 inches) at Yangon Airport, 1470 mm (57.87 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1480 mm (58.27 inches) at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 15 mph from South at (14:30) hours MST on 2-8-2003.

Bay inference: Moonsoon is moderate in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 4-8-2003: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Rakhine, Mon States, upper Sagain, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Kayin, Chin and Shan States and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mon State and Taninthayi Div. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate to rough in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain are likely in Lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-8-2003: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-8-2003: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
With better transport in the region, local people can travel from one place to another with peace of mind, thereby contributing to uplift of their socio-economic life.

**Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win attends opening of Homalin Airport**

Yangon, 3 Aug — Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win this morning attended the opening ceremony of Homalin Airport in Homalin, Khanti District, Sagaing Division and made a speech on the occasion.

To attend the ceremony, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers and heads of departments, arrived at Homalin Airport by special flight of Myanmar Airways at 9.30 am.

They were welcomed at the airport by Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kalay Station, Brig-Gen Mya Win of Kyakhto Station, local authorities, officials and local people. Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party attended the opening ceremony of Homalin Airport held at the runway of the airport.

Also present on the occasion were members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Ministry for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Ministry for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Ministry for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Ministry for Communications, Posts and Telephones Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Ministry for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Indian Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, local authorities and departmental officials, social organizations, students and local people.

(See page 9)

**First, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe formally opened the airport. Next, the Secretary-2 and party, the Indian Ambassador and officials had a documentary photo taken together with members of social organizations of Homalin Township and local people.**

(See page 9)

**Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presents prizes to winners in paddy transplanting competition in Ayeyawady Division**

Yangon, 3 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence attended the monsoon paddy transplanting competition in Myaungtaya Village, Kangyidaunt Township, Pathein District yesterday. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivered an address at the completion of ploughing for monsoon paddy cultivation at the time of sufficient water and rain for 2003-2004 and presented prizes to winners in the paddy transplanting competition.

Also present were Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tint Swe, local authorities, officials and paddy transplanters totalling 2,283. Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that Ayeyawady Division is in the top position among six divisions which cultivate largest acres of land under summer.

After monsoon paddy transplanting, preparations are to be made for putting over 1.6 million acres of land under summer.

(See page 9)

**Provisions donated to monasteries in Dagon, South Okkalapa Townships**

Yangon, 3 Aug — Families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers donated provisions to cash monasteries in Dagon Township, at Dagon Pariyatti Sarthintaik Agga Ma Ha Pandita Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gunananda and members of the Sangha, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, senior military officers, local authorities, departmental officials and wellwishers.

Adjudant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone donated provisions to the Sayadaws.

Next, Camp Commandant Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein, Captain Naval Staff (Navy) Captain Nyan Tun and Colonel General Staff (Air) Col Zin Yaw offered rice to the Sayadaws. Afterwards, the Adjudant-General, the commander, the minister and senior military officers accepted donations for the monasteries from wellwishers.

Today’s donations in Dagon Township were 158 bags of rice, 52 viss of edible oil, 525 viss of iodized salt, 52 tubes of tooth paste, 105 viss of gram and K 264,739. Similarly, the provision donation ceremony was held at Dhammayo in South Okkalapa Pagoda in (See page 8)

(Air) Col Zin Yaw offered rice to the Sayadaws. Afterwards, the Adjudant-General, the commander, the minister and senior military officers accepted donations for the monasteries from wellwishers.

Today’s donations in Dagon Township were 158 bags of rice, 52 viss of edible oil, 525 viss of iodized salt, 52 tubes of tooth paste, 105 viss of gram and K 264,739. Similarly, the provision donation ceremony was held at Dhammayo in South Okkalapa Pagoda in

(See page 8)