State Peace and Development Council Chairman
Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Republic of Singapore

YANGON, 9 Aug — On the occasion of the 38th Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Singapore which falls on 9 August 2003, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council and Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr S R Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore and His Excellency Mr Goh Chok Tong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore. — MNA

State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of the Commonwealth of Australia

YANGON, 8 Aug — HE Mr Paul John Grigson, newly accredited Ambassador of the Commonwealth of Australia to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Zeyathiri Beikman, Koneinttha at 10 am today.

Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony and presented cash awards to outstanding students. Present on the occasion were ministers, the vice-chief of Military Intelligence, deputy ministers, the director-general of the Myanmar Police Force, the head of department of the office of Military Intelligence, responsible personnel of the Office of the State Peace and Development Council, directors-general from related-departments, and commandants from battalions and units. (See page 15)

INSIDE
Perspectives
Let’s strive for development of Kachin State
Page 2

Circulation
24,413

This is the way to auspiciousness.

Let’s strive for development of Kachin State

To be worthy of the inheritance

Page 8

Foreign News

Pages
3,4,5,6,12,13,14

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Let’s strive for development of Kachin State

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party met with members of Kachin State Peace and Development Council, departmental personnel of state, district and township levels, members of social organizations, members of ward and village-tract peace and development councils and townsenders on 4 August.

Speaking at the meeting, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann said that Kachin State is experiencing unprecedented development due to the concerted efforts of regional administrative organs, departmental personnel and local people under the leadership of the Government, prevalence of peace and stability in the region and mutual respect and understanding between the Government and the armed groups.

As there is sufficient water supply for agriculture, the cultivation of paddy, beans and pulses, oil crops, tea, rubber, coffee and bellaric mョryobalan has been extended. Moreover, measures for extension of livestock breeding and industrial development have been taken.

To improve the transport sector of the state, new roads and bridges are being constructed and Myitkyina, Putao and Bhamo airports are being upgraded. Not only that, telephone and telegraph services have been also improved. These are the fruits of the collective endeavours of the Government and the national people on self-reliance basis.

With the aim of turning out well-qualified human resources, universities and colleges have been opened in each and every development region across the Union. In Kachin State, systematic measures for human resource development and improvement of health care services have been taken in Myitkyina, Bhamo and Mohynin regions. Various national people have been living in unity and amity in each and every region of the Union since time immemorial. Kachin State is home to not only Kachin nationals but also Shans and Bamars.

We would like to urge all the national people of Kachin State to make constant efforts for the development of their region as the national people of other regions are trying for the development of their own regions. Only then will all the regions of the Union become harmoniously developed and our national goal — emergence of a peaceful, modern and harmoniously developed and our national goal — will be realized.

— emergence of a peaceful, modern and harmoniously developed and our national goal — will be realized.

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 9 August, 2003

Drug trafficker sentenced

YANGON, 8 Aug — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit, Bhamo Special Anti-drug Squad and Manweingyi Police Station, searched a vehicle with number plates Tha5710, driven by Sai Aik Phu, on its way from Namkham to Manweingyi near Hinton Bridge on Namkham-Bhamo Road on 12 February. The authorities seized 432.72 grams of raw opium from the hand bag of passenger Ma Yan Phin Bway.

In connection with the case, action was taken against Ma Yan Phin Bway, daughter of U Yan Kyon Paung of Mailwan Village in Kutkai Township, under sections 15/19(A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Mansi Police Station.

Bhamo District Court handed down 15 years’ imprisonment on her under Section 19(A) on 18 July.

Minister attends opening of courses

YANGON, 8 Aug — The opening ceremony of the advanced management course No (8), management course No (17), clerical course No (27) and No (28) and basic engineering course No (4) was held at Central Training School in Dagon Myothit (North) Township this morning. Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt made a speech on the occasion. It was also attended by Deputy Minister for PBANRDA Brig-Gen Than Tun, directors-general, deputy-directors-general and directors of the departments under the Ministry of PBANRDA, guests and trainees. Altogether 175 trainees of the departments are attending the respective courses. — MNA

Drugs seized in Hopin and Mandalay

YANGON, 8 Aug — A combined team comprising officers from the drug squad of Manweingyi Police Station, searched the house of Daw Khin Tint, daughter of U Chit Pe of No (245), Zabaingyang Street, Myoma South Ward in Hopin on 30 July and arrested her together with 1.143 kilos of raw opium.

Similiarly, the combined team, acting on a tip-off that there will be the drug deals, searched a house in plot No (855), between 64th and 65th Streets and 31st and 32nd streets, Pyaygrayshin Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, on 1 August. The team arrested Kyaw Haing (a) Dar Hlyan, son of U Khang Zar Tun of Myoma Ward, Kankpile, Chin State, Ma Shwe Par (a) Ma Swe, daughter of U Suan Mar of Yanthal Village, Falam Township, Chin State and Kar Phat Don, son of U Kyan Phone U of Hsaingyan Village, Tiddim Township, Chin State, who were at the house for drug dealing, together with 153 kilograms of Ethel-drine powder used for producing stimulant tablets.

Action is being taken against the culprits under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by the Myanmar police station concerned.

Minister U Win Aung accepts Credentials from UNICEF Representative

YANGON, 8 Aug — Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung accepted the Credentials of Ms Carroll CLong as Representative of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in the Union of Myanmar, today at 1 pm at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, Director-General of the International Organizations and Economic Department U Win Mra and Director-General of the Political Department U Thaung Tun were also present on the occasion. — MNA

MNA

School health week on 11-16 Aug

YANGON, 8 Aug — The Ministry of Education has been implementing the 30-year long-term plan for national education promotion programme in the basic education sector. In doing so, the educational development tasks are being carried out at all basic education schools in academic years. According to the 2003-2004 academic year education calendar, the period from 11 to 16 August is designated as the school health week. Therefore, the school health tasks are to be supervised at all basic education schools. — MNA

MNA

Foreign Affairs Minister sends felicitations to Singapore

YANGON, 9 Aug — On the occasion of the 38th Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of Singapore which falls on 9 August 2003, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Professor S Jayakumar, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore. — MNA

YANGON, 9 Aug — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit, Bhamo Special Anti-drug Squad and Manweingyi Police Station, searched a vehicle with number plates Tha5710, driven by Sai Aik Phu, on its way from Namkham to Manweingyi near Hinton Bridge on Namkham-Bhamo Road on 12 Febru-

MNA
WASHINGTON, 8 Aug — The steady loss of American troops and a terrorist bombing at the Jordanian Embassy may prompt the Bush administration to revise the US security role in Iraq, shifting some responsibility to emerging local forces.

Secretary of State Colin Powell at a news conference, said the United States intends to use “whatever techniques are appropriate” against followers of Saddam Hussein and other anti-American fighters, some of whom have crossed into the country. But, he said Thursday, “it may be what you want to do is to stand back a little bit more and let Iraqis who have started to create forces, protect installa-

That way, Powell said, “you don’t need a coalition military organization protecting that installation.” “We have to be nimble, flexible, (make changes) as the situation changes,” he said.

Two US soldiers were wounded in a fierce gunbattle Thursday in central Bagh-

dad. On Wednesday night, two Ameri-
can soldiers were killed in a firefight in
the Al Rashid section of the capital. The
 deaths brought to 55 the number of US
 troopers killed in combat since 1 May,
when President Bush declared major,
fighting over.

Outside the Jordanian Embassy on
Thursday afternoon, car bomb exploded,
 hurling vehicles in the air and killing at
least 11 people, including a woman and
 two children, according to officials. More
 than 50 people were wounded in the
 blast. Powell said he had telephoned
 Foreign Minister Marwan Muasher of
 Jordan to express his regret over the loss
 of Jordanians and innocent Iraqis who
 happened to be on the street going about
 their business. Powell said, however, “the terrorists need to know we will not
be deterred.”

“We intend to not stay any longer
than we have to, but we will stay long
 enough to make sure that we allow the
 Iraqis people... to put in place a representa-
tive form of government,” he said.

In the meantime, Powell said, more
 nations were contributing peacekeeping
 forces while Iraq, police and security
 units can be built up to guard facilities
 “and not tie up coalition forces doing
 that.” The death of Saddam Hussein’s
 two sons does not, by itself, resolve the
 security situation, Powell said. And nei-
 ther was resolving the fate of the de-
fined president.

“Th are still individuals within
Iraq, leftover Baathists, Fedeyeen, —
 there are some coming in from outside
— who are determined to deny the Iraqis
their desire for peace and a better life
for a new country,” he said.

56th US soldier killed
in action since May
Total combat casualties climb to 170

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 9 August, 2003

US considers reducing its role in Iraq

Chinese state Councillor’s proposal on reconstruction in Iraq

Chinese Premier calls for efforts in fighting smuggling

Sino-British educational programme pays off

Industrial parks in Vietnam attract more foreign investment

Chinese state Councillor’s proposal on reconstruction in Iraq

Beijing, 8 Aug — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao termed for unremitting efforts in the national campaign against smuggling and urged full awareness that the fight would be difficult, long and complex, at a national anti-smuggling conference held by the State Council from August 4 to 5.

He called for united supervision, increased leadership and unswerving confidence and resolve in the campaign, while warning against slack efforts as well as fear and apprehension of difficulty and hardship. He added that the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council have been in full force to supervise the combat against smuggling.

Chinese state Councillor’s proposal on reconstruction in Iraq

Beijing, 8 Aug — China’s Premier Jiabao called for unremitting efforts in the national campaign against smuggling and urgent full awareness that the fight would be difficult, long and complex, at a national anti-smuggling conference held by the State Council from August 4 to 5.

He called for united supervision, increased leadership and unswerving confidence and resolve in the campaign, while warning against slack efforts as well as fear and apprehension of difficulty and hardship.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council have been in full force to supervise the combat against smuggling, said Wen.

Sino-British educational programme pays off

Lanzhou, 8 Aug — The Sino-British elementary education programme has been playing an important role in improving schooling for children in GanSu Province since it was launched in December 1999.

The programme under a cooperation agreement between governments of Britain and China has been used in four counties of Linxia Hui Prefecture of the landlocked province in northwest China. Under the programme, said Li Ying, deputy provincial governor in charge of the programme, 176 schools have been rebuilt or expanded, covering 50,729 square metres of school rooms, and 34,310 students from poverty-stricken families have been paid stipends.

Industrial parks in Vietnam attract more foreign investment

Hanoi, 8 Aug — Industrial parks (IPs) and export processing zones (EPZs) in Vietnam attracted 121 foreign invested projects with a registered capital of more than 300 million US dollars in the first seven months of this year.

The figures accounted for 36.4 per cent of the total projects and 37.8 per cent of registered foreign investment of the whole country in the period, according to sources from Ministry of Planning and Investment on Wednesday.

In the reviewed period, 40 operational projects in the IPs and EPZs also increased their capital, with an addition of about 210 million dollars, accounting for 39 per cent of the additional capital of the foreign invested sector. Tai-
wan Province with 39 projects worth 79.64 million dol-
ars ranked the first in terms of number of projects and capital invested in the country. It was followed by Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region, Japan, and South Korea.

In the first seven months of this year, the IPs and EPZs obtained a sale of 3.56 billion dollars, export turnover of 1.65 billion dollars, and import turnover of 2 bil-

lion dollars, representing year-on-year rises of 11 per cent, 6 per cent, and 7 per cent, respectively. There are more than 80 IPs and EPZs across the country.

A US soldier, stands guard on the top of a Temple at Al-Hatra, near Mosul, Iraq on 7 August, 2003. The temple is from the time of the Syrian Empire, its 2,600 years old, when Iraq was part of Mesopotamia.
UNESCO urges Nepal to save heritage sites

KATHMANDU, 8 Aug—An official of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) said Wednesday listing of the heritage sites of the Kathmandu Valley in the endangered list was an urgent call for proper attention before the sites were lost.

“UNESCO is willing to provide support for this,” the UNESCO official said, quoted as telling the newspaper.

The world cultural heritage sites comprising seven monument zones in the Kathmandu Valley are currently on the UNESCO list of world heritage sites in danger. The UNESCO has cited persistent and uncontrolled urban development that continuously degraded the urban landscape and the architectural fabric of the property as the main reasons behind putting them in the endangered list.

“This is not de-listing, rather an asking to the government and stakeholders to give proper care to the sites,” said Engelhardt, adding, “the international community and the UNESCO are willing to provide support for this.”

The UNESCO will make a special effort to provide training and technical support to architects and professionals to preserve them.

A UNESCO committee will be coming to Nepal in September to prepare an action plan for possible improvement and preservation activities, he added. — MNA/Xinhua

UNESCO urges Nepal to save heritage sites

The 2000 presidential nominee delivered the major policy address amid calls from some Democratic quarters for Gore to change his mind and join the crowded field of nine White House candidates. He tried to end that kind of talk with a simple declaration: “I am not going to join them, but later in the political cycle I will endorse one of them.”

The Democrat who won the popular vote but lost the electoral tally in a disputed election used the 35-minute speech to offer a biting critique of Bush’s policies, and argue that the nation is headed in the wrong direction.

“Millions of Americans now share a feeling that something pretty basic has gone wrong in our country, and that some important American values are being placed at risk, and they want to set it right,” Gore told an audience at New York University.

Gore said the administration’s unilateral approach to the war against Iraq and its put Americans at excessive risk, alienated allies and is leaving the United States to foot the full reconstruction bill.

“Too many of our soldiers are paying the highest price for the strategic miscalculations, serious misjudgments and historic mistakes that have put them and our nation in harm’s way,” Gore said. His comments came on the same day two US soldiers were killed in Iraq, bringing to 55 the number killed in combat since Bush declared major fighting ended May 1.  — Internet

Pentagon official says US used napalm-like firebombs during Iraq invasion

WASHINGTON, 8 Aug — US forces used napalm-like MK-77 firebombs against Iraqi forces in their drive toward Baghdad last spring, a Pentagon official confirmed, defending their use as legal and necessary.

“We napamelled both those (bridge) approaches,” Colonel Randolph Alles, the commander of Marine Air Group 11, was quoted as telling the newspaper. “Unfortunately, there were people there because they could see in the (cockpit) video.

“They were Iraqi soldiers there. It’s no great way to do,” he said.

The MK-77 are filled with a different mix of incendiary chemicals than napalm but have the same terrifying effect, a penetrating fire that seeps into dug-in infantry positions.

“The generals love napalm,” Alles was quoted as saying. “It has a big psychological effect. It’s not as bad as rocket-propelled grenades in downtown Baghdad.

The US military destroyed its stock of napalm bombs in 2001 because they were deemed an environmental hazard.  — Internet

Gore assails Bush policies in US, Iraq

NEW YORK, 8 Aug — Emerging from the political shadows, former Vice President Al Gore upbraided President Bush on Thursday for pursuing a divisive, ideologically narrow agenda and misleading the nation on issues from Iraq to the economy.

The 2000 presidential nominee delivered the major policy address amid calls from some Democratic quarters for Gore to change his mind and join the crowded field of nine White House candidates. He tried to end that kind of talk with a simple declaration: “I am not going to join them, but later in the political cycle I will endorse one of them.”

The Democrat who won the popular vote but lost the electoral tally in a disputed election used the 35-minute speech to offer a biting critique of Bush’s policies, and argue that the nation is headed in the wrong direction.

“Millions of Americans now share a feeling that something pretty basic has gone wrong in our country, and that some important American values are being placed at risk, and they want to set it right,” Gore told an audience at New York University.

Gore said the administration’s unilateral approach to the war against Iraq and its put Americans at excessive risk, alienated allies and is leaving the United States to foot the full reconstruction bill.

“Too many of our soldiers are paying the highest price for the strategic miscalculations, serious misjudgments and historic mistakes that have put them and our nation in harm’s way,” Gore said. His comments came on the same day two US soldiers were killed in Iraq, bringing to 55 the number killed in combat since Bush declared major fighting ended May 1.  — Internet

Singapore’s LTA introduces online road tax service

SINGAPORE, 8 Aug — The Land Transport Authority (LTA) of Singapore on Wednesday introduced a new e-service, Road Tax Online (ROTAX), to provide motorists with an additional way to renew their road tax.

Currently, vehicle owners in the country can renew their road tax at the LTA’s Drive Office, its appointed road tax collection centres, via post or Giro, a payment service provided by a local bank.

ROTAX enables vehicle owners to renew their road tax through the Internet, said the LTA in a Press release published on Wednesday.  — MNA/Xinhua

China develops fertilizer with controlled release properties

GUANGZHOU, 8 Aug — Chinese scientists have developed an environment-friendly chemical fertilizer that can release nutrients in a controlled way for a whole rice growing season, reducing costs for growers.

Experts with the Guangdong Provincial Academy of Agricultural Sciences said experiments between 2000 and 2002 indicated the fertilizer was cost-effective and environment-friendly and capable of increasing the per-unit yield by 6 per cent to 10 per cent.

Applying the new fertilizer just once to growing rice is sufficient, saving a lot of trouble for rice growers who would otherwise have to apply traditional fertilizers several times.

Unlike plastic sheets, the wrapping film of the chemical fertilizer is produced from natural material and will not become an environmental problem after use.

Traditionally, rice growers have to apply chemical fertilizers several times during the growth period of rice, and only about 10 per cent to 35 per cent of the nutrients are absorbed as much is carried away by flowing water to lakes and rivers, causing water pollution. The experts said the new chemical fertilizer would save fertilizer costs by 825 yuan (nearly 100 US dollars) per hectare.  — MNA/Xinhua

Indian Navy submarines undergoing upgrading programme

NEW DELHI, 8 Aug — As part of Indian Navy’s modernization programme, efforts were on to upgrade kilo-class submarines and to transform them into the “missile-capable” vessels, according to the Press Trust of India (PTI) Wednesday.

While the kilo-class submarines Sindhuv Kezari and Sindhuv Ratna had been made missile-capable, Sindhuv Ghosh was undergoing fitting work in Russia, the PTI quoted naval sources as saying.

With the ongoing modernization, the submarines which could initially fire torpedoes, would now be able to fire missile in the range of around 100 to 250 kilometres.

Currently the Navy boasted of 16 submarines, 10 of the kilo-class, four of the Chhichhuram class and two of the Fostroft class. With the upgradation work, five of the kilo-class submarines would become missile-capable, it said.  — MNA/Xinhua

Indo-Pak tensions continue in border areas

ISLAMABAD, 8 Aug — Pakistani police recovered about 800 kilograms of hashish on the national highway near Khairpur City, southeastern Sindh Province, on Wednesday.

A report of the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reaching here on Thursday said police conducted a raid on the highway, stopped a suspected oil tanker and captured the drug wrapped in polythene bags. Police also arrested the driver and his accomplice, who later disclosed that they were transporting the contraband to Karachi, the largest city of the country, said the report. It added that a case has been registered and further investigations are in progress.  — MNA/Xinhua

800 kilos of hashish seized in Pakistan

One of the employees of Mine Advisory Group stands near, one of the partially lofted buildings or hangars, of live ammunitions, at Al-Hatra, Ammunition Supply point or ASP, 40 km (25 miles) from Mosul, Iraq on 7 August, 2003. — INTERNET

US Army soldier inspects the remains of an American military vehicle which was destroyed allegedly by rocket-propelled grenades in downtown Baghdad, Iraq on 7 August, 2003. — INTERNET

China develops fertilizer with controlled release properties

GUANGZHOU, 8 Aug — Chinese scientists have developed an environment-friendly chemical fertilizer that can release nutrients in a controlled way for a whole rice growing season, reducing costs for growers.

Experts with the Guangdong Provincial Academy of Agricultural Sciences said experiments between 2000 and 2002 indicated the fertilizer was cost-effective and environment-friendly and capable of increasing the per-unit yield by 6 per cent to 10 per cent.

Applying the new fertilizer just once to growing rice is sufficient, saving a lot of trouble for rice growers who would otherwise have to apply traditional fertilizers several times.

Unlike plastic sheets, the wrapping film of the chemical fertilizer is produced from natural material and will not become an environmental problem after use.

Traditionally, rice growers have to apply chemical fertilizers several times during the growth period of rice, and only about 10 per cent to 35 per cent of the nutrients are absorbed as much is carried away by flowing water to lakes and rivers, causing water pollution. The experts said the new chemical fertilizer would save fertilizer costs by 825 yuan (nearly 100 US dollars) per hectare.  — MNA/Xinhua

Indian Navy submarines undergoing upgrading programme

NEW DELHI, 8 Aug — As part of Indian Navy’s modernization programme, efforts were on to upgrade kilo-class submarines and to transform them into the “missile-capable” vessels, according to the Press Trust of India (PTI) Wednesday.

While the kilo-class submarines Sindhuv Kezari and Sindhuv Ratna had been made missile-capable, Sindhuv Ghosh was undergoing fitting work in Russia, the PTI quoted naval sources as saying.

With the ongoing modernization, the submarines which could initially fire torpedoes, would now be able to fire missile in the range of around 100 to 250 kilometres.

Currently the Navy boasted of 16 submarines, 10 of the kilo-class, four of the Chhichhuram class and two of the Fostroft class. With the upgradation work, five of the kilo-class submarines would become missile-capable, it said.  — MNA/Xinhua

800 kilos of hashish seized in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 8 Aug — Pakistani police recovered about 800 kilograms of hashish on the national highway near Khairpur City, southeastern Sindh Province, on Wednesday.

A report of the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reaching here on Thursday said police conducted a raid on the highway, stopped a suspected oil tanker and captured the drug wrapped in polythene bags. Police also arrested the driver and his accomplice, who later disclosed that they were transporting the contraband to Karachi, the largest city of the country, said the report. It added that a case has been registered and further investigations are in progress.  — MNA/Xinhua

800 kilos of hashish seized in Pakistan

One of the employees of Mine Advisory Group stands near, one of the partially lofted buildings or hangars, of live ammunitions, at Al-Hatra, Ammunition Supply point or ASP, 40 km (25 miles) from Mosul, Iraq on 7 August, 2003. — INTERNET

US Army soldier inspects the remains of an American military vehicle which was destroyed allegedly by rocket-propelled grenades in downtown Baghdad, Iraq on 7 August, 2003. — INTERNET
Irak war’s 20,000 wounded civilians ignored

LONDON, 8 Aug — Around 20,000 civilians were wounded in the Iraq War and the US-British occupiers are ignoring their suffering, a research group said on Thursday in what it termed the first study of the conflict’s casualty toll.

“The maimed civilians of Iraq have been brushed under the carpet,” the Iraq Body Count (IBC) said.

The Anglo-American group of academics and peace activists chided US and British postwar administrators for failing to set up programmes for the wounded or pay them compensation.

“A sizeable if as yet unknown portion of Iraqi families will contain a relative whose life was ended or put on hold by the US or British forces,” it said in a report seen by Reuters prior to publication on its website, www.iraqbodycount.net.

The report, titled “Adding Indifference to Injury”, said the IBC had calculated civilian casualties known so far as between a minimum of 16,439 and a maximum of 19,733.

Incomplete information about casualties meant that the maximum figure had declined to give any estimates.

The wounded are relying on vain-dalarized and depleted Iraqi hospitals and “a few charities and aid agencies, which have struggled against US ob-stuction to gain a foothold for their work with the sick and injured.” the report said.

Twenty thousand injury compensation claims at 10,000 US dollars each would cost the occupiers 200 million US dollars — less than the United States spends every two days on the occupation, the group said.

“What excuse can the US possibly have for declining this opportunity to do some good for those who desper-ately need it (and for whose hurt it is responsible), and in the process, wait back some of that ‘goodwill’ it has lost in Iraq and much of the world?” MNA/Reuters

Seychelles plans to let tourists on Aldabra Atoll

VICTORIA, 8 Aug — The Seychelles plans to open up the Aldabra Atoll, four remote coral islands in the Mo-zambique channel, to a small number of eco-tourists and is looking for developers, the Seychelles Island Foundation said on Thursday.

The atoll, a United Nations world heritage site 420 miles east of the African mainland, is home to the world’s largest population of giant tortoises, and also to the last flightless bird in the west Indian ocean, the white-throated rail.

The Seychelles Island Foundation (SIF), which manages the site, says it is short of funds to maintain and conserve the islands.

Iran says its nuke programme homemade and peaceful

Tehran, 8 Aug — Iran denied on Thursday that nuclear scientists from Pakistan, North Korea and other countries had helped its atomic programme and reiterated that its nuclear aims were confined to civilian purposes.

The IBC’s figures were based on analysis from independent investigators up to July 6.

The group has also for months been publishing a running total of estimated civilian deaths from the Iraq War, with its latest calculation a minimum of 6,086 and a maximum of 7,797.

The IBC said the US and British military’s reluctance to calculate the number of civilian wounded was inex-cusable.

The need for investigation and assessment “is particularly urgent, for many of the injured may still be suffering and their condition may be improved if we act promptly,” it added.

The United States and Britain have repeatedly said their forces tried to keep civilian casualties to a minimum, but have declined to give any estimates.

The wounded are relying on vain-dalarized and depleted Iraqi hospitals and “a few charities and aid agencies, which have struggled against US ob-stuction to gain a foothold for their work with the sick and injured.” the report said.

Twenty thousand injury compen-sation claims at 10,000 US dollars each would cost the occupiers 200 million US dollars — less than the United States spends every two days on the occupation, the group said.

“What excuse can the US possibly have for declining this opportunity to do some good for those who desper-ately need it (and for whose hurt it is responsible), and in the process, wait back some of that ‘goodwill’ it has lost in Iraq and much of the world?” MNA/Reuters

China launches legal aid fund-raising project

BEIJING, 8 Aug — A massive fund-raising project has been launched to enable China’s poorer citizens access to justice and legal services.

Only a quarter of the 700,000 legal cases requiring legal aid every year actually receive assistance because of insufficient funding, Ministry of Justice statistics show.

“Legal aid is an important part of the justice sys-tem and it is regarded by the international community as one of the key guarantees of judicial justice,” said Zhang Fushen, Minister of Justice, at the project’s launch on Wednesday.

China set up its legal aid system in 1994, and now has more than 2,600 agencies and over 100,000 lawyers providing legal aid services.

But with the acceleration of the development of China’s legal system, the demand for legal aid was also increasing sharply, Zhang said.

“Even though govern-ments at various levels have kept increasing financial all-locations in this regard, the legal-aid system is still in-adequate,” he said.

Zhang said he hoped the charity project would raise awareness of the difficulties faced by those facing financial help.

“Even though govern-ments at various levels have kept increasing financial all-locations in this regard, the legal-aid system is still in-adequate,” he said.

Zhang said he hoped the charity project would raise awareness of the difficulties faced by those facing financial aid and more people would help the cause.” — MNA/Xinhua

Germany chancellor ponders over addressing UNGA

BERLIN, 8 Aug — German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder is considering to attend the United Nations General Assembly this autumn and make a speech for his country, a government spokesman said Wednesday.

It is “very likely” for Schroeder to travel to New York during the 58th UN General Assembly and he will make a final decision on the trip after summer vacation, said Tho-mas Steg, deputy spokesman for the German Government.

He said that there was “no current plan” for Schroeder to meet US President George W. Bush either in New York or in Washington.

However, Schroeder is interested in having bilateral talks with Bush “at a given time”, Steg said.

Except for handshakes on some international occasions, Schroeder and Bush have held no bilateral talks since their relations soured over the issue of Iraq.

India, Lesotho agree to boost bilateral economic cooperation

NEW DELHI, 8 Aug — India and Lesotho Wednesday agreed to give a major thrust to bilateral economic cooperation and work closely in combating international terrorism, UN reforms and south-south cooperation.

According to official sources, visiting Lesotho Prime Minister Bethuel Pakalitha Mosisili held extensive parleys with Indian leaders and apprised them of the vast opportunities by the southern African country for Indian investors particularly textiles sector.

The two leaders reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and exchange views on important regional and international developments.

Mosisili, who is undertaking the first-ever Prime Minis-ter visit from Lesotho to India, said Indian investors could take advantage of trade access under the African Growth Opportunities Act.

State Council to better supervise China’s banking industry

BEIJING, 8 Aug — Some draft amendments on better supervision over the country’s banking industry were passed Wednesday at an ex-eutive meeting of the State Council, China’s highest governing body.

Members of the State Council found that amend-ing the laws will help to pro-mote the development and reform of the country’s fi-nancial sector.

The State Council will file the drafts to the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, China’s top legislature, after further revisions.

State Council members also examined and approved in principle the draft Provii-sions on the Central Man-agement of Grain Reserve, which will be promulgated and enacted by the State Council soon.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

People come out with their hands up from a building that came under American military forces after an American military vehicle was destroyed, allegedly by rocket-propelled grenades, in downtown Baghdad, Iraq on 7 Aug, 2003. — Internet

US Army soldiers take cover after an American military vehicle was destroyed allegedly by a rocket attack in downtown Baghdad, Iraq on 7 Aug, 2003. — Internet
Blistering attack on US for Hiroshima massacre, banditry against Iraq

Karachi, 7 Aug — A seminar was conducted here on Wednesday to express solidarity with the millions of Hiroshima who either lost their lives or were lumbered with crippling, life-long infirmities fifty-eight years to the day, when the United States committed the greatest act of terrorism in history, dropping the first-ever atomic bomb on the Japanese city. The seminar, titled “No More Hiroshima”, was organised by a non-governmental organisation, Education Foundation, at a local hotel. The seminar was attended by a large number of local intellectuals, political leaders, and activists of leftist peace movements.

The speakers of the seminar held the view that dropping the nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki had been such an extreme unlawful, cruel, and barbarous act by America which would never be forgotten by mankind as long as it lasts. They deepely lamented that the use of nuclear devices over the two Japanese towns resulted in loss of over 0.2 million human lives while even the descendants of the survivors of the nuclear holocaust were still being born with various forms physical disabilities and handicaps due to cell mutations caused by the radiation effects of the bomb. Millions of others who escaped death fell victim to psychological disorders. They expressed the unanimous opinion that the world had been passed on the threshold of destruction and apocalypse owing to the unbridled greed and lust of imperialist powers to get their hands on the world’s natural resources forcibly. While citing the example of the American military actions conducted in Iraq and Afghanistan recently, they were of the view that super powers’ game to grab the resources of developing countries was still going on and for the purpose military interventions were being carried out frequently into the sovereign nations’ territory.

Karachi, 7 Aug — Former chief weapons inspector Hans Blix gave his sharpest critique yet of the US-led war in Iraq, which he said violated international law.

Speaking on Swedish Radio, Blix questioned whether Saddam Hussein posed an immediate threat to his neighbors or to the United States, and said the Bush administration had other reasons to invade besides destroying alleged weapons of mass destruction.

He said the US also needed to show what he calls “striking power” following the Sept 11 terrorist attacks.

“The comments were not Blix’s first criticisms of the war, which the United States and Britain said was launched because intelligence indicated Iraq possessed illegal biological and chemical weapons and was working toward developing nuclear arms.

Since the fall of Baghdad on 9 April, no illegal weapons have been reported found, despite extensive searches and interviews with numerous Iraqi officials and scientists.

Lawmakers in Washington and London have demanded to know how they were to account for their respective governments’ use of prewar intelligence.

Some US analysts have claimed in published reports that they felt pressure to skew intelligence to fit the Bush administration’s case. Declassified documents have indicated significant doubt and disagreement within the intelligence community over the threat posed by Iraq.

China says ASEAN+3 mechanism boosting regional economy

Manila, 8 Aug — The enhanced regional cooperation in East Asia boosts the trade, economic and investment links among ASEAN plus three members, and has expedited regional economic integration, Chinese Finance Minister Jin Renqing told a regional conference here on Thursday.

“Taking the trade of China with ASEAN countries, Japan and Korea as an example, the trade volume has been expanding for several years,” Jin made the remarks at the one-day ASEAN plus three Finance Ministers’ Meeting, which also involved his counterparts from the 10 ASEAN members as well as Japan and South Korea.

“After sealing a rapid growth in 2002, China also stepped another big stride forward in trade with Japan, Korea and ASEAN countries, striking growth rates of 36 per cent, 44 per cent and 45 per cent,” Jin added. “When the world economy is fluctuating, the economic and trade cooperation among ASEAN plus three members has played an increasing role in promoting economic stability and growth in Asia,” Jin explained.

The regional bond market will go through three stages: firstly self-improvement of domestic bond market by the member countries; secondly opening domestic bond markets wider to other members so as to facilitate the gradual integration of individual markets; and finally forging a single regional market, Jin elaborated.

“Presently, only a few members have entered into the second stage, while most members are still on the way to fulfill the first, representing the biggest obstacle for the establishment of Asian Bond Market. Therefore, we should focus our next-step efforts on the improvement of domestic bond market,” Jin noted.

“USS Carl Vinson” makes port call in HK

Hong Kong, 8 Aug — The US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson arrived in Hong Kong Wednesday to make a port call.

Rear Admiral Evan M. Chauk, commander of the USS Carl Vinson Battle Group, said in a press briefing held on the carrier that Hong Kong has always been a favourite port to visit for the US Navy, and he is confident that Hong Kong now is a safe place to visit after the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government had successfully curbed severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

“Pressure points” in Indian eco but growth to be significant

New Delhi, 8 Aug — Admitting “pressure points” in the economy due to rising food and petroleum subsidies, Indian Government on Thursday said growth would be “significant” due to robust agriculture and industrial revival.

But development in the first quarter of this year was encouraging, it said adding, “this year should witness significant growth coupled with macro-economic stability”. Aided by strong inflow of foreign exchange reserves of nearly US$10 billion, low inflation, double-digit export growth and soft interest rate regime.

Coupled with this, the good monsoon would reverse the agricultural output making the farm growth robust, as compared to negative growth in 2002-03.

Fiscal Deficit up to June this year was only 386.08 billion rupees, which was lower by 9.52 billion rupees compared to that in the previous year. The deficit constituted just 25 per cent of the budget estimate for 2003-04 as against 29 per cent in the previous year, the review noted.

The report, however, indicated the slippage in the net tax revenue at 191.72 billion rupees in the first quarter of 2003-04 as against 241.5 billion rupees in the same period a year ago.

MNA/PTI

An Iraqi looks at the remains of a heavy machine gun after an American military vehicle was destroyed allegedly by rocket-propelled grenades in downtown Baghdad, Iraq on 7 August, 2003. — Internt
With a view to expanding the scope of power supply to the towns and villages along the Union Highway including Lashio, Muse and Namkham in Shan State (North), Bhamo and its surrounding areas in Kachin State, and industrial enterprises in Mandalay and Monywa in the Central Myanmar, the Hydro-power Department under the Ministry of Electric Power is making arrangements for construction of Shweli Hydel-power Station near Mantet Village, 17 miles south-west of Namkham in Muse District, Shan State (North).

It is learnt that, on completion, it will be able to generate 3,042 million Kilowatt hours a year. At the same time, for distribution of the electricity, sub-power stations and nine power lines — 217-mile Shweli-Mandalay line, 135-mile Mandalay-Monywa line, 53-mile Namtu-Hsipaw-Kyukme line, 23-mile Namtu-Lashio line, 47-mile Shweli-Namkham-Muse line, 50-mile Shweli-Kutka line, 46-mile Shweli-Bhamo line, 12-mile Muse-Kyugok line and 18-mile Kutkai-Hsenwi line will be constructed.

Due to installation of these power lines, electricity will be able to be sufficiently provided to the regions across the nation through greater power lines and sub-power stations as well as to the copper mine in Monywa, Namtu mine, new nickel mine in Thathekkyin and projects and factories in Upper Myanmar, contributing towards earning more foreign exchange and the development of border areas and national races. The Shweli River, which rises in Yunnan Province, the People’s Republic of China, creates rainfalls 15 miles south-west of Namkham.

Gems and Jade Sales successfully concluded

YANGON, 8 Aug — The 16th Gems and Jade Sales of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd was held at Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning, attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence. Also present were Managing Director of UMEHL Maj-Gen Win Hlaing, members of the board of directors and 578 local and foreign gem merchants. The inspection team opened and checked the bargain forms of the gem merchants. Managing Director Maj-Gen Win Hlaing made a speech. The master of ceremonies explained the rules of the tender. The managing director opened the sales. Next, the list of the gem merchants who got permits to buy gems and jade through bargain system was announced. The gems and jade sales continued through auction system and the sales successfully concluded at 3.40 pm.

A total of 178 gem lots for K 2,210.96 million and 83 jade lots for K 528.63 were bought by local and foreign gem merchants. Next, the managing director and officials presented gifts to the merchants who purchased gems and jade at highest prices.

Health Minister receives IFRC delegates

YANGON, 8 Aug — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint received delegates of International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Ms Tognna Mac Clean and Ms Marja Leena Oraby at the Ministry of Health on Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road in Dagon Township at 1 pm today. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and officials.

S’PORE NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION: Minister U Win Aung and wife being welcomed by Singaporean Ambassador Mr Simon Tensing De Cruz, and wife at the reception to mark the 38th National Day of the Republic of Singapore on 8-8-2003.
Chingya (Maubin)

To be worthy of the inheritance

(To be continued)

Panwa region is making progress...

(from page 16)

instigation, suppression and torment by those who drove a wedge among the national races, those who wanted to break the Union and those who relied on foreign nations in the past, is now being embedded with Union Spirit and the spirit of national unity.

Efforts are being made for regional development in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. We will never let our brethren to become victims of those who drove a wedge among the national races again as well as hostages of those who are going to break the Union.

The national races of Panwa region are well aware of the danger to the nation and the people. We have been making constant efforts for wiping out poppy growing and for elimination of narcotic drugs detrimental to the image of the State and the people. This being the case, strenuous efforts are being made in order to turn Panwa into the drug free region.

Efforts are being made for regional development on a self-reliant basis and the assistance of the government is required for development of Panwa region.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win made a speech. He said that it was gratifying to witness the national brethren residing in Panwa peacefully. He also wished officials of Panwa region, local people and service personnel to be healthy and happy.

The main requirement for development is peace and tranquility. Panwa region is making progress as peace and tranquility prevails in the region. Arrangements being made to enable the local people to engage in the agricultural

Efficient use of electricity

* Use daylight as the main source of light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
* Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
* Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others
* Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month can save US$ 5.5 million in a year
* There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp every day by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

All this needs to be known

Efforts are being made for regional development in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. We will never let our brethren to become victims of those who drove a wedge among the national races again as well as hostages of those who are going to break the Union.

The national races of Panwa region are well aware of the danger to the nation and the people. We have been making constant efforts for wiping out poppy growing and for elimination of narcotic drugs detrimental to the image of the State and the people. This being the case, strenuous efforts are being made in order to turn Panwa into the drug free region.

Efforts are being made for regional development on a self-reliant basis and the assistance of the government is required for development of Panwa region.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win made a speech. He said that it was gratifying to witness the national brethren residing in Panwa peacefully. He also wished officials of Panwa region, local people and service personnel to be healthy and happy.

The main requirement for development is peace and tranquility. Panwa region is making progress as peace and tranquility prevails in the region. Arrangements being made to enable the local people to engage in the agricultural...
Panwa region...

(from page 8) of meeting with the national brethren in Panwa region. The presentation of Chairman U Za Khon Ting Ring is the actual requirement for regional development. Efforts will have to be made based on mutual trust and understanding for further development of Panwa region.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe is fulfilling the requirements for improving the living standard of the national races in the states and divisions including Panwa region. All the national people are to make concerted efforts for regional and national development.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win presented K 10 million for development of Panwa region through Panwa region to an official. Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann presented gifts to Chairman U Za Khon Ting Ring.

Then, Lt-Gen Soe Win presented gifts of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt to Chairman of Kachin State Special Region-1 U Za Khon Ting Ring and Secretary U Layauk Zelwan.

Next, Chairman of Kachin State Special Region-1 U Za Khon Ting Ring presented gifts to Lt-Gen Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Soe Win and Lt-Gen Ye Myint. Later, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win and Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party greeted local national brethren.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Soe Win and party proceeded to Zabu Nyen Pa-goda on Zabu Aye Hill and paid homage to it.

Next, they signed in the visitors’ book.

Next, they went on to the monastery of Panwa, where they paid homage and presented offerings to Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Manta.

Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Soe Win and party proceeded to Basic Education High School of Panwa and inspected construction of the three-storey building for the school.

At 2.15 pm, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Soe Win and party arrived at Lagah Village in Momak Township by helicopter. They were welcomed there by Lt-Col Thura Myint Oo of the local station, Secretary of Kachin State Special Region Dr Tu Gab, in charge of Economic Division Dr La Gab and officials.

Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Lt-Gen Soe Win and party arrived in Laiza, where they were welcomed by Chairman of Kachin State Special Region-2 U La Mon Tu Jai and vice-chairmen and officials.

At the hall of Laiza, they met with officials of the Special Region-2, education and health staff, town elders, teachers and students.

At the meeting, Chairman U La Mon Tu Jai made a speech. He said that they extended a warm welcome to members of the State Peace and Development Council. Laiza, which was only a village in the past, is now making progress. Efforts are being made for further development of Laiza. Kachin State lagged behind in development in the past for various reasons. Kachin State has now been keeping pace with other states and divisions in terms of development owing to relentless efforts of the government and the people. Laiza was not accessible by car from Myitkyina and Bhamo in 2002. People can now travel by car from Laiza to Myitkyina and Bhamo and vice versa with the emergence of new roads and bridges.

Progress has also been made in education, health and social sectors in the region. Efforts are being made further development of Laiza region.

Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win gave instructions on concerted efforts to be made with genuine goodwill for development of Kachin State.

The Secretary-2 presented K 10 million for development of Laingza to Chairman of Kachin Special Region 2 U La Mon Tu Jai and cash assistance for education and health sectors to respective officials. Lt-Gen Ye Myint also presented cash assistance to Laingza maternal and child welfare association and working committee for women’s affairs.

Next, he presented gifts sent by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt, to U La Mon Tu Jai. Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann presented a gift to the chairman of Kachin State Special Region-2. Chairman Vice-Chairman Lt-Col Thein Lwin of Kachin State Special Region-2 U San Myan and those in charge of respective regions.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, the Secretary-2 and party posed for documentary photos together with the chairman of Kachin State Special Region and party. They cordially greeted those present at the meeting.

They proceeded to Bhamo, where they were welcomed by Brig-Gen Soe Nwe of Bhamo Station, military officers and officials. There, they met with local authorities, departmental officials, service personnel, members of social organizations and town elders. At the meeting, the Secretary-2 explained matters on...
Living in the northern part of Myanmar are the ethnic Kachin people, renowned for their bravery and wisdom, trained to cherish and preserve the race and traditions and culture. Their region, famous as the Jade Land is blessed with enchanting landscape and the rich natural resources.

As a result of the efforts of the Union, they love the nation, and have always joined forces in driving out the enemies of the State and in safeguarding the nation in times of emergency.

Snow-capped mountains stand as a symbolic feature of their land which is called Kachin State, while the evergreen forests and the Maykha together with their many tributaries formed the mighty Ayeyawady make Kachin State an ideal place for tourists seeking adventure tours. Moreover, the largest natural lake in Myanmar, the Indawgyi, lies in the state.

In order to effectively utilize the rich human and natural resources of the land for the benefit of the local ethnic races as well as the whole Union, the Government has been building the required infrastructures in all sectors, with the participation of the peace groups (the armed groups that have returned to the legal fold), the Tatmadaw members, the non-governmental organizations and the local people. As it is located between the two populous neighbours, the state has bright opportunities to serve as a land route further facilitating the trade between the two countries.

Apart from building many new roads, bridges large and small and airports and renovating and upgrading the existing ones in the transport sector of the state, the Government has designated the Myitkyina and Bhamo regions as the development zones, building a number of institutions of higher learning in Myitkyina, Bhamo and Mohannya areas for producing brilliant human resources, and hospitals and other important structures in all the places of the state.

Although, Kachin State has fertile land and a favourable climate for farming, the Government has been building and developing the irrigation facilities to further develop its agricultural sector. As the Government’s regional development drive is winning the ardent support of the locals and the peace groups, the whole Kachin State is seeing progress in multiple sectors, gaining momentum to leapfrog to a peaceful, modern and developed nation together with all the other states and divisions of the Union.

And with so many opportunities and so numerous rich resources, Kachin State is a jewel of the nation, that is bringing progress and prosperity to the nation at present and will do so in the future also.

The Objectives of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

— to vitalize patriotism and nationalism in all citizens
— to preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage
— to perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts
— to preserve Myanmar national character
— to nurture spiritual development of the youths
— to prevent influence of alien cultures
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

Panoramic view of Mandalay stands witness to rapid development of the second national capital of Myanmar. — MNA

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 the regions in all parts of the nation.

Supply of water from Lawkananda River Water Pumping Project to the farmland through the main canal. — MNA

HSINMIN-1 CEMENT PLANT IN KYAUKSE: Hsinmin-1 Cement Plant in Kyaukse opened on 15-5-2003 will produce 400 tons of cement every day, which will be sold to the people. In the construction of Hsinmin-2 Cement Plant, civil engineering work and machinery installation are nearing completion. Plans are under way to test-run it in August 2003. — MNA

KALHTAW DAM IN HLEGU TOWNSHIP, YANGON DIVISION: The Kalhtaw Dam was built at a cost of K 441 million. It can store 26,000 acre-ft of water and irrigate 9,000 acres of farmland. — MNA

Myanmar ICT Park in Hline Township. — MNA

The main building of Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University in Meiktila Township. Myanmar Maritime University and Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University nowadays are drawing the interests of youths and it is very encouraging for the nation’s future.

Aerial view of Miehla Dam opened on 31-5-2003 in Okpo Township, Bago Division. — MNA

Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country
New York, 8 Aug — Air pollution from the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center (WTC) may have caused pregnant women who were at or near Ground Zero to deliver smaller babies, researchers said in a study recently released Wednesday.

The study, published in the latest Journal of the American Medical Association, found that exposed pregnancies contained a higher percentage of “small for gestational aged babies,” or SGA. According to the findings, these SGA babies could grow up to be shorter and weigh less than average.

A preliminary report on 187 pregnant women who were in or near the collapsing towers showed that the women developed highly vaporized glass and other toxins proved so detrimental that mothers who inhaled the debris delivered babies who averaged a half-pound lighter than infants of unexposed women.

The size differences among babies born to women exposed to dust and soot from the attacks suggest a condition called intraterritorial growth restriction, or IUGR, which has been linked with exposed pregnancy.

Previous research also has found that babies affected by IUGR may be at increased risk for heart disease, respiratory problems, and other health problems in adulthood, said Dr. Philip Landrigan, one of the researchers and chairman of Mount Sinai School of Medicine’s community and preventive medicine department.

North Carolina becomes favoured spot for New Yorkers

Birmingham, 8 Aug — China begins to levy anti-dumping duties on imported coated art paper produced in South Korea and Japan Wednesday for a term of five years, the Ministry of Commerce has announced.

Imports of the product originated from the two countries will have to pay duty ranging from 4 per cent to 71 per cent.

The decision is the final verdict on the anti-dumping measures, says the ministry announcement. A preliminary verdict was made last November.

A Ministry of Commerce investigation found that South Korean coated art paper industry was seriously damaged because of dumping by the two countries.

Meanwhile, an anti-dumping investigation against imports of coated art paper produced in the United States and Finland was cancelled and no measures were taken after it found these products were less than 3 per cent of the total imports.

China has channelled more than a decade among New Yorkers who often went to Florida to retire, the reports. — MNA/Xinhua

World Bank signs new agreements for Afghan reconstruction

Kabul, 8 Aug — The World Bank, as administrator of the “Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund”, has signed new agreements with the Afghan Government on infrastructure and poverty relief projects, an official announced here on Wednesday.

Under the three agreements signed earlier this week, projects will be relocated to North Carolina, which has enjoyed strong economic growth in the 1990s.

The state attracted people to move there for better jobs, and a retirement population has also relocated there, the bureau’s director said.

North Carolina was the fourth largest recipient of New Yorkers, highlighting a new pattern of movement.

The report also showed 308,000 people moved from New York to Florida in the last half of the 1990s, the same population shift from one state to another.

The trend continued over more than a decade among New Yorkers who often went to Florida to retire, the reports. — MNA/Xinhua

Tanzanian president urges to fight against corruption

DAR-E-S-SALAAM, 8 Aug — Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa stressed here on Wednesday that corruption in developing countries would be eradicated if it blocked their path forward.

Speaking during the opening ceremony of the third conference of southern African countries on fighting against corruption, the President said corruption and poverty are the twin problems which plague the continent.

Mkapa emphasized that political leaders should be committed to do more in anti-corruption movement.

He also urged the people, social groups, and the whole society to begin a war on corruption.

Hundreds of delegates from southern African countries attended the conference. — MNA/Xinhua

Thousands of books are waiting to give you knowledge free of charge
Over 16 million in Africa “AIDS” meeting ends with call for treatment

DURBAN, 8 Aug — Scientists and activists at South Africa’s first national AIDS conference which drew to a close on Wednesday urged the government to roll out rapid drug treatment for millions of South Africans dying from the disease. “The message is: don’t wait. You’ve got to do something, and you have got to do it now,” Salim Abdool Karim, scientific chair of the conference, told Reuters. “This is not an attack on the government. This is scientific fact.”

The four-day conference was a watershed in South Africa’s public debate on AIDS policy, which is dominated by angry efforts to persuade the government to launch a national treatment programme with anti-retroviral drugs, which many scientists say represent the only way to avoid catastrophic AIDS. AIDS kills an estimated 600 South Africans each day and some 4.7 million people are infected with the virus, the highest caseload in the world.

Researchers say the death toll could rise to as many as eight million if nothing is done to stop or treat the disease, which economists say represents a growing threat to Africa’s most vibrant economy. Thabaledi-Msimang — who was jeered at Sunday’s opening session of the conference — has angrily rejected the accusations, reiterating that anti-retroviral drugs are but one treatment option the government is considering.

The government maintains the drugs are unproven, difficult to take and expensive, and says priority must be given to improving the overall state of the health care system. But other senior officials indicated that change may be coming as the Cabinet prepares to receive a long-delayed report on the affordability of a national anti-retroviral plan.

“All of us are seized with responsibility to persuade the government to launch a national treatment programme with anti-retroviral drugs, which many scientists say represent the only way to avoid catastrophic AIDS. AIDS kills an estimated 600 South Africans each day and some 4.7 million people are infected with the virus, the highest caseload in the world.”

Programme to provide 11 TB patients with free TB drugs

AIDS: A growing threat to Africa’s most vibrant economy

S Africa “AIDS” meeting ends with call for treatment

Over 16 million in Africa “AIDS” meeting ends with call for treatment

US warns doctors about prescribing TB drug mix

ATLANTA, 8 Aug — Doctors in the United States should avoid prescribing what had been a promising drug cocktail when treating cases of latent tuberculosis because the therapy causes severe liver injuries and death in some patients, federal health officials said on Thursday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Thoracic Society issued the updated advisory after an investigation revealed that 11 people with latent TB had died between October 2000 and June 2003 after being prescribed a combination of the antibiotics rifampin and pyrazinamide.

Another 37 patients were hospitalized with liver injuries after taking the drugs, which are used to treat both the latent and active form of TB as well as the potentially fatal active strain of the lung disease. The CDC, which informed doctors of the potential for such side-effects in 2001, said a nine-month course of isoniazid was the preferred treatment for latent TB, especially in cases where patients suffered from alcoholism or liver problems.

An estimated 10 million to 15 million Americans are infected with latent TB, which is caused by an airborne bacteria spread through coughing or other close contact with infected persons. Antibiotics cure most cases of the disease.

The discovery of serious side-effects linked to the two-month or three-month course of rifampin-pyrazinamide in latent TB patients came as a surprise since the drugs had showed high rates of success in clinical trials.

“It’s a setback because it has dealt a blow to our expectations for a safer and more effective and much shorter regimen,” said Dr Rick O’Brien, a TB expert with the Atlanta-based CDC. But O’Brien noted that rifampin-pyrazinamide remained an option for treating patients with active TB and for patients unlikely to be able to complete a nine-month course of isoniazid. The number of active TB cases in the United States declined to a record low of 15,078 last year due to improved screening and treatment. TB had made a remarkable comeback in the 1980s in step with the emergence of AIDS.

AIDS and tuberculosis have become the leading causes of deaths for people living with HIV in the United States, according to the Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS in America, which released its first report last month. The council recommended that all adults and adolescents in the United States be tested for HIV at least once during their lifetime, starting at age 13.

TB drug mix kills 11

TB drug mix kills 11

Europe baked in heat, claims at least 34 lives

LISBON, 8 Aug — Europe baked in a heatwave on Wednesday that, along with forest fires fanned from the Balkans to Iceland, has now killed at least 34 people.

More than a week of fires have taken 14 lives in badly hit Portugal, where temperatures inched up towards 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit), while neighbouring Spain recorded its 13th death from record heat.

Germany — which like most of usually cooler northern Europe has not been spared — saw three times as much woodland hit by fire as last year. There were five related deaths in one German town alone over the weekend.

“It’s Too Hot to Work,” complained Parco Liberation newspaper, and the fierce heat has even put beer-loving Czechs off their brew. In Britain the heat claimed its first victims — two teenage boys who drowned trying to cool off — and rail passengers faced massive delays as operators slowed down trains to fear that tracks would buckle.

Some countries have had above normal temperatures for a month now, in some cases breaking or approaching records, in one of the hottest spells for years.

Europe’s heatwave was caused by high pressure extending from west of the Iberian Peninsula into central Europe, along with a depression from North Africa into the peninsula, said Maria Jose Frada, a meteorologist at Portugal’s weather service.

The combination was pumping hot air from North Africa and interior Spain northwards.

“This is normal in the summer,” she said. “What is not normal is for this to last so long.”

Europe baked in heat, claims at least 34 lives

Europe baked in heat, claims at least 34 lives

Heatwave continues to hit Italy

RIVA, 8 Aug — The record-breaking heatwave gripping Italy this summer is set to continue to September, according to a report issued here recently by the National Research Centre’s Biometric Institute (IBIMET).

IBIMET Director Gianfranco Marachi explained that heat was being pushed up from the southern Sahara, resulting in temperatures reaching more than 40 degrees Centigrade at times. This is one of the five hottest summers in the last 150 years, and it is a situation that looks set to repeat itself, he added.

Italy has seen a record-breaking series of heatwaves this summer that, along with the high temperature in Lisbon, have raised concerns about the possible impact of climate change. The combination was pumping hot air from North Africa and interior Spain northwards.

A young boy cools off wearing a wet hat during a hot morning in St. Peter’s Square, at the Vatican on 7 August, 2003. Temperatures across Italy ranged from 34 to 37 degrees Celsius (93-98 degrees Fahrenheit). — Internet

Europe baked in heat, claims at least 34 lives

Europe baked in heat, claims at least 34 lives

US warns doctors about prescribing TB drug mix

ATLANTA, 8 Aug — Doctors in the United States should avoid prescribing what had been a promising drug cocktail when treating cases of latent tuberculosis because the therapy causes severe liver injuries and death in some patients, federal health officials said on Thursday.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Thoracic Society issued the updated advisory after an investigation revealed that 11 people with latent TB had died between October 2000 and June 2003 after being prescribed a combination of the antibiotics rifampin and pyrazinamide.

Another 37 patients were hospitalized with liver injuries after taking the drugs, which are used to treat both the latent and active form of TB as well as the potentially fatal active strain of the lung disease. The CDC, which informed doctors of the potential for such side-effects in 2001, said a nine-month course of isoniazid was the preferred treatment for latent TB, especially in cases where patients suffered from alcoholism or liver problems.

An estimated 10 million to 15 million Americans are infected with latent TB, which is caused by an airborne bacteria spread through coughing or other close contact with infected persons. Antibiotics cure most cases of the disease.

The discovery of serious side-effects linked to the two-month or three-month course of rifampin-pyrazinamide in latent TB patients came as a surprise since the drugs had showed high rates of success in clinical trials.

“It’s a setback because it has dealt a blow to our expectations for a safer and more effective and much shorter regimen,” said Dr Rick O’Brien, a TB expert with the Atlanta-based CDC.

But O’Brien noted that rifampin-pyrazinamide remained an option for treating patients with active TB and for patients unlikely to be able to complete a nine-month course of isoniazid. The number of active TB cases in the United States declined to a record low of 15,078 last year due to improved screening and treatment. TB had made a remarkable comeback in the 1980s in step with the emergence of AIDS.

AIDS and tuberculosis have become the leading causes of deaths for people living with HIV in the United States, according to the Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS in America, which released its first report last month. The council recommended that all adults and adolescents in the United States be tested for HIV at least once during their lifetime, starting at age 13.

TB drug mix kills 11

TB drug mix kills 11
**Manchester United accept defeat over Veron**

Manchester, 8 Aug — Juan Sebastian Veron’s sale to Chelsea follows David Beckham’s move to Real Madrid and has removed two of the biggest names from the Manchester United pay-roll.

By accepting Chelsea’s 15-million-pound (24-million-US-dollar) offer on Wednesday, the English champions have acknowledged defeat in the battle to bring the best out of Veron.

Signed for 28 million pounds from Lazio two years ago, United manager Alex Ferguson gave the Argentine international every chance to justify the fee. Fiercely protective of the 28-year-old’s performances in his first season in the Premiership, Ferguson believed Veron would come good.

There were glimpses in the Champions League which suggested that the former Parma and Sampdoria player would deliver the goods. But on the whole Veron struggled to produce his best form at the club and even Ferguson’s loyalty did not run to rejecting Chelsea’s money when the chance to cut their losses on the Argentine recently materialized.

With no Veron, Beckham or Ronaldinho — the Brazilian left Paris St Germain for Barcelona rather than Manchester — it could be said that there is now an absence of top international quality in United’s midfield ranks.

Ferguson, however, is more interested in winning titles than big names.

Having signed Kleberson and Eric Djemba Djemba, Ferguson felt he might be over-staffed in central midfield. But that is now not the case and the duo are ready to fill the shoes of Roy Keane or Nicky Butt when required.

Replacing Beckham’s set-piece delivery may not be so easy. The departure of Veron and the non-arrival of Ronaldinho does leave United short in one department.

They lack a player able to provide something a bit different in an attacking sense.

Ferguson is, however, now armed with a large cash-sump and there are three weeks until the transfer window shuts. — MNA/Reuters

---

**Fraud investigation over AS Roma**

Rome, 8 Aug — The Italian prosecutor’s office announced Wednesday it had opened a fraud investigation into the alleged use of false financial documents by AS Roma football club.

Earlier in the week, reports said that AS Roma — along with Serie B Napoli and Third Division teams Cosenza and Spal — had presented the Italian Soccer Federation (FIGC) with falsified papers, sent the soccer world into a tizzy.

The row erupted when the managing director of a small finance firm said he knew nothing about documents FIGC had received from the clubs promising that his company had underwritten their debts.

In fact, at the end of July, FIGC’s own financial watchdog approved the papers at the centre of the furore.

The Italian clubs needed the documents guaranteeing that their debts would be paid to pass the Federation’s budget requirements to register for the forthcoming season. — MNA/Reuters

---

**Canadian wins gold in men’s 800-metre race**

Santo Domingo, 8 Aug — Canada’s Acharaf Tadili Wednesday won the gold medal in men’s 800-metre race at the 14th Pan-American Games of Santo Domingo.

Tadili beat Brazilians Osman dos Santos and Fabiano Pecanha to the second and third places respectively. The Canadian athlete set a Pan-American Games record of 1:45:05. Osman dos Santos was timed 1:45:64 and Pecanha crossed the line at 1:45:39.

In the women’s 100-metres, Lauryln Williams from the United States won the title at 11.12 seconds. Williams’ sister Angela Williams got the silver at 11.15 seconds. — MNA/Reuters

---

**Real Madrid apologize over training mix-up**

Hong Kong, 8 Aug — Real Madrid apologized to Hong Kong soccer fans on Thursday for a mix-up over an open training session which failed to take place on Wednesday night.

“It was a misunderstanding,” said club president Florentino Perez, explaining at a news conference the session had not been on the team’s schedule.

Organizers who had arranged for about 1,000 spectators to watch the training were not immediately available for comment.

“Real had dismayed fans by failing to show up at the city’s main soccer stadium after arriving late from Tokyo. Organizers said at the time the players were too tired.”

“We treasure Hong Kong fans,” Perez said. “We hope you are not disappointed because of the misunderstanding.”

“We want to win the hearts of the people in Hong Kong and China,” he added.

There was another glitch on Thursday morning when Real appeared over an hour late for the open training session which was on their schedule. — MNA/Reuters

---

**Owen says Liverpool still on track for success**

Liverpool, 8 Aug — England striker Michael Owen thinks Liverpool are still on the path to success, despite their disappointing finish to last season.

Liverpool managed to win the League Cup last season but failed to make a challenge for the Premier League and missed out on a place in the Champions League.

“The last couple of years have been really good and we have won a lot of trophies here,” Owen told reporters on Thursday.

“That is what I have always wanted to do and for a long time it didn’t happen. But now we are winning things and people must not forget that.”

There was criticism last season of what some perceived as a defensive style in the team, but the pre-season has seen a glut of goals from the Anfield side.

“We have attacked more in pre-season than in the past,” Owen said. “We have created more chances and scored more goals than in previous seasons.

“You could say that is down to the fact we are not facing Premiership opposition, but the fact we are creating is good.”

The arrival of Australian international Harry Kewell for 5.0 million pounds (8.04 million US dollars) from Leeds United has helped in developing that more attacking style.

“Harry Kewell is an exciting signing for this club,” Owen said. “I am happy when I first heard him linked here. I don’t know where the manager intends to play him yet but he can make a huge difference to us.

“He is an exciting talent who can create and also score goals for us.”

Gerard Houllier’s side finished fifth last season — their worst position since 1990, but Owen thinks Liverpool should be back on course for their first league title since 1990 this term.

“Last year was disappointing as the five years before that we had done really well in terms of progress,” he said.

“Last year was a step back in my opinion. Gary McAllister had left and Robbie Fowler had also gone, but there weren’t that many changes from the squad that had done so well the year before.” — MNA/Reuters

---

**Fourteen-year-old tennis sensation Viktoriya Kutuzova of Ukraine serves to Ai Sugiyama of Japan during their third round match at the J.P. Morgan Chase Open in Carson, California, on 7 August, 2003. — Reuters**

---

**Tony Ramos of Puerto Rico performs his gold medal routine on the horizontal bar during the Men’s Artistic Gymnastics individual apparatus finals at the XIV Pan American Games in Santo Domingo. — Internet**
Secretary-1 …
(from page 1)

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt delivered an address on the occasion.

Next, the Secretary-1 presented cash awards to students who passed the 2003 matriculation examination with flying colours.

Later, Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, and Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win also gave away cash awards to outstanding students.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party, together with the outstanding students, posed for a group photo.

A total of 33 children of the members of the border areas immigration unit passed the 2003 matriculation examination.

Among them were one six-distinction winner, one five-distinction winner, two three-distinction winners, one two-distinction winner, and four one-distinction winners.

The cash awards presented to the outstanding students totalled K 7,380,000.

Myanmar and China sign…

Nambnyaw, Namwok, Zawgyi-1 and Zaungtu power stations, and is also cooperating in the construction project of the 280-mega watt Paunglaung hydel power station.

For the development of the State, the minister continued, the political, economical and social objectives were laid down and are being implemented. In line with the guidance of the Head of State, the ministry is hammering away at the continuous generating of electricity, the much-needed one for the economic, production and social sectors.

The Shweli hydel power station will always represent cooperation milestone between Myanmar and China and will also serve as a friendship monument, he said. Next, Mr Shao Qiwei also spoke on the occasion.

Director-General of the HPD U Win Kyaw and Mr Feng Ke signed the contract and exchanged the documents.

Preliminary engineering work for the Shweli hydel power station project is under way on Shweli river, 15 miles south-west of Namhkam town, northern Shan State. The Shweli hydel power station will generate 3,042 million units of electricity every year.

Under the contract signed today, the Chinese side will undertake the construction of a concrete diversion weir, underground tunnel and high-pressured steel pipelines, and the installation of Turbo generators, transformers and electrical appliances, and accomplish these tasks with the use of heavy machinery in three years. The contract is worth US$ 150 million, and prompt payment will be made in respect of the accomplishment of the task.

The digging of the diversion tunnel and the construction of power station and subpower station will be undertaken by the HPD at a cost of some US$ 26 million, based on mutual friendship and cooperation.

The Shweli power station will distribute electricity all over Myanmar from Shweli to Namtu, Hsibaw, Kyaukme and PyinOoLwin towns by installing 217 miles long double 230 KV cables; to Namtu, Hsibaw, Kyaukme and Lashio towns by installing 66 KV cables; to Namtu, Hsibaw, Kyaukme and Kutkai in northern Shan State and Bhamo in Kachin State with separate 66 KV cables.

Thanks to the Shweli power station, industries and copper mining work around Mandalay and Monywa will have an abundance of electricity. So will such towns as Lashio, Namtu, Namkhm, Kutkai, Hsibaw and Kyaukme in northern Shan State and the Bhamo region in Kachin State.

Now that designs necessary for the Shweli power station project have been drawn, the construction of an approach road and project preparatory work are under way.

Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments Exhibition inspected

YANGON, 8 AUG — Chairman of Supervisory Committee for Library, Museum and Exhibition Director-General of Information and Public Relation Department under the Ministry of Information U Chit Naing and committee members this afternoon pre-viewed the Myanmar Traditional Musical Instrument Exhibition to be held at the multi-purpose hall of National Museum on Pyay Road in Dagon Township.

Next, the director-general granted permission to hold the exhibition to Director-General of the Department of Cultural Institute U Myint Thein Swe.

The exhibition, organized by the Ministry of Culture, will be opened free of charge from 10 am to 5 pm daily from 9 to 22 August and Myanmar traditional musical instruments will be displayed at the 9 booths in the exhibition.

MNA
Yangon and Mandalay UDEs announce programmes for intensive courses and final exams

YANGON, 8 Aug — The programmes for the intensive courses and final examinations of the Yangon and Mandalay Universities of Distance Education for the 2003 academic year are as follows:

The final examinations for first, second and third year Science students will be held from 2 to 8 October. (There will be no examinations on Sunday and public holidays.)

Second Programme

The intensive courses will be conducted from 14 to 23 October for first, second, third, fourth and fifth year students majoring in law and economics. (Courses will be conducted also on Sunday.) They will have to sit for examinations from 20 to 26 November. (There will be no examinations on Sunday and public holidays.)

There will be no intensive courses for the first, second and third year students specializing in economic subjects as arrangements have been made for them to learn at e-Education Learning Centres. Detailed timetables will be released in time by the universities of distance education concerned.

Yangon

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspect construction of three-storey building for Panwa Basic Education High School

Panwa region is making progress as peace and tranquillity prevails in the region

Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspect development works in Kachin State

YANGON, 8 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, accompanied by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council, heads of departments, arrived in Panwa, Chipwe Township via Myitkyina on 4 August morning.

They were welcomed there by Lt-Col Kyaw Soe of Chipwe Station, Chairman of Kachin State Special Region-1 U Za Khon Ting Ring, Secretary U Layauk Zelwan and members, service personnel and national races.

After taking a break at Panwa Hotel, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party met with Chairman of Kachin State Special Region-1 U Za Khon Ting Ring and members.

Next, Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann and party met with officials of the Special Region-1 local people, departmental officials, members of social organizations, students, townseekers, national races at the Town Hall of Panwa.

Chairman of Kachin State Special Region-1 U Za Khon Ting Ring made a speech. He said that it was a great pleasure for the arrival of State-level officials to Panwa. It reflects the care, goodwill and loving-kindness of the government towards the national races. It also reflects the government’s care and goodwill towards the national races who reside in border areas.

Friendship, cooperation and unity of Panwa which has become peaceful region for over 13 years is in good condition. Panwa region, which was subjected to persuasion, (See page 8)

Myanmar and China sign contract for construction of Shweli hydel power station

YANGON, 8 Aug — The Hydro-electric Power Department under the Ministry of Electric Power entered into a contract with the Yunnan Machinery and Equipment Import & Export Corporation (YMEC) of the People’s Republic of China to implement the Shweli hydel power project, which will be implemented on the Shweli river in Namkham Township, northern Shan State. The signing ceremony took place at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road here at 11 am today.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang, Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Ministers at the State Peace and Development Council Chairman’s Office Brig-Gen Abell and Lt-Gen Min Thein, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htun, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Brig-Gen Than Tun, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, Vice-Governor of Yunnan Province of China Mr Shao Qiwei, representatives of the YMEC Mr Feng Ke and officials, and guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htun said the Union of Myanmar and the People’s Republic of China have enjoyed perpetual friendship and have been good neighbours for so many years. Likewise, the Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise under the Ministry of Electric Power and the YMEC have been working together since 1991 when the construction project of the Kyezin Khayankha power station started.

He added the YMEC took part in the construction of power stations, medium and small, including (See page 15)