The whole Maubin region making significant progress overnight with emergence of 200-bed specialist hospital

Secretary-1 attends opening of 200-bed specialist hospital in Maubin

YANGON, 10 Aug — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, and officials, this morning left for Maubin region after designating it as a development region.

The Secretary-1 and party proceeded to Maubin, Ayeyawady Division. A ceremony to open the newly-built specialist hospital (200-bed) in Maubin was held at the hospital at 9 am with an address by Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Htay Oo, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, local authorities, social organizations, officials of the Ministry of Health, Medical Superintendent Dr Thein Ngwe, specialists and health staff and wellwishers.

First, the opening ceremony of the hospital was held at the archway of the hospital Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister of Health Dr Kyaw Myint formally opened the hospital.

Next, Chairman of the National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt unveiled the bronze inscription with scented water.

Then, the Secretary-1 and party sprinkled the bronze water. The second session of the opening ceremony was held at the pandal in the compound of the hospital with an address by Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said that the government is giving priority to development of Maubin region after designating it as a special development region, adding the whole Maubin region is making significant progress overnight with the emergence of the 200-bed specialist hospital. At a time when Maubin special development region is making progress with added momentum, the emergence of the hospital will contribute much to both providing the health care services for the people of Maubin region more effectively and bringing about regional development.

The government is taking systematic measures for all-round development of the State to enable the nation to keep abreast with nations of the world, he noted. (See page 7)

The newly-built Maubin Specialist Hospital. — MNA
Towards successful implementation of City Housing Projects

As the City Housing Project Supervisory Committee is regularly holding its meeting and supervising the implementation of the housing project, the tasks the project are making progress in Yangon.

The tasks of the committee are being carried out to see that Yangon City to possess the characteristic of the capitals in the world, to ensure the Yangonites to live with peace of mind and to enable the posterity to be able to enjoy the high education, health and social standards. The meeting No 5/2003 of the committee was held at the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development of the Ministry of Construction on 9 August. Chairman of the committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt attended the meeting and gave necessary instructions.

The General said that as the tasks of the committee are being carried out with noble and glorious objectives of serving the interests of the people, tasks under the project will surely be undertaken if members of the committee and the private construction entrepreneurs who are engaged in the project make concerted efforts. At present, some western countries, with the intentions of influencing and dominating Myanmar, impose economic sanctions on her to jeopardize the national economy and to make Myanmar people get into trouble.

The Union of Myanmar will never let its independence and sovereignty lose and the Myanmar people get into trouble. As the tasks of the committee are being carried out with noble and necessary instructions.

Provisions offered to...

(from page 16)

Next, senior military officers of the Army (Army, Navy and Air) donated rice, edible oil and gram to officials of the Hindu Federation. The commander also offered provisions donated by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council to members of the Sangha.

Later, departmental officials and wellwishers also offered provisions to members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, wellwishers presented cash to the trust fund. The amount of cash donated by over 100 wellwishers reached K 6,17,493.98 million. Next, Col. Ye Chit Pe explained the purpose of donation. The Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by the sharing of merits gained.

A total of 109 bags of rice, 60 viss of edible oil, 500 viss of iodized salt, 60 units of toothpaste, 3,657 bottles of various traditional medicines, and 112 viss of gram were offered to members of the Sangha. Similarly, the families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers offered rice, edible oil, salt, medicines and other kinds of provisions to monasteries and nunneries in Shwepyitha Township. The offering ceremony took place at the Z-craft of the Tatmadaw Pariyati Sarthintaik near Myo U Pagoda on Shwebonshin Street in the township at 3 p.m. General Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony and offered provisions to members of the Sangha. Thikhtiyama Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Finnacakrai invited the congregation with the Eight Precepts. The Adjutant-General and the commander offered provisions to the people and members of the Sangha.

Cooperatives work inspected in Mandalay and Magway Divisions

YANGON, 10 Aug — Minister for Cooperatives Li-Gen Tin Ngwe, accompanied by departmental officials, inspected the Z-craft Maylat Ayar-2 operated by the West Ayar General Economic Cooperative Syndicate of Pakokku, Magway Division, at the Mala Z-craft jetty in Bagan-Nyaung U Mandalay Division, yesterday. On the Z-craft, the minister heard reports presented by officials and gave instructions.

The minister then arrived at the Cooperatives Department in Pakokku Township, where he met with staff officers of the township and chairman of cooperative societies.

Next, Director-General of the Cottage Industries Department U Sein Than reported on technological assistance rendered by the department. Deputy Director of the Magway Division Cooperatives Department U Maung Win on cooperative work being carried out in the division, and Staff Officer of the Pakokku Township Cooperatives Department U Aung Than on businesses being run by cooperative societies in the township.

Afterwards, the minister and party also looked into the oil mill, the Sakawa Store-1, transportation in-
**Uruguay rules out possibility of sending troops to Iraq**

MONTevideo, 10 Aug — Uruguay’s Defence Minister Yamandu Fau said Friday that the government is not considering sending troops to Iraq.

Uruguay was requested by the United States to send troops and provide small waterworks for Iraq during a meeting on Tuesday between the Defence Minister and the US Ambassador to Uruguay, Martin Silverstein, according to the local Press.

Fau told the local television that the issue of waterworks is a matter of national pride, and as a result, the Uruguayans will provide them for humanitarian purposes.

As for the issue of whether soldiers will be sent to operate and guard the equipment, Fau said the government is not considering this under the current situation.

Uruguayan Senator Fernandez Huidobro said the country’s peacekeeping forces cannot be used for political purposes.

Uruguay’s relations with the United States have been strained since late June when it rejected a US request for a bilateral agreement to exempt Americans from prosecution by the International Criminal Court.

After that, Washington suspended its military assistance to Uruguay.

---

**Britain reportedly plans new Iraq WMD report**

LONDON, 10 Aug — Downing Street is planning to publish another Iraq weapons dossier in September, in time for the ruling Labour Party conference scheduled to begin on September 28, the British Independent newspaper reported Friday.

The report would be based on the findings of the Iraq Survey Group (ISG), which is made up of American and British teams that have been searching for an alleged arsenal of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in Iraq since the US-led war against the country, the paper said.

According to the paper, the ISG report was expected to be sent to the Joint Intelligence Committee chaired by John Scarlett, before being passed to Downing Street.

The ISG teams, under the direction of David Kay, a former United Nations arms inspector, have been conducting interviews with Iraqi scientists and officials of the regime of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, the paper said.

No evidence has been unearthed so far that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction.

However, the paper said, members of the ISG were said to be optimistic that they would find Iraq’s plans to develop WMD “programmes.” — MNA/Xinhua

---

**US soldier dies of gunshot wound in Baghdad**

BAGHDAD, 10 Aug — A US soldier died after suffering a gunshot wound while on guard duty in Baghdad, the US military said on Friday, but it declined to say whether he was killed in a hostile attack.

The soldier was transported to a nearby medical facility for treatment and subsequently died from wounds received, the statement said.

Before Thursday’s death, 55 American servicemen had been killed by hostile fire since May, when Washington declared major combat over in Iraq.

More than 60 have also been killed in non-combat incidents since then.

Manus is an upscale district of Baghdad and has been the scene of several US raids by crack troops searching for deceased President Saddam Hussein and those loyal to him.

---

**Canada’s jobless rate goes up in July**

OTTAWA, 10 Aug — Canada’s unemployment rate in July rose to 7.8 per cent from 7.7 per cent in June as the number of part-time jobs decreased by 13,000. Statistics Canada reported Friday.

“Since the start of 2003, employment has increased by only 0.5 per cent much slower than the 2.3 per cent growth observed in the first seven months of 2002,” the government agency said.

There was a slight increase of 10,000 jobs for women in July, bringing gains so far in 2003 to 43,000.

Statistics Canada said there was a small gain of 13,000 jobs for private-sector employees but the number of public-sector employees fell by an estimated 23,000, with most of the decline in education employment.

Employment fell by an estimated 24,000 in education by 7,000 in agriculture and by 10,000 in accommodation and food services, with most of the decrease in the province of Ontario. However the number of jobs in construction, finance, insurance, real estate and leasing rose by 10,000. — MNA/Xinhua

---

**Six arrested in Bulgaria for smuggling cocaine**

Sofia, 10 Aug — Six persons were arrested here for smuggling cocaine from Bolivia to Europe, the Bulgarian News Agency reported Friday.

Bulgarian police said they arrested late on Friday another two involved in the international drug trafficking.

Initially, the police confirmed about five arrests — two of Bulgarians and three of Macedonians.

A Bolivian had trained the Bulgarians who were apprehended Wednesday to process cocaine in a secret laboratory at Plovdiv in southeastern Bulgaria, local media reported.

A ring for the smuggling of narcotics from Latin America to Europe was exposed at the weekend. Five tons of cocaine, mixed with instant mashed potato powder, were seized in Bolivia by the international police. According to the report, part of the drugs was to be processed in Bulgaria.

---

**Tanzanian PM calls for more support to farmers**

DAR-es-SALAAM, 10 Aug — Tanzanian Prime Minister Frederick Sumaye on Friday urged businessmen and financial institutions to render firm support to farmers as to increase agricultural production.

Addressing an agricultural trade fair in the eastern region of Morogoro, Sumaye said there are many farmers in the country who cannot afford large farming equipment in their production.

These farmers, however, can use small farming tools, as the equipment is greatly increasing the productivity of their daily labour, said Sumaye.

He said the equipment should be used by farmers instead of only being seen at the fair.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister called on financial institutions to increase their capital support to the agricultural sector so that farmers can use loans to buy tools and other production materials they need.

---

**600 PKK militants surrender to Turkish government**

ANKARA, 10 Aug — About 600 militants of Turkey’s outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) on Friday gathered in the southeastern province of Sirnak to surrender to the government, reported the private Turkish television NTV.

The militants surrendered after Parliament adopted the Winning back to Society Law at the end of July, which the surrendering PKK militants can benefit from.

It was reported that Turkish Interior Ministry has prepared 200,000 letters and leaflets to be sent to the PKK members and their families, calling on them to spare no time to apply for the law.

The leaflets are to be sent to the members of the organization read “My dear friend, our state has issued a new law for you. To live as a free person and serve your society, this is the last chance. You have a long life ahead; instead of killing, you can choose to love and be loved.”

Meanwhile, the government has also set up special camps to accommodate those who will surrender in some eastern and south-eastern provinces. — MNA/Xinhua
**British fire in air to end Basra unrest**

**Basra, 10 Aug** — British troops fired in the air and donned riot gear on Saturday when Iraqi anger over fuel and power shortages boiled over into stone-throwing and torching of vehicles in Basra, witnesses said.

Several British soldiers suffered minor injuries in Iraq’s second city in some of the most widespread violence seen in the mostly Shi’ite Muslim south since Saddam Hussein was toppled by US-led forces four months ago.

As night fell in Basra, burning tires lit the sky and witnesses said they saw troops shoot and wound an Iraqi gun- man. A crowd shouted abuse at foreign tourists at a hotel.

British military spokesman, who reported a military vehicle was set alight, said calm was returning to the city.

They had no information on Iraqi casualties.

Witnesses said soldiers resorted to firing in the air to keep back a crowd at a petrol station. Another witness said the British fired rubber bullets at a group, wounding two Iraqis.

Troops rescued the drivers of a Kuwaiti tanker set ablaze. Crowds threw stones at soldiers guarding the main British headquarters. As temperatures soared above 120 Fahrenheit in Basra, fridges and air conditioners have stuttered to a halt. Household generators are running low on diesel.

As well as criticising the British for failing to restore basic services to prepare war, protesters also accused Kuwaitis of involvement in smuggling out cheap Iraqi oil.

The Basra violence was a reminder US-led forces not only face problems among the Sunni Muslim minority in Saddam’s heartland north and west of Baghdad where US troops have come under daily attacks they blame on die-hard Saddam loyalists.

**At least four US troops wounded in Iraq**

**Baghdad, 10 Aug** — At least four American soldiers were wounded in guerrilla attacks Saturday, and the US-led coalition said it thwarted a diesel-fuel smuggling operation, boarding a ship off the port of Umm Qasr and forcing it to return to shore.

A 173rd Airborne Brigade on patrol in the northern city of Kirkuk came under rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire, said Lt Col Bill McDonald, spokesman for the 4th Infantry Division operating in the area.

Two soldiers wounded in the explosion were in stable condition, McDonald said. The troops returned fire, he added, but there was no information on casualties among the attackers.

In south-central Baghdad, two soldiers were wounded in a roadside-bomb attack on their armored humvee, said Maj Todd Mercer of the 82nd Airborne Division. The military provided no details on the soldiers’ condition. And in the southern city of Basra, which is controlled by British troops, about 1,000 angry residents protested in the streets over cuts in electricity and water service and lines at gasoline stations.

Three British soldiers were injured by stones, and two young Iraqi boys were wounded in the melee, witnesses told Associated Press Television News. A British military spokesman denied any soldiers were hurt.

Author arrested for allegedly smuggling ancient Iraqi artifacts

**New York, 10 Aug** — The author of a book on rebuilding Iraq was arrested at Kennedy International Airport for allegedly smuggling stolen 4,000-year-old Mesopotamian artifacts out of Baghdad, authorities said Saturday.

Joseph Braude, author of “The New Iraq,” was released on a $100,000 bond after a preliminary appearance Saturday in federal court.

Braude, 28, brought the priceless artifacts into the United States on June 11, US Attorney Roslynn Mauskopf said. He was arrested Friday night after arriving at the airport on a flight from London, she said.

Braude bought three cylindrical stone seals, made of marble and alabaster, for $200 during a visit to Baghdad in June, authorities said.

“These items are not souvenir, but stolen goods that belong to the people of Iraq,” said Martin Ficke, special agent in charge of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in New York.

Looters stole many irreplaceable treasures from the Iraqi National Museum during the war, with only a fraction recovered so far.

Braude faces up to five years in prison if convicted of smuggling the artifacts. He did not immediately respond to an e-mail from The Associated Press seeking comment.

**Pakistani PM emphasizes exploitation of natural resources**

**Islamabad, 10 Aug** — Pakistani Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali Friday said exploration and exploitation of indigenous natural resources of Pakistan were being accorded a high priority by the government, as this would lead to self-sustainability and self-reliance.

A report of the Associated Press of Pakistan said he was talking to Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Noranz Shakoor, who called on him at the Prime Minister’s Secretariat. During the meeting the minister briefed the Prime Minister on the recently inaugurated copper and gold project at Sandak.

Jamali said it is only due to the continuation of policies initiated by the Musharraf Government that this project has been successfully completed and commissioned.

**Gas consumption exceeds production in Bangladesh**

**Dhaka, 10 Aug** — Domestic gas consumption in Bangladesh has crossed the level of maximum production capacity of the country’s gas fields in recent days, the Financial Express reported on Saturday.

The country’s current maximum gas production capacity is 1260 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD), but the gas demand in almost every day of last week ranged between 1275 MMCFD and 1284 MMCFD, causing low gas pressure in the industrial areas in northern Dhaka.

The capital Dhaka will face severe gas crisis if the situation goes on without much improvement, as the abrupt increase of gas consumption particularly during the ongoing summer season exceeded the forecast of the state-run Petrobangla.

The country’s only gas transmission company Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL) has to supply additional gas from the line pack storage in the pipelines with low pressure, but a senior source of the company revealed the storage is not adequate to feed the gas gap for long.

The GTCL has sent a letter to Petrobangla, seeking a comprehensive plan on the gas well development and construction of new gas transmission pipeline to cope with the increasing demand, as the annual average growth rate of gas consumption was estimated at some 10 per cent in recent years.

According to a senior Petrobangla official, the government has planned to produce an additional 400 MMCFD of gas by the year 2006, adding it would require about 0.51 billion US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

**Strong earthquake jolts Antarctic sea areas**

**Buenos Aires, 10 Aug** — A strong earthquake has hit the sea areas near the South Orkney Island in the ice-crowned Antarctic island group but caused no casualties, the Argentine newspaper La Nacion reported Friday.

A quake, reported by researchers at a research station on the South Orkney Island, occurred at 01:37 a.m. local time Monday (0537 GMT Sunday) and measured 7.5 on the Richter Scale. The epicentre was in the sea area, some 70 kilometres east of the station at about 61 degrees South Latitude and 43 west longitude and 10 kilometres from the Earth surface.

The strong quake broke windows, tossed books, cups and little pieces of furniture.

**MNA/Xinhua**

**A woman chooses jewels for her daughter at “the Exhibition of Wedding Costumes and Adornments” held in New Delhi, India, on 8 Aug, 2003. The coming “wedding season” in India brings great commercial opportunities for wedding goods manufacturing enterprises. Some 200 enterprises attend the three-day exhibition.**

**Xinhua**
Militants vow attacks against Iraq's occupiers

The hooded militants claimed to be in contact with a variety of organizations called "White Flags." "Muslim Youth" and "Mohammad's Army" in Baghdad, Fallujah to the west, and Baquba north of the Iraqi capital — cities where US troops have regularly come under attack.

"We've inflicted huge losses on the enemy" in the Baghdad districts of Al-Rashid and Karrada, said the gunman's statement, which conceded the "loss of two martyrs from amongst our Arab brethren" in another battle.

"Guerrilla warfare is the only way of liberating the homeland," the group said. They cited "turbo-pods" — a reference to Muslims, particularly Shiites, clerics — for failing to declare "jihad" or holy war, against occupation forces.

"What are the men with white and black turbans waiting for to declare jihad?" (US forces) have killed children, young men, elderly men and women," said a gunman reading the statement which he said was dated August 9.

The statement contained a "final warning" to foreign countries against sending troops to Iraq to operate alongside US forces.

Asian Tourism Ministers meet in Beijing

BEIJING, 10 Aug—Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi said here Saturday that the current social stability and rapid economic growth of China were creating a sound environment for the recovery of the tourism industry.

Wu spoke at a Special Meeting of ASEAN and China, Japan, and South Korea Tourism Ministers held in Beijing.

Tourism Ministers and officials from ASEAN member countries and China, Japan and the South Korea attended the meeting. Wu said that many countries attached great importance to the development of tourism industry, which was playing a positive role in promoting economic growth and social prosperity, enhancing understanding and friendship and safeguarding peace and development.

She said the tourism industry held an important position in the national economies of ASEAN nations and China, Japan and Korea. She said the tourism industry in China had already become a new growth point for the national economy.

Wu said the Chinese Government had adopted a series of policies to combat the damage wrought by SARS, including tax-relief and financial support for tourism and other affected industries. She said China would maintain the efforts to prevent and contain SARS to protect and ensure tourist safety, and guidelines had been formulated to restore the tourism industry.

Wu said international cooperation was necessary to get the tourism industry in the region back to fast and healthy growth.

As close neighbours and good friends, China, ASEAN, Japan and South Korea should share tourism resources and successful experience to promote mutual benefits and common development.

Wu also expressed the hope that various countries would take on the important mission of revitalizing regional tourism and stimulating regional economic growth. She said China was ready to play a constructive role in developing the economy and revitalizing the tourism industry.

He Guangwei, head of China's National Tourism Administration, and Somphong Mkhongkholviray, Minister to the Prime Minister's Office of Laos, addressed the conference. They noted the significance of the special meeting to regional tourism revitalization, and expressed their optimism for the results of the meeting. During the one-day special meeting, 13 tourism ministers introduced revitalization measures of tourism industry of their countries, and reached a consensus on the way to enhance regional tourism cooperation.

The "Beijing Declaration on Revitalizing Tourism for ASEAN, China, Japan and South Korea" was unanimously adopted at the conclusion of the meeting. — MNA/Xinhua

Terrorists who left Iraq during war return, plan attacks

BAGHDAD, 10 Aug—Hundreds of terrorists, who fled Iraq during the war, have returned and are planning major terrorist attacks, information received by the American-led administration in Baghdad has revealed.

The top civilian administrator in Iraq Paul Bremer III, said that fighters from Ansar al-Islam, a terrorist organization that the United States tried to destroy during the war, had escaped to Iran and then slipped back across the border into Iraq.

Hundreds of the terrorists are now in Iraq, where they were preparing to attack the occupation forces or administration, he was quoted by the New York Times as saying.

"The intelligence suggests that Ansar al-Islam is planning large-scale terrorist attacks in New York. So as long as we have, as I think we do, substantial numbers of those critical terrorists around here I think we have to be pretty alert to the fact that we may see more of this," he said.

Internet

US "iron fist" policy in Iraq a big fiasco

BAGHDAD, 10 Aug—US General Ricardo Sanchez, commander of the 150,000-strong US troops in Iraq, has recently admitted that the "iron fist" policy in hunting for lieutenants of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is "creating more enemies than friends".

In a special interview Thursday with the New York Times, the US general also said his forces would abandon the policy, and instead, adopt the policy of "treat softly with Iraqis".

From now on, the United States would depend more on the newly-established Iraqi security forces to pursue suspected criminals and carry out researches on unlicensed fire-arms, Sanchez said.

Since US President George W Bush declared the end of major battles in Iraq on May 1, scores of Iraqi civilians, including women and children, were killed by US troops' fire.

This infuriated Iraqi public opinion, who has turned its rage not on the unidenti- fied armed men who ambushed and at- tacked US military patrols, but on the US troops.

Even after Sanchez's admission of the failure of the so-called "iron fist policy", at least another six Iraqis were killed on Friday in Saddam's hometown of Tikrit, 160 kilo- metres north of the capital of Baghdad.

When asked about their views of the new US policy, Iraqis reacted angrily "We don't believe the Americans. They say something and do another!"

Some Iraqis angrily spoke of doors of their houses being smashed by explosives, furniture destroyed or turned upside-down, money and jewellery looted by American soldiers in every search they carried out.

Such stories on everybody's lips fuelled hostilities against the "invaders who came from overseas not to free Iraqis from the yoke of the Saddam's regime, but to plunder Iraq's oil wealth."

Now Sanchez's declaration comes to give credence to what almost every Iraqi is talking about: "The Americans have no idea of how to treat Iraqis."

The failure of the "iron fist" policy would certainly give credit to the so-called "armed resistance" now taking place in most parts of Iraq.

British forces, on the other hand, were witnessing wide-scaled protest in Basra, the country's second largest city, 560 kilometres south of Baghdad.

A clash broke out Saturday between British troops and Iraqis who were impatient with the lack of fuel and electricity, which was reportedly initiated by a grenade attack at a British military truck at a long-queued gas station. — MNA/Xinhua

The picture taken on Aug 8, 2003, shows the mouth of the Xiaolangdi Reservoir on the Yellow River, 130 km downstream the Sumenxian Reservoir and 128 km upstream Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province. The reservoir has stored 300 million cubic metres of water brought in by the first flood crest in five years in the middle reaches of the river, and will help ease the drought on the lower reaches of the river. —Xinhua

New York Times, the US general also said his forces would abandon the policy, and instead, adopt the policy of "treat softly with Iraqis".
Census shows fewer Iraqi men in 1997

UNITED NATIONS, 10 Aug — Years of war and Saddam Hussein’s harsh regime appear to have had a deadly impact on Iraq’s men, according to a UN analysis of recently discovered data from a 1997 Iraqi census.

The census data, the first statistics on Iraq’s population to surface publicly in 15 years, show a significant drop in the ratio of men to women from 1987 to 1997. “A preliminary look indicates the Iraqi sex ratios are much lower,” Mary Chamie, a UN statistician, said on Friday.

While precise reasons for this were uncertain, “it could be differences in mortality from war or other political strife,” Chamie told Reuters.

The census figures were recovered in Iraq by the United States after the war that began in mid-March.

The US Census Bureau

APEC members call for policy initiatives to digitize SMEs

BANGKOK, 10 Aug — Ministers from the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) members on Thursday called on governments to make policies to promote the digitization of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

SMEs, which had played an important role in all APEC economies, are faced with a number of difficulties when trying to digitize operations, said a news release issued by the APEC SME Working Group on Thursday.

In order to develop policy initiatives to boost SME digital operation, ministers from the 21 APEC economies endorsed the “e-APEC Strategy for Small and Medium Enterprises” at their meeting in northern Thai city of Chiang Mai, some 800 kilometres north of Bangkok. “The plan calls for governments to play the role of facilitator to build strategic links with larger businesses and to create the right policy environment for the SME digitization,” SME working group’s chair Vivat Vinicchakul was quoted by the news release as saying.

The plan presented four recommendations to help SMEs to realize digital operation. They suggested governments bring together SMEs to increase their bargaining power to obtain lower-priced Internet service, called on governments to develop suitable business models for digitizing SMEs, urged APEC economies to establish a “pro-digitization” environment to promote SME online transaction and trade, and asked governments to improve educational and legal infrastructure to enable SMEs to expand in the online world — MNA/Xinhua

 Mine explosion kills 5 in eastern Turkey

ANKARA, 10 Aug — A mine explosion in eastern Turkey has killed five and injured 24, the Anatolian news agency reported on Saturday.

The accident occurred on Thursday at Kurkutlu mine in Askale township, eastern province of Erzurum.

Askale governor Mustafa Orsuy said on Friday that efforts were continuing to rescue two workers who were trapped after the explosion.

He said that it could take two or three days to reach the point deep under the mine where the two workers were presumed to be alive. — MNA/Xinhua

Italian official urges high guard against forest fires

ROMA, 10 Aug — Italian Civil Protection chief Guido Bertolaso on Saturday urged all Italians to be on high guard against forest fires.

Fires have devastated hundreds of hectares of forests up and down Italy over the past week and Bertolaso warned that the continued heat and drought created conditions for even more fires.

On Friday, Bertolaso warned that the south was now the region of Italy most at risk of damaging fires, “an area traditionally worst hit by summer fires”. His prediction was confirmed Saturday with reports that major fires continued for the third straight day on the Sorrento Peninsula where a tourist farm had to be evacuated.

Fire also blazed near Caserta where Canadair water bombers are battling a fire with an eight-kilometre-long front which is threatening three towns.

Further north, fires continued in the hills outside Florence and were also creating problems in and around the Argentario Peninsula.

The situation has improved in the Savona Province but fires are reported to be still active. Looking at the situation in general, Bertolaso observed that “our fire-fighting measures have worked very well so far and we’ve avoided serious situations like those in Portugal, Spain and France”.

The Italian civil protection chief attributed this to efficient land and air operations, pointing out that while there had been more fires than in recent years, a much smaller area had been affected. — MNA/Xinhua

Bush’s niece completes drug rehab

MIAMI, 10 Aug — Noelle Bush, a niece of President George W Bush and daughter of Florida Governor Jeb Bush, was released from a drug rehabilitation centre after finishing her court-ordered treatment on Friday.

Noelle Bush, 26, was arrested in January 2002 in Tallahassee on a charge of using a false prescription to try to buy the anti-anxiety drug Xanax.

She entered Florida’s “drug court” programme, which allows the charges to be dropped if the defendant completes at least a year of rehabilitation treatment aimed at breaking the addiction.

A judge sent her to jail twice during her treatment at the Centre for Drug-Free Living in Orlando, once after she was found with an unauthorized prescription drug and once after police investigated allegations that a lump of crack cocaine was found in her shoe.

The governor released a statement saying he and his wife, Columba, lauded their daughter’s graduation from the programme. — MNA/Reuters
In launching the national development drive, priority had to be given to development of border areas which lagged behind in development in the absence of peace and stability in the past. At the same time, roads and bridges, dams and reservoirs, universities and colleges and hospitals were built at the strategic regions of the State.

Since priority is being given to construction of and infrastructures at the strategic regions, Ayeyawady river-crossing bridges, dams and reservoirs were built and development projects such as arid zone greening projects, implemented in the central region. Likewise, bridges large and small were built in Rakhine State and Ayeyawady Division for ensuring better transport in the regions where the people had to rely only on waterways in the past.

Owing to border areas development projects and development projects implemented at the strategic regions of the State, the whole nation is making progress at the strategic re-

mented at the strategic re-

devlopment projects imple-

mented in the past.

Owing to border areas development projects and development projects implemented at the strategic regions of the State, the whole nation is making progress with added momentum. At such a time, the five rural development tasks and development projects for the regions that remained undeveloped are being implemented. As a result, harmonious parallel development has been brought about in all parts of the nation.

Recently, Maubin University, which would produce highly qualified human resources, was opened and then again the specialist hos-

pital was opened to ensure human resources development in the region and health and fitness of the local peo-

ple. Only when the local peo-

ple are fit and healthy will they be able to carry out regional development tasks as well as farming and pro-

duction undertakings. With this concept, the government has laid down the national health projects and is implement-

ing them to uplift the national health standard and improve the health care serv-

ices of the people qualitatively and quantitatively.

There were 65 hospitals in the division in 1988 and there are now 72 hospitals improved. In the process, modern medicines and medi-

cal equipment, disease diagnos-

tic and treatment equipment were fulfilled and more specialists and physicians, appointed.

This being the case, there were only 24 specialists in the division in 1988 , and there are now 66 specialists with an increase of 42.

Regarding the strength of doctors and nurses, there were 211 doctors, 34 dental surgeons and 275 nurses in 1988 and there are now 319 doctors, 45 dental surgeons, modern medicines and medi-

cal equipment, and disease diagnostic and treatment equipment.

There were six specialist subjects at the hospital in the past and there are now 17 special-

ists, doctors, nurses and health staff at the hospital are making strenuous efforts with goodwill to uplift the people in the region to enjoy the fruits of high standard of health care services.

At the same time, the people in the region are to strive together with depart-

mental officials and local authorities for regional and national development, enjoy-

ing the good foundations of health care services available in the region.

At a time when some Western powers in collusion with some elements who are opposed to public interest, imposed economic sanctions on Myanmar in the name of human rights and democracy, the government has laid down so-

cial objectives one of which is uplift of health, fitness and stability in the past. At

the same time, they are to make strenuous efforts for further development of production forces.

In conclusion, the government is committed to the local people to make sustained efforts for further development of economy in the region and regional development, emergence of more highly qualified human re-

sources, ensuring the fruits of health care services cre-

ated by the State. At the same time, they are to make strenuous efforts for further development of production forces with their fitness and health.

Then, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint called on the local people to make sustained efforts for further development of economy in the region and regional development, emergence of more highly qualified human resources, ensuring the fruits of health care services created by the State. At the same time, they are to make strenuous efforts for further development of production forces with their fitness and health.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint called on the local people to make sustained efforts for further development of economy in the region and regional development, emergence of more highly qualified human resources, ensuring the fruits of health care services created by the State. At the same time, they are to make strenuous efforts for further development of production forces with their fitness and health.

The government has desig-

nated 24 development zones for equitable development in the country. At present the whole nation is facilitated with uni-

versity, technical college and computer college and 200-

beds. Moreover, the gov-

ernment has been striving for the five rural areas development tasks. At the same time, the people in the region are to strive together with departmental officials and local authorities for regional and national development, enjoying the good foundations of health care services available in the region.

At a time when some Western powers in collusion with some elements who are opposed to public interest, imposed economic sanctions on Myanmar in the name of human rights and democracy, the government has laid down so-

cial objectives one of which is uplift of health, fitness and stability in the past. At

the same time, they are to make strenuous efforts for further development of production forces.

In conclusion, the government is committed to the local people to make sustained efforts for further development of economy in the region and regional development, emergence of more highly qualified human re-

sources, ensuring the fruits of health care services cre-

ated by the State. At the same time, they are to make strenuous efforts for further development of production forces with their fitness and health.

Then, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint called on the local people to make sustained efforts for further development of economy in the region and regional development, emergence of more highly qualified human resources, ensuring the fruits of health care services created by the State. At the same time, they are to make strenuous efforts for further development of production forces with their fitness and health.

The government has desig-

nated 24 development zones for equitable development in the country. At present the whole nation is facilitated with uni-

versity, technical college and computer college and 200-

beds. Moreover, the gov-

ernment has been striving for the five rural areas development tasks. At the same time, the people in the region are to strive together with departmental officials and local authorities for regional and national development, enjoying the good foundations of health care services available in the region. At a time when some Western powers in collusion with some elements who are opposed to public interest, imposed economic sanctions on Myanmar in the name of human rights and democracy, the government has laid down so-

cial objectives one of which is uplift of health, fitness and stability in the past. At

the same time, they are to make strenuous efforts for further development of production forces.

In conclusion, the government is committed to the local people to make sustained efforts for further development of economy in the region and regional development, emergence of more highly qualified human re-

sources, ensuring the fruits of health care services cre-

ated by the State. At the same time, they are to make strenuous efforts for further development of production forces with their fitness and health.

Then, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint called on the local people to make sustained efforts for further development of economy in the region and regional development, emergence of more highly qualified human resources, ensuring the fruits of health care services created by the State. At the same time, they are to make strenuous efforts for further development of production forces with their fitness and health.

The government has desig-

nated 24 development zones for equitable development in the country. At present the whole nation is facilitated with uni-

versity, technical college and computer college and 200-

beds. Moreover, the gov-

ernment has been striving for the five rural areas development tasks. At the same time, the people in the region are to strive together with departmental officials and local authorities for regional and national development, enjoying the good foundations of health care services available in the region. At a time when some Western powers in collusion with some elements who are opposed to public interest, imposed economic sanctions on Myanmar in the name of human rights and democracy, the government has laid down so-

cial objectives one of which is uplift of health, fitness and stability in the past. At

the same time, they are to make strenuous efforts for further development of production forces.

In conclusion, the government is committed to the local people to make sustained efforts for further development of economy in the region and regional development, emergence of more highly qualified human re-

sources, ensuring the fruits of health care services cre-

ated by the State. At the same time, they are to make strenuous efforts for further development of production forces with their fitness and health.

Then, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint called on the local people to make sustained efforts for further development of economy in the region and regional development, emergence of more highly qualified human resources, ensuring the fruits of health care services created by the State. At the same time, they are to make strenuous efforts for further development of production forces with their fitness and health.

The government has desig-

nated 24 development zones for equitable development in the country. At present the whole nation is facilitated with uni-

versity, technical college and computer college and 200-

beds. Moreover, the gov-

ernment has been striving for the five rural areas development tasks. At the same time, the people in the region are to strive together with departmental officials and local authorities for regional and national development, enjoying the good foundations of health care services available in the region. At a time when some Western powers in collusion with some elements who are opposed to public interest, imposed economic sanctions on Myanmar in the name of human rights and democracy, the government has laid down so-

social objectives one of which is uplift of health, fitness and stability in the past. At

the same time, they are to make strenuous efforts for further development of production forces.

In conclusion, the government is committed to the local people to make sustained efforts for further development of economy in the region and regional development, emergence of more highly qualified human resources, ensuring the fruits of health care services created by the State. At the same time, they are to make strenuous efforts for further development of production forces with their fitness and health.

Then, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint called on the local people to make sustained efforts for further development of economy in the region and regional development, emergence of more highly qualified human resources, ensuring the fruits of health care services created by the State. At the same time, they are to make strenuous efforts for further development of production forces with their fitness and health.
Earning a living at the expense of the nation

The United Nations

The world is getting smaller, and thus, the global nations need to live closely and cordially between one another. It is another need to find a peaceful solution to all the racial and ethnic problems threatening mankind and harmony development and peace of the world. And with these concepts, the United Nations has come into being.

In other words...

The UN has emerged with the conviction that a multi-national organization participated by all the respective countries of the world is required to solve the problems, that will affect the international affairs, between one state and another and one race and another. The purposes of the UN are:

1. To maintain international peace and security;
2. To develop friendly relations among nations;
3. To cooperate internationally in solving international economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;
4. To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

The following principles shall be observed in materializing the purposes:

- The UN is based on the sovereignty equality of all its members.
- All members are to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against other States.
- Nothing in the Charter is to authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state.
- Despite its fine principles, there are a lot of noisy acts, which really go against man’s self-interest; to dodge paying membership fees; to shrink the peacekeeping operations of the UN, substituting them with individual or groups-wise acts; to take over the rights and authority of the UN, grasping the leadership role in the world affairs, and saying that the UN is inefficient in handling and solving the global problems. We cannot do anything for such acts.

The UN General Assembly held on 9 December 1981 approved the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention and Interference in the Internal Affairs of States with its General Assembly Resolution No. 37/15. An excerpt of the Declara-

ion was mentioned as follows:

- No State or group of States has the right to intervene or to interfere in any form or for any reason whatsoever in the internal and external affairs of other States.
- The duty of a State to refrain from the exploitation and the distortion of human rights issues as a means of interfering in the internal affairs of States, of exerting pressure on other States or creating distrust and disorder within and among States or groups of States.

It is a common knowledge that some European countries including a big country, which is breaching the basic principles, the Charter and the human rights declarations of the UN and exercising the individual runa-

ways policies, are perpetrating in collusion with high intensity to pave the way for their puppet government to rule the nation in order to serve their self-interest.

Recently, I have read the news saying that the bill to punish Myanmar by the United States was approved by the American Senate. It was said that the basic idea to punish Myanmar by the United States was approved to serve their self-interest.

Moreover, the report said that the sanctions policy by the American Senate was a response to the detention of the so-called leader of the National League for Democracy, who in friendly terms and hand in glove with them. Ridiculous!

Further news reports said that the Congress would review the sanctions on Myanmar annually; and that sanctions would remain in force for the next three years. But if the US president assumes that there is improvement in the present political situation of Myanmar, which is a response to the detention of the so-called leader of the National League for Democracy, who is in friendly terms and hand in glove with them. Ridiculous!

So, we, on our part, have something to say. The US government and some officials of the political sector of America are strictly clinging to the policy of simultane

ous launching of the task for flourishing democracy in Myanmar and the task to remove the existing Govern-

ment. They are, in fact, the persons who are not able to find solutions to the problems mainly hindering the politi-

cal reforms in Myanmar.

The US government and some officials of the politi-

cal sector of America in a bigoted manner presume that emergence of a new government will result in the flourishing of democracy in Myanmar, designating the exist-

ing Government as the main obstacle to the programme to form the new government. In this regard, they instead of trying to find the answer to the objective problem of causing hindrance to the flourishing of democracy, are applying various means to support and publicize the person who is betraying Myanmar, a leader in the opposition, to feed the old and the new expatriates thereby causing confusion.

So, let us look into an incident which proves to be a firm and clear proof to their misuse. On 21 October 1998, the US president signed into the Public Law that was laid down by the 105th US Congress. The US presi-
dent allotted an amount of funds not less than US $ 5.5 million under the titles “Economic Support Fund” and “Defence Assistance” from the funds for materializing the 1961 Foreign Assistance Act and other assistance.

The funds under the two account headings were pro-

vided for the insurgents and various expatriate groups taking refuge at the Thai-Myanmar border. The money from the same heading was also channelled to Cyprus, Cambodia and Indonesia, but not to the anti-government groups.

The US Public Law prescribed the allotment of US $ 30 million for the National Endowment for Democ-

racy (NED) in education and cultural programmes in 1998 and US $ 31 million in 1999. But in using the funds, the NED had to take over the rights and authority of the people of Myanmar, instead it generously provided the financial assistance for expatriates taking refuge in India and Thailand and the insurgents at the border areas, with democracy as an excuse. In reality, such an act contrib-
utes to continued existence of the elements harmful to the people of Myanmar and saving them from facing financial difficulties. In addition, the purpose of using the money had not concerned with the headings of the funds.

However, it seemed that the people of America and donor organizations don’t know the misuse of these funds, collected from the taxes of the US citizens, by the US government and the acts to provide assistance to the national traitors of Myanmar in order to destabilize a small nation.

The honourable gentlemen in the US government and political circle should make an assessment of these perpetrations and weigh whether these acts are conduc-
tive or not to the flourishing of democracy in Myanmar. They should also look into the matter to know the extent of collusion and conspiracy between the Americans and the old and new expatriates of Myanmar, who in reality are destructive elements. Furthermore, they should also con-

sider the adverse consequences of the collusion and conspir-

acy.

The expatriates of the NCGUB led by fugitive Sein Win approached a senior official of the US State De-

partment, and presented a report on the issue of human rights in Myanmar to the Congress International Rela-
tions Committee and US congressmen. One point included in the report was the request to recognize the ten-mem-

ber gang, the NLD as the last resort. Moreover, the report said that the sanctions policy of the US on Myanmar had hit the existing Government hard; and that the existing Government would yield to holding political of the dialogue as it would face hard-

ships if the US continued to initiate the sanctions.

Practically, the acts of the persons, who are like the maggot in the flesh under the influence of personality cult, are designed to support a group of persons to grab power, and to hamper and destroy nation’s and the people’s efforts to move from backwardness.

In fact, these elements are giving the democracy and human rights as an excuse without considering Myanmar and her people while earning easy money living as ex-

patriates.

*****

To be continued

(Translation: TMT)
Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects regional development tasks in Kayin State

YANGON, 10 Aug — Member of the State Peace and Development Council, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, presented the first prize to those who successfully presented the restaurant samples in the Kayin State restaurant contest for 2003-2004. The event was held at the hall of the Lwin Township Dhammayon, Hlaing Thwe Township on 5 August afternoon.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party met with local people for the regional development, implementation of rural development tasks, extension of agriculture and livestock breeding tasks. Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung handed cash assistance to 143 families of senior military officers, other ranks and their families of Hlaing Hwe Township. The presentation ceremony followed.

After that, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected construction of two new school buildings and visited the Dhammayon, Hlaing Thwe Township. He also met with the headmistress, teachers, school board of trustees and town-selders who presented the checks on the progress of work. Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave necessary instructions.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party met with town-selders. Then, Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented souvenirs to them, viewed modernized equipment and presented the first prize to those present watched enthusiastically.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party proceeded to Nabu Township. He was welcomed by Dr Kyaw Myint, local people and two new school buildings.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party proceeded to Nabu Township, Hospital, where they were welcomed by Dr Kyaw Myint and medical staff. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected construction of two new school buildings of one story building.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party proceeded to Nabu Township, where they were welcomed by officials concerned, town-selders and teachers. The headmistress, teachers, school board of trustees and town-selders gave souvenirs and cash assistance to families of Nabu Township.

Dry Day supervisory committee inspects departmental vehicles

YANGON, 10 Aug — Chairman of the Dry Day supervisory committee, Minister at the State Peace and Development Council, Mr Min Thein, and committee members this morning supervised the checks on the Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles.

The groups checked dry day passes of Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles, drivers’ licences and wheel taxes and wearing of departmental uniforms in Yangon City from 7 am to 5 pm.
Two reservoirs to supply water to Kyetmauktaung Dam

Dams and reservoirs are essential for arid regions in upper Myanmar. The State is giving priority to supplying water for irrigation and drinking purposes in the dry regions, aiming at improving the socio-economic life of local people. Moreover, reservoirs are being constructed to supply water to dams which cannot store sufficient water for irrigation.

Therefore, the 2,950-foot long and 70-foot high Taunggyay Creek Reservoir project on Taunggyay Creek near Taepin Village in Kyauktaga Township, Mandalay Division, and the 7,000-foot long and 80-foot high Kyauktaga Reservoir project on Kyauktaga Creek near Kyauktaga Village in Natmun Township, Magwe Division, are being implemented. Kyetmauktaung Dam was completed in 1966. Although it’s storage capacity is 73,000 acre-feet of water, it can only catch about 36,900 acre-feet of water per year. There are 44,000 acres of cultivable land in the irrigated area yearly. However, it can irrigate about 13,432 acres of land.

Therefore, another two reservoirs are being constructed to be able to irrigate the farmland and extend cultivation through the canal system. Kyauktaga Reservoir, which is 7,000 feet long and 80 feet high, can store 37,000 acre-feet of water. The earthen reservoir will irrigate 98 square miles of farmland. It will distribute water to Taunggyay Creek Reservoir through the 17-mile long canal. The Kyauktaga Reservoir project began in September 2002. Now, efforts are being made to complete the construction tasks in 2005-2006.

Taunggyaychaung Reservoir, which will store water supplied by Kyauktaga Reservoir and distribute to Kyetmauktaung Dam, is located on Taunggy Creek. The earthen reservoir can only catch about 36,900 acre-feet of water per year. However, it can store 3,425 acres of water and will supply water to Kyetmauktaung Dam through the 1.35-mile long canal. A four-metre diameter and 420-foot long diversion tunnel is also being constructed and its flow will be 2,300 cubic feet per second.

The construction tasks of the tunnel which started on 25 March, 2003, are now being carried out. Steel Rib construction tasks are also undertaken. The targeted length of the tunnel is 1,120 feet. Now, it is submitted to the Irrigation Department (Head Office) to extend the length of the tunnel to 1,737 feet because of the condition of solid rock along the tunnel. (Translation: AMS)

Build a modern nation through the might of industrial sector

With the development of the industrial sector, a nation can become a modern and developed one and with this end in view, the Government, enlisting human and natural resources, is striving for the realization of the goal of national economic development. Measures are being taken in every sector for boosting export, reducing import and enhancing import-substitute industries and promoting trade. The State is encouraging industrial development and increased production of export goods in the industrial sector as well as in the agriculture sector.

In producing machinery, efforts are to be made to substitute local raw materials for foreign raw materials. Machinery produced by factories and workshops are to be adapted to win public satisfaction, to have good quality and to become useful. It is important to conduct Research and Development (R&D) work with far-sightedness to improve the quality of machine-building year by year in order to become marketable ones.

After forming the Myanmar Industrial Development Committee in 1995, the industrial sector in Myanmar has developed as planned in line with the policies. For industrial development, the State is combining the State-owned and private-owned industries harmoniously. Efforts are being made for manufacturing high quality machinery based on the experience in the industrial sector. At the same time personnel are being nurtured to become experts in their respective fields.

Myanmar Industrial Development Committees at different levels endeavored to open Myanmar Auto Show (2003) in Kyaukkaasan Grounds from 9 to 15 May with the aim of promoting the efficiency of the industrial zones and developing the import-substitute industries. The Auto Show indicates the need to exert self-reliant efforts for successful running of the import-substitute industry. It also shows the high morale and good ideas of the respective entrepreneurs. It is incumbent upon the industrialists to take innovative measures and run industries like import-substitute ones that can contribute to national development in doing businesses.

Myanmar Auto Show (2003) was held with six objectives— the development of the industrial sector to become the driving force in the four economic objectives of the State; to promote the development of Myanmar industry in all aspects based on market-oriented economic system; to promote export and import-substitute items; to develop technologies in manufacturing automobile; to manufacture multi-purpose automobiles with high quality; and to exchange knowledge and technical know-how inside the country and abroad with the aim of rendering assistance to the endeavours for Myanmar industrial development.

At the exhibition, altogether 357 automobiles assembled in various industrial zones throughout the country were displayed and they attracted the attention of so many enthusiasts. We believe that at a time when the Government has been exerting strenuous efforts for development of the industrial sector, efforts of hard working industrialists will contribute much towards the successful materialisation of the national objectives—to build a modern and developed nation.
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

Kyaukse Cement Plant was built with the aims of meeting the local cement demand, ensuring development of modern buildings and gaining job opportunities in the region in line with the guidance of the Head of State. Construction of the plant, built by Myanma General and Maintenance Industries, started on 28 September 2000. After installing machines at the plant, test-running was conducted by Chinese and Myanmar engineers on 29-10-2002. There are 11 cement plants in Myanmar — three plants including Kyaukse Cement Plant under the Ministry of Industry-1, two of Myanma Economic Corporation and two of Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd which are under construction including three private cement plants and one under construction. The Kyaukse Cement Plant can produce 150,000 tons of cement yearly.

To promote cooperation among cooperatives, Cooperative Products Exhibition and Market Festival 2003 sponsored by the Ministry of Cooperatives was held at the Cooperative Commercial Centre (Saya San Plaza) at the corner of Saya San Road and University Avenue in Bahan Township from 7 to 13 January 2003. Paddy Husk-Fired Engines of Myanma Inventors Cooperative Society are popular and prominent among the exhibits of the fair. Such kind of engine is being used in water pumping, livestock breeding, rural power supply, rice mill, oil mill, grinder, saw mill, ice factory, brewery and others.

Opening of two-storey school building of BEPS No 6 in progress in Ward 168, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township on 20 July 2003. The school is located in the east ward of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township. There are 1,169 houses in the ward and 1,977 40’ by 60’ plots are ready to be allotted. In addition, students of the industrial zone are attending the school. As over 400 are attending the school, it is necessary to build more schools because the buildings of the school will not be enough for the students in the long term.
India to launch re-usable spacecraft by 2005

HYDERABAD, 10 Aug—Chasing yet another prestigious milestone in frontier space technology, India is developing a re-usable spacecraft that can be put in the orbit for a month and brought back to Earth for future use.

The recoverable spacecraft will be ready for launch by 2005. Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) of Udupi, Meenakshi Nair, told reporters on the sidelines of a national symposium on 'Strategic Materials and Technologies for Com-

We want to demonstrate the technological capability of recoverable spacecraft, besides conducting useful experiments. Estimating the additional cost component would be to the tune of 500 million rupees.

The Indian Space Research Organisation is also working on the next generation GSLV — christened Mark III — that would give India the capability to launch four-ton satellites, the space scientist said.

Meanwhile, India is also exploring the international market to sell its old PSLVs and negotiations are on with some European and Asian countries in this regard, Nair said.

To a question, scientific Adviser to the Prime Minister V K Aatre denied reports that the government is re-thinkning the decision to continue some of the Guided Missile Projects.

"No such programme is being abandoned. Some are in the R&D mode and others in user mode. There are, however, technical difficulties in a few cases," Aatre, who earlier inaugurated the two day symposium, said.—MNA/PTI

China launches online book expo

BANGALORE, 10 Aug — China launched its first international online book expo started here Friday, attracting hundreds of foreign and domestic publishers.

The China International Online Book Expo was sponsored by the China International Publishing Group and jointly organized by www.china.org.cn, the China International Book Trading Corporation and www.guojiushiduan.com.

The expo, scheduled to run till October 9, has attracted foreign publishers including such big names as McGraw-Hill and 374 domestic publishers including the Foreign Languages Publishing House and Commercial Publishing House. At the web site www.guojiushiduan.com, Internet surfers can access the 1.2 million pieces of information on Chinese books and one million books on the V, where over 120,000 books are listed online and a series of book exhibitions, sales and copy-right trading activities will be held online during the expo period.

MNA/Xinhua

India’s freedom fighters remembered in Parliament

NEW DELHI, 10 Aug—Members of Indian Parliament’s Lower House Lok Sabha in silence for a minute on Friday in memory of the nation’s freedom fighters, marking the anniversary of Quit India Movement in 1942, and the victims of the atomic holocaust in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

Making a reference to the Sixty-First anniversary of Quit India Movement and the Fifty-Eighth anniversary of dropping of atomic bombs on Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Speaker Manohar Joshi said Mahatma Gandhi had on August 9 given an ultimatum to the British to “Quit India” which was accepted by the British on August 15.

He said the call by the Mahatma to the people of India to “do or die” and to free the motherland from the colonial rule shook the very foundation of British rule in India and culminated in the realization of the cherished dream of every Indian, i.e. a free India.

Joshi recalled that the Japanese cities were destroyed by the dropping of atomic bombs in which thousands of innocent people died; millions were maimed and many people were suffering from the after-effects of nuclear radiation till Friday.

MNA/Xinhua
Sydney, 10 Aug—A long-lost seven-minute animation by surrealist Spanish artist Salvador Dali, which took 57 years to complete, has taken the top prize at an Australian film festival.

Fragments of the unfinished film “Destino” along with story boards, sketches and an original score painstakingly put together by a team assembled by Disney’s nephew Roy Disney after they were discovered in the studio’s vaults, has become known as the Tadpole, which has long suspected, and for the first time there is photographic evidence of this kind of galactic cannibalism, snapped by the Hubble Space Telescope.

The image alone was not enough to confirm that this was a case of a dominant galaxy feeding on a much smaller dwarf galaxy.

To do this, they used the Keck Telescope in Hawaii, which was able to show plumes of stars streaming away from the dwarf galaxy’s heart toward the big galaxy, the astronomers said in a statement. The galactic pair is located about two billion light-years away from Earth. A light-year is about six trillion miles, the distance light travels in a year.

Their findings were published on Thursday in Science Express.

The tiny galaxy is being ripped apart by the gravitational forces of the larger one, and the dwarf galaxy’s stolen stars will wind up as part of a spherical halo surrounding the flattened disk of the larger spiral galaxy, the astronomers said.

The big galaxy will continue to transform its smaller companion for billions of years, said astronomer Duncan Forbes of Swinburne University in Hawthorn, Australia.

Astronomers who study how galaxies form and transform have reckoned that such interactions between galaxies would occur, but this is the first time that a Hubble image, enhanced by observations by the ground-based Keck telescope and with the help of computer simulation, has illustrated this phenomenon.

In Nepal, the volume of woolen carpets exported during fiscal year 2002-2003, which ended to July 15 this year, remained 5.6 million square metres, a decline from 1.69 million square metres recorded in the fiscal year 2001-2002.

The exports of woolen carpet, Nepal’s second largest export item, were 2.24 million square metres and 2.51 million square metres during the fiscal year 2000-2001 and 1999-2000, respectively.

The export to Germany, which is the major buyer of Nepali carpets, slipped by 9 per cent during the review period.

Experts believe the main reasons behind the decline in carpet exports are a global economic recovery as well as the tough competition posed by Indian and Chinese carpet in the European markets.

The statistics further revealed that the total foreign currency earning from the export of woolen carpet also dipped by 16.61 per cent to 68.1 million US dollars in the last fiscal year compared with that of 81.55 million dollars in the previous fiscal year.

The Nepali Government’s decision made last year to slash down the floor price of carpets from 48 dollars to 32 dollars per square metre is one of the reasons for the decline, experts said.

Nepal’s unemployement rate has dropped at 15-year low

New Zealand’s unemployment rate fell to 4.7 per cent in the three months ending June, surprising economists and making a cut in interest rates next month unlikely.

According to Statistics NZ’s household labour force survey, here Saturday, the strong employment data showed a 0.8 per cent rise in employment during the quarter, beating expectations of a 0.3 per cent rise and a jobless rate of 5.2 per cent.

About 95,000 people were jobless in the quarter. This compared with 99,000 in the first quarter of this year and 102,000 in the second quarter of last year.

“The source said, “You pull out a knife and one of these women will take you out... The last thing they want the world to think is that these lovely cute flight attendants might be able to tear your head off.”

Air NZ, Qantas attendants trained new self-defense moves

Wellington, 10 Aug— The flight attendants from Air New Zealand and Qantas of Australia have been learning new self-defense moves to cope with the increased terrorist threats and control unruly passengers.

The report said that flight attendants had always had some training to restrain badly-behaved passengers. New moves have come in the wake of increased terrorist threats and several incidents of passengers causing havoc.

Sources in the airline business, who would not be named, have confirmed the training was introduced this year. “We call it kung fu training... they are learning everything.

People were coming out of it experienced in self-defence but some of them were injured. It’s very intensive. They learn how to take out an armed person, stuff like that,” said a source.

The source said, “We are keeping it quiet. We have new moves people’s decision made last year to slash down the floor price of carpets from 48 dollars to 32 dollars per square metre is one of the reasons for the decline, experts said.

The report said that flight attendants had always had some training to restrain badly-behaved passengers. New moves have come in the wake of increased terrorist threats and several incidents of passengers causing havoc.

Sources in the airline business, who would not be named, have confirmed the training was introduced this year. “We call it kung fu training... they are learning everything.

People were coming out of it experienced in self-defence but some of them were injured. It’s very intensive. They learn how to take out an armed person, stuff like that,” said a source.

The source said, “We are keeping it quiet. We have new moves people’s decision made last year to slash down the floor price of carpets from 48 dollars to 32 dollars per square metre is one of the reasons for the decline, experts said.

The report said that flight attendants had always had some training to restrain badly-behaved passengers. New moves have come in the wake of increased terrorist threats and several incidents of passengers causing havoc.

Sources in the airline business, who would not be named, have confirmed the training was introduced this year. “We call it kung fu training... they are learning everything.

People were coming out of it experienced in self-defence but some of them were injured. It’s very intensive. They learn how to take out an armed person, stuff like that,” said a source.

The source said, “We are keeping it quiet. We have new moves people’s decision made last year to slash down the floor price of carpets from 48 dollars to 32 dollars per square metre is one of the reasons for the decline, experts said.
Spain postpone Mexico friendly

MADRID, 10 Aug— Spain have postponed a friendly against Mexico scheduled for the New York Giants stadium in New Jersey on August 20. Spanish media reported that the game had been postponed in order to avoid unnecessary fatigue for the players, many of whom have been involved in long-distance pre-season tours with their clubs, and the failure to agree a deal to televise the game.

Real Madrid, who provide the majority of the players for the Spain squad, do not return from a three-week Asian tour until next week, while Barcelona have travelled to the United States and Britain as part of their pre-season preparation.

The Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) said that the game would be replaced by a three-day training camp for squad players.

Spain face a Euro 2004 Group Six qualifier at home to Ukraine on September 10, which they must win if they are to keep open their options of direct qualification for next year’s tournament in Portugal.

Inaki Saez’ side lie second in the group, a point behind Greece with just two qualifying matches remaining.

MENA/Reuters

Slovak Danisova tested positive for steroid nandrolone

PARIS, 10 Aug—Hammer thrower Martina Danisova of Slovakia was tested positive for steroid nandrolone and is awaiting results of a second sample, the Slovak Athletics Federation said on its web site on Saturday.

Danisova, who holds the national hammer throw record, failed the doping test in May in the central Slovak city of Banska Bystrica.

The analysis of her second sample will take place on August 20 in Barcelona, Spain. If convicted, she will be banned for two years.

MENA/Xinhua

Beckham swamped as Real Madrid arrive in Thailand

BANGKOK, 11 Aug—Real Madrid and their new signing David Beckham arrived in Thailand on Saturday to a rapturous welcome on the last leg of an Asian tour which has been littered with public relations gaffes.

The England captain almost disappeared under a pile of flower garlands as enthusiastic Thai officials greeted him, while former World Footballers of the Year Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane and Luis Figo each received a couple of orchid necklaces each.

About 600 screaming fans were held back by a line of policemen outside the team’s central Bangkok hotel.

Security for the visit was increased after a bomb attack on the JW Marriott Hotel in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta on Tuesday. Two bodyguards are accompanying each player, while Beckham, Ronaldo, Zidane and Figo will get several security officers each.

“I can speak Spanish so I’ve come to welcome them,” a teenage girl said, as Beckham walked past waving and Ronaldo grinned at the fans. “I like Luis Figo because he’s handsome and a good player.”

One fan said he felt sorry for the more established Real Madrid players because Beckham was drawing so much publicity.

“Thai women really love Beckham so much,” said 11-year-old Aldecho Dari.

Real Madrid were scheduled to play a match against the Thai national side on Sunday evening, but a full training session in front of paying fans on Saturday was cancelled because the team was tired after their travels to China, Japan and Hong Kong.

Organizers said the team would do some light training instead and around 6,000 fans had been given free tickets.

The Spanish champions disappointed thousands of fans by cancelling a similar training event in Hong Kong because of fatigue but had to issue a public apology later when players were spotted in the island’s most popular night clubs.

Earlier in the tour, Chinese officials were left bewildered when the team walked out of a dinner reception after only 20 minutes.

MENA/Reuters

Brazilians win 14th Pan-American Games marathon

SANTO DOMINGO, 10 Aug—Brazilians Vanderlei Lima and Marcia Narchuch Saturday won the gold medals in the men’s and women’s marathon of the 14th Pan-American Games in Dominican Republic.

Lima, 33, crossed the line with a time of two hours, 19 minutes and 8 seconds. He was the winner of the 42.195-kilometer race in Winnipeg 1999.


One of the favourites to win in the contest, Benjamin Paredes from Mexico, had to withdraw from the race due to a muscle injury. His compatriot Francisco Bautista finished fifth with 2:25:50.

In the women’s race, Brazil’s Marcia Narchuch won the gold with a time of two hours, 39 minutes and 54 seconds.

Cuban Maria Gonzalez won the silver medal in 2:42:55, followed by Chilean Erika Oliveira in the third place at 2:44:52.

MENA/Xinhua

Watford player killed in car crash

LONDON, 10 Aug—Forward Jimmy Davis was killed in a motorway car crash on Saturday when the 21-year-old was on his way to playing his first match for English First Division side Watford.

Davis, who joined Watford from Manchester United on a one-year loan in July, died hours before the 2003-2004 season of the First Division kicked off.

Watford’s opening league match against Coventry was therefore postponed.

Davis, who used to be a regular for the United reserve team, was an England Under-20 international and had been sent to Watford to gain first-team experience.

He played one game for United in the League Cup against Arsenal in 2001 and played 15 times on loan to Second Division Swindon last season.

MENA/Xinhua

S P O R T S

Answers for yesterday’s crossword puzzle

A spectator jumps into the lake at Zurich, at the 12th Street Parade in Zurich, Switzerland, on 9 August, 2003. Despite temperatures of around 35 degrees hundreds of thousands of fans of techno music joined the event themed ‘Let the sun shine.’ —INTERNET
7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Saydaw of Nantataotha

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am
5. Song of national races

8:00 am
6. 

8:10 am
7. Little dancers

8:20 am
8. 

8:30 am
9. International news

8:45 am
10. Let’s Go

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. Practice in reading

4:45 pm
4. 

5:00 pm
5. Mellow music

5:15 pm
6. Musical programme

5:30 pm

5:45 pm
8. Dance variety

5:55 pm
9. Strong and healthy

6:00 pm
10. Myanmar

6:15 pm
11. Discovery

6:30 pm
12. Evening news

7:00 pm
13. Weather report

7:05 pm
14. Milo success in soccer

7:10 pm
15. 

7:25 pm
16. Back to the old

7:45 pm
17. 

8:00 pm
18. News

9:00 pm
19. International news

9:10 pm
20. Weather report

21. 

22. 

Monday, August 11

8:30 am
3. Brief news

8:35 am
4. Perspectives

8:40 am
5. Music

8:45 am
6. Weather

8:50 am
7. National news/Weather

9:00 am
8. Boxing

9:05 am
9. International news

9:10 am
10. Music

1.30 pm
News/Slogan

1.40 pm
“Lucky Winner”

2.15 pm
Slogan

3:00 pm
National news/Slogan

4.00 pm
News/Slogan

4.15 pm
Radio Myanmar news/ Programme

Monday, August 11

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 11 August, 2003

WEATHER

Sunday, 10th August, 2003
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms had been widespread in Kachin, Rakhine, Kayin States, Bago Division, scattered in Shan, Mon States, Sagain, Mandalay, Yangon Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Kachin and Rakhine States, Bago and Sagaing Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were: Kamit (4.37 inches), Mogang (3.94 inches), Kyauktaw (0.51 inches), Zungyi (0.93 inches), Ann (2.44 inches), Hpa-an (2.40 inches) and Kyaukpyu (2.20 inches).

Maximum temperature on 9-8-2003 was 31.0°C (82°F). Minimum temperature on 10-8-2003 was 21.5°C (71°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 10-8-2003 was 93%. Total sun-shine hours on 9-8-2003 was 0.4 hour approx. Rainfall on 10-8-2003 was 20 mm at Yangon Airport, 30 mm at Kaba-Aye and 1466 mm at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 11-1-2003 was 1429 mm (56.26 inches) at Yangon Airport, 1639 mm (64.53 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1466 mm (57.72 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 18 m/h from Southwest at (15:50) hours MST on 9-8-2003.

The Bay Influence: Monsoon is generally moderate in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 11-8-2003: Rain or thunderstorms will be widespread in Kachin and Chin States, upper Sagaing Division and isolated to scattered in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%) State of the sea: Seas will be generally rough in the Myanmar water.

Outlook for subsequent twodays: General decrease of rain in lower Myanmar areas Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-8-2003: One or two rain showers with bright interval. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-8-2003: Isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (80%).

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newslight, PO Box No. 43. Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 296664, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 296843, Accounts 296545, Administration 296611, Production 297032 (Office) 297028 (Press).
SECRETARY-1 GENERAL KHYIN NYUNT INSPECTS FACTORY OF SMI CO LTD

Yangon, 10 Aug — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt inspected the factory of Southem Metal Industry Co Ltd in the Hlinethaya industrial zone here this afternoon and gave necessary instructions.

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, ministers, deputy ministers, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council, and departmental heads, arrived at the factory on Dagon Industrial Zone-1, U Myit Street, Block 4, Hlinethaya industrial zone, here, this morning. The Secretary-1 and party were welcomed there by Managing Director U Yan Haw of the Southern Metal Industry Co Ltd, and officials and employees of the factory.

At the hall of the factory, U Yu Mon, Director of the company, reported to the Secretary-1 on brief history of the company, reported to the Secretary-1 and party left Hlinethaya industrial zone.

After hearing reports, the Secretary-1 gave instructions.

U Yan Haw then presented K 27 million to the Secretary-1 for construction of one basic education primary school.

Later, the Secretary-1 and party viewed the products on display at the hall of the factory and inspected the functions of the factory.

After inspecting the development of the industrial zone, the Secretary-1 and party left Hlinethaya industrial zone.

MNA

YANGON, 10 Aug — Families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) offered rice, edible oil, salt, medicines and gram to monasteries and the Thanthana Dharmapalaka (Hindu) Federation in Pabedan and Seikkan Townships, Yangon West District, this afternoon. The offering ceremony took place at the Mahathondawgyi Agga Maha Ganishavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Kumara, member Sayadaw, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe attended the ceremony and offered provisions to members of the Sangha.

Also present were Pre-siding Sayadaw of the Maha Theindawgyi Pariyatti Sathitakon on Maha Bandula Road, Pabedan Township here this afternoon. Member of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony and offered provisions to members of the Sangha.

The Adjudant-General, the commander, the minister, the vice-mayor and senior military officers offered provisions to Yangon and members of the Sangha.

MNA

PROVISIONS OFFERED TO MONASTERIES AND NUMERNYINS IN YANGON WEST AND NORTH DISTRICTS

YANGON, 10 Aug — Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments Exhibition continued today for the second day at the multi-purpose hall of National Museum on Pyay Road. It comprises nine booths. At the central booth, seven golden gongs, Myanmar traditional double-headed drums, and drum circle (Myanmar orchestra) personnel, officials of the Hindu Federation, social organizations, and well-wishers. The congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara.

The Adjudant-General, the commander, the minister, the vice-mayor and senior military officers offered provisions to Yangon and members of the Sangha.

MNA

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS EXHIBITION CONTINUES

YANGON, 10 Aug — Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments Exhibition continued today for the second day at the multi-purpose hall of National Museum on Pyay Road. It comprises nine booths. At the central booth, seven golden gongs, Myanmar traditional double-headed drums, and drum circle (Myanmar orchestra) were displayed. Musical instruments made of bronze, string, leather and wind musical instruments were also shown.

In the middle of the exhibition, Kachin Manaw drum, Setalonpaing drum of Htanawt race, Rakhine traditional drum and Mon traditional brass gong were on display.

Setalonpaing drum which is a open ended drum with a long body was made over 300 years ago. Today, folk musical performances including demonstrations of Mon orchestra and wind instrument playing of Chin nationals were staged. U Sein Mya Shin, aged 82, will present his skill demonstration on blowing of six oboes and six flutes tomorrow and Kachin and Rakhine national races will also play their traditional musical instruments.

Altogether 898 enthusiasts — 13 foreigners and 885 local people — visited the exhibition today. — MNA

LIVESTOCK BREEDING FARMS OF YANGON COMMAND INSPECTED

YANGON, 10 Aug — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe this morning inspected the livestock breeding camps of the command and gave necessary instructions to the officials.

At 11 am, the commander arrived at No 1 Farm of Yangon Command. In the middle of the exhibition, Kachin Manaw drum, Setalonpaing drum of Htanawt race, Rakhine traditional drum and Mon traditional brass gong circle were on display.

Afterwards, the commander visited Taing Shwe Win meat, fish and vegetable shop on Pyay Road in Insein Township. The commander inspected the sale of meat, fish, eggs, vegetables and consumer goods there and gave instructions on distributing only fresh meat, fish, vegetables and eggs and consumer goods.

The commander then visited Main Fish Breeding Camp of the command in Mingaladon township where In-charge Maj Thet Haing briefed him on production of fish on commercial scale using modern hatching machines at Shwe Ma Yin Fish Breeding camp in Twantay Township and Main Fish Breeding Camp in Mingaladon Township, raising of Bab cock chicken and raising of pigs on the embankments of fish breeding ponds.

The commander inspected breeding of fingerlings, raising of 139 pigs on the embankments of fish breeding ponds, the condition of fish breeding ponds, Bab cock strain breeders and layers. The commander gave instructions on systematic extension of livestock breeding tasks with a view to providing the people in Yangon with foodstuff.

MNA

MYANMAR TRADITIONAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS EXHIBITION PACKED WITH ENTHUSIASTS

MNA

SECRETARY-1 GENERAL KHYIN NYUNT HEARS REPORT PRESENTED BY SOUTHERN METAL INDUSTRY CO LTD GENERAL MANAGER U ZAW HTUN AUNG — MNA

Livestock breeding farms of Yangon Command inspected

Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects No 1 Farm of Yangon Command — MNA

Provisions offered to monasteries and nunneries in Yangon West and North Districts

Musical instruments exhibition continues

Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments Exhibition being packed with enthusiasts. — MNA