Efforts to be made for establishment of independent national economic life based on own resources and national strength through unity

Chaungmagyi (Myohla) Dam opened in Yedashe Township, Bago Division

YANGON, 18 Aug—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials left here by the Tatmadaw flight on 17 August and arrived in Toungoo Airport at 9.15 am.

The Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Brig-Gen Ko Ko, Brig-Gen Myint Thein of Toungoo Station, Deputy Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Thura Maung Ni and military and civilian officials.

They proceeded to Chaungmagyi (Myohla) Dam in Yedashe, Bago Division.

The opening of Chaungmagyi (Myohla) Dam was held at the pandal near the dam, with an address by Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, members of Division, District and Township Peace and Development Council, departmental staff, the director-general of Irrigation Department, staff of Construction-4 of Irrigation Department, social organizations, teachers, students, and local people numbering 7,500.

The Secretary-1 delivered a speech. He said now the entire national people are making efforts in harmony to enable the Union of Myanmar to stand tall among the nations of the world and to create strong national economic life.

He said the government is also endeavouring day and night with patriotism for the development of the nation and its people and raising the living standard of the people despite various kinds of difficulties and obstacles.

To enable the nation and its people to stand tall among the nations of the world it is necessary to build own strong national economic life that does not depend on other country. United efforts are to be made for establishment of an independent national economic life based on own resources and national strength, he said.

Being an agro-based country since the time of our ancestors, agriculture and livestock breeding tasks based on rural areas are fundamental factors of national economic life. Only when agricultural sector improves basically will it contribute towards the development of national economic life, he added.

This is why the government is giving encouragement to the use of modern techniques in agriculture replacing traditional cultivation methods. Achievements have been made in trying to meet the agricultural targets. (See page 9)
To bring about further development of IT in Myanmar

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe attended the Fourth ASEAN Informal Summit held in Singapore in 2000 and Myanmar became a party to e-ASEAN Framework Agreement. Then, the Government of the Union of Myanmar formed Myanmar e-National Task Force to implement the e-ASEAN Framework Agreement to promote IT technology and to build IT-related infrastructures in the nation.

Myanmar e-National Task Force comprising Government officials, Myanmar national IT technicians and entrepreneurs drew an IT master plan and took systematic measures. As a result, IT technology is flourishing in Myanmar.

The opening ceremony of MICT Park ( Mandalay ) and International ICT Exhibition was held at the Yadana Market in Mandalay on the morning of 16 August and it was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt, also Chairman of the Myanmar Computer Science Development Council.

In his address on the occasion, General Khin Nyunt said, “Only when the entire nation, equipped with the national resolution, joins hands in undertaking the task of developing science and technology in keeping with the times and the task of building infrastructures of science and technology, will the nation be capable of making good its escape from the adverse consequences of technological divide which is resulting from the advances in science and technology in the world.”

At a time when some big nations, in cahoots with some elements that are against the interests of the people of Myanmar, have imposed economic sanctions on Myanmar triggering economic stringencies in the country, the establishment of an MICT Park of international standard is issuing a challenge to the unfair and unjust economic sanctions.

The MICT Park ( Yangon ) and Bagan Cybertech IDC & Teleport Data Centre was simultaneously opened in Yangon in January, 2002, and they are now providing IT-related services including hardware and software services.

In the world today, science and technologies, especially information and communication technology, are advancing with phenomenal acceleration. Moreover, the information and communication technology is having snowball impact on all sectors and helping the globalization process to pick up the pace.

We would like to call upon all the responsible personnel and Myanmar IT scientists and entrepreneurs to make the most of challenges and opportunities offered by the process of globalization and technological advances to bring about further development of IT technology in Myanmar.
Iraq oil pipeline fix could take 2 weeks

Shirazat, 18 Aug — Iraq oil export pipeline to Turkey — a crucial lifeline for the economy — was still ablaze on Sunday, sending clouds of black smoke into the sky, and the US Army said it could take two weeks to repair.

The different reports we have seen have been anywhere from 10 days to two weeks, but they still have a lot to find out about what needs to be done,” an Army spokesman told a news conference when asked how long it would take to fix the line.

At the site of the blaze at Shirazat in the deserts of northern Iraq, flames poured from the breach in the pipeline on Sunday. Officials said on Saturday the blaze had been extinguished, but later reported instead that it had been “contained.”

“Ours is burning, but under control,” Major Josslyn Abbe, of the 4th Infantry Division told Reuters at the American base in Tikrit, north of Baghdad. “The residual oil in the pipeline is burning up.”

The pipeline started pumping oil to the Turkish port of Ceyhan on Wednesday for the first time since the war after it was attacked.

Iraq’s acting oil minister, Thamir Ghadhban, said on Saturday a bomb blast had caused the blaze.

Paul Bremer, the US governor of Iraq, said sabotage was depriving the country of desperately needed funds.

“The irony is that Iraq is a rich country that is temporarily poor,” he told the opening meeting of a committee set up to coordinate foreign aid for Iraq. “An event such as the explosion on the Kirkuk pipeline costs the Iraqi people $7 million a day and hurts the process of reconstruction.”

Iraq was exporting all of its oil from the south before the northern pipeline opened again. But the southern region is also facing problems. Theft of power lines has halved exports and threatens to bring sales to a standstill.

Blast hits Baghdad water supply

Baghdad, 18 Aug — A major water pipeline in northern Iraq was breached on Sunday, flooding nearby streets and cutting off the supply to parts of the Iraqi capital, after what locals said was a bomb attack.

Sabotage of fuel pipelines, power cables and water pipes has dogged attempts by the US-led administration to rebuild Iraq’s decrepit oil industry and restore basic services.

The main oil export pipeline to Turkey — a crucial economic lifeline for Iraq — was shut down last week just days after reopening, following technical hitches and a bomb attack that sparked a fire.

Paul Bremer, the US governor of Iraq, said the closure of that pipeline was costing the country seven million US dollars a day.

Washington blamed die-hard supporters of deposed Saddam Hussein and foreign militant groups for the attacks on US forces that have killed 60 American troops since the United States declared major combat over on May 1.

In the latest ambush in northern Iraq, two US soldiers were shot and wounded as they left a restaurant on Saturday, the military said. Both were in a stable condition in hospital.

Iraqi police and security guards have also come under attack from anti-US fighters who accuse them of collaborating with occupying troops.

In the northern city of Mosul, the headquarters of an Iraqi civilian security force was attacked with machine guns and a rocket-propelled grenade on Saturday afternoon.

One of the security guards was killed and four were wounded, their colleagues told Reuters. The security force was set up to help guard hospitals, schools and other facilities.

Earlier on Saturday, four police officers were wounded in a gun attack on a police convoy.

Iraq seeks international donations for rebuilding

Baghdad, 18 Aug — Iraq will need billions of dollars from donors to finance reconstruction and prevent a budget crisis next year, the head of a new body charged with coordinating international rebuilding efforts said on Sunday.

Marek Belka, a former deputy prime minister of Poland, said revenue from oil exports would not meet general government costs, let alone reconstruction needs, and that pledges from international donors would have to serve as a lifeline.

“The reconstruction demands of Iraq are immense, far larger than can be covered by revenue from oil exports, so the financing gap is huge,” Belka told delegates at the first international donors’ conference ahead of an October 23-24 meeting on funding reconstruction and restoration efforts.

But current output is only around an eighth of that, with infrastructure problems and continuing sabotage dramatically reducing prospects of a rapid increase less and less likely.

The main oil export pipeline to Turkey — a crucial economic lifeline for Iraq — was shut down last week just days after reopening, following technical hitches and a bomb attack that sparked a fire. Sabotage has also dogged attempts by the US-led administration to restore basic services.

Around 50 countries are due to meet in Madrid on October 23-24 to discuss reconstruction efforts.

The United States says it hopes to get output up to two million barrels per day, worth 12-14 billion US dollars a year, by the end of 2003, near to pre-war levels.

Former NATO commander bashes Bush

Washington, 18 Aug — Former NATO commander Wesley Clark Sunday bashed the Bush Administration for launching a war against Iraq under what he called “false pretenses.”

“Don’t be doing that,” Clark told CNN’s Larry King. “It is a lie.”

The retired Army general said more than half the Army’s main battle force was set up to help guard hospitals, schools and other facilities.

Clark has not declared his party yet but has been quoted as saying he had not considered challenging Bush as a Republican. Supporters of a presidential draft Clark campaign have been airing television spots, CNN said.

China seeks global search for SOE executives

Beijing, 18 Aug — A senior official in charge of China’s state assets has said a global search for senior executives for six large state-owned enterprises (SOEs) would start in the second half of this year.

Li Yizhong, deputy director of the State Asset Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC), said the practice would gradually spread to other state-owned enterprises.

“This is the orientation of our leadership restructuring at state-owned enterprises. We believe state-owned companies must absorb the most outstanding talents from around the world, become strong players in the international market,” Li said.

Seven senior executive positions at these six enterprises have been selected for the experiment, the minister being deputy general manager of an enterprise group.

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Earthquake jolts Inner Mongolia

Beijing, 18 Aug — An earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter Scale jolted northern China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at 18:58 (Beijing Time) Saturday, according to the China Seismological Bureau.

The quake took place in an area between Barin Zhuqiu and Ar Horqin qi, east Inner Mongolia, with the epicenter at Latitude 43.9 degrees north and Longitude 119.7 degrees east, said the bureau. Obious tremor was also felt in the capital city of Beijing.
US troops shoot dead Reuters cameraman in Iraq

Baghdad, 18 Aug — US troops shot dead an award-winning Reuters cameraman while he was filming Sunday near a US-run prison on the outskirts of Baghdad.

Eyewitnesses said soldiers on an American tank shot at Mazen Dana, 43, as he filmed outside Abu Ghraib prison in western Baghdad which had earlier come under a mortar attack. Dana’s last pictures show a US tank driving toward him outside the prison walls. Several shots ring out from the tank, and Dana’s camera falls to the ground.

The US military acknowledged on Sunday that its troops had “engaged” a Reuters cameraman, saying they had thought they were shooting at a rocket-propelled grenade launcher.

“Army soldiers engaged an individual they thought was an RPG crew. It turned out to be a Reuters cameraman,” Navy Captain Frank Thorp, a spokesman for the chain of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Reuters in Washington.

Journalists had gone to the prison after the US military said a mortar bomb attack there a day before had killed six Iraqis and wounded 59 others.

Recounting the moments before the shooting, Reuters soundman Nael al-Shyoukhi, who was working with Dana, said he had asked a US soldier near the prison if they could speak to an officer and was told they could not.

“Then all of a sudden they knew about our identities and our mission,” Shyoukhi said. The incident happened in the afternoon in daylight.

The soldier agreed to their request to film an overview of the prison from a bridge nearby.

After we filmed we went into the car and prepared to go to where a convoy led by a tank arrived and Mazen stepped out of the car to film. I followed him and Mazen walked three to four meters (yards). We were not and seen clearly,” Shyoukhi said.

“A soldier on the tank shot at us. I lay on the ground. I heard Mazen and I saw him scream and touching his chest. I cried at the soldier, telling him you killed a journalist. They shouted at me and asked me to step back and I said ‘I will step back, but please help, please help and stop the bleeding’. They tried to help him but Mazen bled heavily. Mazen took a last breath and died before my eyes.” — Internet

Malaysian bank granted banking licence in HK

Hong Kong, 18 Aug — The Fugro Asia Monetary Authority announced Friday that the Public Bank Berhad (PBB), a bank in Malaysia, has been granted banking licence under the Banking Ordinance of Hong Kong.

This grant of banking licence took effect on August 15, 2003. PBB is a bank incorporated in Malaysia and has been authorized as a restricted licence bank in Hong Kong since August 1990.

According to the holy issue of The Banker, PBB respectively ranked 2nd and 3rd in Malaysia in terms of tier one capital and total asset. Its respective world rankings were 176th and 334th.

With the grant of a banking licence to PBB, the number of licensed banks in Hong Kong has increased to 136 and the number of restricted licence banks has reduced to 41 correspondingly.

MNA/Xinhua

Air France says its New York services seriously disturbed

Paris, 18 Aug — Air France said Friday that its services to and from New York were “seriously disturbed” because of the blackout in the northeastern United States and parts of Canada.

Three flights from Charles-de-Gaulle Airport of Paris to John Fitzgerald Kennedy (JFk) Airport of New York were cancelled Friday, said the spokesman.

“Only transfer passengers could be accommodated at nights by the company,” he said. New York City and much of northeastern United States were paralyzed throughout Thurs- day afternoon and night by the sudden blackout that hit almost simultaneously from New Jersey to Toronto.

Seven airports including three near New York (JFK, LaGuardia and Newark) and other four in Cleveland (Ohio), Chicago (Illinois), Detroit (Michigan, north USA) as well as in Ottawa and Toronto, Canada were closed because of the blackout.

The huge power outage, which took place at around 4 pm EDT on Thursday, affected at least 50 million residents in the northeastern United States and parts of Canada. MNA/Xinhua

Airlines maintain Madrid-New York flights, but with delays

Mazen, 18 Aug.—Airlines maintained flights between Madrid and New York on Friday, but with significant delays due to the massive power blackout in northeastern United States, authorities said.

Airlines Iberia, Continental Airlines and Delta Airlines kept four Madrid-New York connections scheduled for Friday and four more from New York to Madrid.Iberia sources confirmed on Friday that Thursday flights from Madrid to New York City’s John F. Kennedy Airport landed without problems.

They explained that passengers of the Iberia flights who were scheduled to arrive at the Madrid Barajas Airport on Friday at 7:10 am and 10:30 am local time remained in New York, owing to the “chaotic” situation in the airport there.

They confirmed that for the moment no flights had been cancelled.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi oil exports are under threat

Baghdad, 18 Aug — Iraq’s top oil official has admitted he cannot guarantee oil exports after saboteurs blew up part of the newly repaired main pipeline to Turkey amid more anti-US attacks.

Thamer Ghabdhan said the disruption to the pipeline linking northern Iraq to the Turkish port of Ceyhan, which would take 10 days to repair, meant a loss of more than $256 million (SAO 17 million) a day in revenues badly needed for the reconstruction of the war-shattered country.

The pipeline was hit by an explosion early Friday near the town of Baiji, about 200 km north of Baghdad, near the border of north-central Iraq that still supports Saddam and sees frequent attacks on US troops.

Ghabdhan said the explosion started a fire that was now under control but still burning. The disruption came just two days after crude oil exports through it had resumed, following its shutdown before the March 20 start of the US-led war to oust Saddam.

Iraq currently exporting 700,000 barrels a day from its second main outlet, Basra, has the world’s second largest reserves. Sabotage and looting have plagued the oil sector since Saddam was toppled in April, with damage to wells leaving just 150,000 in working order, officials have said.

In Mosul, Iraq’s main northern city, the US-backed police chief was wounded in ambush, with two people dead and another 13 hurt, military officials said. — Internet

Report says another Iraqi oil pipeline in flames

Washington, 18 Aug — The US military is investigating eyewitness reports that another oil pipeline in Iraq is in flames, and may have been sabotaged, military officials told CNN Sunday. US Central Command said pilots reported the fire northwest of the city of Mosul, according to the officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

US and Iraqi administrators are now investigating the report to determine if this is another act of sabotage to Iraq’s oil infrastructure. This news comes just one day after another oil pipeline was sabotaged and set aflame, apparently by supporters of the deposed regime of Saddam Hussein.

That pipeline runs from an oil field near the northern Iraqi city of Kalen to the Turkish port city of Ceyhan, and is a major source of oil for the war. US and British military planners anticipated that Iraqi forces would try to ignite and sabotage the oil-producing infrastructure as the coalition forces advanced toward Baghdad in an effort to create a scorched earth environment for the invading army.

US and British special forces units went to some lengths to secure insulin fields in northern Iraq, were burned, and were largely successful in halting the effort. — Internet

“Terminator 4” could go ahead without Schwarzenegger

Budapest, 18 Aug — Arnold Schwarzenegger may have to say “Hasta la vista” to his role as Terminator if he becomes California’s governor, but “Terminator 3’s” producer said he could make another of the blockbuster films without him.

“It’s possible to go into this (Terminator 4) without Arnold. The drift of the movie isn’t just Schwarzenegger, but the whole idea of robotics,” producer Andrew G Vajna told a news conference on Friday ahead of the Hungarian premiere of “Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines.”

Polls show Schwarzenegger has a fair chance of being elected governor of California in elections on August 21. Vajna said there was no decision yet as to whether the Terminator series would be continued or not. “We wanted a good script — a fresh, interesting story worthy of the former Terminator movies, we will try to make the film,” Vajna said, adding that the film’s plot — machine against man — remains as exciting as ever.

“We depend on our and on the mercy of machines. What if we develop them and they start to think on their own and begin to have desires,” Vajna said. — MNA/Reuters

Citizens gather beside a broken water pipeline in Baghdad, Iraq, on 17 August, 2003. The pipeline which was broken by a suspected sabotage on Sunday morning has caused floods in nearby regions. — Xinhua

INHUA

The huge power outage, caused floods in nearby regions
Wave of sabotage hits Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 Aug— A fresh wave of sabotage and violence took its toll on Iraq on Sunday as a second blast hit a crucial oil export pipeline, a water pipeline was blown up and six Iraqis were killed in a mortar attack on a Baghdad prison.

A Danish soldier was killed as he tried to stop looting on Saturday and a Reuters cameraman was shot dead while working near a US-run prison on the outskirts of Bagdad.

Iraq’s crucial oil export pipeline to Turkey, which saboteurs attacked two days ago, was ablaze again on Sunday following another blast.

A North Oil Company official at the scene said it was caused by an explosion on Saturday night. The fire was near the site of Friday’s blaze which officials blamed on a bomb.

Iraq’s governor said on Sunday the country’s tottering economy was losing 77 million a day due to the attack on the pipeline.

In other violence, the US military said six Iraqis were killed and 59 wounded in a mortar bomb attack on a US-guarded prison in the nearby west outskirts of Baghdad on Saturday night.

“Three mortar rounds impacted the scene,” sources from the Turkish Pipeline Transportation (BOTAS) company’s report on the Saturday attack.

Three prisoners died on impact and three others died in hospital, a US Army spokesman said. About 500 Iraqi detainees, including common criminals and suspected anti-American guerillas, are being held at Abu Ghraib prison, which was one of Saddam Hussein’s most notorious jails.

It was not clear who was behind the attack.

750,000 barrels of Iraqi oil reach Turkey before halt

ANKARA, 18 Aug— A total of 750,000 barrels of Iraqi crude oil have reached the facilities in southern Turkey before the flow was stopped at the weekend due to fire and technical problems, the Anadolu news agency reported on Saturday.

Sources from the Turkish Pipeline Transportation (BOTAS) told reporters on Saturday that Turkey had received 750,000 barrels of crude oil since the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline was reopened on August 13.

“It is natural to have failures in the pipeline. These are the difficulties stemming from the war. The most important thing is resumption of oil pumping,” the sources said.

The oil pipeline linking the northern Iraqi oil field Kirkuk and the Turkish Mediterranean port of Yumurtalik carried a limited amount of oil from Iraq under the permission of the United Nations following the Gulf War in 1991. It was closed in March when the US-led coalition struck Iraq preemptively.

The 600-kilometre pipeline is expected to have a capacity of between 200,000 and 300,000 barrels of oil per day.

The US authorities in Baghdad are keen to get the Iraqi oil industry running at full capacity as quickly as possible in order to use the vast natural reserves to fund postwar reconstruction.

China donates $200,000 to Pakistan for flood relief

ISLAMABAD, 18 Aug— The Chinese Government Saturday donated 200,000 US dollars to Pakistan to support the country’s flood relief efforts.

This is the second donation made by China in the past two weeks. On August 7, the Chinese Red Cross made a donation of 50,000 dollars to Pakistan Red Crescent Society for the relief work.

The money will be spent on foodstuff, tents, blankets and clothing to be distributed in the flood-stricken areas in southern Pakistan.

Since late July, many districts in Sindh and Baluchistan provinces have experienced heavy rains and floods and suffered great casualties and loss of properties. About 200 people have died and nearly one million people have become homeless. The crops have also been affected badly—MNA/Ishtiaq

Heavy rains kill 95 in east India

NEW DELHI, 18 Aug— Heavy rains in the last several days had killed 95 people in India’s eastern state of Bihar, reported the Press Trust of India (PTI) on Saturday.

Officials in relief control room of the state said crops spread over 230,500 hectares and worth over 7.55 million US dollars were destroyed in the swirling waters while 10,066 houses were damaged in the floods, causing a loss of more than 1.08 million dollars.

Bush’s oil move backfires

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 19 August, 2003

In a dream ending for the chapter of history being written now in Iraq, neo-conservatives fantasised before the war about a privatised, pro-American Iraqi oil industry. This would have access to the world’s second largest hydrocarbon reserves and produce so much oil that Saudi Arabia, in charge of Opec, would lose its grip on petrol prices.

The world would then be swimming in inexpensive petroleum — the cost of which would be dictated by the market, not by an anti-American price-fixing club run by Riyadh. Low prices would also mean falling revenues for oil producers, which in the Middle East might precipitate the collapse of regimes hostile to the US. These hopes are now being dissipated like sand before the desert wind.

Oil is dripping, rather than pumping, from Iraq’s bomb-blasted oil industry. Sabotage and theft mean Iraq’s oil production remains at a fraction of the levels achieved under Saddam. With reconstruction failing to take off, there is little sign of a post-Ba’athist dividend in the form of low oil prices. The result is that US action in Iraq has not weakened Opec, and hence Saudi Arabia, but strengthened it.

Last week’s meeting of Opec ministers confirmed that with supplies being disrupted by political unrest in Venezuela and Nigeria, oil prices would remain where the Saudis want them to be — high. This is bad news for any putative global recovery and the US economy.

Every since Arab nations imposed an embargo on oil exports to America in 1973, the United States has tried, in theory, to wean itself off foreign oil. George Bush declared hydrocarbon independence a priority. But the real issue is not where the oil spurs from, but how much it costs to buy.

It politics is the pursuit of economics by other means, then Mr Bush needs now to display a deftness previously absent.

Oil ministers are already talking of cutting production, with the implicit, Exocet-shaped threat of rising petrol costs. Every major economic recession in the past 40 years has been preceded by a jump in the oil price. The Saudi foreign minister’s fury last week over a Congressional report that implicated his nation in terrorism will not have gone unnoticed. The neo-conservatives’ project for Opec has been exposed as counterproductive. Instead Washington will have to revert to diplomacy to win over Riyadh. The question is whether they do so by being crude — or by being refined.

Cathay Pacific flies in 1,000 VIPs for “Welcome Day” activities

HONG KONG, 18 Aug— Cathay Pacific Airways on Friday started to fly in nearly 1,000 VIP guests to join the “Hong Kong Welcomes You” spectacular this weekend staged by the Hong Kong Tourism Board.

This is part of a broader programme undertaken by the airline to support Hong Kong to rebuild the local tourism industry.

Cathay Pacific is flying in guests from 25 countries and regions. They are arriving from North America, South America, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Southeast and North Asian countries and regions.

The guests will take part in a number of sightseeing activities and attend the special “Hong Kong Welcome Day” extravaganza.

“Welcome Day” activities are part of the “Hong Kong Welcome Day” extravaganza. All these aim to showcase the best of Hong Kong and to promote the city’s status as a premium leisure and business destination.

Cathay Pacific’s ticket sponsorship for the “Hong Kong Welcome Day” is part of its ongoing commitment to support the local travel industry in rebuilding tourism. In July, it announced the donation of 10,000 air tickets to the Hong Kong Tourism Board to help bring foreign media, trade industry representatives and visitors to Hong Kong between now and early next year.

Additionally, it has donated two million Hong Kong dollars worth of air tickets as one of the grand prizes in the Tourism Board’s Hong Kong Super Draw, which runs from August 1 to September 30, 2003 — MNA/Ishtiaq

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Blair’s chief of staff faces Iraq inquiry

LONDON, 18 Aug — Prime Minister Tony Blair’s chief of staff faces a grilling on Monday over British Government claims about Iraq’s weapons threat when he takes the stand at an inquiry into the suicide of a bio-warfare expert David Kelly.

Jonathan Powell, one of Blair’s closest aides, will also be asked about Downing Street’s role in handling Kelly after he was identified as the suspected source of a BBC report that Britain exaggerated the danger from Iraq.

Doubts over Blair’s justification for war with Iraq and the suicide of the respected scientist have plunged the Prime Minister into the worst crisis of his six-year rule.

Kelly, a former UN inspector and an authority on Iraq’s biological and chemical weapons programmes, slashed his wrist after being forced to testify in public about his contacts with reporters in which he cast doubt on Blair’s pro-war claims.

The inquiry into his death has already heard that the scientist’s concerns were echoed by two senior defence intelligence experts who questioned allegations made in a September 2002 dossier on Iraqi weapons.

But none of the witnesses produced evidence to support a BBC journalist’s report that Blair’s communications chief Alastair Campbell played up a claim that Iraq could unleash banned weapons at 45-minute notice, knowing it was probably wrong.

The government’s angry denial that it “sexed up” a pre-war dossier on Iraq’s weapons to justify a war most Britons opposed, led to the mild-mannered Kelly being thrust into the limelight.

Campbell himself will give evidence to the inquiry, led by senior judge Lord Hutton, on Tuesday.

Blair’s trust ratings have plumbed as巨额 numbers, but we are presumed that billions of dollars are needed in Iraq’s governing council will present a list of projects and Iraq inquiry

Iraqi governing council to present projects list in September

BAGHDAD, 18 Aug — Iraq’s governing council will present a list of projects and according price tags to international donors by September, US supervisor in Iraq Paul Bremer said on Sunday. “In late September we will provide a catalogue of potential projects and their price tags,” Bremer said at the first meeting of the Council for International Coordination.

He said he expected the potential donor countries to make their pledge before a donor conference in October in Spain. Marek Belka, the chairman of the meeting, presumed that billions of dollars are needed to rebuild the war-torn country.

“I can’t talk about any specific numbers, but we are talking about billions,” he said. He also confirmed that most of the needed cash is expected to come from foreign countries, despite Iraq that had counted much on its oil export revenue.

Representatives from a dozen parties including the United States, Britain, Denmark, Italy, Japan, Jordan, and the United Nations attended the meeting.

Earlier in August, UN humanitarian coordinator Ramiro Lopez de Silva called for a donation of 5 billion dollars to fill an estimated gap in rebuilding Iraq.

He said a minimum of 20 billion dollars are needed in 2004 to keep the faltering Iraqi infrastructure from collapsing.

Danish soldier killed in battle with Iraqi looters

BASRA (Iraq), 18 Aug — A Danish soldier and two Iraqis were killed in southern Iraq in a gun battle between troops and a group of looters stealing power cables, a British Army spokesman said on Sunday.

Major Ian Poole said a routine Danish patrol west of Basra last Saturday evening tried to arrest eight people he said he had been looting copper cables. Shots were fired and in the ensuing gun battle the soldier and two of the Iraqis were killed.

The six other Iraqis were detained, Poole said.

A Danish spokesman, quoting Danes from the patrol who had been questioned by a Danish investigator, said Lance Corporal Preetam Pedersen, 34, might have been killed accidentally by one of his comrades.

“Soldiers involved in the shooting said that it could have been an accidental shot,” Kim Greenberger, press officer at Denmark’s Army Operational Command, told Reuters.

The Danish death was the first fatality of a coalition soldier from a country other than the United States or Britain since the start of the US-led war that toppled Saddam Hussein.

Denmark supported the US-led war — a decision that split both politicians and the people — and provided a submarine and a ship and now has 420 Danish troops stationed in southern Iraq, part of a multinational force in the area.

The Danish forces include a light infantry unit, medical staff and a mine clearance unit. British soldiers are responsible for policing Basra and surrounding towns.

Defence Minister Sven Aage Jentsy told Danish television Pedersen’s death would not prompt Denmark to bring its troops home, recalling no troops were brought home after three Danish soldiers died in Afghanistan in March last year.

Urging the United Nations to take a more central role in Iraq from now on, he said he expected the need for military presence in Iraq to remain.

“For a long time ahead there will be the need for considerable military engagement in the country,” he said.

Most attacks on occupying troops in Iraq have been concentrated in Baghdad and Sunni Muslim areas north and west of the Iraqi capital, but this month violence has also erupted in mainly Shiites southern Iraq.

A British soldier was killed and two were wounded on Thursday when explosives concealed in a Basra lamppost were detonated as a military ambulance drove past.

China-ASEAN trade volume increases 45.3% in first half year

WUHAN (Fujian Province), 18 Aug — Latest statistics from the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said the trade volume between China and the Association of South-East Asia Nations (ASEAN) in the first half of the year increased 45.3 per cent year-on-year to 34.24 billion US dollars.

Though China and ASEAN started economic and trade exchanges from a relatively low level, the trade cooperation between the two sides grows rapidly,” said Zhang Yunling, an expert with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

The MOC statistics also showed that the export from ASEAN to China grew 55.5 per cent to 20.47 billion US dollars during the first half of the year and export from China to ASEAN rose 32.4 per cent to 13.77 billion US dollars.

MOC said ASEAN members including Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines had invested in 982 projects in China with a contract value of 2.82 billion US dollars during the first half year.

As of the end of 2002, ASEAN members had invested in 19.731 projects and the total contract value had reached 58.09 billion US dollars. As China’s close neighbours, ASEAN members also attracted more and more Chinese enterprises. Statistics showed that China’s investment in the ASEAN countries is growing 60 per cent annually. As of June this year, China had invested in 922 projects in the ASEAN countries, with a contract value of 1.37 billion US dollars.

Zhang said although China and ASEAN countries differed in the level of economic development, the two sides were highly complementary.

Turkey ready to launch first small satellite

ANKARA, 18 Aug — Turkey’s first small satellite BILSAT will be launched from Russia in September 2003, reported the Anatolia news agency on Saturday. The news was revealed by Dr Erol Kocaoglan, director of the Information, Technologies and Electronics Research Institute of the Turkish Scientific and Technical Research Council. “This is a very important step in the history of our country,” he said.

From now on, we will start producing our satellites. Production activities of the BILSAT were carried out with the British Surrey University Satellite Technology Ltd and the satellite will be launched from Russia in September of 2003,” Kocaoglan was quoted as saying by the Anatolia.

A big pumpkin weighing more than 100 kilograms is shown at the Fourth Changchun International Agriculture and Food Fair in Changchun, capital of northeastern China’s Jilin Province, on 17 Aug, 2003. More than 2,000 kinds of agricultural products were shown at the fair, which attracted a large number of visitors.

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Myanmar Traditional Musical Instrument Exhibition

Myanmar traditional musical instruments exhibition organized by the Ministry of Culture is now being held at the multi-purpose hall of National Museum on Pyay Road, Yangon, for two weeks 9-22 August, daily from 10 am to 5 pm with free admission.

On the morning of 9 August, the ceremonial opening of the Exhibition took place at the entrance to the exhibition hall with the formal unveiling of the signboard by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Kyaw Nyunt. Present on the occasion were ministers, deputy ministers, diplomats of foreign missions and UN agencies in Yangon, high-ranking officials from Governmental departments, NGO representatives, doyen writers, professors and researchers from universities.

Secretary-1 and party and honoured guests viewed with keen interest traditional musical instruments of Myanmar nationalities displayed in different booths with captions and brief explanations in Myanmar and English. In the central Myanmar traditional orchestra booth 15 instruments that were used in the time of Myanmar kings are displayed. There are 21 instruments in the bronze instrument booth. 21 in the string instruments booth, 19 in the wind instruments made of skin, hide or leather, 61 in the wind instruments booth, 10 in the clappers booth, 9 in the booth of old Myanmar musicians’ instruments, and 35 in the booth of other musical instruments.

As centre pieces displayed in the centre of the exhibition hall are musical instruments of extraordinary size with exquisite designs such as the Medicine drum, Shan traditional long tailed drum, Kachin Manao drum, Setalongpaing drum of Hanawt race made some 300 years ago, Mon traditional brass gong circle and bamboo xylophone gilt and glass mosaiced.

Secretary-1 and guests were entertained to an hour-long programme of playing of their traditional musical instruments by Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Kayan and Shan performing artists. Visitors to the exhibition are given performances of music, songs and dances of Myanmar ethnic nationalities on the spacious stage in the hall and booklets about the exhibits are on sale at the counters.

Myanmar traditional musical instruments are classified under five categories—(1) ksey or bronze, brass or any non-precious metal (2) kyo or string (3) thaye or skin, hide or leather (4) ley or wind and (5) let or clapper. Ksey, thaye and let khop belong to percussion instrument category.

Myanmar musical scale has seven tones, representing the voices or tones of seven auspicious animals which are traditionally mentioned as producers of seven tones. They are (1) Bull which produces the Usabha tone (2) Horse which produces the Dhewata tone (3) Peacock which produces the Chaiga tone (4) Goat which produces the Gandhara tone (5) Crane which produces the Majjhima tone (6) Cuckoo which produces the Panzana tone and (7) Elephant which produces the Nisada tone. These seven tones are given Myanmar musical terms as (1) Pyi daw p'yan (2) Chauk thwe nyunt (3) Duraka (4) Myint saing (5) Elephant which produces the Nisada tone. These seven tones are called the Gandhara tone (5) crane which produces the Majjhima tone (2) Dauk naung (3) horse which produces the Usabha tone and (4) Pat naung (drum circle) are favourite subjects.

Myanmar music and musical instruments have been the subject of serious study at home and abroad since the time of ancient Pyus (1st to 9th century AD). Three court painters recorded Pyu cultural performances in a long article entitled Pyauk Pyan (New Series) vol. VII part 1-2, 1959. The first chronicler was a court painter named Po-Chu who was the imperial secretary on the occasion, the second chronicler was also a court painter named Pyaw Wei-chih and the third was the commander Wei-kao.

The two poet chroniclers recorded Pyu cultural performances in verses and the commander who was also the court painter noted down Pyu music in notation and Pyu dances, their costumes and musical instruments in paintings.

Based upon these Chinese records two European musicologists DE Twitchett and AH Christe jointly produced their research work in a long article entitled Medieval Myanmar Orchestra which was published in the Journal Asia Major (New Series) vol. VII part 1-2, 1959. Their article provides us with full information on Pyu music, dance and musical instruments with sketches of music scale and instruments. U Yee Sein (Mr Tang Yee Sein) a research officer of Myanmar Musicology wrote and published a book named Myanmar Music: A preliminary Enquiry in it he gives the following diagram to explain Myanmar 7 tone musical scale:}

![Myanmar Musical Instrument Exhibition Diagram](image)

There are traditional treatments on Myanmar music and musical instruments in manuscripts on palm leaf and folding papers (parabike) as well as many research works in the form of articles, books or dissertations by local and foreign scholars who study music and musical instruments of Myanmar ethnic nationalities. Myanmar harps and patwaing (drum circle) are favourite subjects.

The current exhibition of Myanmar traditional musical instruments gives us a good chance to take a careful glance at the exhibits and enjoy performances of instrumentalists to understand Myanmar traditional music.

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**Waso robes offered**

**Yangon,** 18 Aug—The ceremony to donate cash and kind to departments, social organizations and towns under Section 15/19(a) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Bhamo Police Station, acting on information, lay in wait near the Strand Road, Minkyaungkon Ward, Yangon West Division Police Force, Yangon West District Police Force and departments and social organizations in Pabedan Township under Section of 15/19(a) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Bhamo Police Station.

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**Cash and kind donated to departments, social organizations**

**Yangon,** 18 Aug—A ceremony to donate cash and kind to departments and social organizations in Yangon Township was held at the Mingalar hall of Chola Jermay mosque, attended by No 4 Military Police Command, Deputy Minister from Ministry of Tourism, and the commander of Bhamo Police Station. The ceremony was administered by the Five Precepts. Wellwishers Police Brig-Gen Aung Nwe (Retd) and officials offered Waso robes and offerings to the Sayadaws.

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**17.89 grams of heroin seized**

**Yangon,** 18 Aug—A combined team comprising members of Local Intelligence Unit, Bhamo Special Anti-Drug Squad and Bhamo Police Station, acting on information, lay in wait near the Strand Road, Minkyaungkon Ward, Yangon West Division Police Force, Yangon West District Police Force and departments and social organizations in Pabedan Township under Section of 15/19(a) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Bhamo Police Station.

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**San Lin, U Cho Tu, U Than Maung, U Tin Maung and U Aung Myint donated stationery worth of K 565,000, 10 bicycles and K 48,0000 to Yangon Division Police Force.**

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**Tranquilizer bullet seized**

**Yangon,** 18 Aug—During the ceremony to donate cash and kind to departments and social organizations in Yangon Township was held at the Mingalar hall of Chola Jermay mosque, attended by No 4 Military Police Command, Deputy Minister from Ministry of Tourism, and the commander of Bhamo Police Station. The ceremony was administered by the Five Precepts. Wellwishers Police Brig-Gen Aung Nwe (Retd) and officials offered Waso robes and offerings to the Sayadaws. — MNA

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**Police Brig-Gen Aung Nwe offers Waso robes to Sayadaw.**

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**Insein Ywama (West) Ward here yesterday morning, attended by five Ovadacarya Sayadaws and Patrons, the Chairman and executives of Buddha Pajaniya 9900 Offering Association, wellwishers and invited guests.**

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**Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Kwttmoni monastery Presiding Sayadaw Panyawo and other officers administered the Five Precepts.**

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**Wellwishers Police Brig-Gen Aung Nwe (Retd) and officials offered Waso robes and offerings to the Sayadaws. — MNA**

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A sovereign nation is an independent one that can serve the interests of her people and country by herself under her own crown uninfluenced by other countries. And it can determine its own future. That means it is free from outside interference or aggression or hegemonism or domination. When the nation is able to exercise the sovereign powers, fundamental human rights of the citizens and democracy rights that can create peace and prosperity of the people can be enjoyed fully. (These may not be the same as democracy and human rights often advocated by them. Those foreign countries have their own rights to exercise political and economic systems of their choice. We also have our own rights to determine the political and economic systems that are in accordance with our historical traditions, national character, culture and nature and can create peace and prosperity of the entire people. It is not with sincere intention that the foreign countries are instructing us what to do and what not to do. The world has been aware of the fact that they are interfering in the internal affairs of other countries for their selfish interests.)

There are over 200 or about 300 countries of large medium and small sizes in the world. Let us look only at the number of the UN member countries. A total of 191 countries have been in the organization up to date. Hundreds of countries were invaded and enslaved for hundreds of years by the capitalist and colonialist countries of more than a dozen. Myanmar was also included in the list of the colonized countries.

With the invented excuses, the capitalist countries invaded and colonized other nations rich in oil, timber, gold, silver, diamond, gems, minerals and industrial raw materials as they had industries but lacked natural resources, and they did so in search of markets for their products.

If we study books about the world nations, we will find that most of the countries were subjected to foreign interference, invasion and colonization. Myanmar, for instance, has been subjected to the interference of foreign countries since the Toungoo and Kongboung eras. In spite of being a king capable of, King Tabinshwehti of Toungoo was addicted to alcohol introduced to him by foreigners and consequently he was assassinated.

Foreigners who entered Myanmar during the Komboung era trafficked opium into the country. King Bodaw Phaya had to introduce laws and issue orders to ban trafficking in and abuse of opium. First, merchants entered the countries bringing their money. They sought the privilege of being a king capable of, King Tabinshwehti of Toungoo was addicted to alcohol introduced to him by foreigners and consequently he was assassinated.

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Banking services inspected

U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and officials, inspected the Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank on Merchant Street this evening. At the training hall of the bank, the minister met managing directors, general managers, and officials from the Myanmar Economic Bank, the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank, and the Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank. At his meeting with them, the minister gave instructions on offering prompt services in accord with banking rules and regulations—MNA

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

Efficient use of fuel

* Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
* Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US$ 5.5 million in a year
* The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

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

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

Musical Instruments Exhibition goes on

YANGON, 18 Aug — The Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments Exhibition, organized by the Ministry of Culture, continued today for the tenth day at the National Museum. Visitors are entertained at the exhibition with the practical playing of traditional musical instruments. Today, the exhibition attracted more than 600 people including, monks, students, and foreigners.

F&R Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun meets with officials at Myanmar Investment and Commercial Bank. — mna
Efforts to be made for...

He said the government is building dams and reservoirs, spending a large sum of money not because the country is rich and it receives a lot of external assistance. The government gets no assistance for that purpose. Despite obstacles, it constructs the dams in the interest of the people only.

Development infrastructures such as dams and reservoirs, major bridges across the rivers and creeks and electric power project in the whole country were successfully built and undertaken by national intellects and intelligentsia. Without any assistance from foreign countries, the government spent K 23,000 million on behalf of local people, to strive for promoting agricultural tasks and systematic and to make arrangements for boosting production in accordance with the instructions of the State. In conclusion, he said local people are to strive for promoting agricultural tasks and underground socioeconomic making effective use of the newly-opened Chaungmagyi Dam,

He urged all farmers in rural areas to make a continuous effort for boosting production in accordance with the instructions of the State. He also said the government is systematically and to make arrangements for development of the agriculture sector for boosting production of beans produce surplus rice, to boost production of beans and pulses, cotton, sugarcane, jute and to extend growing of groundnut, sesame and sunflower for edible oil as well as the state to contribute to the national and development through the irrigation facilities with a sense of duty. He also thanked the local people, to strive for the construction of dams and sluice gates for boosting production.

Mayor General Tin gives a speech. He said promoting the efficiency in the agriculture sector, which is en- powered with major strength for development of the State, will contribute to boosting production and this will lead to food sufficiency in the State and earn more foreign currency. Moreover, benefits gained from agricultural production will be used for boosting the development of the State, on the one hand, and for the other, to contribute to the national and development of the State. Networks of the State, and to effectively use water of the dam for boosting production.

Then, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin made a speech. He said promoting the efficiency in the agriculture sector, which is endowed with major strength for development of the State, will contribute to boosting production and this will lead to food sufficiency in the State and earn more foreign currency. Moreover, benefits gained from agricultural production will be used for boosting the development of the State, on the one hand, and for the other, to contribute to the national and development of the State. Networks of the State, and to effectively use water of the dam for boosting production.

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He said the government is building dams and sluice gates and implementing river water pumping project and underground water tapping project in accord with the requirements of each region. A total of 150 dams including the present one have emerged under the present regime. The government spent K 63.400 million on construction of 150 dams which benefit a total of 2.69 million acres of farmlands. These dams serve the interest of the farmers. In Bago Division there are now 38 dams. The government spent K 23,000 million on the dams which benefit over 590,000 acres of farmlands. Dams including Yenwe, Phyuchaung and Khabaung Dams and six sluice gates are under construction. Arrangements are being made for construction of another eight dams. The government has constructed in Bago Division (East). Building the dam is aimed at extended supply of raw materials to sugar factories. Moreover, the sugro-based industries present not only floods in the region in the rainy season, but also the inflow of sea water to 87,000 acres of cultivable land in summer. The Khabaung, Pyu and Yenwe dams, all of which are still under construction, will also benefit 376.500 acres of farmland when completed. They will also generate 130 megawatts of electricity. Furthermore, the completion of Zwebat and Shwebyaw sluice gates will also benefit 75,000 acres of land. The dam opened today is the 150th dam, built by the dam project being implemented under the charge of the State Peace and Development Council. For Bago Division, it is the 38th dam. Then, the commander, on behalf of local people, expressed thanks to the Head of the State for the construction of dams and sluice gates in the region. He also expressed gratitude to the people of the division to maintain the irrigation facilities with a sense of duty. A local also thanked the State Peace and Development Council.

Next, the Secretary-1 presented awards to служитель personnel who contributed to the construction of the dam. And Brig-Gen Ko Maing Nyunt formally opened the dam.

After that, Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt and party then went to the Shwenaga automobile factory in the Meiktila industrial zone, where they inspected the production of Meiktila jeeps.

At the hall of the industrial zone, the Secretary-1 met industrialists and attended to their requirements. The Secretary-1 later gave instructions, saying that with the gradual development in the auto manufacturing industry, entrepreneurs are gaining experience and their products win markets.

He continued that the Government is rendering every necessary assistance to the development of industrial zones and the success of auto-mobile industries. Industrial exhibitions were organized and the auto-manufacturing assembly made vehicles was also held in Yangon, he continued.

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Myanmar swimming team fetches one gold, four silver, two bronze in Vietnam

YANGON, 18 Aug — Myanmar swimming team bagged seven medals — one gold, four silver, and two bronze — in the first open swimming competition held in Vietnam from 10 to 15 August 2003.

The Myanmar team made up of four youth swimmers, with Myanmar Swimming Federation Vice-Chairman U Kyaw Soe as team manager and Sports and Physical Education Department Assistant Director U Than Kyaw Nyunt as instructor, took part the competition.

Aung Kyaw Moe won gold medal in the U/13/14 open 50-metre swimming contest, and one silver each in the 100-metre and 200-metre swimming contests.

Ye Myint Hein fetched one silver in the U/10 youth 200-metre individual four-stroke swimming contest, and one bronze in the 100-metre backstroke event.

Yan Lin Aung also got one silver in the Aged-15/16/17 100-metre event, and one bronze in the 50-metre event.

Kyaw Zin stood fifth in the Aged-13/14 50-metre event, fifth in the 100-metre event, and sixth in the 100-metre backstroke event.

Over 400 swimmers from the host Vietnam, Myanmar, China, Malaysia, and Singapore took part in the competition. — MNA

Paunglaung dam project inspected in Pyinmana

YANGON, 18 Aug — Lt-Gen Ye Myint, member of the State Peace and Development Council, accompanied by Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council, arrived at the Paunglaung dam project in Pyinmana, Yamethin District, Mandalay Division, yesterday.

At the briefing hall of the project, Director U Win Maung of the construction group-5 of the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation reported on the construction of the main embankment of the dam, the supply of machinery, and future tasks.

Director U Soe Myint of the construction group-1 of the Hydro-electric Power Department under the Ministry of Electric Power also reported on the construction of the hydel power station, the availability of machinery, and progress of work.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions and inspected the earth work being carried out with the use of heavy machinery.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party looked into the construction works being carried out at the project, and heard reports.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions to officials, and left the project at 9.30 am.

The Paunglaung dam project is located near Kyitaung Village, 11 miles to the east of Pyinmana, Yamathin District, Mandalay Division. On completion, the project will generate 280 megawatts of electricity and will also benefit a total of 35,000 acres of farmland.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at the local battalion of Pyinmana Station at 9.45 am.

They inspected the agriculture and livestock breeding work conducted by the families of the local battalion on a manageable scale. Officials reported on matters related to investments, expenditures and profits.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met officers and other ranks of the battalion and their families, giving instructions on welfare activities, agriculture and livestock breeding work to be carried out on a manageable scale, the participation in regional development tasks.

He then cordially greeted the families of the battalion. — MNA

Rural people of Taungdwingyi get access to clean water

The supply of potable water in rural areas is one of the guidelines drawn up by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe concerning the five rural development tasks.

Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, Col Zaw Min, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council, and Col Myo Myint, Director-General of the Development Affairs Department, attended the billboard-erecting ceremony held at the junction of the Myoma market in Taungdwingyi on 6 August morning to mark the success of the availability of safe drinking water in Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Division.

Col Thein Nyunt unveiled the commemorative signboard for the availability of potable drinking water in the township. On the occasion, Col Thein Nyunt said that among the five rural development tasks, it is incumbent on the ministry to implement the two tasks — to improve the rural transport system and to supply potable water to rural areas — in line with the guidance of the Head of State. A ten-year plan is being carried out in three divisions in the arid zone and 14 other states and divisions to ensure the safe drinking water there. The plan is now being put on the fast-track for earlier completion ahead of schedule by using the money from the State’s revenue, the funds of the development affairs department, and the contributions of wellwishers.

In accord with the plan, a total of 1,469 villages in Magway Division have to be supplied with drinking water. Altogether K 310,725 million and US$ 10,000 were spent on the supply of drinking water for 775 villages.

In Taungdwingyi Township, potable water has been supplied to a total of 33,108 households with a population of 245,000 in 275 villages in 72 villages-tracts.

The Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources and Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation unveiled the commemorative signboard for the availability of safe drinking water in the township on 6 August morning, to mark the success of the availability of safe drinking water in Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Division.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at the local battalion of Paunglaung Station at 9.45 am.

They inspected the agriculture and livestock breeding work conducted by the families of the local battalion on a manageable scale. Officials reported on matters related to investments, expenditures and profits.

They later met with the officers and other ranks of the battalion and their families, giving instructions on welfare activities, agriculture and livestock breeding work to be carried out on a manageable scale, the participation in regional development tasks.

They then cordially greeted the families of the battalion. — MNA

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt inspects Chaungmway Dam (Myohla) in Yeda Township, Bago Division.

Minister for PHANRDA Col Thein Nyunt unveils the signboard announcing that rural people in Taungdwingyi Township have access to clean water. — PHANRDA

Article by Maung Sibin, and Photo by PBANRDA
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

Seiknyan river water pumping project which is being implemented at an estimated cost of K 2,066 million will benefit 10,000 acres of land in Seiknyan, KyunU, Kaleinchon, Nyaungbin, Nyaungkan, Kywegyan and Dawnhit villages of Myingyan District.

PHOTO: AGRICULTURE

Lanqho Bridge which will be opened soon: The bridge, 290 feet long and 24 feet wide with 3 feet wide pedestrian lanes on both sides, is built in Daseik village in Langkho Township, Shan State (South). — PHOTO: THWIN AYE (KYEMON)

Carriage and Wagon Workshop in Myitng: The workshop is producing spare parts for locomotives, undertaking repair work and innovating new items of machinery in accord with the guidance of the Head of State.

PHOTO: YE CHIN MYINT
Claims Day Notice

MV Kota Mutiara Voy No (029)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA Voy No (029) are here by notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-8-03 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT (1) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and in the event of damage to a cargo manifest then the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

Shipping Agency Department

Myanmar Port Authority

Agent For: M/S Advance Container Line

Phone: 2566808/378316/376797

Measles still threatens developing countries

Kampala, 18 Aug — Uganda’s National Expanded Programme for Immunization (UNEPI) has said developing countries, mostly African states, account for 45 million cases of measles annually despite the global measles immunization coverage of 80 per cent. A report compiled by the UNEPI said measles is ranked fourth in causing morbidity and mortality among children.

Globally, measles still accounts for 9.5 per cent of annual deaths among children less than five years old and is a lead cause of vaccine preventable diseases. The UNEPI announced that a national mass measles immunization is scheduled for the third week of October this year in Uganda.

MNA/Xinhua

First Icelandic whale ship resumes hunting

Reykjavik, 18 Aug — Icelandic whale hunters slipped out of port in the early hours of Sunday to pursue their first catch of the large sea mammals in 14 years, after stormy winds prevented them from sailing on Saturday.

“We are out,” said Gunnar Johannsson, captain of the Sigrjorhjor, one of the three vessels commissioned by the Icelandic Marine Research Institute to catch minke whales.

“We are planning to begin whaling but I won’t tell you anything else,” he said.

Many environmentalist groups and governments have criticized Iceland’s decision to resume whaling. An international moratorium on the activity has been in place since 1986.

Three whaling boats have been authorized to catch a total of 38 minke whales for what Iceland describes as scientific purposes—primarily the impact on fish stocks.

According to Johannsson, the first of the three vessels left port at about 0035 GMT. There was no report of the other two ships’ movements.

Iceland says it must control whales to protect fish stocks and protect the livelihood of the country’s fishermen. An estimated 43,000 minke whales are believed to live in its waters, eating two million tons of fish and krill every year.

MNA/Reuters

Portugal brings last forest fires under control

Luzen, 18 Aug — The forest fires, which have in two weeks destroyed one of the two largest forests in the southern Algarve tourist region, have been put out, the National Fire and Civil Protection Service of Portugal announced on Saturday.

“Everything has been put down by now,” Commander Joao Abrantes of the Service told reporters. He said he was relieved at the end of the most dangerous fire-fighting season in the Iberian country.

However, firefighters and the military remain on alert in order to prevent a re-eruption of the fires, Abrantes said.

The forest fires in Portugal have destroyed 215,000 hectares of vegetation so far this year, almost the size of Luxembourg, and have also led to 18 deaths and 65 arrests, according to local reports. Should these figures be officially confirmed, the fires in 2003 would have set the highest record of woodlands burned up in the last 23 years.

MNA/Xinhua
Chinese officials leave for Harvard training

BEIJING, 18 Aug—Fifty-nine Chinese officials from regional governments left Beijing on Saturday to take a six-week training course on public administration and international development issues.

The education mission is expected to help those officials improve their skills in solving public management strategies and analysis, the English-language newspaper China Daily reported on Saturday.

The trip is part of a “China Leaders in Development Programme” kicked off by the State Council Development Research Centre, a think tank for the Chinese central government. Beijing-based Tsinghua University and Harvard University last year.

According to the programme, around 100 Chinese local officials will be trained each year until 2006.

China Daily/MNA/Reuters

Report says Colombia cops sold informants to drug traffickers

BOGOTA (Colombia), 18 Aug — Two Colombian police officers sold the identity of informants working for the US Drug Enforcement Administration to drug traffickers, who hunted them down and killed them, according to a police intelligence report cited in a newspaper on Saturday.

The two officers, a captain and a lieutenant, received roughly 140,000 US dollars for the names of three informants in the Caribbean city of Barranquilla late last year.

The informants’ mutilated bodies were found shortly afterward, helping to detonate a scandal that has led to the removal of 20 police officers and the resignation of the former police chief from the Barranquilla area.

The police intelligence report also said the two officers negotiated the return of three tons of cocaine that had been confiscated after a tip-off by the informants to the DEA.

According to the report, drug traffickers paid them more than 600,000 US dollars for the cocaine, which had a US street value of about 50 million US dollars.

A police spokesman said he could not confirm the accuracy of the El Tiempo story but authorities have in recent weeks spoken publicly about the return of the drugs and the killing of the informants.

The scandal has set off a purge in Colombia’s police force, which has been shaken by several high profile corruption cases in recent years, including the theft of roughly 140,000 US dollars for the names of three informants.

MNA/Reuters

China mobilizes to tackle gender imbalance

BEIJING, 18 Aug—China’s population department launched an action Friday in an effort to tackle the gender ratio imbalance that is especially serious in some rural and underdeveloped regions.

Gender discrimination against females is quite common in many rural and underdeveloped areas, which has led to artificial choice of new-born babies’ gender by ultra-sound wave. This has reduced the number of female new-born babies.

The imbalance of the ratio between new-born males and female babies has affected the population structure in China to some extent, said Zhao Bingli, Vice-Minister of the State Population and Family Planning Commission.

“Friday’s launching ceremony of the action to care for girls. According to the fifth national census conducted in 2000, the ratio of new-born males per 100 females in China has reached 119.2, which is much higher than the normal ratio between new-born males per 100 females in China 2000, the ratio of new-born males per 100 females in China has reached 119.2, which is much higher than the normal ratio.

Zhou urged the population departments to emphasize more on adjusting China’s population structure and eliminating gender discrimination beginning with pregnancy and by showing more care for girls.

The new action is to promote the idea of gender equality and improve the living environment of girls through the country’s widespread family planning network.

As part of the action, the commission sent a team of medical experts, who will visit noted family planning workers and medical experts, to the vast western regions Friday after the ceremony. They will travel to five provinces and autonomous regions including north China’s Hebei Province and Inner Mongolia, as well as Ningxia, Gansu and Qinghai in the northwest.

MNA/Xinhua

Air India posts record profit

New York City regains full electrical power

New York, 18 Aug—New York City regained full electrical power late on Friday, nearly 29 hours after the US metropolis found itself in the grips of the worst blackout in North American history, utility officials said.

“It was restored from 11 pm (0100 GMT) to all 3.1 million customers in New York City and Westchester,” said Michael Clendenin, spokesman for Consolidated Edison Co of New York Inc.

MNA/Reuters

Pakistan declines Indian offer to deal with oil spill hazard

Isla Marn, 18 Aug — Pakistan has declined to accept the Indian offer of assistance to deal with the environmental hazard caused by the breaking of a Greek oil tanker carrying over 60,000 tons of crude oil, saying it is well equipped to deal with the crisis.

“Pakistan is well equipped to deal with such a crisis and has no plans to seek external help,” Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan said reacting to the Indian offer of assistance to deal with the massive oil spill off Karachi port.

“We appreciate the offer of assistance made by India, but we have referred to the concerned authorities in Pakistan. Since our authorities are well-equipped to deal with the situation created by the breaking of a Greek oil tanker off the coast of Karachi, we are not seeking any external assistance at the moment,” he told reporters.

India had on Thursday extended technical assistance to deal with the environmental and other hazards created by the oil spill by a Greek registered tanker off the Karachi port.

MNA/PTI
**Rangers back on song, cruise for Celtic**

**GLASGOW, 18 Aug.—** Scottish champions Rangers bounced back from their unimpressive Champions League draw against FC Copenhagen by coming from behind to win 3-2 in a fiery league encounter at Aberdeen on Saturday.

Alex McLeish’s side — who were booted off the pitch Wednesday’s 1-1 draw with Copenhagen in the final qualifying first leg — looked likely to endure more misery when Austrian striker David Žalčič put the home side ahead on 24 minutes. But Rangers did not panic and goals from Ronald de Boer, Milor Adžija and Michael Mols handed the visitors a three-point cushion with just under 14 minutes left.

Defender Henning Bengt to fire Aberdeen ahead courtesy of a ricochet off goalkeeper Stefan Klos, Rangers assumed control and De Boer levelled on 38 minutes after Michael Ball’s free kick had wallopped the ball.

There was almost a bust-up between opposing players but Rangers remained focused and young Spanish midfielder Artozka handed them the lead on 43 minutes before Mols added a third with a low drive 15 minutes later.

De Boer had scored a goal to complete the rout by also finding the net with a deflected shot from midfielder Jerome Leroy.

In an interview with Chelsea TV, Mutu said he hoped to make the squad for the match at Anfield on Sunday’s Premier League opener against Liverpool.

Mutu agreed personal terms with Chelsea earlier this week but his 15.8 million-point (25.30-million-dollar) move from Parma could not be completed because of a public holiday in Italy on Friday, according to Chelsea’s official web site.

But international clearance is not tied to office hours, the club said, and could still come through from the Italian FA in time for Mutu to make his debut at Anfield.

Mutu flew into England on Thursday and trained with his new teammates after their return from Slovakia, where they beat MSK Zilina 2-0 in the first leg of their Champions League qualifier on Wednesday.

In an interview with Chelsea TV, Mutu said he hoped to make the squad for the match at Anfield on Sunday after spending three weeks in summer training with Parma and playing in three matches.

Mutu, 24, scored 18 goals in 30 Serie A Games for Parma last season and is considered to be one of Europe’s most dynamic strikers.

The club said he would take the number seven shirt.

His arrival took Chelsea’s spending to 74.3 million pounds since the club was bought by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich at the start of May.

Last week Argentine midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron joined from Manchester United for 15 million pounds along with English midfielder Joe Cole who cost 6.6 million pounds from West Ham United.

**Rapid, Steaua draw 1-1 in Bucharest derby**

**BUCHAREST, 18 Aug.—** Steaua Bucharest’s Adrian Pitu gave Rapid Bucharest a 1-1 draw against defending champions Rapid Bucharest in the first derby of the Romanian season on Sunday.

Pitu, a 36th-minute replacement for injured striker Laurentiu Dinata, equalized with a header from a corner shot by Romanian international Adrian Mutu.

Bucharest's victory was never in doubt courtesy of a ricochet off goalkeeper Stefan Klos, Rangers assumed control and De Boer levelled on 38 minutes after Michael Ball’s free kick had wallopped the ball.
Greetings Myanmar # # # # # ! Monday, 18 August, 2003 Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST; During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy to cloudy in Kachin State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayah State and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls in lower Saping. Bago, Mandalay and Magway Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Bago (4.53) inches, Hkamti (2.28) inches, PyinUThwin (2.17) inches, Shwebo (2.13) inches, Kayal (1.81) inches, Muang and 9.08 inches each. Maximum temperature on 18-7-2003 was 32.0°C (90°F). Minimum temperature on 18-7-2003 was 19.0°C (66°F). Relative humidity at 9-30 hrs MST on 18-7-2003 was 84.2% at Yango, 17.0% at Nay Pyi Taw, 74.9% at Mandalay, 53.5% at Pyin U Thwin and 71.8% at Pyin Oo Lwin. Daily rainfall on 18-7-2003 was 0.5 mm at Yango, 0.7 mm at Ayeyarwaddy (5.97 inches) at Yangon, 1716 mm (65.56 inches) at Bago-Aye and 1742 mm (68.58 inches) at Pyin U Thwin. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Bago-Aye) was 11 m/s from Southwest at (15:15) hours MST on 17-8-2003. Bayan Inference: Monsoon is marginally moderate in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 19-8-2003. Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Mon and Kayin States, Yangon, Ayeawady and Tanintharyi Divisions and Bago and Mandalay Areas. Degree of certainty is (100%). State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain in various areas. Areas Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-8-2003: One or two rains or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-8-2003: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (50%).
**Four political objectives**
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

**Four economic objectives**
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

**Four social objectives**
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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**Secretary-1 inspects Myanma Farm Equipment Factory in Kyaukse Township**

**YANGON, 18 Aug—** Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin and officials, on 16 August, arrived at Myanma Farm Equipment Factory of the Agricultural Mechanization Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Ingon Village, Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division.

They were welcomed there by Director-General of AMD U Win Maw, Factory Manager U Aung Myint and staff.

First, at the meeting hall of the factory, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported on the salient points of the factory, machines installed at the factory and arrangements being made for production of farm equipment.

Next, Director-General U Win Maw reported on allocation of workshops at the factory, arrangements being made for production of 10,000 power tillers and 5,000 harvesters per year, and production of farm equipment by each workshop to the Secretary-1, who gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 presented fruit baskets to Chinese technicians at the factory.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the laboratory and quality control division of the factory.

— MNA

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**Lt-Gen Ye Myint tours Mandalay Division**

**YANGON, 18 Aug—** Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, together with officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, members of Mandalay Division Agricultural Mechanization Department and party inspected the Myanma Farm Equipment Factory of the Agricultural Mechanization Department in Kyaukse, Mandalay Division.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party inspected harvesters produced by the factory.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected No1 Workshop, No 2 Workshop, No 3 Workshop, No 4 Workshop, and Iron-Smelting Workshop where Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin and officials conducted them round.

— MNA

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**Lt-Gen Ye Myint gives instruction on Myitnge Bridge (Mandalay) Construction Project.**

**YANGON—** Lt-Gen Ye Myint, together with officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, members of Mandalay Division Agricultural Mechanization Department and party inspected dredging of Bobay Creek and thriving of summer and monsoon paddy near the creek.

At 3:25 pm, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived at Myitnge Bridge construction project site.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on timely completion of the work, workers safety and minimizing loss and wastage.

After inspecting the construction tasks, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party left the construction site for Mandalay.

— MNA