Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends message of felicitations to Macedonia

YANGON, 8 Sept — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Branko Crvenkovski, Prime Minister of the Republic of Macedonia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Macedonia which falls on 8th September, 2003. — MNA

Prime Minister addresses special meeting No 2/2003 of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control

YANGON, 7 Sept — The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control held its special meeting No 2/2003 at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Home Affairs this morning, with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, ministers, the Attorney-General, deputy ministers, the Deputy Chief Justice, the Deputy Attorneys-General, members of the CCDAC, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, guests and others.

In his address, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that the successive governments have been making constant efforts for elimination of poppy cultivation and narcotic drug production. The government has speeded up drug elimination tasks systematically. Nowadays, peace and tranquility prevailed in the regions where poppy was grown and drug produced in the past in the absence of peace and tranquility. Significant progress has been made in those regions in eradication of poppy cultivation and drug production, with the participation of local people and national race leaders in accord with the policy of the government. The national race leaders in cooperation with the government are striving for regional development and improvement of the living standard of local people. At the same time, they are making efforts for elimination of narcotic drug, the evil legacy of colonialists, in the regions under the leadership of the government.

The government laid down 15-year drug elimination plan in 1999 and has been implementing it. At present, it reached the last year of the first 5-year plan of the 15-year plan. The New Destiny Project has been laid down as part of the main 15-year plan in 2002-2003 fiscal year to successfully implement the drug elimination projects.

In poppy cultivation and drug production, only drug dealers made much of profits and became prosperous. The innocent farmers could not make ends meet. Thus, in destroying the poppy plantations under the New Destiny Project, seeds of poppy substitute crops were distributed to farmers free of charge on humanitarian grounds, and was reclaimed by the governmental departments, and provisions were given to farmers free of charge. The government has been fulfilling the food, clothing and shelter needs of the poppy growers while taking measures for spiritual development of the latter. The government has been making efforts on self-reliance basis in elimination of poppy cultivation as well as in fulfilling the basic needs of the poppy farmers with its own funds. Some big nations which made accusations, saying that there is poppy growing and drug production in Myanmar, have not provided any aid to Myanmar in connection with the drug elimination project.

Far from giving aid to Myanmar, the big nations turned a blind eye to the efforts for drug elimination in Myanmar. However, Myanmar in cooperation with the US and the UNODC conducted the opium yield survey. In the reports of those organizations, it was stated that there had been a decrease in poppy cultivation and poppy yield year by year. Myanmar in cooperation with the US conducted the opium yield survey in March 2003. In cooperation with the UNODC, Myanmar conducted ground survey on poppy cultivation from January to March 2003 in 50 townships in Shan State (South), Shan State (North) and Shan State (East) including six townships of Wa region. According to the ground survey, there were 81,400 hectares of poppy plantations in 2002 in Myanmar and there were 62,200 hectares of poppy plantations in 2002 with a decrease of 24 per cent. The poppy cultivation practice was the evil legacy of colonialists and the national races in border areas earned their living by growing poppy for years. It is encouraging to see that there is a decrease in poppy cultivation in a short period in poppy elimination drive being carried out on humanitarian grounds.

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

Monday, 8 September, 2003

Take part in UN Literacy Decade

The 8th of September is the International Literacy Day. The World Literacy Congress was held in Teheran, Iran, from 8th to 19th September 1963, and 8 September was designated as International Literacy Day. Since then, ceremonies to mark the International Literacy Day have been held yearly throughout the world.

In Myanmar, the International Literacy Day has been celebrated since 1969. In honour of the Literacy movement launched in Myanmar, the UNESCO presented Mohamad Riza Palabi Award to the nation in 1971 and, again on the International Literacy Day in 1983, Noma Award was presented.

There are more than 860 million illiterate adults in the world today and over 113 million children have no opportunity to pursue their education. Therefore, the UN General Assembly designated the period from 2003 to 2012 as the United Nations Literacy Decade and literacy campaigns will be launched with added momentum country-wise.

Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation is one of the twelve objectives laid down by the State.

One of the Myamna educational goal is to practise an education system that can create a constant learning society.

The Ministry of Education is implementing the formal Education and non-formal Education Programme. As a result, success has been achieved in the constant educational plan that includes basic literacy campaign and constant learning that lovers income generation and life security.

In the higher education sector, institutes for human resource development have emerged, and altogether 481 basic literacy and local education centres have come into existence in the basic education sector. This is the result of constant efforts to fix the weaknesses of the succeeding periods. After 1988, adult literacy classes were organized throughout the nation including the remote border areas in order to bring down the number of illiterates with the eventual aim of totally eliminating illiteracy in the country. Because of these classes, today (500,963) adults are now able to read and write. The literacy rate also increased from (78) percent to (92.2) percent.

We would like to urge all the national people to take part in the Government’s drive to achieve success in literacy campaign.

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Provisions donated to monasteries in Botataung and Pazundaung Townships

YANGON, 7 Sept — Searching for a breakthrough in the education sector, this is the result of constant learning, and constant learning society.

The most recent and yet another significant effort to uplift education decades was the decision to launch the Literacy Decade, a United Nations Literacy Decade, and literacy campaigns will be launched with added momentum country-wise.

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Myanmar health delegation leaves for India

YANGON, 7 Sept — A Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo left here by air this morning to attend the 21st ASEAN Health Ministers’ Meeting of WHO and the 56th Regional Committee Meeting to be held in New Delhi, India, from 8 to 13 September.

The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Union Minister and deputy directors general of the departments under the ministry, WHO Resident Representative Sr Aragostino Borro and officials.

The delegation also comprises Deputy Director-General of Medical Research Department Dr U Than Aung, Director Dr Ye Myint and Deputy Director of Medical Science Department Dr Than Zaw Myint.

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Provisions donated to monasteries in Botataung and Pazundaung Townships

YANGON, 7 Sept — Tamilnese (Army, Navy and Air) families and wellwishers donated provisions and cash to monasteries in Botataung and Pazundaung Townships in Yangon East District at a ceremony held at Mingalayama Pati Tekkatho Kyangyiak in Botataung Township this afternoon.

Present were Sayadaws of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha and members of the Sangha led by chairman Sayadaws of the township Sangha Nayaka Committees, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thaung Thein, Secretary-2, the Commerce minister, senior military officers, officials and wellwishers presented offerings to the Nayaka Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.

Minister Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Maj-Gen Saw Hla and Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence, officers on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thein of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and departmental heads accepted the cash donation for the trust fund by wellwishers.

The Secretary-2 and wellwishers shared the merit of the donations.

At the ceremony, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) families and wellwishers donated 471 bags of rice, 268 viss of edible oil, 336 viss of beans and pulses, 1,681 viss of oxidized salt, 99 boxes of soft salt, 2,989 bottles of various kinds of traditional medicine, 30 packets of noodles and K 2,511,270 to monasteries in Botataung and Pazundaung Townships.

A similar ceremony was held at Thantithukha Dhammayon in the compound of Kohtatgyi Pagoda in Sangyoung Township this afternoon. Minister of Sangyoung Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Nayartha Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Janaka delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained at the ceremony. Tamilnese (Army, Navy and Air) families and wellwishers donated 471 bags of rice, 268 viss of edible oil, 336 viss of beans and pulses, 1,681 viss of oxidized salt, 99 boxes of soft salt, 2,989 bottles of various kinds of traditional medicine, 30 packets of noodles and K 2,511,270 to monasteries in Botataung and Pazundaung Townships.
Iraq Shiites take security in own hands in Najaf

Najaf, 7 Sept — Armed Muslim Shiite youths patrolled around the Imam Ali Mosque in Iraq’s holy city of Najaf as thousands gathered for Friday prayers and vowed revenge for a deadly car bomb attack a week ago.

A top Shiite cleric, Mohammed Baqer al-Hakim, was among the 83 people killed in the bombing just outside the mosque on Friday last week, the deadliest attack in Iraq since the end of the war that ousted Saddam Hussein.

Youths from Hakim’s Badr Brigade spread across the area surrounding the gold-domed mosque searching pedestrians. Some took up positions on the roof of the mosque.

Many said it was time to hunt down and kill all members of Saddam’s Sunni-dominated Baath Party.

“Declare Jihad (holy struggle) O’ Badr army... We want Hakim’s revenge,” chanted angry worshippers after a sermon from one of his aides, Said Sadr al-Deeb al-Qabanji, who pleaded for calm saying the bomber sought to sow discord among Muslims.

Residents said the Badr Brigade, mainly exiled Iraqis who accompanied Hakim on his return to Iraq in May after years of exile, had begun to exhibit a strong public presence following the bombing, after keeping a lower profile.

“There is extreme tension in the city and Badr forces are flexing their muscles because their leader was killed... it’s a reaction,” one resident told Reuters.

Winnows brought militiamen had staged random security checks at main roundabouts with hardly any coordination with the local police, seen as feeble and ineffective by many Iraqis.

“The bombing was a wake-up call that we are responsible for our security, not America or anyone else like the US-appointed Governing Council which is just a facade for America,” said Yasser al-Zahery, 23, armed with a Kalashnikov near the mosque.

Zahery, a member of the Mehdi militia of firebrand cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, said the bombing had prompted Sadr to call on his supporters to report to their units, saying security had to be their responsibility.

But in a sign of subtle rivalry, Sadr’s armed followers kept a low profile in Najaf, while taking to the streets in the nearby Kufah Town, another revered Shiite site.

Clerics and ordinary Iraqis believe Kufah blamed Sunni fundamentalists, perceived by some Shiites as avowed enemies since the days of Prophet Mohammad, for abetting Baathists. — MNA/Reuters

Earthquake rocks Indonesia’s Aceh

JAKARTA, 7 Sept — An earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale jolted Indonesia’s Banda Aceh, the capital of the Aceh Province on Friday.

The head of the meteorology and geophysics office in Banda Aceh, Syahman, said the epicentre of the quake, which struck at 08:24 a.m. local time (01:24 GMT), was located in South Aceh regency, some 455 km from Banda Aceh city.

“The tremor lasted for 60 seconds,” Syahman was quoted by state news agency Antara. He said the quake was felt by people in the western and southern parts of the province. “I keep contacting state officials in the regencies near the quake center to learn any possible damages of the buildings and the houses,” he said.

Since the epicenter of the quake was beneath the sea, he said, a 5.8 magnitude quake usually does not cause serious damages. “But, we have the responsibility to coordinate with officials in the Aceh regencies near to the center of the quake,” he said — MNA/Xinhua

Seven soldiers wounded in Iraq attacks

BAGHDAD, 7 Sept — Seven American soldiers have been wounded by unknown attackers in separate incidents near Baghdad, the US army revealed.

“Four soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division were wounded September 5 when their convoy was ambushed by small arms fire, four improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and two rocket-propelled grenades near Kayarah,” said a statement Saturday.

Kayarah is near the oil-rich northern city of Mosul. Two other soldiers were wounded Friday by unknown attackers near Saddam Hussein’s hometown of Tikrit, north of Baghdad, while another American soldier was injured when his convoy was hit by small arms fire and an IED near Muqdadiyah in northern Iraq (news - web sites), the army said.

No further details of the attacks or injuries were provided. Army explosives experts meanwhile defused a mine they found Friday on a diesel pipeline near Kayarah, the statement added.

Coalition forces here say the daily attacks they face are carried out by Saddam loyalists and other anti-American extremists. — Internet

Powerful hurricane “Fabian” hits Bermuda

HAMILTON (Bermuda), 7 Sept — Huge waves gouged Bermuda’s coast and 100 mph winds tore at power lines and palm trees as Hurricane Fabian blasted the mid-Atlantic British colony on Friday.

The full fury of the most powerful hurricane of the Atlantic season bore down on the offshore financial centre and tourist playground, knocking out power, littering roads with trees and damaging the Causeway, a key road linking the main island to Bermu-

da’s airport.

“We are getting hammered. It’s pretty unbelievable,” said Jackie Bisset, reached by telephone at her home about 100 yards inland from Bermuda’s south shore in Smith’s Parish. “At the property in front of us, the trees have fallen into the water and the sea wall is collapsing.”

“The waves are coming over the roofs of the houses, which are 24 feet (7.3 metres) high. It’s just terrible here. There is debris everywhere. My pool is covered in bits of porch and palm trees.” The 22-square-mile island was battered down as Fabian’s eye moved to within a few miles.

Businesses, government offices and schools were closed, flights to and from the island were cancelled, and cruise ships had moved to within a few miles.

Residents view sculptures in the Changchun World Sculptures Park in Changchun, capital of northeast China’s Jilin Province, on 5 Sept, 2003. The park, opened on Friday, covers an area of 92 hectares. — Xinhua

Calls mount for Blair to quit over Iraq

LONDON, 7 Sept — Pressure mounted on Sunday for British Prime Minister Tony Blair to quit over his part in the suicide of a weapons expert at the heart of a furious row over the government’s case for going to war in Iraq.

A poll in the Mail on Sunday newspaper showed 43 percent of people believed Blair should resign over the affair, 42 percent believed he should stay in office and 15 percent were undecided.

The figures in the YouGov poll, taken the day after the judicial inquiry into the death of David Kelly adjourned for 10 days to allow Judge Lord Hutton to decided which witnesses to recall for cross examination, were the first to show that more voters are against Blair than for him.

The poll will come as a further blow for the once invincible leader of a Labour government with an unassailable parliamentary majority who has seen his personal trust ratings slump since the war to oust Saddam Hussein and who is facing a crescendo of criticism over his policies on education, health and crime.

Kelly, whose name was leaked by the government as the source of a BBC report accusing Blair’s office of exaggerating the threat posed by Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction in order to strengthen the case for war, slit his wrist two days after a humiliating public grilling by a parliamentary committee. — Internet

Soggy “Henri” heads toward Florida Gulf coast

MIAMI, 7 Sept — Tropical Storm Henri drifted toward Florida’s Gulf coast on Friday, carrying heavy rain and the risk of flooding in low-lying areas of north and central Florida.

Tropical storm warnings, alerting residents to storm conditions within 24 hours, were in effect for a 250-mile stretch of the Gulf coast from Englewood, south of Sarasota, to the Arcilla River, southeast of the state capital Tallahassee. Forecasters said the storm could spawn damaging tornadoes.

At 5 pm (2100 GMT), the storm’s centre was about 75 miles southwest of Cedar Key, Florida, at latitude 28.4 north and longitude 83.9 west, the US National Hurricane Centre said.

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**Disbanded militia group reappears in Iraq**

Najaf, 7 Sept — An Islamic militia disbanded by the United States has emerged with weapons and in uniform in Iraq’s holiest Shiite Muslim city, a sign Najaf could become a new flash point in the aftermath of a key cleric’s assassination.

But the US civilian administrator for Iraq, Paul Bremer, said Saturday the armed men were in Najaf “with the full cooperation of the Coalition Provisional Authority and in full cooperation with the coalition forces.”

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld continued his inspection tour of the country, travelling to the ancient city of Babylon and visiting a nearby mass grave.

The Badr Brigade — the armed wing of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq — was disbanded on US orders shortly after the fall of Baghdad five months ago. Its defiant reappearance takes on particular significance because its new leader also sits on the US-picked Iraqi Governing Council.

Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim took over the leadership of the Supreme Council after his brother, Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim, was killed in a massive car bombing of the Imam Ali Mosque in Najaf.

Shortly after the Aug. 29 bombing, which killed between 85 and 125 people, armed men wearing Badr armbands have been seen in the streets of Najaf and Karbala, another sacred city for Shiites.

But Bremer said Saturday the men on Najaf’s streets were not members of one group, but rather belonged to several different groups.

“They are there temporarily to assist in the security of the holy sites at the request of both the secular and clerical authorities in Najaf,” Bremer said during a news conference.

**Russia says US draft on Iraq needs serious work**

TASHKENT, 7 Sept — Russia joined old anti-war allies France and Germany on Friday in rejecting a US draft resolution seeking broader international help in postwar Iraq, saying it needed “further, very serious work.”

But Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said the draft did go some way to meeting concerns that the United Nations would play a central role in solving Iraq’s problems.

“The US draft resolution shows some movement towards these principles,” he said at a regional cooperation meeting in Uzbekistan in Central Asia.

“But, naturally, for them to be reflected fully, this document still needs further, very serious work.”

He urged the United States to address “consultation and cooperation of the Coalition Provisional Authority and in full cooperation with the United Nations” as well.

**Volcano eruption leads to evacuations in Costa Rica**

SAN JOSE (Costa Rica), 7 Sept — Costa Rica’s most active volcano, Arenal, hacked rocks and ash down its slopes and leading to the evacuation of people living nearby.

The volcano, located in northern Costa Rica, began to erupt at 10:55 am local time (1555 GMT), and continued for almost two hours, said volcano monitoring organization Obsicor.

Close to 100 people living nearby were evacuated, while hundreds of tourists slightly further away were put on alert.

No victims were reported from the eruption of the 5,296-foot high volcano.

**Philippines to host APEC meeting on maritime security**

MANILA, 7 Sept — The Philippines will host an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Manila next week on preventing terrorist attacks on shipping and maritime trade, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Thursday.

The two-day meeting, slated to start on September 8, will focus on drafting an APEC-wide mechanism to facilitate information exchange in maritime security and prepare a list of measures that APEC economies should take in this view, the DFA said in a statement.

APEC members will also set a list of technology requirements to secure the marine environment and strengthen private-sector partnerships in maritime security within the Asia-Pacific region.

More often than not, commercial ships, especially those sailing in the waters near the insurgency-infested Southeast Asian countries, have been victimized by terrorists and pirates, and inflicting with huge losses.

Furthermore, past incidents have shown that some vessel owners can have and hidden their true identities as they use their vessels to smuggle drugs, banned goods, and persons to further terrorist activities.

**Annan wants ministers to negotiate Iraq resolution**

NEW YORK, 7 Sept — With talks beginning on a US-drafted resolution on Iraq, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan suggested on Friday that foreign ministers of the five permanent Security Council members meet soon to hammer out a compromise.

Annan made the comment as the 15 Security Council members held their first informal talks on the US proposals aimed at getting more troops and money to Iraq.

“I have suggested to the P-5 foreign ministers that they meet with me to explore a common ground and the way forward,” Annan told CNN. “And I hope that meeting will take place in the not too distant future.”

If the veto-wielding powers — Britain, France, Russia, China and the United States — did hold such a meeting, it would be next week and probably in Europe.

**Bali bomber charges Bush, Blair as real terrorists**

JAKARTA, 7 Sept — Calling himself “a small-fry terrorist”, Bali bomber Ali Gufron (alias Mukhlas) said the real big-time terrorists are Hitler, Ariel Sharon, George Bush and Blair.

“In the eyes of the prosecutors, the terrorists are me and the other small-fry terrorism. Whereas in fact the real big-time terrorists are Hitler, Ariel Sharon, George Bush and Blair. They are the ones who have committed crimes against the humanity,” he was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying.

Early last month, Mukhlas’ younger brother Amrozi was sentenced to death on similar charges.

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Iraq draft splits overshadow talks on EU’s future

RITA DELGARDO (Italy), 7 Sept — The European Union was split on Friday over Washington’s draft UN resolution seeking wider international support in Iraq, with Britain welcoming it and France pressing for a clutch of amendments.

The ministers got down to planning a season of negotiations on the EU’s first Constitution and work on a security strategy designed to make the bloc a more effective global actor and avoid future crises such as its damaging rift over the Iraq war.

“We are talking here about the Constitution, where we are going to strengthen the foreign and security policy of Europe, and we start out again with a disagreement between France and Britain,” said EU Foreign Policy Chief Javier Solana.

The UN resolution — a key EU meeting.

There was no clash on Iraq as the bloc’s foreign ministers met on the picture-postcard banks of Italy’s Lake Garda, but the issue has once again intruded on the agenda of a key EU meeting.

The ministers got down to planning a season of negotiations on the EU’s first Constitution and work on a security strategy designed to make the bloc a more effective global actor and avoid future crises such as its damaging rift over the Iraq war.

“There are no disagreements on either side, not if you speak to the German, Great Britain and the United States,” said Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller told reporters.

“That is not a good start for these discussions.”

France and Germany have voiced strong objections to the text put forward by Washington to broaden the United Nations’ involvement in Iraq, saying it would not cede power quickly enough to Iraqis or to the United Nations.

Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh echoed their concerns.

Former New York police chief leaves Baghdad

BAHRAIN, 7 Sept — Former New York City police chief Bernard Kerik, tasked with revamping the Iraqi police force, has left Baghdad after completing his appointment, the US-led administration said on Friday.

Kerik came to the US-led war to oversee the retraining of Iraqi police and to try to build trust among Iraqis who regarded the police as the frontline enforcers of Saddam Hussein’s repressive rule.

Background checks were run on police officers to weed out those with the closest links to Saddam’s Baath Party. Thousands of officers have since returned to their posts, working alongside US and British military police.

“Mr Kerik has finished his appointment and has left Baghdad,” a spokeswoman for the US-led authority said.

Iraq has been plagued by lawlessness since the war which toppled Saddam in April. Murder rates in the capital are higher than in any city in the world — MNA/Reuters

US troops want Rumsfeld to send them home

TIKRIT (Iraq), 7 Sept — If they had the chance, US soldiers at a base in Iraq would have had one question for Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld — When are we going home?.

But Rumsfeld cancelled a speech he was due to give on Friday to the troops at their base at the palace of deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in his hometown of Tikrit.

“If I got to talk to Rumsfeld I’d tell him to give us a return date. We’ve been here six months and the rumour is we’ll be here until at least March. This is totally, totally uncalled for,” she said.

Green, who asked not to be identified by her first name, complained she would miss seeing her 16-year-old through her whole school year.

Rumsfeld has been criticized for sending too few troops to Iraq leaving them stretched thin on extended deployments trying to help rebuild the country and fight a guerrilla war. He has urged allies to supply some 15,000 additional troops and hopes training Iraqi forces will ease the burden on US troops.

When the Armed Forces Network showed earlier footage of Rumsfeld saying that fresh US troops were unnecessary in Iraq, soldiers at the base threw their hands in the air and shouted “No way” at the television — MNA/Reuters

Russia slams “dirty dozen” over CTBT

VIENNA, 7 Sept — Russia on Thursday accused the United States and 11 other countries of holding hostage a global pact banning all nuclear test blasts and urged them to ratify the treaty as soon as possible.

Russia’s Ambassador to the international organizations in Vienna, Grigory Berdennikov, made these remarks on the second day of a conference aimed at speeding up the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

“Treaty...remains hostage of the political will of only 12 states,” said Russia’s Ambassador to the international organizations in Vienna, Grigory Berdennikov, making these remarks on the second day of a conference aimed at speeding up the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Berdenkov said referring to the countries diplomats call “the dirty dozen”.

The CTBT was adopted in New York in September, 1996. To date, 168 states have signed the treaty and 104 have ratified it, but it will only come into force once 44 states deemed capable of producing nuclear weapons ratify it. Of the 44 states, 32 have ratified the pact. The 12 who have not are the United States, China, Colombia, North Korea, Congo, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Pakistan and Vietnam.

Diplomats familiar with US thinking say it is inconceivable US President George W Bush’s Administration would ever ratify the CTBT or any other international treaty limiting its options in the event of war.

The US, which along with China is seen as the key stumbling block to getting the treaty into force, is not participating in the conference.

In contrast to Washington, China’s Ambassador Zhang Yan said his government was committed to the CTBT and would “do its utmost to have the ratification procedure completed by the National People’s Congress at an early date”. — MNA/Reuters

Sony presents new Aibo robot dog

TOKYO, 7 Sept — Sony Marketing (Japan) Inc on Thursday unveiled a new version of the robot dog Aibo, featuring improved image-recognition functions and a body mechanism facilitating swifter move.

The new Aibo ERS-7 has 28 light-emitting diodes (LED) in white, red, blue and green colours on its face to mimic emotions and a high-performance speaker to replay real sounds, said Sony Marketing, the marketing unit of Sony Corp. Owners will be able to download customized software from a website for a yet-to-be-fixed fee to customize the new Aibo, said the company. — MNA/Xinhua

Two men surf sailing board in Egyptian tourist resort Hurghada, on 5 Sept, 2003.
Hardliner hopes for Iran-style revolution in Iraq

TEHERAN, 7 Sept — An influential hardline Iranian cleric told a Friday prayers gathering that he hoped for an Iran-style revolution in Iraq after the death of a top Iraqi Shi’ite Muslim leader a week ago.

But Ayatollah Mohammed Emami-Kashani said in comments broadcast on state radio that Iran, which established clerical rule after the 1979 Islamic revolution, was not interfering in Iraqi affairs.

The US-led occupiers have accused Iran of meddling in Iraq’s internal affairs. Iran denies the charge.

Emami-Kashani told worshippers in Teheran that Iraqis had become more unified after the killing of Iraqi cleric Ayatollah Mohammed Baqer al-Hakim, who was in exile in Iran for more than two decades until his return to Iraq in May.

“The Iraqi people and the Islamic society have been woken up by this crime,” he said.

“By relying on God...the united Iraqi nation will become more united...with love, enthusiasm and belief that they have Iraq’s revolution, hopefully...will become like Iran’s revolution,” he said.

Emami-Kashani is a member of Iran’s Expediency Council, which arbitrates in disputes between the Iranian Parliament and the oversight body, the Guardian Council.

“Of course, they (Americans) talk nonsense by saying that Iran supports them (Iraqis). It (Iraq action) has nothing to do with Iran,” he said.

Iran, which is predominantly Shiite Muslim, has blamed US-led security failures for the car bomb attack in the Iraqi city of Najaf that killed Hakim, who headed the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI). — MNA/Reuters

Turkey asks for US clarification of Iraqi FM’s remarks

ANKARA, 7 Sept — The Turkish Foreign Ministry has made diplomatic representation to the US Embassy in Ankara regarding Iraqi official’s opposition to the despatch of Turkish troops to Iraq, the Anatolia news agency reported on Friday.

A high-ranking official from the Turkish Foreign Ministry on Thursday called on officials of the US Embassy, saying “the statement of a person who was charged by the approval of the United States, are in full contradiction with the US application to Turkey.”

The official asked the United States to clarify the issue.

According to private Turkish television NTV, Hoyvar Zebari, Foreign Minister of the Interim Iraqi Government, on Thursday said in Baghdad that if neighbouring countries, including Turkey, send troops to Iraq, it would cause more instability in the country.

“We don’t want to see Turkish soldiers in Iraq,” he said, adding if Turkey carries out a military intervention in northern Iraq, it would cause more instability in the country.

In comment on Zebari’s statement, Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey will take a decision on the issue of sending troops to Iraq according to its own judgement.

Thus, Turkish Foreign Ministry has made diplomatic representation to the US Embassy in Ankara regarding Iraqi official’s opposition to the despatch of Turkish troops to Iraq, the Anatolia news agency reported Thursday.

Iraq could have police in place by year-end

CERNOBIO (Italy), 7 Sept — Iraqi police and Armed Forces could be in a position to take charge of the war-torn country’s security by year-end or early 2004, a member of Iraq’s Governing Council said on Friday.

“We believe that by the end of this year or early next year we will be able to have our own security, our own military and Iraq will again be standing on its feet,” Iyad Allawi told reporters at a political and business conference in northern Italy.

US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Thursday that the number of US security forces, including police, border guards, militia, Army and security, at facilities had grown to 55,000 since May and could rise to 100,000 in the future.

Allawi, founder and chief of the once exiled Iraqi National Accord group, welcomed Rumsfeld’s offer of help for Iraq’s security agencies, but said the United Nations needed to play a bigger role in Iraq.

“We have to have an increased role for the United Nations and that is what we have been asking for,” he said. “But the most important thing is to allow the Iraqis to resolve their problems with their own hands and to resume security in Iraq by Iraqis.” — MNA/Reuters

Yellow River embankment bursts in north China

HORHOT, 7 Sept — The embankment of the Yellow River suddenly broke around 8.30 pm Friday in Bayannur of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in north China, and the accident caused no casualties by Saturday morning.

The 30-metre-wide embankment breach in Wulate Qianqi of Bayannur affected over 3,000 local residents in five villages, who have been or are being evacuated to safe places, said Li Maolong, an official with the local committee of the Communist Party of China.

Thousands of rescuers are busy building and strengthening the dam, and helping to transfer flood victims to safe places.

Recent local rainfalls are not significantly higher than the average level in the corresponding period of previous years and no rain hit Wulate Qianqi when the breach occurred. Li Maolong said, noting that the breach was mainly caused by silt in the upper-reach watercourse of the river. — MNA/Xinhua

“One country, two systems” ensures HK’s prosperity, stability

HONG KONG, 7 Sept — Yang Wenchang, new commissioner of China’s Foreign Ministry in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), stressed here Friday that the “one country, two systems” principle and the Basic Law are the foundation ensuring Hong Kong’s long-term prosperity and stability.

Speaking at the inauguration reception held by the Office of the Commissioner of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Yang Wenchang, who arrived here on August 10 to take the post, said that in the six years since its return to the otherland, Hong Kong’s systems of economy, society, law, culture, education and religion have remained unchanged.

“Needed to say, ‘one country, two systems’ is a brand-new cause with no ready experience to draw upon,” Yang said, adding that it has to be improved gradually through continuous exploration and practice.

Problems and difficulties of one kind or another are unavoidable in the process. What we must emphasize here is that no difficulties can shake the resolve of our government and people in achieving long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong,” said Yang.

He said that Hong Kong currently faces some similar difficulties as other East Asian countries and regions and causes for these difficulties are complex and multifaceted.

“The Central Government will go all out to support whatever is in the interest of Hong Kong’s prosperity and stability and the common development of Hong Kong and the Mainland,” said the new commissioner.

Yang noted the Commissioner Office has, in the past six years, shouldered the lofty mission of exercising sovereignty in foreign affairs. During the course of its work, the office has received great support and cooperation from the Hong Kong government, as well as understanding and assistance from friends of all circles in Hong Kong, he said.

“My colleagues and I are more than ready to work with you, such exchanges in my view will deepen our understanding and friendship and promote the friendly relations and cooperation,” said Yang. — MNA/Xinhua
International Literacy Day and United Nations Literacy Decade

U Than Oo

The message of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the occasion of Literacy Day, 8 September 2003

Today, we celebrate the First Literacy Day of the United Nations Literacy Decade—the first concrete framework for action launched last February to galvanize the world for improved literacy rates around the world, focused on the international goal of raising literacy levels by 2015.

There are more than 860 million illiterate adults in the world today, two-thirds of whom are women. Helping them achieve literacy is not only vital in its own right; it is a prerequisite for reaching basic levels of human development

While the challenge is greatest in developing countries, no society in the world can claim that illiteracy has been eradicated. Millions are still experiencing modest but worrying levels of illiteracy in all countries.

In all countries, illiteracy is connected to patterns of poverty, social exclusion and inequalities. The literacy challenge, therefore, cannot be left to isolation. It requires an integrated approach that places literacy in context and draws on contributions from all actors. Governments at all levels, civil society, the private sector, community groups and individuals, and last but not least, family, friends and colleagues of those seeking to develop their literacy skills. Acquiring literacy is an empowering process, enabling millions to enjoy access to knowledge and information which broadens horizons, creates opportunities and creates alternatives for building a better life.

The challenge is essentially to the education of girls and women empowerment, the most effective tools we have for breaking the cycle of illiteracy across all society.

That is why the first two years of the Literacy Decade will give special emphasis to women’s literacy, as a stepping stone to our ultimate goal of literacy for all.

On this day, let us vow to work together to ensure that mass illiteracy has no place in the 21st century.

International Literacy Day 2003

It is both good and necessary that we celebrate International Literacy Day each year. For some of us, it is a timely reminder that we should not take literacy for granted or underestimate its importance. For others, newly empowered by the acquisition of literacy skills, it is a moment to celebrate access to opportunities once beyond reach. It is an occasion, furthermore, to re-appraise the work of literacy tutors, extension workers and volunteers whose patient efforts make such a difference to people’s lives.

Writing and written communication is fundamental to literacy. Literacy is vital for releasing women’s potential which, once tapped, becomes a tremendous force for improving their status and dignity and for enhancing their impact on family welfare, community development and positive social change. Thus, as revealed through its effect on women's lives, literacy is a key to development, especially education and health. It also presents the challenge of sustaining our efforts to produce the same figure from year to year is a genuine cause for concern but it does not mean that no progress is being made. The Global Monitoring Report on Education for All (2002) points out that adult literacy has improved by 10 percentage points over the last 20 years, from 70 per cent in 1980 to 80 per cent in 2000. This is a significant advance, representing hundreds of millions of people who have gained access to literacy over that period. The continuing high absolute numbers, however, indicate the scale of the literacy challenge remaining. They alert us that improved rates of literacy progress need to outpace population growth if significant advances are to be made in the fight against poverty and illiteracy.

This is a significant year for literacy. In February, the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003-2012) was launched. The Decade presents the challenge of doing things differently, of finding fresh ways to provide literacy opportunities, of giving the excluded the chance to participate. It also presents the challenge of ensuring that literacy gains are not lost over ten years as we work towards the goal of increasing global literacy levels by 50 per cent by 2015.

Governments, civil society and the international community agree on the seriousness of the challenge and on the need to act that is not the problem. There is also agreement on the fact that literacy is part of the fundamental right to education. The problem is that it remains a challenge that practical solutions reflected in priorities, budgets, plans and implementation. Let us face this problem squarely as the United Nations Literacy Decade — more than 800 million people are waiting.
PM attends second coord meeting (from page 16)

Next, Maj-Gen Ye Myint inspected the arrangements for the competitions. The Prime Minister said he had learnt that the states and divisions are also making arrangements for participations in the competitions, and altogether five teams are going to take part in the marionette contest (Professional level). All the participants of the competitions which are held annually would reconstitute their food memories when they arrived back home. Therefore, they would have realized the genuine goodwill of the State and preservation of traditional customs. As a result of that there are more and more contestants year by year.

There have emerged good prospects on accounts of the active participation in the competitions, he added. Myanmar is an ideal country in preserving her traditional customs. Such fine traditions must be preserved in the time of our government, he noted. So, arrangements are to be made for successful organizing of the coming competitions.

Later, the Prime Minister inspected the samples of paintings, postcards, pamphlets, invitation cards, medals and certificates which will be used for the competitions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint (from page 16)

WAYS are to be sought for availability of irrigated water and dams, reservoirs and canals are to be renovated. Innovative measures are to be taken for reclamation of more land. Means and ways are to be sought to meet the target of monsoon paddy cultivation. In the process, cooperation and collective steps are to be taken among departments concerned.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint reported on sustained efforts made for cultivation of monsoon paddy, renovation of dams and reservoirs and land reclamation.

Next, officials of Mandalay Division Agriculture Supervisory Committee reported on target for cultivation of monsoon paddy in the division and progress in cultivation, arrangements being made for cultivation of more monsoon paddy, means and ways sought for cultivation of monsoon paddy.

The meeting came to a close at 3.15 pm with the concluding remarks by Lt-Gen Ye Myint. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party this morning left Mandalay by air and arrived back here in the afternoon.

MNA

What will be the outcome of the lopsided US sanction on Myanmar? 6

Aung Moe San

Every country in the world today is racing against each other in transforming the old system to the market-oriented economic system and democracy (capitalist system). The world nations are in the process of political and economic transformation under their own understandings of the current trend — development will come only when democracy or capitalism is built; otherwise they will meet the same downfall. At a time when developing countries and socialist countries alike are changing to democracy, the capitalism in the US and its allies is facing defeat. Because of the dominance of the feudalism, that is, the policy of exploitation and hegemony, hindrances and obstacles surface along the developing countries’ road to market-oriented economy and democracy.

Today, people see and call the US and its allies of the West as capitalist democracies. Superficially, they can be called the capitalist democratic countries, but in essence, they are under the influence of feudalism existing under the cloak of human rights and democracy. In other words, they are facing the same downfall. America alone had a list of 34 companies that were in state of near collapse. It was said that their names were kept secret as it might hurt discourage the investors. In 2001 also about 60 companies collapsed in the US. In 2003, a number of companies are still on the verge of collapse.

Some scholars said that if there actually emerged the capitalist globalization, it would give extra impetus to the transnational investments, the rapid development and expansion of the information technology, and the practice of the market-oriented economy in domestic economies, nations or regions. However, the globalizations, capitalism and feudalism of the US and West allies, in other words their policy of domination and exploitation, only creates the imposition of economic sanctions on the international community, domination by means of military strength, propaganda and terrorism, and the acts to crush democracy at home and abroad and to destroy the human society. Due to the danger, the demonstrations opposing the capitalism and the globalization have been annually staged in front of the capital. The representatives attending the meeting were filled with anxiety and unhappiness, for, there were strikers. Many participants at the meeting criticized the US. The meeting also put the blame on the developed countries for their failure to help the underdeveloped countries. The participants also pointed a finger at the protectionism of the developed countries.

In reality, the demonstrations were staged not to oppose either the capitalism or socialism. The demonstrators mistook the evil feudalism in the capitalist industrial countries for the capitalism. They were in fact protests against feudalism. There will be demonstrations in the future also against the feudalism reigns there. In this regard, as the governments of the US and its allies of the West are violating the capitalist human rights within their own countries, they will not be able to guarantee the human rights and democracy, because of the developing countries. The strict sanctions imposed on Myanmar by the US is like prompting the country to take part in the struggle to oppose the global feudalism. (Translation: TMT)

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
— Prevent waste of electricity benefits the user and others

People’s Desire

— Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views. Those
— Oppose those trying to jeopardize the stability of the State and progress of the nation
— Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
— Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

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
Myanmar Police Force Management System Reform Committee meets

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a speech at 13th coord meeting of management reform committee of MPF. — MNA

YANGON — 7 Sept — Myanmar Police Force Management System Reform Committee held its 13th coordination meeting at the Ministry of Home Affairs this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Announcing their duties, they said Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, ministers, the attorney-general, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy ministers, deputy chief justice, officials and chairman of the subcommittees.

In his address, the chairman said the government formed the system reform committee of Myanmar Police Force in 1994 to improve form and essence of Myanmar Police Force which is performing the duties of community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order. Now it has entered its 10th year.

In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, the committee was formed with the aim of developing MPF to be a patriotic, loyal and disciplined force equipped with nationalist spirit of own citizens as well as various reasons. It is also necessary to do away with the habit of the police officers, forensic doctors and others that Myanmar has to do away with the habit of the police officers, forensic doctors and others where well-organized criminal gangs are running the business.

In connection with human trafficking, a project to take action against those who want to work illegally abroad was implemented after formation of Central Supervisory Board and boards at different levels. These boards in cooperation with regional authorities and social organizations, are taking measures on giving education talks and accepting those who return from abroad.

By July 2003, 82,251 persons were given advice, 11,544 were sent home and actions were taken against 1028. A reception camp was opened in Myawady of Kayin State and up to 18 August 2003, 10,095 persons—6526 men, 3164 women and 315 children—were accepted.

Working Committee for Prevention against trafficking in persons was formed under the supervision of Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs. Members of the working committee made field trips to Shan, Kayin and Rakhine States from August 2002 to March 2003.

Up to 21 August 2003, altogether 223 cases were examined and 417 human traffickers were arrested. Altogether 1106 persons were prevented from being misled. Out of the cases, the court sentenced the human traffickers of 83 cases. Under the supervision of the Management Reform Committee, there have been achievements in MPF. The committee provided assistance for emergence of efficient police force.

The Prime Minister called for continued efforts to become a police force on which the people can rely. Next, Vice-Chairman of the committee for Myanmar Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing made a speech, saying that the committee has entered its 10th year and success has been achieved thanks to the instructions and close supervision of the committee chairman and sound advice and participation of the six subcommittees. Unfolding the guidance of the Head of State, emphasis was placed on the four tasks—spiritual development, training, staff welfare and management.

Under the leadership of the deputy minister, the crime reduction, education and information committee was constantly discharging crime reduction tasks. The committee carried out tasks systemically, thereby distinctly resulting in greater success, and now in Southeast Asia, Myanmar is a region where least criminal cases occur. Under the instructions of the State’s leaders, the police code of conduct for police officers and the police manual have been drawn and then practised, hence leading to further achievements. Criminal journals and magazines are being published in order to make the people notice the MPF’s functions.

After forming organizing committees at different levels, the Home Affairs Ministry led organizing committees has been steadily taking organizing measures. The MPF, the reserve force for national defence, is made up of combat as well as security battalions, which are always well trained to carry out national defence duties.

He said that there has been great changes in management system of the MPF. In accordance with the instructions of the government, the Ministry of Home Affairs has been laying down the 30-year plan to make efforts for harmonious development of the four depart-ments. Plans are under way to have access to information in communicating the MPF Head-quarter, Kingston and State Division and district level Myanmar Police Forces. Strenuous endeavours are being made for turning the MPF into modern force equipped with patriotism being loyal to the State. Acting Secretary of the committee Deputy Director General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Zaw Win explained progress in realizing the resolutions of the 12th meeting of the committee.

Chairmen and officials of the work implementation and judicial affairs subcommittee, legal affairs subcommittee, management subcommittee and training subcommittee explained the accomplishments of the respective bodies.

The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions and made closing remarks. — MNA

PM General Khin Nyunt inspects construction of recreation zone on Kandawgyi Pale Island

YANGON — 7 Sept — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office arrived at the site for construction of the recreation zone on Kandawgyi Pale Island being undertaken by the Yangon City Development Committee this afternoon.

The Prime Minister and party were welcome there by Chairman of Yangon District Vision Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Nyunt Swe, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, YCDC Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials.

The Prime Minister next inspected construction of the garden city in the recreation zone. Officials conducted the Prime Minister round the site.

Later, the Prime Minis- ter gave instructions. — MNA
Shweli Hydropower Project — symbol of strong ties of friendship between China and Myanmar

On 8 August 2003, a Chinese company signed a 150-million-dollar agreement with Myanmar to help build the Shweli Hydropower Project, with the capacity to generate over three billion units of electricity annually for home and industrial use.

Under the contract, the Yunnan Machinery and Equipment Import and Export Corporation (YMIEC) of China will construct a concrete diversion dam, underground tunnels, and erecting the power station and sub-power station in Mon State and Bhamo in Kachin State, and get power from the project through the 66-KV cables. The YMIEC is an old friend of Myanmar, jointly undertaking projects with the Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise since launching of Kyemon Khayankha power project in 1991. It is also a joint-contractor in many projects including the Zawgyi-1 and Zaungtu power plants as well as the 280-megawatt Puanglaung Hydel Power Project.

At present, 35 new bridges and 2350 feet long or 2 miles and 2.5 furlongs long. It is linking Mawlamyine and Mottama and it will be the longest bridge in Myanmar. An official of the project said that for many years, Thanlwin River has met other Rivers in Mawlamyine and Mottama in Mon State, and so the current is very strong. He continued to say that they found it very difficult to put up bole piles for the project.

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The Shweli gets start on the mountains in China, and flows westward into Myanmar, and in some places forming as a border between the two countries, till it merges with the Ayeyawady.

And like the Shweli that is continuously flowing from China to Myanmar, we are sure that China will always continue to provide assistance for us as a good friend and neighbour.

Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) Construction Project to be completed by 2004

On 18 March 2002, an agreement was signed with China. On completion, in the nation, the bridge will be the longest one with two-lane motorway, one railroad and one walkway on it. And the people can travel from Yangon to Kawnthoung by car or by train along Yangon-Mawlamyine-Myeik-Kawnthoung road. ***

(Translation: AMS)

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He recalled that when the project commenced some local people said that the project was building a castle in the air and that ‘the dream would never come true’. But, noticing distinct achievements of the project, he noted, the people came to believe in the project.

They said that the dream really comes true. And they thanked the government for construction of the facility, he added.

Now, steel frames are being installed to the main bridge.

On completion, in the nation, the bridge will be the longest one with two-lane motorway, one railroad and one walkway on it. And the people can travel from Yangon to Kawnthoung by car or by train along Yangon-Mawlamyine-Myeik-Kawnthoung road. ***

(Translation: AMS)

Kyemon: 4-9-2003

Steel frames being installed to Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) on Mawlamyine bank. — Kyemon

Progress in constructing Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) seen from Mawlamyine bank. — Kyemon Soe Myint (Kyemon)

The current at the confluence of Thanlwin, Gyaing and Attagan rivers is very swift and strong. However, with a view to contributing towards the transport sector of Mon State, the service personnel of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction, facing and braving the strong current, are constructing the Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) with might and main for ensuring completion of the project by 2004.

The State Peace and Development Council has been constructing infrastructures such as bridges, roads, dams, reservoirs, universities and colleges and hospitals the length and breadth of the nation. Today, 158 new bridges of more than 180 feet length have been constructed including seven large bridges across the Ayeyawady River, two across the Chindwin river and three across the Thanlwin River.

At present, 35 new bridges including the Thanlwin bridge (Mawlamyine) which will be the longest bridge in Myanmar and Ayeyawady bridge (Yadanabon) are under construction.

Moreover, plans are under way to construct another 23 bridges.

On 18 March 2002, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tin drove a stake to launch the construction work at the place of pile No-3.

The main bridge is 7,699 feet long and approach road on Mawlamyine bank is 1,624 feet long and 2,252 feet long on Mottama bank. The rail-cum-road bridge is 2,252 feet long or 2 miles and 2.5 furlongs long. It is linking Mawlamyine and Mottama and it will be the longest bridge in Myanmar.

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Progress in constructing Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) seen from Mawlamyine bank. — Kyemon Soe Myint (Kyemon)
Implementation of projects for socio-economic development of all regions in the country

Photo shows Pearl condominium built under joint sponsorship of YCDC and Asia Express (Yangon) Co.—PHOTO: MNA

Salingyi Textile Mill Project of the Ministry of Industry-1

Water treatment building under construction of Salingyi Textile Mill—PHOTO: INDUSTRY-I

The 33Kv Power Substation of Salingyi Textile Mill—PHOTO: INDUSTRY-I
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The TEST has four different levels; the examinee can choose the level that best matches his or her ability and training.

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YUFL Tel : 515236
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Vietnam’s army telecom company to run fixed phone system

HANOI, 7 Sept — The Army post and telecom company, Viettel, will open its own fixed phone system late this month, which is the third one in Vietnam behind two operational systems by the Vietnam Post and Telecommunications (VNPT) and Saigon Telecommunications (VNPT) and Saigon Postel.

The company will provide service in Hanoi, areas on the outskirts, on the industrial zones and densely-populated areas of the city, the Army telecom company, Viettel, will open its own fixed phone system late this month, which is the third one in Vietnam behind two operational systems by the Vietnam Post and Telecommunications (VNPT) and Saigon Telecommunications (VNPT) and Saigon Postel.

As planned, Viettel’s system will have covered 33 provinces and cities by the end of 2005 and the whole country in 2010. The total investment for this fixed phone system has amounted to 20 million US dollars so far.

Vietnam currently has around six million fixed telephone subscribers. According to the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, this figure will rise to 11.5 million by the end of the decade.

Hung said.

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Thailand helps Sri Lanka train landmine clearance personnel

BANGKOK, 7 Sept — Thailand had sent specialists of land mine destruction to Sri Lanka to provide local people with training.

Some 40 civilians would receive the training conducted by the Thai specialists, Thailand Mine Action Centre director Gitti Sukosomtarn was quoted as saying.

The Sri Lankan civilians receiving the training would later become trainers for local people.

Land mines were left behind after fierce fighting between government troops and the Tamil Tiger rebels.

Thailand would also volunteer to host the mine-clearing training centre in Southeast Asia at the upcoming 5th Meeting of State Parties of the Ottawa Convention, which would be held in Bangkok from September 15 to September 19. — MNA/Xinhua

Further information and TEST GUIDE are available at YUFL and MUFL

YUFL Tel : 515236
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The Ministry of Post and Telecommunications has predicted that the number of fixed telephone lines will increase to four million in 2005. This figure is expected to rise to 13 million by 2010.

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses...

(from page 1)

... (The ASEAN member na-
tions acknowledged the re-
sult of the ground survey on poppy cultivation. Local au-
thorities and national race leaders are making concerted efforts in various ways and means for elimination of drug in border areas.

Under the New Destiny Project, five ministers and four deputy ministers made field trips and organized the local poppy growers to en-
gage in cultivation of poppy-substitute crops and livestock breeding. The elimination of poppy cul-
tivation is making progress. The international community has realized the success in the elimination of poppy culti-
vation in Myanmar.

Khin Nyunt said that the meeting of the ECOSOCH at UN Headquarters in April 2003 chose Myanmar as a UN drug commission member. Myanmar has the right to serve as the commission member for four years from 2004 to 2007. Thus, Myanmar will have the lead-
ing role in the management section of the UN drug elimi-
nation drive.

As progress has been made in drug elimination drive, the cooperation among the national race leaders and local people has increased. The national race leaders and local people are now making all out efforts for ensuring drug elimination in both Wa region and Kkongkang region in 2003.

The national race leaders and local people have been making earnest efforts for regional development. Under the New Destiny Project, the living standard of local people and engaging in poppy substitute crop cultivation is striving for eradication of narcotic drugs. As a result, opium refineries have been exposed and destroyed during the period of 2003.

Myanmar has been actively participating in drug elimination drive together with neighbouring countries. It has been exchanging infor-
mation on drug and coopera-
tion among five countries.

The New Destiny Project has the cooperation of the public; ministries; and cooperation with inter-
national community.

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Myanmar has been actively participating in drug elimination drive together with neighbouring countries. (continued from page 1)

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... (The ASEAN member na-
tions acknowledged the re-
sult of the ground survey on poppy cultivation. Local au-
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Myanmar has been actively participating in drug elimination drive together with neighbouring countries. (continued from page 1)
**Roozayn, Beckham snatch battling win for England**

Skipper, 7 Sept — Wayne Rooney made a slice of history and David Beckham scored a match-winning penalty as England came back to beat Macedonia 2-1 in a Euro 2004 qualifier on Saturday.

Georgi Hristov gave Macedonia a 28th minute lead, but 17-year-old Rooney became England’s youngest goalscorer with a fine 53rd-minute equalizer and captain Beckham slotting home 10 minutes later.

England’s seventh straight victory, equalizing their postwar record, lifted them to provisional top spot in Group Seven on 16 points, one ahead of Turkey, who were playing later in Liechtenstein.

It meant that, assuming England beat Liechtenstein next Wednesday at Old Trafford, Sven-Goran Eriksson’s side will only need a draw in their final qualifier in Turkey next month to book their place at next year’s tournament.

However, the win was marred by racist abuse for England substitute Emile Heskey and occasional unrest in a crowd where several hundred England fans, who had defied Football Association (FA) calls not to travel, were mixed with the home supporters.

On the pitch, England put on two mark-edly different performances, bitterly disap-pointing in the first half, but inspired in the second after a tactical switch by coach Sven-Goran Eriksson.

Sorely missing the midfield authority of Steven Gerrard and creative spark of Paul Scholes due to injuries, England were also let down by near-comic book defending.

Skipper Artim Sakiri, who scored direct from a corner in a 2-2 draw in Liechtenstein, was the architect of Macedonia’s attacks, spray-passing for strikers Iko Naumski and Hristov.

The other side had created a clear chance, though, until the 28th minute when defender Sol Campbell failed to clear Vlatko Grozdanovski’s cross from the right, England tried to scramble the ball away but it ran for Hristov, who squeezed a shot past goal-keeper David James.

**Desailly praises Abramovich**

Clairfontaine (France), 7 Sept — France skipper Marcel Desailly praised new Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich, saying the Russian oil magnate knew what he was doing when he spent 110 million pounds (173 million US dollars) on new players.

‘‘It’s a done thing intelligence,’’ Desailly said at the French training camp in Clairfontaine on Friday.

“You can sense from the way he looks that he isn’t mad. He’s got a family with four children, he lives in Russia,’’ he said before France’s Euro 2004 Group Onequalifier against Cyprus at the Stade de France on Saturday.

Chelsea signed 13 players in the close season, spending 17 million pounds on Ireland winger Damien Duff, 18 million pounds on Argentine striker Hernan Crespo and 15 million on his international teammate, midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron.

The Premier League club also paid Real Madrid over 16 million pounds for France midfielder Claude Makelele, who became embroiled in a pay dispute with the Spanish champions shortly before his move.

It was said he understood the former Real Madrid player’s position against his former club.

— MNA/Reuters

**Vieri fit to face Wales**

Appiano Gentile (Italy), 7 Sept — Chris-tian Vieri has been passed fit to spearhead Italy’s attack in their Euro 2004 qualifier against Wales on Saturday after recovering from a knee injury.

The Italians were in danger of losing the 1-0 advantage in Celle shortly before his move.

‘‘He’s not mad. He’s got a family with four children, he lives in Russia,’’ he said before France’s Euro 2004 Group Onequalifier against Cyprus at the Stade de France on Saturday.

Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich, said-desailly said at the French training camp in Clairfontaine on Friday.

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— MNA/Reuters

**India upset S Korea at Asian Men’s Volleyball C’ship**

Tanjung, 7 Sept — India pulled off a major upset on the first day of the 12th Asian Men’s Volleyball Championship here on Friday by outlasting defending champions South Korea 23-25, 25-22, 20-25, 25-22 and 17-15.

After splitting the first two sets of the prestigious Group B match, South Korea won six of the last seven points to take the third set 25-20.

India trailed 6-3 early in the fourth set but staged a comeback with a 13-7 ‘‘Dominator’s’’ 16-13 advantage. South Korea stayed within 23- 22 but could not hold on. Indian Joseph Jobi smashed home a ball to make it 24-22 before South Korean middle-blocker Kim Eun Hyun did not present at the Press conference after the match.

In the tie-breaker, the Indians withstood two match points to tie it at 15-15. South Korean Suk Jin-wook smashed a ball out to give India their first match point and India converted it with G Pradeep’s storming kill.

‘‘It’s a revenge for me,’’ said India’s Bulgarian head coach Hristo Biev. ‘‘South Korea played very well in defence, but our players fought together till the end for the victory.’’

‘‘It think’s it’s the best match of the day and the two teams showed the high level of Asian volleyball,’’ he added. The disappointing South Korean head coach Cha Joo-Hyun did not present at the Press conference after the match.

Top two finishers from the tournament, which runs through September 12, will qualify for the World Cup in November in Japan.

— MNA/Xinhua
Transport Minister inspects upgrading tasks of Bagan-NyaungU Airport, Monywa Airport construction

YANGON, 7 Sept — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe yesterday morning arrived at Bagan-NyaungU Airport where Director-General of Civil Aviation U Win Maung reported on progress of the extension of the runway, use of machinery and other arrangements. Next, the minister gave instructions on timely completion of work and attended to the needs.

The minister and party next inspected earth work with the use of machinery for extension of the runway and extension of apron, and fulfilled the requirements.

In the afternoon, the minister and Commander of the North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye arrived at the construction site of Monywa Airport where officials concerned reported to them on progress of the construction of the runway, tower and airport building. Next, the commander and minister inspected construction of the control tower, turning of the runway and paving of gravel. The runway of Monywa Airport will be 6,000 feet long and 100 feet wide.

Afterwards, the commander and minister this morning met with the members of the supervisory committee and management committee of Monywa Industrial Zone, and industrialists at the hall of Monywa Industrial Zone.

At the meeting, officials of the committees reported on organizational set up of the industry and tasks being carried out. Next, the commander and minister made addresses and attended to the needs. — MNA

Indian goodwill delegation... (from page 16)

Brig-Gen Min Aung Hliang, Principal of Defence Services Administration Training School Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Commander Brig-Gen Tun Yi of No 1 Defence Services Hospital (700-bed) and military officers.

At the Defence Services Technological Institute, Commandant Brig-Gen Win Myint and officials greeted the delegation members. Next, the delegation viewed round by car in the compound of the institute. At the DSA explained about the academy. The delegation posed at the convocation hall of DSA with the commandant and party. The delegation visited National Kandawgyi Garden in PyayOldwin and went to Mandalay. At 1.30 pm the goodwill delegation called on Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint. Also present at the call were Deputy Commandant Brig-Gen Nay Win and military officers, Col Shikatu Gurung and Mr PK Bhutani. The delegation also visited and studied Myanmarkyaw Palace, Shwe Nandaw Cultural Museum, Sein Myint Embroidery Shop in Sanga Takehato Street, Gol军官mum Gold Foil Shop in Myatpy Ward and Bagan Archaeological Zone. In Bagan the delegation paid homage to Armanda Pagoda, and visited U Ba Nyet Nyein Lacque House, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min hosted a dinner in honour of the Indian delegation at the Bagan Hotel. The delegation this morning visited Bagan Archaeological Museum and Shwezigon Pagoda.

Indian goodwill delegation concludes visit

YANGON, 7 Sept — The visiting Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of Naval Staff of Indian Navy Admiral Madhvendra Singh (PVS, AVSM and ADC) and party left here for home by air this evening.

The goodwill delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice Admiral Kyi Min, Chief of Staff (Navy) Real Admiral Soe Thein, Commander of Naval Dockyard Command, Admiral Paw Tun, Ayeayawady Naval Region Command Headquarters Commodore Maung Thein, major military officers, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Rajiv Kumar Bhatia and Military Attaché Col Shikatu Gurung.

First, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice Admiral Kyi Min received the visiting Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of Naval Staff of Indian Navy Admiral Madhvendra Singh (PVS, AVSM and ADC) and party at airport’s lounge. Next, Vice-Admiral Kyi Min presented documents, album and video tape to Navy Admiral Madhvendra Singh (PVS, AVSM and ADC). Afterwards, present Vice-Admiral Kyi Min and party saw off Admiral Madhvendra Singh (PVS, AVSM and ADC) and party.

Minister U Win Aung sends felicitations to Macedonia

YANGON, 8 Sept — U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Dr Ilanka Mitreva, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Macedonia which falls on 8th September, 2003. — MNA

Forestry Minister inspects upgrading tasks of Kandawgyi Garden

YANGON, 7 Sept — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung yesterday arrived at the work site for the upgrading of the Kandawgyi Garden. The director-general of the Forest Department and designer Mr J Inada reported to the minister on tasks being carried out.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung inspected the tasks of Central Forest Zone in the garden being carried out by the Ministry of Forestry. He next went to Yangon Zoological Garden and attended to the needs.

The minister on 5 September met with staff of the Myanma Timber Enterprises at the head office of the Myanma Timber Enterprise.

MINISTRY OF FORESTRY

WEATHER

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin State and lower Sagaing Division, rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Kachin State and Magway Division and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in a Rubik State and isolated heavy falls in Maw- lay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Maungdaw (6.38) inches, Kyantaw (4.13) inches, Hinthada (2.60) inches and Pyinnasad (1.97) inches.

Maximum temperature on 6-9-2003 was 30.0°C (86°F). Minimum temperature on 7-9-2003 was 20.0°C (68°F). Relative humidity on 9-9-2003 on 7-9-2003 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 6-9-2003 was nil. Rainfall on 7-9-2003 was 43 mm at Yangon Airport, 25 mm at Kaba-Aye and 12 mm at central Yangon. Total rainfall from 1-1-2003 to 1800 mm (74.02 inches) at Yangon Airport, 10 mm (79.13 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 100.08 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 6-9-2003.

Bay influence: Monsoon is moderate in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 8-9-2003: Rain or thunderstorms will be isolated in lower Sagaing, Magway and Man-galay Divisions, Kachin and Kayah States, scattered in Chin, Shan States and Bago Division and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%). State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain are likely in Southern Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 9-9-2003: Some rain, Degree of certainty is (90%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 9-9-2003: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Prime Minister attends second coord meeting of leading committee for organizing 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

YANGON, 7 Sept — The second coordination meeting of the Leading Committee for holding the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at the National Museum of Myanmar in Yangon today attended by the President of the leading committee for organizing the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. It was also attended by Secretaries of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental officials, chairmen of work committees and sub-committees, and officials concerned. First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made an address. He said measures are being taken to successfully organize the performing arts competitions by forming the leading committee and subcommittees. The competition has been held for 11 times including this one and there is progress year after year. The Myanmar Television and Radio Broadcasting Commission (MRTV and MBC) and the Myanmar Television go on air the facts about the competition including the program of discussions of persons who are proficient in performing arts. It can be seen that state and division level performing arts competitions are also being held.

This year, the competitions will be held on a grand scale in accordance with the six objectives. Most of the performing arts competitions are held every year, the national character has been instilled into Myanmar youth, he said. The Prime Minister also urged those present to give advice for holding the competitions on a grand scale.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects construction work in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 7 Sept — Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, accompanied by Col Tin Ohn and departmental officials, inspected the construction work of the hospital in Mandalay today. After that, the commander, the minister and party inspected sales of goods produced by the Ministry of Industry-I the shop. Similarly, they attended opening ceremony of Win Thu Za shop on Pauktaw street in No 36 Dagon Myothit (North), Yangon East District.

Commander, Minister attend opening of Win Thu Za shops in Yangon

YANGON, 7 Sept — The opening ceremony of Win Thu Za shop selling goods produced by the Ministry of Industry-I was held at No12 Ward, Hlawn Township, Yangon West District this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint Swe and Minister for Industry-I U Aung Soe Maung. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun, Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council, Col Hla Maung, Senior of the Ministry of Industry-I. The general also made a speech on the occasion.

The newly opened Win Thu Za shops will sell a variety of goods from 8 am to 5 pm daily except public holidays.

Indian goodwill delegation tours Mandalay Division

YANGON, 7 Sept — The visiting Indian delegation led by Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of Naval Staff of Indian Navy Admiral Madhvendra Singh (PVSM, AVSM, ADC), accompanied by Commander of Ayeawady Naval Regional Command, Commodore Maw Thein and Chief of Naval Staff of Indian Navy Admiral Madhvendra Singh, met with members of Mandalay Division and Township Agricultural Supervisory Committees, and gave necessary instructions.

At the briefing hall of Mandalay Central Women’s Hospital, the medical superintendents of Myanmar Wanli Steel Factory were briefed. The factory is located in the Mandalay industrial zone. Owner of the factory reported on the process of production and sale of the products at reasonable prices.

Than Shwe has assigned duties to officials concerned to put over 800,000 acres of land under monsoon paddy, and paddy is thus to be cultivated on the irrigated farmland at least once a year. Means and (See page 8)