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Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Mongolia

YANGON, 11 July — On the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of Mongolia, which falls on 11 July 2004, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Natsagiin Bagabandi, President of Mongolia. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects building of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon) in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township.— MNA

Prime Minister inspects construction of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon), National Race Village

YANGON, 10 July —Chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected construction of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon) and National Race Village this morning.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments, arrived at the site for construction of Nationalities

Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon) near Yadana Road in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township. They were welcomed by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and officials.

Minister Col Thein Nyunt reported on location and area of the college, construction of buildings including the three-storey main lecture hall, power and water supply and greening tasks.

Next, Director-General of Education and Training Department of the Ministry of PBANRDA Col Than Win reported on (See page 8)

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

New building for BEPS, hospital opened in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township

YANGON, 10 July — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremonies to open the People's Hospital and new building of Basic Education Primary School No 7 built by Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development of the Ministry of Construction in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township this morning.

Also present on the occasions were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the mayor, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local au-

thorities, departmental personnel and wellwishers.

At 9.20 am, the ceremony to open Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township People's Hospital was held. The commander, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo formally opened the hospital. Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt planted a Myinzuthaka tree to mark the opening ceremony.

Next, he inspected wards, operation theatre, store laboratory at the hospital. The 16-bed People's Hospital is 122 feet by 104 feet one-storey RC building.

(See page 8)



The opening ceremony of new school building at BEPS No 7 in Ward 168 in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township in progress.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 11 July, 2004

Regional development through united and collective efforts

Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and party, on 4 July, toured Mohnyin, Tanai, Lonton village in Mohnyin Township, Dunbun village and Shaduzut village in Phakant Township, Kachin State, and inspected regional development tasks.

In his meeting with departmental personnel, members of social organizations, teachers and students at Hukaung Hall in Tanai, the General said that the State, the Tatmadaw, the people and service personnel will have to cooperate in making efforts in the interests of the State upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

The Government is implementing regional development tasks throughout the country. Systematic arrangements are being made for better transport to link one region and another.

As there emerged Shwebo-Myitkyina road and Mandalay-Tagaung-Shwegu-Bhamo-Myitkyina road, people living in Kachin State have now access to other regions of the nation.

With the emergence of new roads and bridges in Kachin State, there can be seen development in the transport and other sectors. Universities and colleges have been built in Myitkyina and other major towns such as Bhamo and Mohnyin.

As there are good economic foundations in Phakant Township, the State, with the aim of developing the township, is fulfilling the needs in economic, education and health sectors.

Similarly, Tanai Township, blessed with natural resources, has a great potential for regional development and thus local people are to try their best for development of their region.

As regards the agriculture sector of Kachin State, paddy, edible oil crops, beans and pulses and other crops are grown in the state and there is food sufficiency in the region.

It is safe to say that better transportation and successful implementation of regional development tasks are the results of stability in the region.

We firmly believe that the State, the Tatmadaw, the people and all the service personnel will double their efforts to enable the entire national people to enjoy the fruits of peace and regional development.

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize 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



MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet gives a lecture on facts about the MWAFF. — MNA

Facts about MWAFF lectured at Ministry of Commerce

YANGON, 10 July — Vice-President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Khin Lay Thet gave a lecture on facts about MWAFF at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Commerce this morning.

First, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone extended greetings. Next, Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet explained emergence of the Federation and background history, seven objectives, organizational set up, duties and functions of 16 working groups and urged those present to cooperate on their own accord in implementation of the noble objectives of the Federation.

Adviser to the Economic Working Group of the Federation wife of the minister Daw Aye Pyi Wai Khin presented souvenir to the Vice-President.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Presidents of the MWAFF Daw Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, Patron of Yangon Division Organization for Women's Affairs Daw Khin Thet Htay, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun and wife Daw Than Nwe, departmental heads and their wives, executives of the Federation and women staff totalling about 350.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu extends welcoming address at the opening of the 37th Meeting of the ASEAN Co-ordinating Committee on Services. — MNA

Meeting of ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services held

YANGON, 10 July — The 37th Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services hosted by Union of Myanmar commenced at Traders Hotel this morning.

Present on the occasion were Secretary of the Work Committee for Implementation of ASEAN Economic Agreements Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Deputy Auditor-General Daw Thin Thin, members of the work committee, members of the Committee on Trade in Services, representatives of ASEAN countries — Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia,

the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, officials of the ASEAN Secretariat and departmental officials of the ministries concerned.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu extended greetings. Secretary of the Sub-committee on Trade in Services Director-General U Khin Maung Latt of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism Services gave a speech.

Next, they discussed gradually reducing the constraints in construction, tourism, health care, waterway transport, communication and economic services concerning the trade in services in ASEAN countries. The meeting will be held till 13 July. — MNA

၂၀၀၄-ခုနှစ် ဇူလိုင်လ (၁၁)ရက်၊ တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့.

ကျောင်းနှင့်ဝန်းကျင်
စိမ်းလန်းစိုပြည်ရေးနေ.

အခြေခံပညာကျောင်းအားလုံးပါဝင်ဆင်နွှဲကြစို့။

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ.
လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့နှင့်နောက်ဆုံးပတ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေ ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ် ဇူလိုင်လအတွက် (၁၁-၇-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့ နှင့် (၂၅-၇-၂၀၀၄)

ဥကင်နေသောရေချိုးပစ္စည်းထုပ်ကြီးများမဖမ်းရန်ပညာပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက် (၂/၉၇)

တန်ခူး၊ ကချင်၊ နယုန်လများတွင် ဥကင်နေသော (သို့) ဥနှင် ပြည် ဝနေသော ရေချိုးပစ္စည်းထုပ်ကြီးများသည် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတစ်ဝန်းလုံးရှိ မြစ်၊ ချောင်း၊ အင်းအိုင်များတွင် ဥချရန် ပြင်ဆင်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။ ၎င်းတို့မှ မကြာမီ ထောင်စီဆင်းများစွာသော ပစ္စည်းများလည်း ပေါက်ပွားလာတော့မည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အကယ်၍ အဆိုပါဥကင်နေသော (သို့) ဥနှင်ပြည် ဝနေသော ပစ္စည်းထုပ်ကြီးများအား ဖမ်းဆီး သတ်ဖြတ်ခဲ့ပါက ၎င်းတို့မှ ပစ္စည်းသားလောင်းများ မပေါက်ပွားနိုင်တော့ဘဲ မျိုးပြန့်တီးရာလည်း ရောက်စေပါသည်။ ရေချိုးပစ္စည်းများ ပေါကြွယ်လာစေရန် ယခုကဲ့သို့ ဥကင်နေသော ရာသီချိန်များတွင် ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်းမပြုဘဲ ဘေးမဲ့ပေးမှသာ ထုတ်လုပ်မှုအား မြှင့်မားလာပြီး အမျိုးသားစီးပွားရေး ဖွံ့ဖြိုးလာမည် ဖြစ်သည်။ ဥကင်နေသော (သို့) ဥနှင်ပြည်ဝနေသော ရေချိုးပစ္စည်းထုပ်

ကြီးများအား ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်း၊ သတ်ဖြတ်ခြင်း၊ သယ်ယူခြင်း၊ သိုလှောင်ခြင်း၊ လက်ဝယ်ထားရှိခြင်း၊ အရောင်းအဝယ် ပြုလုပ်ခြင်းများ မပြုလုပ်ရန် မွေးမြူရေးနှင့် ရေလုပ်ငန်း ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာနက အမိန့်ကြော်ငြာစာ အမှတ် (၁/၉၂)ဖြင့် တားမြစ်ထားပါသည်။

အဆိုပါ တားမြစ်ချက်ကို လိုက်နာခြင်းမရှိပါက ရေချိုးငါးလုပ်ငန်း ဥပဒေပုဒ်မ (၄၂၊ ၄၄၊ ၄၅)ပါ ပြဋ္ဌာန်းချက်များအရ တရားစွဲဆို အရေးယူခြင်းခံရမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ ရေချိုးပစ္စည်းထုပ်ကြီးများ ရေရှည်တည်တံ့စေရန် ယခုကဲ့သို့သော ဥကင်သော ရာသီချိန်တွင် ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်းမပြုဘဲ နေရာတိုင်းတွင် ဘေးမဲ့ပေးကြရန် အသိပေး နှိုးဆော် အပ်ပါသည်။

ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာန၊
မွေးမြူရေးနှင့်ရေလုပ်ငန်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန

875 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq last year

WASHINGTON, 10 July—As of Friday, 9 July, 875 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 651 died as a result of hostile action and 224 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 59 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 737 US soldiers have died — 542 as a result of hostile action and 195 of non-hostile causes.

The latest deaths reported by military:

—A soldier died Thursday in a non-hostile incident.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

—Army Pvt. 1st Class Samuel R. Bowen, 38, Cleveland; died Wednesday in Samarra, Iraq, when a rocket-propelled grenade exploded near his vehicle; assigned to the Army National Guard's 216th Engineer Battalion; Akron, Ohio.

—Marine Lance Cpl. Scott E. Dougherty, 20, Bradenton Fla. and Marine Pfc. Rodricka A. Youmans, 22, Allendale, S.C.; killed Tuesday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Light Armoured Reconnaissance Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force; Camp Lejeune, NC.—Internet

US-led forces death toll passes 1,000

BAGHDAD, 9 July—In the 466 days since the invasion and occupation of Iraq, US-led forces have suffered 1,002 fatalities. According to the US Department of Defence (DOD), 24 occupation soldiers have died in the first nine days of July, bringing the total to 1002. Twenty-two of the military fatalities in July have been US soldiers.

Of the total figure, there have been 881 US military fatalities, 60 British, and 60 listed as other. More than 650 of the 881 US fatalities have been attributed to what the DOD lists as "enemy fire".

April 2004 was the most costly month in terms of casualties—the DOD listed 135 US fatalities, mostly due to fighting in and around Falluja.

The number of wounded also soared for that month, reaching 1157, eight times higher than the monthly average since the March 2003 invasion.

The total number of wounded as of 26 June is 5394, with May and June registering higher-than-average figures: 742 and 444, respectively. However, the DOD does not report the number of non-combat related wounded.

In recent weeks, political analysts have warned that the US military could be in an untenable situation in Iraq. Recent reports that the number of heavily-armed Iraqi fighters is more than 20,000 have added to fears that the US, and by default, the US-appointed Iraqi

government, may be facing a quagmire.

More than 5,390 US soldiers have been wounded in Iraq.

US reports that foreign fighters were behind the attacks on US-led forces

were debunked last week when American officials admitted that foreigners accounted for less than two per cent of 5,700 "security risk" detainees currently held throughout Iraq.

Internet

Sudan FM warns US not to create Iraq-style crisis over Darfur

KHARTOUM, 9 July—Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Ismail warned Washington not to spark an Iraq-style crisis over the civil war in Darfur, insisting that US sanctions threats only aggravated the situation.

Ismail warned "those voices which have drawn the world to the Iraq war not to take it to a new war which it will be difficult to disengage from."

In the interview with the independent *Al-Rai Al-Aam* daily, the minister said US calls for the UN Security Council to consider sanctions only weakened his government's efforts to resolve the crisis and complicated its relationship with the world body.

They also risked

"weakening the credibility of agreements recently concluded with the UN Secretary General (Kofi Annan) and US Secretary of State (Colin Powell)" in which Khartoum undertook to disarm the state-sponsored Arab militias held responsible for much of the suffering in Darfur.

"There is a conspiracy targeting the Sudan, its identity and structure and we have to be cautious and ready for every possibility," said Ismail, adding that Khartoum

opposed the imposition of sanctions against any Sudanese.

Washington has already drawn up a draft Security Council resolution that would impose sanctions against named militia leaders and has threatened to widen the scope of the text to cover government officials if Khartoum does not move quickly to rein in abuses.

The Sudanese Foreign Minister was speaking on his return from an African Union summit in Addis Ababa, at

which the regional body approved the deployment of 300 armed troops in Darfur by the end of the month to protect its observers and civilians in the region.

The *Al-Sahafa* daily meanwhile reported that Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir would leave for Gineina in West Darfur State, for talks with his Chadian counterpart Idriss Deby on the deployment of a joint military force to patrol the common border.

Internet



An Iraqi woman looks over the remains of her family belongings in her burnt-out home in Baghdad, on 8 July, 2004. She said that American forces fired into the home Wednesday from the adjacent highway, starting an electrical fire. —INTERNET

Arroyo appoints new agriculture secretary

MANILA, 10 July — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo announced Friday the appointment of Arthur Yap as her new Secretary of Agriculture to replace Luis Lorenzo who would assume chairmanship of the state-run Land Bank of the Philippines.

Lorenzo himself recommended Yap as his successor, Philippine Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye told reporters. Yap brings to the Cabinet a wealth of experience in food supply management, having been administrator of the National Food Authority and concurrent chairman of the Food Terminal Inc. since 2002, a Presidential Palace statement said.

He is expected to pursue his predecessor's programmes at the Agriculture Department, particularly those involving Arroyo's objective of creating 10 million jobs in the next six years of her administration. —MNA/Xinhua

Iraq militants threaten to kill Bulgarian hostages

DUBAI, 9 July—Militants in Iraq threatened in a video tape broadcast on Thursday to kill 20 Bulgarian hostages within 24 hours unless US-led forces freed prisoners.

The Arabic satellite television station Al-Jazeera said the tape had come from the Tawhid and Jihad group headed by Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who has been accused by Washington of links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda.

The tape showed two men, identified as Bulgarians, sitting in front of their captors and said they would be killed unless imprisoned militants were released.

There was no immediate comment from Bulgarian officials, and it was not clear whether the captive Bulgarians were military personnel or civilians.

Bulgaria has been an ally of the United States over Iraq and has contributed troops to

US-led forces.

A number of foreigners have been kidnapped in Iraq in the past few months.

At least three have been killed by their kidnappers, while some have been freed and others remain captive.

Zarqawi's group has claimed responsibility for the beheading of two civilians, an American and a South Korean.

Another group killed an Italian civilian, but later freed three of his colleagues.

Militants claimed responsibility for killing captive US soldier Keith Matthew Maupin, but there has been no independent confirmation.

MNA/Reuters

China steps up small town construction

BEIJING, 9 July—Chinese Minister of Construction Wang Guangtao told a national conference here Thursday that China would speed up small town construction with certain priorities, and various types of trade, tourism and agriculture-based small towns would be helped to be established in the impending future.

The development of Chinese small towns was one of the most important national strategies to boost rural economic and social development, Wang said, noting that active but prudent promotion of the small town construction could help prevent vast rural population from rushing into cities.

However, the construction minister noted that the establishment of small towns should have certain priorities, stressing that some key villages and counties with good economic foundation should be put on the first line of the name list. Wang also said the urbanization progress should be made in a humanistic, comprehensive,

coordinated and sustainable manner, urging Chinese local authorities to explore and make use of natural resources in a rational way, exert efforts to preserve cultural resources and to harmonize the economic growth, development of human beings, natural resources and environment.

MNA/Xinhua

British moviegoers applaud Moore's anti-Bush Fahrenheit 9/11

LONDON, 9 July—Moviegoers in London, capital of the staunchest ally of the United States in the war in Iraq, gave a generally warm reception to the prize-winning polemical documentary Fahrenheit 9/11 which savagely attacks US President George W Bush.

The film, by Michael Moore, which denounces the war and Bush's motives for embarking on it, won the top

prize at this year's Cannes film festival and opened in London on Friday.

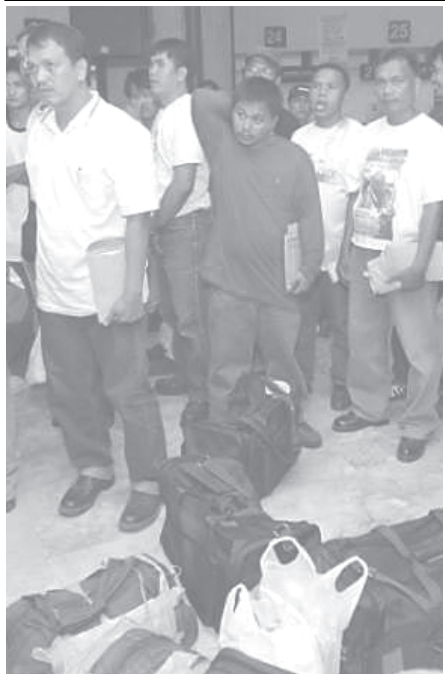
But they doubted that it

would have any effect on British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who took the country into the war even though many Britons were opposed, or on domestic politics.

"The movie was all right, a bit partisan but it's good stuff, quite moving," said Richard, 35. "Moore is partisan but I think everybody knows that. He doesn't hide it

"Sadly I suspect the film will have no impact on the government or on the public. I don't think it could win the election for (US Democratic presidential candidate John) Kerry either, and it certainly won't change Blair's views."

Filipino workers wait with their belongings inside a departure lobby after airport officials stop them leaving for Iraq at Manila's international airport on 8 July, 2004.—INTERNET



Hoon asks Iraqis to probe death of eight British soldiers in Iraq

LONDON, 9 July—Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said he had asked Iraqi authorities to take over the investigation into the death of eight British soldiers during the Iraq war.

In a communique, he said he had forwarded to the Iraqi Central Criminal Court (CCCI) the files of British investigators on the presumed murders of sergeant Simon Cullingworth and sapper Luke Allsop last March as well on the death of six soldiers belonging to the Royal Marines military police last June.

The decision was made so as to fall into line with regulations of the CCCI, which was established by the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) last year, he said.

The CPA handed over power to Iraq's interim government on June 28.

"The CCCI represents the best prospect of dealing with such cases in an expeditious and fair manner as Iraqi law has a bar to extraditing its own nationals to a foreign state, including the UK," Hoon said.

"If these cases are to be pursued through the CCCI then it is important that the concluding phases of the investigations are conducted under the court's direction, to ensure compliance with the rules and procedures of the court," he added. "If the CCCI adopt the cases, we will, of course, support them in any way we can in taking the investigations forward." — *Internet*

China hopes for early restoration of security in Iraq

BEIJING, 9 July—China hopes Iraq's interim government, with the help of the international community, can stabilize its security situation at an early date and push forward its reconstruction in a comprehensive way, said Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing here Thursday.

Li made the remark while talking by phone with Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiar al-Zibari, saying China supports the Iraqi interim government and will further bilateral friendly cooperation in line with mutual respect, mutual benefit and equality.

Li also briefed Zibari on China's decision to reopen its embassy in Iraq.

Zibari appreciated China's support for Iraq's interim government and the important role China has played in the UN Security Council, saying Iraq is willing to establish friendly relations with China. Iraq will take steps to guarantee safety of the Chinese diplomatic officials, and welcomes Chinese enterprises to participate in Iraq's reconstruction, said Zibari. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Chinese cancer medicine approved for clinic use in Russia

BEIJING, 9 July—A kind of medical injection made up of traditional Chinese medicine has been recently permitted by the Russian health authority for clinic application for cancer treatment, sources with Chinese health authority said on Thursday.

The Kanglaite injection contains active substance which is extracted from herb medicine and capable of killing cancer cells and improving people's immunity as well, said sources from the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

The remedy was first introduced and produced by the Zhejiang Kanglaite Pharmaceutical Co Ltd in 1997.

It is widely applied in more than 2,000 Chinese hospitals for over 400,000 cancer patients.

The injection is an achievement of a research group headed by Li Dapeng, a senior expert of Chinese traditional medicine in Zhejiang Province, east China.

It has been granted patent in China, US, EU and Russia. — *MNA/Xinhua*

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Mortar fire rains down on Iraqi cities

BAGHDAD, 9 July—A loud blast, which a US security contractor said was due to mortar fire, shook central Baghdad, sending a plume of white smoke into the air.

"We had a mortar attack," the contractor said near the al-Sadeer hotel as ambulances and police cars, sirens wailing, rushed to the scene late on Friday.

Witnesses said there were several injuries. A Reuters correspondent said the blast appeared to have occurred near the hotel, although this could not be immediately confirmed.

Abu al-Adeem Muhammad, Aljazeera's correspondent in Baghdad, said the missiles passed over the Aljazeera office, which is situated few kilometres from al-Sadeer hotel.

Four Iraqi deaths were reported, including a six-year-old boy and another child, Muhammad said.

The US military was not available for comments.

Elsewhere in the country, two Iraqis were killed and another wounded by mortar fire on Friday in a second day of heavy fighting in the city of Samarra, a hospital source said.

"We have received two dead bodies and one injured Iraqi," said Abdel Hamid al-Samarrai, director of the general hospital in the town, 125 kilometres (75 miles) north of the Iraqi capital, adding that the incident happened at 20:50 (1650 GMT).

Local residents accused US forces in the area of firing the mortars, but a US military spokesman said he had no information at present about the incident. Five US soldiers and six Iraqis, including two national guards individuals, were killed in the defiant Sunni Muslim stronghold on Thursday during a car bomb and mortar attack on a national guard station, followed by US-led military retaliation. — *Internet*

Chinese, Dutch congress leaders vow to boost ties

THE HAGUE (The Netherlands), 9 July — Chinese and Dutch congress leaders on Thursday pledged to boost the ties between the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, and Dutch Parliament as well as those between the two countries at large.

The pledge was made during the talks between NPC Standing Committee Vice-Chairman Wang Zhaoguo and Yvonne Timmerman-Buck, president of the First Chamber of State-General of the Netherlands, and her colleague Frans Weisglas, president of the Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament.

Bilateral relations between China and the Netherlands have been developing smoothly, Wang said.

He noted that bilateral cooperation in such fields as politics, economy, education, science and technology has been enhanced

sustainably.

China appreciates the Netherlands for its adherence to the one-China policy, said the NPC vice-chairman.

Wang said China hopes the Netherlands could push forward the China-EU all-around strategic partnership into a higher level during its tenure as the EU presidency.

The Netherlands took over the rotating presidency of the EU on July 1.

On the ties between the two parliaments, Wang said such ties have become an important part of the relations between China and the Netherlands and Chinese side is willing to continue to

push forward the relations.

Timmerman-Buck and Weisglas spoke highly of Wang's visit to the Netherlands for the tour helps increase the mutual understanding.

The Dutch Parliament is willing to strengthen the cooperation and dialogue with the NPC, said the two leaders.

Wang arrived in the Netherlands on July 6 for an official good-will visit. The Netherlands is the first leg of Wang's tour of four European countries, which will also take him to Iceland, Malta and Austria.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi militants loyal to the Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and local children chant in the street in the Sadr City district of Baghdad, on 9 July, 2004.—INTERNET

EU threatens to sue Britain over anti-"booze cruise" laws

BRUSSELS, 9 July — Britain must loosen its crackdown on smuggling or could face court action for deterring Britons from buying cheap drink and tobacco abroad, the European Commission said on Wednesday.

The Commission and Britain have long argued over the interpretation of European Union rules allowing Britons to go on booze cruises to France to escape high excise duties on alcohol and tobacco at home.

British authorities have used their discretion to confiscate goods and cars from people returning with large amounts of alcohol and cigarettes, a policy the EU executive said was unacceptable.

"The UK sanctions, which are based on the seizure of goods, and sometimes cars, quite often go too far and interfere with people exercising the rights given to them by the EU's internal market," European Internal Mar-

ket Commissioner Frits Bolkestein said in a statement. "This is obviously not acceptable."

If Britain fails to change its policy, it could face legal action at the EU's top court for failing to respect EU laws, the Commission said in the statement.

The Commission acted after receiving complaints from travellers. There was no immediate comment from London.

EU rules allow member citizens to buy goods abroad for their own use and not for profit. The row is over the punishments which Britain imposes on people returning home with drink and cigarettes for friends and family.

The British Treasury has defended its determination to fight smugglers, saying illegal imports of alcohol and tobacco was costing taxpayers four billion pounds (7.41 billion US dollars) a year.

EU guidelines introduced after duty fees were abolished say travellers can bring home up to 90 litres of wine, 110 litres of beer and 800 cigarettes.

In 2001, the Commission reprimanded London for the first time, but Britain rejected its charges, saying law-abiding tourists had nothing to fear and that its Customs were targeting organized smugglers.

MNA/Reuters

Report says US science policy swayed by politics

WASHINGTON, 9 July — The Bush Administration is still packing scientific advisory panels with ideologues and is imposing strict controls on researchers who want to share ideas with colleagues in other countries, a group of scientists charged on Thursday.

The Union of Concerned Scientists said in a report that the Administration's policies could take years to undo and in the meantime the best and the brightest would be frightened away from jobs in the National Institutes of Health and other government institutions.

The union, chaired by Dr. Kurt Gottfried, Emeritus Professor of Physics at Cornell University, said more than 4,000 scientists, including 48 Nobel laureates, had joined the call for "restoration of scientific integrity in federal policymaking".

"I don't think one should simply assume that the problem... will go away if there is a new Administration in office," Gottfried told reporters in a telephone briefing.

"What is happening under this Administration is a cultural change. We have to address this cultural change and fix it," Gottfried's group previously levelled similar charges

against the Bush Administration in February.

Two recently appointed members to the National Advisory Council for Human Genome Research, Dr. Richard Myers of Stanford University in California and Dr. George Weinstock of Baylor Col-

lege of Medicine in Texas, said they had been asked inappropriate questions when they were nominated.

Weinstock said a staffer at the Health and Human Services Department called to ask "leading political questions". "There is no doubt in my mind that these

questions represented a political litmus test," he said in a statement.

Myers said he received a similar call in which he was asked about his opinion of embryonic stem cell research, which the White House opposes.

MNA/Reuters

Four US soldiers, two Iraqi national guards killed in mortar strike

BAGHDAD, 9 July — Four US soldiers and two Iraqi national guards were killed in a mortar attack Thursday that collapsed the Iraqi national guard headquarters in Samarra, some 110 kilometres north of Baghdad, a US military spokesman said.

Eighteen soldiers from the US 1st Infantry Division and three Iraqi national guard soldiers were also wounded in the attack at approximately 10:55 am local time (0655 GMT).

"There was a mortar attack on the Iraqi national guard headquarters in Samarra.

They fired four mortar rounds, striking and collapsing the building used by the national guard and

1st Infantry Division soldiers," said the division's spokesman.

The US troops fired back with four 120-millimetre mortar rounds at the guerillas' suspected targets, he added.

Earlier, another US military spokesman said that three US soldiers and one Iraqi national guardsman were killed in the mortar attack.

Meanwhile, media reports said four Iraqi civilians were killed and about 30 others were

injured in fierce clashes between guerillas and the Iraqi security forces backed by US-led multinational forces Thursday in Samarra.

US helicopters flew over the city, opening fire at some suspected targets while the US tanks took positions in the city, according to the reports.

Samarra has been a hotbed of insurgency against the US-led multinational forces in Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua

Britain receives over 90 compensation claims from Iraqi families

LONDON, 9 July — The British Ministry of Defence (MoD) said Thursday that it has received 91 claims from Iraqi families that demanded compensation for the deaths of their relatives allegedly caused by British troops.

According to the MoD, it had rejected 54 compensation claims, accepted three and there were 34 cases remain to be decided.

Fifty-two of the claims covered Iraqis allegedly shot by British troops and others included fatalities due to road traffic accidents and unexploded ordnance, the MoD told the British Parliament in a statement.

Four claims related to deaths in detention, the

statements said. The spotlight on the behaviour of British troops in Iraq moved to a British High Court in early May as Iraqi families demanded compensation from the MoD for deaths of their civilian relatives.

Lawyers representing 14 Iraqi families with relatives allegedly killed by British soldiers were lodging papers in London to seek a judicial review to



An Iraqi boy distributes posters of Shiite clerics in Kufa, Iraq on 9 July, 2004. — INTERNET

Iraq WMD claim inadequately supported by intelligence

LONDON, 9 July — The claim that Saddam Hussein could deploy weapons of mass destruction (WMD) within 45 minutes, used by British Prime Minister Tony Blair to justify war with Iraq, was inadequately supported by intelligence, the *Financial Times* reported Thursday.

Lord Butler's report on prewar intelligence, to be published on July 14, is expected to conclude that the intelligence to substantiate the claim was of insufficient quality and intelligence gathered on Iraq was inadequate, said the newspaper, citing people familiar with the contents of the report.

The claim was made four times in the government's dossier on Iraq's WMD issued in September 2002, including in Blair's foreword. Since no such banned weapons have been found in Iraq and the 45-minute claim has been discredited. It was also understood that the report criticizes the credibility of the source of the 45 minutes claim and the process by which the information was assessed, the newspaper added.

The claim became the

subject of intense scrutiny when David Kelly, the government arms expert, was alleged to have voiced concerns about the accuracy of the claim to BBC journalist Andrew Gilligan, who then fired a report claiming the Downing Street had "sexed up" its evidence for the case of war against Iraq. Gilligan's report unleashed a furious row between the government and the BBC, which culminated in Kelly's suicide and Lord Hutton's inquiry into the circumstances of his death. During Lord Hutton's inquiry, Sir Richard Dearlove, the chief of MI6, described the 45-minute claim as "a piece of well-sourced intelligence... from an established and reliable source... who was certainly in a position to know this information".

Lord Hutton published his inquiry report in January, exonerating Blair and his government of "dishonourable" or "underhand" strategy during the Kelly affair. However, many dismissed the Hutton report as a whitewash. Blair then asked former civil servant Butler to conduct a public inquiry into intelligence on Iraq. Lord Butler's criticism is expected to get repercussions from both MI6, which gathered the intelligence, and the joint intelligence committee, which assessed its inclusion in the government dossier, said the *Financial Times*.

MNA/Xinhua



A lemur eats an orange while the other looks on at the Buenos Aires Zoo, on 8 July, 2004. Four lemurs from the Island of Madagascar, also called 'ghosts', arrived the Argentine Zoo. This species is in danger of extinction.

INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

Blair faces damaging report over Iraqi arms claim

LONDON, 10 July — British Prime Minister Tony Blair is facing a fresh setback as local media report that an inquiry will conclude the claim that Saddam Hussein could deploy weapons of mass destruction (WMD) within 45 minutes was "vague and poorly founded".

The 45-minute claim, used by Blair to justify war on Iraq, was made four times in the British Government's dossier on Iraq's WMD issued in September 2002, including in Blair's foreword.

Since no such banned weapons have been found in Iraq, the 45-minute claim has been discredited. Even Blair himself has admitted those weapons may never be discovered.

On Friday, the *Evening Standard* newspaper said Lord Butler's report on prewar intelligence, to be published on July 14, will conclude the claim "should never have been published because it was poorly sourced and vague".

According to the newspaper, which did not reveal the source of its report,

Lord Butler will also say Foreign Secretary Jack Straw overruled legal advice that the Iraq war would be unlawful without a second UN resolution.

A BBC report quoted a member of the inquiry team as saying Friday that the Butler's report will highlight the "limitations" of intelligence.

Earlier this week, the *Financial Times*, citing people familiar with the contents of the report, said that the report is expected to conclude that the intelligence to substantiate the claim was of insufficient quality and intelligence gathered on Iraq was inadequate.

It was also understood that the report criticizes the credibility of the source of the 45-minute claim and the

process by which the information was assessed, the *Financial Times* newspaper added.

However, Commons leader Peter Hain warned against reading too much into media speculation ahead of the report's publication. Downing Street has refused to comment ahead of the report's publication.

Lord Butler's criticism is also expected to get repercussions from both MI6, which gathered the intelligence, and the joint intelligence committee, which assessed its inclusion in the government dossier, according to the local media. — *MNA/Xinhua*

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Iraqi PM cancels visit to EU

BRUSSELS, 10 July — Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi has cancelled his visit to Brussels scheduled on Monday due to the worsening security situation in his country, European Union (EU) official said Friday.

"We are told yesterday that Allawi couldn't come next week," said Dutch ambassador to the EU Thom de Bruijn at a briefing on the upcoming EU foreign ministers' meeting to be held from Monday to Tuesday.

Bruijn said Allawi had accepted the invitation issued last month by the Netherlands, which is at the helm of the rotating EU presidency.

The invitation was aimed to let Allawi meet EU foreign ministers to discuss face-to-face how EU member states can contribute to Iraq's reconstruction.

The replacement of Allawi, whether it is Iraqi foreign minister or not, is still under discussion, according to Bruijn. — *MNA/Xinhua*

US soldier dies of wounds in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 10 July — A US soldier died of wounds sustained when guerrillas attacked his patrol in Baghdad, a US military spokesman said on Friday.

The soldiers came under attack at 11:30 pm (1930 GMT) on Thursday. US forces detained five suspected guerrillas during the patrol.

The death brought to at least 652 the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq since the start of last year's invasion.

— *MNA/Reuters*

China, ASEAN declare to enhance regional judicial cooperation

KUNMING, 10 July — The two-day China-Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Prosecutors-General Conference concluded Friday with a joint declaration of establishing a cooperative mechanism in the fight against cross-border organized crimes.

Jia Chunwang, procurator-general of the Chinese Supreme People's Procuratorate, and his counterparts of ten ASEAN members Friday evening signed the declaration in Kunming, capital of southwestern China's Yunnan Province.

All procurators-general acknowledged that under the accelerating globalization of economy and information, it is necessary to strengthen the regional judicial cooperation to find effective measures to deal with non-traditional challenges and threats, said the declaration.

All of them agreed to launch close cooperation in fighting against terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering, human and weapon smuggling, and other cross-border crimes in line with related international laws and conventions.

They also vowed to widen the judicial cooperative fields and set up active judicial cooperation in collecting evidence, investigating suspects and witnesses, seeking lost properties and extraditing criminals, the declaration said.

In order to improve

cooperative efficiency, they decided to build special networks concerning information collection, search, exchange and transfer to enhance cooperative efficiency.

"The joint declaration shows that China and ASEAN countries have achieved comprehensive agreements in fighting against cross-border crimes to maintain the regional stability," said Jia Chunwang.

China and ASEAN countries have decided to establish a regular annual

meeting mechanism of procurators-general.

The next meeting will be held in Thailand in 2005.

Due to the diversified legal systems in different Asian countries, some loopholes certainly exist in the fight against the transnational crimes.

In recent years, China and the ASEAN countries have enhanced their direct cooperation in specific judicial fields, and have made remarkable progress in the combat against cross-border crimes.

— *MNA/Xinhua*



Cars flee from the scene of an attack believed to be against a US convoy on a highway between Baghdad and the city of Samarra. A hostage drama snared Iraq, with a Filipino threatened with beheading and two Bulgarians reportedly snatched, as clerics attacked the government for colluding with its former US-led occupiers. — *INTERNET*

Malaysian naval fleet concludes Shanghai tour

SHANGHAI, 10 July — The Malaysian naval fleet under the command of Captain Jamil Bin Osman and Captain Zulkifli Abubakar left here Friday. The fleet includes the multi-purpose supplier *KD Sri Indera Sakti* and the frigate *KD Jebata* with 476 officers and sailors aboard.

During their four-day goodwill visit to Shanghai, Wang Deding, commander of the Shanghai naval base, met with Osman and Abubakar and other senior officers of the Malaysian Navy.

The Malaysian guests visited a missile frigate designed and made by China and toured some scenic spots in Shanghai.

KD Sri Indera Sakti, with a tonnage of 4,500 tons, has been put in use since 1980 and *KD Jebata*, with a tonnage of 2,519 tons, has served the Navy for ten years.

This is the second visit to Shanghai by a Malaysian naval fleet following a tour in August 2002. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Singapore asks India to concentrate Eastwards

NEW DELHI, 10 July — Visiting Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong asked Friday New Delhi to "look east" more and stressed that his nation wanted to have enlarged investments in India.

Goh arrived here on a three-day trip Thursday night to become the first head of government to visit India after the United Progressive Alliance government assumed office in May.

In a statement to the Press, Goh said he was looking forward to enhancing bilateral relations during his stay here.

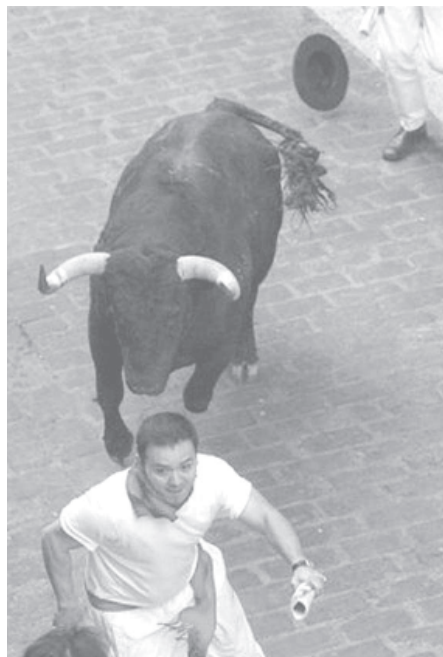
Leading a high-level delegation, including Foreign Minister S Jayakumar and Trade and Industry Minister George Yeo, Goh is scheduled to hold discussions with Manmohan Singh besides External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh, Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath and former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

He will also call on President APJ Abdul Kalam and Vice-President Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and meet Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

On the economic front, he will declare the launch of a Singapore-India partnership foundation with the support of the Confederation of India Industry and the Singapore business federation to encourage exchanges between the two nations.

The past decade has witnessed an important expansion in bilateral economic relations between Singapore and India.

Singapore is India's largest trading partner in ASEAN with a trade turnover of 2.9 billion US dollars and also the biggest ASEAN investor in the nation. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A runner is chased by a fighting bull during a San Fermin bullrun in Pamplona, Spain, on Friday, 9 July, 2004.

— *INTERNET*

Water supply tasks carried out for rural development



An artesian well at Kyundaw Village in Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Division.
PBANRDA



Tubewells are being sunk to supply water to the people living in Myitkyin Model Village in Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Division. — PBANRDA



Rural people living in Yone Village in Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Division, are fetching potable water from a tubewell. — PBANRDA



Underground water tapping project is being implemented in Thazi Village, Gyobinkauk Township, Bago Division. — PBANRDA



A tubewell sinking truck in action in Pyibin Village, Chauk Township, Magway Division, to supply potable water to rural people. — PBANRDA



Water is being supplied to the villagers from the tubewell in Nyaungbinkan Village, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Division. — PBANRDA

Prime Minister inspects construction...

(from page 1)

construction of the three-storey main lecture hall, three-storey hostels, mess, staff quarter and residence for the principal and lecture halls.

Principal of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon) U Sein Htay reported on strength of service personnel, organizational set-up, subjects conducted, number of students in academic years, degrees and diplomas conferred and arrangements for opening of courses at the college now under construction.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt fulfilled the requirements and gave instructions on systematic construction of the college magnificently in accord with the set standard. Next, the Prime Minister inspected the scale model of the college and the site.

The Prime Minister and party went to National Race Village near Yangon-Thanyin Bridge in Tharkayta Township.

At the briefing hall, Minister Col Thein Nyunt reported on collection of cultural items usually used in traditional houses, greening tasks, planting of shade and perennial trees and flowers, upgrading of the village phase by phase, creating of natural forests and ecological environment, raising of swan near the landmarks of Innlay Lake and Ngwedaung Dam, creating of natural environment in the whole village and construction of archway



Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon) built in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township.—MNA

depicting national solidarity at the entrance of the village.

In his discussions, the Prime Minister said efforts are to be made for emergence of a place which reflects national solidarity, preservation of traditional culture and conservation of natural environment. He said as soon as one enters the precincts of the National Race Village, he would realize that the Union of Myanmar is a Union where all national races live in amity, preserving their respective traditional culture. Arrangements are to be made to inculcate national solidarity spirit and the Union spirit spontaneously in the mind of all the national races who

come to the National Race Village, he said.

Arrangements are to be made for enjoyment of natural environment of Myanmar and green and pleasant atmosphere of the village, he added.

He spoke on construction of the archway of the National Race Village which depicts the long existence of Myanmar in the course of history, essence of solidarity and strength and consolidation of the Union. Next, the Prime Minister inspected development activities in the village and left there in the afternoon.

MNA

New building for BEPS, hospital...

(from page 1)

Next, the General and party attended the ceremony to open BEPS No 7 in Ward 168. The commander, Minister for Education U Than Aung and Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein formally opened the new school building of the school. At the ceremony, Director-General Col Aung Win of DHSHD reported that the 16-bed hospital was built in accord with the instruction to build a hospital to be able to provide health care to local people given by the Chairman of the National Health Committee at the opening ceremony of the new building of BEPS No 6 on 20 July 2003.

In addition, the two-storey building of BEPS No 7 was built with a view to upgrading it into BEMS in the future. In 2004-2005 academic year, DHSHD built buildings of 20 schools.

Adviser to the department Col Tin Tun handed over documents related to the hospital to Acting Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung of Health Department and documents related to the school building to Director-General U Aye Kyu of No 3 Basic Education Department.

Next, the General presented 1,510 dozens of exercise books and 755 dozens of pencils for BEPS Nos 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 to respective school heads and students. The commander accepted K 5.19 million for the hospital from wellwishers. Similarly, the Minister for Education accepted K 2.158 million for the school from wellwishers.

Afterwards, Dr Ye Myint Lay of the hospital and Headmistress Daw Myint Myint Khaing expressed gratitude.

On behalf the MEC Prime Minister, Minister for Education U Than Aung delivered an address, saying that good foundations have emerged simultaneously for providing health care to local people in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and contributing to children for their



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects classroom at Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) BEPS No 7.—MNA

education status.

The government, on its part, has been making relentless efforts to develop rural and urban regions for 14-15 years. In this regard, it builds good foundations in education and health sectors without fail.

The Head of State and officials went right down to grass-roots level including far-flung border regions and rural areas and fulfilled various requirements of local people. Development tasks are being undertaken in the entire nation for ensuring emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

He said local people of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan)

Township can now enjoy fruitful results of health care service and promotion of education standard. Later, the minister expressed gratitude for emergence of health and education buildings in the township.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister instructed them to upgrade schools to BEHS and BEMSs and to build 16-bed hospitals in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) and (East) Townships. Next, he inspected the new school building and classrooms.

The school is 260 feet by 30 feet two-storey RC building comprising 14 classrooms.—MNA

Commander, Mayor inspect sanitation tasks in Yangon City

YANGON, 10 July — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected sanitation tasks being carried by Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar Police Force, workers of YCDC and local people to keep Yangon City clean and pleasant.

The commander and the mayor saw over sanitation at roads, buildings and hospitals and dredging of drains in Latha, Kyimyindine, Kamayut, Mayangon, South Okkalapa and Thingangyun townships.

They attended the tree planting ceremony at Thanthuma Sports grounds in South Okkalapa Township and planted trees. Next, they also planted Gangaw trees (Mesua ferra) in the compound of Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital. Next, the mayor accepted membership applications of Union Solidarity and Development Association of hospital staff hailing the National Convention.

MNA



People's Hospital built by Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.—MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours Myanaung and Laymyathna in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 10 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials, on 8 July morning, met with officers and other ranks and their families at the hall of local battalion in Myanaung.

He gave instructions on tasks to be supervised by officials concerning education, health, social welfare and livestock breeding on a manageable scale and made cash donations for the Maternal and Child Welfare Association of the battalion. After greeting those present, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the vegetable plantations of the battalion. At Myanaung Township PDC office, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met departmental officials and discussed regional development work. Township Chairman U Kyaw Thein reported on facts about the township, education, health, economy and social affairs, targeted cultivation of monsoon paddy for 2004-2005 and already-cultivated acreage. Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than co-ordinated matters in respective sectors. And he said Myanaung Township is famous for its oil-field on which the State has to rely. The township is also seen progressing. Departmental officials are to grow shade trees and windbreaks and teak trees. In Ayeyawady Division, it is set to cultivate 3.5 million acres of monsoon paddy and to grow other crops this year, he said. In addition, officials are responsible for organizing people to raise local chickens on a manageable scale. The State is endeavouring for ensuring balanced development all over the country by designating the 24 development regions and the five rural development tasks. So, officials at different levels are to make efforts for development of their respective regions, he added. In Myanaung Township, 43309 acres have been put under monsoon paddy against 114,359 acres targeted. Besides, 1000 acres of paddy have been extended, he said.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the 400-acre paddy field in Ywathit Village where he greeted the farmers who were there to attend the direct seeding demonstration. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged the farmers to strive for producing 100 baskets per acre. They then drove along Patheingyi Road and arrived at the local battalion in Kwinkauk, Ingaung Township. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met officers and other ranks and their families there and instructed officials to supervise regional development works and made cash donations for the MCWA of the battalion. Next, he inspected the livestock breeding zone and vegetable patches.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Laymyathna Township PDC office where they met service personnel and discussed development undertakings. The township PDC chairman reported on matters related to the township and cultivation of paddy. Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than next attended to the needs. Speaking on the occasion, he said they arrived there to witness the development of the township and fulfil the requirements. Ayeyawady Division has targeted to cultivate 3.5 million acres of monsoon paddy and 1.6 acres of summer paddy for 2004-2005 fiscal. So, it is necessary for respective regions of the division to strive for exceeding the targets, he said. Only then will the economy of their regions improve. The State has opened universities and hospitals in Patheingyi, Hinthada and Maubin of the division. Further, the five rural development tasks are being carried out. And as is known to all that the National Convention is being held to build a modern developed democratic nation. That is why service personnel are needed to discharge duties in their respective sectors for the welfare of the State. After the meeting, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing donated 100 dozens of exercise books for the students in the township and the chairman of township PDC and township education officer accepted the donations. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at township public hospital and inspected it. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented the donation of K 150,000 for the operation theatre of the hospital, and township health officer Dr Soe Nyein and party accepted it. He also comforted the patients. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party cordially greeted the USDA members in front of their office and left there and arrived at Ngathang Chaung in the evening. They inspected production process of cashew nut at Mya Myinmo Cashew Nut Trading in Khotaung village. It can produce 100 viss of finished products per day not only for local market but also for export. Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party spent the night in Patheingyi. — MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets local farmers at direct seeding demonstration on 400 acres of farmland in Kyaukse Township. — MNA

Health Minister leaves for Bangkok

YANGON, 10 July — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint left here by air this morning to attend the Second AIDS Elimination Ministerial Meeting for Asia and Pacific Countries and the 15th International AIDS

Conference to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 11 to 16 July.

The minister was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Social Welfare,

Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Hwa, directors-general and officials of departments under the Ministry of Health, WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostina Borra and relatives.

Lt-Gen Thein Sein...

(from page 16)
the delegates for their discussions with positive attitude. He apologized to the delegates for inconvenience if there was any while they were at Nyaungnnapin camp.

He promised that the delegates will receive better services in the next plenary session of the National Convention.

Later, he wished the delegates, who would be leav-

ing for home because of the adjournment of the National Convention, may enjoy health and happiness.

Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party left there at 9.45 am.

MNA



NCCC Chairman Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects the shop at Nyaungnnapin Camp. — MNA



NCCC Chairman Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects the spectacles shop at Nyaungnnapin Camp. — MNA

Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Smooth and Secure Transport meets

YANGON, 10 July — The Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport held its work coordination meeting at the

meeting hall of All Bus Lines Control Committee (Yangon Division) on Laydaunkan Road in Tamway Township, Yangon Division at 5 pm today, with an address by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were station commanders, military region commanders, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi and members, the supervisory committee members, local authorities, registrars of universities and colleges in Yangon and officials, the Chairmen of the Bus Lines running in Yangon Division and guests.

In his address, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe said that the supervisory committee was formed with the aim of enabling the people who are commuting downtown Yangon and from Yangon to other states and

divisions daily to enjoy smooth and secure transport and of ensuring speedy flow of commodities. Therefore, the committee members are to strive for successful realization of their sector-wise tasks.

Next, the supervisory committee members reported on arrangements being made for enabling the people who are commuting downtown Yangon and from Yangon to other states and divisions daily by car, by train, by boat and by air to enjoy smooth and secure transport and officials concerned on their respective tasks.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe. — MNA

**Don't
smoke**

A milestone leading the nation to a new age — 1

Aung Moe San

All the national races born in the Union should be loyal to the country and the land. They will have to safeguard the country and the land at the risk of their lives. They will have to relay the duty for ensuring perpetuation of the land and the country to the generations. Our forefathers had already safeguarded the country at the risk of their lives. Thus, we are able to own our land and country at present. There shouldn't be any disputes resulting from differences in languages or places of residence or distance between our places. We will have to strive in harmony and unison and with full strength to build a democratic nation. In this regard, the National Convention is being held.

At the Convention, there are eight groups:

- (1) The Delegate Group of Political Parties
- (2) The Delegate Group of Representatives-elect
- (3) The Delegate Group of National Races
- (4) The Delegate Group of Peasants
- (5) The Delegate Group of Workers
- (6) The Delegate Group of Intellectuals and

Intelligentsia

- (7) The Delegate Group of State Service Personnel
- (8) The Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons

The Union is the foundation for the National Convention. The delegates attending the Convention are the brethren of a single family, who will live in the nation in weal or woe or through thick and thin. They are collectively striving and making coordination for the emergence of a State Constitution, while bearing in mind Union Spirit, loving kindness, sympathy, forgiveness, and the spirit to rejoice at others success or prosperity. Moreover, they are striving in accord with the six objectives of the National Convention — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; perpetuation of sovereignty; flourishing of a genuine multiparty democracy system; further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values namely justice, liberty and equality in the State; and for the Tatmadaw to be able to participate in the national political leadership role of the State. Of the six, some quarters from inside and outside the nation are opposing the sixth one that is the key for national reconsolidation and establishment of a democratic nation. In reality, those who agree with the first, second and third objectives of the National Convention should also accept the sixth without fail, because, the only force that can safeguard the national policy — non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national solidarity; and perpetuation of sovereignty — at any cost is no other institution than the Tatmadaw. The Tatmadaw is required to play a leading role in the national politics till the living standard can be further improved and peaceful and stable democratic nation emerges. Our nation cannot copy the democracies of western Europe by discarding this fact. In the early stages,

the countries of western Europe had also passed through the eras during which leaders had to perform both the military and political duties. America that is imposing harsh economic sanctions on Myanmar at present had fought the war of liberation and the civil war. However, both wars lasted only for a short period. But in Myanmar, the internal armed conflict has not yet ended even at present, although a period of half a century has already passed. And even in America, that is called the father of democracy, some sectors are not running properly on the democracy path.

In accord with the law of the social science, the human history develops from its initial stage. A study of the law in combination with the objective conditions clearly shows that the Tatmadaw should take part in the national political leadership role to join hands with the institution in building a democratic nation. Instead of moving forward, the history of Myanmar will be again in a whirlpool of going backward, if we are only dreaming that everything will be fine by just enacting a law without taking into account the practical developments of history. And the Tatmadaw will face unavoidable situations again and again to take over the State duties.

The acts and oppositions to disturb or destroy the National Convention that is being held in accord with the six objectives will only push the nation further away from the road to democracy.

The entire national people faced the bitter experiences of disunity among the national races and internal armed conflicts that broke out soon after the independence had been regained. It is time all of us took the lessons of the past. There is not a single thing good enough to show in the nations facing disintegration and civil wars. And their people are facing starvation. But some of the powers are selling arms to those countries, and at the same time, they are providing food for them. By doing so the powers are making profits.

Thanks to the endeavours of the Tatmadaw Government, 17 armed groups that had launched armed opposition against the governments of the past, have returned to the legal fold. The problem of internal armed conflict that spilled the blood of national people can be solved with the spirit of restoring internal peace and perpetuating the Union Spirit. The national races from those groups are now attending the Convention together with their brethren. They are making coordination to draw basic principles for a Constitution that will drive the nation in the future. From that stage, a democratic nation will be peacefully built in accord with the seven-point future policy programme of the State. Thus, the seven-point policy programme is a milestone that will lead the nation enter a new age.

(Myanma Alin:8-7-2004)

(Translation: TMT)

Commander, Minister attends ceremonies to hand over new school buildings

YANGON, 10 July — A ceremony to hand over a new school building to the Ministry of Education was held at No 2 BEHS in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division yesterday morning. It was attended by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun.

Director-General of No 2 Basic Education Department Lt-Col Win Htein and Donor U Ohn Hlaing (Moe Hein Co) formally opened the school building and the Commander and the Minister looked round the new building.

Later, the Minister made a speech. The donor presented documents concerning the building to the Director-General who gave the certificate of honour.

Next, the donor contributed 1,500 dozens of exercise books and K 500,000 to the school and No 2 BEPS Headmaster U Myint Thein accepted them and expressed thanks. The headmaster presented souvenirs to the Commander, the Minister, the Director-General and the donor.

Afterwards, the Commander and the Minister attended a ceremony to hand over a new school building to the Ministry of Education held at BEHS in Myittha at 11 am. The Director-General and the donor formally opened the building and the Commander and party saw over the new building.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun then delivered an address.

The donor reported matters related to the donation. Donor U Ohn Hlaing presented documents of the building to the Director-General who gave away the certificate of honour to the former.

The donor presented 1,500 dozens of exercise books. Headmistress Daw Khin Htar Nwe expressed thanks and the ceremony came to an end.—MNA



37th Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services (37th CCS)

Yangon, Union of Myanmar
10 — 13 July, 2004

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



Traditional Boxing Tournament between Japanese and Myanmar boxers was held at National Indoor Stadium in Thuwunna, Yangon, on Saturday. Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents the golden belt to Nine One Lay (Myanmar) who won in 63.5 kilo division. — NLM

Japan-Myanmar Boxing Tournament was held at National Indoor Stadium in Thuwunna, Yangon, on Saturday. Akitoshi Tamura (Japan) and Aye Bo Sein (Myanmar) in action in 67 kilo division. NLM



Japan-Myanmar Boxing Tournament was held at National Indoor Stadium in Thuwunna, Yangon, on Saturday. Akitoshi Tamura (Japan) who beat down Aye Bo Sein (Myanmar) in 67 kilo division seen adorning the golden belt. — NLM



Delegation calls on UMFCFI officials

YANGON, 10 July — A six-member delegation from Centre for International Trade Studies (CITS) of Thailand led by Associate Dean of Graduate School Dr Pussadee Polsaram of University of Thai Chamber of Commerce called on UMFCFI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, CEC Members and executives at the UMFCFI head office on Merchant Street, here yesterday morning. They discussed matters on trade and investment promotion and bilateral cooperation. — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint delivers an address at the opening ceremony of Kyaukhtu Airport. — MNA

great change as it was complete with universities, colleges and specialist hospitals.

The government has been building dams and reservoirs in Magway Division as the division depends mainly on agriculture. Therefore, the division is making much progress since those irrigation facilities have contributed to not only agricultural production but regional greening.

In Magway Division, there are altogether 161 irrigation facilities built after 1988. In addition, such irrigation facilities as dams,

past there were six airports where jets can take off and land. Now there are 22 airports including the present one, he said.

He spoke at length on construction of motor roads and railroads, bridges and airports for better transport in states and divisions, maintenance of the existing roads and construction of roads linking rural and urban regions.

He said the government is implementing projects systematically with the participation of the people. Now the entire people can enjoy fruitful results of all-

Gangaw District, Magway Division. In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and arrangements made by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, new Kyaukhtu Airport was built for ensuring better transport of the people in Matupi, Mindat and Kanpetlet townships in Chin State and Saw Township and enhancing living standard of the local people.

The airport has the 6,500 feet long, 100 feet wide and 26 inches thickness concrete runway. As the runway will be 10,000 feet long and 100 feet wide

Next, the commander gave a speech. He said that new Magway Airport and Kyaukhtu Airport have been built during the period of the State Peace and Development Council. In addition, Pakokku Airport, the third of Magway Division, will be opened soon. Similarly, the chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council gave a speech. Next, a local people expressed gratitude for opening the airport.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented gifts to Project-in-charge Maj Aung Khaing of the Directorate of Military



Air transport plays greater ...

(from page 16)

Development Council Col Zaw Min, Vice-Chairman of Chin State Peace and Development Council Col Hsan Aung, local authorities, departmental officials, the National Convention delegates from Chin State, Sagaing Division, Magway Division and Mandalay Division who attended the National Convention held at Nyaungnapin Camp, Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, members of social organizations, local people from Gangaw, Htilin, Saw, Kyaukhtu and Mindat Townships and others totalling over 17,000.

In his address, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that Kyaukhtu Airport opened today is situated near Kyaukhtu, Gangaw District, Magway Division. Kyaukhtu, where there is the airport, can be accessible by car through Saw-Laungshay-Seikpyu-Chauk road, Kanpetlet-Mindat road in Chin State via Saw, Mindat-Matupi road in southern Chin State, Htilin-Gangaw road in north-west of Magway Division and Pauk-Kamma-Pakokku road. With the emergence of the airport, there will be better transport in Yaw region and Pakokku region as well as regions of southern Chin State.

In Magway Division, there were 7 airports including the one which light planes can land. The emergence of Kyaukhtu Airport means creating better transport in the region by the

Government. In addition, it can be said that there has emerged a new step for air transport sector while making efforts for the emergence of a new modern and developed nation.

At a time when changes and developments are taking place, aviation transport plays a greater role in transport sector. Especially, aviation transport has become imperative not only at home but abroad.

Magway Division saw better transport with the emergence of Magway airport and Kyaukhtu airport in aviation transport sector as well as Ayeyawady River Bridge (Magway), Anawrahta Bridge (Chauk), Hsinbyushin Bridge across Chindwin river, and bridges that are crossing Yaw Creek, Mann Creek, Mone Creek and Salin Creek.

Furthermore, progress has been made in the transport sector of Magway region as Pakokku-Yesagyo-ChaungU railroad, Pakokku-Gangaw-Kalay railroad and Magway-Taungdwingyi-Aunglan-Pyay railroad in eastern and western parts of Magway Division were upgraded. As a result, people in the region have now been able to enjoy the fruitful results of better transport.

Meanwhile, the industrial sector of Magway Division is making progress with the emergence of the industrial zone, the personal goods factory and the textiles mill. Moreover, Magway has undergone a

reservoirs and diversion weirs were built in the western part of the division where there are Mone Creek, Mann Creek, Salin Creek and Yaw Creek.

Those irrigation facilities in combination with current 900 lakes large and small and 44 water pumping stations in the division have been benefiting over 500,000 acres of farmland.

He quoted Head of State Senior General Than Shwe as saying that better transport brings about economic progress and closer relations among the national races. Priority is to be given to communications and transport sectors step by step for national development.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint said transport facilities which are basic for national development were built one after another on self-reliance basis in accord with the guidance of the Head of State.

He said Myanmar engineers themselves built new airports, roads and railroads, bridges and wharves and upgraded old airports. Kyaukhtu Airport was built by military engineers. In the

round development in the country.

Kyaukhtu situated on Pakokku-Mindat Road, is a gateway to the south of Chin State. It is also on the Seikphyu-Saw-Htilin-Gangaw Road. Development of Kyaukhtu contributes towards the progress of Magway Division and Chin State. The government is fulfilling requirements in social and economic sectors. At the same time, it is also implementing seven-point future programme of the State to build a genuine democratic State suitable for the nation and its people. The programme is own correct path towards democratic state in conformity with present political situation.

He called for participation in implementation of nation-building tasks, working hard and removal of elements who undermine the fate of future of the citizens.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe delivered an address, saying that Kyaukhtu Airport is located in Saw Township,

soon, jet planes like Boeing 747-400 flights can land and take off there. Furthermore, a 65 feet by 30 feet temporary airport building has been constructed.

In making efforts for economic development of the State with various methods, the government laid down plans for implementing Pakokku Airport in Magway Division, Anisakhan Airport, NyaungU Airport and Elar Airport in Mandalay Division, Hkamti Airport in Sagaing Division, Lashio Airport and Kengtung Airport in Shan State, Bhamo Airport in Kachin State and Yangon International Airport in Yangon Division in addition to Kyaukhtu Airport.

The minister urged departments concerned and local people to safeguard and maintain durability of the airport and greening and beautifying of it. Later, he thanked the commander, the chairman of Magway Division PDC, engineers, departmental personnel and local people for their participation in construction of the airport.

Engineers. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers and senior military officers took designated places.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Director of Military Engineers Maj-Gen Tin Tun and Magway Division PDC Chairman Col Zaw Min formally opened the archway of the airport. Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe formally unveiled the signboard. Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the stone inscription of the airport and sprinkled scented water on it.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party together with delegates to the National Convention posed for documentary photos at the archway.

The runway of the airport is of 26 inches thickness concrete one. The runway can withstand 873,000 lb load. It has the 300 feet by 300 feet apron. Thanks to opening of the 6,500 feet long and 100 feet long runway, Fokker 27 flights and F-28 jets can land and take off the runway.—MNA



The newly opened Kyaukhtu Airport in Saw Township, Gangaw District, Magway Division. — MNA

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- ၃။ ပုဂ္ဂလိကကျောက်မျက်နှာ ကျောက်စိမ်း လုပ်ငန်းရှင်များမှလည်း မိမိရောင်းချလိုသည့် ကျောက်မျက်နှာ၊ ကျောက်စိမ်းနှင့် အချောထည် လက်ဝတ်ရတနာများကို (၂၀-၇-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့မှ (၃၀-၇-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့အတွင်း လာရောက်အပ်နှံနိုင်ပါသည်။
- ၄။ ရောင်းချရန်တင်သည့် ရတနာပစ္စည်း၏ တန်ဖိုးပေါ်တွင် (၀.၄) ရာခိုင်နှုန်းကို မြန်မာစီးပွားရေးဦးပိုင်လိမ္မော်တက်သို့ ပေးဆောင်ရမည်ဖြစ်ပြီး ရောင်းချရပါက ရောင်းချရငွေပေါ်တွင် ရတနာခွန် ပေးဆောင်ခြင်းနှင့်ပတ်သက်၍ သတ္တုတွင်းဝန်ကြီးဌာနမှ ထုတ်ပြန်ထားသော မြန်မာကျောက်မျက်နှာရတနာဥပဒေနှင့် ဥပဒေများအတိုင်း ဆောင်ရွက်သွားမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။
- ၅။ အသေးစိတ် မေးမြန်းစုံစမ်းလိုသူများသည် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ လိပ်စာအတိုင်း ရှုချိန်အတွင်း လာရောက်ဆက်သွယ်ရန်နိုင်ပါသည်။

မြန်မာ့စုတော်လှန်ရေး(စီ)

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မြန်မာအင်္ဂလိပ်ရင်းနှီးမြှုပ်နှံမှု(လိ)ရုံး

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Thunderstorm hits S-W Germany

BERLIN, 9 July— A heavy thunderstorm raided parts of southwest Germany on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning, uprooting trees and causing havoc on streets and motorways.

The city of Freiburg witnessed torrential rain, with streets flooded and water up to 60

centimetres high.

Police in Wiesbaden reported hail as big as tennis balls and lighting severed telephone lines at the main police station.

Meteorologists are warning of further stormy weather, particularly in east Germany. — MNA/Xinhua

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Dated: 11 July, 2004

Russia, Germany agree on huge gas pipeline project

Moscow, 9 July— Russian President Vladimir Putin and visiting German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder on Thursday announced that the two countries will jointly launch a gas pipeline project aimed at extracting and selling Russian natural gas in Europe.

Russia's Gazprom and Germany's E.ON will build a joint-venture to extract natural gas, construct a gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea, develop an infrastructure to supply Russian gas to Germany and the entire Europe, and launch joint projects for electric power stations on the European market, according to *Interfax* news agency.

Gazprom, the largest gas producer in the world, plans to build the pipeline across the Baltic Sea from Vyborg to Germany and Britain, the report said.

Construction of branch routes will supply gas to Finland and Sweden. The whole project is expected to increase gas supplies from Russia to Scandinavian countries and ensure reliable shipments to Western Eu-

rope as well as northwestern parts of Russia.

Hailing the programme between Gazprom and E.ON, a leading company in the German energy field, Putin and Schroeder said in a joint statement that "the development of gas resources in Russia and the expansion of the gas infrastructure are of key significance in covering additional demands on the natural gas market and for the security of Germany's and Europe's gas supply".

Germany is Russia's main foreign trading partner, accounting for some 10 per cent of Russia's foreign trade and about 18 per cent the capital invested in Russia. Official figures show that the bilateral trade volume reached 18 billion US dollars last year.

MNA/Xinhua

Jiang Zemin meets US national security adviser

BEIJING, 9 July— Chairman of China's Central Military Commission Jiang Zemin met here Thursday with US Security Affairs Adviser Condoleezza Rice.

Rice, who just arrived in Beijing Thursday noon as guest of Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, said she is happy to meet Jiang again and she brought the greetings from US President George W. Bush to Jiang.

She said at present, US-China relations are in good shape, expressing the hope that the two sides make joint

efforts to further promote the bilateral relations.

The meeting is still going on at Press time.

It is reported that China is the second leg of Rice's three-nation Asian tour, which includes Japan and South Korea as well. On Wednesday, she held talks with Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi Junichiro and

Foreign Minister Kawaguchi Yoriko. They discussed regional security issues.

Rice is expected to leave Beijing for Seoul Friday noon and then confer with South Korean leaders.

Rice accompanied US President George W. Bush on a working visit to China in February, 2002.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese official stresses cooperation with Africa

BEIJING, 9 July— China will strengthen cooperation with Africa in agriculture and other areas in a bid to improve its overall relations with Africa, Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan said here Thursday.

Tang told a score of African diplomats, mostly from French-speaking nations, that China will step up cooperation with African countries in agricultural development, infrastructure construction, human resources training and resources development.

The group of African diplomats came from the Republic of Congo, Togo, Burundi, Seychelles, Gabon, Benin, Djibouti, the

Comoros, Niger, Rwanda, Central Africa, Morocco, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania and Mauritius. They are visiting China.

"China has always attached great importance to its relations with Africa, and considers its friendly cooperative relations with African and other developing nations as a starting point for its foreign relations", Tang said.

The State Councillor said

that in developing cooperation with African nations, China will bear in mind the principle of mutual benefit, human first and in diversified forms.

The China-African Cooperation Forum mechanism will be fully utilized, Tang said.

Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong visited Africa last month, following a trip by Chinese President Hu Jintao earlier this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand to halve current birth rate in 10 years

BANGKOK, 9 July— Thailand's birth rate is expected to be halved within the next 10 years so as to promote prosperity, the *Thai News Agency* reported Thursday.

Thailand has already successfully controlled its population growth, a Thai population expert Dr. Vichai Thiantavorn, was quoted as saying. The national birth rate has been reduced from 3 per cent to less than one per cent over the past decade.

"In the past 5-10 years,

the number of babies born per year was reduced by 20 per cent from one million to some 800,000. And recent studies by leading university experts on population growth predict that Thailand could further reduce its current birth rate to 0.5 per cent in 2015 and to 0.4 per cent in

2025," he said.

Dr. Vichai said Thailand needed to control its population growth in order to maintain the balance between demand and supply of social and medical services.

Thai men live to an average age of 70 and women 75, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဆဲ

Lifestyle blamed for rise in myopia in East Asia

LONDON, 9 July—A rise in myopia, or near-sightedness, in East Asia is due to lifestyle changes and not genetics, a science magazine said on Wednesday.

Genetic variations that make people more susceptible to myopia were thought to be the cause of the increase in the vision problem in countries such as Singapore and Japan where cases have risen sharply.

But Ian Morgan, of the Australian National University in Canberra, said there is no evidence to support the genetic theory and added that the rise in myopia is due to lifestyle changes, particularly hours spent indoors reading or in front of a computer or television.

"Children now spend much of their time focusing on close objects, such as books or computers," *New Scientist* magazine said. "To compensate, the eyeball is thought to grow longer. That way less effort is needed to focus up close, but the elongated eye can no longer fo-

cus on distant objects."

People with myopia have difficulty seeing objects at a distance, or reading signs but can do close-up tasks and read.

The magazine said the rate of myopia in India is about 10 per cent but that 70 per cent of 18-year-old men of Indian origin in Singapore have myopia.

Morgan and Kathryn Rose, of the University of Sydney, also cited a study in Israel which found that 80 per cent of teenage boys studying in religious schools that emphasized reading texts had myopia, compared to 30 per cent in state schools.

"As kids spend more time indoors, on computers or watching telly, we are going to become just as myopic," said Morgan.

MNA/Reuters

Four US companies recall 150 million pieces of toy jewellery

WASHINGTON, 9 July — Four US companies have voluntarily recalled 150 million pieces of toy jewellery over concerns that some of it could pose a risk of lead poisoning, it was announced here Thursday.

The recall was announced by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and is one of the largest recalls in the US history. The recalled Indian-made toy jewellery involves various styles of rings, necklaces and bracelets sold in vending machines nationwide from January 2002 through June 2004.

The CPSC said in a statement that about half of the 150 million pieces of toy jewellery actually contain lead. But as it is difficult to distinguish the lead jewellery from the non-lead jewellery, the industry decided to recall all of them.

MNA/Xinhua



Miss Universe 2004, Jennifer Hawkins of Australia, poses while visiting the Grand Palace in Bangkok on 10 July, 2004. Hawkins is in Bangkok for the 15th International AIDS conference from 11-16 July. — INTERNET

Mexico, Brazil seek new Latam "architecture"

BRASILIA (Brazil), 9 July—Mexico wants to build a partnership with Brazil through South America's MERCOSUR Customs bloc to create a new "Latin American architecture" in trade, Mexican President Vicente Fox said on Wednesday.

As Latin America's two largest economies and the two most populous nations, Mexico and Brazil must move closer if the region is to reach the wealth levels it wants, Fox said on a visit to Brazil's capital.

"Brazil and Mexico have the obligation to form a partnership so all of Latin America's possibilities can grow," Fox said, flanked by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. "These ideas are creating a Latin American architecture we all want to see." Long separated by language, geography and their relationship with the United States, Spanish-speaking Mexico and Portuguese-speaking Brazil are coming together over Fox's bid to join the MERCOSUR trade bloc — made up of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Mexico first proposed joining MERCOSUR earlier this year. The nation will launch free-trade talks with MERCOSUR at a meeting of the bloc in Argentina, on Thursday, mark its first step to become an associate

member. The status — which Chile, Peru and Bolivia already have — grants trade preferences with MERCOSUR states but allows a nation to maintain its own external tariff policies.

Mexico is after closer ties with South America after its top trade partner, the United States, has signed multiple free-trade deals with other countries.

Lula, Brazil's first working-class President, wants to boost Latin American integration to counter US and European power and gain better terms in global free trade deals. "Together, we're going to be a lot stronger and a lot more respected," said Lula, adding Brazil would try to speed Mexico's entrance into MERCOSUR.

Mexico's bid to join MERCOSUR, the world's third-largest trade bloc, comes as the group tries to build an agency to resolve continual conflicts between top members Argentina and Brazil. The spats often blow up with currency shifts in Brazil that make its products more competitive. — MNA/Reuters

HP aims to recycle \$1.86b of electronic waste by 2007

LOS ANGELES, 9 July—HP, a world leading computer maker, said Wednesday that it is accelerating its product recycling programme by setting a goal to recycle one billion pounds (1.86 billion US dollars) of electronic products and printing supplies globally by 2007. The company said it recycled more than 100 million pounds (185.6 million US dollars) of electronic products and printing supplies in 2003, through its Planet Partners return and recycling programme, raising the total to 500 million pounds (927.8 million US dollars) recycled since it began recycling in 1987.

The computer maker noted that the one-billion-pound goal is specific to recycling and does not include the millions of products the company and its partners refurbish, reuse, donate or resell.

"As we face growing concerns regarding electronic waste, HP's objective is to offer customers around the globe a convenient and environmentally sound return and recycling service for HP products," said Debra Dunn, a senior vice-president of HP. "We will continue to develop innovative recycling solutions in an effort to meet our aggressive recycling goal for the future." — MNA/Xinhua

Heavy rains flood parts of Bangladesh port city

CHITTAGONG (Bangladesh), 9 July—Heavy rains flooded homes and shops in large parts of Bangladeshi port city of Chittagong on Thursday, and officials said the situation could worsen as more rain was expected in next few days.

Road links to the city of four million people had partially snapped and hundreds of people were stranded at railway stations as trains were delayed because of poor visibility, officials said.

"We recorded nearly some five inches of rain in 12 hours on Thursday morning," one meteorologist said, as the monsoon that runs from mid-June to end-September peaked.

Water gushing down from nearby hills had flooded the city, said a disaster official in Chittagong, 188 miles southeast of the capital Dhaka.

Witnesses said dozens of vehicles were stranded on the flooded streets of the city while hundreds of homes, offices, shops and schools were under knee-deep water.

The rains also disrupted operations at the country's main Chittagong Port, with about 20 foreign vessels unable to load or unload cargo, port officials said.

MNA/Reuters

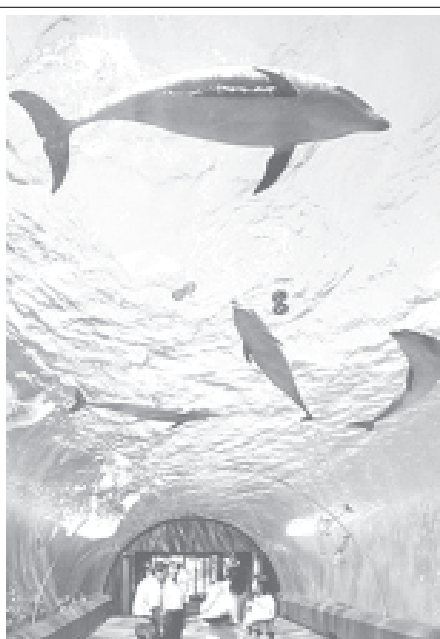
CD-ROM aims to educate about UN family through "Fun"

GENEVA, 9 July—The second of two CD-ROMs with interactive games to help people, especially children, learn about the United Nations has been released by the UN, a UN official said here Wednesday.

The CD-ROM, named "Discover the UN Family and Have Fun!", is the second in its series, with the first released last year, Patrice Robineau, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), said.

The game, with images of freighters and airplanes loaded with emergency cargo, teaches players that the World Food Programme (WFP) provides food for victims of war and natural disaster.

MNA/Xinhua



Dolphins swim at the newly-established aquarium dubbed 'dolphin fantasy' at the Hakkeijima Sea Paradise in Yokohama. — INTERNET

Spain chides Britain for nuke sub's Gibraltar stop

MADRID, 9 July—Spain has protested to Britain about the return to Gibraltar of a nuclear submarine that was stranded there for a year in one of the worst episodes of tension between Madrid and London in recent years.

The Spanish Foreign Ministry has summoned Britain's ambassador twice this week to complain about the arrival of *HMS Tireless* in the British colony on Spain's southern coast, the ministry said on Wednesday.

Spain expressed its "displeasure and deep discomfort ... at Britain's lack of sensitivity towards Spanish public opinion, which clearly rejected the presence of the *Tireless* in Gibraltar during its previous visit," the ministry statement said.

"This new visit... will mark a negative

point in the good relations between both governments."

The *Tireless* will arrive off Gibraltar on July 9 for a short visit as part of a routine operational programme, the British Embassy said in a statement. The original controversy was triggered when the *Tireless* turned up in Gibraltar in May 2000 after developing a small crack in the cooling system of its reactor while on duty in the Mediterranean and leaking a small amount of contaminated water into the sea. — MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Leeds defender Harte to sign for newly promoted Levante

MADRID, 9 July—Leeds United defender Ian Harte will travel to Spain to sign for recently promoted Levante, the Primera Liga side said on Thursday.

The club said that the Ireland international, who had been given permission by Leeds to talk to the Spanish side, would arrive in Valencia at 1300 GMT on Thursday, undergo a medical on Friday morning and then be presented to the media at 1000 GMT.

Harte is the latest of a string of players to leave debt-laden Leeds following their relegation from the Premier League last season.

Scotland defender Dominic Matteo signed a three-year deal with Blackburn Rovers on a free transfer on Wednesday.

England striker Alan Smith was sold to Manchester United for just over seven million pounds (13 million US dollars), goalkeeper Paul Robinson joined Tottenham Hotspur in a two-million-pound deal and teenage midfielder James Milner was offloaded to Newcastle United.

MNA/Reuters



Members of Colombia's National soccer team celebrate after scoring a goal against Bolivia during their Copa America match in Lima, on Friday, 9 July, 2004. — INTERNET

Battle hotting up for France's coaching job

PARIS, 9 July — The French football federation has received 38 applications for the job of France's national coach but the shortlist is down to four or five names, an FFF spokesman said on Thursday.

No names were given and FFF chairman Claude Simonet has postponed the appointment of Jacques Santini's successor from Friday to Monday.

"The chairman wants to give himself more time for thought. He also wants to

consult all branches of French soccer," the FFF spokesman said.

The new coach was to be named after a regular meeting of the FFF's board in Clermont-Ferrand, in the centre of France.

It now seems that discus-

sions will take place during the board meeting and the FFF general assembly on Saturday. The names on the shortlist are easy to identify from Simonet's schedule over the last days.

He had discussions with former French international Laurent Blanc and Jean Tigana during Euro 2004.

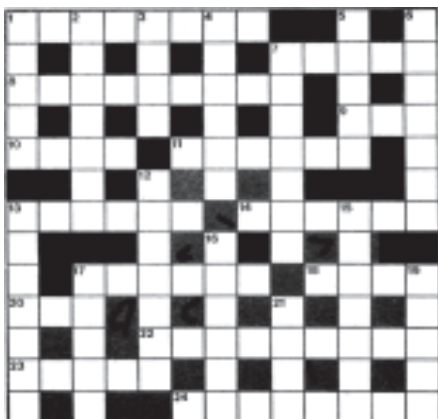
He met former England manager Glenn Hoddle and France Under-21 coach Raoued Dmenech on Wednesday and also had a telephone conversation with former Senegal coach Bruno Metsu. Blanc and Tigana are regarded as the favourites but each of the five main contenders have their pros and cons.

The 38-year-old Blanc became a hero of French soccer after captaining France to victory at the 1998 World Cup and the 2000 European Championship.

He is said to have the support of his former teammates including Zinedine Zidane who said his international future depended on the choice of the new coach.

A stumbling block could be that he has no coaching experience, having ended his playing career at Manchester United little more than a year ago. Tigana won his place in French soccer's hall of fame as a leading member of the 1984 European champions. — MNA/Reuters

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 Eats flesh of own species
- 7 Depart
- 8 Propagate
- 9 Young wolf
- 10 Long, narrative poem
- 11 Compose
- 13 Untitled
- 14 Sniff
- 17 Engineless plane
- 18 Croquet arch
- 20 Strong rod
- 22 Top floor of bus, e.g. (5,4)
- 23 Alias William II
- 24 Liquor bottle

DOWN

- 1 Utter imprecations
- 2 About marriage
- 3 Golf-club
- 4 Entertained
- 5 Comedy of buffoonery
- 6 Outdoor team game
- 7 Merciful
- 12 Hurtful
- 13 A nut
- 15 Very forcible
- 16 Place of worship
- 17 Abrupt in manner
- 19 Card game
- 21 Ground space

Olympic Torch starts trip through Cyprus

NICOSIA, 9 July — Hundreds of tourists gathered at the castle of the western coastal town of Paphos to watch the welcoming ceremony of the Olympic Torch, before it started its relay in Cyprus.

In his address Paphos Mayor Fidiar Sarikas said the city with its 2,300-year-old history is an ideal venue to welcome the flame and to comprehend the message and the ideals of the Olympic Games.

"I am deeply touched and feel very proud to be present here to witness this auspicious ceremony welcoming the Olympic Flame, the ultimate symbol of noble competition and peaceful coexistence," he said.

He said the flame carried with it the universal message of the Olympic ideals, a message of brotherhood of peoples, freedom and equality.

He thanked all those who have made it possible for the flame to be welcomed in Paphos.

First torchbearer and football player Andreas Stylianou ran for a short distance before handing over to the next torch bearer.

The Olympic torch relay starting in Paphos will follow a route covering nearly

all government controlled areas of Cyprus, through many communities and past many of the island's great landmarks and locations, before arriving at its final destination in central Nicosia.

The first day will end in Nicosia with a major public celebration, free for all, in the D'Avilla moat in the old town of the divided capital, which will include the lighting of a cauldron by the final torchbearer Anninos Markoulides.

The ceremony will be followed by a concert of Cypriot composer Marios Tokas, who will be accompanied by well-known Greek singers and choirs from all over Cyprus. On July 9, the Olympic torch will continue its journey through Paralimni, in Famagusta District, on the east of the island.

The journey ends at Larnaca Airport where the Olympic flame will depart for Crete, first stop of the Greek relay. — MNA/Xinhua

Crystal Palace snap up Cahill from Millwall

LONDON, 9 July — Crystal Palace have agreed to sign Millwall midfielder Tim Cahill for two million pounds (3.70 million US dollars), the club web site said on Thursday.

The move will go through providing personal terms are agreed and Cahill passes a medical, Palace said.

Crystal Palace, promoted via the playoffs in May after six years in the second tier of English football, described the 24-year-old Australian as one of the most exciting goalscoring midfielders in the country.

Cahill has won four caps and scored six goals for Australia and last season propelled Millwall to the FA Cup final by scoring the only goal in the team's semifinal win against Sunderland. The Londoners lost the final 3-0 to Manchester United.

MNA/Reuters

Late penalty gives Paraguay win over Costa Rica

AREQUIPA (Peru), 9 July — Substitute Julio dos Santos scored an 85th minute penalty to give Paraguay a 1-0 victory over Costa Rica in their Copa America Group C opener on Thursday.

Paraguay gradually found their way after a dismal first half performance against a well-organized Costa Rican side, who were playing their first game under new coach Jorge Luis Pinto.

Colombian Pinto replaced US coach Steve Sampson, who resigned after the Ticos needed away goals to scrape past Cuba in their preliminary round World Cup qualifier last month.

Fielding their Under-23 team in preparation for the Athens Olympics Games, Paraguay struggled to string any moves together for much of the game. By contrast, Costa Rica surprised Paraguay with their brisk passing and the attacking duo of Andy Herron and Ronald Gomez posed a constant threat.

Gomez came close to breaking the deadlock in the 22nd minute when his fierce left-footed half-volley was parried at the second attempt by Paraguay goalkeeper Diego Barreto. Barreto was in action again four minutes later when he saved a close range shot from the same player.

At the other end, Ernesto Cristaldo squandered two free kicks by shooting high and

wide from good positions.

As the first half degenerated into a midfield dogfight, neither side seemed able to producing the free-scoring entertainment seen in the opening games in Groups A and B.

But the arrival of substitute dos Santos provided attacking penetration down the

right flank, and Paraguay created a string of attacking opportunities.

The best chance fell to Carlos Paredes, but the Reggina player — one of only two regular internationals in the team alongside defender Carlos Gamarra — fired a close ranged header over the bar. — MNA/Reuters



Paraguay's Jose Devaca, right, heads the ball against Costa Rica's Ronald Del Gomez during their first round game in the Copa America soccer tournament at the University stadium in Arequipa, southern Peru, on Thursday, 8 July, 2004. — INTERNET

15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights “Mingalabar”
15:36 Picturesque Views in

	Southern Shan State
15:40	Headline News
15:42	Kayin Traditional Vegetable Curry (Tarlatabaw)
15:45	National News
15:50	Travologue "Sagaing"
15:55	Traditional Pao Dance
15:58	New Hydel power project for Putao and its environs
16:00	National News
16:05	The Making of a Myanmar Saung (Harp)
16:10	Song "Auspicious day, May 17th (I)"
16:15	National News
16:20	Pride of Place in Bagan (The Ananda Temple)
16:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
16:30	National News
16:35	A Birth place of New Artists
16:40	traditional Food of the Region Myeik
16:45	National News
16:50	Village of "EN"
16:55	Group Dance Entitled (Pyant-Pwa-Sein)
17:00	National News
17:05	The Splendour of Mt. Victoria (Natmataung)
17:10	Myanmar Modern Song "I'll remain in Shwe Myaing"
17:15	National News
17:20	Pickled Herbal Tea Leaves of Myanmar
17:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
Evening Transmission (19:30 - 23:30)	
19:30	Signature Tune Greeting

19:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Myanma Pano- rama & Myanma Sen- timent”
19:36	Picturesque Views in Southern Shan State (Part-I)
19:40	Headline News
19:42	Myanmar Motion Pic- ture Directors “Best Director Award to Pangyi Soe Moe” (Art- ist)
19:45	National News
19:50	Dried banded Snakehead
19:55	Htan Ywet Padi
20:00	National News
20:05	Marvel of a Pagoda with Uncountable Bud- dha Images
20:10	Song “Moonlight Flower (Group)”
20:15	National News
20:20	A Day in the Life of a Mahout
20:25	Song On Screen “The Brightly Shining Moon”
20:30	National News
20:35	Fabulous Shwe Gu Dage Daw Gyi
20:40	Myanmar Jaggery
20:45	National News
20:50	Myanmar Movies Im- pact “Competing in Hate”
21:00	National News
21:05	Dawei Traditional Longyi Weaving Art
21:10	Myanmar Modern Songs “Let my first love know”
21:12	Fishery In Kayin State
21:15	National News
21:20	Fair Price High Qual- ity Myanmar Carpets
21:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic

	Sights “Mingalabar”
21:36	Picturesque Viwes in Southern Shan State (Part-II)
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- 0.83 inch at Yangon Airport,
- 0.55 inch at Kaba-Aye and
- 1.02 inches at central Yangon.

Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 53.23 inches at Yangon Airport and 48.70 inches at Kaba-Aye and 49.25 inches at central Yangon.

Map of the North Pacific showing the distribution of the Japanese archipelago and surrounding regions. The map includes labels for 'LOW' and 'HIGH' pressure systems, 'BAVIERINGEN', and 'JAPAN'. It also shows various symbols for different types of islands and land features.

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyarwady river at Myitkyina is (1082) cm. It may reach its danger level of (1200) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.



1. တော့နူးစုရင် မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်
ဥပုသ်ကြီးပိတ်တော်သောမဟာနယက
အဖို့ အကွဲတော်ဆောင်ရွက် အတိအစ
မဟာဥပုသ်အဆီအခွေမဟာသဗ္ဗ
ဆရာတော်တို့ကရေလှေကားပြန်
အရေအသားအဖမိသောရောင်သစ်
ပရိတ်တရားတော်
- 7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:50 am
5. ယဉ်ကျေးစွာ(၃၈)ပြာဏ်စာ
- 8:05 am
6. အတိဖြစ်ပုံ
- 8:15 am
7. တံငါတံတား
- 8:30 am
8. International news

8:45 am
9. Say it in English

11:00 am
1. Martial Song

11:10 am
2. Musical Programme

11:25 am
3. Round-up of the week's
International News

11:40 am
4. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်လမ်းတွဲ
“သော့ချစ်ပဲနီ” (အပိုင်း-၈)

12:15 pm
5. မူလမ်းကင်းစောင့်ပွဲဆင်
(အပိုင်း-၃)

12:25 pm
6. Myanmar Movie:
“အချစ်အိမ်ကလေး”
လွင်နီ၊ နန္ဒာလွင်
ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြီးဖြူ

2:45 pm
7. International news

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday Use

4:45 pm
4. သာယာချိုဆေး(၃၈)ပြာမင်္ဂလာတေး

5:00 pm
5. အလေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး

ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ
- တတိယနှစ် (သတ္တဗေဒအထူးပြု) (သတ္တဗေဒ)

5:15 pm
6. Songs of national races

5:30 pm
7. Musical programme

5:40 pm
8. Articultural source
country's development

5:50 pm
9. Sing and Enjoy

6:30 pm
10. Evening News

7:00 pm
11. Weather Report

7:05 pm
12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
"မင်းဗွတ်" (အမိုင်-၂၈)

7:35 pm
13. Musical programme

7:45 pm
14. ဧည့်သည်တော်အစီအစဉ်

8:00 pm
15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ
"ရဲလုံသား-ဒါကတစ်စုံတစ်ရာသောအခန်း"
(အမိုင်-၆)

19. The next day's
programme



8.30 am	Brief news
8.35 am	Music: Now that the music has gone
8.40 am	Perspectives
8.45 am	Music: Moments
8.55 am	National news/ Slogan
9.05 am	Music: Best friend
9.10 am	International news
9.15 am	Cultural Images of Myanmar: - Hsoun Bowl and Myanmar Resin
1.30 pm	News/Slogan
1.40 pm	Story for children: -The story of Mahadauk
1.50 pm	Songs for children:
9.00 pm	Weekly news review
9.10 pm	Music
9.15 pm	Article
9.25 pm	Just one last dance - I miss you
9.45 pm	News/Slogan
10.00 pm	PEL



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives scholars representing Myanmar Youth Association, Teachers Across Borders USA, People to People Group and Myanmar Women (New York) at Zeyathiri Beikman.—MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives guests from USA

YANGON, 10 July—Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received a scholars group representing the Myanmar Youth Association, the Teachers Across Borders USA, People to People Group and Myanmar Women (New York) of America who are here for cooperation in Myanmar edu-

cation sector at the Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthar here at 4 pm today.

Also present on the occasion together with the Prime Minister were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Minister for Labour U Tin Winn, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office

Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, senior military officers, Director-General at the Prime Minister's Office U Soe Tint and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of Protocol Department.—MNA



NCCC Chairman Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets the National Convention delegates who will leave for home at the adjournment of National Convention. —MNA

Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially meets delegates prior to their departure for home at adjournment of National Convention

YANGON, 10 July — Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, together with Chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and management committee members, went to hostels of delegates to the National Convention at Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning and met the delegates prior to their departure for home at the adjournment of the National Convention. Next, Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspected shops selling various kinds of good to the delegates and cordially conversed with them at the shops.

At 9.25 am, Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party arrived at the hostels and met the delegates who would leave for home at the adjournment of the National Convention.

Next, Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party inspected Government Employee Cooperative (GEC) Shop and Win Thuza Shop of Ministry of Industry-1 which were selling various kinds of products to the delegates at reasonable price and met the delegates at the shops.

Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party also inspected the Myanmar Spectacles Shop of retired opticians and the communication station of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications. At the office of the reception sub-committee at Nyaungnapin Camp, Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially conversed with the delegates preparing to leave for home. Next, Lt-Gen Thein Sein expressed gratitude to

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Air transport plays greater role at time of changes and developments

Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends opening of Kyaukhtu Airport in Magway Division

YANGON, 10 July—A ceremony to open Kyaukhtu Airport in Kyaukhtu, Saw Township, Gangaw District, Magway Division, which was built by Directorate of Military Engineers of the Ministry of Defence was held at the pandal near the airport at 8.10 am today with an address by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, Vice-Quar-

termaster-General Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tun, Director of Military Engineers Maj-Gen Tin Tun, senior military officers, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and

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Newly-opened runway seen at Kyaukhtu Airport built by Directorate of Military Engineers in Saw Township. MNA

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