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*Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win meets local national race leaders at Sao Hsay Nwam Hall in Wamhaing region.— MNA*

## **Secretary-1 tours Kehsi, Mongkai, Namhsan, Hsihseng, Taunggyi, Nyaungshwe in Shan State (South)**

YANGON, 14 July — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, flew to Wamhaing region of Kehsi Township, Shan State (South), from Lashio, at 1 pm on 6 July.

The Secretary-1 and party were welcomed there by Col Thaug Aye of Mongnaung Station, Tactical Operations Commander

Col Han Myint and local national race leaders.

At Sao Hsay Nwam Hall in Wamhaing, the Secretary-1 and party met the local national race leaders and heard reports on requirements of regional development presented by in-charge of the regional development U Kaung Taing and U Sai Hsu.

After hearing the reports, the Secretary-1 attended to their needs and presented a TV to Affiliated Basic Education Middle School of the region. Next, the Secretary-1 and Wamhaing region national race leader Sao Pan Hpa exchanged souvenirs. Next,

they posed for documentary photos.

On arrival at Kehsi, the Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by Deputy Commander of Eastern Command Col Win Myint and officials. They proceeded to Kehsi Township Hospital and gave necessary instructions to Dr Moe Tun and officials. At Kehsi BEHS, they met departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Organization and social organizations, teachers and students. Chairman of Kehsi Township Peace and Development Council U Ko Ko Oo and officials submitted reports on agriculture, edu-

cation, health and transport sectors and requirements. The Secretary-1 fulfilled requirements of health, education and telecommunications of the township. Next, the Secretary-1 explained the purpose of his inspection tour to Shan State (South) from Shan State (North).

Next, the Secretary-1 and party presented teaching aid for Kehsi BEHS and exercise books for basic education schools to Headmistress Daw San Yu May and medical equipment to Dr Moe Tun. The Secretary-1 cordially greeted departmental personnel and local people. Afterwards, the Sec-

retary-1 and party inspected the multimedia teaching centre of the school and conversed with the students.

They went to Satuditha Maha Wihaya 2-mile Wutpaung Monastery in Kehsi and paid homage to the remains of Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Javana, aged 101 and 81 vasa.

The Secretary-1 and party paid homage and donated provisions to Nathwam Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Devinda and members of the Sangha.

On 7 July morning, the Secretary-1 and party flew to Mongkaing where they were welcomed by Chair-

man of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and officials.

The Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 and party went to Mongkaing BEHS and attended the opening ceremony of new school building. The commander, Director-General Lt-Col Win Htein of Basic Education Department (Upper Myanmar) and wellwisher Olympic Co Chairman Asia Wealth Bank Ltd Vice-Chairman U Aik Tun formally opened the school building. The Secretary-1 and party inspected the computer aided instruction room and audio visual room of the new school building. Next, they conversed with the students.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party attended  
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*Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects construction of Kholan-Wamhsim-Mongnaung-Mongshu Road.— MNA*

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## PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 15 July, 2004

## Myanmar actively participating in work programmes on population

July 11, 2004, is the World Population Day and this year's motto for the day is "Statistical Girl". The first conference on population and development was held in 1994. One of the objectives of the future work programme of the conference is literacy for all, especially for girls to be able to pursue vocational and technological education. All the nations across the globe have been trying for girls as well as for boys to be able to pursue primary education but, according to statistics, there are still 65 million girls who cannot.

The World Population Day 2004 was held at the International Business Centre in Yangon on 11 July. Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win attended the ceremony and Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa delivered an address on the occasion.

The population of Myanmar stands at about 53 million and the population density is only 204 people per square mile. There is still a vast area of arable land in the nation, there is a lot of potential for increased agricultural produce. Therefore, Myanmar can not only meet its domestic consumption for food but also fulfil the regional and international need for food.

There is a favourable environment not only in the economic sector but also in the education sector. The literacy rate of the nation is 92.2 per cent for those above 15. More over, due to the government's campaign for school enrolment, 95 per cent of school-age children go to school. In the higher education sector, there were only 32 universities and colleges in 1988 but now the number has increased up to 156. Regarding education, women enjoy equal right as men. In the health sector, special attention is being given to maternal and child welfare as it is an important part of the national health plan. Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation has been formed at the national level for all-round development of women and for them to be able to stand as one of the national forces.

We would like to say that Myanmar is actively taking part in the work programmes on population, adhering to the policies and work programmes laid down by the international conference on population and development.

## Heroin and stimulant tablets seized

YANGON, 14 July — A combined team comprising members of Local Battalion, Local Intelligence Unit and Bhamo Special Anti-Drug Squad, while lying in wait beside the road to Kaung-Ar Village near People's Hospital in Lweje, acting on information, stopped and searched a motorcycle ridden by Mar Aung and Ma Khun Ja on 27 April, 2004 and arrested them with 1.3 kilos of raw opium kept in a Jean bag in the fork of the motorbike. Action was taken against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Lweje Police Station. Similarly, a combined team comprising members of Local Intelligence Unit and Muse Special Anti-Drug Squad, while waiting in front of Ngwesin Construction Office, acting on information, searched the polyethylene bag held by Ma Art Chide (a) Ma Lauk Myint and Ma Saik Lyan and seized them with 20 heroin blocks weighing 7 kilos kept in the carton. Further information led to the search of the house of M Lasan (a) Mar La and seizure of 29,000 WY brand stimulant tablets kept in a bag under his bed.

Action is taken against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

## 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



Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Vice-President Daw Khin Khin Win gives talks. — MNA

## Talks on MWAFF held at Auditor-General's Office

YANGON, 14 July — Talks on Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation were given at a ceremony held at the meeting hall of the Office of the Auditor-General here at 1 pm today. Present on the occasion were MWAFF Vice-President Daw Khin Khin Win, MWAFF Secretariat member Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun, MWAFF Finance & Administration Working Group Adviser Deputy Auditor-Gen-

eral Daw Thinn Thinn, officials and employees numbering over 500.

First, Deputy Auditor-General Daw Thinn Thinn extended greetings and MWAFF Vice-President Daw Khin Khin Win gave talks on the MWAFF. After the talks, MWAFF Adviser Daw Thinn Thinn presented a souvenir to MWAFF Vice-President Daw Khin Khin Win. — MNA

## Artistes who entertained NC delegates honoured

YANGON, 14 July — A ceremony to honour artistes who took part in the entertainment of the delegates to National Convention was held at the meeting hall of Motion Picture Asiayon in Bahan Township at 10.30 am today. Present on the occasion were officials of MRTV under the Ministry of Information and Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Culture, the Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon and CEC members, artistes and journalists.

Chairman of MMPA U Sein Tin made a speech and Myanmar Athan Modern Music Troupe, the troupe of the Ministry of Culture, Bogale Tint Aung, Academy Gitalulin Maung Ko Ko and Pianist Chit Swe were presented cash awards. On behalf of the artistes, film artiste U Nyunt Win expressed thanks. — MNA



Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon Chairman U Sein Tin presents cash award to film director Bogale Tint Aung. — MNA

## ဥကုပ်နေသောရေချိုးပစ္စည်းထုပ်ကြီးများဖမ်းမိရန် ပညာပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက် (၂/၇)

တန်ခူး၊ ကဆုန်၊ နယုန်လများတွင် ဥကုပ်နေသော (သို့) ဥနှင်ပြည့်ဝနေသော ရေချိုးပစ္စည်းထုပ်ကြီးများသည် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတစ်ဝန်းလုံးရှိ မြစ်၊ ချောင်း၊ အင်းအိုင်များတွင် ဥချရန် ပြင်ဆင်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။ ၎င်းတို့မှ မကြာမီ ထောင်ပေါင်းများစွာသော ပစ္စည်းများလည်း ပေါက်ပွားလာတော့မည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အကယ်၍ အဆိုပါဥကုပ်နေသော (သို့) ဥနှင်ပြည့်ဝ နေသော ပစ္စည်းထုပ်ကြီးများအား ဖမ်းဆီး သတ်ဖြတ်ခဲ့ပါက ၎င်းတို့မှ ပစ္စည်းလောင်းများ ပေါက်ပွားနိုင်တော့ဘဲ မျိုးရိုးတိရစ္ဆာန်များ ရောက်ပေါ်ပါသည်။ ရေချိုးပစ္စည်းများ ပေါက်ပွားလာစေရန် ယခုကဲ့သို့ ဥကုပ်နေသော ရာသီချိန် များတွင် ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်းမပြုဘဲ ဘေးမှပေးသော ထုတ်လုပ်မှုအား ဖြင့်မားလာပြီး အမျိုးသားစီးပွားရေး ဖွံ့ဖြိုးလာမည် ဖြစ်သည်။ ဥကုပ်နေသော (သို့) ဥနှင်ပြည့်ဝနေသော ရေချိုးပစ္စည်းထုပ်ကြီးများအား ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်း၊ သတ်ဖြတ်ခြင်း၊ သယ်ယူခြင်း၊ သိုလှောင်ခြင်း၊ လက်ဝယ်ထားရှိခြင်း၊ အရောင်းအဝယ် ပြုလုပ်ခြင်းများ မပြုလုပ်ရန် မွေးမြူရေးနှင့် ရေလုပ်ငန်း ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာနက အမိန့်ကြော်ငြာစာ အမှတ် (၁/၇)ဖြင့် တားမြစ်ထားပါသည်။ အဆိုပါ တားမြစ်ချက်ကို လိုက်နာခြင်းမရှိပါက ရေချိုးငါးလုပ်ငန်း ဥပဒေပုဒ်မ (၄၂၊ ၄၄၊ ၄၅)ပါ ပြဋ္ဌာန်းချက်များအရ တရားစွဲဆို အရေးယူခြင်းခံရမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ ရေချိုးပစ္စည်းထုပ်ကြီးများ ရေရှည်ညစ်တုံ့စေရန် ယခုကဲ့သို့သော ဥကုပ်သော ရာသီချိန်တွင် ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်းမပြုဘဲ နေရာတိုင်းတွင် ဘေးမှပေးကြရန် အသိပေး နှိုးဆော် အပ်ပါသည်။

ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာန၊  
မွေးမြူရေးနှင့်ရေလုပ်ငန်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန

## ငါးရစ်၊ ငါးသန် ရာသီချိန်တွင် ငါးဖမ်းရန် ပညာပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက် (၁/၇)

ငါးရစ်၊ ငါးသန် ဘေးမှချန် ပုံမှန်စားသုံး မျိုးမတုံး မိုးဖြင့်ဖြိုင်ရွာသော မေလနှောင်းပိုင်းနှင့် ဇွန်၊ ဇူလိုင်လများတွင် မြစ်၊ ချောင်း၊ အင်းအိုင် အနှံ့အပြား၌ ဥများဖြင့် ပြည့်နေသော ငါးမကြီးများနှင့် မျိုးရည်ပြည့်ဝသော ငါးထီးကြီးများသည် ဥချရန် နေရာရှာဖွေ၍ ငါးရစ်တက်ကြပါသည်။

ထိုငါးရစ်ငါးများကို ဖမ်းဆီးလိုက်ပါက ပေါက်ပွားလာမည် သန်းပေါင်းများစွာသော နှုတ်ယူသည့် သားပေါက်ငါးသန် များသည်လည်း သေကျေပျက်စီးကာ တစ်နိုင်ငံလုံး ဖုလုံစွာ စားသုံးမှုနှင့် အမျိုးသား စီးပွားရေးဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုကို အထောက်အကူ မပြုနိုင်တော့ဘဲ ငါးမျိုး ပြုန်း ပြုန်းသွားစေနိုင်ပါသည်။

ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာနက အမိန့်ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ် (၂/၇)ဖြင့် ငါးရစ်၊ ငါးသန် ရာသီချိန်များတွင် ငါးလုပ်ငန်း ဦးစီးဌာန၏ ခွင့်ပြုချက်မှတစ်ပါး ငါးများ ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်းမပြုရန် တားမြစ်ထားပါသည်။ အဆိုပါ တားမြစ်ချက်ကို ဖောက်ဖျက် ကျူးလွန်ပါက ရေချိုးငါးလုပ်ငန်း ဥပဒေပုဒ်မ(၄၅)အရ ဖမ်းဆီးတရားစွဲဆို အပြစ်ပေးနိုင်ရန် ပြဋ္ဌာန်းထားပါသည်။ သို့ပါ၍ ငါးရစ်တက်ချိန်နှင့် ငါးသန် သားပေါက်သော မိုးရာသီအချိန်များတွင် လွတ်လပ်စွာ ဥချသားပေါက် နိုင်ရန် ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်းမပြုဘဲ ဘေးမှပေးကြပါရန် နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာန၊  
မွေးမြူရေးနှင့်ရေလုပ်ငန်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန



Mar Aung and Ma Khun Ja seen together with seized opium and items related to the case. — MNA



Ma Art Chide (a) Ma Lauk Myint and Ma Saik Lyan seen with seized heroin blocks. — MNA



## 880 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 July—As of Tuesday, 13 July, 880 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 651 died as a result of hostile action and 229 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 death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat opera-

tions in Iraq had ended, 742 US soldiers have died—542 as a result of hostile action and 200 of non-hostile causes.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 5,394 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defence Department's weekly tally.

Internet



An American soldier and Iraqi police stop traffic as a US military convoy passes through a busy intersection in Baghdad Iraq, on 13 July, 2004. — INTERNET

## US disappointed with Philippine move to withdraw troops from Iraq

WASHINGTON, 13 July — The United States said it was disappointed with moves by the Philippines to pull out its troops from Iraq after a Filipino was taken hostage in the war-torn nation.

Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis on Monday appealed for the life of the hostage over Arabic television station Al-Jazeera and pledged the small contingent of about 50 Filipino troops in Iraq would be withdrawn "as soon as possible."

"We certainly noted the remarks and are disappointed to see remarks like this at a time when Iraq is fighting for stability and peace," said State Department spokesman Richard Boucher. The statements, he said, "do raise some questions" and "we're awaiting clarification on

exactly what that announcement might mean in terms of Philippine withdrawal."

Philippine Foreign Secretary Delia Albert, the boss of Seguis, had said that he "spoke with foreknowledge and full authority of the Philippine government," but she declined to say whether the troops would be brought home early.

The contingent was due to leave Iraq on 20 August, but the Khaled ibn al-Walid Brigade (Islamic Army in Iraq) holding hostage Angelo de la Cruz had reportedly asked for that date to be brought forward to July 20.

An early pullout would be an embarrassing reversal for Philippine President Gloria Arroyo who has repeatedly insisted that her government would not cave in to terrorism. US Ambassador to Manila Francis Ricciardone had already met Arroyo, Boucher said, adding that discussions would continue.

Poland, which is in command of the Iraqi military region in which the 51 soldiers from the Philippines are deployed, had warned that Manila would be making a mistake if it yielded to the threats of the kidnapers.—Internet

## India, Italy sign cultural cooperation agreement

NEW DELHI, 13 July — India and Italy signed Monday a new agreement on cultural cooperation between the two nations.

A new Indo-Italian Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between the governments of India and Italy has been signed by Neena Ranjan, Secretary, four Culture and Antonio Armellini, Italian Ambassador, here, the Press Information Bureau (PIB) of India reported.

The agreement was signed in the presence of S Jaipal Reddy, Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Culture and

Margherita Boniver, Italian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

"First Indo-Italian agreement was signed in 1976 and signing of a new cultural agreement in this century will further strengthen our bilateral relations in the field of culture," Reddy said at the signing ceremony.

"Italy and India will work hand in hand for closer cooperation in the field of

culture," Boniver said.

The agreement provides broad framework to develop activities of mutual cooperation and cultural relation between the two nations.

For this purpose both the nations will support and promote bilateral projects. They will exchange knowledge of their education system and the knowledge of other nation's arts, literature and culture.

MNA/Xinhua

ထုတ်တုန်းနှစ် ခုမြင့်ကြ

## Philippines begins Iraq pullout

MANILA, 13 July — The Philippines said Wednesday it was "coordinating the pullout" of its forces in Iraq and had reduced numbers from 51 to 43 following militant threats to execute Angelo de la Cruz.

"The Foreign Ministry is coordinating the pullout of the humanitarian contingent with the ministry of defence," Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia Albert said in a statement released by the presidential palace.

"As of today, our head count is down

from 51 to 43," she added without elaborating.

Islamic militants kidnapped dela Cruz, 46, last week and threatened to behead him unless President Arroyo advanced the scheduled pullout of the contingent by one month to 20 July.—Internet

## CPC official calls for more exchanges with CPV

BEIJING, 13 July — Wang Jiarui, head of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, Monday called for further exchanges between the CPC and the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV).

Wang made the remarks in a meeting with a Vietnamese delegation led by Hoang Xuan Cu, a member of the CPV Central Committee. Wang spoke highly of the China-Vietnam bilateral ties as well as the relationship between the two parties. He said the two parties should maintain the frequent exchanges on the theories and experiences of socialist construction.

The Chinese side is willing to improve communication with the Communist Party of Vietnam to future expand and enrich the content of inter-party exchanges, Wang said.

Hoang, also director of the national security research committee under the political bureau of the CPV Central Committee, briefed Wang on the recent progress and major tasks of the Vietnam's legal and law enforcement work.

MNA/Xinhua

## Ohio soldier killed in mortar attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 July—An Ohio soldier and four members of his unit were killed July 8 in Baghdad during a mortar attack by insurgents on Iraqi National Guard headquarters, the Department of Defence said Tuesday.

Army Spc Joseph M Garback Jr, 24, of Cleveland, and the other servicemen were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division at Schweinfurt, Germany. Garback's relatives could not immediately be reached for comment Tuesday night.—Internet

## Heavy sandstorm hits N-W China

LANZHOU, 13 July — A heavy sandstorm hit Jiuquan and Jiayu Pass areas in northwest China's Gansu Province Monday night, with the visibility in the affected areas declining to 200 metres.

The sandstorm with strong wind suddenly hit the aforementioned areas at 9.20 pm Monday.

According to the meteorological station of Jiuquan City, the sandstorm formed in the Alxa League in North China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at 5 pm Monday and moved southwest since then. The sandstorm swept over an area of about 180,000 square kilometres, covering Jiuquan and Jiayu Pass areas, within about four hours.

Xu Dianxiang, an official with the Jiuquan Meteorological Station, said that sandstorm is rarely seen in the current season and he attributed the sandstorm to dry weather and high temperature over the past two weeks.

MNA/Xinhua

## Technical hitch delays "Ariane" rocket launch

KOUROR, French Guiana, 13 July—A technical problem aboard an Ariane rocket has delayed the scheduled launch of a Canadian communications satellite hours before its planned lift-off from French Guiana, space officials said.

The Ariane-5 rocket had been scheduled to launch at 9.43 pm on Monday (0043 GMT Tuesday) from the European Space Agency's launch site in Kourou, French Guiana, on the northeast coast of South America.

Officials of the Arianespace rocket launch company said a problem had been detected in the rocket's electrical system during pre-launch checks and would require at least 48 hours to fix before another try to launch the rocket could be attempted.—MNA/Reuters



A Filipino demonstrator supporting Filipino hostage in Iraq Angelo de la Cruz displays a placard during a rally in Manila. The fate of de la Cruz remains unknown. — INTERNET

# Lawmakers begin sit-in protest against troop dispatch to Iraq

SEOUL, 13 July—Some 20 lawmakers from ruling and opposition parties who signed a bill opposing the additional troop dispatch to Iraq on Tuesday began a sit-in at the National Assembly to press for their demands.

They urged National Assembly Speaker Kim Won-ki to independently bring the bill to the plenary session tomorrow.

The bill, though introduced late last month, has been shelved by the Assembly's Defence Committee without being referred to the plenary session.

The legislators also called on President Roh Moo-hyun to meet them in a bid to press the head of state to drop the envisioned plan to send an additional 3,600-strong contingent to the Mid-

dle Eastern country early next month.

The anti-dispatch move came after the United States Senate Intelligence Committee reported that incorrect information was provided to the Bush administration in the run-up to the Iraq war. In response, some South Korean lawmakers called on the US to stop the war and apologize for it.

"The US Senate Intelligence Committee's report, which was passed with unanimous approval, suggests that we should recon-

sider deploying ROK forces to Iraq," a lawmaker of the Grand National Party said. "The ROK-US alliance is not supposed to be unilaterally led by the US."

The lawmakers are also considering visiting US Ambassador to Seoul Thomas Hubbard to deliver a statement criticizing the US for having invaded Iraq.

To draw national attention to the troop dispatch issue, the lawmakers held a discussion about ways to prevent the planned troop dispatch throughout the night.

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## Iraq reconstruction money slow to arrive

WASHINGTON, 13 July—Nations that pledged last October to help Iraq's reconstruction have been slow to make good on their promises.

Countries other than the United States pledged \$13 billion in grants and loans at a high-profile conference last October in Madrid, but only about \$1 billion of that has been deposited in World Bank and UN funds for Iraq.

The United States pledged \$18.4 billion, of which about \$6 billion has been set aside for reconstruction of Iraq.

The slow pace of making good on pledges is not unusual. Iraq's lack of a recognized government may have contributed to the lethargic follow-through.

A number of countries willing to contribute have said they were waiting for the establishment of an Iraqi government, Edward S Walker, president of the Middle East Institute, a private research center, said Tuesday.

An interim government took control in Baghdad two weeks ago, but Walker said he did not know if donors were waiting until Iraq held national elections in January.

"Some Arab leaders have told me they are waiting for a legitimate Iraqi government, without explaining what it meant," the former US ambassador to Egypt and Israel said in an interview. "These pledges are easier to make than to collect."

The United Nations and the World Bank set up funds late last year to channel the donations. The World Bank has \$360 million deposited by nine countries and the European Commission and expects to reach \$400 million by the end of the year, according to a World Bank official. There is approximately \$600 million in the UN Fund.—Internet

## Air Force sees rare Iraq combat death

WASHINGTON, 13 July—Military deaths reported by the Pentagon on Tuesday included the first Air Force member to be killed in action in Iraq since March and only the fifth since the invasion a year earlier.

Staff Sgt Dustin W Peters, 25, of El Dorado, Kan., was killed July 11 near a US base dubbed Summerall, near the town of Baiji, which is about 155 miles north of the Iraqi capital.

A brief Pentagon announcement gave no other details except to say he was killed by "enemy action." Peters was assigned to the 314th Logistics Readiness Squadron, based at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

The Air Force has had nine deaths in Iraq — four in combat and five from non-combat causes. That is fewer than any of the other services. As of Monday, the Army had 662, the Marines had 185, and Navy had 19 and the Coast Guard had one. Two Pentagon civilians also have been killed.

The Pentagon on Tuesday also announced the identifications of two more soldiers and four Marines killed in Iraq in recent days.

Spc Jeremiah W Schmunk, 21, of Richland, Wash., was killed July 8 in Baghdad when his vehicle came under attack; he was a member of the Washington National Guard.

Also, Spc Shawn M Davies, 22, of Aliquippa, Pa., died July 8 in Baghdad of an unspecified non-combat related illness. He was a member of the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. — Internet



An Iraqi national guardsmen keeps his position while securing a neighbourhood in central Baghdad on 13 July. — INTERNET

## New Zealand sees business confidence up in second quarter

WELLINGTON, 14 July — Business confidence improved across most sectors in New Zealand in the second quarter of 2004 as firms took heart from a surprisingly robust recent gross domestic product (GDP) figure, a latest survey has found.

The New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) Quarterly Survey of Business Opinion, issued Tuesday, showed 20 percent of firms surveyed expected general business conditions to deteriorate over the next six months.

In the first quarter, 29 percent of respondents expected a deterioration.

NZIER said the 2.3 percent GDP growth rate in the first quarter had suggested "reasonably strong growth for the June 2004 quarter, and firms expect this to continue into the September

quarter". The improvement in confidence was seen across all sectors except building, the survey said.

However, a "stark difference" between the higher confidence among building construction firms and the lower confidence among suppliers of building materials "may suggest we are in the early stages of an upturn in building activity".

Meanwhile, NZIER said 41 percent of firms surveyed reported cost increases in the second quarter compared to 35 percent last quarter.

The tight labour market and a spike in oil prices in the second quarter were likely to have been major contributors to these increases.

Difficulty in finding labour was cited by firms as the most common limiting factor on productivity increases.

Respondents said profit margins were being squeezed by rising costs particularly in the retail and wholesale sectors where a net 19 percent of firms reported declining profitability during the quarter.

MNA/Xinhua

## Honda, Yamaha seek to boost sales in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 14 July — Motorcycle-makers Honda and Yamaha are struggling to achieve much higher sale volume in Indonesia this year in line with improving market.

PT Yamaha Kencana Motor Indonesia (YKMI), the local unit of Japan-based Yamaha Motor Corp., has targeted to boost sale to 870,000 units by the end of this year, or a 52.6-per-cent rise compared with that of last year, economic daily *Bisnis Indonesia* reported Tuesday.

"Given the improving (market) condition, we hope the sale of Yamaha will be able to reach the 1 million level next year," YKMI vice-President Yoshiteru Takhashi was quoted as saying.— MNA/Xinhua



American and Iraqi troops evacuate a soldier from a US Army humvee which was heavily damaged from an apparent roadside attack on the main route to the airport on the outskirts of the Baghdad Iraq on 13 July, 2004. — INTERNET

## China to host first expo for SMEs

BEIJING, 14 July — China's first national exposition catering to small- and medium-sized firms is scheduled from October 18 to 22 in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province.

Organizers of the exposition said that starting this year, the non-profit exposition is expected to be held every fall to boost the growth of those enterprises in China, according to the latest edition of *China Economic Herald*.

A total of 2,200 booths will be made available in the exhibition hall covering 40,000 square metres, and major department stores, retailers, and purchasing firms in China and

abroad will be invited to the exposition, according to the report.

The products to be displayed and traded are mostly handicraft, textile, home appliance, metals, and food. Most of China's small and medium industrial enterprises are producers of those products. Forums and conferences concerning technology transfer, financing, and international purchasing will be arranged during the exposition. — MNA/Xinhua



## Iraq's FM presses EU for help "not just words"

**BRUSSELS, 13 July**— Iraq needs more than verbal support from the European Union to rebuild its economy and establish a political system, Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said on Monday as he arrived for talks in Brussels.

"We expect concrete aid from the EU and from countries individually," Zebari told reporters before going in to a meeting with counterparts from the bloc's 25 member states.

His visit was scheduled at the last minute after Prime Minister Iyad Allawi decided against joining EU foreign ministers at their monthly meeting because of deteriorating security at home.

Zebari, who said he had brought a series of proposals for EU support, was due to hold a news conference at 3 pm (1300 GMT).

"Concrete support, not just words ... we expect the EU to support us during the reconstruction phase and in the political process and also with the organization of the next elections," he said, speaking in Arabic.

EU countries were deeply split over the US-led invasion last year, which Britain, Italy, Spain and others backed.

Dutch Foreign Minister Bernard Bot,

whose country holds the EU's rotating presidency, said the bloc was keen to offer "substantial help".

"We will discuss together with him what is needed at this moment and he is the best placed to tell us where help is required," he told reporters.

He said the EU wanted to send a senior delegation to meet the interim Iraqi government, most likely on the margins of the United Nations' General Assembly in New York in September.

The EU's Executive Commission last month approved a medium-term strategy for its relations with Iraq, designed to lead to an EU-Iraq agreement covering trade, aid and political and cultural dialogue after 2006.

Zebari was expected to meet NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer on Tuesday, an alliance official said, to discuss how NATO can help the embryonic Iraqi armed forces. — MNA/Reuters



*Iraqi children look at a burnt Bulgarian military truck in Karbala. The Bulgarian government confirmed that one of two Bulgarian nationals being held hostage in Iraq has been executed. — INTERNET*

## US corn production to hit new record this year

**WASHINGTON, 13 July**— US corn production could reach a record of 10.6 billion bushels this year, the Agriculture Department predicted Monday.

The department forecast production of 10.6 billion bushels, up 210 million bushels from last month and 521 million bushels from last year. The previous record was 10.1 billion bushels in 2003.

Weather has been mostly good for production of the crop, the department said.

Exports of the crop, however, are expected to drop 90 million bushels. The department said Argentina has been giving the United States increased competition and some US sales had been cancelled.

Meanwhile, the department lowered its

soybean harvest forecast by 25 million bushels from last month, to 2.9 billion bushels, based on a drop in the number of harvested acres and yield.

Soybean exports are projected at around one billion bushels, down about 15 million bushels from the last forecast, partly due to increased competition from South America and reduced imports by China.

The department also forecast overall wheat production at 2 billion bushels, down slightly from last month and down 277 million bushels from last year. — MNA/Xinhua

## Mysterious graves found in Arctic region

**OTTAWA, 13 July**— Three unmarked graves, their age and inhabitants unknown, were found by a group of Inuit hunters near Baker Lake in Canada's northern region of Nunavut, it is reported Monday.

Buried carefully under precisely stacked rocks is a weathered old wooden chest sealed with a rusty padlock, its contents just as mysterious.

A team of Canadian archaeologists has decided to solve the mystery this summer. "We really do not know what is in this box," said Doug Stenton, Nunavut's head archaeologist who will

lead the expedition.

The site was discovered last summer by a group of Inuit hunters who were fishing and hunting by the north channel of Baker Lake. When nasty weather forced the group to hunker down for a few days, one of the men found the graves and the buried chest amidst evidence of an old campsite.

In the 1700s, the inlet

was explored as a possible route to China. During the next century, it was sailed by whalers. There are no records of expeditions being lost in the area, said Stenton, but that does not mean the site is not the remains of one.

Stenton suggests the site dates to sometime during the last few hundred years, since European contact and exploration. — MNA/Xinhua

## Pakistan to strengthen cooperation with Afghanistan

**KABUL, 14 July**— Pakistan will continue to work with Afghanistan on anti-terrorism war, Pakistani Interior Minister Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat reaffirmed Afghan officials in a meeting in Kabul on Monday.

"Pakistan has a very clear policy it will not allow any group, any individual to conduct any activity vicious to the interests of any other country," he said on a joint Press conference.

"Our recent operation in the border areas between Pakistan and Afghanistan is part of our commitment towards eradication of the pockets of terrorist organizations in the region," he stressed while referring to the Pakistani military operation in the southern tribal areas along the border with Afghanistan.

Hayat, who arrived in Kabul on a two-day visit Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Afghan Government and exchanged views with his Afghan counterpart Ali Ahmad Jalali on matters pertaining mutual interests particularly war on

terrors, drug trafficking, and organized crimes.

Afghan Interior Minister Jalali appreciated Pakistan's efforts saying "Afghanistan and Pakistan are front-line countries in war on terrorism. They naturally ally in war on terrorism. A stable Pakistan and a stable Afghanistan are in the interest of both the countries."

Hayat also offered to help Afghanistan train its police and support the upcoming general elections rescheduled for October 9 and next April respectively.

"Afghanistan is our neighbour. A strong Afghanistan is in the interest of Pakistan and we wish to see the government of Hamid Karzai strengthening by the day," the Pakistani Minister noted.

MNA/Xinhua

## Putin for expanding ties with India for development of Siberia

**Moscow, 13 July**—Russian President Vladimir Putin has called for expanding Russia's ties with India and other nations of the growing Asia-Pacific region for the development of Siberia and Far Eastern parts of the country.

"We should tie our policy of broadening relations with Asian and Pacific countries to the solution of our domestic problems and the development of the potential of Russia's Siberia and Far Eastern regions.

"Relations with India and China hold much promise in this," Putin said in a keynote address at a conference of Russia's ambassadors to 130 countries here yesterday.

Putin said today Asia and

the Pacific region are evolving into the most dynamic centre of the world economic development and underscored that Russia's foreign policy should be aimed at satisfying the everyday needs of common man.

"It is important to have foreign political activities promote comprehensive development and modernisation in the country and to make diplomacy closer to the everyday needs and interests

of the people," Putin told the gathering.

Such conferences of ambassadors were held at regular intervals in the erstwhile USSR and were mostly tied to the congresses of the ruling Communist Party, held once in every five years.

Putin described Russia's current international relations as 'heterogeneous' and at a 'complicated phase of formation'.

PTI

## Annan picks Pakistan's ambassador to US as envoy for Iraq

**UNITED NATIONS, 13 July**— UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has named Pakistani Ambassador to Washington Ashraf Jehangir Qazi as his new special representative for Iraq, but it remains unknown when UN staff will return to Iraq, a UN spokesperson said Monday.

Annan informed the Security Council of the appointment in a letter earlier in the day, associate spokesperson Marie Okabe told reporters.

Qazi, who has had "a distinguished career" in Pakistan's foreign services, was selected from a short-list of three highly qualified persons, she said.

The other two contenders for the Iraq post were former Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haidar and former Thai Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan. All the three can-

didates were Muslims.

Qazi, 62, has been ambassador to the United States since September 2002 and previously served as Pakistan's top envoy to Syria, East Germany, the Soviet Union, Russia, China and India.

Okabe said Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has agreed to release Qazi from his current post in some two weeks and then Qazi will come to New York to take the new job.

MNA/Xinhua



*Pakistani High Commissioner Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, who was named as the UN's most senior officer in Iraq, is a skilful negotiator and good communicator who could handle any crisis, a colleague said. — INTERNET*

## US woman soldier involved in abuse scandal appears in court

WASHINGTON, 13 July — A US woman soldier accused of abusing Iraqi detainees at the Abu Ghraib Prison appeared in court on Monday and a hearing was set for 3 August to decide whether she should face trial.

Army Reserve Private Lynndie England, 21, was read her rights in court at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

England, one of seven US soldiers accused of abusing Iraqi prisoners at the prison near Baghdad, faces 19 charges, including assaulting detainees, conspiring to mistreat them, committing indecent acts and disobeying orders.

She faces a dishonourable discharge and up to 38 years in prison if convicted on all charges against her.

A military judge, investigating officer Colonel Denise Arn, approved a request by England's lawyers for a delay of the hearing, so that Captain Jonathan Crisp, an Army lawyer from Fort Jackson, South Carolina, can join the defence team.

England is perhaps the best-known of the seven soldiers charged after photographs showing American soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners were made public in April. The photos, taken by soldiers in England's 372nd Military Police Company, caused a widespread outrage, particularly in the Arab world, prompting US President George W Bush to apologize.

The abuses, reportedly committed late last year, first came to light in January, which was followed by a military investigation.

England and the other soldiers accused have insisted that they were following orders from military intelligence officers at the prison to "soften up" the prisoners for interrogation. — MNA/Xinhua



## American students accuse Bush's foreign policies

LONDON, 13 July — American students studying in British universities condemned US President George Bush in an open letter released on Monday, saying the US President is endangering the security of American nationals abroad through his foreign policies.

More than 200 students have signed in the letter, published by the campaign group "Win Back Respect" on its web site. They

warned the conflicts in foreign policies between the US Government and its traditional most steadfast allies.

"After September 11, our friends and allies stood firmly beside us. Today, they are increasingly skeptical of our intentions and fearful about the consequences of our country's actions," said the letter.

"We witness daily how decisions that reinforce a perception of American arrogance are undermining rather than strengthening America's security goals and the safety of our citizens at home and abroad," it said.

MNA/Xinhua



A heavily armed Iraqi national guardsman stands guard at a checkpoint on the highway joining the flashpoint towns of Ramadi and Fallujah to Baghdad in Abu Ghraib on 13 July. — INTERNET

## OPEC oil prices rose higher last week

VIENNA, 13 July — The crude oil prices of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) jumped to 36.97 US dollars per barrel last week, 2.09 US dollars higher than a week earlier.

The crude oil prices averaged 34.88 dollars per barrel in the five trading days last week, reaching 36.05 dollars on the last trading day, the highest in the past month, according to data released by the Vienna-based OPEC Secretariat on Monday.

The rise came after an attack on oil pipelines on the Fao Peninsula in southern Iraq on July 3 and US Homeland Security Secretary Thomas Ridge's warning that al-Qaeda is planning to carry out a large-scale attack in the United States in an effort to disrupt the elections. Oil ministers of OPEC member countries are scheduled to hold a meeting here on July 21 to discuss oil production policy for the next stage. According to another report, OPEC president Purnomo Yusgiantoro said in Jakarta last Friday that OPEC would keep its promise to increase its oil pro-

MNA/Xinhua

## Loud blast in central Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 13 July — A loud blast echoed across central Baghdad on Monday near a fortified compound housing the Iraqi Government and the US Embassy, Reuters witnesses said.

A plume of smoke could be seen rising from the Green Zone area on the west bank of the Tigris River, and three US helicopters hovered overhead.

The US military had no immediate information on the blast.

Guerillas have regularly attacked the Green Zone with mortars and rockets since US forces invaded last year. Several car bombs have also exploded at entrances to the compound.

MNA/Reuters

## Turkish driver killed in Iraq road bomb

BAGHDAD, 13 July — A Turkish driver was killed on Monday when a roadside bomb destroyed his truck as he travelled with a US military convoy north of Baghdad, an Iraqi police officer said.

Lieutenant Colonel Namis Saeed said an Iraqi civilian was also killed and his wife injured when US soldiers in the convoy opened fire after the explosion near Baiji, about 112 miles north of Baghdad.

The US military could not immediately be reached for comment.

Roadside bombs are one of the most common methods used by to attack US-led forces and other foreigners working with the US military.

MNA/Reuters

## Iraq, France restore diplomatic relations

BAGHDAD, 13 July — Iraq and France restored their diplomatic relations on Monday after 13 years of severance since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, a senior official in Iraq's Foreign Ministry said.

"The Iraqi flag is fluttering now in the French capital of Paris as we announce

the restoration of the diplomatic relations between the two countries," a Deputy Foreign Minister told reporters in a news conference.

Since 1991, Iraq had severed its diplomatic relations with France after it participated in the international military efforts, led by the United States, to evict Saddam Hussein's troops from Kuwait.

France has rejected US

requests for military help in quelling violence in Iraq. But it has said it is willing to help train Iraqi security forces and supports limited forgiveness of Iraqi debt to help Baghdad.

France has also clarified it wants its firms to take part in the international efforts to rebuild Iraq and share its potentially lucrative reconstruction contracts.

MNA/Xinhua

## Iran pledges to seek nuclear weapons-free Mideast

TEHERAN, 13 July — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said Monday that Iran seeks a Middle East free from nuclear weapons, the official IRNA news agency reported.

During his talks with visiting Singaporean Prime Minister Wu Zudong, Khatami said "Iran has signed the additional protocol to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and suspended uranium enrichment activities voluntarily."

The weapons of mass destruction have no place in Iran's defence policy, the President said. Khatami ex-

pressed regret over the fact that double-standard approach was adopted towards those countries possessing nuclear weapons.

"If atomic weapons are dangerous, then the world should be concerned about atomic programmes of those countries that are not members of the International Atomic Energy Agency," he said. — MNA/Xinhua

## 137 kilos of heroin confiscated in eastern Iran

TEHERAN, 13 July — Iranian anti-drug police seized over 137 kilos of heroin while conducting inspection on a truck in the eastern province of Khorassan on Monday, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Two suspected drug smuggler were arrested in the operation, the report said.

Iran serves as the linking crossroad between drug producing Afghanistan and Pakistan and markets in the Persian Gulf states, Central Asia, western Europe and other regions.

MNA/Xinhua



A South Korean protester holds a banner during an anti-war rally near the US Embassy in Seoul, on 13 July, 2004. — INTERNET



## Endeavours for agricultural development throughout the country



*Tea plantation of local national race farmers in Silu region, Shan State (East). — MNA*



*Kandawyan diversion weir built by the State in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State, benefits 12,000 acres of farmland in the region. — MNA*



*To supply water for agricultural purpose, a river water pumping station was built in Tayokehla Model Village, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State. — MNA*



*Thriving oil palm plantation in Longlon Township, Taninthayi Division. — KYEMON*



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win pays homage to Buddha images at Shwemyinhin Pagoda in Mongkaing.—MNA



MHC Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win attends opening ceremony of new building of Mongkaing Township Hospital at which Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Acting Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung of Health Department and wellwisher U Aik Tun formally open the building.—MNA



MEC Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win attends the ceremony to open new building of Mongkaing BEHS and Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, BED (Upper Myanmar) Director-General Lt-Col Win Htein and donor U Aik Tun formally open the school building.—MNA

## Secretary-1 tours Kehsi, Mongkai, Namhsan,...

(from page 1)

the ceremony to open new building of 25-bed Mongkaing Township Hospital built by Olympic Co. First, the Secretary-1 unveiled the signboard of the hospital. Next, the commander, Acting Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung of Health Department and wellwisher U Aik Tun formally opened the building. The Secretary-1 and party viewed round the new building. Later, they together with local people had documentary photos taken in front of the hospital. Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party gave encouragement to patients. Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected Township Police Station and met family members.

At the town hall, the Secretary-1 met local authorities, departmental personnel, members of USDA and social organizations and local people. The Chairman of Township PDC reported on matters related to the township. The commander gave a supplementary report. The Secretary-1 fulfilled requirements of education, health, transport and telecommunication for the township. Next, he urged departmental officials to make efforts for development of the township, to strive to be one with the local people and to participate in local development tasks. He then explained endeavours of the government and cooperation of the local people with the government.

Chairman of Olympic Co Vice-Chairman of Asia Wealth Bank Ltd U Aik Tun reported on his donations for regional development. Next, the Secretary-1 presented a computer set to Mongkaing BEHS to Headmaster U Chit Swe, exercise books to Township Education Officer Daw Baby Soe and medical equipment to Medical Superintendent Dr Yan Naung. Next, a townselder U Aung Ba donated K 500,000 to the township hospital.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party paid obeisance to Shwemyinhin Pagoda. They donated provisions to North Mwedaw Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Revata and members of the Sangha. Officials reported on emergence of Pawdawmu Buddha Image at the historic Shwemyinhin Pagoda, renovation tasks and construction of Gandakuti. The Secretary-1 and party paid homage to the Buddha Image.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party flew to the construction site of Kholan-Wamhsin-Mongnaung-Mongshu Road in Namhsan Township by helicopter. Tactical Operations Commander Col Tha Aung and Superintending Engineer U Soe Tint of Shan State (South) reported on progress of works. Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein gave a supplementary report.

The commander reported on Loilem-Tonglaw Road, Mongnaung-Kehsi-Panketu Road, Kholan-Wamhsin-Mongnaung-Mongshu Road, Laikha-Mongnaung Road, Phakee-Wamhaing-Namhlaung Road, Kehsi-Nampok Road in Loilem District, Tangyan-Mongkaung-Mongshu Road, Phakee-Wamhaing-Mongyai Road, Loilem-Laikha-Mongkai-Panketu-Tunglaw Road, Yaksawk-Indaw-Kyaukgu-Kyaukhson-Tapalan-Naungkhio Road linking Shan State (South) and Shan State (North). The Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party gave encouragement to Tatmadawmen who are building Kholan-Wamhsin-Mongnaung Road and inspected progress of the construction tasks. Kholan-Wamhsin-Mongnaung Road is 44 miles long. The road is being built to be a 12 feet wide tarred one.

In the afternoon, the Secretary-1 and party went to Namhsan where they were welcomed by Brig-Gen Thura Myint Thein of Namhsan Station, senior military officers and departmental officials.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected the township hospital and attended to the needs.

At the town hall, they met departmental personnel, USDA and social organization members and townselders. The Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council reported on matters related to the township. The commander gave a supplementary report.

The Secretary-1 attended to their needs and gave necessary instructions. He then presented a computer set for Namhsan BEHS and exercise books for the township to TEO Daw Sein Sein.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party proceeded to Hsihseng and inspected the Township People's Hospital. Afterwards, they met local authorities, departmental officials and local people in the township hall. The Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements and presented a computer for the Hsihseng BEHS and exercise books for the township to TEO Daw Nan Ngwe Ngwe.

On arrival at Ayethaya Industrial Zone in Taunggyi Township, the Secretary-1 heard reports on preparations for building the Foundry and Press Plant by Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee Secretary U Myint Thein. Shan State Engineer of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise U Kyaw Thaung reported on power supply for the plant. The Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected installation of machinery at Tomato Product Factory Project of Myanma Foodstuff Industries. They also saw over progress of building Government Technological College (Ayethaya).

On 8 July, the Secretary-1 and party went to Nanthida Camp-2 of Eastern Command in Nyaungshwe Township. Camp in-charge Maj Aung Min reported on poultry farming tasks. Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein reported on assistance to be provided for extension of livestock breeding. Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the incubator and poultry farms.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party arrived back here later in the morning.—MNA





State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win pays homage to the remains of Sayadawgyi Bhaddanta Javana, age 101, vasa 81 in Kehsi. — MNA



State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win being welcomed by local people at Wamhaing region in Kehsi Township. — MNA



State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party view round the Mongkaing Township People's Hospital. — MNA



State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party view round the Hsihseng Township People's Hospital. — MNA

### Waso robes offered to monks

YANGON, 14 July—Waso robes were offered to member Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee at Kanmyint Monastery in Sangyoung Township, Yangon West District, at 5.30 am today, attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Vice-Chairman of the SSMNC Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Aungmyebonsan Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panindabhivamsa and member Sayadaws.

Also present on the occasion were No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan, local authorities, wellwishers, lay disciples and guests.

The commander and wife, officials, wellwishers and laity offered "soon" to members of the Sangha.

Vice-Chairman of the SSMNC Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Thayet Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara administered the Five Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife and officials offered Waso robes and alms to the Sayadaws. Joint-Secretary of the SSMNC Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Mandalay Wizatayon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vicarindabhivamsa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

MNA

### ISD basketball tourney ends

YANGON, 14 July—Final matches of men's and women's events of the 35th Inter-State/Division Basketball Tournament (2004) took place in conjunction with prize-presentation ceremony at Aung San Gymnasium this afternoon, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

Among the spectators were officials of the ministry, members of the leading panel of patrons of Women's Sports Federation, President of Myanmar Basketball Federation Professor Dr Sein Myint, General Secretary U Maung Maung Myint and executives and guests.

After the final matches, officials presented individual prizes to the winners. The federation president presented fair play awards to Yangon Division women's team and Sagaing Division men's team.

Next, the minister presented championship shields to Sagaing Division women's team and Shan State (South) men's team. — MNA



State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presents teaching aids and exercise books for Kehsi BEHS. — MNA



State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presents computer and exercise books for Hsihseng BEHS. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presents computer and exercise books for Mongkaing BEHS. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win presents medicines for Kehsi Township People's Hospital. — MNA

### Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells in rural areas

YANGON, 14 July — The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient clean water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce.

One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000.

Wellwishers are invited to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects in rural areas. — MNA

\* \* \* \* \*



## Developing rural areas of prospering Myanmar

*Thura Soe Aung*

The work of the development affairs committees is to lay down development plans for the respective regions in accord with the situation and implement them on self-reliant basis. They are the organizations directly or indirectly concerned with the work of easing the people's food, clothing and shelter needs, and promoting trade and economy of the people of the towns and villages of the regions they are assigned to. The main duties of the committees are to ensure cleanliness and pleasantness of towns and villages. They have to narrow down the development gap between the urban and rural areas, develop transport and communications, ensure work site safety in production businesses, and to enable people to conduct trade systematically and recreate with peace of mind.

According to the section 9 of the Development Affairs Committees Law, enacted by the State Law and Restoration Council, on 1 April 1993, the development affairs committees have 31 different duties. The para (b) of the section covers water supply works; and the para (q) of the section, road building and maintenance works.

The annual meetings of the development affairs committees have been held since 1990 in Yangon for the effectiveness and facilitation of their functions. The leaders of the State have given instructions at the meetings and the meeting this year is the 15th one. The meetings have reviewed the weaknesses and advantages and drawn future programmes.

On 29 June 2004, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the annual meeting of the development affairs committees held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Yangon, and gave policy guidelines for their work.

At the meeting, he said, "I wish to say at the outset, that the holding of such coordination meetings of development officials carrying out their assigned tasks in the rural and urban areas countrywide is indeed most fortunate. For I believe that only then can feasible programmes be drawn up which will bear fruitful results for the development of the nation as a whole. Consequently I would like you to look upon your present development tasks at the grassroots level in the rural and urban areas, as being part of laying firm foundations for the restructuring of Myanmar as a developed and modern state in accordance with the fervent desire of the people. And their work contributes to the success of the plans and projects of the 24 special development zones and to the success of the five tasks for rural development. It is important therefore not to lose sight of the fact that your work is interrelated and is an integral part of overall development."

The development affairs groups are currently concentrating on establishing smooth roads and communications and providing adequate supply of clean water for rural consumption.

The 30-year plan covering the period of the fiscal years from 2001-2002 to 2030-2031 for the improvement of rural roads and communications, is now in the process of implementation. In the past fiscal year of 2003-2004, the development affairs committees spent a total of K 1,002.45 million for the rural roads project and K 100.95

million for building bridges in the rural areas, and that over 1,240 miles of rural roads and 206 bridges have now been built.

A Ten-Year Plan was drawn up and is now being implemented beginning from the fiscal year 2000-2001. In the previous year the Development Affairs Department spent K 691.94 million of its budget allotment to provide potable drinking water to 964 villages in three divisions of the Central Dry Zone and 875 villages of the remaining states and divisions, making a total of 1,839 villages that were supplied with drinking water.

From the start of the rural water supply project to this date, altogether 15,715 projects were implemented to supply drinking water to a total of 10,602 villages spending government funds, Development Affairs Department funds, funds received from donors at home and abroad, and with the participation of international organizations and non-governmental organizations including the Union solidarity and Development Association and Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

At the coordination meeting, the Prime Minister said that, "So, in conclusion I would like to call upon you to — Faithfully carry out your duties whatever they may be and wherever you have been assigned in order to contribute towards the successful achievement of the development plans and programmes being implemented by the State so that Myanmar as an independent and sovereign nation can take her place with pride among the nations of the world and so that her people may also enjoy long-term benefits.

— Faithfully carry out your duties for the development of urban and rural areas but bearing in mind that the ultimate goal is the strengthening national unity and propagating the Union Spirit by contributing towards the continuous development of the Union of Myanmar. — And last but not least, dedicate yourself to raising the momentum of your tasks in development as a National Duty and thereby close the development gap between town and village help to strengthen national unity".

Next, the Prime Minister presented the prizes for outstanding performance in rural development tasks, the prizes for outstanding performance in beautifying tasks, and the model township prizes to the winning townships. It is firmly believed that the nation will develop with a greater momentum through competition on implementation of the projects for development of urban and rural areas.

The responsible officials upheld the Prime Minister's instructions as work guidelines. In the afternoon, the annual meeting of the development affairs committees continued at the Development Affairs Department in Botahtaung Township.

On the occasion, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt instructed executive officers from respective States, Divisions and Townships to take lessons from weaknesses and emulate the strengths regarding the work done by the development affairs committees in 2003-2004 fiscal year and to accelerate the implementation of the tasks for greater development of rural and urban areas.

On the occasion, Director-General of the Development Affairs Department Col Myo Myint read the report of tasks carried by the development affairs committees in 2003-2004 financial year. The directors of State/Division Development Affairs Committees reviewed the report categorizing it into five sectors — formation of the development affairs committees and management functions, financial functions, urban engineering functions, rural engineering functions, and law, tax and inspection functions.



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

Deputy superintending engineers from State/Division Development Affairs Committees read papers on engineering research for modernization of the development affairs functions. They are the paper on fully collecting civil affairs data which play an important role in drawing civil engineering projects, the paper on measures to be able to avert road and traffic accidents after systematically drawing designs with the use of modern computer software, the paper on seeking ways and means for installation of machinery with the use of electric power for supply of water from rivers and creeks to towns, the paper on research of conditions on underground water in arid zones, the paper on providing supervision in constructing high-rise buildings in cities, and the paper on replacing manpower with machines in carrying out development affairs tasks.

Distinguished guests Professor U Tun Hla Aung (Retd), Professor Daw Yin May (Retd) and Professor Dr Daw Mi Mi Kyi assessed the papers and gave suggestions.

The director-general laid down the future plans, to which the development affairs committees are to give priority in 2004-2005 fiscal year.

Next, the minister elaborated on regular maintenance of the facilities in implementing the rural and urban development affairs tasks, upgrading of the facilities in accord with the passage of time, acceleration of water supply tasks in the three arid zones, and effective implementation of rural housing project in the interest of rural people.

A total of 285 township development affairs committees and 57 town development affairs committees under the Development Affairs Department have been carrying out urban and rural regions development tasks or municipal and district council tasks across the nation including border and far-flung areas.

The water supply projects cover the entire country. Although situated near sea, some villages in the Ayeyawady Delta, Rakhine coastal region and Taninthayi coastal region find it hard to get fresh water. The development affairs committees have been taking measures for supply of water in such villages. For example, the committees sank 78 test tube-wells in Kayan, Thongwa and Kyauktan townships in the previous year. Among them, 62 tube-wells produce fresh water and 16 sea water. So, success has been achieved in implementing the water supply projects.

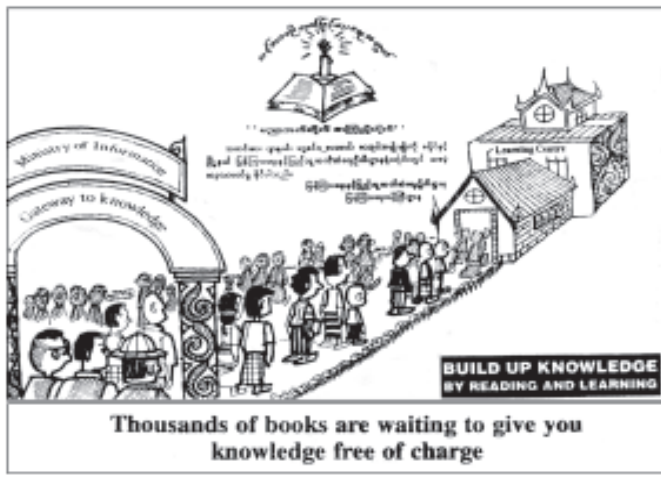
In a nutshell, the instructions of the Prime Minister at the annual meeting of the development affairs committees, discussions of development affairs committees, and findings on strengths and weakness and research papers are of paramount importance.

Therefore, it is sure that urban and rural areas will enjoy rapid development thanks to the invaluable benefit gained from the annual meeting.

(Translation: TMT + MS)



*Rural people living in Yone village in Kyaukpadaung Township, Magway Division are fetching potable water from a tube-well. — PBANRDA*



## ADVERTISEMENTS

### နိုင်ငံခြားစက္ကူ(ရ)မျိုးဝယ်ယူလိုခြင်း

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၁။	Art Paper (85)gsm (31" x 43") (၂၅၀)ရွက်ပါ	၉၀-၁၀၀ (အထုပ်ကို ရာသီဥတု)	မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ အထူးစီမံအေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ(ရေခါး) (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံတွင် ပေးသွင်းရန်) အလှူကုန်ပစ္စည်းစက်ရုံ အပ်ပြတက်ရုံ အပ်ပြတက်ရုံ(မန္တလေး) အမှတ်(၁)တွင် အပ်ပြတက်ရုံ (မန္တလေး) ပေးသွင်းရန် အပ်ပြတက်ရုံ(ရမည်းသင်း) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ အထူးစီမံအေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ(ရေခါး) (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံတွင် ပေးသွင်းရန်) အလှူကုန်ပစ္စည်းစက်ရုံ အပ်ပြတက်ရုံ အပ်ပြတက်ရုံ(မန္တလေး) အမှတ်(၁)တွင် အပ်ပြတက်ရုံ (မန္တလေး) ပေးသွင်းရန် အပ်ပြတက်ရုံ(ရမည်းသင်း) အထူးစီမံအေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ(ရေခါး) (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံတွင် ပေးသွင်းရန်) အထူးစီမံအေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ(ရေခါး) (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံတွင် ပေးသွင်းရန်) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံအေးဝါးလုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ	= ၄၀၀ ထုပ် = ၃ ထုပ် = ၃၀ ထုပ် = ၂၇၀ ထုပ် = ၄၀ ထုပ် = ၁၂၀ ထုပ် = ၄၀ ထုပ် = ၁၀၀၀ ထုပ် = ၄၆၀ ထုပ် = ၂၀၀ ထုပ် = ၂၀ ထုပ် = ၂၀ ထုပ် = ၂၀ ထုပ် = ၂၀၀ ထုပ် = ၂၀၀ ထုပ် = ၂၀၀ ထုပ် = ၂၅ ထုပ်
၂။	Foreign Duplex Board (270)gsm (31" x 43") (၁၀၀)ရွက်ပါ	၂၄၇၀-၁၀၀ (အထုပ်နှစ်ထောင်လေး ရာသီဥတုအသိတိတိ)		
၃။	Sticker Paper (21" x 30") (၁၀၀)ရွက်ပါ	၂၀၀-၁၀၀ (အထုပ်နှစ်ရာတိတိ)		
၄။	Wood Free Printing Paper (60)gsm(31" x 43") (၅၀၀)ရွက်ပါ	၂၂၀-၁၀၀ (အထုပ်နှစ်ရာနှစ်ဆယ်တိတိ)		
၅။	Foreign Printing Paper (50)gsm(31" x 43") (၅၀၀)ရွက်ပါ	၁၀၀-၁၀၀ (အထုပ်တစ်ရာတိတိ)		
၆။	Glazes Transparent Paper (30" x 40") (၁၀၀)ရွက်ပါ	၁၀၀-၁၀၀ (အထုပ်တစ်ရာတိတိ)		

### Air Zimbabwe to acquire aircraft from China

HARARE, 13 July — The Zimbabwean national carrier, Air Zimbabwe, will acquire a long haul aircraft from China shortly, according to the official news agency *New Ziana* on Monday.

Air Zimbabwe was quoted as saying that the aircraft would be used on Air Zimbabwe's new routes to China and other Asian nations. The airline has announced plans to introduce flights to Beijing and other destinations in Asia, and was looking for a long haul jet to use on the routes.

China and Zimbabwe signed a preferential tourist agreement last year, which is expected to lead to an increased inflow of Chinese visitors to the country.

MNA/Xinhua

### WFP provides \$7m for Uganda's school-feeding programme

KAMPALA, 13 July — The World Food Programme (WFP) said Monday that it has approved seven million US dollars for the school-feeding programme to continue for another year in Uganda.

WFP deputy director in Uganda Edward Kallon made the remarks when he was received by Ugandan Minister of State for Re-

gional Cooperation Nshimye Sebutoro, according to a Press release issued here by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Kallon informed the Minister of the progress of the various programmes currently run by the WFP in northern Uganda.

He said that shortfall of over 100 million dollars which the programme had been facing had been reduced

dramatically to 30,000 dollars, thanks to the generosity of the development partners and the international community. The WFP and other humanitarian agencies launched a fundraising drive for 112.4 million dollars to provide adequate humanitarian aid to internally displaced people and other vulnerable persons in Uganda in mid-June. —MNA/Xinhua

### Nigeria seeks cooperation with Australia in agriculture

ABUJA, 13 July — Nigeria will explore the possibility of cooperating and collaborating with Australia in the field of agriculture, Nigerian Commerce Minister Idris Waziri said here Monday.

Meeting with Australian Ambassador to Nigeria Iain

Dickie, Waziri said Nigeria had a comparative advantage in agriculture with 80 per cent of the country's 138 million population engaged in that sector.

He also noted Australia's expertise in mechanized agriculture and solicited the country's support and assist-

ance particularly in the technical development of agriculture in Nigeria.

As Commonwealth members as well as members of the G-20, he said, both Nigeria and Australia should cooperate with each other.

MNA/Xinhua

## ပြည်တွင်းပြန်ကိုအားပေးပါ

### Nigeria's sugar import tariff rises by 10%

ABUJA, 13 July — Tariff imposed on sugar imported into Nigeria will be increased by 10 percentages, the Nigerian Government announced here on Monday in a new sugar production policy.

"The tariff which currently stands at 30 per cent is increased to 40 per cent while the sugar levy remained at 10 per cent but subject to periodic review every three years," said the policy.

MNA/Xinhua

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P.O. Box 109, Ph: 248108/732043  
(For. Domnrm Somgait & Boonma, Attorneys at Law, Thailand.)  
Dated: 15 July 2004

### HK Culturecom, IBM help promote Mainland "IT" infrastructure

HONG KONG, 13 July — The Hong Kong Culture Holdings Limited announced here Monday a cooperation agreement with IBM has been signed to help foster the development of Information and Technology (IT) infrastructure in Chinese Mainland.

IBM, the world's largest IT company, and Culturecom will jointly market for the potentially huge computing and intelligent home-appliance markets in Mainland.

They will focus and collaborate on the e-Town and e-Education projects to foster the development of IT infrastructure in government bodies and the education sector.

MNA/Xinhua

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Hain Lin Da (J.L.B) Advocate  
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM  
E-mail: mlp@myanmar.net.mm  
Tel: 254037 G.P.O. Box 666  
Yangon 15 July 2004

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**Win Mu Tin,**  
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L for PHARMACIA ITALIA SPA  
P.O. Box 60, Yangon  
Dated: 15 July, 2004

### HK govt invites now-famous crocodile

HONG KONG, 13 July — An open competition is now under way to name the now-famous Yuen Long crocodile, an Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD) spokesman said here Monday.

The competition, co-organized with a local radio station, comprises three categories including primary school children, secondary school children and the general public. Entries in Chinese and English could be submitted through e-mail or Short Message Service on or before July 30. There will be a total of six winners, each to be awarded a 1,000 Hong Kong dollars book coupon. —MNA/Xinhua

သစ်တောသစ်ပင်၊ ချစ်ခင်တဲ့လူမျိုး။

သစ်ပင်ကိုနှစ်စဉ်စိုက်၊ ရွှေတိုက်ကိုစိုက်။



# ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့



Author J K Rowling (L) is conferred with the Degree of Doctor of Honoris Causa by Vice-Chancellor Professor Timothy O'Shea at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, on 8 July, 2004. Rowling, the rags-to-riches author of the Harry Potter books have sold more than 250 million books worldwide. — INTERNET

## Researchers say AIDS vaccine still years away

**BANGKOK, 13 July—** An AIDS vaccine is still years away even under the most optimistic scenario and scientists may have to go back to the drawing-board if the current batch of candidates, all focused on one approach, fails.

Seth Berkley, president and chief executive of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), said on Monday the number of potential vaccines in clinical trials had doubled since 2000, but the research effort remained inadequate. "The world is inching toward a vaccine, when we should be making strides," he told reporters at the 15th International AIDS Conference.

"Only a vaccine can end the epidemic."

IAVI's biennial report on the state of research — which called for a doubling of AIDS vaccine funding to 1.3 billion US dollars a year — listed more than 30 candidates now in clinical trials in 19 countries.

But only one has reached final Phase III testing and many scientists are doubtful about the product, which combines Aventis's Alvac with VaxGen's Aidsvax, following the failure of separate Aidsvax trials last year.

Merck, meanwhile, is expected to start a

Phase IIb "proof of concept" trial on its vaccine before the end of the year.

In both cases, IAVI clinical research head Wayne Koff said researchers would not find out whether the vaccines worked until late 2007 or 2008. Merck says its product is unlikely to be 100 per cent effective.

"We don't expect to have a sterilizing immunity," said company vaccine researcher Jon Condra.

Part of the problem is that products that have advanced to the human testing stage are focused on the single concept of boosting white blood cells called cytotoxic T lymphocytes, or T-cells. The T-cells attack cells that have been infected by HIV. But there are no vaccines in clinical development based on stimulating antibodies to fight the virus — an approach used in many traditional vaccines but which has so far proved extremely difficult for HIV. — MNA/Reuters

## US newspaper says economic recovery slowing down

**WASHINGTON, 14 July** — Less than three years since the US economy emerged from a recession, a patchwork of unexpectedly soft economic reports is raising doubts about the vigour of the recovery, *The New York Times* reported on Monday.

The paper said that US retail sales slowed and auto purchases declined in June. Several technology companies warned about weak software and hardware spending at the end of last quarter.

Stock prices in the country also have faltered after the end of June as corporate earnings have disappointed investors, the papers said. Meanwhile, bond prices have risen as evidence of economic fragility has allayed fears that inflation will accelerate.

It said that the recent sluggish economic indicators have inspired a note of caution in forecasts which until now had been unabashedly bullish.

MNA/Xinhua

## White House narrows search for new CIA director

**WASHINGTON, 14 July** — The White House search for a new CIA director is narrowing after several high-profile candidates dropped out, people close to the process said on Monday.

US President George W. Bush is expected to make his selection as early as later this week. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage is one of several contenders, and some say he may have the best chance of swift Senate confirmation.

Former Democratic Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia said through a spokeswoman on Monday that he is not interested.

It may be the most difficult and important job search of Bush's tenure, and people close to the process

say Vice-President Dick Cheney is playing a key role.

"The President will name a permanent CIA director in due course," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

"It really will be the President's decision, they are clearly putting together a list of people," one government source said.

The new director would take over the spy agency at a time of harsh criticism that prewar intelligence reports

exaggerated information that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

Increasing the sense of urgency are government warnings that al-Qaeda is plotting another major attack against the United States before the November presidential election.

The White House was initially wary of appointing a permanent replacement to George Tenet, who officially stepped down as CIA director on Sunday, but lawmakers said the job needed to be filled quickly rather than after

the election.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Porter Goss, a Florida Republican, once considered a front-runner for the job, met opposition from lawmakers who say the nominee should be outside of politics.

Administration officials on Monday played down the prospects of either Goss or John Lehman, a former Navy secretary now serving on a commission investigating the September 11, 2001, attacks.

MNA/Reuters

## AIDS summit elephant blamed for killing drunk

**BANGKOK, 14 July** — An elephant working as a tourist attraction at a global AIDS conference in Thailand has been blamed for killing a drunk, homeless man, police said on Monday. The body of the 55-year-old Thai, bearing all the hallmarks of being squashed by a large animal with tusks, was found on Monday morning in marshland next to the Elephant Village at the venue for the 15th International AIDS Conference. "Our initial assumption is one of the elephants in the Elephant Village might have killed him," Police Colonel Kamrop Panyakaew told reporters. "We are probing if the drunken man hurt the elephant first, or vice versa." A troupe of 27 elephants from Thailand's ancient capital Ayutthaya has been brought to Bangkok to the 15,000 delegates at the six-day AIDS meeting on the outskirts of the capital. — MNA/Reuters

## Uganda to test migrant workers for HIV/AIDS

**KAMPALA, 14 July** — The Ugandan Government is to put in place a mechanism to screen for HIV/AIDS on those workers who intend to go abroad, the *New Vision* newspaper reported on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Health Mike Mukula was quoted as saying that this would regulate the outflow of Uganda's labour market in terms of quality.

Speaking at a migration and recruitment awareness conference for nurses organized by Connect Nursing Ltd of Britain and the Uganda State

House, Mukula said the type of work abroad was too vigorous for people living with HIV/AIDS to handle

MNA/Xinhua



NASA should not rule out sending a shuttle to fix the aging Hubble Space Telescope, an expert panel told the space agency on 13 July, 2004, six months after a planned repair mission was dismissed as too risky. The Hubble is seen in its repair dock in the payload bay of the Space Shuttle Columbia in this 3 March, 2002 file photo. — INTERNET

## China strikes deal with Glaxo on cheaper HIV drugs

**BANGKOK, 14 July** — China has signed a deal with pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline to buy the antiretroviral drug lamivudine (3TC) at a reduced price, a step making HIV/AIDS treatment affordable to more Chinese patients.

"They agreed to sell us the drug at a lower price last Thursday," said Qi Xiaohui, director-general of the Department of Disease Control at China's Ministry of Health.

"In return, we would waive all import taxes on the lamivudine we buy," he told *Reuters* in an interview on Monday at the 15th International AIDS Conference in Bangkok.

Foreign pharmaceutical companies control the patents on a cocktail of antiretroviral drugs, which counter the HIV virus. In China, experts say they will be needed for as many as 10 million cases by 2010 if the problem is not tackled seriously.

Officials say the country has 840,000 HIV/AIDS cases, but disease experts estimate the number at 1-1.5 million.

Activists and doctors

in China have cited lamivudine's hefty price tag as the main reason why treatment is out of reach of most Chinese patients.

A GlaxoSmithKline spokesman confirmed the deal and said it would run for three years, but declined to give other details.

Qi said GlaxoSmithKline would also provide free supplies of the drug needed to treat 15,000 patients each year under the deal.

Humanitarian groups say AIDS treatment is extremely expensive in China, which does not produce modern first-line generic antiretrovirals.

Qi said China now produces five types of generic antiretrovirals.

"Because of side effects we need new drugs like lamivudine. Its side effects are fewer," Qi said.

MNA/Reuters

## SPORTS

## Serie A referees suspended in match-fixing probe

ROME, 13 July—Two Serie A referees have been suspended after being drawn into an ongoing investigation into suspected Mafia-linked illegal betting and match-fixing in Italy's top three divisions.

Marco Gabriele and Luca Palanca, who have officiated a total of 46 Serie A matches between them, were among the latest group of 14 people—including footballers and club directors—named by Napoli-based police on Monday.

"In these cases a cautionary stop is standard procedure," the president of the Italian Referees Association (AIA), Tullio Lanese, was quoted as saying on the web site of the Italian Football Federation.

"I would like to stress, however, that a warning that one is under investigation is not the same as a conviction.

"Proof is needed to demonstrate any eventual responsibility. For this reason we await the outcome of the investigation."

The probe, which was launched in May, had already involved raids on 14 clubs in Italy's Serie A, B and C1, including top-flight sides Sampdoria, Lecce, Reggina and Chievo Verona.

MNA/Reuters

## Israeli striker Balili signs for Turkish club

JERUSALEM, 13 July—Israeli striker Pini Balili has signed a two-year deal to play for Turkish top-flight newcomers Kayserispor in a move which will see him joining forces with his former Hapoel Tel Aviv team mate Salim Tuamah.

Balili, who spent last season with Istanbulspor where he scored 10 goals, is set to become Kayserispor's top earner with a reported salary of about 380,000 US dollars a year.

Balili, 25, told Israeli reporters: "Salim and I grew up together at Hapoel and that obviously influenced my decision."

MNA/Reuters



Adolfo Bautista, right, of Mexico fights for the ball with Clebel Chala of Ecuador during a Copa America Group B game in Piura, Peru, on Tuesday, 13 July, 2004.

Mexico won the match 2-1. —INTERNET

## Zabaleta overcomes Gaudio to win Swedish Open

BASTAD (Sweden), 13 July—Argentine Mariano Zabaleta retained the Swedish Open title with a 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 victory over his compatriot and friend Gaston Gaudio in the rain-delayed final on Monday.

Second seed Gaudio won the French Open last month but Zabaleta showed he was the master on the Swedish clay as he bagged his third career title.

"This is my favourite tournament," said Zabaleta, who ended a five-year title drought last year when he won the event. "I promise to come back next year."

"I beat a great player today...I was focused and concentrated and played very well in the third set tiebreak."

"It feels even better to win this year. Now, I can play some jokes with Gaston."

"Last time we played was a long time ago but I know his game very well," added Zabaleta, who practised with Gaudio in Buenos Aires in his teens.

Zabaleta clinched the first set in just 29 minutes after Gaudio failed to hold serve

once. Gaudio found his rhythm in the second and broke Zabaleta for a 5-4 lead before levelling the contest.

Zabaleta regained the momentum at the start of the deciding set to race into a 4-2 lead.

But nerves crept into his game as he tried to close out the match. Zabaleta allowed the world number 11 to claw his way back into the match and also wasted a match point on Gaudio's serve in the 12th game.

With Gaudio forcing the match into a tiebreak, Zabaleta lobbed his opponent on match point to seal it 7-4.

"Congratulations Mariano, you are a worthy winner," said Gaudio.

"This has been a great week. Like I said yesterday, the weather was the only enemy here. Everything else was unbelievable and I will be back next year." —MNA/Reuters

## Maradona junior to trial at Blackburn's youth academy

LONDON, 13 July—Diego Maradona's teenage son is to have a trial with Blackburn Rovers' youth academy, the English Premier League club said on Monday.

The 17-year-old midfielder, also called Diego Maradona, is currently at his father's former club Napoli in Italy's Serie B.

He has met his father only a few times after his Italian mother fought a legal battle to prove her son's paternity.

"I've got a contact in Napoli and we've heard he's a good player so he's coming over," Blackburn manager Graeme Souness told the BBC.

"You can imagine the ridiculous pressure he is under over there and he fancies having a go somewhere else."

Maradona senior, 43, is regarded as one

of the finest players in the history of the game. Four years ago he was voted "player of the century" by fans on FIFA's official web site. He led Argentina to World Cup victory in 1986, when he scored one of the best goals in the tournament's history in the quarter-final against England, but has spent much of the past four years undergoing drugs rehabilitation treatment in Cuba.

His personal doctor recently said he had lost over 20 kilos (44 pounds) at a psychiatric clinic in Buenos Aires, where he was taken against his will by his family for cocaine addiction in May. —MNA/Reuters

## Greek relief as Rehagel turns down Germany

ATHENS, 13 July—Greek soccer breathed a sigh of relief on Monday following national coach Otto Rehagel's decision to turn down Germany and stay in charge until 2006.

The 65-year-old had been touted as a replacement for Rudi Voeller in his native Germany, but has decided to guide his newly-crowned European champions through to the next World Cup.

Rehagel, dubbed "King Otto" in Greece, became a national hero by masterminding Greece's stunning Euro 2004 victory in Portugal—one of the biggest upsets in football history.

His loyalty to the European champions was saluted by the Greek players.

"It's extremely important that our coach has decided to stay, it gives the national team the stability it needs," said inspirational central defender Traianos Dellas.

Midfielder Costas Katsouranis said: "We feel that we are continuing as a family," while Bolton Wanderers winger Stelios Giannakopoulos added: "He's our guy and

he showed that he loves and believes in this team."

Franz Beckenbauer, who heads a commission at the German Football Association (DFB) charged with replacing Voeller, admitted on Saturday that he had failed to convince Rehagel to take charge of the national team.

"I was surprised. I was expecting to discuss the details of the contract. I think emotional reasons prevailed for Rehagel," said Beckenbauer on Sunday.

The Greek FA announced on Friday that Rehagel had agreed to honour his contract to 2006 but speculation remained that the coach would be tempted by the German offer.

Greece begin their qualification campaign for the 2006 World Cup away to Albania on September 4. —MNA/Reuters

## New France coach says Anelka has international future

PARIS, 13 July—Out-of-favour striker Nicolas Anelka still has an international future, new France coach Raymond Domenech said on Monday.

"Why should I sideline talented players? 'Nico' has the qualities to play for France. He will have to prove in his club games that he deserves selection but yes, he will be eligible," Domenech told journalists.

The Manchester City striker won the last of his 28 caps in April 2002.

Previous France coach Jacques Santini refused to consider Anelka after the 25-year-old turned down a late call up for a friendly international against Yugoslavia in November 2002.

Anelka was quoted as saying that Santini

would have to go down on his knees to get him back into the squad.

He made a public apology to Santini in March but was left out of France's Euro 2004 squad. France play Bosnia in a friendly on August 18 and begin their 2006 World Cup qualifiers against Israel at the Stade de France on September 4.

Domenech, formerly coach of the French under-21 team, succeeded Santini who left after Euro 2004 to take over at English Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur.

MNA/Reuters

## Gronkjaer signs for Birmingham

LONDON, 13 July—Denmark winger Jesper Gronkjaer has joined Birmingham City from Chelsea in a two-year deal, the Premier League club said on Monday.

Birmingham's web site said they had paid 2.2 million pounds (4.0 million US dollars) for Gronkjaer, who played in Denmark's 3-0 defeat by the Czech Republic in the Euro 2004 quarter-finals last month.

The two teams agreed a fee while Gronkjaer was with the Danish squad in Portugal but he has now sorted out personal terms with Birmingham, who finished 10th in the Premier League last season.

Gronkjaer had been linked with a move to

Sevilla but the Primera Liga side said on Sunday they had pulled out of a deal as he wanted more time to consider the move.

"It was a flattering situation to be in so much demand but also quite confusing," said Gronkjaer.

Gronkjaer is Birmingham manager Steve Bruce's fifth close-season signing, having already secured Emile Heskey,

Muzzy Izzet and Gronkjaer's former Chelsea team mate Mario Melchiot. Julian Gray also arrived from newly-promoted Crystal Palace.

"I have been really impressed by Steve Bruce and his new structure at Birmingham and I am really looking forward to featuring in his plans," Gronkjaer added.

MNA/Reuters

## Villa sign Carlton Cole on year's loan

LONDON, 13 July—Aston Villa have signed Chelsea striker Carlton Cole on a season-long loan, the Midlands club said on Monday.

Cole, 20, spent last season on loan at Charlton Athletic, scoring five goals in 22 appearances.

"Carlton Cole is widely regarded as one of the brightest young prospects in the country and it's fair to say there was a lot of interest in him this summer," Villa chief executive Bruce Langham told the club's web site.

MNA/Reuters



Uruguay's goalkeeper Luis Barbat fails to contain a ball headed by Argentine Roberto Ayala, who scored his team's third goal against Uruguay during a Copa America Group B game in Piura, Peru, on Tuesday, 13 July, 2004. Uruguay's Guillermo Rodriguez, left, and Carlos Diogo look on. Argentina won 4-2.

INTERNET



**MRTV-3**
**15-7-2004 (Thursday)**  
**(Programme Schedule)**  
**Morning Transmission**  
**(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune  
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Mandalay, A Close distance
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 PaO Traditional Bag
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 The Rkhine Traditional Wrestling
- 9:25 Tu Hna Thwe
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments  
Brass Cymbal (Linguin)
- 9:40 Song "Heralding Cloud"
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 Prospective Ostrich Farming
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**15-7-2004 (Thursday)**  
**Evening Transmission**  
**(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"
- 15:36 Mandalay, A Close distance
- 15:40** **Headline News**

- 15:42 PaO Traditional Bag
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:50 The Rakhine Traditional Wrestling
- 15:55 Tu Hna Thwe
- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments  
Brass Cymbal (Linguin)
- 16:10 Song "Heralding Cloud"
- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 Prospective Ostrich Farming
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 Central Agricultural Research Institute
- 16:40 Photo by Artist Photo Show (Min Wai Aung)
- 16:45** **National News**
- 16:50 Fabulous Bagan (II)
- 16:55 Art of Carving On Fruits
- 17:00** **National News**
- 17:05 Women with Remarkable Necks
- 17:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Rain, Please Tell My Lover"
- 17:15** **National News**
- 17:20 The Beauty of Zwegabun and Livelihood of Kayin National
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

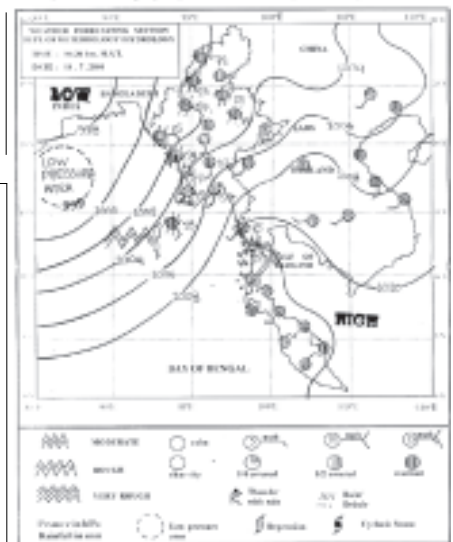
**Evening Transmission**  
**(19:30 - 23:30)**

- 19:30 Signature Tune  
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 19:36 Wonderful Swiftlets Dwelling in House
- 19:40** **Headline News**

**Rainfall on 14-7-2004**

- (0.20 inch) at Yangon Airport,  
- (0.20 inch) at Kaba-Aye and  
- (0.27 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1422mm (55.99 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1364mm (53.70 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1361mm (53.58 inches) at central Yangon.

- 19:42 Showcase of Myanmar Fabrics and Designer Wears
- 19:45** **National News**
- 19:50 The Beauty of the 2nd Defile of The River Ayeyawady
- 19:55 Kayin Dance (Ton Pana) (Kywe Min Don Dance)
- 20:00** **National News**
- 20:05 Travel & Description (Lashio to Muse)
- 20:10 Song "Shadow of Love"
- 20:15** **National News**
- 20:20 The Birth Place of Lacquerware Technicians
- 20:25 Songs On Screen "Hmoneshweyee"
- 20:30** **National News**
- 20:35 Intricate Art of Silver-smith
- 20:40 Marquetry
- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:50 The Art of Stone Sculpture
- 20:55 Ah-Hla-Kabya-Pan-Pawah
- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 Lobsters Trading
- 21:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Sumprabum"
- 21:12 Inlay Blacksmith craftsmanship
- 21:15** **National News**
- 21:20 Fabulous Bagan (I)
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"
- 21:35 Mandalay, A Close distance
- 21:40 **Headline News**
- 21:42 PaO Traditional Bag
- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:50 The Rakhine Traditional Wrestling
- 21:55 Tu Hna Thwe
- 22:00** **National News**
- 22:05 Myanmar Traditional Musical Instruments  
Brass Cymbal (Linguin)
- 22:10 Song "Heralding Cloud"
- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 Prospective Ostrich Farming
- 22:25 Myanmar Modern Song "We'll Be Waiting For You"
- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 Central Agricultural Research Institute
- 22:40 Photo by Artist Photo Show (Min Wai Aung)
- 22:45** **National News**
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- 23:15** **National News**
- 23:20 The Beauty of Zwegabun and Livelihood of Kayin National
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas****WEATHER****Wednesday, 14 July, 2004**

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thandwe (6.38) inches, Kyaukpyu (3.86) inches, Mudon (2.91) inches, Hkamti (2.87) inches and Homalin (2.64) inches.

Maximum temperature on 13-7-2004 was 27.7°C (82°F). Minimum temperature on 14-7-2004 was 19.3°C (67°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 14-7-2004 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 13-7-2004 was 1.1 hours approx. Rainfall on 14-7-2004 was (0.20 inch) at Yangon Airport, (0.20 inch) at Kaba-Aye and (0.27 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1422mm (55.99 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1364mm (53.70 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1361mm (53.58 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 15 mph from South at 00:30 hours MST on 14-7-2004.

**Bay inference:** According to the observations at (06:30)hrs MST today, a low pressure area has formed over the West Central Bay. Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and vigorous elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 15-7-2004:** Rain will be scattered in Kayah, southern Shan States, Mandalay, Magway, lower Sagaing Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States, Ayeyawady Division. Degree of certainty is (100%). **State of the sea:** Occasional squalls with rough seas are likely off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) to (45) mph.

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Strong Monsoon. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-7-2004:** Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-7-2004:** One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Flood Warning**

(Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 14-7-2004)

According to the 06:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Mawlaik is (1142) cm. It may reach its danger level of (1230) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.

**Flood Warning**

(Issued at 1:00 hr MST on 14-7-2004)

According to the 12:30 hrs MST observation today, the water levels of Chindwin River at Kalewa and Monywa are 1423 cm and 886 cm respectively. It may reach their respective danger levels of 1550 cm and 1000 cm during the next (72) hrs commencing noon today.

**Flood Bulletin**

(Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 14-7-2004)

According to the 06:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Homalin is (2955) cm. It may remain above its danger level of (2900) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.

**Daw Thein Khin****(88) years**

Daw Thein Khin, wife of the late U Tun Thauang-Retired Secretary, Ministry of Health, loving mother of Dr Mehm Thein Thauang - Dr Khin Nwe Win, Khin Mae Thauang - Dr Htun Han, Khin Cho Thauang - Ben, (Mehm Maung Maung Thauang), Khin Sann Thauang - Willie, and Dr Khin Lwyn Thauang-Brad, devoted sister of (U Tun Aung), (U Tun Kyaw), Daw Hla Khin and U Kyaw Tun, passed away on June 11, 2004 in the presence and comfort of family and friends and was cremated in Baltimore, Maryland, USA. Friends and relatives please accept this as the only intimation. **Bereaved family**


**Thursday, July 15**  
**View today:**

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်တရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံယမဟာဇာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မ မဟာဂန္ထဝုဇ္ဈ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာမဟာသမ္ဘုဇ္ဈ စောတိကာ၊ ဗိမ္ဗိသကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဗျူဟာ၊ ဂါရုဓာ ဆရာတော်ဘုရား၊ ဝိဇ္ဇာဘုရားသီလဝါရီတရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

- Dance of national races

8:05 am

- Dance variety

8:20 am

- ပုလင်းရေလှေကစား

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Let's go

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Songs to uphold

4:30 pm

- English for Everyday Use

4:45 pm

- Musical programme

5:00 pm

- အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့ ယဉ်ကျေးရပ်ပြင်သင်တန်းဆင်နွှဲစာ ပထမနံပါတ် (သတ္တဗေဒ၊ ရုက္ခဗေဒအကျဉ်းချုပ်)

5:15 pm

- Cute little dances

5:30 pm

- မိုးမင်းသားအဖ- ဟာတ်ကတ်၊ စင်စင်ကတ်၊ နိုင်ငံကြည့်ခါရံကတ်-အဆင်း၊ မောင်လှမျိုး

5:45 pm

- Musical programme

6:00 pm

- နိုင်ငံအဝန်းဆစ်ဆတ်စွမ်းမြင့် စိမ်းလန်းစေရည်

6:15 pm

- မူဟန့်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်

6:30 pm

- Evening news

7:00 pm

- Weather report

7:05 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "မိုးမင်းသား" (အပိုင်း-၁၅)

7:30 pm

- Musical programme

7:45 pm

- "ဟူးမူးလယ်ကွင်းမှ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရဲ့တစ်ခွက်၊ တစ်ခွက်လှပတဲ့"

8:00 pm

- News

8:15 pm

- International news

8:30 pm

- Weather report

8:45 pm

- Myanmar video feature "မြန်မာစစ်ဦးစီးရုံးလင်းပြိုင်" (အပိုင်း-၁)

9:00 pm

- လှပစိုပြည်၊ ရေအောင်၊ မိုးမြတ်စွာခါရံကတ်-မောင်လှမျိုး

9:15 pm

- The next day's programme

9:30 pm

- News/Slogan

10:00 pm

- PEL


**Thursday, July 15**  
**Tune in today:**

- 8.30 am** Brief news  
**8.35 am** Music: Jenny  
**8.40 am** Perspectives  
**8.45 am** Music: Giddy up  
**8.55 am** National news/ Slogan
- 9.00 am** Music: What's up  
**9.05 am** International news  
**9.10 am** Music: Give it up  
**1.30 pm** News/Slogan  
**1.40 pm** Lunch time music  
**9.00 pm** Aspects of Myanmar - Ayeyawady Division
- 9.10 pm** Article  
**9.20 pm** Pourri  
-Japanese computer tops list in fastest calculating machines -Chinese medicine to reduce coronary disease threat
- 9.30 pm** Favourite songs chosen by music lovers  
-When you say nothing at all  
-Eternal flame
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan  
**10.00 pm** PEL

**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

**Minister inspects Kanbawzathadi Palace**

YANGON, 14 July — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, accompanied by Archaeology Department Director-General U Nyunt Han, this morning inspected Kanbawzathadi Palace of King Bayintnaung in Bago. First, the minister inspected the lake and the garden in the compound of the palace. He gave instructions to grow flowery plants in the palace compound in the rainy season.

Next, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung inspected Bamayathana Hall, Bago Archaeological Museum and the royal audience hall. The minister instructed officials to keep buildings of the palace clean and pleasant and to ensure its durability. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win poses for group photo with health staff and local people in front of Mongkaing Township Hospital. (News page1)—MNA



Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa welcomes Vietnamese delegation led by Chairperson of Social Affairs Committee of National Assembly of SRV Mrs Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu.— SWD

**Vietnamese delegation arrives**

YANGON, 14 July — A Vietnamese delegation led by Chairperson of the Social Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mrs Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu arrived on a working visit here by air this evening. The delegation was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, officials, Ambassador Mr Pham Quang Khon and staff of the Vietnamese Embassy to Myanmar. — MNA

**Minister inspects training schools**

YANGON, 14 July — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, arrived at Social Welfare Training School on Kyaikwaing Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township this morning.

The minister inspected counselling course conducted by Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and on-job training courses of Social Welfare Department.

Next, the ministers inspected training courses of Adult Training School for the Disabled and attended to the needs. At Kyaikwaing Youth Training Centre, the minister and party inspected classrooms and hostels of children and gave necessary instructions to officials. — MNA

**Announcement for Internet users**

YANGON, 13 July—The Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications today announced that the Proxy Server Address (203.81.65.23) being used by Internet users will be changed to (ygnache.mpt.net.mm) with effect from 15-7-2004. — MNA

**Cash donated for building monasteries in India**

YANGON, 14 July — The cash donation for building Thawuthi Myanmar Monastery, Bodh Gaya Myanmar Monastery and Kolkatta Alodawpyay Myanmar Monastery was held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this afternoon, attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Thayet Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara and member Sayadaws, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of the Religious Affairs Department, Director-General U Sann Lwin of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, departmental officials and wellwishers. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, wellwisher Managing Director Dr San Oo of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise and wife Daw Than Yi offered provisions to the Sayadaws.

Afterwards, the minister and the deputy minister accepted US\$ 2,500 for a room of Thawuthi Myanmar Monastery, US\$ 1,000 for Bodh Gaya Myanmar Monastery, US\$ 1,000 for Kolkatta Alodawpyay Myanmar Monastery and US\$ 500 for laying marbles at the platform of Lawka Maniçula Pagoda at Lumbini Park in Nepal donated by Managing Director Dr San Oo of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise and wife Daw Than Yi and family and K 20,000 for Bodh Gaya Myanmar Monastery by sister retired SAT Daw Khin Khin Thein. Certificates of honour were presented to the wellwishers.

Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Mandalay Wizitayon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Viçarindabhivamsa delivered a sermon. Later, the minister, the deputy minister and wellwishers shared merits gained.— MNA



Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win being welcomed by French Ambassador Jean-Michel Lacombe at the reception to mark National Day of France Wednesday evening.— MNA