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Saturday, 17 July, 2004

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends congratulations to Egyptian Prime Minister

YANGON, 16 July — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Dr Ahmed Nazif, on his appointment as Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Chairperson of Social Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of SRV Mrs Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu at Zeyarthiri Beikman. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Vietnamese delegation

YANGON, 16 July — State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win received Vietnamese delegation led by Chairperson of Social Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mrs Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu at Zeyarthiri Beikman on Konmyinthar at 2 pm today.

Present at the call were Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Labour U Tin Winn, Deputy-Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pham Quang Khon. — MNA

Over 2m acres of monsoon paddy cultivated in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 16 July — In 2004-2005 cultivation season, 3,505,135 acres of land are targeted to put under monsoon paddy in Ayeyawady Division. Up to 15 July, 2,024,918 acres of monsoon paddy have been cultivated against the target and they are thriving in the division. — MNA

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

Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends opening of sports ground in Maha Aungmyay, archway of sports grounds and gymnasium in Kyaukse

YANGON, 16 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and departmental heads, left Monywa this morning and arrived at Inwa Bridge at 8.30 am.

Accompanied by Com-

mander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party toured Mandalay City and the circular road of Kandawgyi Lake. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended the opening ceremony of Yahaing sports grounds of Sports and Physical Education Department in Maha Aungmyay Township. Also present were Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic

Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, MOC Vice-Chairman Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, local authorities, departmental officials and people. First, the commander and the minister formally opened the sports grounds. Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the signboard of the sports grounds.

(See page 9)



Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint formally open Kyaukse Township Gymnasium. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 17 July, 2004

For turning out highly qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia

Only highly qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia can build a modern nation. The Government, in its drive for the nation to become a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation, is implementing plans for all-round development of the education sector.

In this regard, measures are being taken for ensuring enrolment of all school-age children in cooperation with the parents and social organizations and the drive has now achieved nearly 96 per cent of the plan. So it can be said that nearly cent per cent of the school-age children have enjoyed the golden opportunity to attend the classes. Moreover, the middle school education is within the reach of the students who have passed primary level. The opening of the multimedia teaching centres enables the students to study and learn the subjects effectively in a short time. Monthly tests and constant holding of examinations have resulted in emergence of well-educated persons.

Students, parents and teachers are to make concerted efforts in order to turn out those who wish to serve the interest of others and to become reliable ones.

The opening ceremony of Kyaunggon Village post-primary school building and the multimedia classrooms of Basic Education High School in Htantabin Township, took place at the schools on 15 July, attended by Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

On the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that the Government has been providing all necessary assistance for the students to enable them to pursue basic education as well as higher education in all parts of the nation, resulting in emergence of outstanding and dynamic educated persons, who are able to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation and therefore, the Government will exert continuous endeavours to produce more intellectuals and intelligentsia in respective regions.

The nation has enjoyed fruitful results of basic foundations in political, economic and social sectors in addition to the education field.

Now, two of the four political objectives — "Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution" and "Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution" — are being translated into reality through implementation of the State's seven-point policy programme. We would like to say that the Government is trying its utmost to produce highly qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia capable of building a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Survey Dept, JICA hold technical seminar

YANGON, 16 July — A technical seminar jointly sponsored by the Survey Department of the Ministry of Forestry and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was held at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road here this morning.

Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung attended it and delivered an opening address. Director U Kan Sint of Survey Department and JICA study team leader Mr Koseki explained matters on drawing UTM maps and collecting GIS database.

Director-General of Survey Department U Maung Maung Tin presented souvenirs to Japanese experts.

The minister and officials then viewed round the documentary photos on map drawing and data collecting process in the meeting room. — 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



The Plenary Meeting of the Fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Meeting in progress. — MNA

Plenary Meeting of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee held

YANGON, 16 July — The 11th 47-member Plenary Meeting of the Fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was held at Wizaya Mingala Dhammathabin on Kaba Aye Hill this morning.

Present on the occasion were member Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung, Director-General U Sann Lwin of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana and officials. On behalf of Chairman of SSMNC Myingyan Koehsaungtaik Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Sobhita, Vice-Chairman Thayet Aungmingala Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kesara presided over the meeting. Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Tejaniya acted as master of ceremonies.

First, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara read the Ovadakatha of the Chairman Sayadaw. It was stated that Sangha Nayaka course and Vinayadhara course were conducted for 56 member Sayadaws of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha and State and Division Sangha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws and 18 State and Division Religious Affairs Officers from 1 to 10 June. Now, arrangements are being made for giving lectures at township-level multiplier courses.

Sayadaws of Sangha organizations at different levels are urged to strictly follow rules and regulations prescribed at the Plenary Meeting. And, such training courses and seminars are to be held very often for enhancing quality of Sangha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws and Vinayadhara Sayadaws. Next, the minister supplicated on religious affairs that measures are being taken to issue identification cards to members of the Sangha, regulations for monastery, meditation centre and board of trustees for maintaining religious edifices. In addition, the State Peace and Development Council has been present-

ing religious titles to Sayadaws and opening Abbot Training Schools for flourishing the Sasana.

Moreover, Vinichchaya affairs are being undertaken for supporting religious tasks of members of the Sangha by taking actions against those who offended the religious rules and regulations. In the religious education sector, it can be seen that outstanding members of the Sangha including those who passed Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination and Pariyatti Examinations have emerged. Moreover, State Pariyatti Sasana Universities have been opened. Likewise, Buddhist Cultural Courses, Abhidhamma and Visuddhimagga courses have been conducted all over the country. And, arrangements are being made to translate Tipitaka Pali-Myanmar Dictionaries to English version.

In particular, the Union of Myanmar being the most famous country in Theravada Buddhism in the world is making arrangements for holding the World Buddhist Summit this year in cooperation with Japanese Buddhist Association. In conclusion, the minister called for ensuring perpetual existence of the Buddhism joining hands between members of the Sangha and disciples.

Next, Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vicharindabhiavamsa submitted the brief report of the second branch of SSMNC in its period. Members of the Sangha reported their respective sectors. They discussed Vinichchaya and religious affairs. The plenary meeting will continue tomorrow.

In memory of the late Col Hla Phone and Daw Tin Tin, the family of No 2, Maykha Lane-2, Mayangon Township offered 'soon' to the Sayadaws who attended the preliminary meeting of the Plenary Meeting on 5 July. Similarly, Daw Myint Myint Thein and Daw Khin Win Myint of No 26, Myasabei Road, Parami Yeiktha and No 25, Kanbawza Road in Bahan Township donated 'soon' to members of the Sangha who attended the first-day session of the Plenary Meeting today.

MNA



Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet gives talks at the Population Department of the Ministry of Immigration & Population. — MNA

Facts about Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation explained

YANGON, 16 July — Talks on Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation were held at the Population Department of the Ministry of Immigration & Population on Maha Bandoola Street here this morning.

Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet gave talks on salient points of the MWAFF.

Also present on the occasion were MWAFF Secretariat member Dr Daw San Shwe and officials, Minister for SWRR Maj-Gen Sein Htwe's wife MWAFF nurturing

& resettlement working group Adviser Daw Khin Aye, Deputy Minister U Maung Aung's wife Daw Hmwe Hmwe, heads of department under the ministry, officials, staff, family members and others numbering 350.

After the talks, MWAFF Adviser Daw Khin Aye presented cash K 100,000 of the Ministry of Immigration & Population for the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation to Vice-President of MWAFF Daw Khin Lay Thet.

MNA

Car bomb kills 10, most of them policemen, in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 15 July—A car bomb has killed 10 people in a town northwest of Baghdad, a day after a powerful blast tore through the capital and a top regional official was assassinated.

Health Ministry officials said 40 people were wounded in the attack near the main police station in Haditha. Two children and bank workers were among the dead but most were policemen.

The fresh violence followed a suicide car bombing in Baghdad on Wednesday

which killed 11 people and wounded 30 outside a main entrance to the heavily defended "Green Zone" compound.

Within hours of Wednesday's blast, a grenade and gun attack in Mosul killed the governor of the northern city.

Saboteurs have attacked Iraq's oil industry again, this time setting fire to a pipeline near Kirkuk, the country's main export route.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Iyad Allawi expected to announce plans to offer an amnesty to insurgents if they lay down their

weapons.

Earlier he condemned the "naked aggression" of those behind the Baghdad bombing.

Iraq launched a national security law last week under which the government can impose emergency law on specific areas of the country, but has yet to make such a move. —Internet



Iraqi Border Police officers examine damage to a key oil pipeline in the al-Askari District, 20 miles south of Basra, Iraq, on 15 July, 2004. — INTERNET

UN presses campaign to cut natural disaster risks

UNITED NATIONS, 15 July — Governments should change their focus from aiding victims of natural disasters to lowering the risk of disasters before they can strike, a UN report said on Wednesday.

Earthquakes, floods, drought, storms, wildfires, volcanic eruptions and landslides are causing more economic and social disruption over the years as the world's population becomes more concentrated in urban areas, said the report by the UN inter-agency International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. To counter these trends, the long-term reduction of the hazards of such disasters should become a guiding principle of communities everywhere, said the Geneva-based UN unit.

Successful strategies could range from pursuing environmental policies that lower the risk of flooding to locating cities away from earthquake zones to improving the technology for forecasting storms, the report said.

In 2003, an unusually bad year, more than 50,000 people were killed in 700 natural catastrophes around the world, causing losses of more than 60 billion US dollars, it said. "While many people are aware of the terrible impact of disasters throughout the world, few

realize that this is a problem that we can do something about," UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said in a preface to the report.

Costly in any case, disasters also divert poor nations' limited resources from efforts to combat poverty, he said. "Disasters are a problem that we can and must reduce."

The UN initiative's goal is to improve planning and regulatory mechanisms and encourage development and environmental protection strategies that help policy-makers determine where and why disasters are likely to occur and take steps to alleviate the risk, the report said. The UN campaign will culminate in a World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan, in January.

"The challenge of a disaster reduction strategy ... is to find a way to live with these phenomena, rather than die from them," the report said. "A natural disaster is only a disaster because people are in the wrong place at the wrong time, had no choice but to be in the way of a disaster or were caught unawares when it struck." —MNA/Reuters

GM's car sales in China hit record high

BEIJING, 15 July — General Motors, the world's largest automaker, has announced that its car sales in the first half of the year in China hit a record high of 259,653, up 57.6 per cent from the same 2003 period.

Shanghai GM, the US automakers' largest joint venture in the country, sold 141,319 passenger cars in the first half of this year, an in-

crease of 92.4 per cent.

The sales of SAIC-GM-Wuling, GM's mini-vehicle joint venture in south China, rose by 32.5 per cent from the same period last year to 115,938 in the first six months.

GM did not release first-half profits in the Chinese Mainland, but its net profits last year in the country stood at 437 million dollars and

the figure is expected to grow with the company's expansion plans.

Last month, GM Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner announced plans to relocate GM's Asia-Pacific regional headquarters from Singapore to Shanghai by January next year and to invest over 3 billion dollars more in China over the next three years. —MNA/Xinhua

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Iraq pipeline attacks halt Turkey exports

BAGHDAD, 15 July—Saboteurs attacked two oil pipelines Thursday, halting exports to Turkey, hours after guerillas assassinated a guard with the state oil company in a renewed spate of attacks on Iraq crucial industry.

Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said Thursday the sabotage has cost the government \$1 billion in oil sales over the past 10 days. The money is desperately needed

to help rebuild Iraq in the wake of war and years of sanctions.

The most damaging attack Thursday hit a line that feeds into the main export line to the Turkish port of Ceyhan, abruptly ending the roughly 250,000 barrels a day that Iraq exports from its northern oil fields.

Crews watched helplessly, unable to immediately control flames surging from the pipeline. North Oil Company officials said the damage was caused by an apparent bombing.

"Exports to Ceyhan have been halted for two days," said Mustafa Mohammed, a company engineer.

The Kirkuk-to-Ceyhan pipeline is a favorite target of guerillas, whom Iraqi officials say are intent on disrupting the country's access to its main source of revenue. Partial exports through the line resumed June 23 after a series of attacks weeks earlier.

Guerillas also set their sights further south, toward the pipelines that carry 90 percent of Iraq's export oil.

Saboteurs punctured one of two key crude oil export pipelines in the south early Thursday, breaching a line that had been brought back up just over a week ago, after an almost five-day shutdown that halved exports from that region. The attacks occurred in the al-Askari district, about 12 miles southwest of Basra, said Staff Brig Gen Ali al-Mousawi, the head of the Iraqi Border Police.

Internet



Iraqis survey the scene of a car bomb explosion in Haditha, 200km northwest of Baghdad, on 15 July, 2004. — INTERNET

More Iraq prison abuse cases emerge

BAGHDAD, 15 July—New cases of prisoner abuse by US soldiers in Iraq have come to light, three months after the abuse-scandal first shocked the world.

Emerging from a closed-door meeting with Pentagon officials on Thursday, John Warner, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said there had been more violations of the Geneva Convention governing the treatment of detainees.

"We are still uncovering, as late as this morning, other incidents, other cases that will be promptly investigated by the Department of Defence," Warner said.

The Pentagon officials at the meeting showed senators of the Armed Service Committee 24 confidential

documents from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"We are still uncovering, as late as this morning, other incidents, other cases that will be promptly investigated by the Department of Defence".

The documents are part

of a Red Cross report on prisoner treatment in Iraqi jails written before the scandal broke in April.

Warner has held three hearings on Abu Ghraib and Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has testified before the committee.

He said his panel's next public hearings will be held in September at the earliest.

The committee will not hold open hearings with soldiers being investigated to avoid jeopardizing their legal rights, Warner said.

Internet

Iraq Premier expects tough weeks ahead

BAGHDAD, 15 July—Iraq's interim Prime Minister said Thursday he expects insurgents to strike harder in the coming weeks and announced the creation of an intelligence service designed to combat terrorism.

Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's comments to The Associated Press came amid a spate of new violence, including a car bomb Thursday that killed 10 people and wounded 40 others. Also, a decapitated body wearing an orange jumpsuit was found in the Tigris River, possibly that of a foreigner taken hostage.

Allawi said militants aiming to undermine Iraq's new government are determined

not only to kill civilians and soldiers but also to destroy the nation's infrastructure in a campaign of sabotage.

Iraq's new government has talked increasingly tough about cracking down on insurgents. It passed emergency laws giving Allawi broad powers to combat violence; police have conducted sweeps of terror suspects in Baghdad and other cities.

Those actions may have spurred militants to launch their series of attacks in recent days, Allawi said.

"They know that they should not give us a chance to rebuild our capabilities — security, police and the army. So they want to un-

dermine our efforts," he told AP, sitting in front of the red, green and white Iraqi flag. They will "hit harder in the weeks ahead, and maybe even months ahead."

Internet



Iraqi Border Police officers examine damage to a key oil pipeline in the al-Askari District, 20 miles south of Basra, Iraq, on 15 July, 2004. — INTERNET

Jordan-made Haier TVs to be exported to US

AMMAN, 15 July — A Jordanian company will start exporting Jordan-made Haier TV sets to the United States, local newspaper *Jordan Times* reported Wednesday.

The Haier Middle East Appliances Company (HMEAC), 72 per cent of whose capital owned by Jordanian investors while 28 per cent by Chinese, is currently in the final stage of negotiations with US buyers to sell 150,000 TV sets "Made in Jordan" that amounts to 30 million US dollars, said the report.

According to Moiz Imam, chairman of the company, this wholesale deal is only the first of its kind in terms of exporting TV sets to the US, noting that HMEAC has the capacity to produce and export larger quantities to the US and to other countries.

"Since our factory was established last year, we have been exporting electrical and home appliances to Kuwait, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Sudan and Libya, as well as selling in the local market," Imam was quoted as saying.

"Currently we are heading towards increasing our exports to Africa," he added. — MNA/Xinhua



A US Army soldier watches as detainees walk to a bus upon their release from Abu Ghraib Prison on the outskirts of Baghdad, Iraq, on Thursday, 15 July, 2004. Sixty-five detainees were released. — INTERNET

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Saudi firm has 48 hrs to show quitting Iraq

DUBAI, 15 July—Iraqi kidnappers of an Egyptian said Thursday his Saudi employers had 48 hours to show that they would meet demands to leave Iraq, a statement on Arabic television station Al Jazeera said.

"They said they would give 48 hours extra in order to be sure (of the company leaving) before carrying out the just verdict," Al Jazeera quoted a statement as saying.

"They also said that after the 48 hours they will not

deal lightly with all those who fall into their hands who deal with what they called the 'infidel occupiers'," the channel said, showing a copy of a fax it received from "the 1920 Battalions, the military wing of the National Islamic Resistance."

The Saudi company said Wednesday it would pull out of Iraq to meet the demands of kidnappers who threatened Tuesday to kill Egyptian truck driver Mohammed Gharabawi within 72 hours if the firm did not withdraw.

The Faisal al-Neheit Transport Company had offered the kidnappers \$15,000 for Gharabawi's release but said it was unable to pay a \$1 million ransom first demanded by the kidnappers.

Gharabawi, who has worked for the firm for eight years, was seized while transporting Saudi fuel to Iraq about two weeks ago. The company is one of about 50 subcontractors operating with 1,400 trucks from Saudi Arabia to Iraq. — Internet

Edwards goes solo, attacks Bush's leadership

DES MOINES (Iowa), 16 July — John Edwards, opening his first solo campaign swing since becoming No 2 on the Democratic White House ticket, attacked US President George W Bush on Wednesday for his failure to take responsibility for flawed US intelligence on Iraq.

Edwards, at a rally on the steps of the Iowa State Capitol, contrasted Bush with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and presumptive Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry and said Bush did not understand what it means to lead.

"What we need in the White House is somebody who has the strength, courage

and leadership to take responsibility and be accountable not only for what is good, but for what is bad. That's what John Kerry will be," the North Carolina senator said.

Edwards referred to a British report released on Wednesday that criticized the country's intelligence failures in the run-up to the war in Iraq and noted that Blair had taken "full responsibility" for the breakdown.

"Tony Blair didn't run from the report," said Edwards, chosen by Kerry as his running mate a week ago.

"It's because he understands what leader-

ship is."

The British report echoed a Senate Intelligence Committee report issued in Washington last week that said US intelligence used to justify the invasion of Iraq was riddled with flaws but found no sign Bush had pressured analysts.

Bush has not taken responsibility for the intelligence mistakes, and said again while campaigning in Michigan that "although we haven't found the stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction, we were right to go into Iraq, and America is safer today because we did".

MNA/Reuters

Kuwait plans to expand oil refining capacity

KUWAIT CITY, 15 July—Kuwait National Petroleum Company's (KNPC) has voiced its strategy for the next 20 years to expand its oil refining capacity, the *Kuwait News Agency* reported on Tuesday.

Bader Al-Sumait, a KNPC director of planning, made the announcement in a seminar organized by the Petroleum Media and Public Relations Department of Kuwaiti Energy Ministry.

To realize the target, the company aims to improve the quality of petroleum products to comply with international standards and develop the oil export facilities, Al-Sumait added. — MNA/Xinhua

Germany pledges more childcare to boost baby rate

BERLIN, 15 July — The German Government agreed to a draft law on Wednesday to improve state-backed childcare facilities to try to support parents and boost birth rates as the country struggles with the burden of an ageing population.

Family Minister Renate Schmidt said ministers agreed to increase facilities so state-backed care places are available to all children under three whose parents work or are in training.

"Young people often decide either late or not at all to have children because their career and personal wishes don't fit together. With flexible childcare facilities we want to make it easier for them to opt for children," she said in a statement.

Schmidt said under the drive to reverse a decline in birth rates and raise childcare provision to standards elsewhere in western Europe day care places for under-threes would be doubled by mid-2006 in western Germany.

MNA/Reuters

Saudi firm to quit Iraq to save Egyptian hostage

RIYADH, 15 July — A Saudi company said on Wednesday it would pull out of Iraq to meet the demands of kidnappers holding an Egyptian truck driver hostage.

"We are withdrawing from Iraq immediately to save the life of our driver Mr (Mohammed) Gharabawi," Faisal al-Neheit, owner of Faisal al-Neheit Transport Company told Reuters.

"We ask them to release him immediately," Neheit earlier said in an appeal on Arabic satellite television Al-Jazeera.

On Tuesday, the channel showed a video tape of armed men threatening to kill Gharabawi within 72 hours if the Saudi firm did

not pull out of Iraq.

It showed the Egyptian kneeling in front of the two militants, urging fellow drivers not to head to Iraq.

The Saudi firm has offered the kidnappers 15,000 US for Gharabawi's release but said it was unable to pay the one-million-US-dollar ransom demanded by the kidnappers.

Gharabawi, who has worked for the firm for eight years, was seized while transporting Saudi fuel to Iraq about two weeks ago.

Neheit's company is one of about 50 subcontractors operating with 1,400 trucks from Saudi Arabia to Iraq.

Iraq has relied on fuel imports from neighbouring countries since US-led forces toppled Saddam Hussein last year in a war that destroyed much of the country's infrastructure.

Much of Iraq's daily needs have been coming from Jordan, Kuwait, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

A Saudi transport company contracted to ship fuel

to Iraq has said exports could resume exports by Saturday if a private Iraqi security firm completed security arrangements including armed escort for the truck convoys on time.

Several militant groups have kidnapped foreigners in Iraq and have either released or killed hostages in recent months.

The Tawhid and Jihad Group of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has killed a Bulgarian, an American and a South Korean hostage.

MNA/Reuters

Blix slams "hyped" British dossier on Iraq's WMD

LONDON, 15 July — Former chief UN arms inspector Hans Blix on Wednesday slammed the British Government's dossier on Iraqi weapons of mass destruction (WMD), claiming that it was "hyped".

"I think they hyped the report, evidently," Blix said in an interview with the BBC.

"I think it was a spin that was not acceptable. They put exclamation marks where there had been question marks and I think that is hyping, a spin, that leads the public to the wrong conclusions," Blix said.

Blix's comments comes as an independent inquiry into the British Government's pre-war Iraq intelligence published its report.

According to the report by Lord Butler, who headed the inquiry, the intelligence on Iraq's banned weapons used by the British Government before the Iraq war was at times "seriously flawed" and "unreliable".

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi Govt requests UAE to write off all its debt

ABU DHABI, 15 July — The new Iraqi Government has asked the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to write off its 3.8-billion-US-dollar debt and help Iraq in rebuilding the country from rubble, the *Gulf News* reported Wednesday.

Adel Abdul Mahdi, Iraq's Finance Minister who is heading a 3-member delegation to attend a meeting with high officials of UAE to discuss the current political and economic situation in Iraq, told *Gulf News* in an exclusive interview that the country cannot pay back its entire debt.

"We are asking for some major forgiveness, to wipe off at least 95 per cent of the debt or 100 per cent. We will have hard discussions with the IMF and the Paris Club in the coming months," said Mahdi.

He hoped that by the end of 2004, an agreement will be finalized in favour of Iraq

and that the country will be cleared of the huge debt that according to Paris Club figures is about 120 billion US dollars.

Iraq is meeting its expenditure from oil export revenues and aid from donors, Mahdi said. "Oil production is around 2.2 to 2.3 million barrel per day (bpd), even reached 2.4 million sometimes. We are exporting oil between 1.7 to 1.9 million bpd," he said.

"We are planning and working to increase production of oil to at least 3 or 3.5 million bpd by the end of next year. This is the number that Iraq exported earlier," the minister told the paper.— MNA/Xinhua

Chirac says let French work more

PARIS, 15 July — President Jacques Chirac said on Wednesday French workers should be able to work more than 35 hours a week, answering calls by his ambitious Finance Minister for changes to boost the competitiveness of French industry.

Chirac also sought to reassert his authority by warning Nicolas Sarkozy, a potential presidential rival, that he will not let him remain Finance Minister if he also becomes the leader of the ruling conservative UMP Party.

Chirac, 71, made his comments in a wide-ranging hour-long television interview in which he outlined plans for the second half of his five-year presidency and sought to revive his own political fortunes and those of the conservative government.

He told the government to hold talks with unions and firms on easing restrictions on work time which Sarkozy says make French firms less competitive.

"The first principle is that

the work time is and will stay 35 hours," Chirac said in the interview marking Bastille Day, which commemorates the 1789 French Revolution. "The second principle is that more flexibility is needed for workers, notably those who want to work more in order to earn more, and more freedom is needed for companies."

Chirac had been more cautious until now because he is wary of upsetting trade unions who have vowed to resist changes.

But he has been under fierce pressure to make changes to ease the rules introduced by the Socialists, who are now in opposition.

MNA/Reuters



Customers resume shopping in a grocery store slightly damaged from a car bomb explosion in Baghdad, Iraq, on Wednesday, 14 July, 2004. — INTERNET

New UN envoy likely to go to Iraq by late July

UNITED NATIONS, 15 July — New UN special representative for Iraq Ashraf Jehangir Qazi should be able to deploy in Iraq with a small team by late July or early August, UN Spokeswoman Mari Okabe said on Wednesday.

Okabe told reporters that United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan intended to send Qazi, currently Pakistani Ambassador to the United States, as quickly as possible.

But she said that the exact timetable for the new envoy's deployment will depend on the overall security environment in Iraq and on the necessary arrangements for appropriate facilities and security arrangements with the US-led multinational force, which still need to be finalized.

Qazi was appointed by Annan on Monday as the successor of Sergio de Mello, who was killed along with 21 other people in a bomb attack

on the UN headquarters in Baghdad on 19 August.

Once Qazi's team is on the ground, Okabe said, its work would include "supporting the Iraqis in their political process, and one of the first steps in that would be the holding of the national conference".

Qazi came to the UN headquarters in New York on Wednesday to meet with UN officials for the first time since his appointment.

He is expected to be released from his current post in Washington within two weeks. Qazi told reporters that it is a challenge to be a top UN envoy to Iraq and he believed that the UN's role in

Iraq is "critically important". Annan ordered the withdrawal of all UN staff from Iraq in October after several major international aid agencies came under terrorist attacks.

Since then, most UN staff have been based in Amman, capital of Jordan. UN officials have reiterated that UN staff could not return to Iraq in large numbers and their return would be progressive.

MNA/Xinhua

Thais warned about high-risk jobs overseas

BANGKOK, 15 July — Thai Government has warned Thai labourers about applying for hazardous jobs overseas, reported the *Thai News Agency* Wednesday.

The warning was made by the provincial labour office in the northeastern province of Nakhon Ratchasima because of a recent fatal accident in Malaysia.

A Thai working for a Malaysian timber company died from decompression illness while diving recently, the agency said.

Faulty diving equipment provided by the company appears to have been the cause of death, said Thai labour official Thanit Numnoi.

Several other deaths have been reported in recent years. All the labourers had worked for the underwater timber company, according to government officials.

These workers had all sought employment there on their own without consulting the Ministry of Labour, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Egyptian-Iranian diplomatic ties not in sight

CAIRO, 15 July — A senior Egyptian official on Wednesday hinted that the restoration of diplomatic ties between Egypt and Iran was not in sight.

Speaking to reporters, Egyptian presidential spokesman Maged Abdel Fattah said that the resumption of diplomatic relations have not reached the presidential level, but it was being considered by other channels.

"A phone conversation between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Khatami on Tuesday did not tackle the issue of resuming diplomatic relations between Egypt and Iran," the spokesman said.

MNA/Xinhua



South Korean riot police block anti-war protesters marching toward the Presidential Blue House in Seoul on 15 July, 2004. Dzens of demonstrators rallied on Thursday demanding the government drop its plan to send more troops to Iraq. — INTERNET

Hostage said safe after Manila prepares pull-out

MANILA, 15 July — A Filipino hostage in Iraq is safe and not in danger of beheading, a Foreign Ministry official said on Wednesday after the government began preparations to withdraw its troops in line with the hostage-takers' demands.

Hostage Angelo de la Cruz might even return home as early as Thursday, an official in his hometown said.

Militants had threatened to kill de la Cruz unless Philippine troops left by July 20, a month ahead of schedule, leaving President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo in a dilemma over saving his life or sticking to her firm backing of Washington.

"He is safe and there is no more risk of him being executed," the Foreign Ministry official told reporters, quoting a Philippine official in Baghdad close to the negotiations for the release of de la Cruz, but did not elaborate.

Philippine officials wrongly said de la Cruz was close to release on Saturday and his relatives have since been wary of celebrating hints of breakthroughs by negotiators.

In a televised announcement, Vice President Noli de Castro appealed to people to

have faith in the government's policy of not revealing the details of negotiations for de la Cruz's release, suggesting that his safety was not yet assured.

"Through your support and unity, we could resolve and settle this problem with dignity as a nation," the former newscaster said. "What is important now is the safety of Angelo."

The Foreign Ministry said earlier it was preparing to withdraw troops from Iraq but it was unclear what action it had taken because the military said it had not received orders.

The Air Force said it had put two transport planes on standby in Manila to begin an evacuation of troops if it is ordered.

A statement from Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia Albert, following news a Bulgarian hostage in Iraq had been executed, said Filipino troops in Baghdad had fallen to 43 from 51. — *MNA/Reuters*

Iran says to return British boats at "right time"

TEHRAN, 15 July — Three British naval vessels which Iran promised to return two weeks ago after seizing them on the Iran-Iraq border will be handed back at "the right time", Iran's President Mohammad Khatami said on Wednesday.

The delay in returning the boats, taken last month in the narrow Shatt al-Arab waterway along with their eight crew, is a further embarrassment for the British Government which is under pressure to take a tougher line with Teheran over the incident.

Images broadcast on Iranian television of the eight British naval personnel wearing blindfolds outraged London, placing further strain on already difficult ties between the countries.

The eight men were released after three days following a public acknowledgement they had strayed accidentally into Iranian waters. The boats and other

seized equipment were supposed to have been returned shortly afterwards. "The British boats should be and will be released but when the right time comes," Khatami told reporters after a weekly Cabinet meeting.

Britain's Defence Minister Geoff Hoon said that after the eight crewmen were interviewed, London concluded they had been intercepted in Iraqi waters and forcibly escorted into Iran. Iran refutes that charge.

"Based on the evidence and documents signed by British officials and their remarks ... those boats strayed into Iranian waters and it's natural that they be seized

by Iran," Khatami said.

Conservative deputy leader and shadow Foreign Secretary Michael Ancram on Tuesday rebuked Foreign Secretary Jack Straw for a timid approach over the issue and called for Iran to apologize and hand over the confiscated boats.

Straw, a strong proponent of the European Union's policy of engagement with Iran in contrast to Washington's isolationist stance, said Ancram's "megaphone and rant" approach was not suitable when dealing with Iran.

— *MNA/Reuters*

EU, Israel sign deal on satellite navigation system

BRUSSELS, 15 July — The European Union (EU) and Israel have sealed an agreement on the European satellite radio navigation programme Galileo, the EU said Wednesday in a Press release.

This agreement provides for their cooperation on satellite navigation and timing in a wide range of sectors, notably science and technology, industrial manufacturing, service and market development, as well as standardization, frequencies and certification.

Israel will also take part in the programme financially through a stakeholding in the Galileo Joint Undertaking, the body managing the programme. Galileo, a European version of the already existing US Global Positioning System, will become operational in 2008. The system can be used in precision positioning in engineering projects as well as guiding cars and ships.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

မြို့ခံများ၏ အန္တရာယ်ကို ထုတ်ဖော်ပြော



A vehicle sits upended next to a police station after an explosion in the eastern Iraqi city of Haditha, Iraq, on 15 July, 2004. The blast killed 10 people in a second day of violence. — *INTERNET*

Study says late childbirth lowers ovarian cancer risk

WASHINGTON, 15 July — At last, a health benefit to having children late in life — it seems to reduce the risk of ovarian cancer, US researchers reported on Wednesday.

They found that women who had their last children after the age of 35 had a 58 per cent lower risk of ovarian cancer compared with women who had never had a child.

Women who had children earlier in life also had a lower risk, but it was less dramatic — 16 per cent for women whose children were born before age 25, for example, and 45 per cent for women whose children were born before age 30.

Women who had four or more children had a 64 per cent lower risk than women

who had never given birth, Malcolm Pike of the University of Southern California and colleagues reported in Wednesday's issue of the journal *Fertility & Sterility*.

Pike's team interviewed 477 ovarian cancer patients and 660 healthy women of similar race, ethnicity, age, and neighbourhood.

The women who had babies later in life were much less likely to have had ovarian cancer, they found.

"We asked was it true for women who only had one baby, was it true for women

who only had two babies," Pike said in a telephone interview. The number of children did not matter. "We found it was pretty consistent."

Earlier studies have shown that having children late in life also protects against cancer of the endometrium — the lining of the uterus, said Pike.

He believes that the surge in the hormone progesterone that is seen in pregnancy may be a factor in both cancers.

"This level of progestins might very well be fatal to early disease," Pike said.

In addition, the uterus is "cleaned out" with birth and the delivery of the placenta, perhaps taking away aging cells that are more likely to become cancerous, Pike said.

Pike believes the findings could have implications for preventing ovarian cancer, which, while rare, is deadly. "If you could work this out you could possibly do some prevention," he said.

— *MNA/Reuters*

Controversial British nuclear sub leaves Gibraltar

MADRID, 15 July — A British nuclear submarine that caused outrage in Spain when it docked in Gibraltar last week has left Britain's tiny Mediterranean colony, the Spanish Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

The docking of the *Tireless* stirred controversy because the last time it visited, in 2000, it had a crack in the cooling system of its reactor and leaked a small amount of contaminated water into the sea. — *MNA/Reuters*

White House, CIA refuse to release pre-war intelligence document

WASHINGTON, 15 July — The White House and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) have refused to give the US Senate Intelligence Committee a one-page summary of pre-war intelligence on Iraq prepared for President George W Bush, *The New York Times* reported Wednesday.

The document contains few of the qualifiers and none of the dissents spelled out in longer intelligence reviews, the report said, quoting Congressional officials.

While Senate Democrats claimed that the document could help clear up exactly what intelligence agencies told Bush about Iraq's illicit weapons, Republicans on the committee dismissed the Democrats' argument that the summary was significant.

The review, prepared for Bush in October 2002, summarized the findings of a classified, 90-page National Intelligence Estimate about Iraq's illicit weapons.

"In determining what the President was told about the

contents of the NIE (National Intelligence Estimate) dealing with Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, qualifiers and all, there is nothing clearer than this single page," Senator Richard J Durbin, a Democrat of Illinois, said in a 10-page "additional view" that was published as an addendum to the Senate Intelligence Committee's report released last Friday.

Congressional officials also said that notes taken by Senate staffers who were permitted to review the document showed the review eliminated references to dissent within the government about the National Intelligence Estimate's conclusions. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Flares on towers at the Basra South oil refinery in Iraq's second largest city of Basra burn off excess natural gas on 15 July, 2004. — *INTERNET*

Booming border towns in the country



Developing Tachilek in eastern Shan State. —MNA



Booming town of Panwa in Kachin State. — PBANRDA



With peace prevailing throughout the country, people living in border areas are now able to run their business with peace of mind. The photo shows magnificent Mongla market built in Mongla region. — MYANMA ALIN



The government is striving day in, day out for better transportation throughout the country and people are now enjoying fruitful results of these endeavours. The photo shows the Union Highway at the entrance to Kengtung, Shan State (East). — MYANMA ALIN



Kawthoung Airport in Taninthayi Division. — MNA



MEC Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win unveils the signboard of multimedia classrooms of Kamayut BEHS No 3.—MNA



MEC Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win addresses opening ceremony of multimedia classrooms of Kamayut BEHS No 3.—MNA

All citizens to take part in tasks by doing their bit to build ...

(from page 16)

them to become all-round qualified ones, on which the State can rely, he said.

The Secretary-1 stressed the importance of effective use of study aids installed in the school. In the knowledge age, the Secretary-1 called on the teachers to guide and nurture the students to become outstanding ones who can shape the

brighter future of the nation and who are equipped with nationalistic fervour.

The Secretary-1 presented computers and cash assistance to the school through the minister.

The chairman of the school board of trustees reported on endeavours made for opening of the classrooms. The principal expressed his thanks for the

facility.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted the teachers, parents of the students, members of the school board of trustees and students.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party posed for a documentary photo together with members of the school board of trustees, teachers and students. — MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs sends congratulations to Egyptian counterpart

YANGON, 16 July — U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of congratulations to His Excellency Mr Ahmed Abul Algeit, on his appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Arab Republic of Egypt. — MNA

Coffee growers hold coord meeting

YANGON, 16 July — The coordination meeting of private coffee growers and farmers in PyinOoLwin was held at Pwedaung Coffee Research Centre in PyinOoLwin on 10 July.

Present were PyinOoLwin Station Commander Brig-Gen Min

Aung Hlaing, Chairman of PyinOoLwin District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myo Myint, Managing Director Col Myint Shwe of Myanma Farms Enterprise, local authorities and departmental officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing said that the government is giving encouragement to produce new export items in addition to export crops.

And, the Head of State has given guidance to implement five-year plan for planting 50,000 acres each of coffee in PyinOoLwin and Nawngkhio regions.

So, the growers are to carry out cultivation matters and requirements of the growers will be fulfilled.

Next, Managing Director Col Myint Swe explained assistance being provided to growers for planting coffee.

The meeting ended in the afternoon.

MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party pose for documentary photo with members of the school board of trustees teachers and students at opening of multimedia classrooms of Kamayut BEHS No 3.—MNA

DON'T SMOKE



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win receives Chairperson of Social Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of SRV Mrs Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu. (News on page 1) —MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends opening of ...

(from page 1)

Next, the minister delivered an address, saying that as is known to all the government has been taking measures for promotion of the nation's sports standard in addition to nation-building tasks. Measures for raising the sports standard play the most effective role in enabling the nation to proudly hoist the State Flag among the world nations and to polish and elevate the national prestige and integrity. Now, endeavours are being exerted for significantly lifting the nation's sports standard under the leadership of the Prime Minister and close supervision of the Myanmar National Olympic Council and the Myanmar Olympic Committee made up of officials. In conclusion, the minister expressed his belief that the sports events held at the Yahaing Sports Grounds will constantly produce new sports generations who can bring honour to their motherland.

The minister presented sports gear to five townships in Mandalay Division through an official. Managing Director of Nwe Nwe Construction Co U Kyaw Thet Hlaing handed over the documents related to the sports ground to Deputy Director of the Sports and Physical Education Department (Mandalay Division) U Soe Nyunt. The Sports and Physical Education Institute team and the training team under the SPED (Mandalay Division) played a soccer demonstration match.

Next, they left Mandalay to attend the opening ceremony of the archway of Kyaukse Township Sports grounds and the Gymnasium. Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint formally opened the gymnasium. Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the stone plaque. The minister said that the Government is implementing three major projects for harmonious development of the entire Myanmar. It is also striving for improvement of the national sports level as a national task. The Ministry of Sports was set up in 1997 for the athletes to win medals at the international competitions. The ministry has the duty to build new sports stadiums and gymnasiums and to upgrade the existing ones. Myanmar won 18 gold, 40 silver and 50 bronze totalling 108 medals in the XXII SEA Games, and that record is the highest in 22 years.

Thanks to the supervision of the leaders of the State, support of the people and assistance of the wellwishers, the nation's sports sector has won success to a certain degree. Thus, efforts should be made for the sports sector to bring honour to the nation. The international level gymnasium will help bring out new generation athletes on whom the nation can rely. Next, the minister presented sports gears for Kyaukse District to Chairman of Kyaukse District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Ohn. Afterwards, students and local athletes demonstrated sports skills. Then, 16 Karatedo athletes of Mandalay Division and 14 new generation athletes of Central Command demonstrated karatedo and martial arts skills. Next, they watched the match between selected Myanmar volleyball team and youth team.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander, the minister and the deputy minister inspected the football grounds in Kyaukse. Kyaukse Gymnasium opened today is 120 feet long, 88 feet wide and 36 feet and 11 inches high. It can accommodate 1,000 sports fans. Volleyball, judo, taekwondo, karatedo, boxing, traditional boxing, weightlifting, sepak takraw, badminton, table tennis, martial arts, body-building and basketball events can be held there. The football grounds is 345 feet long and 225 feet wide encircled with four feet wide and 400 metres long track. In addition, there are one score board, one grand stand and ordinary stands. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected development of Kyaukse and water supply system. In the afternoon, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo inspected Kyaukse Township Hospital.—MNA

Measures for organizing 12th Myanmar ...

(from page 16)

announce songs chosen soon after it has confirmed them so that the participants can rehearse. Officials are to coordinate with maestros to be able to distribute tapes recorded songs, dance and music for contests as soon as possible. Soon after the tapes are recorded, those in-charge from states and divisions are to be called in for discussions.

Arrangements are to be made to broadcast an interview between maestros and officials of TV stations as soon as possible so that the participants can have sufficient time for practice. In assigning duties as members of the panel of judges, only those who are well-versed and highly-qualified in respective events are to be chosen. Arrangements have been made to send maestros to states and divisions to teach junior artistes there.

Like previous years, this year also, consolation prizes will be presented to national race participants who do not win the first, second and third prizes although they participate in the contests to the best of their ability. In conclusion, the commander urged those from the leading committee, the committees and sub-committees and maestros to make suggestions for holding the 12th Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions this year on a grand scale.

Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung reported on preparations for successful holding of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.

Chairman of the Work Committee No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan reported on tasks of the respective sub-committees.

Chairman of the Security and Discipline Enforcement Committee Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin submitted reports on matters related to security and discipline. Chairman of the Competitions Organizing Sub-committee Director-General U Kyaw Win of Fine Arts Department reported on rules of contests, competition for Ramayana Drama Contest, venues, cash awards, the date for holding prize presentation ceremony and arrangements for sending 11 maestro groups to States and Divisions.

Next, chairmen and officials of respective sub-committees took part in the discussions. Panel of judges for the contests and officials presented reports on assessment to be made in accord with rules and regulations. Later, the commander attended to the needs and gave concluding remarks. — MNA

Minister receives delegation

YANGON, 16 July— Minister for Labour U Tin Winn received Chairperson of the Social Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mrs Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu and party at his office at 3 pm today. Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein, Director-General U Soe Nyunt of the Labour Department, Chairman of the Social Security Board Col Chit Shein, Director-General Col Yu Lwin Aung of the Central Inland Freight Handling Committee Office, Director-General U Tin Win of the Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department, Director-General U Kyaw Nyunt of the Central Trade Disputes Committee Office, and Director U Myo Win of the Prime Minister's Office.—MNA

SRV delegation calls on Deputy Minister

YANGON, 16 July — A visiting Chairperson of Committee on Social Affairs of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mrs Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu called on Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 4 pm today.

Also present at the call were Director-General of the Department of Consular and Legal Affairs U Nyan Lynn, Deputy Director-General of the Department of ASEAN Affairs U Kyee Myint and officials concerned of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the evening, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win hosted a dinner in honour of the Vietnamese delegation at Karaweik Palace.

MNA



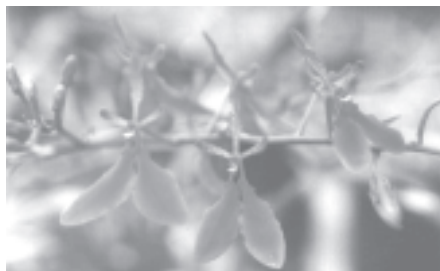
The Vietnamese delegation and Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win enjoy entertainment programme at the dinner. —MNA

Myanmar Native Orchids

Dr Khin Maung Nyunt

The Department of Botany at the University of Yangon has recently published a beautifully illustrated booklet entitled Myanmar Native Orchids. It is the first publication of its kind by this department, although over hundred master and PhD Degree theses have been compiled by research students and since a quarter of a century ago, a tissue culture laboratory has been established at the department.

Myanmar's unique geographical position is endowed with a rich variety of flora and fauna. Her forest ecosystems range from snow capped Hkaborazi mountain habitat with Himalayan flora in the north to tropical with Himalayan flora in the north to tropical evergreen forest habitat with Malayan flora in the south. Orchids are one of the most striking flowers among Myanmar indigenous flora. Due to their beauty, colours, fragrance and medicinal properties as well as rarity of certain species orchids enjoy pride of place in Myanmar culture and history. Thazin, *Bulbophyllum oricomum hindl.* is a very special orchid enlisted in the list of royal flowers in the days of Myanmar monarchy and the favourite flower of wide description in Myanmar literature and songs. Myanmar herbalists say all orchids are medicinal plants. But in Myanmar the academic knowledge of and scientific study in native orchids are limited, let alone those of their relatives in the world. The booklet aims to give knowledge and information of Myanmar orchids to the public and botanists is mentioned the establishment of A New Century Biotech Development Centre at Yangon University which is part of a thirty year long term education planning. Department of Botany is undertaking research activities concerning Myanmar native orchids and other useful medicinal and crop plants which



Renanthera imschootiana.

absorbing food and water from the soil. Some grow on decomposed leaves and decaying dead bodies. Terrestrial or ground orchids are found in cold regions of Europe, Asia and America, whereas those that grow on trees, rocks and wire lines inhabit in rain forests.

The introduction, then goes on to scientific classification of orchid species according to their habitat, type, characteristics and nature of pollination with botanical names. The booklet informs us of four different species on the basis of where they grow. Most orchids grow on trees and they are termed as "epiphytes". Those Species that grow on rocks are "Zitophytes", those that grow on decaying or decomposing substances are saprophytes and those that grow on ground are "terrestrials."

We now learn from the booklet that orchids do not pollinate by air or water. They pollinate with the help of insects like bees, bumble bees and butterflies which carry away and propagate the pollen from the sticky substance of stigmatic surface of orchid bloom. Thus flowers are pollinated and transformed into fruits.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in 1973 (CITES) has already prohibited from collecting and marketing orchids which are almost extinct Myanmar native orchids "Dendrobium cruentum" "Paphiopedium wardii" "Renanthera imschootiana" and "Vanda coerulea" are listed in CITES Appendix 1. Other orchids are mentioned in Appendix 2. They can be sold legally only with the permission of the Government authority concerned. There is a growing public awareness of and interest in orchids especially the native orchids thanks to Myanmar floral tradition and educational and informative activities of Myanmar Floriculturist Association and orchid lovers. Especially Thazin orchid which grows wild in Shan State, Kayah State, Mon State, Kayin State, Rakhine State, Bago Division, Taninthayi Division and Yangon Division and blooms once a year in the cold season December to February are now grown in the backyards and gardens not only in rural areas but also in towns. They fetch good price because of the growing demand. Thazin flowers are a must to adorn the coiffeur of a bride as well as for all Myanmar fairer gender.



Dendrobium cruentum.

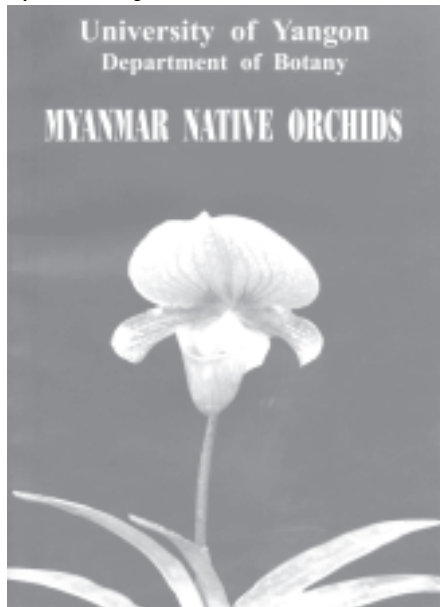
will be useful for the development of resources in the near future.

Crammed with 107 beautiful coloured photographs of Myanmar native orchids with their botanical names and scientific data provided by U Saw Lwin, CEC member of Myanmar Floriculturist Association and Managing Director of Myanmar Flora Co Ltd, the booklet is a concise and compact informative work. U Saw Lwin himself is a noted botanist specializing in Myanmar orchids. He has made various field trips to the remote places of Myanmar to collect wild orchids and photograph them. The Botany Department gives credit to him for his assistance and contribution of his field knowledge and photographs.

The short introduction of the booklet gives us basic important facts about orchids in general and Myanmar native orchids in particular. Myanmar word "Thit-khwa" for orchid literally means flowering plants that grow on tree branches, though of course there are other species which thrive on ground, on mossy stones and even on any decomposed substances. English word "Orchid" derives from Greek word "Orchis" meaning cup-shaped flowers.

There are about 725 orchid genera in the world and according to orchid experts about 17,500 species exist in the world. Some even guess up to 30,000 or 35,000 on earth. Forest department has recorded 841 species in Myanmar orchid family. These species are noted for their colours, formation, and strange pollination. Size of Myanmar orchids varies from tiny ones like platystele and Bulbophyllum to giant ones like Grammatophyllum.

Except freezing polar regions and scorching deserts, orchids are found everywhere in the world. Tropical rain forests are the habitat of most orchid species. Most orchids grow on trees but they do not take food from trees. Some species grow not only on stones but also on telephone lines. There are ground orchids that grow on the ground



The illustrated booklet "Myanmar Native Orchids".

Efficient use of electricity

- * Use daylight as the main source of light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- * Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

Waso robes offered at Botahtaung Pagoda

YANGON, 16 July — The board of trustees of Botahtaung Kyaikda-ut Pagoda held a ceremony to seek Ovada from Sayadaws in conjunction with a ceremony to offer Waso robes to members of the Sangha at their meeting hall at the pagoda this morning.

Works carried out during 4 months' period from 1-4-2004 to 30-6-2004 and works being carried out were reported to Sayadaws by Trustee U Khin Swe. He also introduced Rtd Lt-Comdr Hla Tun (Navy) (Retired Director (News) of the News and Periodicals Enterprise) to Ovadacariya Sayadaws. Waso robes were then offered to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

It was followed by sharing of merits gained, and "soon" was also offered to members of the Sangha.

MNA

Delegation calls on UMFCFI officials

YANGON, 16 July — A three-member delegation from Sri Lanka led by Consultant of Gem and Jewellery Related Affairs of Ceylinco Consolidated Mr T Rusiripala called on Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, Central Executive Committee members U Tun Aung (Myanmar Nyunt) and U Tun Aung (Tawwin Tun) and officials of the Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association and Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association at the head office of UMFCUI on Merchant Street here at 10 am yesterday.

They discussed matters on investment and promotion of bilateral trade, opportunities to set up joint ventures in gem industry, participation of Myanmar entrepreneurs in the 14th Sri Lankan Gem & Jewellery Show to be held in Colombo from 6 to 8 September 2004. —MNA

Waso robes to be offered

YANGON, 16 July — The Sanatan Dharma Hindu Association will offer Waso robes to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha at Mogok Refectory on Kaba Aye Hillock here at 9 am on 1-8-2004 and wellwishers are invited to participate. — MNA

New drug may offer new hope for leukaemia patients

WASHINGTON, 16 July — A second-generation cancer drug offers one last shot at life for leukaemia patients who have not been helped by the “miracle” drug Gleevec, doctors reported on Thursday.

Tests on mice show the experimental drug overcomes virtually all of the genetic mutations that cause some cancers to resist treatment with Gleevec, the researchers report.

Gleevec, made by Swiss drug company Novartis AG and sold in Europe under the name Glivec, was the first “targeted” cancer drug.

The findings, published in Friday’s issue of the journal *Science*, add to evidence that precisely targeted cancer drugs can be designed quickly and rushed into testing for the most desperate cancer patients.

Unpublished findings, which the researchers may not discuss, suggest the new drug is working safely and in some cases dramatically in some chronic myeloid leukaemia patients who had run out of options.

“We hope this represents another viable treatment option for patients with this disease,” said Dr Neil Shah of the University of California Los Angeles, who worked on the study. “There may now be hope beyond Gleevec should their disease relapse.”

Taken as a pill, the drug produced remarkable results

in patients with advanced chronic myeloid leukaemia, an immune-system cancer that kills about half the 4,000 or so people affected in the United States each year.

But about 15 per cent of patients are not helped by Gleevec. Researchers discovered a series of genetic mutations in their tumours that helped the cancer cells evade its effects.

Gleevec, known chemically as imatinib, works by attaching to and blocking an enzyme called BCR-ABL that helps leukaemia cells grow. Mutations in this enzyme change its shape enough so that Gleevec cannot attach itself.

“We realized if we want to develop drugs that inhibit the mutants, they need to be a little sloppier, less demanding in their binding rules,” said Dr Charles Sawyers, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute researcher at UCLA.

Members of a closely related class of drugs called SRC inhibitors also sometimes attach to and block ABL, he discovered. “Bristol Myers Squibb had a SRC inhibitor programme and they called me,” added Sawyers, who worked on the development of Gleevec and led this week’s study.

MNA/Reuters

Deaths in Japan rain rise to 9, more storms ahead

NAKANOSHIMA (Japan), 16 July— Torrential rains that have deluged towns in northern Japan had caused nine deaths by Thursday and two people were still missing as the region braced for more storms. Unprecedented downpours on Tuesday caused swollen rivers to burst their banks, touched off landslides that killed two in Niigata Prefecture, forced thousands to evacuate and left thousands more trapped in their homes awaiting rescue. People from more than 13,000 households were evacuated in Niigata, waiting tensely for the waters to recede in public halls and schools that had been turned into shelters. At one point, about 18,000 households in Niigata and neighbouring Fukushima were ordered to evacuate.

An elderly man who had been missing was found dead in a destroyed house in Nakanoshima on Thursday afternoon, bringing the death toll to nine, a Niigata police spokesman said. Two more people are still missing in the prefecture. Over 17 inches of rain had fallen in some parts of the region since Monday night and the Meteorological Agency said as much as 6.3 inches more could fall by noon on Friday.

MNA/Reuters

China ready to promote ties with Germany

BEIJING, 16 July — Developing the friendly cooperation between China and Germany is the common aspiration of two peoples and accords with the fundamental interests of the two countries, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Thursday.

At a meeting with visiting German Deputy Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs Joschka Fischer, Wen said China and Germany trust each other politically and enjoy a high level of trade and economic

cooperation, which still has a huge potential.

Consultation and cooperation between the two countries in international affairs have been strengthened constantly, the Premier said.

The Chinese side appreciates Germany for its adherence to the one-China policy and for its support to China’s peaceful reunification, Wen said.

Fischer, who arrived here Wednesday on a three-day official visit to China at

the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, said the German side speaks positively of Germany-China relations, and appreciates China’s policy of reform and opening up.

The German side is willing to continue pushing forward the bilateral relations, Fischer said, reiterating that the German Government will continue to uphold the one-China policy.

MNA/Xinhua



A whale is seen jumping above water. Animal welfare groups threatened to sue the US navy unless it stops using a type of sonar that they say could cause internal bleeding and even death in whales and other marine mammals. — INTERNET

Greece criticizes US comments, reassures Olympic security

ATHENS, 16 July — Greek Government on Thursday severely criticized US Pentagon spokesman’s comments on the security issue for Athens Olympic Games, reiterating that only Greek authorities are responsible for Olympic security and the games will be held safely.

“It is well known that Greece has done everything humanly possible for the Olympic Games to be held in a safe and peaceful setting,” Public Order Minister George Voulgarakis told reporters.

“I have repeatedly stated and it has been made clear to everyone that only Greek authorities are responsible for Olympic Games security and they have been working systematically towards this goal ever since Greece was elected to host the Olympic Games,” he stressed. Earlier in the day, asked whether the United

States might act unilaterally if the conditions demanded, US Pentagon spokesman Lawrence Di Rita said that the US is always ready to act to defend its national interests and American citizens throughout the world.

Meanwhile, the Communist Party of Greece also reacted strongly to Di Rita’s statement. “It is well known that the US, with the ‘go-ahead’ of the governments of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) and New Democracy (ND), has control over the Olympic

Games,” it said in a statement.

“However, what’s new and provocative about the Pentagon spokesman’s comments is that if necessary, the US will intervene unilaterally with military forces during the Olympic Games in order to protect US citizens! This statement goes beyond any previous provocative statement, a fact which calls for Greek people to stay alert and to express with every possible means their strong opposition,” it added.

MNA/Xinhua

Technical seminar on polyfelt geosynthetics application in civil engineering held

YANGON, 16 July — A technical seminar on polyfelt geosynthetics application in civil engineering 2004, sponsored by Agricultural & Industrial Development Co Ltd was held at Traders Hotel here at 9 am on 15 July. Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than, personnel of Myanmar Engineering Association, engineers of Polyfelt Asian Sdn Bhd and others. — MNA



Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than delivers an address at the technical seminar on polyfelt geosynthetics application in civil engineering. — MNA

FTA between China, ASEAN to bring great opportunities

BEIJING, 16 July— The setting up of the Free Trade Area (FTA) between China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) will surely bring great opportunities to China and ASEAN nations, said Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan here Thursday at the third forum of the Chinese people around the world.

The forum, hosted by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council and the China Overseas Exchanges Association, is focused on China-ASEAN FTA as well as challenges and opportunities faced by Chinese business people.

The establishment of the China-ASEAN FTA will contribute to the stability and development of both the Asian and world economies, said Tang at the opening ceremony.

The Chinese Government will continue to devote itself to the strategic partnership with ASEAN countries, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Australian Govt renews travel warning to US

CANBERRA, 16 July — The Australian Government on Thursday renewed its travel warning for Australians travelling to the United States after the US Government warned terrorists may be planning an attack to undermine the US presidential election in November. US Secretary for Homeland Security Tom Ridge said last week that credible reporting indicated al-Qaeda, an international terrorist network, was moving forward with plans to launch a large-scale attack in the United States to undermine the presidential election.

In the updated travel advisory, the Australian Department of Foreign

Affairs and Trade (DFAT) said there was a significant risk of a terrorist attack in the United States.

“Australians in the United States are advised to be alert to their own security,” the DFAT said.

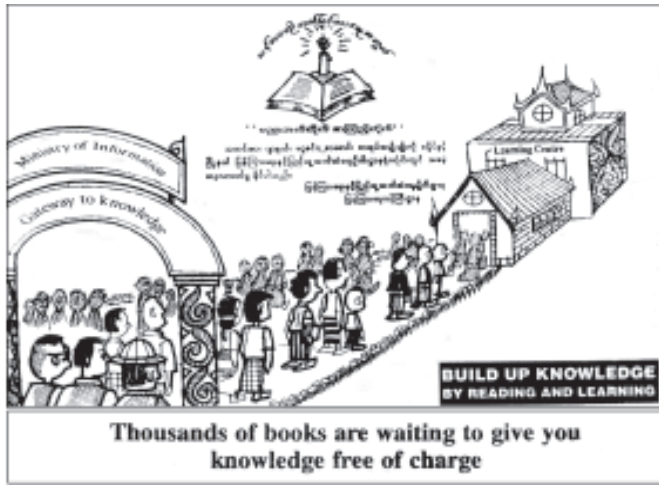
“United States authorities have stated that attacks are possible over the coming United States summer months and could be aimed at large political and international events,” it said.

The Australian Government demanded that Australians planning to visit the United States closely monitor the development of the situation and follow the advice of local authorities. — MNA/Xinhua

Two injured in oil tanker fire in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 16 July — Two workers, who were seriously burned in a fire that gutted an oil tanker Wednesday night, were in a critical condition, according to doctors with the No 7 People’s Hospital of Shanghai.

The fire broke out at around 7:30 pm in the dormitory area of *Daqing No 254* oil tanker, belonging to China Shipping Group, formerly mistaken as China Ocean Shipping Corporation. One was killed and four others injured, including the two in critical condition, in the fire on the giant oil tanker berthed the wharf of Lixin Shipyard of Shanghai. The fire was put out at about 10:45 pm, but the oil tanker was seriously damaged. — MNA/Xinhua



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US to set up stem cell bank

WASHINGTON, 15 July — The US Government plans to set up a "national bank" of embryonic stem cells for government-funded research, but still refuses to loosen restrictions on getting them from human embryos, according to a senior government official on Wednesday.

"The National Institutes of Health (NIH) will create a National Embryonic Stem Cell Bank that will provide a ready source of human embryonic stem cells to scientists, ensure consistent quality of the lines and provide other technical support that will make it easier for scientists to use federally approved stem cells," Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said in a letter to lawmakers.

MNA/Xinhua

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV QING CHUN MEN VOY NO (083)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV QING CHUN MEN Voy No (083) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18-7-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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US House approves bill funding anti-bioterror vaccines

WASHINGTON, 15 July — The House of Representatives on Wednesday approved a bill to fund the development of drugs and vaccines to counter bioterror attacks.

The 5.6 billion-US-dollar, 10-year Project BioShield Act was endorsed by the House by a vote of 414-2. The Senate earlier passed the bill, which is designed to deter a biological, chemical or nuclear attack and to limit casualties from a possible attack.

The legislation will pro-

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Cheaper medicines expected for Chinese AIDS patients

BEIJING, 15 July — Chinese AIDS patients are expected to get much cheaper medicines following the signing of an agreement between China and US-based pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), the Beijing-based *China Economic Times* reported Wednesday.

In last April, China's ministries of health and finance jointly issued a policy document pledging free treatment to poor AIDS patients in both urban and rural areas.

Six anti-virus medicines including Efavir, Zidovudine and Stavudine, all needed in the so-called "cocktail therapy" for AIDS patients, were picked as officially-designated medicines to be

purchased by the government and distributed free.

The Chinese Government had negotiated for years with foreign companies holding the patent and sales right. As a result, China started its home production of the anti-AIDS medicines last year, and currently there are several domestic pharmaceutical companies in Shanghai and northeast China manufacturing all of the government-endorsed medicines except efavir.

According to the latest deal with the Chinese Government, GSK will sell the Efavir on the Chinese market at a "preferential price" for the period between 2004 and 2006, sources with GSK China Investment Co. Ltd. said.

GSK is considering launching Efavir production in China, which will help further reduce the cost and price, the sources added.

Anti-virus medicines used to cost Chinese AIDS patients 30,000 to 50,000 yuan (around 36,000 to 6,000 US dollars) a year as the country had no capability to produce such medicines and had to rely on imports.

Medical experts here are optimistic that the prices of medicines for AIDS, which have already dropped in recent months, will continue to fall. In the near future, they say, each AIDS patient might only have to pay 3,000 to 5,000 yuan (around 360 to 600 dollars) a year for treatment.

MNA/Xinhua

Italy whaling talks seen extending hunting ban

OSLO, 15 July — The world is likely to renew a ban on whaling at talks in Italy next week even though whalers argue that some species are plentiful and that killing methods are humane, a leading pro-whaling group said on Tuesday.

The High North Alliance, which represents coastal hunters from Canada, Iceland, Norway, the Faroes and

Greenland, says minke whale stocks have rebounded and do not need the protection of a global moratorium in place since 1986.

But it forecast that the International Whaling Commission (IWC), meeting in Sorrento, Italy, on July 19-22, would ignore the whalers and vote to extend the ban. "The anti-whaling nations simply don't want to

lift the moratorium, and as they have enough votes to block any lifting, the ban will stay in place," it said in a report.

It also dismissed a 2004 campaign by about 200 conservation groups who argue that hunting the giant mammals with grenade-tipped harpoons means cruelty and unnecessary suffering for the biggest creatures on the planet.

Current methods of hunting are "in most cases a most efficient and humane way to produce food," the alliance said. "Eighty per cent of the minke whales hunted in Norway, for instance, are dispatched instantaneously."

MNA/Reuters

Nigerian ports for concession in September

LAGOS, 15 July — Nigerian sea ports would be handed over to preferred foreign and local bidders under concession arrangement in September this year in fulfilment of the government privatization programme, a high-ranking official from the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) said here Tuesday.

"The handover to the preferred bidders will be preceded by a bidders' conference which would take place soon", said Adebayo Sarumi, managing director of the NPA.

The Nigerian ports were slated for concession last year by the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), the organ of the Nigerian Government saddled with the responsibility of prosecuting the nation's privatization of public enterprises.

MNA/Xinhua

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Apple Computer Inc on 14 July, 2004 posted quarterly net income that more than tripled, fuelled by surging sales of its market-leading iPod digital music players. For its third quarter ended 26 June, Cupertino, California-based Apple said it had net income of \$61 million, or 16 cents a share, up from \$19 million, or 5 cents a share, in the year-ago period. Apple CEO Steve Jobs displays an 'iPod mini' in San Francisco in this 6 January file photo. — INTERNET

Apple's online music store sells 100 million songs

LOS ANGELES, 15 July—The iTunes Music Store run by US computer company Apple has sold 100 million songs in about 15 months, the *Hollywood Reporter* reported Tuesday.

The 100 millionth song, "Somersault (Dangermouse remix)" by Zero7, was purchased on Sunday by Kevin Britten of Hays, Kansas. According to Apple promotion, Britten is to receive a 17-inch PowerBook notebook computer, a 40-gigabyte iPod and a gift certificate for 10,000 iTunes songs.

Apple chief executive and co-founder Steve Jobs telephoned Britten to congratulate him.

But Apple, the maker of the iPod and Macintosh computer, has missed the goal set by Jobs when he launched the music store last April.

Although Jobs aimed to sell 100 million songs in one year, the company sold about 70 million songs only in the first 12 months.

The songs sold by iTunes Music cost 99 cents each and can only be played on Apple's popular iPod and iPod mini digital music players. —MNA/Xinhua

Thais to launch AIDS drug for children in 2005

BANGKOK, 15 July—Thailand will launch a children's version of its three-in-one generic antiretroviral pill next year to simplify treatment of HIV-infected youngsters, the state drug agency said on Wednesday.

"The drug is in clinical trials now and we hope to complete that and make it available on the market by the middle of next year," Government Pharmaceutical Organization (GPO) Managing Director Thongchai Thavichachart told reporters.

Thailand has produced some 40 million tablets of its GPO-VIR generic drug — which combines copies of stavudine, lamivudine, and nevirapine — since May 2002.

The current dosage, however, is only for suitable for those aged 10 years or over.

Those aged below 10 have to either split the tablet or take powder or liquid formulations.

"For those kids living in the far north, doctors have to prescribe gallons of different liquid formulas to them, which make their lives even more difficult," Thongchai said.

"With this first ARV cocktail tablet for kids in Southeast Asia, HIV-infected children will be treated more effectively."

Thongchai said there were about 5,000 children in Thailand in need of antiretrovirals.

MNA/Reuters

Study finds infant blindness boosts music ability

LONDON, 15 July—Infants who go blind at a very young age develop musical abilities that are measurably better than those who lose their sight later in life or retain full vision, according to a new study.

It has long been known that blind people are far better than their sighted counterparts at orientating themselves by sound.

But now scientists at Canada's University of Montreal have found that blind people are also up to 10 times better at discerning pitch changes than the sighted — but only when they went blind before the age of two.

"This research confirms that blind people are indeed better at pitch discrimination than normal, sighted people," lead researcher Pascal Belin

told Reuters.

"It is well known that you have great musicians that are blind, and a lot of piano tuners are blind. But until this study there was no quantifiable evidence to demonstrate that blind people were indeed better," he added.

But crucially, Belin's team found there was no difference in pitch change detection between sighted people and those who went blind in late infancy.

"We found that the superiority was correlated with the age of blindness," Belin

said.

"Only the blind subjects who had become blind before the age of two had a clearly superior performance. Late blind subjects, people who became blind after the age of five, were no different from the control subjects," he added.

The research, published in the science journal *Nature* attributed the clear differences in performance to brain plasticity — the formative period when the infant brain is akin to a sponge and soaking up all sorts of stimuli.

Belin said his research suggested that deprived of input, the section of the brain that would have processed images was reassigned to enhance other sectors.

"When these people became blind, the part of their brain that would have been used to process visual information reorganizes to take over other functions — and in particular auditory information," Belin said. "And the earlier this reorganization takes place, the more efficient it is."

MNA/Reuters

Drug-resistant germ spreading outside US hospitals

WASHINGTON, 15 July—A drug-resistant "superbug" found in hospitals has a close cousin that is affecting athletes, prisoners and small children in growing numbers across the United States, disease experts said on Wednesday.

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* or MRSA can become fatal if not treated with the right antibiotics, said Dr. Daniel Jernigan of the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

"MRSA is showing up in places it had never been seen before — as a predominant cause of skin disease

among children in some regions of the country, as clusters of abscesses among sports participants, as the most common cause of skin infections among inmates in some jails and among military recruits and rarely, as a severe and sometimes fatal lung or bloodstream infection in previously healthy people," Jernigan told report-

ers. Most commonly it takes the form of an abscess or boil, and doctors routinely try to treat it with Penicillin-based antibiotics, Jernigan said. These will not work against MRSA.

In hospitals, MRSA resists almost everything but an intravenous antibiotic called Vancomycin. But so-called community-acquired

MRSA can be treated with a range of antibiotics including Doxycycline and Cotrimoxazole, sold under the brand name Bactrim.

However, 70 per cent of the time doctors use ineffective drugs to treat it, Jernigan said. And the community-acquired strain has some of its own nasty tricks.

MNA/Reuters

Survey says Americans abandoning low-carbohydrate diets

NEW YORK, 15 July—So much for the low-carbohydrate lifestyle.

More than half of all US consumers that have tried following diets that eschew carbohydrates (carbs) such as bread and sugar have given up, a survey released on Wednesday found, and interest in the popular regimens appears to have risen.

According to research firm InsightExpress, which conducted the survey online, fewer than 10 per cent of Americans are currently on popular low-carbohydrate diets such as the Atkins, South Beach and The Zone.

In contrast, a survey conducted in December of last year by Opinion Dynamics

Corporation found that, at the time, 11 per cent of Americans were on low-carb diets.

The latest InsightExpress poll of 500 Americans also found that of survey participants who were not following low-carb diets, fewer than one in five would consider buying a low-carb product because they perceive a diet low in carbs to be unhealthy. That is unwelcome news for US food companies such as H.J. Heinz Co. and General Mills Inc. that have scrambled in the past year to keep up with the low-carb trend by reformulating staples such as ketchup, cereal and yogurt to reduce their carbohydrate content. —MNA/Reuters

Boeing selects Cisco for global IP telephony rollout

LOS ANGELES, 15 July—Cisco Systems said on Tuesday that Boeing has selected its Internet Protocol (IP) telephony for rollout across its global enterprise, which includes more than 150,000 employees in 48 states and 70 countries.

Boeing, one of the world's biggest commercial and military aircraft maker, plans to migrate from traditional telephone network to an IP-based single, converged communications network that integrates its voice, video and data networks, using Cisco's IP communications product portfolio.

Boeing has been testing the Cisco voice over IP technology in its network since 2001, with hundreds of employees across the country participating in the pilot programme.

"Recent advances in technology and product innovation have overcome many of the obstacles inhibiting the convergence of Boeing's voice and data networks," said Christopher Kent, vice-president of Boeing Shared Services Group.

MNA/Xinhua



An otter carries a soother in its mouth, after it was thrown in its pool by a child, at the Hagenbeck Zoo in Hamburg, northern Germany. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Italian defender Castellini joins Betis on five-year deal

MADRID, 15 July — Italian defender Paolo Castellini has joined Real Betis from Torino on a five-year contract, the Primera Liga club said on Tuesday. "He was a player I had asked for," said Betis coach Llorenç Serra Ferrer. "He is a good professional and we all knew that he was very keen to join us and that's why we chose him."

The 25-year-old left back, who played on loan at Serie A side Brescia last season, is the first player Betis have signed since the end of last season when they finished ninth in the Primera Liga.

Betis are also reported to be on the verge of reaching an agreement to sign Brazilian striker Ricardo Oliveira from Valencia.

The club received some bad news too on Tuesday when routine pre-season medical tests carried out on the squad showed that Brazilian international forward Denilson was still suffering from serious knee pain despite undergoing surgery earlier in the year to deal with the problem.

"It's a real set-back to our plans," said Serra Ferrer. "But we have to face up to it and there is certain to be another player who will be keen to take his place." — MNA/Reuters

Barca set their sights on Cameroon striker Eto'o

MADRID, 15 July — Barcelona have made African Player of the Year Samuel Eto'o their next transfer target.

Club president Joan Laporta said Barca viewed the signing of the Cameroon international striker, who is part owned by both Real Madrid and his present club Real Mallorca, as a leading priority.

"On our part we see no problem in signing a player that does not have a place at Real Madrid," Laporta told reporters at the team's training base in Peralada on Wednesday. "We think Eto'o is a great player."

The Catalans will have a tough battle on their hands if they want to secure the services of the highly rated 23-year-old.

Real president Florentino Perez said before he was re-elected on Sunday that he intended to buy back the full rights to the player from Mallorca and then loan him out to another club. But he ruled out a deal with Barcelona.

Laporta insisted, though, that he would not be deterred by Real's plans.

"Everything will now depend on the how strong the desire of the players is to join Barcelona," he said. "It is in our interest that he ends up playing with us."

An additional problem for Barca is that Eto'o does not have a European Union passport and so would occupy one of three berths assigned for foreign players under Primera Liga regulations.

Barca have already exceeded their quota of non-European Union players and have said that unless new signing Silvinho manages to obtain Spanish citizenship before the start of the season they will have to loan him out to another club.

As well as former the Celta Vigo left back, Barca have also signed fellow Brazilian defender Juliano Belletti, Portugal playmaker Deco, Sweden striker Henrik Larsson and French midfielder Ludovic Giuly during the close season. — MNA/Reuters

Gazzayev returns as CSKA Moscow coach

Moscow, 15 July — Valery Gazzayev has been reappointed as chief coach of CSKA Moscow in place of Artur Jorge, officials said on Tuesday.

Portuguese coach Jorge was sacked on Monday after the team's performance fell short of expectations.

Jorge's dismissal paved the way for Gazzayev to return to the club he left last November soon after they won the Russian Premier League title.

"Gazzayev has been appointed and he is now taking over the team," CSKA spokesman Sergei Aksyonov said by telephone.

Champions CSKA are fifth in the standings with 28 points from 16 games.

The board of directors were unhappy with CSKA's results this year as they felt the club were involved in too many draws.

Dynamo Moscow also parted company with their foreign coach, Czech Jaroslav Hrbik, on Tuesday.

Dynamo, who are languishing in 13th place in the 16-team table with just 16 points, appointed Viktor Bondarenko as their new coach.

"Out of five latest games Dynamo lost four and drew one," the club spokesman Alexander Lvov said.

"The team is in a difficult situation. It can even end up in leaving the Premier League."

MNA/Reuters

Debt-laden Napoli at risk of dropping out of Serie B

ROME, 15 July — Debt-laden Italian Serie B club Napoli missed a deadline on Tuesday to show its finances were in order, putting in jeopardy the former Italian champion's chances of qualifying for the new season.

Napoli, at risk of being thrown out of the second division, needed to assure the Italian Football League it had met a shortfall of millions of euros in its accounts by midnight on Monday.

The league's offices had remained open to receive the documentation, the first in a series of financial deadlines for Italian clubs to register for the 2004/05 season.

MNA/Reuters



Marion Jones jumps in the final round of the long jump during the Olympic Track and Field trials in Sacramento, Calif, on 16 July, 2004. — INTERNET



The ball that David Beckham blasted into the stands when he missed a penalty in England's Euro 2004 shootout defeat by Portugal has attracted bids of more than \$12 million on an Internet auction site. Beckham is shown taking the errant shot during the quarter-final on 24 June, 2004. — INTERNET

Beckham's ball heads back down to earth

MADRID, 16 July — A 10 million-euro bid for the ball that David Beckham blasted into the stands during England's Euro 2004 shootout defeat against Portugal has been ruled a fake.

After running cheques on the bids, the Spanish site of Internet auctioneers eBay (www.es.ebay.com) decided to reduce the top offer for the ball from 10 million to a mere 23,650 euros (29,270 US dollars).

The ball was put up for sale by the Spanish football fan who grabbed it while he was watching the Euro 2004 quarter-final from Row Q of the Luz Stadium in Lisbon.

A bidding war believed to involve genuine collectors and British newspapers, anxious to get hold of the ultimate memento of a penalty miss that helped cost England a place in the semifinals, was also joined by pranksters who hiked the price to astronomical levels.

The interest in the ball has created a major headache for the eBay, who have had to introduce a new series of security checks in order to establish the authenticity of the bids.

"Nothing like this has ever occurred in

Spain before," company spokesperson Inma Solis said on Wednesday.

"We are having to check out each bid with our departments in other countries and are trying to cancel out those we believe to be false."

Pablo Carral, the 25-year-old Deportivo Coruna fan who caught Beckham's spot kick, said he only realized the interest the ball might generate after he had been contacted by a British newspaper who were anxious to get their hands on the trophy.

"I decided to put the ball up for auction after a British paper tried to buy it," he said.

"I was also rung up by several Irish daily papers saying they wanted to get hold of it in order to poke fun at Beckham and the English — it's complete madness."

The ball, embossed with the names of the teams, the date and match venue, will be up for sale until July 22. — MNA/Reuters

Kranjcar to coach Croatia

ZAGREB, 15 July — Croatia appointed former player Zlatko Kranjcar as their new national coach on Tuesday to succeed Otto Baric who stepped down after a disappointing early exit from Euro 2004 in Portugal.

The Croatian FA voted unanimously for Kranjcar, 47, who won two league and cup doubles as a coach with Dinamo Zagreb in 1996 and 1998, and a league title with FC Zagreb in 2002.

Kranjcar spent most of his playing career as a Dinamo Zagreb striker and his record of 276 goals in 556 games made him fourth on Dinamo's all-time scoring list. He also played with Austrian teams Rapid Vienna and St. Poelten. Kranjcar is the sixth national coach since the former Yugoslav republic gained independence in 1991.

After a drought of creative midfielders in the last few years, many soccer pundits believe Kranjcar will have to rely on his talented but uncapped 20-year old son Niko of Dinamo Zagreb as the team's new playmaker. The Croatian FA said its main

goal was to secure a place at the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany.

Baric, who led Croatia's Euro 2004 campaign and whose contract expires on July 31, said he was not willing to stay on, unhappy about hostile treatment in the local media.

Croatia failed to progress from the group stage, managing only two draws — against underdogs Switzerland and favourites France — and a defeat to England. Croatian media criticized Baric for focusing too much on defence, failing to field talented young players and reshuffling line-ups too often.

Croatia play Israel in a home friendly on August 18 before kicking off their 2006 World Cup qualifying campaign at home to Hungary on September 4. They have also been drawn with Sweden, Bulgaria, Iceland and Malta. — MNA/Reuters

Thailand beat Newcastle on penalties

BANGKOK, 15 July — Thailand's National Team beat Newcastle United 4-2 on penalties after the English Premier League club's first match of their pre-season tour of Asia ended in a 1-1 draw on Wednesday.

Sarayoot Chaikamdee gave Thailand the lead in the 16th minute, latching on to a through ball before lifting the ball over goalkeeper Shay Given, with midfielder Lee Bowyer blasting in Newcastle's equalizer midway through the second half.

Bowyer missed in the shootout, however, sending his shot over the bar and new signing James Milner, who was impressive after coming on as a second-half substitute, also failed from the spot. Milner, 18, joined Newcastle from relegated Leeds United earlier this month.

"Milner came on for his first game for Newcastle — he was a complete stranger to this situation — but he looked good," Newcastle manager Bobby Robson told reporters.

The team travel to Hong Kong for the second match of their tour against Kitchee on Sunday. — MNA/Reuters

MRTV-3
17-7-2004 (Saturday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Nan Pan Market Day
- 9:10 National News**
- 9:12 Melodious Flute Tunes
of the Villages
- 9:15 National News**
- 9:20 Traditional Art of
Making Goldware
- 9:25 Pana ma Aae Khan
Gita Than
- 9:30 National News**
- 9:35 New Vogue Flower
Arrangement
- 9:40 Song "Dakukuku"
- 9:42 Oil Painting Model
Demonstration
- 9:45 National News**
- 9:50 Red Panda
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

17-7-2004 (Saturday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanmar Sen-
timent"
- 15:36 Nan Pan Market Day

- 15:40 Headline News**
- 15:42 Melodious Flute Tunes
of the Villages
- 15:45 National News**
- 15:50 Traditional Art of
Making Goldware
- 15:55 Pana ma Aae Khan
Gita Than
- 16:00 National News**
- 16:05 New Vogue Flower
Arrangement
- 16:10 Song "Dakukuku"
- 16:12 Oil Painting Model
Demonstration
- 16:15 National News**
- 16:20 Red Panda
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30 National News**
- 16:35 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake (Part-II)
- 16:40 Nan-Thae Model Plan-
tation (Inlay Lake)
- 16:45 National News**
- 16:50 Myanmar Movies Im-
pact "A life-long Part-
ner"
- 17:00 Weekly News High-
lights**
- 17:05 Myanmar Artistic
Works at Shwedagon
Pagoda Archways
- 17:10 Song "Treasure Land"
- 17:15 Weekly News High-
lights**
- 17:20 Fabulous Bagan (IV)
- 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 Lucky Bamboo

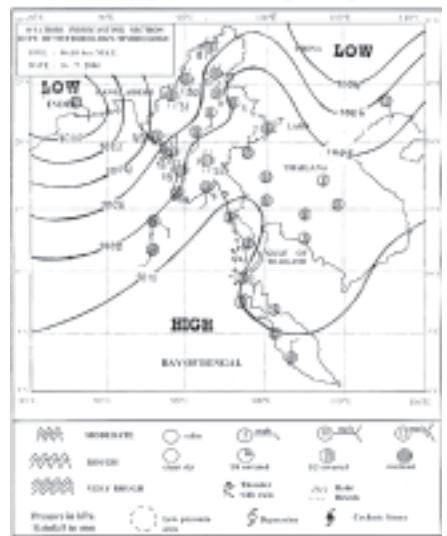
- 19:40 Headline News**
- 19:42 Enjoy our Shan Food
- 19:45 National News**
- 19:50 Melodious Myanmar
Harp
- 19:55 Myanmar National
Races Cultural Dances
(U Shwe Yoe & Daw
Moe)
- 20:00 National News**
- 20:05 Traditional Weaving
Art
- 20:10 Song "Land of Beauty"
- 20:12 Mingun Bell
- 20:15 National News**
- 20:20 Let's have fun watch-
ing Chinlone Games
- 20:25 Songs on Screen "One
and only Yours (Maung
Mu Paing Shin)"
- 20:30 National News**
- 20:35 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake (Part-I)
- 20:40 Excursion in Yangon
River
- 20:45 National News**
- 20:50 Myanmar Marine Pro-
ducts For All Nations
- 20:55 Long Drum Folk Song
& Dance
- 21:00 National News**
- 21:05 Myanmar's Pride &
Glory
- 21:10 Myanmar Modern
Song
"A Way for Lovers"
- 21:12 Greening of the Hills
and Ranges, in order to
achieve climate change
(Shinmataung)
(Magway Division)
- 21:15 Weekly News High-
lights**
- 21:20 Fabulous Bagan (III)

- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-
rama & Myanmar Sen-
timent"
- 21:35 Nan Pan Market Day
- 21:40 Headline News**
- 21:42 Melodious Flute Tunes
of the Villages
- 21:45 National News**
- 21:50 Traditional Art of
Making Goldware
- 21:55 Pana ma Aae Khan
Gita Than
- 22:00 National News**
- 22:05 New Vogue Flower
Arrangement
- 22:10 Song "Dakukuku"
- 22:12 Oil Painting Model
Demonstration
- 22:15 National News**
- 22:20 Red Panda
- 22:25 Myanmar Modern Song
"Saying with the
Eyes!"
- 22:30 National News**
- 22:35 Unique Biodiversity of
Indawgyi Lake (Part-II)
- 22:40 Nan-Thae Model Plan-
tation (Inlay Lake)
- 22:45 National News**
- 22:50 Myanmar Movies Im-
pact "A Life-long Part-
ner"
- 23:00 National News**
- 23:05 Myanmar Artistic
Works at Shwedagon
Pagoda Archways
- 23:10 Song "Treasure Land"
- 23:15 Weekly News High-
lights**
- 23:20 Fabulous Bagan (IV)
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

Rainfall on 16-7-2004

- (nil) at Yangon Airport,
- (0.28 inch) at Kaba-Aye and
- (0.08 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1443 mm (56.81 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1387 mm (54.61 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1377 mm (54.21 inches) at central Yangon.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

**WEATHER****Friday, 16 July, 2004**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin State, Taninthayi Division, rain or thundershowers has been isolated in lower Sagaing Division and Kayah State and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Maungdaw (3.23) inches, Zaungtu (2.95) inches, Kyauktaw (2.44) inches and Sittway (2.05) inches.

Maximum temperature on 15-7-2004 was 30.5°C (87°F). Minimum temperature on 16-7-2004 was 20.5°C (69°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 16-7-2004 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 15-7-2004 was (3.1) hours approx. Rainfall on 16-7-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, (0.28 inch) at Kaba-Aye and (0.08 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1443 mm (56.81 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1387 mm (54.61 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1377 mm (54.21 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from South at 18:30 hours MST on 15-7-2004.

Bay inference: According to the observations at 09:30 hrs MST today, yesterday's low pressure area over North Bay has become unimportant. Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and moderate to strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 17-7-2004:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in upper Sagaing Division, Kachin and Rakhine States, scattered in Mandalay Division, Chin and Shan States isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be moderate off and along Rakhine Coast and slight elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: General decrease of rain are likely in the whole country. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-7-2004:** Sunny period with one or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-7-2004:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather outlook for third weekend of July 2004: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Yangon Division and scattered in Mandalay Division.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 1:00 hr MST on 16-7-2004)

According to the 06:30 hrs MST observations today, the water levels of Chindwin River may remain above their respective danger levels of Homalin (2900) cm, Mawlaik (1230) cm and Kalewa (1550) cm during the next (4) days commencing noon today.

According to the 06:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Dohkhtawady River at Myitnge may remain above its danger level of (870) cm during the next (3) days commencing noon today.


Saturday, July 17
View today:

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးတင် မင်းကျွန်းဆရာတော် တရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အကြီးတော်အောင်ဇော်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဋ္ဌာရုံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာရ မဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မစေတီတော်၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မ၊ ဓမ္မာဠာတိရိက္ခ၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တ ဝိဇ္ဇာဘုရားတော်၊ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

- မြို့မြို့ကြွကြွသံဃာကျေးဇူးတင်

8:10 am

- အတိတ်မြို့

8:20 am

- ဂလာတစ်သီး၊ ရေစာတစ်ခွက်

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Grammar made easy

11:00 am

- Martial song

11:10 am

- Musical programme

11:30 am

- News

11:40 am

- Round-up of the week's TV local news

1:40 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ

2:10 pm

- သောတာပန်ပရိတ် (အပိုင်း-၅)

2:25 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ

2:45 pm

- ကျေးဇူးတင် မင်းကျွန်းဆရာတော် တရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အကြီးတော်အောင်ဇော်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဋ္ဌာရုံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာရ မဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မစေတီတော်၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မ၊ ဓမ္မာဠာတိရိက္ခ၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တ ဝိဇ္ဇာဘုရားတော်၊ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

3:00 pm

- Martial song

3:15 pm

- Songs to uphold National Spirit

3:30 pm

- English For Everyday Use

3:45 pm

- Musical programme

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

- English For Everyday Use

4:45 pm

- Musical programme

5:00 pm

- အစောင့်တရားတော်၊ ယဉ်ကျေး ရန်ပြင်သံကြားသံဃာတော်

တတိယနံ (ပထဝီဝင်ဆရာတော်)
(ရာဇဝေ)

5:15 pm

- Dance variety

5:30 pm

- မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစာတော်

5:40 pm

- မြင်းမြင်းသံဃာတော်၊ ဆရာတော်မြင်း

5:55 pm

- Musical programme

6:05 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ

6:15 pm

- Musical programme

6:30 pm

- Evening news

7:00 pm

- Weather report

7:05 pm

- Discovery

7:15 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ

7:45 pm

- ကျေးဇူးတင် မင်းကျွန်းဆရာတော် တရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အကြီးတော်အောင်ဇော်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဋ္ဌာရုံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာရ မဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မစေတီတော်၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မ၊ ဓမ္မာဠာတိရိက္ခ၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တ ဝိဇ္ဇာဘုရားတော်၊ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

8:00 pm

- News

8:15 pm

- International news

8:30 pm

- Weather report

8:45 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ

9:00 pm

- ကျေးဇူးတင် မင်းကျွန်းဆရာတော် တရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ နာယကအဖွဲ့အကြီးတော်အောင်ဇော်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဋ္ဌာရုံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာရ မဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မစေတီတော်၊ တိပိဋကဓမ္မ၊ ဓမ္မာဠာတိရိက္ခ၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တ ဝိဇ္ဇာဘုရားတော်၊ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

9:15 pm

- The next day's programme


Saturday, July 17
Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
8.35 am Music: For you
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music: Don't you worry
8.55 am National news/Slogan
9.05 am Music: What about
9.10 am International news
9.15 am Music: (Spotlight on a star) Collin Raye
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Request
-Venus
-One last kiss
-Pretty blue eyes
9.00 pm ASEAN review
-News
9.10 pm Article
9.20 pm Myanmar culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
-Kyaikkhaik Pagoda
9.30 pm Souvenirs
-Stardust
-Try a little tender-ness
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

All citizens to take part in tasks by doing their bit to build up genuine democracy-flourishing nation

Secretary-1 attends opening of multimedia classrooms of No 3 BEHS in Kamayut Township

YANGON, 16 July—The opening of multimedia classrooms of No 3 Basic Education High School in Kamayut Township, Yangon West District, took place at the school this morning, attended by Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Ministers for Education U Myo Nyunt and Col Aung Myo Min, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, officials, members of the school board of trustees, the principal, teachers, parents, students and guests.

The commander, the minister and Chairman of

the School Board of Trustees U Bo Saw formally opened the facility. The Secretary-1 pressed the button to unveil the signboard of the facility. The Secretary-1 and party looked into computer lab room, language lab room, computer aided art room, electronic media (video) room, study room (audio/reading) and art room.

The opening ceremony continued at the music room. The Secretary-1 delivered a speech, saying that under the guidance of teachers and parents and efforts made by students themselves basic education schools will be able to produce a large number of reliable and outstanding persons. There have been fine traditions to do so, he said.

The government has been making vigorous attempts to elevate the basic education and higher education sectors and to produce more well-educated persons through education-promotion plans.

The national education promotion four-year special



MEC Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects multimedia classrooms at Kamayut BEHS No 3.—MNA

plans have been fruitful thanks to combined endeavours of the people, social organizations and teachers, he added.

The combined efforts have achieved nearly cent per cent of the plan for ensuring enrolment of all school-going-age children. Overall, the nation has

been able to build good foundations for polishing and boosting its educational sector. Simultaneously, the government has been building other necessary foundations for all-round development such as in political, economic, health and transport spheres, reflecting the government's diligence and

zeal to ensure security of the people's socio-economic life as well as perpetual existence of the nation.

In doing so, there have emerged prospects of continuous progress of the entire nation due to diligent implementation of projects by local authorities and service personnel and active participation of the people and social organizations under the correct leadership of the government, he said.

It is incumbent upon all citizens to take part in the tasks by doing their bit to build up a genuine democracy-flourishing nation

through correct policies, he noted.

The teachers are to be convinced of the nature of their noble duties, to teach the students and to nurture (See page 8)

INSIDE

Perspectives

For turning out highly qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia (Page 2)

Article

Myanmar Native Orchid (Page 10)



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addresses first coordination meeting to hold 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions. — MNA

Measures for organizing 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions coordinated

YANGON, 16 July—The Leading Committee for Organizing the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions held its first meeting at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township here this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of the Leading Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung and members, departmental heads, maestros, chairmen of the Work Committee and subcommittees for the competitions, chairmen of respective scrutinizing work groups and officials.

The chairman of the Leading Committee delivered a speech, saying that the competitions have been held yearly since 1993 with a view to preserving and elevating Myanmar traditional cultural arts, and enabling traditional cultural arts to catch up with the development of interna-

tional level arts without damaging own styles after flourishing the spirit of love and cherish national traditions, culture and customs among the national youths. More-than-expected successes have been achieved year by year in organizing the competitions thanks to cooperation and contributions of the maestros, the Leading Committee, committees and subcommittees and arousing support of the people. The State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Office formed the Panel of Patrons and the Leading Committee on 11 July for organizing the 12th competitions to be grander than the previous years. The meeting will form two committees and 10 subcommittees, and the formation will be reported at the meeting which will be attended by patrons.

It is needed to coordinate in advance matters related to organizing the competitions, cash earmarked for prizes and dates to be fixed for the competitions, he said. The panel of patrons is to make arrangements to (See page 9)

Minister inspects roads and bridges

YANGON, 16 July — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by officials of Public Works, left Gangaw Township on 13 July morning and inspected Gangaw-Kalay road and bridges on the way. The Minister inspected the site for construction of Pane creek bridge. Superintending Engineer of Magway Division U Tint Lwin reported on preparatory conditions for construction of the bridge. The Minister stressed that the chosen site for building the approach road must be free from bank erosion.

Afterwards, the Minister inspected newly built Tawwin creek bridge and Senior Engineer-in-Charge U Zaw Win Myint reported on matters related to the bridge. At the briefing hall, the Senior Engineer reported on the completion of the bridge and the approach road. After hearing the reports, the Minister instructed engineers to construct the pilot channel, to build the retaining walls for prevention of bank erosion and to maintain the bridges.

The Minister and party inspected construction of Kyaukthu-Htilin road section and gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, the Minister inspected durability and maintenance of the bridges on Kyaukthu-Saw Road and Seikphyu-Saw Road. Next, they arrived in Chauk Township.

The Minister and party left Chauk on 15 July and inspected repairing and maintenance of Yangon-Pyay-Mandalay Highway and Kyaukpadaung-Yenangyoung-Magway road section and durability of the bridges along the roads. Afterwards, the Minister saw over Kopin-Sanmagyi-Thityakaung road.

On arrival at the site of Bwetyi bridge construction project, the engineer-in-charge reported on progress of works. Next, the Minister inspected driving of piles on the bank of Pyay and urged officials to take preventive measures against bank erosion. — MNA