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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt views progress of Shanghai in year 2020 at Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Centre on 15 July.—MNA

PM General Khin Nyunt visits Shanghai Tours Pudong Industrial Zone, Shanghai Science & Technology Museum, Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Centre

YANGON, 21 July — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party arrived at Shanghai Science and Technology Museum in Pudong Industrial Zone at 9.30 am on 15 July.

They were welcomed there by Shanghai Pudong New Area People's Government Vice Mayor Mr Endi Zhang and officials.

In the museum, Vice Mayor Mr Endi Zhang reported to the Prime Minister on the location and area of the industrial zone. He said that the zone's main

economy at first was production, but it is now science and technology, explaining the zone's GDP growth, establishment of Pudong Industrial Zone with Lujiazui Finance and Trade Zone, Jinqiao Export and Processing Zone,

Waigaoqiao Free Trade Zone and Zhangjiang Hi-Tech Park, zone-wise production through modern technology, research and services, local and foreign investment, building of infrastructures as priority task for development of the in-

dustrial zone and measures being taken for harmonious development of the economy and the social and cultural sectors.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt thanked the Mayor for comprehensive

explanations concerning the development of Pudong Industrial Zone. He said that buildings in the region obviously reflect its development. He added that he met with the leaders of the People's Republic of China during his goodwill visit

and cordially discussed sectoral cooperation and promotion of bilateral friendly relationship. He invited industrialists and interested persons to participate in China-Myanmar cooperation sector. Next, he noted

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party pose for documentary photo at Lujiazui Central Green Park in Shanghai on 15 July.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 22 July, 2004

Towards stronger Sino-Myanmar friendship & economic cooperation

Leaders of the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic China have always tried to promote the mutual friendship by paying reciprocal visits.

General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, during his official visit to China, went on a study tour of industrial zones in Beijing and in Hubei Province with a view to strengthening friendship and boosting cooperation in various fields, especially economy, trade and industry.

On the morning of 13 July, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party visited the Zhongguancun Science Park and, Dr Xia Yingqi, Vice-Chairman of the Zhongguancun Science Park Administrative Committee briefed the Prime Minister on the background history and development of the industrial zone, operations of research centres and high-tech companies, flow of foreign investment and training of technicians. After studying manufacturing industries and research centres in the industrial zone, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that an industrial zone is being established near Yangon and invited Chinese companies and investors to come and study so that they can work together with Myanmar industrialists.

On 14 July, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party visited the Three Gorges Dam Exhibition Centre and General Manager Mr Li Yongang of the Three Gorges Dam Project briefed the Prime Minister on the drawing of modern designs by local technicians with the use of advanced technologies. The General Manager said that the Three Gorges Dam was going to be the largest in the world and would supply electricity to the regions in the eastern and northern parts of China. He also explained development measures being carried out for the social and economic sectors of the region where the dam is being constructed, the building of temporary and permanent waterways and the construction of hydel power plant.

Governor of Hubei Province Mr Lou Quiguan also called on Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and they discussed matters on boosting cooperation in economy and hydel power projects between Myanmar and Hubei Province and measures to be taken for promoting friendship between the two nations.

We believe that Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt's visit to China will deepen mutual friendship and raise the momentum of economic cooperation between the two nations.

Soccer tournament opened

YANGON, 21 July — The soccer tournament for championship shield of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) was opened with ceremony at 3.30 pm yesterday at Ground Training Base in Meiktila. Present on the occasion were No 99 LID Commander Col Tin Oo Lwin, Ground Training Base Commander Col Thura Khin Maung Win, senior military officers, guests and others. — MNA

Cycling race on 7 August

YANGON, 21 July — Under the aegis of the Ministry of Sports and arrangements of Myanmar Cycling Federation and Shwe Than Lwin Co, the cycling race (2004) will be held at 5:30 am on 7 August.

The Yangon-Bago-Yangon cycling race comprises men's 160-kilometre event and women's 80-kilometre event. K 500,000 will be presented to the first prize winner, K 400,000 for second prize, K 300,000 for third prize, K 200,000 for fourth prize, K 100,000 for fifth prize and K 50,000 each for five consolation prizes. Enthusiasts can participate by getting enlisted at MCF General Secretary U Myint Han not later than 1 August. — 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

Laotian Deputy FM calls on Minister U Win Aung

YANGON, 22 July — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Phongsavath Boupouha called on Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 11 am today. Present at the call were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Myanmar Ambassador to LPDR U Tin Oo, Director-General of Political Department U Thaug Tun and officials. In the evening, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win hosted a dinner in honour of the Laotian delegation. — MNA



Foreign Affairs Minister U Win Aung receives Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Phongsavath Boupouha at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

Talks on MWAFF given

YANGON, 21 July — Talks on salient points of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation took place at Thida Hall of Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Mayangon Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Presidents of MWAFF Prof Dr Daw May May Yi, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, Patron of Yangon Division Organization for Women's Affairs Daw Khin Thet Htay, officials of MWAFF, adviser to Rehabilitation and Resettle-

ment of MWAFF Daw Khin Aye, wife of the Minister for SWRR; Daw Khin Nwe Nwe, wife of the Deputy Minister for SWRR; Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Sein Thaug and wife Daw Khin Htay Myint; heads of departments and their wives; women staff and their families totalling about 500.

After prof Dr Daw May May Yi had given talks, adviser to Rehabilitation and Resettlement of MWAFF Daw Khin Aye, wife of the Minister presented K 100,000 donated by the Ministry of SWRR to the former. — MNA

Workshop on China-ASEAN Expo-2004

YANGON, 21 July — A workshop on China-ASEAN Expo-2004, organized by the Ministry of Commerce and China-ASEAN Expo-2004 organizing committee, was held this morning at Traders' Hotel here.

Director-General of the Directorate of Trade U Nyunt Aye explained matters on preparation to participate in the Expo and exhibitions of Myanmar. Next, General-Secretary Mr Gong Xun of the China-ASEAN Expo Secretariat briefed on arrangements and assistance for the Expo. Mr Gong Xun replied the queries raised by

those present. Under the agreement of ASEAN-China Summit held in Barli, Indonesia, in 2003, China-ASEAN Expo-2004 is to be held at Nanning International Convention & Exhibition Centre in Nanning, Guangxi Autonomous Region, China, from 3 to 7 October.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, Commercial Attaché of the Chinese Embassy Mr Tang Hai and responsible officials attended the opening of the workshop. — MNA

Seminar on Globalization held

YANGON, 21 July — The Seminar on Globalization (Tourism, Globalization and Sufficiency Economy Theory in Myanmar), jointly organized by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Foundation for International Human Resource Development of Thailand, was held at Sedona Hotel, here, this morning.

Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, UMFCFI Vice-President U Aung Lwin, Foundation for International Human Resource Development of



Dr Chira Hongladarom of Thailand speaks on the occasion. — MNA

Thailand General Secretary and Projects President Dr Chira Hongladarom and Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal gave speeches.

Also present at the meeting were officials of the

Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Immigration and Population, Yangon City

Development Committee, the UMFCFI, Yangon University and Myanmar Travellers Association. The Seminar will be held up to 23 July. — MNA

National Basketball C'ship continues

YANGON, 21 July — National Basketball Championship for 2004 jointly organized by the Myanmar Basketball Federation and Mikko Coffee Mix contin-

ued today at Aung San Gymnasium.

In men's senior quarter final division, Gar Gar (A) Team beat Navy Team 61-51 points and Yangon Com-

mand Team beat Shadow Team 81-55 points. The Central Command Team defeated Gar Gar (B) Team by 91-59 points. The tournament continues on 22 July.

In all three divisions, K 100,000 will be presented for the first prize, K 50,000 for the second and K 30,000 for the third respectively. — MNA

900th US soldier killed since war began in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 21 July—On Wednesday, a 1st Infantry Division soldier became the 900th US military death in Iraq since the beginning of the war in March 2003. The soldier was killed by a roadside bomb while on patrol in a Bradley fighting vehicle in Duluiyah, 45 miles north of Baghdad.

Two Marines had been killed in separate incidents Tuesday while conducting "security and stability operations." One soldier was killed on Monday, and a second died on Monday of wounds. Before the five deaths, the Pentagon's official count of the dead had stood at 895.

The guerillas' Web statement also told Arab and Islamic governments not to send troops.

"We are warning you for the last time: We will hit with an iron fist all those supporting the Americans or (interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad) Allawi or his cronies."

Allawi had asked some Muslim countries to contribute troops, but so far none has come forward. Violence is a

likely factor. Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he would not even send a planned medical team until "the situation is a little more stable."

Iraq's fledgling interim government relies heavily on the 160,000 coalition troops to fight the 15-month-old insurgency, which has used car bombings, assassinations, sabotage and other violence to try to create chaos and drive out foreign forces.

Violence continued on Tuesday, with a roadside bomb attack on a vehicle near the city of Baqouba, north of Baghdad, killed four civilians and wounded two others, said Emad Kamil Rahim, a local hospital official.

Internet

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Gunmen shoot dead interim governor of Iraq's Basra Province

BLOOMBERG, 20 July—Gunmen shot dead the interim governor of southern Iraq's Basra Province, site of the country's second-largest city and source of most of its oil exports, a UK military spokesman said.

Hazem al-Ainachi, coordinator for the Basra Provincial Council, and two other men were shot dead in the attack at 7.55 am Iraq time, Flight Lieutenant Mike Cannon said by telephone from Basra. Another person was injured in the attack,

Cannon said, without giving more details.

Ainachi, 59, was killed as he left his home in the Jubaila neighbourhood in the centre of Basra to go to work, *Agence France-Presse* reported, citing his son. Ainachi took over the governorship after judge Wael Abdul Latif was named minister for governorate affairs in June in the caretaker government of Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, *AFP* said.

The killing is the second assassination of an Iraqi public official in three days. Issam Jassem Kadhem, a Ministry of Defence official, was shot dead late Sunday near his home in Baghdad, *AFP* reported.

On Saturday, Iraq's justice minister escaped a bomb attack in Baghdad that killed at least four people and wounded three, *AFP* said, citing government and hospital officials.

Basra is a majority Shiite Muslim city. The Shiites mainly opposed ousted leader Saddam Hussein. — *Internet*



A British Army soldier stands guard near the vehicle of Hazim Tawfiq, a member of Basra's city council who was assassinated near his house in central Basra on 20 July, 2004. Tawfiq, a member of the regional council of Basra, Iraq's second biggest city, was shot dead along with two of his bodyguards on Tuesday at a checkpoint manned by gunmen wearing police uniforms, a council spokesman said. — *INTERNET*

India, Sri Lanka to promote closer ties

NEW DELHI, 20 July—India and Sri Lanka agreed Monday to speed up the proposed defence cooperation agreement and expand economic cooperation.

"Both sides agreed to expedite the (defence) agreement," the *Indo-Asian News Service* quoted Sri Lankan sources as saying following talks between Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his visiting Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapakse.

"Enhancing economic cooperation between the two nations and speeding up negotiations on the next step of the bilateral free trade pact Free Trade Agreement II were discussed during the talks," the sources said.

During the talks, Manmohan Singh officially announced a 150-million-US-dollar credit for Sri Lanka, aimed at helping the country deal with the economic fallout of the rise in world crude oil prices.

The defence cooperation agreement and the security situation in Sri Lanka featured prominently in the talks between Rajapakse and National Security Adviser JNDixit.

The pact envisages training Sri Lankan military personnel at Indian defence establishments and supply of military equipment to the island.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore to build air terminal for low-cost airlines

SINGAPORE, 21 July—Singapore will build Asia's first air terminal for low-cost airlines at Changi Airport by early 2006, according to a statement by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) on Tuesday.

The decision came after Tiger Airways, one of the no-frills carriers in the island state, agreed to operate from the new terminal, which will have an initial handling capacity of 2.7 million passengers a year, about one-tenth of the traffic in the main terminals.

Unlike the two existing terminals at Changi Airport, the new 45 million Singapore dollars (about 26.4 million US dollars) budget terminal will be more spartan.

In the new facility, which is about the size of three football fields, there will be no escalators, aerobridges or holding rooms, and passengers will have to take a shuttle bus to the airplane. — *MNA/Xinhua*



US Army soldiers arrive at the scene of a roadside bomb explosion in Baghdad's district of al-Doura, on 20 July, 2004. At least two Iraqi policemen were injured when an improvised explosive device went off as their convoy was driving past. — *INTERNET*

Fischer says Germany will definitely not send troops to Iraq

CHENNAI, 20 July—"We will not commit our troops to Iraq," the German Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, said in an interview to *The Hindu* in Chennai on Monday. He made it clear that the decision not to "send troops" was a definite one, consistent with Germany's opposition to the war. The decision would not change even if a request came from the 'Prime Minister' of the interim government, Iyad Allawi. However, Germany was "willing to move forward after the war" and provide help to the transfer of sovereignty

and democratisation processes in Iraq in other ways.

Mr Fischer was responding to a series of questions on Iraq, relations with the United States and other major powers, the future of Europe, and the prospects of enhancing the Indo-German bilateral relationship.

"We shouldn't be pessimistic," Mr Fischer told *The Hindu* about what lay in

store for Iraq and its region.

"The situation is complicated, no question about that! But we should really move forward to the elections... this offers a real opportunity in a very, very dangerous situation."

Elaborating his views on dealing with "our American friends," the German Foreign Minister emphasised that "we should engage" with them, above

all on "the future of the 21st century." He did not believe in "an approach that there is the US and there is the rest."

He suggested that those countries that disagreed with the position taken by the United States should not try to establish a counterbalancing bloc but should instead try and persuade Washington to work through the UN system.

Internet

China, Namibia vow to strengthen cooperation

BEIJING, 21 July—Chinese President Hu Jintao met visiting Namibian President Sam Nujoma here Tuesday. Both leaders vowed to strengthen cooperation in various fields between the two countries.

Hu said China is willing to expand bilateral economic cooperation and the Chinese Government encourages Chinese businesses to invest in Namibia.

China and Namibia established diplomatic relations in 1990. The trade volume between the two countries reached 74.57 million US dollars last year, up 52 percent compared with 2002.

Nujoma said Namibia will improve the domestic investment environment to attract more Chinese investment, especially in

high value-added industries and tourism.

Hu said China, with a deep tradition of friendship with Namibia, supported the country's struggle for national independence before its independence.

Since the establishment of diplomatic ties 14 years ago, leaders of both countries have kept close contact and bilateral cooperation in economic, cultural and educational fields have been fruitful, Hu said.

China expects to further increase exchanges between leaders,

governments, parliaments and political parties of the two countries, and expand bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, culture and education and other fields, Hu said.

Expressing appreciation for China's assistance to Namibia in its fight for independence and reconstruction, Nujoma said he hopes the two countries will take advantage of the sound bilateral political ties to develop reciprocal cooperation in various fields.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq to seek help in talks with neighbours

CAIRO, 20 July—Iraq was expected to complain to its neighbours during a regional meeting Wednesday that they are doing too little to help it stop violence and may even be fomenting trouble.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiar Zebari was to meet his counterparts from Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Kuwait, Iran, Syria and Jordan to discuss attempts to stabilize the country after the US-led invasion a year ago. While host Egypt does not border Iraq, it is a Mideast heavy-weight and has had a key role in a series of such meetings aimed at addressing concerns that volatility in Iraq could affect the whole region.

The group has met four times since threw Saddam Hussein in April 2003. This week's talks were the second to include an Iraqi repre-

sentative.

UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi and EU representative Javier Solana also were planning to take part in the discussions. They were likely to urge Iraq's neighbors to fully back Iraq's new interim government.

Iraqi leaders facing almost daily car bombings and firefights accuse foreign Muslim infiltrators of being behind some of the deadliest attacks and say neighbouring countries are either facilitating or turning a blind eye to cross-border infiltration. Iran, Syria and Saudi Arabia say it is difficult to control their

long, porous borders with Iraq. Washington, which still leads some 160,000 multinational troops in Iraq, has accused the Iranians of meddling in Iraq in hopes of turning the country, with its Shiite Muslim majority, into a Shiite theocracy like Iran. Iranians deny such charges, but are worried about the continued military and political influence in Iraq of the United States, a longtime foe.

Iraq's Minister of Defence Hazem Shalan al-Khuzaei was quoted in Tuesday's London-based Asharq Awsat newspaper as saying Iraq has

evidence neighbours were interfering in his country's internal affairs. He singled out Iran, but gave no details.

"If they do not stop this we will move it to their own streets," he said in another interview, with the Gulf-based Al-Arabiya television.

Egyptian Minister Ahmed Aboul Gheit said during their meetings in Cairo, Iraq's neighbours will "reaffirm their commitment to the principle of noninterference in Iraq's internal affairs."

Neighbouring countries have their concerns, too.

Internet

ဝက်မွန်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Military says US marine killed in action in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 20 July—A US marine was killed in action in Iraq's rebel central-western Al-Anbar Province, the US military said.

A member of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force "was killed in action today in the Al-Anbar Province while conducting security and stability operations," the military said in a statement.

Al-Anbar is home to some of the most notorious flashpoints in Iraq such as the city of Fallujah, 50 kilometres (30 miles) west of Baghdad.

The city has been the target of recent US air strikes against suspected hideouts of al-Qaeda linked militant Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi that have killed scores of people.

According to the latest Defence Department figures, 661 US troops have been killed in action in Iraq since the start of the US-led war in March 2003.

Internet



Freed Philippine hostage Angelo de la Cruz(L), meets colleagues at his country's embassy in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, on 20 July, 2004. The Filipino truck driver held hostage in Iraq for two weeks was freed unhurt on Tuesday, a day after Manila withdrew its troops in response to demands from kidnappers who had threatened to behead him. — INTERNET

Iraq militants free Filipino truck driver

BAGHDAD, 20 July—Militants freed a Filipino truck driver Tuesday after the Philippines government gave in to their demands to withdraw troops from Iraq to prevent the beheading of the 46-year-old father of eight who had been held captive for two weeks.

Apparently emboldened by their success, insurgents promptly took aim at Japan, threatening in a Web site message to send "lines of cars laden with explosives" to kill its troops in Iraq if they did not leave. Japan rejected the demand.

More than 60 foreigners have been taken hostage in recent months, and there were fears that the action by the Philippines government would lead to more kidnappings and prompt members of the US-led coalition to think twice about sending, or keeping, their soldiers in Iraq.

"The Filipino withdrawal tells the insurgents that they can continue to chip away at this coalition and make it a coalition of two (Britain and the United States)," said Ri-

chard Shultz, a professor of security studies at Tufts University.

In Baghdad, Filipino hostage Angelo dela Cruz was dropped off in front of the United Arab Emirates Embassy on Tuesday, a day after his government withdrew the last of the 51 troops they had stationed here.

"Angelo has become a

Filipino 'everyman,' a symbol of the hardworking Filipino seeking hope and opportunity," Philippines President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said during a nationally televised address. "Angelo was spared, and we rejoice," she said with a smile.

Dela Cruz's family, and much of the Philippines, cheered his release. — Internet

Earthquake hits N-E Japan

TOKYO, 20 July — An earthquake registering an estimated magnitude of 5.1 on the Richter Scale shook northeastern Japan early Tuesday morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the 5:58 a.m. (2058 GMT) quake and no tsunami tidal wave warning was issued. — MNA/Xinhua

China's largest railway transport city sets record in freight

HOHROT, 20 July—Railroads transported a record 6.87 million tons of goods through the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region city of Manzhouli, China's largest railway transport city, in the first half of this year, up 46 per cent over the same period last year.

An official with the Manzhouli Customs House attributed the record railway transport volume to a series of new measures taken to improve Custom services.

The Customs house has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with 30 Chinese businesses to foster an environment in which all parties combine their efforts to improve Custom services.

It has also reformed the Custom clearance procedures on the import and export of timber and oil which involve large freight

volume and little risk.

As a result, Manzhouli imported 3.33 million cubic metres of timber and 1.14 million tons of crude oil in the first six months of this year, representing a year-on-year increase of 24 per cent and 124 per cent respectively. The time for handling each batch of goods was also reduced from 19 hours to eight hours on average.

Manzhouli handles 60 per cent of the volume of freight between China and Russia. MNA/Xinhua

No foreigner has right to meddle in another's internal affairs

HARARE, 21 July — Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has stated that no foreigner had a right to meddle in the internal affairs of another country.

Speaking at the State House on Monday night at a reception he hosted on the eve of Tuesday's official opening of the last session of the Fifth Parliament of Zimbabwe, Mugabe urged the Parliament to be patriotic and guard against interference in the affairs of the nation by outsiders.

President Mugabe said he was astounded recently when he was listening to debate in the British House of Commons to hear Prime Minister Tony Blair announce that he was working with the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and some unnamed people in southern Africa to effect regime change in Zimbabwe.

"On what authority do they debate Zimbabwe? The British Parliament should

debate their (British) interests. We ask: Who are you Blair (on Zimbabwean issues)?" said Mugabe.

"The Parliament should, therefore, be inspired by the patriotism that bids us to stand up and say we will not accept this interference," said President Mugabe.

The Zimbabwean Parliament recently adopted a motion calling on the government to institute investigations into the statement by Blair that he was working with the MDC and unidentified persons in the region to subvert the constitutionally elected Zimbabwean Government.

"Never shall we allow foreigners to interfere in our domestic affairs and the charter of the United Nations prohibits interference in the

affairs of another country," said Mugabe.

The President thanked African countries, particularly Southern African Development Community (SADC) member states, for backing Zimbabwe in the past three years when its enemies heightened machinations to effect regime change.

Mugabe said the SADC countries had understood Zimbabwe's explanation of events in the country and Harare was gratified that it was surrounded by friendly neighbours.

He said peace, security and stability were crucial factors which enabled a government to implement programmes to benefit the people.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi women walk past Iraqi Army 2nd Battalion soldiers on patrol in the al-Dora section of Baghdad, Iraq, on Tuesday, 20 July, 2004. The 2nd Battalion is the first unit to go into service with the new Iraqi Army. — INTERNET

Jordan, Iraq vow to enhance bilateral relations

AMMAN, 20 July — Jordanian Prime Minister Faisal al-Fayez and his visiting Iraqi counterpart Iyad Allawi pledged on Monday to enhance bilateral relations.

Fayez said Jordan has always been and is still supporting the Iraqi people, their right of independence and territorial integrity, the *Petra* news agency reported.

"We stand by the Iraqis and their choices to live in peace, stability and prosperity," Fayez said.

"We see this first visit by Iraqi Prime Minister and his delegation to Jordan as a gesture that emphasizes the Iraqi Government's keenness to strengthen relations with Jordan," the Prime Minister added.

For his part, Allawi said his visit to Jordan, the first leg of an Arab tour, is clear evidence of Iraq's determination to go ahead in building strong relations with the Arab

states based on mutual respect and common interests.

He thanked Jordan for its support to Iraq, especially under current difficult circumstances.

Promoting bilateral cooperation in economic, political and trade areas topped their talking agenda.

The two prime ministers signed a memorandum of understanding aimed to regulate bilateral cooperation in all fields.

Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi arrived at Jordanian Marqa military airport Monday noon to kick off a Middle East tour, his first foreign travel since he took office early last month. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi population reaches about 27 million

BAGHDAD, 20 July — Official sources announced Monday that it is estimated that the Iraqi population reached about 27 million, local newspaper *Al Taakhi* reported.

Abdul Zahra Al Hindawi, the director of information in the Ministry of Planning and Cooperative Development, said that the last census was held in October, 1997, showing the population in Iraq was 25 million.

The preparatory body for the national conference would depend on

the new estimate to choose eight representatives for every 50,000 people.

The national conference due to be held by the end of July will include 1,000 members who would be added to the representatives of governorates, parties, syndicates, unions, organizations, civil society institutions, and the heads of

clans.

The percentage of women in the conference should not be less than 25, and the conference will elect an interim national council of 100 members to deal with the legislative affairs before direct general elections are held in January 2005.

MNA/Xinhua

Halliburton subpoenaed over unit's Iran work

HOUSTON, 20 July — A US grand jury issued a subpoena to Halliburton Co seeking information about its Cayman Islands unit's work in Iran, where it is illegal for US companies to operate, Halliburton said on Monday.

The oilfield services company, formerly headed by US Vice-President Dick Cheney, also said a subpoena was issued to a former employee as part of a separate ongoing investigation into whether it overcharged

for fuel under its contracts in Iraq. The company did not name the employee.

Halliburton said the investigation of its subsidiary's work in Iran had been transferred to the US Department of Justice from the Treasury

Department, which first initiated an inquiry in 2001.

"In July 2004, Halliburton received from an Assistant US Attorney for the Southern District of Texas a grand jury subpoena requesting the production of documents. We intend to cooperate with the government's investigation," Halliburton said in a filing to the US Securities and Exchange Commission.

MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi policeman and British soldiers man a checkpoint on the outskirts of the southern Iraqi city of Basra. A senior official in Basra was shot dead along with two of his guards by unknown assailants as he was heading to work, officials and a relative said. — INTERNET



A vehicle which was transporting seven Iraqi veterinarians lies damaged on a highway after a roadside bomb exploded when they were driving on the outskirts of Baquba, 50 kms west of Baghdad recently. — INTERNET

Bush, Blair should know Iraq intelligence's weakness

LONDON, 20 July — Former US chief weapons inspector David Kay said Sunday that British Prime Minister Tony Blair and US President George W Bush should have been aware before the Iraq war that the weak intelligence on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) could not prove Saddam Hussein posed a danger to the West.

"I think the Prime Minister, as, I would say, the US President, should have been able to tell before the war that the evidence did not exit for drawing the conclusion that Iraq presented a clear, present and imminent threat on the basis of existing weapons of mass destruction," Kay told Britain's ITV network in an interview.

"WMD was only one (factor for the war) and I think in their mind, not really the

most important one," he said.

"And so the doubts about the evidence on weapons of mass destruction was not as serious to them as it seemed to be to the rest of the world," he said.

Kay resigned in January. His conclusion then that Iraq did not have stockpiles of WMD brought serious problems for both Bush and Blair, undercutting their main justification for war. — MNA/Xinhua

Teheran's new airport to re-open in early August

TEHERAN, 20 July — Teheran's new airport will re-open next month, Roads and Transport Minister Ahmad Khorram was quoted as saying on Monday, after Iran's military shut it down on its opening day in May.

Revolutionary Guard vehicles poured onto the runway and closed the airport down after the first of six scheduled international flights landed on May 8, the airport's first day of operations.

Iran's Armed Forces said government plans

to hand over the running of the site to Turkish-led consortium TAV had created security concerns.

"Imam Khomeini International Airport will become operational in early- to mid-August after confirmation by the International Civil Aviation Organization," the official

IRNA news agency quoted Khorram as saying during a visit to the airport.

Khorram did not explain why the airport was now permitted to re-open, but said the private sector would still run its day-to-day operations.

MNA/Reuters

UN says extreme poverty spreading in Sub-Saharan Africa

VIENNA, 20 July — Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region in the world where the proportion of people living in extreme poverty has continued to grow for 20 years, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) said.

In its annual Industrial Development Report released on Tuesday, UNIDO described the region as "the last frontier in the fight against abject poverty" and said the international community and the countries concerned needed to step up efforts to promote economic growth there.

The rate of absolute poverty — people living on one dollar a day or less — in Sub-Saharan Africa is nearing 50 per cent.

"While between 1981 and 2001 the number of people living in absolute poverty fell worldwide from 40 per cent to 21 per cent of the total population, in Sub-Saharan Africa it increased from 42 per cent to 47 per cent," UNIDO Director-General Carlos Magarinos said.

In order to halve the number of people living in poverty in the region by 2015 as the UN aims to, incomes would have to stop shrinking as they did in the 1980s and 1990s and gross domestic product (GDP) per capita would need to grow on average more than 4 per cent annually, UNIDO said.

Foreign aid would help countries reach very basic health, education and infrastructure standards, which in turn would aid economic growth. But the best way to tackle poverty, UNIDO said, was to promote economic growth by developing trade and industry.

The United Nations has set itself a series of global "Millennium Development Goals" (MDGs) to achieve by 2015 that include halving absolute poverty compared to 1990, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and establishing universal primary education.

"The accelerated economic growth that is necessary to achieve the MDGs and, just as importantly, to sustain them over time, can only be driven by the private sector," UNIDO said.

Governments need to tackle deep-rooted problems in economic structure and governance which contributed to African manufacturing losing market share, it said. Economic diversification and agricultural reform were also important.

MNA/Reuters

Agreements signed between the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China



CPT Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Chinese Minister of Information Industry Mr Wang Xudong sign MoU between Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs of Myanmar and Ministry of Information Industry of China in the field of Information and Communications on 12 July. — MNA

MoU signed between the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs of the Union of Myanmar and the Ministry of Information Industry of the People's Republic of China in the field of Information and Communications.

Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation, Exchange of Notes on Project of International Convention Centre, Exchange of Notes on Master Plan for Hydropower Projects in Myanmar, Exchange of Notes on Master Plan for Thanlyin-Kyauktan Industrial Zone and Exchange of Notes for provision and shipment of rails



Deputy Minister for F & R Col Hla Thein Swe and Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Mr Yu Guangshou sign Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation, Exchange of Notes on Project of International Convention Centre, Exchange of Notes on Master Plan for Hydropower Projects in Myanmar, Exchange of Notes on Master Plan for Thanlyin-Kyauktan Industrial Zone and Exchange of Notes for provision and shipment of rails. — MNA



Deputy Minister for Finance & Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and Chairman and President of Export-Import Bank of China Mr Yang Zilin sign Agreement on Financing Plan for No 4 Urea Fertilizer Factory at Taikkyi. — MNA

Agreement on Financing Plan for No 4 Urea Fertilizer Factory at Taikkyi was signed by Deputy Minister for Finance & Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe of the Union of Myanmar and Chairman and President of Export-Import Bank of the People's Republic of China Mr Yang Zilin.

Debt Rescheduling Agreement was signed by Deputy Minister for Finance & Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation President Mr Tang Ruoxin.



Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation President Mr Tang Ruoxin sign Debt Rescheduling Agreement in the presence of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao. — MNA

Agreements signed between the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China

- (1) Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the People's Republic of China
- (2) Exchange of Notes on the Project of International Convention Centre
- (3) Exchange of Notes on the Master Plan for Hydropower Projects in Myanmar
- (4) Exchange of Notes on the Master Plan for Thanlyin-Kyauktan Industrial Zone
- (5) Exchange of Notes extending 50 million RMB Yuan interest-free loan for the provision and shipment of rails for the Myanmar Government
- (6) MoU between the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs of the Union of Myanmar and the Ministry of Information Industry of the People's Republic of China in the field of Information and Communications
- (7) Agreement on the Financing Plan for No 4 Urea Fertilizer Factory at Taikkyi between the Export-Import Bank of China and the Ministry of Finance & Revenue of the Union of Myanmar
- (8) Debt Rescheduling Agreement between China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation and the Ministry of Finance & Revenue of the Union of Myanmar
- (9) Supply Contract for Myanmar National Telecommunication Network Construction Project between Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and ZTE Corporation
- (10) Tagaung Taung Nickle Mineral Exploration and Feasibility Study Agreement between No 3 Mining Enterprise and China Non-ferrous Metal Mining & Construction Co Ltd
- (11) MoU between the Ministry of Industry-1 of the Union of Myanmar and China Metallurgical Construction (Group) Corporation for Extension of 200 TPD Pulp Plant (Thabaung) and Proposed 500 TPD Plant (Rakhine)



Director-General U Kyaw Myint of Directorate of Industries and Chairman of China Metallurgical Construction (Group) Corporation Mr Yang Changheng sign MoU for Extension of Pulp Plants. — MNA

MoU for Extension of Pulp Plants was signed by U Kyaw Myint, Director-General of Directorate of Industries and Mr Yang Changheng, Chairman of China Metallurgical Construction (Group) Corporation

Tagaung Taung Nickle Mineral Exploration and Feasibility Study Agreement was signed by Managing Director U Khin Oo of Myanmar Gems Enterprise and President of China Non-ferrous Metal Mining & Construction Co Ltd Mr Zhang Jian



Managing Director U Khin Oo of Myanmar Gems Enterprise and President of China Non-ferrous Metal Mining & Construction Co Ltd Mr Zhang Jian sign Tagaung Taung Nickle Mineral Exploration and Feasibility Study Agreement. — MNA

Supply Contract for Myanmar National Telecommunication Network Construction Project was signed by MPT General Manager U Tha Oo and Chairman of ZTE Corporation Mr Hou Weigui



General Manager U Tha Oo of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and Chairman of ZTE Corporation Mr Hou Weigui sign Supply Contract for Myanmar National Telecommunication Network Construction Project. — MNA

PM General Khin Nyunt ...

(from page 1)

that Myanmar and China agreed on boosting cooperation in agriculture, industrial, communication, energy and electricity sectors. And, he invited interested persons from Pudong Industrial Zone to join special industrial zones to be established in Myanmar.

Next, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to Alcatel Shanghai Bell Co Ltd. They were welcomed there by Executive Vice-President Mr Chen Wei Dong and officials.

At the briefing hall, Executive Vice-President Mr Chen Wei Dong briefed Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party on operating of Chinese communication technological workshops by Alcatel Shanghai Bell Co Ltd in various countries, Director Mr Gu Xiaodong on matters related to modern electronic equipment produced by Alcatel Shanghai Bell Co Ltd. The Prime Minister and party connected among them with the use of 3G Mobile Phones produced by the company. Next, the Prime Minister signed in the visitors' book.

On arrival at the museum in Lujiazui Central Green Park, the Prime Minister and party heard reports on civil construction tasks presented by Lujiazui Finance and Trade



Shanghai Mayor Mr Han Zheng hosts dinner in honour of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party at Jin Jiang Grand Hall in Shanghai on 15 July.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt calls on Chinese leaders and discusses sectoral cooperation, promotion of bilateral friendly relationship.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party visited ancient Shanghai-style restaurants and shops. They also observed sale at the shops in Yuyuan Garden.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party went to Yuyuan Garden and visited ancient structures built by a minister of royal palace, stone garden and ancient artifacts. They were conducted round by officials. Members of Myanmar delegation arrived back at Jin Jiang Tower Hotel in Shanghai.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met Mayor of Shanghai Mr Han Zheng at Jin Jiang Grand Hall in Shanghai. Present at the call were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the Myanmar Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the director-general at the Prime Minister's Office, heads of the departments, Vice-Mayor of Shanghai Mr Tang Dong Jie, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and the senior officials. At the meeting, Mayor of Shanghai Mr Han Zheng said Shanghai is a major seaport of China and its economic progress is significant. He also reported on economic development in 15 years and living standard of the people of Shanghai.

Prime Minister said that he learnt the rapid development of Shanghai day after day. That was why he came to visit there. During his visit, he said he met President of the PRC Mr Hu Jintao, Premier Wen Jiabao, member of Political Bureau of Chinese Communist Party Mr Jiao Guoqiang and Chairman of the National People's Congress of China Mr Wu Bangguo in Beijing and discussed strengthening of bilateral goodwill relations and cooperation on every sector in a friendly atmosphere. He stressed the importance of bilateral relations and cooperation. He said he and the ministers, the deputy ministers and departmental officials came there in order to implement the tasks. During the visit, altogether 11 Agreements, Exchange of Notes and Memorandum of Understanding on agriculture, industrial, mines, energy, electric power and communication sectors between the two countries. In order to make more foreign investment, a special zone will be established near Yangon. So he invited companies and organizations in Shanghai to study the zone. He wished Shanghai for more progress.

(See page 9)



PM General Khin Nyunt being reported on urban construction tasks by Lujiazui Finance & Trade Zone Development Co Dy GM Mr Shun Xiang Xu with use of scale model of Shanghai Lujiazui Centre Financial District Planning. MNA

Zone Development Company Deputy General Manager Mr Shun Xiang Xu with the use of the scale model of Shanghai Lujiazui Centre Financial District Planning. Next, the Prime Minister and party visited the museum and Lujiazui Central Green Park. They then posed for group photos. Afterwards, they went back to Jin Jiang Tower Hotel.

At 2.30 pm, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party arrived at Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Centre in Shanghai where they were welcomed by Urban Planning Exhibition Centre Head Mr Qiu Xing Ao and

Agreements, Exchange of Notes and Memoranda of Understanding on agriculture, industrial, mines, energy, electric power and communication sectors signed between the two countries.

PM General Khin Nyunt invited interested persons from Pudong Industrial Zone to join special industrial zones to be established in Myanmar.

officials.

The Prime Minister and party viewed scale models of magnificent buildings in Shanghai region, historical photos on cumulative development of Shanghai, layout of the buildings in Shanghai, model scale for emergence of Shanghai in 2020, the future airport design of Shanghai, the deepsea port of Shanghai, equipment of the municipal department, graphs showing development of Shanghai, the scale model of the layout of buildings of Pudong Industrial Zone when developed in future and the scale model of the underground electric train which can run 400 km per hour. Officials conducted them round the exhibition.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party view progress of Shanghai in year 2020 at Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Centre on 15 July.— MNA



PM General Khin Nyunt visits Shanghai ...

(from page 8)

Next, Mayor of Shanghai Mr Han Zheng hosted dinner in honour of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and members at Jin Jiang Grand Hall.

After the dinner, members of the delegation arrived back at Jin Jiang Tower Hotel.

On 15 July, President of

July.

They were welcomed by President of Shanghai Women's Federation Ms Meng Yankun and officials.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party cordially met with President of Shanghai Women's Federation Ms Meng Yankun and party at the meeting hall. Ms Meng Yankun expressed the Federation's honour and pleasure to have the opportunity to welcome Dr

responsibilities, services for Myanmar women, future work programmes, inviting Ms Meng Yankun to visit Myanmar at an appropriate time.

Ms Meng Yankun and Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe exchanged souvenirs. Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party visited infant care centre, child nutrition centre, beauty parlour, and gymnasium. Ms Meng Yankun hosted luncheon in

Investments in agriculture & irrigation sector discussed



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets Mayor of Shanghai Mr Han Zheng at Jin Jiang Grand Hall in Shanghai on 15 July. — MNA



Vice-Mayor of Shanghai Pudong New Area People's Government Mr Endi Zhang reports Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on matters relating the Pudong Industrial Zone on 15 July. — MNA

Co-operation in aviation & navigation discussed Hydel power projects discussed

Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Daw Khin Lay Myint, wife of member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Daw San Yone, wife of Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Daw Nwe Nwe Han, wife of Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thein Lwin, Mrs Wang Jian, wife of Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and Daw Kyi Kyi Oo, wife of Myanmar Military Attaché Col Sein George, arrived at Shanghai Women's Federation on 15

July. She explained the organizational set-up of the Federation, its functions representing the eight million womenfolk, economic and social developments, progress of its functions and weaknesses.

In her discussions, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe expressed pleasure for the warm and cordial welcome of the Federation, saying, she is the President of both the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association. She explained the organizational set-up of the MWAF, functions and



Chinese officials express interest to invest in Myanmar's industrial, transport, electricity and oil & gas exploration sectors.

Director Mr Gu Xiaodong of Alcatel Shanghai Bell Co Ltd reports Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on modern electronic equipment. — MNA

Zingang Locomotive Work Mr Zhang Gui Ming and party; President of Dalian Locomotive and Rolling Stock Co Ltd Mr Tan Changxu and party; General Manager Mr Li Jinnue of Overseas Marketing Department of Jifang Locomotive and Rolling Stock Co Ltd and officials; at State Guest House of PRC in Beijing on 13 July. They discussed bilateral cooperation in rail transportation.

President of Jsing Daring Biotechnologies Group Mr Yang Yingzhi and officials called on members of the delegation Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaug, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for

Mr Sun Kui-fa and party paid a courtesy call on Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, a member of the delegation, at Jin Jiang Tower Hotel in Shanghai on 15 July. Director-General of Irrigation Department U Kyaw San Win was also present. Discussions were centred on bilateral cooperation in agricultural and irrigation sectors.

Likewise, President of China Worldbest Group Co Ltd Mr Jiang Cheng and party, and President of Jiangsu Pengfei Group Co Ltd Mr Wang Jia An and party called on Minister U Aung Thaug at Jin Jiang Tower Hotel in Shanghai on 15 July.

MNA



President of Jsing Daring Biotechnologies Group Mr Yang Yingzhi calls on members of the delegation Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaug, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut at Jin Jiang Tower Hotel in Shanghai on 15 July. — MNA

The opium problem: started by colonialists, but being put an end to it by developing countries

Tekkatho Myat Thu

Historians agree that the origin of all the narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances is the West. Opium poppy, coca and marijuana are natural plants. Naturally, opium, derived from poppy pods, and leaves of coca and marijuana have intoxicated effects. Heroin derived from opium, and cocaine derived from coca leaves have higher degree of such effects. Opium was used by affluent class in Egypt some 5,000 years ago.

Poppy grew naturally in the Mediterranean region. Ancient Greek physicians knew that opium could kill pain. It was used as a potent pain killer.

English and Germans produced morphine from opium. Its potency is ten times greater than that of opium, and the potency of heroin is ten times greater than that of morphine. Bayer company of Germany produced hundreds of brands of opium-based medicines, and many people got addicted to narcotic drugs and opium after consumption of the company's drugs. Coca is native to Central America. The scientists of the West, after knowing its potency, produced cocaine from coca leaves. Marijuana naturally grows in many countries of the West, Africa and Arab countries.

The British, Dutch and Portuguese colonialists carried poppy pods to the East. They made oriental people addicted to drugs and to become hopeless persons who could not defend their countries against colonialist invasions.

At the same time, the colonialists gained much profits from opium trade. Opium War broke out in China as Chinese people could not tolerate the opium trade in their country.

Colonialists, especially the British, grew poppy for opium in the Golden Triangle region and Golden Crescent region. The profits from opium trade had filled the British treasury houses. At the same time, the colonialists opened opium dens in the occupied countries.

The British set up opium fields in the border areas of Myanmar that are included in the Golden Triangle region. The ones that made opium trade continue to flourish were Kuomintang renegade troops. And the one that taught the Kuomintang to produce heroin is the CIA. Marijuana spread to Americas, European countries, Arab countries, India and some Asian countries. People fell into marijuana addiction as it can improve the flavour of many dishes. Most of the narcotic drugs and psychotropic agents are manufactured in USA.

The countries that have introduced stimulant drugs, called Yaba in Thailand, to Asia are no other than the countries of the West. They have introduced the stimulant drugs to countries including Myanmar that are trying to wipe out the narcotic drugs, the evil legacy of the colonialist.

The place where narcotic drugs including heroin and stimulant tablets are being manufactured and used in large quantities is the West. The West has started the problem of narcotic drugs and is using it as a political weapon to attack others, with a lot of excuses.

While the West is using drugs as a weapon for its domination policies, the oriental countries including Myanmar are achieving success in implementing long-term, short-term and alternative crop projects one after another in rooting out the problem of drugs.

Seized narcotic drugs were destroyed for the 18th time in Yangon under the sponsorship of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control. TV Myanmar broadcast the ceremony that was attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and diplomats of foreign missions and officials of UN agencies. Myanmar has destroyed the narcotic drugs for 32 times when the ceremonies held in the places including borders areas are added.

A UNODC report said that Myanmar reduced 24 per cent of the opium production in 2003, and its opium production in the year was 810 metric tons. The report issued by the US for the same year said that Myanmar

was able to reduce 39 per cent of its opium output to just 484 metric tons.

Decline in the seizure of stimulant tablets in Myanmar indicates the fact that the stimulant tablet trafficking business is becoming smaller in the country. Myanmar has never produced any stimulant drugs or related equipment. They are smuggled into Myanmar from other countries. Myanmar seized over 180,000 litres of chemical liquid in 2001; over 290,000 litres in 2002; over 39,000 litres in 2003; and over 14,000 litres up to April in 2004.

Myanmar is cooperating with her neighbours, regional countries and international organizations in actively eliminating the narcotic drugs as a national task.

The seizure of illegal Phensedyl was 74 litres in 2003; and only 32 litres up to May in 2004. It can be said a positive sign. At the 18th destruction ceremony, narcotic drugs and precursor chemicals were destroyed in the presence of diplomats and officials of UN missions. The drugs that were destroyed on that day were: 710.497 kilos of opium; 353.754 kilos of heroin; 99.25 kilos of marijuana; 2,643,800 stimulant pills; 59.865 kilos of stimulant powder; 232.535 kilos of ephedrine powder; and 1,010 Diazepam pills.

The drugs destroyed on that day had a street value of more than US \$ 247 million. The present value of drugs which have been destroyed since the first to the 18th ceremony is more than US \$ 14,452 million or over US \$ 14 billion.

Although it gets no foreign assistance, Myanmar will continue to wipe out the problem of narcotic drugs, which is the evil legacy of the colonialists, as a national task and a duty of global family. We were happy to see the colonialist evil legacy gone together with the black smokes coming out from the burning narcotic drugs at the 18th ceremony.

(Translation: TMT)
(Myanma Alin: 16-7-2004)



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint views the paddy transplanting contest at paddy field of farmer Daw Nan Kham Aye Mat at Kunson Village, Shwenyaung village-tract, Taunggyi Township on 17 July. — MNA

Paddy transplanting contest in Taunggyi

YANGON, 21 July — The paddy transplanting contest, direct paddy seeding contest and Agri-16 power-tiller skills demonstration were held in Taunggyi Township on 17 July, attended by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint together with the minister for Religious Affairs, the deputy minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, members of Shan State PDC, departmental officials, military officers of local battalions, and guests.

The deputy minister and officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation first reported on matters related to agricultural techniques as well as on the contests, and the Religious Affairs deputy minister on his agricultural experience. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint instructed them to strive for boosting paddy production and extending sown acreage of Shweyinye paddy strain before he formally opened the contests together with the minister and the deputy minister.

The contests were followed by the prize presentation ceremony. The commander, the minister, the deputy minister and officials presented awards to winners and U Ye Win of Yaksauk Township for his power-tiller demonstration.

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

**The best time to plant a tree
was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.**

In the contests, Shwenyaung village team stood first in the paddy transplanting contest, Taunglaylon team in the direct paddy seeding contest and Yenwe village team in the power-tiller skills demonstration.

After the ceremony, the commander and party viewed around the agricultural booths on farming equipment, chemical fertilizer and pesticide and EM bokershi fertilizer.

MNA

Cash donated to needy patients

YANGON, 21 July — A ceremony to donate cash for the needy hospitalised patients at Yangon General Hospital was held at the hospital this morning. It was made by Metta Yaysin Jivitadana Association led by ambassador (Retd) U Maung Maung Soe Tint.

First, U Maung Maung Soe Tint explained the purpose of donation and Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Nu Nu Tha expressed thanks for it. Later, the association donated chairs worth K 140,000 to YGH. The Medical Superintendent accepted them and gave a certificate of honour. The ambassador and donors also presented cash assistance to over 170 needy patients individually. Today's donation for the patients was K 1,085,000. —MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Shanghai Mayor Mr Han Zheng at Jin Jiang Grand Hall in Shanghai on 15-7-2004.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe pay official visit to People's Republic of China



Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party cordially meet President of Shanghai Women's Federation Ms Meng Yankun and party at Shanghai Women's Federation on 15-7-2004.— MNA



MWAF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party visit infant care centre, child nutrition centre, beauty parlour and gymnasium of Shanghai Women's Federation on 15-7-2004.— MNA

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe explains organizational set-up of MWAF, functions and responsibilities, services for Myanmar women, future work programmes. She invites President of Shanghai Women's Federation to visit Myanmar at an appropriate time.

Chinese officials express interest to invest in Myanmar's industrial, transport, electricity and oil and gas exploration sectors, and discuss bilateral cooperation in rail transportation, agricultural and irrigation sectors.

Implementation of e-Government ...

(from page 16)

e-National Task Force U Pyone Maung Maung, on forming of Certification Authority and Myanmar Electronic Trust with respect to Online Security.

Afterwards, the ministers and officials held a general round of discussions on e-Government tasks.

The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions to the officials. — MNA

Regional development tasks in Yangon North District

There are 5,915 acres of vegetable patches, over 1.2 million broilers and layers and breeding ponds with 1.3 million of fish in Nyaungnnapin Vegetable & Poultry Farming Zone.

YANGON, 21 July — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe this afternoon inspected regional development tasks and farming work in Yangon North District.

First, the commander and party went to construction site of Barlar Bridge-2 in Hlegu Township and inspected the construction work and tarring of ring road, and gave instructions. An engineer reported to Maj-Gen Myint Swe on progress of construction work and tarring of 12-mile long ring road.

The reinforced bridge is 65 feet long and its clearance is 9 feet. On completion, the bridge can withstand 60 tons of load.

Next, the commander also inspected digging of canals near the ring road with the use of machinery and urged the officials on timely completion of work.

Afterwards, they inspected model plot of the command and gave instructions.

Later, they proceeded to Yangon Division vegetables and poultry farming special zone-1 near Nyaungnnapin Village.

After hearing the reports there, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe attended to the needs and urged the departmental officials to give assistance to the farmers.

There are 5,915 acres of vegetable and crop cultivation in the zone. Over 1.2 million of broilers and layers have been raised and total of 1.3 million of fish have also been cultured. — MNA



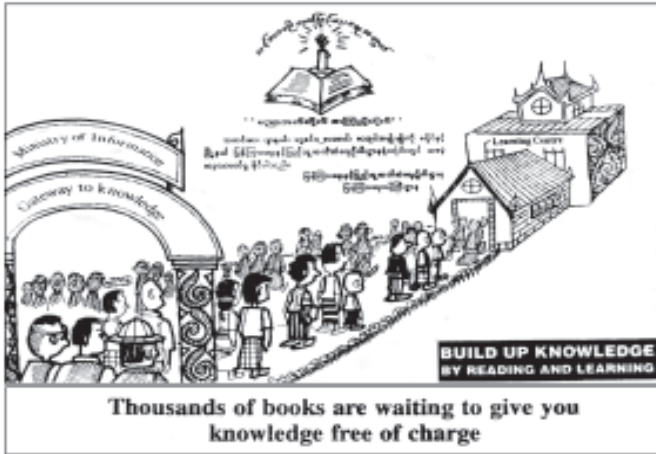
MWAF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and Shanghai Women's Federation President Ms Meng Yankun exchange souvenirs on 15-7-2004.— MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for Thailand

YANGON, 21 July— The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by Deputy Managing Director of Public Works (Works) U Sai Thein Maung, Deputy Chief Engineer (Building) (Lower Myanmar) U Ye Myint Swe, Deputy Chief Engineer (Building) (Upper Myanmar) U Kyaw Lwin and Deputy Director U Kyaw Lin Khine, left for Thailand this morning to study placing and fixing of concrete bridge columns, using road recycling machine and concrete-aid, land preparations, geotextile factory and foundation tasks for construction of International Suvarnabhumi Airport in Bangkok.

The delegation was seen off by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Ministers for Construction U Tint Swe and Brig-Gen Myint Thein, heads of department and relatives at Yangon International Airport.

MNA



NEWS OF THE WORLD

Karel De Gucht becomes Belgium's foreign minister

BRUSSELS, 20 July — Flemish Liberal Karel De Gucht has been named as Belgium's next foreign minister, replacing outspoken Louis Michel who is moving to the European Commission.

Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt announced the appointment, part of a wider Cabinet reshuffle, to the king late on Sunday. De Gucht, 50, is set to be sworn in on Tuesday.

A former member of the European Parliament, he has

been president of Verhofstadt's Flemish Liberal VLD Party since 1999.

Michel, foreign minister since 1999, will replace Socialist Philippe Busquin as the country's European Commissioner.

MNA/Reuters

WTO chief warns against failure at trade talks

GENEVA, 20 July — World Trade Organization (WTO) chief Supachai Panitchpakdi warned on Monday that "all of us would be poorer" if a last-ditch bid to save troubled trade talks failed to meet an end-July deadline.

As trade envoys met to give a first response to a draft deal drawn up by him and fellow chief mediator, Japan's ambassador Shotaro Oshima, Supachai said that member states must make every effort to reach an accord.

"Failure this month means

the continuation of an unsatisfactory status quo (in global trade relations), certainly for the remainder of this year and next and possibly for years to come," he said in a statement.

Such a setback could undermine confidence in the multilateral trading system and possibly lead countries to turn their backs on the WTO altogether and seek "other means of ruling-making in trade."

"All of us would be poorer for such an outcome," he said.

MNA/Reuters

SAARC urged to shift from words to action in eco integration

ISLAMABAD, 20 July — The foreign secretaries of the seven South Asian countries met here Sunday to discuss a huge agenda aimed at fighting poverty, increased trade, greater economic integration and optimal use of energy resources.

Briefing reporters about the proceedings of the 30th session of the Standing Committee of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which comprises foreign secretaries of the seven member states, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Masood

Khan said the SAARC foreign secretaries "emphasized that they want to see the organization in motion and mark a shift from words to action, from meetings to projects".

He said Sunday's deliberations were guided by the collective vision and decisions of SAARC leaders who met at the 12th SAARC Summit held in Islamabad in January.

"There was a lot of emphasis on efficient and effective implementation of SAARC programmes," Masood added.

The SAARC Standing Committee meeting, chaired by Pakistani Foreign Secretary Riaz Khokhar, would review the South Asian Free Trade Agreement signed at

German consortium to construct Kenya-Sudan railway

NAIROBI, 20 July — A German consortium will undertake the construction of a 3,000-kilometre railway line linking Kenya and southern Sudan, Kenyan newspaper *East African Standard* reported Monday.

Kenyan Planning and National Development Minister Anyang Nyong was quoted as saying that the 237-billion-shilling (2.96 billion US dollars) project would begin soon and the German investor has visited Kenya to inspect the project after his recent tour of Germany.

Nyong's announcement came shortly after the consortium, led by a leading German railway construction firm, Thormaehlen Schweisstechnik AG, presented a proposal to the Kenyan Government in pursuit of the concessioning of the Kenya and Uganda railways.

MNA/Xinhua

ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ပအသံများ

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U Than Maung, Advocate For Copper Co., Ltd., C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd., Unit 223 Summit Parkview, 350 Ahlone Rd., Dagon Tsp., Yangon, Union of Myanmar. Fax (951) 227992; Tel 211886 Dated 22 July 2004

Syria, Lebanon to launch joint air company

DAMASCUS, 20 July — Syria and Lebanon would set up a joint air company under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed on Monday to promote direct flights between the two countries, the state-run SANA news agency reported.

The move was also aimed at promoting direct flights to other Middle East countries such as Jordan, Egypt, Turkey and Iraq, the agency reported.

After the conclusion of the MoU, necessary measures to establish the joint Air Taxi company would start with initial expenses totalling 1.8 million US dollars, SANA said. The first flight was expected to take off as early as next March, which would bring a jump of revenues to four million to six million US dollars after the second year of operation, the feasibility study showed.

MNA/Xinhua

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used in respect of "Transportation and storage, namely, arranging travel tours, travel guide services, travel booking services, travel agencies, and travel information services; education and entertainment, namely, arranging conferences, providing casino facilities, providing golf club services, providing facilities for recreation activities; hotel, restaurant, catering, bar and lounge services; provision of facilities for meetings, conferences and exhibitions; reservation services for hotel accommodations."

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Thwin Aung & Co. R.O.B.I. Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mtpip@ipmail.net.mm
Tel 254037 G.P.O Box 686 Yangon. 22 July 2004

Russia says could join WTO by end-2005

GENEVA, 20 July — Russia could join the World Trade Organization by the end of 2005, if it can reach the necessary bilateral accords this year, the country's chief negotiator said on Monday.

"We have a good feeling that if we continue at the same speed we can complete bilateral talks by the end of 2004," Maxim Medvedkov told journalists.

"There is a possibility that Russia can be a (WTO) member before the end of next year, but it is not given," he added.

Moscow has been trying to join the international trade body for 11 years, which requires bilateral pacts with all those member states demanding them and the vetting of its commercial laws to make sure that they are consistent with WTO regulations.

MNA/Reuters

CONDOLENCE

We offer our sincere condolence to the bereaved family of the deceased U Tin Hla Than, Dy. General Manager, MTE.

Please accept our deepest sympathy.

Comrades from the 10th batch B.Sc (Forestry)

Vietnam treasures relations with Singapore

HANOI, 20 July — Vietnam attaches importance to relations with Singapore, and will promote the ties for the benefits of the two peoples, peace, stability and development in the region, said Vietnamese top party leader on Monday.

Nong Duc Manh, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, made the remarks while meeting with visiting Speaker of the Singapore Parliament Abdullah Tarmugi.

Manh reaffirmed Vietnam's open foreign policies which give priority to strengthening relations with neighbouring nations and

regional countries.

For his part, Tarmugi said Singapore would like to enhance friendly and all-round ties with Vietnam, especially in the fields of economy, trade, culture, education and training. Also on Monday, Nguyen Van An, chairman of the Vietnamese National Assembly, held talks with Tarmugi, saying that Singapore has emerged as an important partner of Vietnam.

Tarmugi said Singapore is willing to share experience with and help Vietnam facilitate its regional and global integration, including accession to the World Trade Organization. —MNA/Xinhua

Brazil set to shoot down drug planes

BRAZILIA (Brazil), 20 July — Brazil is set to start shooting down aircraft suspected of smuggling drugs across its jungles in 90 days, now that it issued a controversial new law on Monday after a six-year delay.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's signature on the law, which was approved by Congress in 1998, has prompted Washington to warn that it could curtail anti-drug cooperation with Bra-

zil if it concludes there are not sufficient precautions to satisfy US law.

Publication of the measure in the government's official diary on Monday starts a 90-day clock at the end of which it goes into effect.

Brazilian Defence Minister Jose Viegas has said the law is necessary to curb constant incursions by drug traffickers from neighbouring countries into Brazil.

MNA/Reuters

**DON'T
SMOKE**

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Foreign-funded enterprises important part in China's economy

SHENYANG, 20 July — Foreign-funded enterprises have become an important part of China's economy, a ranking Chinese official said at a cooperation and exchange convention of overseas Chinese enterprises in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's province of Liaoning.

China has made great achievements in drawing foreign capital since its opened itself to the outside world 20 years ago, said Liao Xiaoqi, Vice-Minister of Commerce on Sunday.

According to Liao, foreign-invested enterprises have contributed 27.2 per cent of China's total industrial added value in 2003. Thirty-one per cent of the country's industrial production in the year was produced by foreign-funded enterprises; 55 per cent of exports are from those enterprises.

China reported a rapid growth of foreign investment in the first half of this year. From January to June, 21,000 new foreign-invested enterprises were authorized by the Chinese Government. They had a contractual investment of 72.7 billion US dollars and an actual investment of 33.88 billion US dollars. This was 43 per cent and 12 per cent higher than

the same period of 2003 respectively, acknowledged Liao.

By the end of this June, China boasts more than 480,000 foreign-funded enterprises with foreign capital of 535.3 billion US dollars.

"China's different regions plays a comparatively balanced role in attracting foreign capital. The northeastern part is still the main region attracting foreign investment, with 85 per cent of the total foreign investment in China. While no distinctive change has taken place in attracting foreign investment in China's western region," Liao said.

The manufacturing industries, technology industries, capital centralized industries and research and development centres all have witnessed a great increase in foreign investment.

So far, more than 600 research and development centres have been set up in China. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia being tested over Malacca Strait

JAKARTA, 20 July — Indonesia must demonstrate its ability to guard the Strait of Malacca and thus keep international forces out of one of the world's most important shipping lanes, the Navy chief has said.

In an interview published on Monday, Admiral Bernard Kent Sondakh said some parties were pushing the idea of international forces policing the narrow sea lane between Malaysia and Indonesia that carries more than a quarter of world trade.

"There is a grand strategy to paint a bad picture over our waters, as if the Indonesian Navy is not strong and the crimes at sea are increasing," Sondakh told influential newsweekly *Tempo*.

"Indeed, if we can't show the ability to guard the Strait of Malacca, the international forces may get in. Previously, the United States wanted to take part in securing the Strait of Malacca," said the four-star admiral. The interview comes a day before military commanders from Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia are set to launch a programme to coordinate patrols in the Strait of Malacca.

The Strait has drawn international attention after warnings from Singapore of the danger of an attack by militants who could turn a tanker into a floating bomb.

Suggestions by the United States that its forces play a more active role in the security of the narrow water-

way between Malaysia and Indonesia sparked a furore, and US military officers have since played down such a possibility. Sondakh said it was hard to mount suicide attacks on tankers.

"A suicide bombing plot attacking a cruising tanker is almost impossible. Taking a bomb on board of a tanker 16 metres high is not an easy thing to do. Moreover, one needs around two tons of TNT explosives to blow up a tanker," he said. Last month, Indonesian and Malaysian naval chiefs agreed to create a task force made up of forces from each nation operating under their national commands. That sidestepped the issue of sovereignty that formerly slowed cooperation on Strait security.

Each country would supply up to seven ships with 100 crew, Sondakh said at the time. Indonesia, a country of more than 17,000 islands spanning the equator, only has 112 active ships, many using outdated technology. Indonesia and Malaysia have ruled out a role for outside ships and troops, despite independent groups that have stressed the limitations of the military equipment and forces of the littoral states. — MNA/Reuters

Nigerian state to restart polio immunization

KANO (Nigeria), 20 July — Nigeria's Kano State said it would restart polio immunizations on Tuesday after tests proved vaccines safe, ending fears its eight-month ban would allow the crippling virus to spread across Africa.

Kano State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau said "Our government has accepted the report from the experts. We are satisfied with the report and have directed the commencement of the polio vaccination in the state," he told reporters at a specially called meeting.

The state had been under local and international pressure to press ahead with the vaccines.

World Health Organization (WHO) officials said in June that Kano had pledged to restart vaccinations in July, but Kano State officials denied that a timetable had been set.

The WHO had said the rainy season would create ideal conditions for the virus to spread and could worsen the situation, unless the government acted fast.

It said that international travellers to northern Nigeria, the epicentre of the virus, were at high risk and should ensure they were adequately protected against the disease.

The re-emergence of the virus in countries that had been polio-free has been a major setback to a WHO campaign to eradicate the disease — endemic in only six countries in 2003 — by the end of 2005.

Polio, which afflicts mainly children under five years, is caused by a virus that invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis or death.

MNA/Reuters



Twin female orangutans play in their nursery, on 19 July, 2004, at Parrot Jungle Island in Miami. The unnamed orangutans, which are the first recorded twin births in 20 years, were born on 2 Dec, 2003 and will be introduced to the public on 24 July. — INTERNET

Australia stages international air combat exercise

CANBERRA, 20 July — Australia, France, Singapore and Thailand began a joint air combat exercise over Australia's tropical north on Monday as part of Canberra's increasing efforts to strengthen international military ties.

The launch of the biennial exercise — named "Pitch Black 2004" — comes just weeks after Australia agreed to establish joint military training facilities in the north of the country with close ally the United States.

The United States and Britain were supposed to take part in "Exercise Pitch Black", which runs until August 5, but withdrew after citing logistical problems because much of their Air Force was deployed elsewhere.

"Exercise Pitch Black is of great importance to Australia ... because of the invaluable opportunity it gives us to strengthen ties with our international friends," Air Marshal Houston said in a statement.

This is the first time Thailand and France have taken part in the Australian-hosted exercise.

The operation involves more than 1,500 personnel

and 75 aircraft taking part in complex air combat training in the skies above the Northern Territory capital, Darwin.

Australia is using a variety of aircraft, including *F-111s* and *F/A-18 Hornets*, Singapore and Thailand are using *F16 Falcons* and France has *Mirage 2000-5* aircraft.

Pitch Black will focus on attacking not defending, with a variety of scenarios aimed at knocking out potential threats, said a defence spokesman.

Under the deal made with the United States this month, Australia's defence training areas in the Northern Territory and Queensland State will be upgraded to become joint training facilities.

Australia also committed itself to become involved in research into the United States on a controversial "Son of Star Wars", a costly

system to shoot down ballistic missiles.

The United States is Australia's most important military partner and the 53-year-old alliance has tightened since the September 11, 2001, attacks on US cities and the Bali bombings in October 2002 that killed 202 people, including 88 Australians. — MNA/Reuters

Studies say lose weight, stay active, prevent Alzheimer's

PHILADELPHIA, 20 July — Losing weight, eating more fruits and vegetables and exercising your brain and body sounds like a formula to prevent heart disease, but it is also a way to prevent Alzheimer's, researchers said on Monday.

Midlife obesity, high cholesterol and high blood pressure appear to affect the brain as well as the heart, they said.

"There are a variety of lifestyle factors that people can engage in that will reduce their risk of cognitive decline," said Dr Marilyn Albert, chair of the Alzheimer's Association's medical and scientific

council.

"The brain is much more plastic than we thought," Albert added in an interview.

"It has more capacity to renew and regenerate ... We have to tell people that they need to think about their cognitive health in a way that they typically thought about their physical health."

MNA/Reuters

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SPORTS

Japan coach Zico plays down Asian Cup chances

BEIJING, 20 July— Japan coach Zico has played down his side's chances of retaining the Asian Cup title.

The holders take on Oman in a difficult Group D opener in Chongqing on Tuesday and the Brazilian said his players would afford the Gulf side every respect.

"You saw what Greece did in Portugal. In this tournament, there will be no easy games," said Zico on Monday.

"We will need to be patient and make sure we keep our concentration tomorrow."

While Oman are not expected to emulate Greece's unexpected success at Euro 2004 last month, when the 80-1 outsiders at the start of the tournament went on to beat Portugal in the final, they provided a severe test for Japan in a World Cup qualifier earlier this year.

Japan needed a stoppage-time goal from Tatsuhiko Kubo to beat Oman 1-0 at home in February in a poor display that led to public protests in Tokyo and calls for Zico's dismissal.

"They will pressure the ball in midfield again and hit us on the break," said Zico. — MNA/Reuters



Argentina's Juan Pablo Sorin (L) heads the ball in for a goal past Colombian goalie Juan Carlos Henao, in the second half of their Copa America semifinal match in Lima, Peru, on 20 July, 2004. Argentina won the match 3-0. — INTERNET

Tevez strikes again as Argentina oust Colombia

LIMA, 21 July— Forward Carlos Tevez scored from a free kick for the second game in a row as Argentina swept aside defending champions Colombia 3-0 in their Copa America semifinal on Tuesday.

Luis Gonzalez claimed the second goal early in the second half to earn Argentina a place in Sunday's final against either Brazil or Uruguay, who meet in the same stadium on Wednesday. Juan Pablo Sorin headed the third with ten minutes remaining.

Tevez, who scored the winner against Peru with an exquisite free kick just three minutes after coming on as a substitute in Saturday's quarter-final, was on target against Argentina in the 33rd minute.

After being rewarded with a place in the starting line-up, the 20-year-old Boca Juniors player curled a 25-metre effort around the Colombia wall and his shot bounced once before entering the goal.

The opener had been in the making from the start as Argentina dominated the first half with inspired performances from both Tevez and Cesar Delgado.

Colombia did not have an answer to Delgado's darting runs down the right and Argentina created several chances

before Tevez's goal.

Tevez and Juan Pablo Sorin were both close with shots from the edge of the area and Cristian Gonzalez was denied in the 24th minute when his lob was headed off the line from under the crossbar by Andres Gonzalez.

After Tevez's goal, Colombia goalkeeper Juan Carlos Henao twice denied Argentina a second goal before halftime as he blocked shots from Luciano Figueroa and Delgado.

But Argentina needed only five minutes of the second to increase their lead.

Striker Luciano Figueroa broke down the left, pulled the ball back, the Colombia defence failed to cut the ball out and Gonzalez stroked the ball into the goal for his second goal of the tournament.

Argentina cruised through the remaining 40 minutes against a hugely disappointing Colombia, who never looked like getting back into the game, and Sorin completed the scoring with a diving header from a Mauro Rosales free kick. — MNA/Reuters

Benfica's Tiago completes Chelsea medical

LONDON, 20 July— Benfica midfielder Tiago Mendes has completed a medical at Chelsea and is due to discuss personal terms on Tuesday, the English Premier League club said on their web site on Monday.

The 23-year-old Portuguese international should join Chelsea before Wednesday, when they fly to the United States on a pre-season tour. Tiago was in the Portugal squad at Euro 2004.

MNA/Reuters

Sun Jihai's dad upset at China snub

BEIJING, 20 July— Sun Jihai's father has criticized China coach Arie Haan for leaving the Manchester City full-back out of his starting line-up in the Asian Cup match against Bahrain over the weekend.

Sun Jihai played just 13 minutes as a substitute in the 2-2 draw with Bahrain in the opening game in Beijing on Saturday.

Now his dad, Sun Zongliang, has slammed Haan and said his son should go back to Manchester.

"Haan is a wood head," Sun Zongliang told Radio Dalian. "I don't really mind who starts as long as China win but I believe Sun Jihai should start."

He added: "I am his physical trainer as well as his dad. There is no physical problem for him, so if he can start for Manchester City, then why not China?"

"If Haan doesn't start him, he should let him return to England."

MNA/Reuters

Chelsea, Marseille agree terms over Drogba

LONDON, 20 July— Chelsea and Olympique Marseille have agreed terms for the transfer of Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba, the English Premier League club said on their web site on Monday.

Financial details were not disclosed but British media put the figure at around 24 million pounds (44.95 million US dollars), a club record fee. Last week Marseille rejected a 28-million-euro (34.84-million-US-dollar) bid.

A statement on the Chelsea web site said the club were 3 "delighted" to confirm that terms had been agreed.

Drogba, who is due to arrive in London on Tuesday, is set to become the third most expensive player bought by an English club. Manchester United paid 30 million pounds for England defender Rio Ferdinand in 2002 and 28 million for Argentina midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron in 2001.

"Financially and in a sporting sense I could not refuse Chelsea's offer — I hope I live up to their expectations," Drogba was quoted as saying on the BBC web site.

"I also had offers from Italian clubs, but going to Chelsea is an interesting challenge in my career and I'm glad to join them," he added.

"What convinced me to join Chelsea is that they really showed that they wanted me, and that counts a lot. I will give my best for them now."

Drogba, 26, cost Marseille six million euros (7.47 million US dollars) when he joined from En Avant Guingamp a year ago.

The Ivory Coast international scored 18 goals in 35 league games last season and 11 in a European campaign that took Marseille to the UEFA Cup final. He also scored the winner for Ivory Coast in a World Cup qualifier against Egypt last month.

Marseille president Christophe Bouchet said he was reluctant to let the player leave,

but that the offer was too good to turn down.

Chelsea are also on the verge of signing Benfica midfielder Tiago Mendes, who completed a medical at the London club on Monday. Media reports have put his fee at around 10 million pounds.

Chelsea, now under Portuguese coach Jose Mourinho, have already signed Dutch winger Arjen Robben, Czech goalkeeper Petr Cech, Portugal fullback Paulo Ferreira and Serbia and Montenegro striker Mateja Kezman for next season.

They finished runners-up to Arsenal in the Premier League last season and reached the Champions League semifinals.

MNA/Reuters

Roman businessman to bail out Lazio

MILAN, 20 July— Lazio look almost certain to be playing in Serie A next season after Roman businessman Claudio Lotito pumped 21 million euros (26.13 million US dollars) into the club, according to a source close to the situation.

Lazio, one of three Italian clubs listed on the stock market, have been struggling financially since former majority owner, food group Cirio, was put into liquidation.

Italian soccer clubs must make a down payment and give financial assurances to be allowed to register for the league championship. "Lazio have registered for the next Serie A season. We have paid (the money) thanks to the intervention of Claudio Lotito, which will guarantee the future of the team," the club's president Ugo Longo was quoted as saying by ANSA news agency.

MNA/Reuters

South Korea held by stubborn Jordan at Asian Cup

JINAN (China), 20 July— South Korea failed to break down a negative Jordan side and were held to a goalless draw in their opening Asian Cup match on Monday.

The Koreans, semifinalists at the World Cup two years ago, dominated their Group B match in Jinan but could not find a way past inspired Jordan goalkeeper Amer Sabbah.

Striker Ahn Jung-hwan came closest for South Korea in the 23rd minute with a dipping right-foot volley from 25 metres that Sabbah

brilliantly kept out.

Moments later, Chung Kyung-ho blazed over and Seol Ki-hyeon went close as South Korea kept the pressure on Jordan, who defended in numbers and rarely threatened.

Ahn, who scored the goal that knocked Italy out of the 2002 World Cup, forced another acrobatic save from Sabbah in the 63rd minute.

South Korea, who had struggled to find a coach following the resignation of Humberto Coelho in April, have not won the Asian Cup since 1960.

MNA/Reuters

Arsenal considering one or two more signings

LONDON, 20 July— English champions Arsenal hope to make one or two more signings before the start of the season, manager Arsene Wenger said on Monday.

The London club have already signed Dutch winger Robin van Persie and Spanish goalkeeper Manuel Almunia and Wenger told his club's web site: "There is still a possibility someone will come in soon."

"One or a maximum of two. I don't know the position yet, you'll discover it soon. But there is a big possibility that one player will join us before the season starts." Arsenal start the defence of their English title on August 15 against Everton at Goodison Park.

MNA/Reuters



South Korea's Lee Min Sung (L) evades a tackle from Jordan's Hassouneh Qasem. South Korea's coach has urged his team to stop 'dreaming' about their run to the 2002 World Cup semi-finals and play more aggressively if they are to bag a third Asian Cup crown. — INTERNET

MRTV-3
22-7-2004 (Thursday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 9:06 A Section of Taninthayi's Economy Marine Products
- 9:10 Headline News**
- 9:12 A Visit to Lwe National
- 9:15 National News**
- 9:20 Grand Festival of Playing Cane-Ball
- 9:25 The Project of Greening around Kandawgyi Garden
- 9:30 National News**
- 9:35 Ecstasy of Life
- 9:40 Song "Lovely Dusk"
- 9:45 National News**
- 9:50 Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (I)
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Come and See Myanmar"

22-7-2004 (Thursday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

- 15:30 Signature Tune

- Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 A Section of Taninthayi's Economy Marine Products
- 15:40 Headline News**
- 15:42 A Visit to Lwe National
- 15:45 National News**
- 15:50 Grand Festival of Playing Cane-Ball
- 15:55 The Project of Greening around Kandawgyi Garden
- 16:00 National News**
- 16:05 Ecstasy of Life
- 16:10 Song "Lovely Dusk"
- 16:15 National News**
- 16:20 Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (I)
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 16:30 National News**
- 16:35 Native of Pa-O Nationals (Kyauktalone)
- 16:40 Myanmar Tapestry Artist
- 16:45 National News**
- 16:50 Conservation of Forest Resources in Myanmar
- 16:55 Dawei Water Fetching Dance
- 17:00 National News**
- 17:05 Inlay Wild Bird Sanctuary
- 17:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Cherry Present"

- 17:12 Myanmar Traditional Food "Pone Ye Gyi"
- 17:15 National News**
- 17:20 Lacquerware Museum
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 19:36 Alms-Food (Soon)
- 19:40 Headline News**
- 19:42 Pickled Fish from Shwe Kyin
- 19:45 National News**
- 19:50 Exhibition Centre Introducing Hkakaborazi National Park
- 19:55 U Pein Bridge
- 20:00 National News**
- 20:05 Myanmar Traditional Handiwork of Casting
- 20:10 Song "Wonderful Country"
- 20:15 National News**
- 20:20 Mounzann Maywae
- 20:25 Myanmar Modern Song "Ayeyawady"
- 20:30 National News**
- 20:35 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-VI)
- 20:40 National Races Village (Shan & Bamar)
- 20:45 National News**
- 20:50 Reclamation & Cultivation in the Uplands
- 20:55 Scenic Beauty of Falam and Cultural Dance
- 21:00 National News**
- 21:05 Padaung Village and Elephant Camp
- 21:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Feel like an Earthquake"

- 21:12 Toddy Palm Arts
- 21:15 National News**
- 21:20 Bagan Our Pride and Glory of the Past
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 21:35 A Section of Taninthayi's Economy Marine Products
- 21:40 Headline News**
- 21:42 A Visit to Lwe National
- 21:45 National News**
- 21:50 Grand Festival of Playing Cane-Ball
- 21:55 The Project of Greening around Kandawgyi Garden
- 22:00 National News**
- 22:05 Ecstasy of Life
- 22:10 Song "Lovely Dusk"
- 22:15 National News**
- 22:20 Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (I)
- 22:25 Song on Screen "Past Merit"
- 22:30 National News**
- 22:35 Native of Pa-O Nationals (Kyauktalone)
- 22:40 Myanmar Tapestry Artist
- 22:45 National News**
- 22:50 Conservation of Forest Resources in Myanmar
- 22:55 Dawei Water Fetching Dance
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- 23:12 Myanmar Traditional Food "Pone Ye Gyi"
- 23:15 National News**
- 23:20 Lacquerware Museum
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Rainfall on 21-7-2004

- (2.05 inches) at Yangon Airport,
- (1.97 inches) at Kaba-Aye and
- (1.30 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1536mm (60.47 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1488mm (58.58 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1472mm (57.95 inches) at central Yangon.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**WEATHER**

Wednesday, 21 July, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been isolated in Shan, Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukpuy (8.39) inches, Sittway (5.75) inches, Thandwe (5.71) inches, Maungdaw (5.04) inches, Gwa (3.62) inches, Ann (3.19) inches and Ye (2.80) inches.

Maximum temperature on 20-7-2004 was 31.7°C (89°F). Minimum temperature on 21-7-2004 was 19.4°C (67°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 21-7-2004 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 20-7-2004 was (2.3) hours approx. Rainfall on 21-7-2004 was (2.05 inches) at Yangon Airport, (1.97 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (1.30 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1536 mm (60.47 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1488 mm (58.58 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1472 mm (57.95 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 11 mph from Southwest at 13:15 hours MST on 20-7-2004.

Bay inference: Monsoon is strong in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 22-7-2004:** Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, Magway, lower Sagaing Divisions, scattered in Shan State, Mandalay Division and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine, Mon States, upper Sagaing Division. Degree of certainty is (100%). **State of the sea:** Occasional squalls with rough seas are likely off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Decrease of rain are likely in southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 22-7-2004: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 22-7-2004: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Flood Warning

(Issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 21-7-2004)

The Ayeyawady River water levels at Aungmyan and Pyaw may rise 110 cm (about 3½ feet) and reach their respective danger levels of (2550) cm and (2900) cm during the next (3) days commencing noon today.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 21-7-2004)

The Ayeyawady River water level at Chauk reaches its danger level. It may continue to rise slightly and remain above its danger level during the next (3) days commencing noon today.


Thursday, July 22
View today:

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**
5. Dance of national races
- 8:05 am**
6. Dance variety
- 8:20 am**
7. ဘိုင်းဒါးနေ့လှည့်တံခွန်
- 8:30 am**
8. International news
- 8:45 am**
9. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. English for Everyday Use

- 4:45 pm**
4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**
5. အဆေသင်တန်းတို့၏ ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယပုဒ် (သန့်အေးမြ) (သန့်အေး)
- 5:15 pm**
6. Cute little dancers
- 5:30 pm**
7. Musical programme
- 5:45 pm**
8. မြန်မာစာပြန်စာပေကား
- 6:00 pm**
9. နိုင်ငံအတိုင်း သစ်တောစုစည်းခြင်း မိမိလုပ်ရမည့်
- 6:15 pm**
10. သတိတရားစောင့်သမီး
- 6:30 pm**
11. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
12. Weather report
- 7:15 pm**
13. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတတ်လမ်းတို့ "မိုးနက်မယ်" (အစိုး-ဒေါ)
- 7:35 pm**
14. Musical programme
- 7:45 pm**
15. လူမှုလုံခြုံရေးအသိပညာတစ်ခုစုံ
- 8:00 pm**
16. News
 17. International news
 18. Weather report
 19. Myanmar movie; "မောင်မိုးရင်ရင်" ရွှေ၊ လွင်မိုး၊ ထွန်းအိမြင့်၊ ထွန်းထွန်းမိုး၊ (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကိုးနီအောင်)
 20. The next day's programme


Thursday, July 22
Tune in today:

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music: Larger than life
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music: Happy boys & girls
- 8:50 am** National news/ Slogan
- 9:00 am** Music: Miss you finally
- 9:05 am** International news
- 9:10 am** Music: Saying I love you
- 1:30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Lunch time music
- Let the music heal

- your soul
- Love train
 - Golden eye
 - Because you loved me
- 9:00 pm** Aspects of Myanmar
- Mandalay Division
- 9:10 pm** Article
- 9:20 pm** Pourri
- Study says mobile phone may damage sperm
 - Blood pressure drop warns of dementia
- 9:30 pm** Favourite songs chosen by music lovers
- The day you went away
 - Unchanged melody
 - Stuck on you
- 9:45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Implementation of e-Government clarified

YANGON, 21 July—The Committee on Implementation of e-Government Tasks explained tasks on e-Government at a ceremony held at Zeyathiri Beikman in Konmyinthar here this evening, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Computer Science Development Council Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the Council Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Auditor-General, the Chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon Mayor, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, the Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, members of the Board of Directors of the MICTDC, e-National Task Force, e-Government Work Committee, officials from Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Computer Scientists Association and Myanmar Computer Industry Association and distinguished guests.

Col Tin Oo of the Ministry of Defence emceed the ceremony. Chairman of the Committee for Implementation of e-Government Tasks Chairman of e-National Task Force Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported on conditions on forming of the e-Government Tasks Work Committee, seminars on e-Government and conducting of courses, progress in attending of the courses by respective ministries, major tasks of the Work Committee and conditions of e-Government Construction Tasks.

Next, Vice-Chairman of the Committee for Implementation of e-Government Tasks Brig-Gen Thein Swe of the Ministry of Defence reported on progress in implementation of the tasks by the e-Government; Vice-Chairman of the Myanmar Computer Federation U Tin Win Aung, conditions on G-MIS (Government Management Information System) and e-Procurement tasks regarding the e-Government; Joint-Secretary of the

(See page 11)



Chairman of Myanmar Computer Science Development Council Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gives instructions at briefing on e-Government tasks.

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Upgrading of Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo co-ordinated

YANGON, 21 July — A coordination meeting of Work Committee for All-round Upgrading of Environs of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo (Yangon) took place at Agriculture Museum of Myanmar Agriculture Service in Kandawgyi Gardens, this evening, with

an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Work Committee for All-round Upgrading of Environs of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo (Yangon) Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development

Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor, Deputy Ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council, heads of departments, members of Work Committee for All-round Upgrading of Environs of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo (Yangon).

First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt heard reports on upgrading tasks of Environs of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo (Yangon) including Relaxation Zone, Recreation Zone, Education Zone and Central Forest Zone and tasks to be carried out presented by Chairman of Work Committee for All-round Upgrading of Environs of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo (Yangon) Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accomplishment of the respective zones and future tasks by design technician Mr John Inada and sectorial measures being taken for Environs of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo (Yangon) by those present.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt instructed officials to systematically undertake the accomplishment of upgrading tasks for Environs of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo (Yangon) and the meeting went into recess.

After the meeting, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected Elephant Plaza in the Relaxation Zone and gave necessary instructions to officials and left there.

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hears reports to upgrade Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens' environs and Zoological Gardens (Yangon).—MNA