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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 Sino-Myanmar agreements co-ordinated Border has always been kept as a peaceful one contributing much towards bilateral economic developments and uplift of socio-economic lives of local people

YANGON, 23 July—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended a coordination meeting on implementation of agreements between the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China on Border Areas Management and Cooperation held at the Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthar here at 3.30 pm today and made a speech on the occasion.

Also present on the occasion were members of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, ministers, the Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence and senior military officers, deputy minister, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department and responsible officials.

In his address, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that the meeting held today is the one to implement agreements between Myanmar and China on border areas management and cooperation.

In his meeting with leaders of the People's Republic of China during his visit to the PRC, they discussed matters on promoting cooperation in ensuring prevalence of law and order in border areas of the two nations and border areas development and in the fight against drugs. Actually, an agreement on border areas management and cooperation between the two nations was signed previously.

The said agreement between Myanmar leaders and State Councillor and Secretary-General of the State Council

of the PRC Mr Luo Gan was signed during his visit to Myanmar on 25 March 1997.

In the agreement it is mentioned

- to promote efficiency and enhance management at entrance gates of the border;
- to repair territorial milestones;
- to ensure the rule of law & order and prevalence of peace and tranquillity;
- to control arms smuggling and drug trafficking in the border area;
- to carry out transgression management at the border;
- to carry out management of territorial affairs; and
- to set linking system between authorities of both sides at the border.

Progress has been made in implementation of the terms of the agreement and meetings between high-ranking officials of both nations on implementation of the terms of the agreement were held alternately four times from 1999 to 2002 in Beijing and Yangon.

The agreements of the fourth meeting held in December 2002 in Yangon are:

- for the two nations to cooperate in ensuring the rule of law & order in border areas;
- for allowing the peoples in border areas of both nations are to cross border only with border passports;
- for both sides to co-operate in fixing tax rates at border entry gates;

— for the authorities of both sides to have linking system for holding meetings occasionally.

(See page 8)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers a speech to the coordination meeting on implementation of agreements on Border Areas Management and Coordination between the Union of Myanmar and the People's Republic of China. — MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 24 July, 2004

From Paukphaw friendship to fraternal relations between Myanmar and China

The bilateral friendly relations and cooperation established by the leaders of Myanmar and China with farsightedness is developing, and now development in the friendly relations and cooperation may be witnessed in all fields. As the People's Republic of China has taken a firm stand for Myanmar in the international affairs, so also, Myanmar has always stood by China, strictly adhering to the One China Policy.

At a time when the Western countries are applying pressure on Myanmar, with the political motives, China, being a true friend of Myanmar, always stands by Myanmar.

The Prime Minister of PRC welcomed the Prime Minister of Myanmar and good will delegation at a grand ceremony in Beijing. The Chinese leaders cordially met with the Myanmar Prime Minister and discussed matters relating to bilateral friendly relations and cooperation. Moreover, China and Myanmar signed 12 Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding and Exchange of Notes. This reflects the Paukphaw Friendship between China and Myanmar.

The Prime Minister availed himself of the opportunity to explain the developments in Myanmar during the visit, saying that Myanmar is enjoying political stability, economic development to a certain degree, and friendly relations with her neighbours. Myanmar has established constructive relations with other countries. Concerning the seven-point future policy programme of the State, he said that the National Convention, that will lay down basic principles to draw a constitution, the most important step of the policy programme, was reconvened on 17 May. He continued to say that the National Convention is in progress, with the participation of a total of 1,088 delegates including over 400 national race delegates of the eight categories of delegate groups, adding, at present, the Convention had been adjourned, and the delegates had left for home. The Convention will resume in the open season.

The Chinese leaders said that Myanmar is a good neighbour of China, that Myanmar people themselves will have to shape their future. They expressed their belief that the Myanmar Government and people will be able to solve their internal problems. They said that no foreign country is to interfere in Myanmar's internal affairs. The existing friendly relations between the two countries have been further cemented, as the Chinese leaders assured the Myanmar Prime Minister and delegation that China will never change her stand regarding Myanmar.

We would like to present here that as the bilateral relations are developing in all spheres, the Paukphaw relations have further improved to fraternal relations, and cooperation between the two countries will also further flourish.

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လစဉ်လ၏ဒုတိယပတ်တန်ရှေ့နေနှင့်နောက်ဆုံးပတ်တန်ရှေ့နေ တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည်ကိုစွဲရပ်များမှအပမော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရန် ဖြစ်သည်။

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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



Patron of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for MCWA Daw Khin Thet Htay meets Thongwa Township MCWA members. — YANGON COMMAND

Healthcare services in Thongwa, Kayan inspected

YANGON, 23 July — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Patron of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Thet Htay this morning inspected healthcare of specialists to local people in Thongwa and Kayan Townships.

At 8 am, the commander and wife arrived in Kayan where they were welcomed by No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi, members of the Panel of Patrons of the Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for MCWA, the chairman of the Divisional MCWA, local authorities and officials.

At the meeting hall of Thongwa Township Peace and Development Council, they met members of Thongwa Township MCWA. Daw Khin Thet Htay explained implementation of functions of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and tasks for the Township MCWA members.

Next, the commander presented K 100,000 for operating cleft lip and palate patients from the township to Township MCWA Chairperson Dr Daw Soe Soe Hla. The township chairperson reported on implementation of tasks of the township.

Afterwards, Yangon Division MCWA Chairman Head of Health Department Dr Hla Myint urged township MCWA members to participate in establishment of model villages in the township and to create healthy environment. Daw Khin Thet Htay accepted 122 permanent membership applications from the township MCWA chairperson. After the meeting, the commander and wife and party went to the Home for the Aged in Kayan and presented cash assistance to 21 older persons.

On arrival at Byamazo Hall in Kayan, the commander and party met the township MCWA chairperson, members of the township organization for women's affairs and Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades. Daw Khin Thet Htay explained participation of MCWA members in healthcare service and cooperation with local authorities in carrying out five rural development tasks.

The commander presented K 100,000 for cleft lip and palate patients and K 500,000 for the Home for the Aged to officials. Next, Daw Khin Thet Htay accepted 500 permanent membership applications of MCWA.

The specialists team led by Dr Zaw Win who accompanied the commander and wife provided healthcare to local patients. Later, they proceeded to Pre-Primary School of Kayan Township MCWA and gave away snacks to the children. — MNA



Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein addresses meeting of Special Task Force-7 (West Forest Region) of Natural Environment Conservation. — MNA

NEC special task force meets

YANGON, 23 July — The special task force-7 (west forest region) of the Natural Environment Conservation held a coordination meeting (1/2004) at the meeting hall of the Information and Public Relations Department on Pansodan Street here this afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the special task force-7 and Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Secretary of the special task force-7 and IPRD Director-General U Chit Naing, and members.

Brig-Gen Aung Thein delivered an opening address on the occasion, followed by reports on tasks being carried out by the special task force.

A general round of discussions was also held at the meeting, which came to an end with concluding remarks given by the chairman of the special task force.

MNA

Convenience of export/import co-ordinated

YANGON, 23 July — The meeting to ensure convenience of export and import was held at the hall of the Ministry of Commerce on Strand Road, here, this evening.

Present were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, vice-presidents and officials of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry, entrepreneurs of cooperatives and export/import companies. First, Minister U Soe Tha explained process for ensuring convenience of export and import and the ministers gave supplementary explanations. Next, Managing Director U Mya Than of Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank reported salient points of tasks. — MNA

Iraq hostage crisis deepens as Kenya tells nationals to leave

BAGHDAD, 22 July— The wave of abductions that has swept across Iraq in recent weeks continued to dog the coalition as a group of kidnapped foreign truck drivers were shown pleading for their lives and Kenya called on its nationals to quit the country.

The Kenyan government said its citizens in Iraq should leave immediately after three Kenyan nationals were among a group of people kidnapped and taken hostage by an armed group in the country.

In Nairobi Kenyan government spokesman Alfred Mutuanamed identified the men as Jalal Mohamed Awadh, 39, Faiz Khamis Salim, 39, and Ibrahim Khamis Idd, 48.

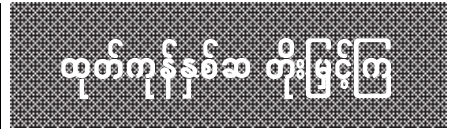
Together with three Indians and an Egyptian, they were kidnapped on Wednesday by a group calling itself The Black Flags. In a video broadcast Wednesday, the same group said it would execute the captives — all truck drivers — one by one if their Kuwaiti employer, identified by the Kenyan government as Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport, did not pull out of Iraq.

Visibly frightened, the hostages were allowed to send a message home to their families and all vowed never to return to Iraq or work for the US-led forces here.

"We want to go home, please help us so that we are not cut up into pieces because then you would bear the guilt of orphaning our children," said one of the hostages, speaking in a thick Egyptian accent.

India's envoy to Iraq rushed back to Baghdad as a rattled New Delhi vowed to do "whatever possible" to secure the release of its three truckers.

For Cairo, the news of the latest hostage came after another kidnapped trucker from Egypt, Sayed Mohammed Sayed al-Garbawi, was set free once his employer — a Saudi company — agreed to end all its activities in Iraq. —*Internet*



Kerry says failure in Iraq a grave danger for the entire world

WASHINGTON, 22 July— Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry warned that failure in Iraq would be "dangerous" for the entire world.

"Having a failed Iraqi state is dangerous not just in the context of the war on terror, it would be dangerous to the Middle East, it would be dangerous to Arab countries, dangerous to Europe," Kerry told CBS television.

"They haven't been brought to the table, and it's because of the arrogant way" in which President George W Bush administration "got itself into the war and pushed other people away," Kerry said.

"We need a new President to clear the air, to restore America's credibility, to restore our alliances," he said.

Kerry also denied ever having waffled on Iraq, as opponents have charged. He recalled that he voted to "hold Saddam Hussein accountable in order to make sure he is disarmed." But he said he backed military action in Iraq with the stipulation that Bush "would build an international coalition (and) go to war as a last resort after exhausting the remedies of the UN.

"He did none of the above."

Still, Kerry said that "just to run or leave would be a tragedy."

But he added: "I learned in war that if things are going wrong, you'd better fix it.... That's a pledge I made to myself when I came back from Vietnam."

Kerry promised, if elected, to pull US troops out of Iraq once the country is stable. —*Internet*



Iraqis walk by the site of a car bomb explosion in southeast Baghdad recently. —*INTERNET*

Local Marine killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 July—A Leesburg native was killed in action in Iraq.

Marine Staff Sgt Michael Jay Clark died Tuesday in the al-Anbar Province in western Iraq.

Clark was based at Camp Pendleton, Calif. He was a highly decorated Marine on his second deployment to Iraq.

He was 29. —*Internet*

Iraq's neighbours discuss high-level security support

CAIRO, 22 July — Iraq's neighbours discussed high-level cooperation on intelligence sharing to control Iraq's borders at a foreign ministers meeting in Cairo on Wednesday, EU officials and diplomatic sources said.

European Union foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, told reporters at the meeting that Iraq's neighbours would be forming bilateral and trilateral committees to exchange intelligence to control their borders.

"One of the ideas is to try to see if they can start practical cooperation at the level of ministries of the interior on exchanges of information and intelligence," Solana said.

"The Prime Minister and the minister of foreign af-

fairs have been asking for that in order to control the border," he added.

A diplomatic source said Iraq had suggested a meeting of ministers of the interior from Egypt, Turkey, Syria, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to coordinate on security issues.

Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, who met his Egyptian counterpart Ahmed Nazif on Wednesday, said the meeting hoped to find ways to seal Iraq's borders to help stop attacks.

He added he would welcome Arab troops as part of a multinational force to help regain stability in Iraq.

"We would accept the arrival of Arab troops as part of a multinational force to put in place the foundations of peace and stability in Iraq," he said, adding this would be to help Iraq finish building its Armed Forces to achieve security.

Allawi also confirmed elections would be held in January.

MNA/Reuters

SAARC countries to step up joint efforts to combat terrorism

ISLAMABAD, 23 July — India and other SAARC countries on Wednesday decided to step up joint efforts to combat terrorism, eradicate poverty and enhance economic cooperation as they endorsed five Indian proposals, including setting up of an infrastructure fund for the region.

Threats posed by terrorism, on which India voiced serious concerns, figured prominently in the two-day SAARC ministerial conference attended by External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh and his counterparts from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Nepal and Bhutan.

Bangladesh has decided to host a ministerial meeting on cooperation among the seven-member grouping to combat terrorism and trans-national crimes.

Singh proposed setting up of South Asian Parliamentary Forum to deliberate on issues pertaining to regional cooperation endeavours under SAARC. India's offer to host the next meeting of this forum was accepted by other countries.

The Foreign Ministers supported India's proposal for establishment of a SAARC High Economic Council formed with the Finance and Commerce Ministers of the member countries to promote ideas and initiatives related to regional integration in economic, trade, financial and monetary areas.

Addressing a Press conference at the end of the two-day deliberation, Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasur said the SAARC Award for 2004 will go to late Bangladesh President Zia-ur Rahman.

India's proposal for a SAARC Infrastructure Fund received the nod of the Foreign Ministers. It has been suggested that this fund can have a corpus of 10 billion dollars to fund major infrastructure projects in the region. It was also decided to set up national committees in member countries mandated to monitor and devise programmes to implement the goals of the SAARC Social Charter.

The Foreign Ministers agreed that the

countries would consult each other to promote poverty alleviation projects, including under the SAARC Poverty Alleviation Fund.

As part of the SAARC Awareness Year for TB and HIV/AIDS, the ministers decided to give SAARC Youth Award for dedicated community services in these fields.

India has offered to host a meeting this year of experts and community workers, train paramedics from SAARC countries and send medical vans and mobile awareness units to each of the SAARC nations, a proposal readily accepted by others.

New Delhi's willingness to provide training programmes in the field of statistics and host activities this year and early next year for enhancing regional cooperation for sports and youth were also welcomed.

During the ministerial meet, Singh stated that it was time that SAARC departed from its endless round of meetings, seminars and conferences and moved to collaborative projects that brought tangible results to people in the region. The ministers discussed issues relating to the establishment of a free trade area in SAARC (SAFTA) and stepping up cooperation in energy, biotechnology, environment and communications.

They also deliberated on the SAARC Poverty Fund for which India has agreed to contribute 100 million US dollars for projects outside the country. New Delhi has said it can additionally finance the feasibility studies for undertaking projects under this fund.

The ministers reaffirmed their commitment to foster regional cooperation in poverty alleviation, trade, environment, communication, energy, IT, women empowerment and social development. —*MNA/PTI*



An Iraqi man stands inside his destroyed house following clashes overnight between US soldiers and militants in Samarra, a restive town, north of Baghdad recently. —*INTERNET*

Decapitated body found in Iraq, Bulgaria checking

BAGHDAD, 22 July—A decapitated corpse was found by police in northern Iraq Thursday and Bulgaria said it was investigating whether the body was one of its citizens seized by militants loyal to al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

The Foreign Ministry in Sofia said another headless body found in the same area earlier this month had been identified as that of 30-year-old Bulgarian truck driver Georgi Lazov.

Lazov and fellow Bulgarian Ivailo Kepov were seized as they delivered cars to Mosul. Their captors sent a video to Al Jazeera earlier this month showing the execution of one of them.

Bulgarian troops are part of the US-led force in Iraq.

On Wednesday an *Internet* statement said to be from the European wing of al Qaeda said Bulgaria and Poland would face attacks unless they withdrew their troops from Iraq.

In Kuwait, the transport company that employs three Indians, three Kenyans and an Egyptian also kidnapped by guerrillas in Iraq said it would do all it can to win their release.

The announcement of their kidnapping Wednesday

sparked a new hostage crisis just a day after guerrillas freed a Filipino driver following Manila's capitulation to their demands.

Their captors say they will behead one hostage every three days unless the firm that employs the men, Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company, stops doing business in Iraq.

Iraqi police said the decapitated body and its severed head were found Thursday in the Tigris river near

Baiji, 100 miles north of Baghdad. Lazov's body was found in the river in the same area earlier in July.

The severed head was bloated from being submerged in the water. The body was dressed in a faded and torn reddish-coloured tunic. Zarqawi's group dresses its hostages in orange clothing before executing them, mimicking the orange jumpsuits worn by US prisoners including Muslim detainees in Guantanamo Bay.

Zarqawi's group has already executed an American and a South Korean hostage, and has claimed responsibility for a series of suicide bomb attacks in Iraq.

Internet



Iraqis inspect the charred scraps from a 1st Infantry Division Bradley vehicle where an American soldier was killed by a roadside bomb while on patrol in Duluiyah, Iraq, 70 kilometres (45 miles) north of Baghdad, on 21 July, 2004. This brings the death toll to the 900th US military death in Iraq since the beginning of the war in March 2003. —INTERNET

Iraq's Interior Ministry says report on nukes "stupid"

BAGHDAD, 22 July—Iraq's Interior Ministry dismissed as "stupid" a report in a local newspaper on Wednesday that said three nuclear missiles had been found near Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit.

A senior US military official told reporters he had no information on the report in the Iraqi newspaper *al-Sabah*. He said officials were checking the report.

Asked by *Reuters* about the report, a spokesman at the Interior Ministry said: "It's stupid."

Al-Sabah opened last year with backing from the former US-led administration in Iraq. —MNA/Reuters

IAEA has no evidence to prove Syria's nuclear weapons attempt

CAIRO, 22 July—The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has no evidence to prove that Syria seeks to obtain nuclear weapons, its director-general Mohamed ElBaradei has said.

"However, Syrian officials are ready to cooperate with the IAEA to prove that an allegation against Syria in this respect is groundless," ElBaradei said on Wednesday's edition of leading Egyptian *al-Ahram* newspaper.

He said that his visit to Israel earlier this month yielded important results, saying that Israel discussed for the first time the possibility of eliminating weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East through talks.

He said he told Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon that Israel's presence outside the nuclear non-proliferation system could never be for long, adding that there are two options regarding the Middle East — the presence of a nuclear arms race or the elimination of nuclear weapons from the region. —MNA/Xinhua

Paper reports British detainees in Iran faced mock execution

LONDON, 22 July—Iranian soldiers who detained eight British naval troops last month on the Iran-Iraq border subjected them to a mock execution, Britain's *Sun* newspaper reported on Thursday.

The six Royal Marines and two sailors were seized on the Shatt al-Arab waterway by Iran's Revolutionary Guard on 21 June, sparking tense discussions between the two governments. Royal Marine Dave Reid, 24, told the *Sun* that Iranian guards had forced their blindfolded captives into a ditch during a transfer between prisons. "We had been taken into a small ditch which we thought was our shallow grave," he said.

"There was just ten seconds of silence, ten seconds of hell, as we waited for the bullet," he added. "And there is no doubt at all that that is what the Iranians wanted us to think." The troops were released after three days when British officials had convinced Iran the troops had strayed into Iranian waters accidentally and without ill intent. —MNA/Reuters

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US funds for Iraq, Afghanistan drying up, says report

WASHINGTON, 22 July—The United States has spent most of the \$65 billion Congress approved for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and is "scrambling to find \$12.3 billion more from within the Defence Department" to fund them through this fiscal year, *The Washington Post* reported on Thursday.

Quoting federal investigators with the Government Accountability Office, the paper said their report "appears to contradict White House assurances that the services have enough money to get through the calendar year."

The report also "warned that the budget crunch is having an adverse impact on the military as it shifts resources to Iraq and away from training and maintenance in other parts of the world," the *Post* said.

Armed forces "have deferred the repair of equipment used in Iraq, grounded some Air Force and Navy pilots, cancelled training exercises, and delayed facility-restoration projects," the paper quoted the GAO report as saying.

And "the Air Force is straining to cover the cost of body armour for airmen in combat areas, night-vision gear and surveillance equipment, according to the report," the newspaper said. —Internet

Australia relied on 'thin, ambiguous intelligence' on Iraq's WMD

CANBERRA, 22 July—Australia used "thin, ambiguous and incomplete" intelligence on weapons of mass destruction (WMD) to justify waging war on Iraq, a government-commissioned report found.

The report on Thursday cleared Australian politicians of pressuring intelligence agencies to strengthen the case for war against Saddam Hussein regime but found Canberra's spies failed to properly challenge assumptions and sources.

"There has been a failure of intelligence on Iraq WMD," said the report by former intelligence head Philip Flood.

"Intelligence was thin, ambiguous and incomplete. Australia shared in the allied intelligence failure on the key question of WMD stockpiles," he said, echoing reports from Britain and the United States critical of shortcomings in pre-war intelligence on Iraq's unconfirmed WMD. Flood found the Australian intelligence service's assessments were relatively cautious compared with its

British and US counterparts. "Using similar but not all the material available to the UK and the US, Australian assessments on Iraq's capabilities were on the whole more cautious and seem closer to the facts as we know them so far," it said.

Australia, a key US ally, contributed about 2,000 troops to the Iraq invasion. This dropped to 850.

Internet

Bangladesh plans law to curb TV satellite channels

DHAKA, 22 July—Bangladesh will enact a law soon to stop cable television operators from broadcasting what it believes are undesirable satellite channels, Information Minister M Shamsul Islam said on Wednesday. He did not name any channels, but other media officials said some overseas programmes were "X-rated".

"The sky is open and it is very difficult to control it," Islam said. "But we are work-

ing on a policy to control those channels transmitting programmes contrary to the social and religious values of the country."

"We feel the need for a law to stop obscene programmes," he added.

Bangladesh currently has four local satellite television channels, including three in the private sector, and the government was considering allowing more, Islam said.

MNA/Reuters



A woman wails next to a charred vehicle after a car bomb went off in the eastern part of Baghdad on 21 July, 2004. —INTERNET

Annan rejects Bush claim that world is safer now

UNITED NATIONS, 22 July — The world is no safer than it was three years ago, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Wednesday, countering US President George W Bush's claims he had made the world a safer place.

Annan, at a news conference, also criticized a Bush Administration decision to withhold 34 million US dollars from the UN Population Fund, saying the agency was saving women's lives.

Annan's remarks could renew strains on ties between the United States and United Nations, which—while devastated by Bush's inability to win UN backing for the

US-led war on Iraq—had improved following UN help in setting up a new government in Baghdad in time for the US occupation to end.

"No, I cannot say the world is safer today than it was two, three years ago," the UN chief said.

He was responding to a reporter who asked for comment on the Bush funding move and also whether

Annan felt the world had become safer in the last two or three years.

Bush, who has launched two wars since moving into the White House in January 2001, repeatedly asserts in campaign swings ahead of the November 2 presidential election that his policies are making the world safer.

"America is a safer place. Four more years and America will be safer and the world will be more peaceful," he said on Tuesday in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The US Administration has withheld funding from the UN Population Fund, known as UNFPA, for three years, accusing it of supporting China's policy of coercive abortion.

The fund has denied this and a US State Department investigation in 2002 also cleared the agency of such charges.

Family planning activists and some members of Congress have seen the US move as a bid for conservative votes in November.

Annan said the UN agency was doing "very essential work on reproductive health" and particularly in confronting the AIDS epidemic, which strikes so many women it "today has a woman's face and is producing so many orphans". "I hope governments will support UNFPA and not extend the decision not to fund its activities to other agencies," he said. — MNA/Reuters

Car bomb kills four in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 22 July — A car bomb killed four people in a southern residential district of Baghdad on Wednesday, the latest in a string of attacks in the capital, police and witnesses said.

A Reuters witness saw four corpses at the scene where bits of flesh had been scattered by the force of the blast. Police also said four people were killed. Some houses were blackened by the blast and at least three cars were damaged.

"Four people were killed. We know it was a car bomb, but we have no idea if it was a suicide attack or not," said one policeman on the scene, who declined to be named.

It was not immediately clear if the bomb had exploded prematurely, or what the target could have been. The blast was in a rundown area, in a narrow alley with space for just one car. Residents said no city official or member of the police, who have often been the target of attacks, lived in the area.

"A car drove into this alley and it blew up," said Hussein Ali, who lived close to the scene.

Witnesses said an unexploded shell lay on the ground near the bomb site. Shells are often used in car bombs.

MNA/Reuters

British govt under pressure over inquiry into Iraqi intelligence

LONDON, 22 July — The British Government was under new pressure on Wednesday as new revelations about the prewar intelligence on Iraq have prompted calls for British lawmakers to reopen their inquiries into the conflict.

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons, which investigated the government's war

decision last year, was meeting on Wednesday when questions were asked on why Prime Minister Tony Blair did not know MI6 had withdrawn intelligence last year, despite his Foreign Secretary being told.

The committee's chairman did not want to reopen its inquiry but other members did, the BBC reported.

"If we have gone to war on false information, I think that is very, very important indeed...The dossier (on Iraq's weapons) was the key to the government's case and now we are learning that substantial parts of that dossier were no longer valid," opposition Conservative Party MP (Member of Parliament), Andrew Mackay, a member of the committee, told the BBC.

It was reported Tuesday that British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw knew last September that reports from an intelligence source had been withdrawn last July, while Downing Street said Blair only learned the news during the Butler inquiry into Britain's Iraq intelligence that was behind the govern-

ment's decision to join the US-led Iraq war.

Lord Butler, who led the five-month inquiry, ruled last week that some sources of the British intelligence on former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) were "seriously flawed".

Saddam probably had no WMD ready for use and the government's claim in a dos-

sier published in 2001 of Saddam being capable of deploying WMD within 45 minutes should not have been asserted without qualification.

However, the Butler's ruling apportioned no blame for the quality of the intelligence or how it was used in the government's case for war.

MNA/Xinhua

Flood toll nears 800 in Asia

GUWAHATI (India), 22 July—Flood waters swept into the largest city in India's northeast on Wednesday and further submerged the Bangladeshi capital as fresh rains in Asia took the rainy season death toll to nearly 800.

South Asia's worst floods in over a decade have killed about 460 people in India, Bangladesh and Nepal and made millions homeless.

In southern China, mudflows and landslides have killed 10 people in recent days and more rain was forecast, as this year's flood-related death toll topped 300, state media said.

Scores of people in Guwahati, commercial capital of the Indian state of Assam, moved out of their homes after the swollen Brahmaputra River spilled over its banks.

Nearly nine million of Assam's 26 million people are either homeless or marooned, a government official said in the latest estimate of the number of people affected by floods this year. Hundreds of animals, including rhinoceroses and wild elephants in three of Assam's wildlife sanctuaries, have also perished in the floods that began early this month, a forest official said.

The rains have caused rivers to burst their banks, triggered landslides and forced the evacuation of thousands in India, Bangladesh and Nepal and left thousands more trapped in their homes awaiting rescue.

Fresh rains lashed Bangladesh, triggering flooding in more districts of the capital and the northern parts of the country.

Water levels rose further in Dhaka where at least 1.5 million people have been stranded in submerged low-lying areas. Dhaka has a population of 10 million.

The floods in Bangladesh have left 400,000 people homeless, a government official said. "It is the biggest flood after 1988, which submerged two-thirds of the country and killed 3,500 people," a disaster management official said.

Heavy rain across southern China has flooded crops, washed away houses and forced thousands of people to evacuate their homes, the reports said.

In Binyang County in the southern region of Guangxi, which borders Vietnam, mudflows and landslides killed eight people and injured four on Monday, the Xinhua news agency said. — MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi youth stands bleeding next to a charred vehicle after a car bomb went off in the eastern part of Baghdad on 21 July, 2004. —INTERNET

India to secure release of its nationals taken hostage in Iraq

NEW DELHI, 23 July — India on Wednesday night said it was in touch with its envoys in Iraq and Kuwait for details in connection with the kidnapping by a militant group of three Indian workers engaged with a private transport firm.

The three Indians were kidnapped by a Iraqi militant group along with two Kenyans and an Egyptian. The group threatened to kill their captives unless their governments immediately announce to call back their troops and citizens from Iraq.

Junior Federal Minister for External Affairs E Ahmed said "we will do whatever

possible to get our people freed. We will go to any extent to resolve the issue."

He said the three had gone to Iraq on their own and the government has no role in it.

"As soon as we got the information, we established contact with our embassy in Baghdad and also our ambassador in Kuwait and

asked him to talk to the transport firm (which was asked by the militant group to pull out of Iraq) and ascertain further details."

"We hope that everything will be resolved because India has taken a firm stand that it will not send troops to Iraq. We will provide whatever humanitarian aid possible to

Iraq and India has always advocated in international bodies that sovereign power of the people of Iraq has to be respected," he said.

"I have also asked the officials in Baghdad to establish contact with any other source who can convey to the abductor our stand," he said.

MNA/PTI

“Pannandin”, an emerging town in far north



In line with the guidance of the Head of State, the Ministry of Home Affairs designated Pannandin village in Nagmon Township, Putao District, Kachin State, as Pannandin town under a notification dated 22-7-2002.

Health Care Services in Pannandin region

Subject	Quantity
16-bed hospital	1
Rural Health Care Centre	2

During his tour of Pannandin, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt poses for a documentary photo together with service personnel and local national races on 28 December, 2003.



A hospital seen under construction to provide health care services to local national races living in Pannandin.

In the northernmost region of the Union of Myanmar is Rasadan camp, which can also be called the northernmost camp. To the south of the camp is such small villages as Tahundan, Talahtu, Tazahtu, Ngawa, Tazundan and Guba. Pannandin, a small village located in the south-east of Ngawa, is no longer a village. It has developed into a town and therefore can be called the northernmost town in Myanmar.

In Pannandin region, only 12 persons could pursue their high school education in the past and there were 16 primary schools, 180 students and 60 teachers in the region. As one of the primary schools has been upgraded to a high school, the number of students has reached 208, and that of teachers, 74.



Land reclamation tasks being carried out for agricultural development in Pannandin region.

Cultivation in Pannandin region

Subject	Sown acreage
Forest land	713175 acres
Virgin land	67762 acres
Other	200517 acres
Paddy	310 acres
Beans and pulses	63 acres
Edible oil crops	12 acres
Other crops	628 acres
Highland cultivation	100 acres



The construction site of Basic Education High School in Pannandin.

Pannandin shining like the pole star in northernmost Myanmar — 2

Tekkatho Myat Thu



A suspension bridge lies at the entrance to Pannandin.

The beauty of Pannandin or the pole star is decorated with towering snow-capped mountains and pristine forests including pine trees in the surrounding areas. The region of Pannandin is rich in various species of herbal plants and insects of medicinal potency.

Before 1990 there were 18 natural parks and wildlife sanctuaries in Myanmar. The Pannandin region is included in the Khakaborazi National Park designated by the World Environment Conservation Group and the Ministry of Forestry. It is under the protection of the two bodies. The area of the park is 2,494 square miles.

anthropologists of the various parts of the world. The region is an interesting place not only for Myanmar, but also for the world.

Pannandin region needs improvement of roads. As the development undertakings of the region have been carried out continuously, construction materials, manpower, rations and other supplies are being transported with much difficulty to the region. Even the vehicles that are designed for rough roads are facing difficulties in travelling in the region.

The General Administration Department has almost completed the

Border Areas and National Races, Immigration Department, and Livestock and Veterinary Department will also build their offices there.

Of the 981,454 acres of Pannandin region, 713,715 acres are covered by forests, 67,762 acres are virgin and

potato and vegetables in 2003-2004 cultivation season. In accord with the instruction of the Prime Minister, staff of the departments concerned have conducted field tours to set up highland farms. Survey had already been made to reclaim 100 acres of new paddy fields. The Agricultural Mechanization Department will provide K 36,000 per acre for farmers of the surrounding areas who wish to reclaim land. As

erected to supply power to the region. Power is generated by three 3KV generators provided by GAD, MPF and Kachin State Peace and Development Council, and a 7KV generator installed by MEPE. Moreover, the national races of the region can now watch the TV programmes.

Cattle, goat and poultry farming is being conducted in the region to supply meat for local requirement.

been improved. Earth roads have been upgraded step by step to become tar roads. As three suspension bridges have been upgraded, cars can now smoothly and conveniently use them. When repair and renovation of all roads are finished, there will be convenient transport in the area. In the past there were 16 primary schools, 180 students and 60 teachers in the region. As one of the primary schools has been upgraded to a high school, the number of students has reached 208, and that of teachers, 74.

A 16-bed hospital is under construction at present. Two rural health centres are being run with four staff. Christians as well as Buddhists are holding religious ceremonies with peace of mind.

In the past, not a single social organization could be formed due to poor transport. Now 38 members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, eight members of Red Cross, ten members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade, eight members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association and seven members of Organizations for Women's Affairs are collectively carrying out social activities.

Pannandin has developed from a village to a town. Thanks to the goodwill of the Government, the national development undertakings have reached the Pannandin region. Pannandin, glowing with the beauty of snow-capped mountains, pristine forests and the fruits of progress, is shining in the northern part of Myanmar in competition with the pole star.

(Translation: TMT)

*Myanma Alin: Kyemon
20.7.2004*

Pannandin region needs improvement of roads. As the development undertakings of the region have been carried out continuously, construction materials, manpower, rations and other supplies are being transported with much difficulty to the region. Even the vehicles that are designed for rough roads are facing difficulties in travelling in the region.

According to the research paper of biologist Alan Rabinowitz, the park has over 100 bird species; the dwarf barking deer of phet gyi, a new species that had not been recorded in the biology yet; black mountain goat, thopya phet gyi, black barking deer, black mountain goat, red mountain goat, black Himalayan bear. The report also says that there are also takin, which without protection will face extinction in the near future; and that the park itself is worthy of protection.

The State designated Pannandin region as a special zone, which is frequented by environmentalists, zoologists, botanists and

construction of a building for various departments and a six-unit staff quarter. The Myanmar Police Force is erecting a police station and a six-unit quarter. An office of the Information and Public Relations Department, a TV retransmission station of the Myanmar Radio and Television, a post and telegraph office of Myanmar Telecommunications, an office of the Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise, a high school, a 16-bed hospital, an office of Public Works, an office of the Myanmar Agriculture Service and an office of Settlements and Land Records Department are under construction. The Department for Progress of

vacant lands, and 200,517 acres are uncultivated lands. The region grows 310 acres of paddy, 63 acres of beans and pulses, 12 acres of edible oil crops, and 628 acres of other crops. Over 90 percent of the land surface of the region is covered by mountains, ridges and gorges. Thus, there is less level ground to grow rice in the region. The Kachin State Agricultural Supervisory Committee toured the region and made plans to set up highland cultivation there. Thus, sown acreage has increased from 1,031 acres in the past to 1,334 acres at present. As local farm products cannot fulfil the local demand yet, crop cultivation will be extended.

The region cultivated paddy, wheat, maize, corn, sesame, soybean, other beans, chili, garlic, ginger,

numerous mountain streams and small creeks are flowing in the region, it has abundant water supply for irrigation and other uses. Mini hydel power stations are being

Because of the rising meat demand, poultry farming has been extended. As more roads and bridges have been built, transport from Nagmon to Pannandin has



Office of the General Administration Department in Pannandin.



Police Station of Myanmar Police Force in Pannandin.

Myanmar ASEAN Women's Friendship Association meets

YANGON, 23 July — The Myanmar ASEAN Women's Friendship Association (MAWFA) held the third annual meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Pyay Road this morning, attended by Leader of the Panel of Patrons of the association wife of the Prime Minister Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe.

Also present were members of the Panel of Patrons Daw San Yone, wife of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Daw Le Le Kyi, wife of Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu, honorary members who are wives of ministers, CEC members, women ambassadors of ASEAN countries to Myanmar and wives of ambassadors, wives of diplomats and officials.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe spoke on the occasion. Chairperson of the Executive Committee Daw Khin Hnin Nyunt extended greetings



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe delivers an address to the third annual meeting of the Myanmar ASEAN Women's Friendship Association. — MNA

and Secretary Daw Khin Nan Myint submitted CEC report for 2003-2004 and Treasurer Daw Aye Aye Phyu, financial statement. Next, new executives were elected for 2004.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented K 100,000

to the association. Member of the Panel of Patrons Daw San Yone accepted the donation and presented a certificate of honour to her.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepted US\$ 500 donated by Myanmar Ambassador to Japan U Saw

Leader of the Panel of Patrons of the MAWFA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented K 100,000 to the association. Member of the Panel of Patrons Daw San Yone accepted the donation and presented a certificate of honour to her.

Hla Min-Daw Khin Swe Yu and embassy staff through Daw San Yone; K 200,000 by the women's association of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through Daw Le Le Kyi; US\$ 200 by Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar Mme Phoebe A Gomez;

US\$ 100 by the Women of ASEAN in Yangon through Mme Datin May Cheah, wife of the Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar; and K 100,000 by Singaporean Embassy through Mme Poh Choo de Cruz, wife of the

Singaporean Ambassador.

The Chairperson gave the concluding remarks. Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party sang the ASEAN song. After the meeting, they viewed documentary photos on activities of the association.—MNA



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung being seen off at Yangon International Airport on his departure for India. — MNA

Implementation of Sino-Myanmar ...

(from page 1)

In addition, the Border Security Co-operation Agreement between the Ministry of Home Affairs of Myanmar and the Ministry of People's Security of China came into force beginning 17 June 2002 and it contributes much towards the joint control of cross-border crimes such as illegal border crossings, gambling, arm smuggling and narcotic drug trafficking.

Myanmar and China share a long border of over 2,000 kilometres and the people on both sides at the border have numerous dealings and contacts among them and it is natural that there took place some problems. However, the two countries lay emphasis on strong fraternal friendship between them and settled issues peacefully. Hence, the border has always been kept as a peaceful one contributing much towards bilateral economic developments and uplift of socio-economic lives of the local peoples at the border. During the recent official visit to the People's Republic of China, the Prime Minister expressed Myanmar's aspiration to promote border area management and cooperation before Chinese leaders. In meeting with the Chinese leaders the Prime Minister learned that the former wished to see holding of high-level discussions and seminars on current issues in the border area. Thus, the present meeting with ministers, deputy ministers and heads of departments was held, he said.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win explained the materialization of the agreed tasks covering the enhancement of work efficiency at the immigration points at the border and management, the rule of law in border areas, curbing drug-related crimes, cross-border management, and cooperation between the local authorities to set up a communication system. Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing presented the implementation of the task covering the curbing of crimes concerning illegal cross border activities and drug-related crimes in accord with the agreement reached between the Ministry of Home Affairs of Myanmar and the Ministry of Public Security of China. Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa reported to the meeting on opening of border entry points and plans to increase the number of immigration check points; and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, on natural environmental conservation at the border.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and the participants discussed the narcotic drugs issue, crime reduction at border areas and tax collection. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt looked into the requirements. — MNA

FM leaves for India

YANGON, 23 July — At the invitation of Mr K Natwar Singh, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India, the Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung left here by air for New Delhi, this morning to pay an official visit to the Republic of India. The Myanmar delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Ministers U Khin Maung Win and U Kyaw Thu, the Directors-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Charge d'Affaires ai of the Indian Embassy Mr Rahul Kulshreshtha.

The minister is accompanied by Director-General of the Political Department U Thauung Tun and Officer on Special Duty U Min Thein. — MNA

Laotian Deputy FM leaves

YANGON, 23 July — The visiting delegation led by Mr Phongsavath Boupha, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, after attending the Fourth Meeting of the Myanmar-Lao Border Authorities at Central Level held in Yangon on 21 and 22 July, left here by air this morning. The Laotian Deputy Foreign Minister and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Ambassador of the Union of Myanmar to the Lao PDR U Tin Oo, Directors-General and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador of the LPDR to the Union of Myanmar Mr Chanthavy Bothisane and Embassy staff.—MNA



The Laotian delegation being seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win. — MNA

Industry-1 Minister receives guests

YANGON, 23 July — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thauung received President Mr Toh Jin Gyu and party of ITT Co Ltd of the Republic of Korea at the Ministry of Industry-1 at 5 pm today. They discussed matters related to textile production.

Similarly, the minister received General Manager Mr Yoichiro Kato of Furukawa Sales Co Ltd and party of Japan at 10.30 am and discussed services of Furukawa and Airman Machine in Myanma Ceramics Industries. Also present at the calls were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun, Directors-General and departments Directors of departments and enterprises. — MNA



Chinese Monk presents replica of Lantau Buddha Image to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe on 18-7-2004. — MNA

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

The bilateral friendly relations and cooperation established by the leaders of Myanmar and China with farsightedness is developing. Now development in the freindly relations and cooperation may be witnessed in all fields — political, economic and religious.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party arrived at the Window of the World Garden in Shenzhen set up for the public and tourists relaxation. They went round the park in a motorcade to view scale models of popular religious and social edifices and environmental scenes from various countries of the world.



Shanghai Vice Mayor Mr Tang Jie and party bid farewell to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party at Shanghai International Airport on 16-7-2004. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe visit Window of the World Garden. (News reported) — MNA



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe poses for documentary photo with Shenzhen Women's Federation Chairperson Mrs Hu Ligun and party on 16-7-2004. — MNA

**China firmly standing for
Myanmar in international affairs**

**Myanmar always strictly
adhering to One China Policy**

**PM's visit to China strengthens
Sino-Myanmar ties**



Newly appointed United Nations special representative for Iraq Ashraf Qazi, left, listens to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan addressing reporters at the United Nations headquarters in New York, on Thursday, 22 July, 2004. —INTERNET

Over 8,000 HIV-positive Mozambicans to undergo ARV therapy

MAPUTO, 23 July — Currently about 3,300 HIV-positive people in Mozambique are undergoing treatment with anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs, and by the end of the year another 5,000 or so people would be on this therapy, local media reported Wednesday.

Mozambique's Deputy National Director of Health Avertino Barreto was quoted as saying that Mozambican Health Ministry intended to increase the number every year.

However, he insisted on

sustainability, saying that attempts at mass treatment elsewhere in Africa, without guarantees of sustainability, had proved "disastrous".

Mozambique's National Network of Associations of People Living with AIDS seemed to accept the logic of this argument. The organization's executive secretary Julio Muchochó stressed "we want this figure of 8,000 to become a reality".

Muchochó hoped that while foreign non-governmental organizations, such

as the Italian Santo Egidio Community, currently administering a highly successful treatment programme, might one day leave the country, the Mozambican Health Ministry will continue the work with these people.

Barreto also revealed that there are now over 100 Counselling and Voluntary Testing Centres in Mozambique, where citizens can be tested for their HIV status, with confidentiality guaranteed.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq appeals to Arab nations to protect UN missions

CAIRO, 23 July — Visiting Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi on Thursday appealed to Arab countries to send troops to protect UN missions in the violence-ravaged country.

"We requested Egypt's help in this regard, and we also spoke to other Arab leaders in order to dispatch forces to protect UN missions in Iraq," Allawi told reporters after meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Allawi said that the UN presence in Iraq was essential, adding that UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan made a phone call to him Wednesday on resuming the UN operation in Iraq.

Allawi said that during the meeting, Mubarak reaffirmed Egypt's readiness to continue backing Iraq in face of challenges.

Iraq has refused to accept the deployment of troops from its neighbours.

The United Nations

withdrew its staff from Iraq following a deadly bomb attack targeting its headquarters in Baghdad last August, which killed UN envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello and 21 others.

Allawi arrived here Wednesday as part of his maiden Mideast trip, which has taken him to Jordan and will also take him to Syria, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

MNA/Xinhua

S African drops rare gold coin in parking meter

JOHANNESBURG, 23 July — A South African woman mistakenly plunked a 100-year-old gold coin worth more than 1,000 US dollars into a parking meter while shopping without her glasses, a newspaper reported on Wednesday.

"I can't believe I could have done something like that," said the woman, who asked not to be identified.

The woman said she

also believed she had spent an 1890 sovereign, worth a small fortune, as small change, the *Cape Argus* newspaper said.

The woman inherited the gold coins from her mother, but they became mixed up with loose coins she kept in a container and were transferred to her purse by mistake.

She told the newspaper she did not realize she had

the coins with her and was not carrying her spectacles. She said she thought she put a Kruger sovereign, worth about 7,000 rand (1,100 US dollars) in a parking meter in Paarl outside Cape Town.

She appealed to city authorities to keep a lookout for the Kruger sovereign when counting parking meter proceeds.

MNA/Reuters

CIA rebuffs 9/11 commission criticism

WASHINGTON, 23 July — The CIA defended itself against criticism in the September 11 commission report on Thursday and said it had warned of the possibility of terrorists using hijacked planes before the 2001 attacks took place.

"CIA regularly reported on threats to civil aviation including hijacking," a CIA official said on condition of anonymity to a group of reporters before the report's release.

The report criticized the spy agency, already under fire for its flawed intelligence on Iraq's banned weapons before last year's invasion, for failing to properly understand the threat of the al-Qaeda movement that carried out the attacks.

It slammed the

agency's methods as "Cold War" and bemoaned the lack of any expansion in the CIA's paramilitary operations in the face of potential terrorist attacks.

The strong defence by CIA appeared intended to forestall further criticism of the agency, whose director, George Tenet, resigned in the face of a barrage of complaints about intelligence failures in Iraq and over September 11.

The official said the CIA in 1999 had provided the Federal Aviation Administration with language to use in briefing US airline officials that read: "Osama bin Laden remains interested in targeting US interests including on US territory. He is well prepared to consider kidnappings and hijackings as well as

bombings."

"All of those warnings plus other intelligence reports of a similar nature through that period were provided in time to do something about it. It wasn't too late. The industry could have taken countermeasures and so forth. So we were on time and on target with that," he said.

The CIA official spoke on Wednesday on condition his remarks not to be published until the report was released.

He disputed the commission's conclusion that Tenet did not develop a management strategy for a war against Islamist terrorism before the September 11 attacks.

"The assertions in this report represent a triumph of theory over fact," the official said. — MNA/Reuters

US Army finds 94 cases of Iraq, Afghan prisoner abuse

WASHINGTON, 23 July — A long-awaited Army report on Thursday found 94 cases of abuse of prisoners in Iraq and Afghanistan but blamed "a few individuals" and not the military leadership — a finding Senate Democrats called hard to believe.

The report represented the Army's official evaluation of prisoner detention and interrogation operations in the two countries that produced the physical and sexual abuse of Iraqi prisoners at the Abu Ghraib jail and at least three dozen deaths of detainees.

Lieutenant-General Paul Mikelashek, the Army's inspector-general who conducted the report and

appeared before the US Senate Armed Services Committee, described a series of shortcomings, including ambiguous policies and unclear responsibilities for troops.

But the report stated, "We were unable to identify system failures that resulted in incidents of abuse."

Democratic lawmakers accused the Army of failing to look for systematic problems.

"I don't think you've done the job that you have to do. Maybe you were told not to do it," Democratic Senator Jack Reed of Rhode Island said.

The report cited 94 cases of "confirmed or possible" abuse of prisoners,

including death, sexual assault, physical assault and theft, but concluded "we were unable to identify system failures that resulted in incidents of abuse".

The Army ordered the report in February, weeks after commanders learned of the physical and sexual abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib.

But he said he was not disputing either Major-General Antonio Taguba's report on Abu Ghraib that exposed and criticized the practice, or Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who said he ordered the secret detention of an Iraqi prisoner held for more than seven months without notifying the ICRC.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqi National Guard soldiers watch Iraqi refugees returning home by bus in Basra Iraq on Thursday, 22 July, 2004. Some of the 450 returning refugees had fled in 2003, while others dated back to the Iran-Iraq war. —INTERNET

Kerry leads Bush among Hispanic voters

WASHINGTON, 23 July — Hispanic voters strongly favour Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry over US President George W Bush, a poll released on Wednesday said.

Asked who they would vote for if the November presidential election were held today, 60 per cent said they would choose Kerry and 30 per cent said Bush, according to the poll.

The July 6-16 survey of 1,605 Hispanics was conducted by *The Washington Post*, the Univision Spanish language television network and the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute.

Fifty-four per cent said they disapprove of the way the Republican president is doing his job, and 62 per cent reject Bush's handling of the war in Iraq.

Sixty per cent said they did not approve of the way

Bush was handling the economy.

When asked who they trusted more to do a better job handling the situation in Iraq, Hispanic voters favoured Kerry over Bush 45 per cent to 34 per cent.

Fifty-three per cent said they trust Kerry to do a better job handling the economy.

Sixty-three per cent said the war in Iraq was not worth fighting and nearly half said they did not think it had contributed to the long-term security of the United States.

Among Hispanic voters, the economy ranked as the single most important issue, followed by edu-

cation, the war in Iraq and terrorism.

Bush and Kerry have actively courted the Hispanic vote, which could be crucial in key states like Arizona and Florida in a tight race. Around six million Latinos voted in the 2000 presidential elections, 35 per cent of them for Bush.

About 40 million Latinos live in the United States, of whom two-thirds are of Mexican origin, according to the US Census Bureau.

The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

MNA/Reuters

GM earns \$1.34b in second quarter

WASHINGTON, 23 July — General Motors Corp (GM) earned 1.34 billion US dollars, or 2.36 dollars a share, in the second quarter of this year, the world's largest automaker reported Wednesday.

The profit figure for April-June quarter was up from 901 million US dollars, or 1.58 US dollars a share, a year ago.

In the second quarter, GM North America earned 328 million US dollars versus 83 million US dollars a year ago. GM Asia Pacific earned 236 million US dollars, up from 163 million US dollars a year ago.

In Europe, however, GM had a loss of 45 million US dollars, compared with a loss of three million a year ago. Meanwhile, GM's global and North American market share declined. Its global market share fell to 14.7 per cent in the quarter from 14.9 per cent in the prior-year period. Its North American market share was 26.2 in the quarter, down

from 27.2 last year.

GM said its revenue rose 7.1 per cent to 49.1 billion US dollars in the quarter from 45.9 billion US dollars a year ago.

GM maintained its 2004 earnings estimate of approximately seven dollars a share. The current Wall Street estimate is 7.12 dollars a share.

MNA/Xinhua

New genome test finds big differences among people

WASHINGTON, 23 July — A new way of comparing DNA has turned up surprising genetic differences among normal, healthy people, researchers said on Thursday.

The researchers found — by accident — that some people are missing large chunks of DNA, while others have extra copies of stretches of DNA.

Writing in the journal *Science*, the researchers have dubbed these differences "copy number polymorphisms". They are found in genes linked with cancer risk, with how much people eat and with reactions to drugs. "Thus, a relationship between CNPs and susceptibility to health problems such as neurological disease, cancer, and obesity is an intriguing

possibility," the researchers wrote in their report.

The team at Cold Spring Harbour Laboratory in New York, the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden and elsewhere used a new kind of DNA test called Representational Oligonucleotide Microarray Analysis or ROMA.

"It can detect differences in DNA from any two sources," said Cold Spring Harbor spokesman Peter Sherwood. The researchers were looking for genetic differences linked with cancer.

"As a control in the

cancer experiment they compared normal to normal DNA, expecting it to be pretty much the same," Sherwood said in a telephone interview.

"They detected more than 70 of these large chunks of DNA that were altered in normal human cells."

These were large differences that have not been reported before — involving much more DNA than so-called single nucleotide polymorphisms, which are well-known single-letter changes in the A, C, T, G nucleotide code that makes up DNA. — MNA/Reuters

Colombian police discover US dollar counterfeiters

BOGOTA, 23 July — Colombian police discovered a fake money plant in northern Bogota that prints US dollar bills out of old Iraqi banknotes, officials said Wednesday.

The counterfeiters have developed an intricate washing technique to peel off the original prints on the banknote, said the police.

They deleted the portrait of the former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein before printing on the notes the picture of one of America's founding fathers Benjamin Franklin.

Apart from old dinars and the chemicals used in processing the bills, the police also found piles of fake bolivars and Colombian pesos at the site.

MNA/Xinhua



Natasha, a 5-year-old black macaque walks at the Safari Park near Tel Aviv on Tuesday, on 20 July, 2004. The young monkey began recently walking exclusively on her hind legs after a stomach ailment nearly killed her, zookeepers said. — INTERNET



China's Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp (SAIC) has been named as preferred bidder to take over South Korea's troubled Ssangyong Motor Co. Picture shows a Ssangyong production line. — INTERNET

New martian meteorite found in Antarctica

WASHINGTON, 23 July — A meteorite from Mars has been discovered in Antarctica, one of only about 30 known martian space rocks on Earth.

"We've gotten something like 13,000 meteorites from Antarctica and this is only the sixth one from Mars," Timothy McCoy, curator of meteorites at the Smithsonian Institution, said by telephone on Wednesday.

The rest of the known martian meteorites on this planet were found outside Antarctica, McCoy said by telephone.

What makes this rock special is its comparatively large size, he said: "It's a 700-gramme rock (about

1.5 pounds) but by meteorite standards it's a mountain of material."

Scientists can do effective work on amounts as little as one-thousandth of a gramme, McCoy said.

At this point, there is no suggestion that the new meteorite — discovered December 15, 2003, on an ice field some 466 miles from the South Pole — bears any evidence of possible microscopic fossilized life.

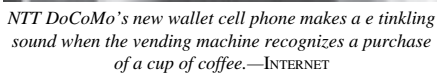
Some scientists believe an earlier meteorite found

in Antarctica and publicly unveiled in 1996 bore such signs; it is still being investigated.

The new martian meteorite was found as part of a cooperative effort funded by NASA and supported by the National Science Foundation.

Smithsonian scientists said they can establish the origin of the martian meteorites by their mineralogy, texture and oxidized nature.

MNA/Reuters



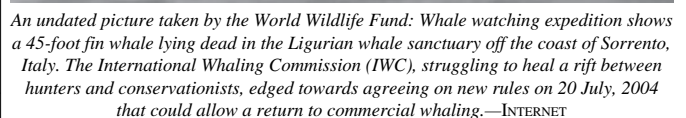
The last reported outbreak in Kagoshima was in 1984. Officials said further tests will be made to confirm if the pigs have the disease, which cannot be transmitted to humans. Officials could not say when final results would be known.—MNA/Reuters

The bipartisan commission has been investigating government failures related to the 2001 hijacked plane attacks, in which nearly 3,000 people died, and is due

MNA/Reuters

It is part of a government

Mintel said the beer market in France, Germany, Britain, Italy and Spain totalled around 59 billion euros (73 billion US dollars) last year with the lion's share — 40 per cent — taken by Germany just ahead of Britain on 39 per cent.— *MNA/Reuters*



"We have so far registered only single cases of typhoid," a deputy health minister told *Reuters*. He did not elaborate. —MNA/Reuters

ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့် ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန

SPORTS

Rivaldo close to joining Olympiakos

ATHENS, 22 July — Greek Champions League hopefuls Olympiakos are poised to sign former World Player of the Year Rivaldo, the club said on Wednesday.

"Rivaldo is coming from Madrid tonight with (senior club official Giorgos) Louvaris," said a spokeswoman for Olympiakos, who finished second in the Greek first division to book a place in the elite Champions League.

Greek media have billed the deal as the "biggest-ever transfer in Greek football history", speculating the 32-year-old Brazilian would earn up to 1.5 million euros (1.86 million US dollars) per year.

The career of the 2002 World Cup winner has been in limbo since he was released by AC Milan in December.

He joined Brazil's Cruzeiro soon after but walked out after less than two months. He has since been linked with moves to England's Bolton Wanderers, Scottish champions Celtic, German side Werder Bremen and clubs in the Middle East. — MNA/Reuters

Benfica's Tiago signs for Chelsea

LONDON, 22 July — Chelsea have signed Portugal midfielder Tiago Mendes from Benfica on a three-year deal, the English Premier League club said on Wednesday.

The 23-year-old had completed a medical on Monday and will be part of a 23-man squad flying out to the United States later on Wednesday for a pre-season tour.

Chelsea did not reveal the transfer fee, which has been put at 10 million pounds (18.56 million US dollars) by British media reports. It would take Chelsea's spending on players since Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich took over the club in July 2003 to around 190 million US dollars.

A member of the Portugal squad that reached the Euro 2004 final, Tiago signed late on Tuesday night, hours after Chelsea completed the signing of Ivory Coast striker Didier Drogba from Olympique Marseille

for an estimated 24 million pounds.

Tiago is Chelsea's fourth recruit under new Portuguese manager Jose Mourinho after Drogba, Serbia and Montenegro striker Mateja Kezman and defender and Portugal team mate Paulo Ferreira.

Chelsea, who agreed deals before Mourinho's appointment for Dutch winger Arjen Robben and Czech keeper Petr Cech, are looking to improve on last season's runners-up slot in the premier league under former boss Claudio Ranieri.

Hours before completing the deal for Tiago, Mourinho had told reporters he was looking for a midfielder and a central defender to complete his squad for 2004-05.

The search for a defender could well be called off as the Portuguese coach has frequently said he did not want to sign any more players after leaving for the US tour, where his side will face Celtic, AC Milan and AS Roma. — MNA/Reuters

Ecuador coach Gomez offers to resign

QUITO (Ecuador), 23 July — Ecuador coach Hernan Dario Gomez offered to resign on Thursday, a spokesman for the national soccer federation said.

Gomez, a Colombian, has sent a letter offering to quit, spokesman Pedro Mauricio Munoz said, adding that the federation had not yet accepted his resignation.

The federation has called a Press conference for 5pm local time (2200 GMT) to analyse the coach's "situation". Soccer federation president Luis Chiriboga declined to comment.

Gomez, who took Ecuador to their first World Cup in 2002, had said he might step down after his team lost 6-1 to Argentina in their first group match at the Copa America earlier this month but later said he hoped to continue in the job.

Ecuador finished bottom of Group B after losing all three of their Copa America matches. — MNA/Reuters

Ronaldo, Tiago may miss premier league kick off

LISBON, 22 July — Manchester United winger Cristiano Ronaldo and Chelsea's new capture Tiago Mendes could miss the start of the English Premier League season after being named on Wednesday in Portugal's squad for the Athens Olympics.

Ronaldo, who played a major role in host Portugal's march to the Euro 2004 final, and Chelsea's newly-signed Tiago are joined by Fulham's Luis Boa Morte as an over-age player alongside VfB Stuttgart defender Fernando Meira and Boavista's Nuno Frechaut.

The English-based players could miss two weeks of the season if Portugal reach the Olympic soccer final on August 28. They have been drawn with Iraq, Morocco and Costa Rica in Group D.

United start the campaign at Chelsea before hosting promoted Norwich City followed by a visit to Blackburn Rovers on August 28. Chelsea also have trips to Birmingham City and newcomers Crystal Palace before the visit of Southampton.

Germany's Bundesliga kicks off on August 6 with Meira likely to miss Stuttgart's matches at home to FSV Mainz and visits to Nuremberg and Kaiserslautern.

The Portuguese Super Liga season kicks off on August 29. — MNA/Reuters



Brazil's goalkeeper Julio Cesar stops a penalty shot from Uruguay during a semi-final game of the Copa America in Lima, Peru, on Wednesday, 21 July, 2004. Brazil won the match on penalty kicks 5-3, after the game ended in a 1-1 draw. Brazil will face Argentina in the Copa America final on 25 July. — INTERNET

Brazil edge Uruguay to set up Argentina final

LIMA, July 23 — World champions Brazil set up a Copa America final against arch-rivals Argentina by beating Uruguay on penalties following a 1-1 draw in their semifinal on Wednesday.

Uruguay dominated the first half and stunned the world champions by taking a 22nd-minute lead with a Marcelo Sosa header Brazil forward Adriano equalized two minutes into the second half with his sixth goal of the tournament in a game witnessed by a disappointing crowd of around 15,000, local interest having diminished after host Peru's quarterfinals exit.

Brazil, who have reached the final despite resting top players such as Ronaldo and Ronaldinho, then converted all five of their penalties while goalkeeper Julio Cesar saved Vicente Sanchez' fourth attempt for Uruguay.

Uruguay made a lively start and nearly went ahead in the second minute when Dario Silva was given a clear run on goal but shot straight at goalkeeper Julio Cesar.

Silva was again the culprit 11 minutes later when he contrived to miss an open

goal from point-blank range, somehow turning Carlos Diogo's header onto the crossbar when it seemed impossible to miss.

Uruguay, however, took the lead when Javier Delgado floated over a free kick from the left and midfielder Sosa, known as "The Duck", stooped to head the ball past Julio Cesar Sosa and Delgado both came close to increasing Uruguay's lead before halftime, the latter seeing his swerving free kick turned away by Julio Cesar.

Uruguay goalkeeper Sebastian Viera made two good first half saves, punching over Kleber's drive early on and then turning away a cunning Edu chip in injury time Brazil emerged in a different frame of mind after halftime and levelled almost straight away when Alex set Luis Fabiano away on the right and his low shot was turned in from close range by Adriano.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese athletics coach pledges a clean Olympic team

BEIJING, 22 July — China will take every possible measure to ensure their track and field athletes drug free in their preparations for the Athens Olympics Games, said Feng Shuyong, head coach of the Chinese national team.

"We always take strict measures to crack down on those who risks taking banned drugs. But I cannot guarantee no athlete takes banned drugs because you can never ensure a crime-free society even though the law is always there," Feng told reporters at a Press conference here on Wednesday.

The national team has invited some experts to give lessons on how serious damages banned drugs can do to athletes' health.

"All the athletes think that the lessons are very useful and instructive," Feng said.

He added that the athletes have been asked not to eat outside the national team or accept food or drinks from outside the training camp.

"They are also told not to buy medicine from drug stores when feeling ill," he said. "Only the team doctors can be trusted."

"They must take every measure to avoid mistakenly taking any banned drugs," he added. — MNA/Xinhua



Greg Rusedski of Great Britain returns a shot to Joachim Johansson of Sweden during the RCA Tennis Championships at the Indianapolis Tennis Centre in Indianapolis. Johansson outlasted Rusedski to win 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-4. — INTERNET

Autuori remains Peru coach despite Copa America exit

LIMA, 22 July — Paulo Autuori will remain as Peru coach despite their disappointing quarterfinals exit from the Copa America, the chief of the country's football federation said on Wednesday.

"Autuori's continuity was never in doubt," Manuel Burga told local radio station RPP. Hosts Peru went out of the tournament after losing 1-0 to Argentina and Autuori's tactic of fielding just one striker for the match was criticized by media.

The Brazilian coach had called up five forwards for the Copa America but Claudio Pizarro and Flavio Maestri were unavailable for the quarterfinal because of injury and Jefferson Farfan

was suspended.

"We've got to carry on (with Autuori) because we've still got a long way to go and a difficult road ahead in the (2006 World Cup) qualifiers," Burga said.

Peru are seventh in the 10-team World Cup South American qualifying group with nine points from seven games. The top four teams qualify for the finals in Germany directly, with the fifth playing off against the Oceania winners.

Peru have not been to a World Cup finals since 1982.

Autuori was fined 2,000 US dollars by Copa America organizers during the tournament for failing to attend two post-match media con-

ferences after a tabloid newspaper claimed Peru's disappointing 2-2 draw with Bolivia was because two players had been on a drinking binge. The players denied the report. — MNA/Xinhua

Japan coach Zico wary of Thai team

CHONGQING (China), 23 July — Japan coach Zico has said his side will not take a Thailand team, who are in disarray, lightly in their second Asian Cup match this weekend.

"We know they can be a dangerous team on the break so we must be careful," said the Brazilian, whose side were lucky to beat Oman 1-0 in their Group D opener on Tuesday. — MNA/Reuters

MRTV-3



24-7-2004 (Saturday)
(Programme Schedule)

Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Let's have a chat online!
- 9:10 Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Clam Omelette"
- 9:15 National News**
- 9:20 Road to Mingun
- 9:25 Kham Traditional Cultural Dance
- 9:30 National News**
- 9:35 Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (III)
- 9:40 Song "Welcome to Treasure Land"
- 9:45 National News**
- 9:50 Foreign Correspondents Visit Border Areas (Tachileik) (Part-5)
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

24-7-2004 (Saturday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

- 15:30 Signature Tune Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights

- "Mingalabar"
- 15:36 Let's have a chat online!
- 15:40 Headline News**
- 15:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Clam Omelette"
- 15:45 National News**
- 15:50 Road to Mingun
- 15:55 Kham Traditional Cultural Dance
- 16:00 National News**
- 16:05 Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (III)
- 16:10 Song "Welcome to Treasure Land"
- 16:15 National News**
- 16:20 Foreign Correspondents Visit Border Areas (Tachileik) (Part-5)
- 16:30 National News**
- 16:35 Let's meet at the cafe!
- 16:40 Discussion Points on Lacquerware College
- 16:45 National News**
- 16:50 Myanmar Movies Impact "Love Without Comparison"
- 17:00 Weekly News Highlights**
- 17:05 Myanmar Modern Song "Loving Smile"
- 17:10 The Art of Making Paper Toys
- 17:15 Weekly News Highlights**
- 17:20 Travel & Description (Mandalay to Lashio)
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
- Evening Transmission**
(19:30 - 23:30)

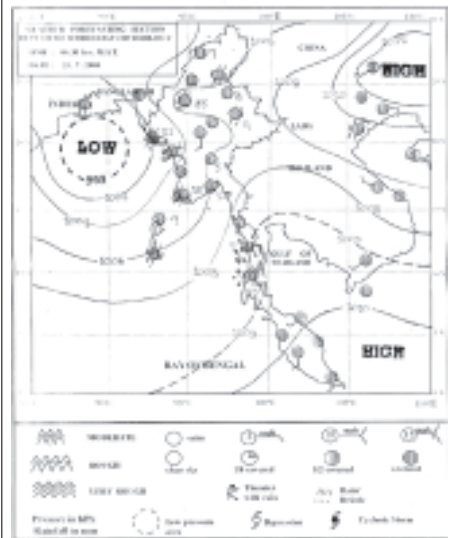
- 19:30 Signature Tune Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
- 19:36 Blue Sea
- 19:40 Headline News**
- 19:42 Adept Sons of Inlay Lake
- 19:45 National News**
- 19:50 Hot Springs in Lashio and Nam-Kham
- 19:55 Sagaing Hill
- 20:00 National News**
- 20:05 Hsinbyushin Temples, Stone Carving and Monasteries
- 20:10 Song "Greetings from Chin Hills"
- 20:15 National News**
- 20:20 Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (II)
- 20:25 Song on Screen "Where does love begin?"
- 20:30 National News**
- 20:35 Golden Plum Job of Central Myanmar
- 20:40 Myanma Traditional Bronze Casting
- 20:45 National News**
- 20:50 Safari in Style
- 20:55 Performance of king Brahminy Bird Dance
- 21:00 National News**
- 21:05 Myanmar Modern Song Flowers in Profusion"
- 21:10 Tour In Myanmar "Bago, Thanlyin"
- 21:15 Weekly News Highlights**
- 21:20 A Glimpse at the Mighty Loggers
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"

- 21:35 Let's have a chat online!
- 21:40 Headline News**
- 21:42 Easily Cooked Tasty Dishes "Clam Omelette"
- 21:45 National News**
- 21:50 Road to Mingun
- 21:55 Kham Traditional Cultural Dance
- 22:00 National News**
- 22:05 Expedition of Rare Crocodile Species Inhabiting in Fresh And Seawaters (III)
- 22:10 Song "Welcome to Treasure Land"
- 22:15 National News**
- 22:20 Foreign Correspondents Visit Border Areas (Tachileik) (Part-5)
- 22:25 Myanmar Modern Song "The Night when We celebrate Donyein Dance"
- 22:30 National News**
- 22:35 Let's meet at the cafe!
- 22:40 Discussion Points on Lacquerware College
- 22:45 National News**
- 22:50 Myanmar Movies Impact "Love Without Comparison"
- 23:00 National News**
- 23:05 Myanmar Modern Song "Loving Smile"
- 23:10 The Art of Making Paper Toys
- 23:15 Weekly News Highlights**
- 23:20 Travel & Description (Mandalay to Lashio)
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Rainfall on 23-7-2004

- (0.08 inch) at Yangon Airport,
- (0.04 inch) at Kaba-Aye and
- (0.04 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1555 mm (61.22 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1510 mm (59.45 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1948 mm (58.98 inches) at central Yangon.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 23 July, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Magway Division, Kayah and Kayin States, scattered in Mon State, Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in upper Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mawlaik (3.07) inches and Kawthong (1.69) inches.

Maximum temperature on 22-7-2004 was 29.8°C (86°F). Minimum temperature on 23-7-2004 was 21.2°C (70°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 23-7-2004 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 22-7-2004 was (0.6) hour approx. Rainfall on 23-7-2004 was (0.08 inch) at Yangon Airport, (0.04 inch) at Kaba-Aye and (0.04 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1555 mm (61.22 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1510 mm (59.45 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1498 mm (58.98 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 5 mph from Southeast at 15:05 hours MST on 22-7-2004.

Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 24-7-2004:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in Kachin and Shan States, Mandalay, Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%). **State of the sea:** Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coast Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: General decrease of rain in the whole country. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-7-2004:** Sunny period with one or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-7-2004: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Flood Warning

(Issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 23-7-2004)

The water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an is (736) cm. The water level may reach its danger level of (750) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 23-7-2004)

The water levels of Chindwin River are above the danger levels about 9-ft at Hkamti, 4-ft at Homalin, 4.5-ft at Mawlaik, 3-ft at Kalewa and .5-ft at Monywa. The water levels may remain above the danger levels during the next (4) days commencing noon today.

The water level Ayeyawady River at Henzada has exceed the danger level. The water level may remain above the danger level during the next (4) days commencing noon today.



Saturday, July 24
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
- 7:50 am**
- 5. Dance Variety
- 8:00 am**
- 6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
- 8:15 am**
- 7. ဂရုစိုက်ရေးကဏ္ဍတစ်ခု
- 8:30 am**
- 8. International News
- 8:45 am**
- 9. Grammar Made Easy
- 11:00 am**
- 1. Martial Song
- 11:15 am**
- 2. Musical Programme

- 11:30 am**
- 3. News
- 11:40 am**
- 4. Round-up of the Week's Local News
- 1:30 pm**
- 5. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သမ္မတရုပ်ပုံ" (အပိုင်း-၁၁)
- 2:00 pm**
- 6. ယဉ်ကျေးမှုလှည့်ကျပြပွဲများနှင့် ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားပွဲများ
- 2:15 pm**
- 7. "အတတ်ပညာစာပေနှင့်" (မင်းမောင်ကျန်း၊ ပြဿနာလီ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မောင်မောင်)
- 2:30 pm**
- 8. Dance of National Races
- 2:45 pm**
- 9. International News
- 4:00 pm**
- 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
- 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
- 3. English For Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm**
- 4. Musical Programme
- 5:00 pm**
- 5. အဆောင်အယောင်တို့၏ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုမြင်ကွင်းများနှင့် အဆောင်အယောင်တို့၏ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုမြင်ကွင်းများ - ပထမအပိုင်း (သမ္မတ၊ စာတည်း၊ ရုပ်ပုံဆေးဆေး၊ ပြဿနာ) (သမ္မတ)
- 5:15 pm**
- 6. မြန်မာ့ပြည်ထောင်စုတော်များ

- 5:30 pm**
- 7. နားထောင်ဖွယ်ရာကဏ္ဍ
- 5:35 pm**
- 8. Musical Programme
- 5:45 pm**
- 9. မြန်မာ့စာပေနှင့်
- 5:55 pm**
- 10. Games for Children
- 6:20 pm**
- 11. Musical Programme
- 6:30 pm**
- 12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
- 13. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
- 14. Discovery
- 7:15 pm**
- 15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နဂါးပိုင်" (အပိုင်း-၃၁)
- 7:45 pm**
- 16. သာယာဝတီမြို့နယ်နှင့် မင်းလမ်းမြို့နယ်တို့ရှိ ရန်ကုန်မြို့ (အပိုင်း-၂)
- 8:00 pm**
- 17. News
- 18. International news
- 19. Weather report
- 20. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နဂါးပိုင်" (အပိုင်း-၃၂)
- 21. မင်းလမ်းမြို့နယ်တော်များနှင့် မင်းလမ်းမြို့နယ်တော်များရှိ ရန်ကုန်မြို့ (အပိုင်း-၃)
- 22. The next day's programme



Saturday, July 24
Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music: I just wanna be with you
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music: The last goodbye
- 8.55 am** National news/Slogan
- 9.05 am** Music: Tarzan & Jane
- 9.10 am** International news
- 9.15 am** Music: (Spotlight on a star)
- 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm** Request
- From this moment on
- Endless love
- Up where we belong
- 9.00 pm** ASEAN Review
- News
- 9.10 pm** Article
- 9.20 pm** Myanma culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
- Flora in Myanma Culture
- 9:30 pm** Souvenirs
- I love you
- Getting better
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Representative Mr Charles James Petrie and UNICEF Representative Ms Carroll C Long. — MNA

Prime Minister receives UN officials

YANGON, 23 July—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Representative Mr Charles James Petrie and UNICEF Representative Ms Carroll C Long at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinthar here at 5.30 pm today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General at the Prime Minister's Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet and Director-General of International Organizations and Economic Department U Win Mra. — MNA

Tasks carried out at the National Convention held from 17 May to 9 July 2004 reviewed
The NCC Commission, the NCC Work Committee and the NCC Management Committee are to deal with the future plans in advance during the period when the National Convention is in recess and to discuss measures to be taken when the NC will be recovered.



National Convention Convening Commission Chairman Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses the coordination meeting of the NCC Commission, Work Committee and Management Committee. — MNA

NCC Commission, Work Committee, Management Committee meet

YANGON, 23 July—The National Convention Convening Commission, the NC Work Committee and the

NC Management Committee held a coordination meeting at the NCCC in Kyaikkasan Grounds this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the NCCC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were NCCC members, Chairman of the Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung and members, Chairman of the Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Vice-Chairman Maj-Gen Than Htay and members.

Joint-Secretary-2 of the Commission Director-General of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office U Myint Thein acted as Master of Ceremonies.

In his address, the NCCC Chairman said that the meeting was held to review the tasks carried out at the National Convention from 17 May until 9 July 2004 and management work. The Commission, the Work Committee and the Management Committee are to deal with the future plans in advance during the period the NC is in recess and to discuss measures to be taken when the NC will be recovered, he elaborated.

The Work Committee Chairman presented matters on the work done by the Work Committee during the National Convention, and steps being taken by the Panel of Chairmen of the NC during the period when the NC is in recess; and the Management Committee Chairman on management tasks carried out, financial statements and giving medical treatments to the NC delegates.

It was followed by a general round of discussions held by those present.

Afterwards, the NCCC Chairman delivered concluding remarks.

MNA

Locomotives, machinery to be produced by entrepreneurs for MR

YANGON, 23 July — The sixth coordination meeting to supply locomotives, carriages, spare parts and machinery to Myanmar Railways under the Ministry of Rail Transportation by entrepreneurs was held at the Locomotive Shed (Insein) this morning with an address by Rail Transportation Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min. In his address, the minister said that a total of 935 kinds of rolling stocks will be put on display for seven days up to 30 July. The meeting will benefit both entrepreneurs and MR. Next, the Minister explained matters on providing assistance to technicians, entrepreneurs and the Myanmar Railways who will manufacture machinery. — MNA

Stimulant pills seized in Laukkai

YANGON, 23 July—A combined team made up of members of local intelligence unit and Shan State (North) Special Region 1, acting on information, searched Sit Laung Chain and seized 5.544 million stimulant tablets and 28 kilos of ephedrine at Hawphyinchaing village near Yanlonkyaing Myothit in Laukkai Township on 4 July. Action is being taken by the police against Sit Laung Chain, son of U Yan Chain of Laukkai, under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. MNA

INSIDE

Perspectives

From Paukphaw friendship to fraternal relations between Myanmar and China
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