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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects classrooms at BEPS No 15 in Thingangyun Township.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends opening of school buildings at BEPSs in Thingangyun Township

YANGON, 24 July — Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt this morning attended the ceremonies to open school buildings at Thingangyun Basic Education Primary School No 33, BEPS No 15 and BEPS No 5 built by Shwedaung International Co Ltd and Tosta Construction under the supervision of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development. Also present on the occasions were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, the minister-counsellor and officials of Embassies of the People's Republic of China,

the Republic of Philippines and Cambodia, departmental officials, social organizations, teachers and students. First, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, Chairman of Shwedaung International Co Ltd U Aik Tun and Tosta Construction Managing Director U Ohn Myint formally opened the

building of BEPS No 33.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected the new school building. It is 208 feet by 30 feet RC three-storey building which has fourteen 24-foot-by-30-foot classrooms.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to the opening ceremony of BEPS No 15 at Malikha Housing Estate Project in Thingangyun Township. At the ceremony,

the Commander, the Deputy Minister for Construction, the Deputy Minister for Education and the Chairman of Shwedaung International Co Ltd formally cut the

(See page 8)

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

The three-storey school building of Thingangyun BEPS-33 is 208 feet long and 30 feet wide and it has fourteen 24-foot-by-30-foot classrooms. The two-storey school building of Thingangyun BEPS-15 is 170 feet long and 30 feet wide and it has ten classrooms. The three-storey school building of Thingangyun BEPS-5 is 204 feet long and 30 feet wide and it has fifteen 24-foot-by-30-foot classrooms.



The opening ceremony of new school building in progress in BEPS No 5 in Thingangyun Township.— MNA

INSIDE

Perspectives

Promoting economic and border area development
Cooperation between Myanmar and PRC
(Page 2)

Article

Panhsaung village becomes a town
(Page 7)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 25 July, 2004

Promoting economic and border area development cooperation between Myanmar and PRC

The Government is making every effort to raise the living standard of the entire national people and for ensuring equitable development of the regions of the Union of Myanmar which is made up of numerous national races.

Myanmar and the People's Republic of China share a long border of over 2,000 kilometres and throughout the long history they have dealt with each other in a spirit of good neighbourliness.

Although Myanmar and the PRC established diplomatic ties on 8 June 1950, relations between the two countries date back to years countable by the thousands.

There have been many changes in the world political order, but the two countries could maintain good relations based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

Leaders of the two countries in the successive eras tried their best to promote and strengthen friendship between the two countries. Reciprocal visits of the leaders of the two nations including Chinese leaders' visit to Myanmar and the visits of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt to the PRC, have deepened and strengthened the friendship.

In his address delivered at 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 on 23 July, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that the Myanmar-China 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.

Myanmar and China have agreed to promote efficiency and improve management at entry gates at the border, to repair border posts, to ensure the rule of law and 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.

As 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 were discussed during the Prime Minister's recent visit to the PRC, we firmly believe that emphasis will be placed on cooperation in endeavours for economic development of the two countries and raising the living standard of peoples living in border areas of both sides.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရနှင့်

မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရန်

လစဉ်လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်တန်နွေနေ့နှင့်နောက်ဆုံးပတ်တန်နွေနေ့ တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပမော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရန် ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လအတွက် (၂၅-၇-၂၀၀၄)

၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ်၊ ဩဂုတ်လအတွက် (၁၅-၈-၂၀၀၄) နှင့် (၂၉-၈-၂၀၀၄)

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

Waso robes offering ceremonies held

YANGON, 24 July —The seventh Waso robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Industry-1 was held at the training hall of the ministry here at 9.30 am today. Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang, wife Daw Khin Khin Yi, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun, officials, staff and families offered Waso robes to 85 members of the Sangha.

Likewise, the Waso robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Industry-2 was held at the Aungban Monastery on Bahan 3rd lane here at 10 am today. Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin and wife, Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and wife, officials, staff and families offered Waso robes to members of the Sangha.

The sixth Waso robes offering ceremony of the

Ministry of Labour was held at the ministry's Dhammayon on Old Yedashe Road in Bahan Township here at 9.30 am today. Minister for Labour U Tin Winn, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Sein, officials, staff and families offered Waso robes to members of the Sangha.

Similarly, the 24th Waso robes offering ceremony of the Internal Revenue Department was held at the department's Dhammayon near the northern stairways of Shwedagon Pagoda here at 9 am today. Director-General of the Internal Revenue Department U Win Naing and wife, Myanmar Insurance Managing Director U Thein Lwin and wife, officials, staff and families offered Waso robes to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. — MNA



Minister for PBNRDA Col Thein Nyunt meets with officials concerned and USDA secretaries in Nyaungdon. — PBNRDA

Development works inspected

YANGON, 24 July —Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, accompanied by officials, toured Pantanaw and Nyaungdon towns this morning and inspected development works. At the Nyaungdon Township Development Affairs Committee, the minister met executive officers and engineers in-charge of Maubin, Nyaungdon and Danuby towns and USDA

secretaries and discussed matters on rural development works. Similarly, the minister met local authorities, the Township executive officer, engineer in-charge, USDA secretaries and executives at the Pantanaw Township Development Affairs Committee. Later the minister and party inspected the progress of rural housing projects at Theingon village, Kyaunggalay village-tract in Pantanaw Township. — MNA



Tourism seminar held

YANGON, 24 July —The Seminar on Tourism, Globalisation and Sufficiency Economy Theory in Myanmar, jointly sponsored by UMFCFI and Thai Foundation for International Human Resource Development, concluded at the Sedona Hotel here at 5 pm yesterday.

Mr Warima Photisombut and Ms Valapa Burasapatt of Foundation for In-

ternational Human Resource Development of Thailand spoke words of thanks to participants.

Next, UMFCFI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing presented completion certificates to participants. Myanmar Tourism Entrepreneurs Association Chairman U Khin Zaw and officials presented gifts of honour to those who gave lectures at the seminar. — MNA

Basketball C'ship ends

YANGON, 24 July — Prizes were presented to winners in the National Basketball Championship 2004, co-sponsored by Myanmar Basketball Federation and Mikko Coffee Mix at Aung San Gymnasium this afternoon.

Before the prize presentation ceremony, the final matches were held. Industry-1 (A) team secured the championship trophy after winning over LSK team 58-44 points in the men's junior event. Agriculture & Irrigation team emerged champion beating Industry-1 (A) team 62-46 points in the women's event. Likewise, Industry-1 (A) team defeated Ga Ga (A) team 82-60 points and bagged the championship in the men's senior event.

After the matches, Vice-President of MBF Daw Nu Nu Yi, General Secretary U Maung Maung Myint and executives presented prizes to the winners.

Next, President Dr Sein Myint presented a certificate of honour to Managing Director U Nyi Nyi Aung of Mikko Coffee Mix who contributed to organizing of the championship. Later, the President awarded championship trophies to the prize-winning teams.

MNA

UMFCFI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing presents certificate to a participant. — UMFCFI

ရေဖြောင့်ပေးပို့အောင်စာရင်းနှင့် လူတွေ့စစ်ဆေးခြင်း

- ၁။ မြန်မာအသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား MRTV-4 အတွက် ဧည့်သည်များ ရုပ်သံကျွန်းကျင်(၂) (လစာနှုန်းကျပ် ၄၄၀၀-၁၀၀-၅၅၀၀) ရာထူးအတွက် ရေဖြောင့်ပေးပို့အောင်စာရင်းနှင့် လူတွေ့စစ်ဆေးခြင်း အစီအစဉ်ကို မြန်မာအသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားတွင် (၂၀-၇-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့မှစ၍ ကြေငြာထားပါသည်။
- ၂။ နယ်မြေဆိုင်ရာများအနေဖြင့် အောင်စာရင်းနှင့် လူတွေ့စစ်ဆေးခြင်း အစီအစဉ်ကို ဖုန်း ၅၇၇၈၅၇၊ ၅၇၇၁၂၂၊ လိုင်း(၁၄၄) နှင့် (၁၄၄) သို့ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။
- ၃။ လူတွေ့စစ်ဆေးမှုများသည် မြေဆိုင်ရာနှင့်ပညာအရည်အချင်း အောင်လက်မှတ်မရပြီး အသက်အထောက်အထားအတွက် အခြေခံပညာ အထက်တန်း အောင်လက်မှတ်မရပြီး နိုင်ငံသားစိစစ်ရေးကတ်များကို တစ်ပါတည်း လူဆောင်လာရမည်။ မြန်မာအသံနှင့်ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား

Egyptian diplomat kidnapped in Iraq

CAIRO, 23 July — Al-Jazeera television broadcast a videotape Friday from militants who claim to have kidnapped an Egyptian diplomat in Iraq.

The diplomat, identified as Mohammed Mamdouh Helmi Quttab, was shown seated in front of six masked kidnappers. They were clad in black hoods and robes, with white headbands. One was holding an assault rifle and another had a pistol on his hip.

The group, which called itself the Lions of Allah Brigade, said it had abducted him because the Egyptian government said it was prepared to deploy security experts to help the

interim government in Iraq.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials confirmed they have a diplomat in their Baghdad mission by the name of Mamdouh Qutb, but not Quttab. The officials said they were checking the Al-Jazeera report.

The Al-Jazeera newscaster read a report of what is on the videotape. The militants made no specific threat against the diplomat. —*Internet*

Afghan car bomb wounds four US soldiers

KANDAHAR, 23 July — A powerful car bomb exploded near Kandahar city as a US military convoy was passing, seriously wounding four American soldiers.

The attack was one of several reported across southern Afghanistan on Friday and late on Thursday.

More than 600 people, including soldiers, international workers and civilians, have died in violence in Afghanistan this year.

"When our forces reached the scene of the explosion, they saw four American soldiers lying on the road covered in blood. They were seriously wounded," said General Salim Khan, deputy police chief of Kandahar Province. "I do not know if any of them died."

A policeman at the scene, Tor Jan, and several witnesses also said they saw four injured American soldiers on the road. Tor Jan said two of the soldiers had died, although Khan would not confirm that account.

Internet

US deports 89 Filipino immigrants

MANILA, 23 July — The United States deported Thursday 89 Filipino immigrants "for various reasons," reported local media Friday.

The *Today* and the *Manila Standard* newspapers quoted Customs officials as saying that the deportees were flown into the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport aboard an American TransAir flight from Ontario, California.

The deportation coincided with arrival home of Filipino truck driver Angelo dela Cruz, released by Iraqi militants after President Arroyo ordered the pullout of Filipino humanitarian contingent from Iraq.

The reports said that the deportees were handcuffed during part of the flight "because some of them had been charged with crimes such as assault, car theft and drug-related activities".

The handcuffs were removed by US immigration agents upon entering Philippine air space.

Another group of Filipino immigrants deported by US authorities were due to arrive Friday morning, said the reports.

Internet



US Army soldiers patrol in an armoured vehicle near Haifa Street in downtown Baghdad, on 22 July, 2004. —INTERNET

Small UN contingent to return to Iraq in August

UNITED NATIONS, 23 July — The new UN chief envoy for Iraq will go to Baghdad next month along with a small team to reestablish a permanent UN presence, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Thursday.

Veteran Pakistani diplomat Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, Annan's newly appointed special representative for Iraq, dismissed concerns UN officials would be unwelcome in the country torn by lawlessness but acknowledged security was a top concern.

"I believe there is every reason for the Iraqi people to see the UN mission in Iraq as a mission in their service — for them — and it will be my job to strengthen that impression,"

Qazi told reporters.

The world body at one point had some 600 international staff working in Iraq following the US-led invasion.

But from what he has heard, Qazi said Iraqis "believe the UN has a vital role to play... in bringing about a political transition in which the entire Iraqi people are stakeholders."

While all security precautions would be taken, "ultimately, of course, life is in Allah's hands", Qazi said.

Just a handful of UN staff are in Iraq at the moment — a team of technical experts helping set up a national conference on Iraq's political future, and a security liaison team.

Hundreds of other UN staff are working on Iraqi projects from neighbouring Jordan. But a large permanent presence in Iraq would need soldiers to protect them, Annan said.

The Security Council has called for a dedicated force to protect UN staff. But no

country has yet agreed to contribute troops although several have discussed the possibility including Pakistan, Nepal, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine.

MNA/Reuters

Two US soldiers killed in Iraq attack

BAGHDAD, 23 July — A roadside bomb in the northern city of Samarra killed two American soldiers and wounded another, the US military said Friday.

A US military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the bombing occurred at 6.30 pm Thursday south of Samarra, a hotbed of violence 60 miles north of Baghdad.

Earlier this week, US forces and militants engaged in running gunbattles in Samarra. Four Iraqis were killed and five were wounded, said Ahmed Jaddo, a hospital official. The latest deaths as counted by *The Associated Press* took the US death toll in Iraq since the beginning of the war to 902. According to the Defence Department, 897 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq as of Thursday, 22 July. Of those, 663 died as a result of hostile action and 234 died of non-hostile causes.

Internet

Diplomats battle to free six hostages in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 23 July — Diplomats in Baghdad battled on Thursday to win the release of three captured Indians, two Kenyans and an Egyptian after their kidnappers threatened to behead them one by one unless their employer pulled out of Iraq.

The capture of the six contract workers, who were shown on Wednesday in video footage sent to Arabic satellite channel Al-Arabiya as masked gunmen read out their demands, sparked a new hostage crisis just a day after guerillas released a Filipino driver following Manila's capitulation to their demands.

Indian Junior Foreign Minister Edaepakath Ahmad said New Delhi was doing everything it could to get the Indians freed.

"India has taken a stand of not sending troops to Iraq. We will only be extending humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people," Ahmad told *Reuters*. He said he expected the captors to be sympathetic once they knew of India's position.

The Indian embassies in Baghdad and Kuwait were trying to obtain details of the men who had been taken

hostage, he said.

The guerillas have also demanded that India, Kenya and Egypt withdraw their citizens from Iraq. None of the countries are part of the US-led military coalition in Iraq but many of their nationals work as drivers and contractors.

Kenyan Foreign Minister Kalonzo Musyoka said no Kenyans were on official business in Iraq.

"We don't have anybody in Iraq. These are people who went to look for employment," Musyoka told *Reuters*. "We will do everything possible to get them back home."

An Egyptian diplomatic source confirmed that an Egyptian truck driver named Mohammed Ali had been taken hostage. On Monday, another Egyptian hostage was freed after his Saudi employer pledged to stop doing business in Iraq. —*MNA/Reuters*



A US Kiowa military helicopter flies over a soldier in a Bradley armoured vehicle during a raid in central Baghdad, on 22 July, 2004. —INTERNET

US Senators demand speed-up of aid to Iraq

WASHINGTON, 23 July — A State Department effort to redirect billions of dollars in US reconstruction funds for Iraq into smaller, faster projects that yield jobs may come too late to stem violence there, senators said on Thursday.

Only about 500 million US dollars of the 18.4 billion US dollars approved

by Congress in reconstruction funds for Iraq this year has been spent and the State Department, which is now overseeing the funds, is considering ways to get the money out more quickly.

Ronald Schlicher, the State Department's coordinator for Iraqi affairs told a meeting of the Senate For-

eign Relations Committee that initial work on the review would be done by the end of the month.

Committee Chairman Richard Lugar, an Indiana Republican, said the slow pace of the work was exasperating and urged the State Department to "get on with it".

MNA/Reuters

US anti-war group pushing to stage huge demonstration

NEW YORK, 22 July — An anti-war group that had been pushing to stage a huge demonstration in Central Park during the Republican National Convention has agreed to accept an alternative location suggested by the New York City authorities, the group announced Wednesday.

Bill Dobbs, spokesman for the United for Peace and Justice, said the group felt "forced" by police officials to go along with the city's plan because of time restraints.

Under the compromise plan, demonstrators will march up Seventh Avenue, across 34th Street past Madison Square Garden, the convention site, and then continue down the West Side Highway. The march is set for August 29, the day before the convention opens.

The United for Peace and Justice, which applied for a permit over a year ago, has been engaged in a public struggle with the city for months.

The Parks Department denied their original request orally on Central Park's Great Lawn, saying the projected crowd of 250,000 people would damage the grass.

Both sides at times have accused the other of stalling negotiations. The anti-war group has staged protests at City Hall, and on one occasion sent some of its members to meet Mayor Bloomberg as he arrived for work in the morning.

Meanwhile, the city is appealing against a court ruling restricting police tactics for controlling protesters during the convention. A federal judge ruled Monday that police may not search demonstrators' bags unless they can show a specific threat to public safety.

Officers will be allowed to conduct less intrusive searches, such as those using metal detecting wands. The decision also requires that protesters be allowed to move freely in and out of

metal pens used to contain them.

The New York Civil Liberties Union filed the lawsuit over police tactics at anti-war demonstrations last year. The group claimed victory with the ruling.

A Quinnipiac University poll released Tuesday showed that 75 per cent of voters said the anti-war group should have been allowed to protest in Central Park.

MNA/Xinhua

Four Iraqis killed in clashes with US forces

BAGHDAD, 22 July — At least four people were killed and 14 others wounded in clashes with the US forces in west Iraq Wednesday, Qatar-based al-Jazeera TV channel reported.

A US military spokesman confirmed that American soldiers were battling guerillas in the Sunni bastion of Ramadi, a restive city some 100 kilometers west of Baghdad.

The clashes erupted when gunmen attacked a building used by US snipers east of the city with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns, the channel said.

The US forces sent more troops to the area as US snipers spread on the roofs of the buildings, it added.

MNA/Xinhua

Russia says has no plans to send troops to Iraq

MOSCOW, 22 July — Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov said Wednesday that no Russian troops would be sent to Iraq to enhance Russia's prospects for winning economic reconstruction contracts in that country.

"These are absolutely different issues

which are being tackled in different contexts," he was quoted by *Interfax* news agency as saying.

"Each country has the right to decide whether or not to join these forces," Fedotov said. "Russia is not considering this possibility." — MNA/Xinhua

Two Britons guilty of canine cocaine smuggling bid

LONDON, 22 July — Two Britons were found guilty on Wednesday of an elaborate plot to smuggle cocaine by surgically implanting packets of the drug inside two Labrador dogs.

Gregory Graham, 27, and

Kaye Chapman, 20, plotted to smuggle 1.3 kilos of cocaine into Britain hidden inside the stomachs of golden Labrador Rex and black Labrador Frispa.

But officials at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, the

transit point from Colombia to London, alerted vets because Rex was lively yet Frispa lay apathetically.

Vets removed 11 packets from Rex and 10 from Frispa, who later died — one of them had burst — and British police were alerted to wait for people coming to fetch the dogs.

Gregory and Chapman were convicted at Norwich Crown Court of conspiracy to import drugs. Two other co-accused were cleared.

MNA/Reuters

Iraq prepares to return to WTO

BAGHDAD, 22 July — Iraq is preparing to return to the World Trade Organization (WTO) after a 14-year absence, *Al Mashriq* newspaper reported Tuesday.

"The Iraqi Government intends to rejoin the World Trade Organization and enjoy the privileges of being a member in it," Trade Minister Mohammed al-Jabouri was quoted as saying.

"This step represents the new Iraqi approach of open economy and opening doors as wide as possible for foreign investments," the minister added.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်မွန်အား ခေတ်တော်လွှား

Two killed, five injured in rocket attack on Baghdad hospital

BAGHDAD, 22 July — At least two people were killed and five others injured on Wednesday in a rocket attack on a hospital in the middle of a Baghdad health complex, local health officials said.

"Three rockets launched from the other side of the river (Tigris River) and struck the main health complex in Baghdad at about 3:30 p.m. (11:30 GMT)," said Abdul-Amir al-Mukhtar, director of the main city hospital said.

The attack resulted in killing "two persons and wounding five others", al-Mukhtar said.

The health complex located at the bank of the east side of Tigris river.

But other sources gave the death toll to three, saying three people were killed and five injured.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi woman surveys the damage in the seventh floor of the Adnan Khairallah hospital in Baghdad on 21 July, 2004. —INTERNET

Few have volunteered to guard UN staff in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 22 July — The United Nations lacks troops to guard its staff in Iraq, despite international insistence the world body play a key role in Baghdad's future, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Wednesday.

"Without security, we cannot really deploy in any sizeable number," Annan told a news conference.

He said three or four countries had "indicated interest" but had not said how many troops they would send for a special unit the UN Security Council authorized to guard UN staff, who will be led by the new UN chief envoy to Iraq, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United Nations.

But Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf is prepared to send troops only if Iraq's interim government requested it — and only if other Islamic nations did the same, Annan said.

"They would not want to be the only

Islamic force on the ground," Annan said. Diplomats said Nepal, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Ukraine had expressed interest in fielding a force.

Annan had been reluctant to send foreign staff back to Baghdad, particularly when aid workers and civilians became targets in an increasingly hostile environment.

But on 12 July, he named Qazi as his special representative to fill the post last held by Sergio Vieira de Mello. By the end of October, Annan had withdrawn all foreign staff from Baghdad.

Qazi is expected to be in Baghdad by early August with a small staff of about 20 people, protected mainly by US soldiers. Hundreds of other UN staff are in Jordan, and would need soldiers to protect them, particularly if the world body is to help set up elections, expected in January. "After what happened last year, we made it clear that if we are going to in with staff, we would need to be assured of protection," Annan said.

"So we were quite encouraged when the idea of a dedicated force that would protect the UN staff and their facilities came up," Annan said. "But without that security, we cannot really deploy in any sizeable number."

The Bush Administration has encouraged the United Nations to re-establish a presence in Iraq to help stabilize the country and attract other humanitarian groups who left Iraq after a second bombing of UN offices in October.

MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi man walks through the destroyed intensive care unit of a Baghdad hospital after a rocket attack on 21 July, 2004. —INTERNET

Arroyo says no apology for troop pullout from Iraq

MANILA, 23 July— Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Friday took on a defiant tone defending her decision to pull out the Philippine military personnel from Iraq to save the life of kidnapped truck driver Angelo de la Cruz.

In a speech addressing Philippine diplomats at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Arroyo said that she owes no apology (to the United States) over her decision she made over the past two weeks during the hostage crisis.

A television grab shows Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo speaking to released Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz on a mobile phone during a meeting at the presidential palace in Manila July 20, 2004. Arroyo said the Filipino hostage freed by Iraqi militants on Tuesday was in high

spirit and good health after talking to him by telephone from Baghdad.

"And as Angelo comes home, I am not about to bare a bleeding heart to defend my position. What I have said to you, it won't take three lines to summarize: one, I take sole responsibility; two, I make no apology; three, I stuck to my oath," said Arroyo.

She thanked the Philippine diplomats for doing a good job in saving the life of de la Cruz and bringing him home alive.

Internet*

Filipino drivers barred from Iraq crossing

BAGHDAD, 23 July—Filipino truck drivers working in the Middle East are now banned from entering Iraq to prevent another kidnapping by terrorists in that country.

President Arroyo ordered the Department of Foreign Affairs Friday to ensure that Filipino truck drivers working in countries near Iraq are stopped at the border should they attempt to enter that country.

Saudi and Kuwaiti companies involved in the reconstruction effort in Iraq hire foreigners to transport crude oil and construction materials into that country.

After the kidnapping of Angelo de la Cruz, Filipino officials realized that Filipino truck drivers are the most vulnerable to the terrorist acts of militants.

Some 4,000 Filipino workers are currently deployed in Iraq. They were hired directly by the US and British companies that won contracts for rebuilding the war-torn country.

"The secretary of foreign

affairs has issued directives to all our missions bordering Iraq to request their respective host governments not to allow Filipino truck drivers to cross into Iraq from their borders," President Arroyo said in her speech at the 106th Foundation Day Programme of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The Philippines has successfully negotiated for the release of two Filipino truck drivers in Iraq, the most celebrated of which was de la Cruz's case.—Internet

Kenyan families plead for release of captives held in Iraq

NAIROBI, 23 July—The families of three Kenyan captives held hostage in Iraq have sent passionate pleas to their captors to set them free, as the government urged all Kenyans working in Iraq to leave immediately, as demanded by their captors.

The three Kenyan civilians, Jalal Mohammed Awadh, aged 42, Ibrahim Khamis, 50 and Faiz Khamis Salim, 39, were among seven other truck drivers seized on Wednesday, July 22, 2004, as they drove from Kuwait to Baghdad.

Kenya's Foreign Affairs Minister Hon Chilau Ali Mwakwere said that the Iraqi employer of the Kenyan drivers had established contact with the drivers, and was working to secure their release soon.

"We appeal to the kidnappers to accept that Kenya has not taken sides in the Iraqi war, and set our citizens free," pleaded the Minister during a Press briefing on Thursday.

A video footage released on Thursday and broadcast on Kenyan television channels showed the three among seven captured men stating their names and nationalities.

Of the four other captives, one, Mr Mohammed Ali Sanad, is from Egypt, and three are from India—Mr Antaryami, Mr Tilak Raj and Sukdev Singh.—Internet



Angelo de la Cruz (2nd-R), a Filipino truck driver freed by Iraqi militants after being held hostage, answers questions during a Press conference upon his arrival at Manila International Airport on 22 July, 2004. —INTERNET

Filipino hostage back home after two-week ordeal

MANILA, 23 July — Freed hostage Angelo de la Cruz arrived home to a hero's welcome on Thursday.

Two days after he was released in Baghdad, the 46-year-old was greeted at Manila International Airport by his father and eight children before meeting President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

He flew back with his wife Arsenia and youngest brother Jesse after being reunited with them on Wednesday night in Abu Dhabi, where he had a medical check-up.

An unknown truck driver until his abduction two weeks

ago, de la Cruz has become a high-profile symbol of the eight-million Filipinos working overseas to support their families back home.

"We have prepared a welcome party for Angelo de la Cruz," said Mark Lapid, governor of the driver's home province of Pampanga, north of the capital. "He will be given a hero's welcome not only in his village but by the country."

By bowing to the militants' demands, Arroyo appears to have calculated that she had more to lose from a popular backlash against de la Cruz' execution than from a deterioration in ties with the United States.

The move has broad support at home, with one survey showing 74 per cent of 300 respondents in the capital said she "made the right

decision" to withdraw the 51 troops a month early.

Only 19 per cent disagreed with the withdrawal.

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone was due to fly home on Thursday for what he described as "consultations" with superiors in Washington.

US State Department officials have joined other allies in criticizing Arroyo's decision, saying it was a capitulation to terrorism that would likely encourage more hostage-takings.

A new hostage crisis erupted in Iraq on Wednesday, with guerillas saying they had seized three Indians, two Kenyans and an Egyptian and threatening to kill them one by one unless the Kuwaiti company they worked for pulled out of Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

Halliburton suffers a loss despite booming Iraq revenue

HOUSTON, 23 July—Oil services giant Halliburton posted a second-quarter loss despite a boom in revenue inflated by US government contracts in Iraq.

Halliburton, led from 1995 to 2000 by now Vice-President Dick Cheney, said it was pushed into the red by asbestos liabilities and a wayward deepwater oil project off Brazil named Barracuda-Caratinga.

It lost 663 million dollars, or 1.51 dollars a share, in the three months to June 30, compared to a year-earlier net profit of 26 million dollars, or six cents a share.

Revenue, however, soared 37.7 per cent to 4.96 billion dollars.

The KBR engineering unit, carrying out Pentagon contracts in the Middle East, including Iraq, said revenue shot up 68 per cent to 3.1

billion dollars — equal to 62.5 per cent of the entire group's revenue.

"The improvement was due to government contract activities, primarily in the Middle East," it said.

Halliburton's Iraq-related work alone contributed 1.7 billion dollars in revenues — more than one-third of the group total — and 23 million dollars in operating profit.

KBR reported an operating loss of 277 million dollars, compared to a 148 million dollar loss a year earlier, because of a 310 million dollar loss on the Barracuda-Caratinga project.—Internet

Annan criticizes US for withholding population funding

UNITED NATIONS, 23 July — United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan criticized on Wednesday the US Administration for its decision to continue withholding 34 million US dollars of funding Congress approved for the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).

At a Press conference, Annan said the UN agency is doing "every essential work on reproductive health" and one of its major tasks is to fight the HIV/AIDS epi-

demic, which is "producing so many orphans".

"This (fighting AIDS) is an area where UNFPA is doing very good work with mothers, with communities and societies, and really needs help," he said. "I hope governments will support UNFPA and not extend the decision not to fund its activities to other agencies," he added.

The US State of Department announced last week its decision to withhold the funding from UNFPA for the third consecutive year on the grounds that the agency supports "coercive abortions" in China. UNFPA denied the charges as "baseless", citing an earlier conclusion made by a State of Department team after a visit to China.

According to UNFPA, the United States is the only country to deny funding to the UN body for non-budgetary reasons.—MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi civilians inspect the area after a guerillas attack in Iraq's capital city Baghdad on 22 July, 2004. One person was killed when the road side bomb blew up. —INTERNET

Report says Australian intelligence failed over Iraq

CANBERRA, 23 July — Australian intelligence relied on thin and ambiguous information for its assessment of the threat of weapons of mass destruction in pre-war Iraq, an independent report found on Thursday.

"There has been a failure of intelligence on Iraq WMD. Intelligence was thin, ambiguous and incomplete," former intelligence chief Philip Flood said in a report which mirrors similar intelligence inquiries in the United States and Britain.

The report also found that Australian intelligence agencies should have known more about the "terrorist capabilities and intentions" of Asian Islamic militant group Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) prior to the 2002 Bali bombings which killed 202 people, 88 of them Australian.

MNA/Reuters

Panhsaung, developing town in northwest

Panhsuang that was just a big village in the past had been upgraded into a town on 15 October 2002 in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. In the past, the town had only one middle school. Now it has one high school, 18 primary schools, one 16-bed hospital, three rural health care centres and six sub-rural health care centres. Health education activities are being continuously launched in the town.



Teachers and students of Panhsaung Basic Education High School.



New office building of Panhsaung General Administration Department.

Panhsaung region is a sparsely populated area, with less agricultural activities and poor transport. Thanks to the goodwill endeavours of the Government, the region is now enjoying fruits of development in various sectors. Mountain streams with strong torrents in the area are suitable to generate hydel power.



Communication station built in Panhsaung which is developing rapidly thanks to the efforts of the Government.



Scenic beauty of Naungyan lake near Panhsaung.

Panhsaung village becomes a town

Tekkatho Myat Thu

Panhsaung in Nanyun Township, Hkamti District, Sagaing Division, became a town on 15 October 2002. It is like a shining star in the north-west region of the Union of Myanmar.

Panhsaung is located on the road linking Ledo in India and Kunming in the People's Republic of China via Myanmar. Famous as the Ledo Road, it was built during the World War II. The town lies near Hukaung valley or Pangsau pass. The Ledo Road passes through towns and villages in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division. Towns including Tanai and Kamaing in Myanmar are located on the road. The land surface of Hukaung valley is flat, with a lot of natural watercourses flowing through it. The land is covered with thick forests. The torrents of mountain streams are strong in the rainy season. Thus, they change their courses several times. The area of Panhsaung region is 257,262.10 acres. Lying between north latitudes 27 degree and 28 degree and east longitudes 96 degree and 97 degree, the region is situated at 3,520 feet above sea level on Pakkoi mountain range. Lying in the east of Nanyun, the region is bordering India in the west and touching Putao Township in the north.

It rains in Panhsaung the whole year and the annual rainfall of the town is between 120 inches and 150 inches. As it is included in the northern temperate zone, its lowest temperature is 8° Celsius; and the highest, 32° Celsius.

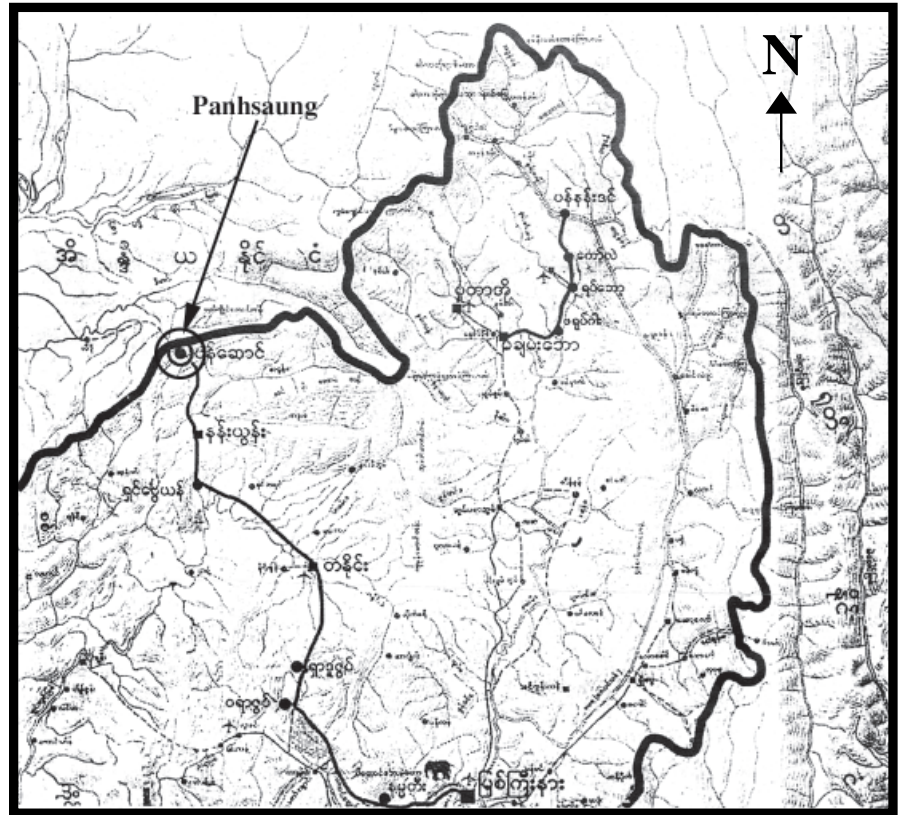
Its population is 10,089 which is larger than that of the Pannandin. Ninety-five per cent of the population are people of the Naga national race. There are also Bamar, Kachin and Lihsu races. Most of the people are of the Christian faith. There are also Buddhists and animists. Agriculture is the main business of the region.

Like Pannandin, Panhsaung is also a beautiful town surrounded by bluish mountains, with its sky decorated with clouds, whose shape, colour and situation change in accord with the weather. With bluish mountains in the background, the Naungyan Lake lies quietly by the town like a large flat-surface emerald.

Panhsaung has three wards — Ahtet Ward, Ale Ward and Auk Ward — nine village-tracts and 18 villages. There are 702 members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, 33 members of the Red Cross Brigade, 23 members of the Auxiliary Fire Brigade, 21 members of the Maternal and Child Welfare Association and 23 members of the Organization for Women's Affairs.

In the past, Panhsaung region was a sparsely populated area, with less agricultural activities and poor transport. Thanks to the goodwill endeavours of the Government, the region is now enjoying fruits of development in various sectors. Mountain streams, with strong torrents, in the area are suitable to generate hydel power.

The total land area of the town and its surrounding places are 257,262.10 acres. The net sown acreage is 5,767 acres. Paddy is cultivated on 2,980 acres; and other crops, on 2,675 acres. One-hundred-twelve acres are garden lands. Forests cover 149,147 acres of the land. There are 2,229 acres of vacant and virgin lands



The total land area of the town and its surrounding places are 257,262.10 acres. The net sown acreage is 5,767 acres. Paddy is cultivated on 2,980 acres; and other crops, on 2,675 acres. One-hundred-twelve acres are garden lands. Forests cover 149,147 acres of the land. There are 2,229 acres of vacant and virgin lands and 100,127 acres of unused land.

and 100,127 acres of unused land.

Panhsaung is 228 miles from Myitkyina. A border market selling foodstuff and other goods was opened on 2 June 1999. Panhsaung that was just a big village in the past had been upgraded into a town on 15 October 2002 in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. In the past, the town had only one middle school. Now it has one high school, 18 primary schools, one 16-bed hospital, three rural health care centres and six sub-rural health care centres. Health educative activities are being continuously launched in the town.

A 32-mile road is linking Panhsaung and Nanyun. The road has one steel bridge, one bailey bridge, three suspension bridges and 20 wooden bridges. Nanyun is 32 miles from Shinbweyan; Shinbweyan is 44 miles from Tanai; and Tanai is 120 miles from Myitkyina.

A telephone carrier board in the town has 20 lines. The Myanma Electric Power Enterprise is supplying power to the town with a 30KVA generator. A new concrete building was built for the high school to install equipment relating to e-Education. A new hospital measuring 72 feet long, 30 feet wide and 10

feet high is under construction. The General Administration Department, a building to house offices of various departments and staff quarters have been built. Erection of the treasury has been completed up to 70 per cent. Ninety per cent of a 30-bed hostel and a six-unit staff quarters of Myanmar Police Force station have been completed. Thanks to the re-transmission station, the Myanmar TV is beaming its programmes to the town beginning 1 June 2004. Construction of quarters for the staff of Myanma Radio and TV, Settlements and Land Records, Office of the Subcommittee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and teachers are in progress.

An 18-foot high pagoda was built at a cost of K 1.8 million donated by the State. The ceremony to hoist the Htidaw of the pagoda was held on 17 March 2004. Thanks to the goodwill of the State, efforts of the local national races and cooperation of the departments, Panhsaung, at present, is enjoying progress in various sectors.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin, Kyemon 24-7-2004



MEC Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt unveils the plaque of new school building at Thingangyun BEPS No 5.—MNA



The opening ceremony of new school building at BEPS No 15 in Thingangyun Township in progress.—MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends opening ...

(from page 1)

ribbon to open the new school building. Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected the building.

It is 170 feet long and 30 feet wide two-storey RC building consisting of 10 classrooms.

At BEPS No 5 at Malikha Housing Estate Project, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt unveiled the plaque of the building and sprinkled scented water on it after opening the school building. It is 204 feet by 30 feet three-storey RC building. It has fifteen 24-foot-by-30-foot classrooms.

Next, the General

attended the cash donation ceremony. At the ceremony, Director-General Col Aung Win of DHSHD explained the purpose of the donation. He said that the DHSHD implemented the hut-to-apartment scheme in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State in 1994. Shwedaung International Co Ltd and Tosta Construction built BEPS No 33 at Thumungala Housing Estate Project, and Shwe-daung International Co Ltd built BEPS No 15 and No 5 at Malikha Housing Estate Project. He added the school buildings were facilitated with staff quarters, power and

water supply.

Shwedaung International Co Ltd Chairman U Aik Tun explained the purpose of the donation. Adviser to DHSHD Col Tin Tun handed over documents related to the buildings to No 3 De-

A great number of well-furnished schools has emerged with the contribution of the wellwishers.

partment of Basic Education (Yangon City) Director-General U Aye Kyu.

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented 196 dozens of exercise books and 66 dozens of pencils for schoolchildren of three ba-

Government implemented the hut-to-apartment scheme for raising the living standard of city dwellers and upgrading Yangon City. Moreover, it carried out housing projects to have characteristics of the city.

sic education primary schools to the respective school heads.

Minister Counsellor Mr Yu Boren presented six com-

puters for three BEPSs donated by Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun to the respective school heads.

Next, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepted K 28.5 million for the school donated by wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

Headmistress Daw Than Nwe of No 5 BEPS in

Thingangyun Township thanked the donors.

Next, the Prime Minister delivered a speech. He expressed thanks for donation of computers, exercise books and cash by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China and diplomats of embassies of the Republic of the Philippines and Cambodia for attending the ceremony.

He said among the three schools, two were renovated and one was newly built. Schools were renovated to have the characteristics of the school under the arrangement of the government.

A great number of well-furnished schools has emerged with the contribution of the wellwishers. Par-

ents are pleased to see their schoolchildren learning peacefully, he added.

He said the government implemented the hut-to-apartment scheme for raising the living standard of city dwellers and upgrading Yangon City. Moreover, it carried out housing projects to have the characteristics of the city.

Better results have been achieved with the cooperation of entrepreneurs and the people and there are still many to be implemented for uplift of living standard of the people, he said. He called for active participation in nation-building tasks.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister inspected the classrooms. — MNA



New building of BEPS No 33 built by Shwedaung International Co Ltd and Tosta Construction in Thingangyun Township.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party take Five Precepts from State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Abhidaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Pannindabhivamsa at the Waso-robes offering ceremony of Bangladesh Monastery. (News on page 16) — MNA

Stakes driven for building station hospital in Budalin

YANGON, 24 July—Stakes were driven for building of a station hospital in Thakhtupin Village, Budalin Township, at a ceremony held at the village yesterday morning.

Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe graced the ceremony with their presence. They drove stakes for launching the construction project, and sprinkled scented water on them. Next, they performed rituals of golden and silver showers to mark successful completion of the ceremony. An official reported on measures for the project with the use of charts. The commander and the minister fulfilled the requirements.

The commander and the minister proceeded to Affiliated Basic Education High School in Nyaungkan Model Village in the township later in the morning. The principal reported on extended construction of buildings for opening of multimedia classrooms. The commander and the minister attended to the requirements.

A computer and 100 corrugated zinc sheets donated by Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and wife Daw San San Myint were presented to the principal. Managing Director U Kyaw Moe Naing presented a computer donated by Myanmar Moe Naing Co. The commander also donated exercise books to the school.

In the afternoon, they held a meeting with industrialists and entrepreneurs from Monywa Industrial Zone at City Hall of Monywa. Chairman of Monywa Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Kyi Sein reported work progress. Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe in charge of Monywa Industrial Zone said that industrialists and entrepreneurs in the industrial zone are to be united and to participate actively in the tasks for manufacturing import-substitute ironwares and establishment of iron smelting factory. On completion of the factory, all can enjoy proportionate profits and benefits. Those present also made suggestions. The commander and the minister delivered concluding remarks. — MNA

Measures for ensuring smooth & secure transport co-ordinated

YANGON, 24 July—The Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport held its work coordination meeting at the All Private Bus Lines Control Committee on Laydaunkan Road in Tamway Township yesterday evening with an address by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

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

Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Maj-Gen Myint Swe explained measures to be taken by the Super-

visory Committee for the convenience of the people who are commuting downtown Yangon and from Yangon to other states and divisions.

Next, members of the Supervisory Committee reported on measures being taken sector-wise for the convenience of the commuters; registrars and officials, on assistance to be provided for smooth and secure transport of teachers and students and the Chairmen of Bus Lines, on supervision for enabling drivers and conductors to follow traffic rules and regulations.

He added that some drivers impudently violated traffic rules although there were signals, signboards and zebra crossing; that there have been accidents due to reckless driving and overtaking; and officials at different levels are to take deterrent action against those who violate traffic rules. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Maj-Gen Myint Swe. — MNA



Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivers an address at the work co-ordination meeting. — MNA

Delegation arrives back

YANGON, 24 July—The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo arrived back here by air after attending the 9th WHO (Southeast Asia) Meeting of Health Secretaries and the 41st Senior Officials' Meeting on Management of Health Projects held in New Delhi, India. The delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, directors-general and officials of departments under the Ministry of Health and WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borra.

Members of the delegation Acting Director-General of Health Department Dr Tin Win Maung and Deputy Director Dr Than Zaw Myint of Medical Science Department also arrived back.—MNA



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe who is in charge of Monywa Industrial Zone meets with industrialists and entrepreneurs in Monywa. — TRANSPORT

Minister presents trophy to ward football team

YANGON, 24 July — The final of the first Inter-Ward/Village Football Tournament of the Ministry of Energy was held in Kungyangon Township yesterday.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and sport fans watched the match.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented 20 balls donated by the Ministry of Sports for the township to Chairman of

Township Peace and Development Council U Kyaw Shwe.

Kangyimagyi Ward beat Tawku Village 6-0.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi presented the trophy of the Inter-Ward/Village-tract Football Tournament to

Kangyimagyi Ward football team. Officials gave away awards to the best players of the tournament.— MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi presents the trophy to Kangyimagyi ward football team. — MNA



Plans for "International Space Station" cut back

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 24 July—NASA and its space partners on Friday approved a scaled-down *International Space Station* with fewer astronauts and less science so the United States can meet a 2010 deadline for ending shuttle flights, a top NASA official said.

Space agencies in Russia, Europe, Canada and Japan gave unanimous approval to a NASA plan that means the orbiting platform, now about half completed, will never become the beehive of scientific and commercial research once envisaged.

In exchange, NASA will continue with plans to launch research modules owned by its partners, some of them already built.

The agreement means the *station* will never support

long duration crews of seven astronauts, as intended, but will be able to house at least four astronauts starting in 2009, said NASA's deputy administrator, Fred Gregory. He was speaking to reporters by teleconference from Noordwijk, the Netherlands, where space agency heads met this week.

"This action reflects a year of painstaking work, a lot of hard work," Gregory said.

Publicly, NASA's international partners have expressed support for a space initiative of US President George W Bush, which calls for ending the US shuttle programme and curtailing involvement in the *space station* in favour of plans to explore the moon and Mars.

Privately, they have voiced the opinion that the

United States is not living up to its commitments.

The first segment of the *space-station*, a multibillion-dollar, 16-nation effort led by the United States and Russia, was put into orbit in 1998 and the first astronauts took up residence in 2000.

Long before the February, 2004, loss of the *Columbia* shuttle, which stopped all assembly work on the *station*, NASA had backed away from commitments to build a habitation module and emergency return ship.

Shuttle flights were suspended after the *Columbia* disintegrated over Texas as it returned from space last year, killing all seven astronauts on board, but NASA has said it expects to put shuttle *Discovery* back in flight in March 2005.

MNA/Reuters



Swinburne University of Technology's center for micro-photonics have constructed a model of the Sydney Opera House, seen in this undated photo, that is about half the diameter of a human hair. With dimensions of 64 x 38 x 41 micrometers, or more than a million times smaller than the real Sydney structure, the model was built from a hybrid material of glass and polymer by firing intense laser light into the matter in a liquid state to create what to the human eye appears as an almost imperceptible dot, but under an electron microscope it contains the detail and the beauty of the iconic Sydney harbour side structure. — INTERNET

Fiat adds 1,251 jobs in Italy

MILAN, 24 July — Fiat plans to create 1,251 jobs in three Italian car plants as part of its recovery plan with the government meeting about 12 per cent of the 1.25 billion euro cost, Italy's Industry Ministry said on Friday.

Under a turnaround plan drawn up in 2003, Fiat will hire 1,600 people in Italy over the next four years although there will be a net loss of jobs as 2,800 posts are due to be cut.

A Fiat spokesman said the new workers would be hired gradually until 2007 as the three factories near Naples

start making new cars that Fiat is pumping out to reverse a sales slump and pull out of its worst-ever crisis. Melfi, Fiat's most efficient plant, will be dedicated to making the Punto from later this year with a new version of Fiat's best-seller due out in 2005.

The Pomigliano D'Arco plant will build the new Alfa Romeo 156 due out next year and a facelifted version of the sporty Alfa 147. Cassino, which currently makes the midsize Stilo, is slated to get the new estate car due out in 2005. The Industry Ministry said it would put 151.8 million

euros (186 million US dollars) towards the project, the latest in a series of state handouts Rome has given Fiat to develop industry in the poorer south. The ministry said its contribution was the maximum allowed under European Union rules on state aid to the auto sector.

In the 2003 turnaround plan, Fiat said it would invest 9.1 billion euros in new products across its car-to-tractor range between 2003-2006. Another 7.9 billion euros was earmarked for research and development.

MNA/Reuters

Uganda, Canada sign agreement to promote trade

KAMPALA, 24 July — Uganda and Canada Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at enhancing bilateral economic ties through reduction of trade barriers thereby enabling the Ugandan business community access the Canadian markets.

Ugandan Minister of Tourism, Trade and Industry Edward Rugumayo and the Canadian High Commissioner to Uganda Jim Wall signed the memorandum in Kampala on behalf of their respective governments.

According to the memorandum, the Ugandan business community dealing

in textile and apparel goods will access Canadian markets with zero tariffs.

Rugumayo commended the Canadian Government for the intervention, saying that it would enhance cooperation between the two countries and improve bilateral trade links.

MNA/Xinhua

Study finds movies really can put you in the mood

WASHINGTON, 24 July — Watching a movie can boost hormone levels, making men and women feel more romantic or more aggressive, US researchers said on Thursday.

Sentimental films such as "The Bridges of Madison County" caused levels of the hormone progesterone to rise by more than 10 per cent in both men and women, the team at the University of Michigan found.

Women's testosterone

levels were unchanged during and after the Clint Eastwood movie about a love affair, while men's testosterone levels fell.

"The Godfather Part II" aroused a different sort of passion. While watching the crime and action film, men with the highest levels of testosterone had them soar by as much as 30 per cent more.

But men and women watching a documentary about the Amazon rain forest

were unaffected, the study found.

"When you're watching movies, your hormones are responding, not just your mind," said Oliver Schultheiss, a psychology professor who led the study.

"If you want to learn about someone's personality, look at their video collection," added Schultheiss, who published his study in the journal *Hormones and Behaviour*.

MNA/Reuters

China grants emergency aid to flood-stricken areas

BEIJING, 24 July — The Chinese central government Friday allocated 33 million yuan (4 million US dollars) in emergency funds and 3,600 tents to flood-stricken areas in southern and central parts of the country.

Officials with the Ministry of Civil Affairs said the money was for the provinces of Hunan and Hubei in central China and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, south

China. Of the 3,600 tents, 3,200 went to central China's Henan Province and 400 to Hubei Province.

Serious flooding was reported in those areas as well as other regions of the country, said the officials.

According to the latest figures released Friday by the ministry, 95 people were killed by floods and 63 remain missing in flooded areas. Forty million people were affected by floods. A

total of 933,000 people in those areas were evacuated from their homes. About 137,000 houses collapsed and 435,000 houses were damaged, causing 12.33 billion yuan (1.5 billion US dollars) in direct economic losses.

Hunan, Henan, Hubei and Guangxi as well as Yunnan Province, southwest China, are the hardest hit by floods, according to the ministry. — MNA/Xinhua

Vehicle emission control effective in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 24 July — Progress has been made in Hong Kong to reduce motor vehicle emissions, said Secretary of Environment, Transport and Works Sarah Liao Friday.

She noted that nearly all diesel taxis have been replaced by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) ones and about 80 per cent of newly registered public light

buses were running by LPG.

According to a latest annual report issued by the Environment Protection Department, compared with 1999, the concentration of particulate and nitrogen oxide at the roadside has fallen by 13 per cent and 23 per cent respectively in 2003.

The number of smoky vehicles has also dropped by more than 70 per cent during

the period.

"Installation of emission reduction devices on pre-Euro light diesel vehicles is now statutory requirement," said Liao.

She said the same will happen to pre-Euro heavy diesel vehicles after the current catalyst retrofit for those vehicles has been completed in 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

EU resumes zero-tariff for sugar from Serbia-Montenegro

BRUSSELS, 24 July — The European Commission decided on Thursday to restore tariff-free treatment of sugar imported from Serbia and Montenegro, putting an end to a 15-month suspension of the preferential arrangements.

The decision was taken after the former Yugoslav federal state had adopted measures which would enable them to certify the origin of sugar and to ensure the necessary cooperation for verifying proofs of origin.

"Now that adequate

measures have been put in place by the authorities, I am pleased that the preferential tariffs for sugar imports from Serbia and Montenegro can be restored," said Customs Commissioner Frits Bolkestein.

The EU's executive arm will continue to monitor the situation in the country very closely and press Serbia and Montenegro to clear past certificates of origin for sugar, the commission said in a statement.

The preferential

treatment was initially suspended in May 2003 for a period of three months and was extended twice for additional period of six months. The suspension will expire on August 7, 2004.

The decision on the suspension was taken on the basis of findings by the EU's anti-fraud office that the system in place in Serbia and Montenegro was totally inadequate to verify whether the sugar exported to the EU under preferential arrangements indeed originated from the country. — MNA/Xinhua

Seven arrested over people smuggling into Britain

LONDON, 24 July — Seven men on suspicion of smuggling Indian illegal immigrants into Britain were arrested by British and Belgian police in coordinated raids on Thursday, police here said.

British police arrested five men at a house in Slough, west of London, while Belgian police held two

Asian-origin Britons at the port of Ostend, close to the French border, after the two had loaded seven Indian illegal immigrants into a Britain-bound lorry.

"We believe that the illegal immigrants had paid up to 6,000 pounds (11,000 US dollars) each for the service but we are not sure of exact details such as what

route was used," a spokeswoman for Britain's immigration police said.

The British police also found a sawn-off shotgun, a revolver, an amount of ammunition and 10,000-pound (about 18,500 US dollar) cash at the house where the five men were arrested, she said.

MNA/Xinhua

Health educative talks for women given

YANGON, 24 July—The Working Group for Health under the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation organized educative talks on health at the Education College in Thingangyun Township yesterday afternoon.

Present on the occasion were MWA Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet, advisers to the Working Group and members, doctors and teachers numbering around 450.

The MWA Vice-President delivered a speech on the occasion.

Professor Dr Daw Khin May San gave talks on cardiac disease and hypertension; Associate Professor Dr U Tint Swe on diabetes; and Professor Daw Thida San on cancer. — MNA

Rice intensification system boosts output

YANGON, 24 July—The Agricultural Development Training School in Naungkham Village, Hsihseng Township, Shan State (South), has introduced the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in cultivation of paddy and now it is meeting success.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture Brig-Gen Khin Maung, departmental officials and members of Shan State Agricultural Supervisory Committee inspected the fields of paddy cultivated with the use of the system there on 22 July morning.

Agricultural course instructors briefed the Deputy Minister and party on the system and conducted them round the paddy fields of 24-day old.

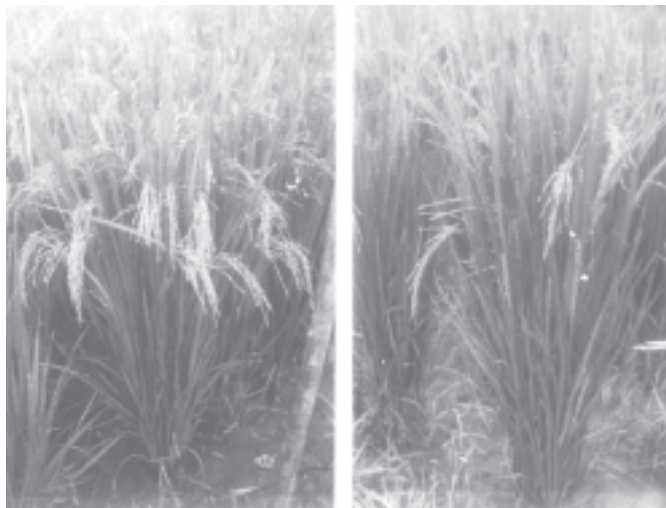
According to last year's agricultural experiment, two small baskets (two pyis) of paddy is enough for broadcasting of a one-acre field. One single paddy plant can multiply itself up to over 50, resulting in an increase in paddy output by half or 100 per cent.

The Deputy Minister and party looked into the paddy transplanting method, pests control system and thriving summer paddy fields in Hsaikkhaung Village.

The Rice Intensification System helps boost paddy production remarkably. — MNA



Deputy Minister for Agriculture & Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung inspects successful paddy fields in Hsihseng Township, Shan State (South). — A&I



One of conjoined twins dies in Central China

WUHAN, 24 July — One of conjoined twins, who survived after an operation to separate her from her sister, died Friday morning in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province. "She died of multi-organ prostration resulted from kidney failure this morning," said Tang Shaotao, a surgeon with Union Hospital in Wuhan who performed the operation.

Her sister died of respiratory failure two days ago, shortly after the twins were separated. Doctors carried out an emergency operation Wednesday to separate the sisters at chest and abdomen. The operation lasted nearly five and a half hours from 12:30 a.m. to 6:05 pm. The twins shared one liver and small intestine, but had separate hearts, lungs, stomachs and spleens, noted Tang.

Tang said both babies were in stable condition when the operation ended.

"But in just 20 minutes, the girl with the lung infection developed breathing problems and her blood pressure started to fluctuate," according to the hospital. The baby girl died at 6:45 p.m., 40 minutes after the operation.

The twins were born on July 12 in the city of Tianmen and were sent to Union Hospital for a checkup. China has reported 27 sets of conjoined twins born 1949; 15 pairs have undergone separation operations. — MNA/Xinhua

Waso robes offered

YANGON, 24 July —The fifth Waso robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Commerce was held at the Maha Zeyatheikdi monastery in ward 7, Dagon Myothit (East) Township at 9.30 am today. Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Tun, officials, staff and families offered Waso robes to members of the Sangha. — MNA



WASO ROBES OFFERED: The seventh Waso robe offering ceremony of the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association (MWEA) was held at Aung Mingala monastery in Kayinseik village, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division, on 19 July morning. MWEA Adviser retired Prof Daw Yi Yi Myint, Vice-Chairperson Daw Thet Yi, Secretary Daw Hla Wady and wellwishers presented Waso robes and offertories to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. Wellwishers who went on friendship tour to Japan under the aegis of MWEA also donated K 2.5 million for building a dispensary at the village. The Waso robes offering ceremony in progress. — (H)

Romania mulls adoptions abroad for ill babies

BUCHRESST, 24 July—Romania is considering allowing foreigners to adopt children with serious medical problems, Prime Minister Adrian Nastase said on Thursday.

Last month Romania passed a law banning foreign adoption in a move that quelled EU concerns over corrupt bidding for babies but angered the United States and other Western countries.

Nastase's statement, broadcast by a private Romanian TV station, was made at a news conference in Washington after he met President George Bush during a visit to the United States.

"I assured the President that for such

special situations we will draft bills for each case that will go to Parliament for approval," Nastase said, adding that there were children with serious medical problems whose treatment was very expensive.

"I told him (President Bush) at the same time about the new regulations... and I'm sure that together with our partners in Brussels and in Washington we will find solutions for certain cases if needed," he added.

The new law says children can be adopted abroad only by their grandparents and only after attempts to keep them in their families or place them with another Romanian family fail. It cements a

moratorium placed on foreign adoptions in 2001 after pressure from the EU which Romania hopes to join in 2007.

Romania passed the moratorium 15 years after the collapse of Communism in the Balkan state sent foreigners rushing to adopt from delapidated orphanages crammed with some 100,000 children.

The European Parliament rapporteur for Romania and children's rights campaigner Emma Nicholson has lobbied to stop foreign adoptions in Romania over fears that babies were ending up in the human organ trade or in the hands of paedophiles.

MNA/Reuters

Hoarders warned as South Asia flood misery worsens

GUWAHATI (India), 24 July — Authorities in India warned traders on Friday against hoarding as sweeping river waters disrupted food supplies in parts of South Asia where floods have killed over 550 people in the past three weeks.

The floods are the worst in 15 years in Bangladesh. Across the densely populated region, some 25 million people were homeless or stranded in their homes as annual monsoon rains caused rivers to flow into large swathes of low-lying land.

In the northeastern Indian state of Assam, police said they would cancel business licences or impose fines on traders who stocked up on food items needed by millions of people cut off by raging rivers since the start of July.

"We are sending out a strict warning to all traders not to hoard food items and take advantage of the flood situation," Hiren Nath, a senior police officer in Guwahati, the state's main city, told Reuters.

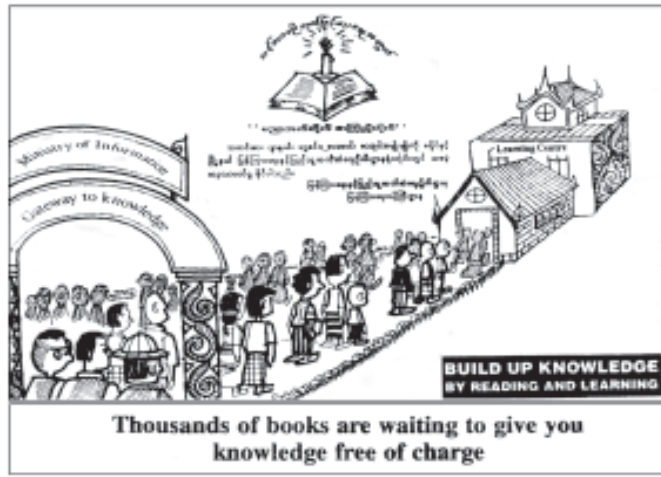
Hundreds of kilometres of roads and rail track have been submerged, slashing the supply of commodities and pushing up prices. There have been widespread reports of hoarding by traders and shopkeepers in the state.

Across the region, thousands of people jostle everyday to grab food packets handed out by officials in boats and dropped by helicopters.

Residents are finding it tough to cope.

"Prices of food items have gone up at least three times and housewives like me are finding it just impossible to manage our monthly budget," said Zuri Mech.

MNA/Reuters



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SPOKEN ENGLISH CLASS**
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China recruits biomedical scientists

BEIJING, 23 July—China has begun global recruitment for major posts at the newly established Institute of Biomedical Sciences (IBS) at Fudan University, a prestigious university in east China's Shanghai Municipality.

Speaking at a news conference Thursday, IBS director He Fuchu said the IBS will cover fundamental and applied research in the interdisciplinary areas of biology and medicine. The IBS aims to achieving breakthrough on biomedicine within five years. He said thus improving its academic status and competitiveness in this field.—MNA/Xinhua

Japan, S Korea seeking to double number of tourists by 2010

TOKYO, 23 July —Japan and South Korea agreed Thursday to promote efforts to double the number of tourists from their own country visiting the other by 2010.

Japan's Land, Infrastructure and Transport Minister Nobuteru Ishihara and South Korean Minister of Culture and Tourism Chung Dong-chae signed a document to this effect at an event in Tokyo aimed at boosting tourism between the two countries.

Ishihara said at a Press conference that the two countries also agreed to designate 2005 as a year to boost tourism and cultural exchanges as it marks the 40th anniversary of normalizing bilateral ties. The two ministers also named Japanese actress Yoshino Kimura and South Korean actress Choi Ji-woo as goodwill ambassadors to

promote the exchanges.

Choi plays the heroine in the popular South Korean drama "Winter Sonata", which has triggered a boom in modern South Korean culture in Japan. She met with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at the Premier's Office on Thursday.

Koizumi, who returned home Thursday after a summit with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun on Wednesday on the South Korean resort island of Cheju, mentioned the popularity of the drama at a joint news conference concluding the summit.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan to set up task force on UN reforms

TOKYO, 23 July—The Japanese Foreign Ministry plans to set up a task force to discuss how to reform the United Nations, including the possibility of Japan's becoming a permanent member of its Security Council.

The task force under Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi will deal with issues including institutional reforms of the Council and financial contributions to the world body by its member states, the ministry said in a preliminary report.

The task force will also take up Japan's call to remove a clause from the UN Charter that describes Japan as a "former enemy" nearly six decades after the end of World War II.

But the ministry has yet to decide exactly when to

launch the task force and who will be its members.

The ministry also hopes the launch of the task force would help Japan's bid to become a permanent UN Security Council member and that support for it by other member states would gather

မြန်မာ့စာပေဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV "MANDALAY" VOY NO 131/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "MANDALAY" Voy No 131/N are hereby notified that the vessel arrives at Yangon Port on 25-07-2004 and will be berthing on about 26-07-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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မြန်မာ့စာပေဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့် စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေးလုပ်ငန်းတွင်အသုံးပြုရန် လိုအပ်သော ပုံနှိပ်လုပ်ငန်းသုံးပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရန်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း
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1.	Web offset Ink	
(1)	Black	8700 Kg
(2)	Yellow	1200 Kg
(3)	Magenta	1700 Kg
(4)	Cyan	1900 Kg
2.	Sheetfed offset Ink	
(1)	Black	900 Kg
(2)	Yellow	600 Kg
(3)	Magenta	700 Kg
(4)	Cyan	400 Kg
(5)	Green	909 Kg
3.	Negative Plates & Chemicals	
(1)	915x626x0.3 mm	1400 Shts
(2)	1035x740x0.3 mm	300 Shts
4.	Positive Plates & Chemicals	
(1)	740x615x0.24 mm	300 Shts
5.	Wipe On Aluminium & Chemicals	
(1)	635x745x0.24 mm	6400 Shts
(2)	650x550x0.24 mm	16150 Shts

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Afghans start work on first industrial park

KABUL, 23 July—Afghanistan broke ground on its first industrial park on Thursday, a 15-hectare (37-acre) site on the outskirts of the capital Kabul that is being built with the help of aid.

Coca Cola is setting up a production plant on the site, government officials said. They said they hoped the Bagrami Industrial Park would eventually host 80 to 100 small- and medium-sized enterprises.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese medicine may help soothe SARS sequelae

HONG KONG, 23 July—Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) announced here Thursday that traditional Chinese medicine with herbs can help patients with severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) sequelae.

Speaking at a Press briefing, director of HKBU's Institute for the Advancement of Chinese Medicine Professor Kelvin Chan said a pilot clinical study was conducted to assess the efficacy of Chinese medicine on 15 post-SARS patients with avascular necrosis (AVN) and patients with bone pain.

Results show the treatment using natural herbs improved the daily life of patients by relieving symptoms such as pain in the joints, lack of vitality, poor quality of sleep or insomnia, aversion to coldness, depression, and frequent urination.

Chan saw the research results as encouraging, and said more studies will be

conducted to further investigate the effects of Chinese medicine in treating AVN patient mechanisms behinds.

The clinical trial lasted for six months. Dosages of the Chinese medicine were applied in the patients via two suppositories daily in the first three months, then one suppository daily for the following three months.

Hong Kong experienced SARS outbreak in April last year. According to a survey done by the Association of Hong Kong Nursing Staff in April 2004, over 80 per cent of 116 nursing staff who had contracted SARS suffered from sequelae such as tiredness, arthralgia and bad memory due to SARS.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan, Germany committed to further enhancing relations

ISLAMABAD, 23 July—Pakistan and Germany Thursday reiterated commitment to further enhance their existing friendly and close relations in all spheres particularly in the fields of trade and economy.

Addressing a joint news conference here with Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri, visiting German Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer said he had very friendly and open talks with the Pakistani leaders on all bilateral, regional and international issues.

Fischer, who arrived here Wednesday for a three-day official visit, said that Germany enjoys very friendly and long-term relations with Pakistan and intends to work for further deepening and improvement of these ties.

Fischer noted that Germany appreciates the Pakistani-Indo dialogue process to restore peace and stability in the region and that the resolution of all disputes will pave the way for lasting peace and stability not only in the region but also in the world.

MNA/Xinhua

William Burns, Roche's head of pharmaceuticals, acknowledged on Wednesday that costs were spiralling upwards but he argued that healthcare insurers were willing to pay because medication was still a cheaper option than surgery and hospitalization. "I believe we will face a challenge going forward as we look at combinations of targeted therapies, and we will need to see how stunning the data is and how much justification that has," Burns told industry analysts in a post-results conference. "But if you've got solid data then it is possible to demonstrate to a healthcare system the contribution that a drug makes." — *MNA/Reuters*

SPORTS



Turkmenistan's Benchmuhammed Kuliyeu crouches as Iraqi players celebrate behind him right after the match of the Group C match of the Asian Cup soccer tournament in Chengdu, western China on Thursday, 22 July, 2004. Iraq won over Turkmenistan 3-2. —INTERNET

Flamini joins Arsenal from Marseille

LONDON, 23 July— French under-21 international Mathieu Flamini has joined Arsenal from Olympique Marseille, the English champions said on Thursday.

Arsenal's web site reported that the defensive midfielder had signed a long-term contract. Sources close to Marseille said earlier in the day that it was a four-year deal.

Flamini had not signed a professional contract at Marseille so Arsenal will have to pay the French Ligue 1 club compensation but no transfer fee.

"He may be young but already he has a

good level of top-flight experience," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said.

"He is very powerful and plays with great creativity, both as a defensive and attacking midfielder, and will be a tremendous addition to our squad."

Marseille coach Jose Anigo said he had tried everything to keep the 20-year-old.

MNA/Reuters

Trezeguet signs new four-year deal with Juventus

MILAN, 23 July— France striker David Trezeguet has signed a new four-year contract with Serie A club Juventus.

The 26-year-old, whose original deal with Juve was due to expire at the end of next season, had threatened to leave in protest over his salary but a deal has now been struck to bring his earnings in line with the club's top earners.

"The player's requests were met," Juve general manager Luciano Moggi told

Gazzetta dello Sport's web site. Trezeguet joined Juventus from Monaco four years ago and in 2002 finished top scorer in Serie A with 24 goals.

"I am happy that I am staying and that we sorted the situation out," he said.

Juventus sold forward Marco Di Vaio to Valencia earlier this week and new

coach Fabio Capello is expected to use Trezeguet and Alessandro Del Piero as his first choice pairing, although the club continue to be linked with Parma's Alberto Gilardino.

MNA/Reuters

Maradona Jr rejects Dunfermline offer

GLASGOW, 23 July— Diego Maradona junior, the son of the 1986 World Cup winner, will not be joining Dunfermline Athletic after rejecting a contract offer from the Scottish Premier League club.

Dunfermline manager David Hay and director of football Jim Leishman told reporters on Thursday they would not be making a second offer for the 17-year-old striker, who flew to Scotland for a two-day trial at East End Park last week.

Maradona is on the books of Italian Second Division club Napoli, who his father helped to their only Serie A titles in 1987 and 1990 as well as the 1989 UEFA Cup.

Maradona senior, 43, is regarded as one of the finest players in soccer history and four years ago was voted "player of the century" by fans on FIFA's official web site. He has spent much of the past four years undergoing drugs rehabilitation treatment, and was admitted to hospital in April after suffering heart problems.

MNA/Reuters

Iraq overcome Turkmenistan in Asian Cup thriller

CHENGDU (China), 23 July— Midfielder Qusay Munir snatched an 88th-minute winner as Iraq beat Turkmenistan 3-2 to keep their Asian Cup challenge alive on Thursday.

Munir arrived unmarked to head in a Hawar Muhammed cross, giving Iraq victory in a pulsating Group C clash that had three goals scored in the last eight minutes.

"We were lucky to win this match," said Iraq coach Adnan Hamd. "But we were unlucky to lose our last match."

Their German coach Bernd Stange quit in the build-up to the Asian Cup, saying he feared for his life amid the escalating violence in Iraq.

Iraq, beaten 1-0 by Uzbekistan in their opening match, had looked set for more heart break after Turkmenistan equalized with a deflected Begenchmuhammed Kuliyeu free kick in the 85th minute.

Iraq had deservedly gone

ahead 2-1 in the 80th minute when striker Razzaq Farhan nodded in the rebound after a fierce shot from Ahmed Manajid crashed against the woodwork.

But Turkmenistan equalized five minutes later

through Kuliyeu, who also scored an injury-time equalizer for Turkmenistan against Saudi Arabia in a 2-2 draw last weekend.

Iraq will take on the Saudis in their final group game on Monday.—MNA/Reuters



Iraq's Qusay Aboudy celebrates after scoring against Turkmenistan. Iraq's war-weary footballers overcame a late fightback from 10-man Turkmenistan to breathe life into their Asian Cup campaign with a pulsating 3-2 victory.—INTERNET

Milan's Inzaghi ruled out for six weeks

MILAN, 23 July— AC Milan striker Filippo Inzaghi could miss the start of the Serie A season after a test on his troubled ankle injury revealed complications.

Inzaghi missed out on Milan's title-winning run-in and Italy's Euro 2004 campaign after picking up the injury which he has struggled to recover from.

The striker had an operation on April 28 but Milan said on Thursday that tests at a specialist in Amsterdam had revealed two "moving bodies". The club said Inzaghi would need "five to six weeks rest" ruling

him out of the entire pre-season build up ahead of September's Serie A start.

The absence of Inzaghi will hand an early chance to Argentine Hernan Crespo to forge a partnership with last season's Serie A top scorer Ukrainian Andriy Shevchenko.

Crespo joined Milan last week on a one-year loan from English Premier League club Chelsea.—MNA/Reuters

Rivaldo signs two-year deal with Greece's Olympiakos

ATHENS, 23 July— Former World Player of the Year Rivaldo has signed a two-year contract with Greece's Olympiakos, the Piraeus club said on Thursday.

The 32-year-old Brazil forward's arrival is seen as another boost to soccer in Greece after their national team shocked the world by winning Euro 2004 earlier this month.

The club have not released the financial details of the contract, which includes an option for a third year, but according to local media reports, Rivaldo could earn up to 1.8 million euros (2.21 million US dollars) per

season. "Olympiakos would like to announce the transfer of Brazil's international player Rivaldo for two-plus-one years," the club said in a statement. Rivaldo was greeted by hundreds of fans on his arrival at Athens Airport on Wednesday night.

The former Barcelona player was pictured wearing an Olympiakos shirt on Thursday and told reporters that the Greece's Euro 2004 triumph had

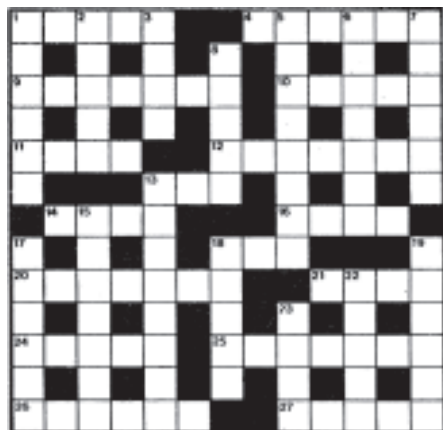
helped him to sign.

"There were other teams interested in me, but the Euro 2004 win, my personal friendship with (Olympiakos player) Giovanni and the talks with (senior club official) Giorgos Louvaris, played an important part in my decision," Rivaldo said.

"Who thought Greece would win the European Cup, so why would we not manage with Olympiakos?"

MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Harmonious sound
- 4 Channel port
- 9 Enigma
- 10 Cuttlefish
- 11 Condiment
- 12 Exterior
- 13 Metal
- 14 Close by
- 16 High voice
- 18 Enthusiast
- 20 Humorous
- 21 Operatic song
- 24 North African port
- 25 Trade
- 26 Throws out
- 27 Take off

DOWN

- 1 Yellow flower
- 2 Grass used in rope-making
- 3 Character on the stove
- 5 Wolf-like dog
- 6 Designate
- 7 Declared
- 8 Poet
- 13 The stick (anag.)
- 15 Huge
- 17 Grass-cutter
- 18 Wind instrument
- 19 Reckless person
- 22 Allude
- 23 Deep voice



Saudi Arabia's Yasser Al Qahtani (L) is tackled by Uzbekistan's Timur Kapadze during the Asian Cup Group C match in Chengdu. Uzbekistan beat Saudi Arabia 1-0 to become the first side to reach the quarter-finals of the Asian Cup.—INTERNET

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends seventh Waso robes offering ceremony of Bangladesh Monastery

YANGON, 24 July — The seventh Waso robes offering ceremony of Bangladesh Monastery in Natchaung Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon East District, was held at the three-storey Maha Jaya Mingla Theindawgyi of the monastery this afternoon. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended it and offered Waso robes and alms to monks.

Present on the occasion were State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Vice-Chairman Abhidhaja Maha Rathaguru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhama Jotika Bahan Township Aungmyebonsan Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pañnidabhivamsa, SSMNC member Sayadaws, Bangladesh Sayadaw Maha Saddhama Jotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Pañna Jota and members of the Sangha, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon City Development Committee chairman Yangon mayor, officials of the SPDC office, departmental heads, Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Manjoor Rahim and officials of the embassy, members of district and township PDCs, nuns, disciples and wellwishers.

First, the ceremony was welcomed with the three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*. Next, the Aungmyebonsan Monastery Sayadaw invested the congregation with the Five Precepts. The Sayadaws and members of the Sangha recited parittas.

The Prime Minister offered a set of Waso robes and provisions to the Aungmyebonsan Monastery Sayadaw. The commander, the ministers, the mayor, lay persons and wellwishers also donated Waso robes and offertories to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

SSMNC Vice-Chairman Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Jotika Dhaja Pyay Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundala delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained. Later, the ceremony concluded with the three-time recitation of *Buddha Sasanam Ciram Tithatu*. —MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects construction of Parami Overpass. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt offers Waso robes to Bahan Aungmyebonsan Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pañnidabhivamsa at seventh Waso robes offering ceremony at Bangladesh Monastery in Tamway Township. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects progress of Parami Overpass

YANGON, 24 July — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected progress of Parami Overpass Construction Project being undertaken by Myanma Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation this afternoon.

At 3 pm, the Prime Minister arrived at the construction site where Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister U Pe Than and officials of Myanma Railways welcomed him.

Next, the Prime Minister inspected laying of concrete floor of the overpass and other construction tasks. The minister and officials conducted the Prime Minister round the construction site. After giving instructions to officials, the Prime Minister pass through the Overpass.

Construction of the overpass was completed 80 per cent. And, the approach road to the main overpass, pedestrian lanes and tarred road are under construction. — MNA



Matriculation exam results announced

YANGON, 25 July—The results of the matriculation examination held in March 2004 were simultaneously announced at the respective exam centres of the respective schools in states/ divisions and townships at 6 am today.

In addition, the results from states and divisions apart from Yangon Division are posted at Insein Basic Education High School No 1, Yankin BEHS No 1, Kamayut BEHS No 3, Lanmadaw BEHS No 1, Dagon BEHS No 2 and Thingangyun BEHS No 1.—MNA

Exam results to be broadcast for remote areas

YANGON, 25 July — The Radio Myanmar will broadcast results of the matriculation examination held in March 2004 for the examination centres in remote areas from States and Divisions through 41.75m wave at 8.30 am on 25 July (Sunday).

The schedule to broadcast the examination results for the regions are Tanai, Machanbaw, Putao, Ngamon, Phakant, Sumparabum and Chibwe of Kachin State, Papun, Kyain-Seikkyi and Kamamaung of Kayin State, Kanpetlet, Matupi, Mindat and Paletwa of Chin State, Gwa, Kyeintali, An, Manaung and Zayatkonkhin of Rakhine State, Momeik, Namhsam (North), Monghsat, Mongkaing, Kunlong, Mongton, Mongpyin, Maukmei, Mongyaung, Kehsi Manhsam, Kunhing, Hopang, Mongkhat, Mongpang, Mongphyat, Mabein, Mongshu and Mantung of Shan State, Palaw, Bokpyin and Pala of Taninthayi Division, Pauk, Htilin, Saw, Laungshwe, Kyaukhtu, Sedoktara and Ngaphe of Magway Division, Nanyun, Leshi and Lahe of Sagaing Division and Coco Islands of Yangon Division. — MNA

Sanitation tasks inspected

YANGON, 24 July — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected sanitation and proper flow of water in Yangon City this morning.

Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar Police Force, workers of YCDC, social organizations and local people participated in cleaning and dredging of drains in the city to have city characteristics. At 6.30 am, the commander and the mayor arrived at the corner of Strand Road and 17th Street in Latha Township where YCDC Secretary Col Myint Aung, No 4 Military Region Commander Col Yan Naing Oo, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi, Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint and officials welcomed them.

Next, the commander and the mayor inspected sanitation on 17th Street and 27th Street, dredging of drains, spraying of pesticide in Latha Township. Similarly, the commander and the mayor saw over sanitation along Baho Road and proper flow of water at drains in Hline Township, No 5 Highway in Hlinethaya Township and dredging of drains with the use of heavy machinery in Insein Township. They gave instructions to officials on emphasis to be placed on creation of clean, pleasant and healthy environs for the public, prevention of mosquito and fly and dredging of drains for proper flow of water. This morning, sanitation tasks were carried out in various parts of the city simultaneously.

Next, the commander and the mayor attended the tree planting ceremony of YCDC in Tamway Township and planted Mahogany trees. The YCDC planted 1,150 various kinds of trees on Pinshwenyung Road in Tamway Township. — MNA