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Monday, 26 July, 2004

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Maldives

YANGON, 26 July—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has sent the message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives on the occasion of the 39th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Maldives, which falls on 26 July 2004.

MNA



MEC Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects students at Myanmar Maritime University.— MNA

Master plan to be drawn for Special Industrial Park (Thanlyin-Kyauktan)

YANGON, 25 July — A coordination meeting relating to Special Industrial Park (Thanlyin-Kyauktan) being implemented by Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development was held at the Thanlyin-Kyauktan Industrial Zone Management Office on Yangon-Thanlyin-Kyauktan Road this morning, with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present at the coordination meeting were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-

Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, the deputy attorney-general, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, Chairmen of Yangon South Dis-

trict and Thanlyin and Kyauktan Township PDCs, the President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and national entrepreneurs.

(See page 16)

There are better foundations for development of industries of international standard in Thanlyin-Kyauktan Industrial Park.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses coordination meeting relating to Special Industrial Park (Thanlyin-Kyauktan).— MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

- * After having taken up the State duties the government established industrial zones in the environs of Yangon City with the aim of ensuring industrial development in the country.
- * Thanlyin-Kyauktan is a region where a seaport can be built.
- * Infrastructures needed for emergence of a zone of international standard including the construction of an international sea port, transport and power and water supply were built in Kyauktan Thilawa region.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 26 July, 2004

Maintain roads and bridges for posterity

On one occasion, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance saying that better transportation in a certain region plays a vital role for its development and roads linking one region and another are also important for regional development and that only when there is better transportation will there be economic, social and administrative development.

In accord with this guidance, the Government has been building roads and bridges and as a result, there are 18,436 miles of roads in the whole nation, up 4,801 miles from 13,635 miles in 1988. In Sagaing Division alone, there are now 2,094 miles of roads, up 762 miles from 1,332 miles in 1988.

Moreover, 187 bridges with the length of 180 feet and above have been built throughout the nation since 1988. Of them, 14 have been opened in Sagaing Division.

Under the arrangements of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council, North Yama Creek Bridge linking Yontaw Village in Salingyi Township and Aungchantha Village in Yinnabin Township, was built between Monywa-Pale-Gangaw Road and Monywa-Salingyi-Pakokku Road. The opening ceremony of the bridge was held on 15 July, attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

In his address delivered at the opening ceremony, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that in the time of the present Government, roads and bridges and a network of rural roads have been built to facilitate the transport sector and that better transportation will help develop regional economy and further strengthen amity among national races.

The wooden and bailey-type North Yama Creek Bridge, which is 12 feet and 6 inches wide, can withstand 30-ton loads.

With the emergence of North Yama Creek Bridge, people living in Salingyi area now have easy access to Monywa, Pakokku, Salingyi and Yinnabin.

Moreover, using the 15 miles long new road linking Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa road, Monywa-Yinnabin-Pale-Gangaw Road and Monywa-Pakokku Road, one can now travel from one region to another in a short time.

With farsightedness and goodwill, the Government has built North Yama Creek Bridge and thus local people are urged to maintain the bridge and roads which contribute towards socio-economic development of the region.

Football Tournament opens

YANGON, 25 July — The No 11 Light Infantry Division Commander's Trophy Football Tournament for 2004-2005 was opened at the sports ground of the division on 25 July morning.

The LID commander gave a speech. Next, football players of 11 teams saluted him. After the ceremony, Commander Col Hla Htay Win and enthusiasts watched the first day match.

Present at the opening ceremony were the wife of the commander, staff officers of the division, commanding officers of regiments and units, officers, other ranks and families. — MNA

Drive safely

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, 25 July — The second Waso robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Finance & Revenue was held at the meeting hall of the ministry on Sethmu 1st lane here at 5.30 am today. Minister for F&R Maj-Gen Hla Tun and wife Daw Khin Than Win, Deputy Minister Col Hla Thein Swe and wife Daw Thida Win, officials staff and families offered Waso robes to members of the Sangha.

The waso robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Rail Transportation was held at the Taunggyi Pariyatti monastery in Bahan Township here at 6 am today. Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and wife Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha, Deputy Minister Thura U Thauung Lwin and wife Dr Daw Yi Yi Htwe, Deputy Minister U Pe Than's wife Daw Cho Cho Tun, officials and families offered Waso robes to members of the Sangha.

The seventh Waso robes offering ceremony of

the No 2 Basic Education Department was held at the Maha Wizatayon monastery in Mandalay yesterday morning. Minister for Education U Than Aung, officials, staff and families offered Waso robes to members of the Sangha.

Likewise, the 23rd Waso robes offering ceremony of the Myanmar Medical Association was held at the MMA hall on Theinbyu Road here at 9.30 am today.

The 17th Waso robes offering ceremony of the Office of the Attorney-General was held at its Dhammayon at the corner of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Bahan 2nd lane here at 9 am today. Attorney-General U Aye Maung and wife Daw Khin Mya Mya, Deputy Attorney-General U Han Shein, Deputy Attorney-General U Myint Naing, officials, staff and families offered Waso robes to members of the Sangha.

Similarly, the 12th Waso robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of



Minister for Finance & Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun and wife Daw Khin Than Win present Waso robes and offertories to a Sayadaw. — F&R

Hotels & Tourism was held at the Dhammayon of the ministry on Arzani Road in Bahan Township here at 5 am today. Director-General of the Hotels & Tourism Department U Htay Aung and wife, officials and families offered Waso robes to members of the Sangha.

The fourth Waso robes offering ceremony of

the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs was held at the assembly hall of the ministry on Pyay Road, Sangyoung Township, here at 10.30 am today. Director-General of Communications Department U Kyi Than and wife and staff offered Waso robes to members of the Sangha. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and party supervise the dry day Inspection Teams. — MNA

Dry day inspection teams discharge duties

YANGON, 25 July — Chairman of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, accompanied by members Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Vice-Adjutant General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Col Tin Shwe of the Office of Quartermaster-General, Police Adjutant-General Police Brig-Gen Soe Myint Tun, Provost Company (Air) Commandant Maj Hla Myint Oo, Director-General of the Ministry of Industry-2 U Khin Maung, directors, Secretary Deputy Director-General of

the Government Office U Sein Hla and Joint-Secretary Commander of Yangon Division Wireless and Traffic Police Force Police Lt-Col Aung Naing, supervised the dry day inspection teams which were checking vehicles using by Tatmadaw and departments at the main points of Yangon City today.

The dry day inspection teams checked the dry day pass, driver's licence, wheel tax bill, wearing of uniforms of departments and the drivers whether they had violated traffic rules or not.

MNA

Training Course concludes

YANGON, 25 July — The General Course on International Property Rights DL 101, sponsored by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) under the arrangement of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry (UMFCCI) was conducted through Internet.

Those who have completed the course were presented with certificates at a ceremony held at the UMFCCI training centre on Bo Sun Pet Road here at 11 am yesterday.

UMFCCI Education Work Committee Chairman U Sein Win Hlaing presented the certificates of WIPO to the trainees.

MNA



UMFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing presents certificate to a trainee. — UMFCCI

Head of Iraq construction group seized in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 24 July — Gunmen kidnapped the head of an Iraqi state-owned construction company on Saturday as he drove from his home in a southern Baghdad suburb to work, an Interior Ministry spokesman said.

Raad Adnan Mahmoud, director of the al-Mansour Contracting Company, was seized after the gunmen blocked his car in a busy street in the Zaieuna neighborhood in the southeast of the capital, Ministry spokesman Colonel Adnan Abdel Rahman said.

Al-Mansour, one of Iraq's largest construction companies, has carried out several reconstruction projects for Iraq's ministries, including a housing complex in Baghdad and military barracks for the new Iraqi army.

As well as running al-Mansour, Mahmoud is also a senior official in Iraq's Housing and Construction Ministry.

Internet

India making all efforts for release of hostages in Iraq

NEW DELHI, 24 July — The Indian government said it was doing its best to secure the safe release of three of its nationals held captive by militants in Iraq.

"Government is in touch with all relevant entities and agencies in Kuwait, Iraq, United States and the Iraqi embassy in New Delhi," national security advisor JN Dixit told reporters after a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) — the government's highest strategic decision-making body.

"We are doing our best to

get them released," he added.

The Indian hostages, along with three Kenyans and an Egyptian, are being held by an Iraqi group calling itself Black Flags.

The militants have been demanding the Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport firm for which the men worked wind up its operations in Iraq or they would behead the men one by one.

On Friday, the group made another demand seeking "payment of damages to families of victims of Fallujah and the release of Iraqi detainees from American and Kuwaiti prisons."

Internet

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Russia will help Iraq via trade not troops

MOSCOW, 24 July — Russia said on Saturday it had no intention of contributing troops to the US-led force in Iraq, but was prepared to help by developing trade and easing debt burdens.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov made the pledge to build on Moscow's longstanding links with Iraq after talks with his opposite number Hoshiyar Zebari.

It was the first visit to Moscow by a top official since the interim government took over formal control of public affairs last month from US-led occupying forces.

Russia, Lavrov said, had no plans to dispatch forces to Iraq, nor had the issue arisen during the talks.

"Russia is prepared to support the restoration of sovereignty of Iraq in other ways, particularly through trade," he said, offering action within the Paris Club of state lenders to help Baghdad with its external debt.

"This contribution will be no less than the contribution of the participants in the multinational forces." —Internet



US soldiers investigate the scene of a roadside bomb explosion in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on 23 July, 2004. At least six Iraqis were wounded when an improvised explosive device went off as they were travelling in a minibus in Baghdad, hospital officials said. — INTERNET

Iraqis worried about borders with neighbours

BAGHDAD, 24 July — Though six Iraqi neighbours voiced support to the interim Iraqi Government at a Cairo gathering Wednesday, Iraqis are still worried about the control of its borders with them.

Prime Minister Iyad Allawi on Monday embarked on his maiden Mideast trip since his appointment early last month with an aim to open a "new chapter" in Iraq's relations with its neighbours.

Some Iraqis hailed the results of Allawi's visit with great relief, while others are suspicious of countries, such as Iran and Syria, which were accused by Foreign Minister Hoshiyar-Zibari of not exerting enough efforts to stop border infiltration.

In a statement before the Cairo ministerial meeting, Zibari called on neighbouring countries to take tangible steps to support Iraq, not only by words.

He warned that terrorism may be epidemic if they do not act on it.

Zibari's warning came after a more tough one by Defence Minister Hazim Shaalan who said that Iraq is capable of transporting terror to neighbouring territories if they do not stop support to guerrillas.

He pointed finger at Iran in particular, blaming it for meddling in its border area.

"The Iranian expansion is wide and unprecedented.

Iranians entered the vital Iraqi governmental institutions and were able to establish intelligence and security centres in Iraq," he said.

Allawi softened the tone during his visit to Jordan, emphasizing the importance of dialogue with neighbours in this regard.

As for Syria, Adnan al-Asdi, undersecretary of the Iraqi Interior Ministry, said after a visit to Damascus that the Syrian Government had expressed readiness to cooperate in controlling the border, but he pointed out that

there was no steps on the ground so far.

Observers believe that countries which are afraid of being the next US target will may be worldly wise and make themselves safe first.

Kuwait, the small Iraqi neighbour in the south, fears a change of the US foreign policy in the region may give it a cold shoulder. Saudi Arabia seems to be preoccupied with its own security problems, fighting arduously against terrorist elements suspected linked to Osama bin Laden. — MNA/Xinhua

UN panel urges Iraq to ensure gender equality

UNITED NATIONS, 24 July — A UN panel of expert on Thursday urged the Iraqi interim government to protect and promote women's rights.

Feride Acar, chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, told a Press briefing at the UN Headquarters in New York that the panel is preparing a statement urging the new Iraqi authorities to ensure gender equality throughout the process of political transition and reconstruction.

"We are particularly concerned that the laws that will be developed by the interim government in Iraq ensure that women's rights, particularly in the family and personal status laws, are protected on the basis of equality with men," she said. She stressed that the authorities must ensure women's participation in the upcoming elections, not just as voters but as candidates, and in all phases of the reconstruction process. — MNA/Xinhua

Hundreds of Indian families worry for kin in Iraq

KOLKATA, 24 July — Hundreds of families in West Bengal whose kinsmen went to Kuwait on contractual jobs fear that they might have been taken to Iraq to work for the US-led allied forces.

Almost 1,000 people from Ranaghat in Nadia district had gone to Kuwait, but many of them are now in different cities and towns of Iraq working as cooks in military barracks.

The families back home have been living in constant worry since the news of the capture of three Indians by Iraqi militants, who have threatened to behead them if all Indians working for US-led coalition forces did not return home.

The families say they have no idea how their relatives landed up in Iraq. Most haven't heard from their men, who were taken by recruiting agencies for jobs in Kuwait.

"I just know that my son was taken from Kuwait to Iraq. But I don't know where he

is now or how he is," Rita Biswas of Begpara village, whose son hasn't called home for months, told the Bengali daily Ananda Bazaar Patrika.

Biswas' son was among hundreds recruited by a Mumbai-based agency that promised them jobs, mostly of cooks, in Kuwait.

"We don't know if our men went to Iraq willingly or they were forced to go. We are worried about their security," said Kanika Mondal, who hasn't heard from his son for over two months. Some men have returned from Iraq. "I worked in a US military barrack as a cook in Nasiriyah. My son too went with me. But I'm not sure where he is now. He may be in Karbala," said Simon Halder. —Internet

US Marine killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 July — The US military has announced that a Marine has died of wounds sustained on yesterday in Iraq during fighting west of Baghdad, in Al-Anbar Province.

The death brings to 900 the number of US troops killed in Iraq in combat (666) and by accidents and other causes (234) since the invasion to oust Saddam Hussein last year.

A total of 1,017 coalition troops have been killed in Iraq since the war began.

Meanwhile, Reuters is reporting that an explosion has set fire to an oil pipeline north of Baghdad, near the town of Samarra.

The pipeline is a subsidiary line and is not Iraq's main northern oil export line. That line has regularly been sabotaged and is currently out of commission, with no oil flowing to the port of Ceyhan in Turkey. —Internet



A US tank deploys in a street in the Iraqi city of Kufa recently. Nine Iraqis were killed and 10 injured when a van they were travelling in north of Baghdad hit a US tank. — INTERNET

Group threatens Australia, Italy over Iraq

DUBAI, 24 July — A group claiming to be the European wing of al Qaeda on Saturday threatened Australia and Italy with attacks if they did not pull troops out of Iraq.

The statement signed by "Islamic Tawhid Group, the al Qaeda organization, Europe" and posted on a Web site said it would attack both countries with "columns of rigged cars" if their demands were not met.

"Australian people, if your government refuses to withdraw and respond to us we will shake the ground beneath your feet as we did in Indonesia and columns of rigged cars will not stop," it said.

"Italian people, we advise you accept our offer and if you refuse you will hear columns of rigged cars shaking your cities," it added.

It was the second such statement in a week. On

Wednesday the previously unheard-of group threatened Bulgaria and Poland with attacks if they did not pull out from Iraq.

The group also threatened

to attack Australian interests in Arab and Muslim countries. "Our arms are long and we can reach whoever we want, whenever we want."

Internet

Philippines advises its nationals against working in Iraq as drivers

MANILA, 24 July — The Philippines has advised its nationals against seeking work as truck drivers in Iraq, saying they could be captured by militants as recently freed captive Angelo de la Cruz had been.

Defence Secretary Eduardo Ermita also declined to say if the government would help any other Filipinos taken hostage as it had de la Cruz, who returned to the Philippines on Thursday after being held by militants for 17 days.

The militants had threatened to behead the truck driver unless the Philippines withdrew its small contingent of troops serving with US-led coalition forces in Iraq.

Manila pulled out the troops a month earlier than scheduled, earning strong criticism from the United States and its ally Australia, which also has troops in Iraq.

Ermita acknowledged in a statement that Filipino drivers in the Middle East were being offered triple the wages they would normally earn to drive trucks into dangerous areas of violence-ravaged Iraq.

But he advised them to "consider that you may end up like Angelo."

"Think of this very carefully," he said.

He cited a case this month when 10 Filipino truck drivers in a convoy came under attack and had to be rescued by Iraqi government and US forces. —Internet

Some firms will halt business in Iraq

KUWAIT CITY, 24 July — A spate of kidnappings targeting truck drivers hauling fuel and other supplies for private companies in Iraq is forcing companies to rethink the way they do business in the volatile country.

At least one foreign firm in Iraq decided to stop its work in Iraq to gain the release of its abducted employee and a Kuwaiti transport company with seven drivers being held hostage has said it is negotiating for their release.

Some companies are trying to minimize the risk by employing Iraqis or Jordanians and other nationals seen as less likely to be targeted. Yet, although terrorism has stemmed the flow of foreign workers — and perhaps slowed the pace of Iraq's reconstruction — high pay still lures some foreigners to overlook their home governments' advice and go.

"It is an opportunity for those who are taking the risk. There is less competition," said Reem Beydun, who runs the Iraqi operation of Kuwait's Global Investment, which has a holding com-

pany for its Iraqi business.

Despite a government ban, and even after one of their countrymen was kidnapped, Filipino truck drivers were still going to Iraq, Philippines officials said.

Last week a Saudi company, Al-Jarie Transport, agreed to stop its business in Iraq so that kidnappers would release one of its driver, Alsayed Mohammed Alsayed Aljarabawi. He was freed Monday. —Internet

US Congress clears final \$416b defence bill

WASHINGTON, 24 July — The US Congress on Thursday sent President George W. Bush a \$416.2 billion US dollars defence spending bill that includes 25 billion US dollars in emergency funds for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, giving the measure overwhelming backing after little debate.

The Senate unanimously approved the huge bill to finance the Pentagon 96-0, its last major act before breaking for a six-week re-

cess to campaign for November 2 congressional and presidential elections.

Also scrambling to complete business before the re-

cess, the House of Representatives passed the measure 410-12.

The Pentagon can tap the 25-billion-US-dollars emergency funds for Iraq and Afghanistan — provided as a down payment until the Administration seeks a much bigger emergency spending bill next year — once Bush signs the bill.

The 391-billion-US-dollar core of the Pentagon's budget, up 22 billion US dollars from current levels, becomes available with the October 1 start of the next fiscal year.

The Pentagon acknowledged it may have to start using the emergency money before next fiscal year after the Government Accountability Office, Congress' auditing agency, in a report on Wednesday said the Administration had underestimated this year's costs for the wars by 12.3 billion US dollars.

MNA/Reuters

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Airman 1st Class Garey Watson and Staff Sgt Ronnie Phipps, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, stand guard at Tallil Air Base, Iraq on 20 July, 2004.

INTERNET

Foreigners taken hostage in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 25 July — Guerillas in Iraq have kidnapped nearly 70 people in their violent campaign to drive out coalition forces and hamper reconstruction. Many captives have been truck drivers, but militants on Friday seized a diplomat for the first time, a signal they are starting to target higher-ranking foreigners.

Here is the status of some of those taken hostage in Iraq:

Held hostage

Mohammed Mamdouh Helmi Qutb, of Egypt. Diplomat, abducted Friday. Militants said they abducted Qutb because Egypt said it would send security experts to new Iraq government.

Ibrahim Khamis, Salm Faiz Khamis and Jalal Awadh, of Kenya; Antaryami, Tilak Raj and Sukdev Singh, of India; Mohammed Ali Sanad, of Egypt. Truck drivers abducted 21 July.

Rifat Mohammed Rifat, of

Canada. Prison worker, abducted 8 April.

Aban Elias, 41, Iraqi-American, held since 3 May by group calling itself "The Islamic Rage Brigade."

Ivaylo Kepov, of Bulgaria. Truck driver, abducted 9 July, possibly killed. Beheaded body found in Tigris River still not identified.

Hostages killed

Georgi Lazov, 30, of Bulgaria. Truck driver, abducted 9 July. His headless body found 14 July in Tigris River.

US Army Spc Keith M Maupin, 20, of Batavia, Ohio. Reported killed 29 June by Arab television. US military could not confirm that man shown being shot in videotape was Maupin.

Kim Sun-il, 33, South Korea. Translator, beheaded 22 June by al-Qaida-affiliated group.

Hussein Ali Alyan, 26, Shiite Muslim from southern Lebanon. Construction worker, found shot to death 12 June.

Fabrizio Quattrocchi, 35, Italian. Security guard, killed 14 April after kidnapped with three compatriots 12

April. Previously unknown group, the "Green Battalion," claimed responsibility.

Nicholas Berg, 26, American. Businessman, beheaded by al-Qaida-affiliated group after kidnapped in April.

Hostages who escaped

Thomas Hamill, 44, American. Truck driver, escaped his captors 2 May after being wounded in the 9 April ambush.

Radoslaw Kadri, Polish Businessman escaped by kicking in car window and jumping out near US troop patrol after abduction 1 June.

Hostages freed or rescued

Thirteen Turks, five Japanese, three Czechs, three Italians, two Lebanese, two Russians, an Egyptian, a Pakistani, a Frenchman, a Chinese citizen, a Pole, a Syrian-Canadian, and an Arab Christian from East Jerusalem.

Missing in Iraq

William Bradley and Timothy Bell. American contract truckers last seen 9 April after attack on their convoy. Wael Mamduh, of Jordan. Missing since 12 April. — Internet



An Iraqi man, shows his concern for his friend, the bus driver who was injured when the bus was hit by a roadside bomb, as an Iraqi policeman walks past him in Iraq's capital city Baghdad, on 23 July, 2004. — INTERNET

UN to appeal for assistance for drought-hit Kenya

UNITED NATIONS, 24 July — United Nations agencies will soon appeal for international aid to help Kenya feed millions of people facing a food shortage caused by years of drought, the United Nations said on Thursday.

Several years of inadequate rains in the East African nation have led to a particularly poor cropping season, prompting Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki to declare a national disaster, the UN office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said. Due to the poor rainfall, five out of Kenya's seven provinces will only produce about 40 per cent of food needed by the local population this year.

Currently, one million people have already faced a food shortage and some 2.3 million will require a total of 146,000 metric tons of food for the next six months, the office said, adding that the number could rise up to 3.3 million if rain remains scarce. — MNA/Xinhua

US airstrike on Fallujah targets Zarqawi's men

FALLUJAH (IRAQ), 24 July — US forces carried out an airstrike on the rebellious city of Fallujah on Friday, targeting a group of suspected guerillas linked to Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the US military said.

"Based on multiple sources of intelligence, the attack targeted 10 to 12 terrorists with known ties to the Abu Musab al-Zarqawi network of foreign terrorists," US Air Force Brigadier-General Erv Lessel said in a statement.

"The anti-Iraqi forces were struck while in the courtyard of a house; the house was left intact."

The statement did not say if anyone was killed in the operation, but residents of the area said at least five

people were wounded, two of them children.

"We were sleeping, women and children. They hit us but we don't know why," said an old woman dressed in traditional black clothes as she sifted through the wreckage.

"The Americans are lying. Let them come and search us, not hit us with bombs," Reuters Television pictures showed bloodstains on the ground in what might have been the courtyard of a

house, a deep hole in the ground apparently from where a shell or missile struck and a thick layer of dirt covering a nearby car.

Over the past month, the US military has carried out seven strikes against suspected safe houses in southwestern Fallujah believed to have been used by Zarqawi or his supporters. Around 40 people have been killed in the attacks.

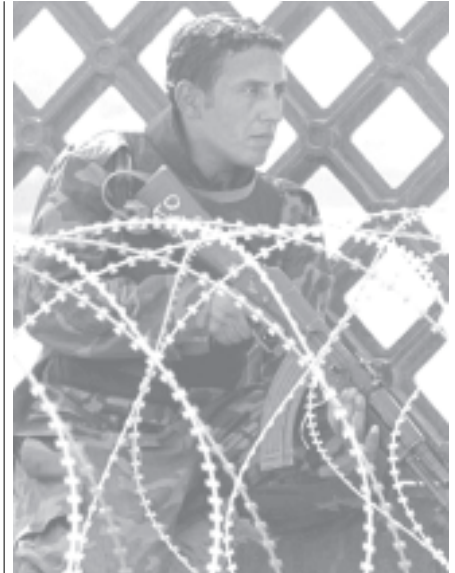
The latest strike was carried out in coordination with

Iraq's interim government, the statement said. Iraq's interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi is currently out of the country.

"Many tribal leaders and residents of Fallujah are tired of terrorist activities in their city and support the recent series of attacks against Zarqawi's forces in southern Fallujah," the US military said.

US officials have said they believe Zarqawi, who Washington says is allied to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda, is hiding out in Fallujah, a violent town that is essentially in the hands of guerillas and is a hotbed of anti-US insurgency.

MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi National Guardsman takes cover at a checkpoint in Baghdad's Haifa Street on 23 July, 2004. — INTERNET

Iraq group gives new 48-hr deadline over hostages

DUBAI, 24 July — A group in Iraq which has threatened to behead seven foreign hostages issued a new 48-hour deadline to their Kuwaiti employers on Friday and demanded Iraqi prisoners be freed from Kuwaiti and US jails, Al Jazeera television said.

"They gave a Kuwaiti company 48 hours to answer demands for the hostages' release. They said the company must pay compensation to the families of the dead in Fallujah and Iraqi prisoners in American and Kuwait jails should be released," Al Jazeera said, saying it had received a videotape from the group.

US strikes on the rebellious city of Fallujah over the last month have killed about 40 people.

A masked man was seen reading a statement in front of the seven men, one Egyptian, three Kenyans and three Indians, who were sitting on the ground.

Those countries are not part of the US-led military coalition in Iraq but many of

their nationals work as drivers and contractors.

A spokesman for Al Jazeera said it was not clear whether the 48 hours deadline began from Friday when the tape appeared to have been made, or from the end

of the original 72-hour deadline on Saturday.

He said the group, which calls itself the "Black Banners", did not explicitly repeat its threat to kill the men in the new videotape.

MNA/Reuters

US hostage's head found in Riyadh

RIYADH, 24 July — A head found in a refrigerator at a Saudi militant hideout this week was that of slain US hostage Paul Johnson, the US Embassy in Riyadh said on Friday.

Saudi forces said they found his head after storming a villa in Riyadh on Tuesday, killing two wanted Islamists and seizing weapons.

"We were told by the authorities on Wednesday that

they had recovered the head. We viewed it and confirmed the victim's identity on Thursday," a spokeswoman said, adding the embassy was working with Riyadh to find the rest of Johnson's body.

There were no plans yet to transfer the head from Saudi custody to Johnson's family in the United States.

Johnson, 49, employed by US helicopter gunship maker Lockheed Martin, was killed on 18 June after the expiry of a militant deadline for authorities to free Islamist prisoners. A videotape of his beheading appeared on the Internet.

MNA/Reuters

Egyptian diplomat kidnapped in Baghdad

DUBAI, July 24 — An Egyptian diplomat has been kidnapped in Baghdad by a group which demands that Egypt not cooperate with US forces in Iraq, Al Jazeera said on Friday.

"The group said the abduction was in response to comments by Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif that Egypt is ready to offer its security experience to the temporary Iraqi Government," Al Jazeera said, naming the hostage as Mohamed Mamdouh Qutb and showing a videotape it said had been sent to it by the group.

"The hostage said in the tape that the Egyptian Embassy does not cooperate with the American forces and should help the Iraqi people in rebuilding," the channel said. Qutb was shown sitting in front of six masked men in black, at least one armed with a rifle.

MNA/Reuters



A US Army soldier walks by a passenger bus damaged when an improvised explosive device detonated in the northern entrance of Baghdad recently. — INTERNET

9/11 Commission blames both Clinton, Bush administrations

WASHINGTON, 24 July — A bipartisan commission investigating the September 11, 2001 attacks on the US has cited multiple failures by both the Bill Clinton and George W Bush Administrations to detect and prevent the terrorist plot.

"We do not believe they (Clinton and Bush) fully understood just how many people al-Qaeda might kill and how soon it might do it," the final report of the Commission said.

While the panel did not fault either President, it did say that both failed to make countering the terrorist threat a top priority.

Stressing on the need to overcome "deep institutional failings", the Commission called for the appointment of a new high-level intelligence chief and the establishment of a national counter-terrorism centre to help deal with the likelihood of another

major terrorist assault.

"Since the plotters were flexible and resourceful, we cannot know whether any single step or series of steps would have defeated them," the unanimous report said.

"What we can say with confidence is that none of the measures adopted by the US Government from 1998 to 2001 disturbed or even delayed the progress of the al-Qaeda plot. Across the government, there were failures of imagination, policy, capabilities and management."

In a news conference coinciding with the formal release of the report on Thursday, Commission members

said urgent action was needed to implement the recommended reforms in the face of what they described "inevitable attempts" by terrorists to inflict even greater casualties on the United States.

"It is not our purpose to assign blame," said the Republican chairman of the Commission, Thomas H Kean, "Our goal is to prevent future attacks. Every expert with whom we spoke told us an attack of even greater magnitude is possible, and even probable. We do not have the luxury of time. We must prepare, and we must act."

Lee H Hamilton, the vice-chairman of the 10-member committee, and a former chairman of the House International Relations Committee, cautioned that "there is no silver bullet or decisive blow that can defeat Islamist terrorism".

Outlining the Commission's recommendations, he said a new National Counter-terrorism Centre would "unify all counter-terrorism intelligence and operations across the foreign and domestic divide in one organisation. Right now, these efforts are too diffuse across the government."

Hamilton also said a new national intelligence director would address the need for "a much stronger head of the intelligence community" in the country.

"The intelligence community needs a shift in mindset and organization," he said, so that intelligence agencies operate under the principle of unity of command, "with information-sharing as the norm".

MNA/PTI

AI to increase capacity by 100% in a couple of years

LONDON, 24 July — Ruling out privatization of Air India, Indian Civil Aviation Minister Praful Patel on Friday said there would be a 100-per-cent capacity increase in the national carrier in the next one to two years.

"We don't intend to privatize Air India. We feel Air India should grow much faster and there will be a 100-per-cent capacity increase in the national carrier in the next one to two years,"

Patel told newsmen here.

The Civil Aviation Minister, who is here on a two-day visit, said the strengthening of Air India would be done with the combination of "leasing and acquisition" of aircraft. "You will see a vibrant Air India within a year, ready to take on the rest of the leading airlines in the world," he asserted.

Describing his talks with his British counterpart Alistair Darling here on Thursday as "meaningful", Patel said both governments have agreed in principle to enhance the number of flights and increase the frequencies between the two countries.

"We agree that there is vast scope for enlarging bilateral ties in view of the fact that traffic potential and passenger demand for international air services is increasing."

He said the next round of Britain-India bilateral talks covering a whole gamut of

issues connected with civil aviation would be held here in August or September.

"There are also plans to increase the air traffic not only from London to Delhi and Mumbai but other centres in India," Patel said.

Patel, who also attended the Farnborough Airshow, said Air India would hold direct negotiations with the British Airport Authority for increasing the number of slots for it at the Heathrow Airport.

Replying to a question, he said Ahmedabad would get more connectivity and there would be direct flights to Manchester and Birmingham from India in due course.

The Civil Aviation Minister also planned to improve immigration and Customs services at the international airports in Delhi and Mumbai, in addition to providing a "fast track" system.

MNA/PTI



Children gather bomb fragments from a crater left in the courtyard of a house in the southwestern part of Fallujah on 24 July, 2004.



Wounded Iraqis are treated in a hospital after they were hurt in a car bomb explosion in the town of Haditha, on 15 July, 2004.

Images of Iraq



A relative mourns over a bloodstained mattress after an Iraqi security guard was killed by an errant rocket during an attack on an Iraqi Police station in the Al-Ilam section of Baghdad, on 18 July, 2004.



Maryan Taleb, 4, lies in her hospital bed after being wounded in a bomb attack on 17 July, 2004.



Onlookers view destroyed vehicles after a car bomb exploded next to a convoy carrying Iraqi Justice Minister Malik al-Hassan in Baghdad, on 17 July, 2004.



An Iraqi man was injured after a car bomb exploded in Mahmudiyah, 20 miles south of Baghdad, on 17 July, 2004.

Roads and bridges built for rural and border areas development



Mole creek-crossing bridge on Bhamo-Myitkyina road in Moemaik Township, Kachin State, is 325 feet long. (Photo:PBANRDA)



Road at entrance to Mongla, Shan State (East).—MYANMA ALIN



In the past, people living in Takawet region, Shan State (North) had to rely on ferries to cross the Thanlwin river. To overcome the natural barrier, the government has built Thanlwin Bridge (Takawet) and now, people can cross the river easily using the bridge. — MYANMA ALIN



A bridge across Palauk creek in Palauk village, Palaw Township, Myeik District, Taninthayi Division.—PBANRDA



Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung reports to the Prime Minister on research works being conducted by Archaeology Department in Padagyi and Zokthok regions.—MNA

Master Plan to be drawn ...

(from page 16)

The ministers and departmental heads also reported on tasks to be carried out by the ministries concerned for the project. The Prime Minister next fulfilled the requirements and the meeting concluded at 11.20 am.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party studied the geographical conditions of the project site of the Special Industrial Park from the briefing hall. They then inspected the park by cars. Myanmar Education Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party went to Myanmar Maritime University where they were welcomed by Rector U Thein Tun, professors and faculty members. At the hall of the university, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe reported to the Prime Minister on academic matters, appointments of faculty members for respective majors, sending of trainees abroad and arrangements to send more trainees abroad.

Rector U Thein Tun reported on academic and management matters. The Prime Minister was greeted by the trainee faculty members of Myanmar, attending the masters degree courses in the People's Republic of China under the programme of training of the trainees, who are currently here on vacation.

On behalf of the trainees, U Htin Aung Kyaw, who is attending the masters degree course majoring in nautical science, expressed gratitude and presented a gift to the Prime Minister.

Golden Flower Co Ltd Managing Director reported on construction progress of the theatre, workshop, ship-building shed, staff quarters, warehouse and parking space. Next, the Prime Minister gave instructions on construction

tasks to be carried out according to the master plan.

The trainee faculty members attending masters degree courses who arrived back here temporarily from the People's Republic of China paid respects to the Prime Minister.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister urged the trainee faculty members to make efforts in studying the advanced subjects during the scholarship period abroad. And, they are to strive for learning advanced subjects with the concept that the modern technology they learned is to be effectively applied in tasks of the nation and that they have responsibility to turn out new generation intellectuals in maritime and vessel fields to repay gratitude to the government. Next, the Prime Minister and party went to e-Resource Centre installed with iPStar on the first floor of Myanmar Maritime University and viewed learning of students through Internet, Ship Design Software and Engineering Application Softwares.

The Prime Minister inspected lecture halls and the dispensary in the university and designs of FRP vessels to be jointly built by MMU and Silver Wave Trading Ltd under the arrangements of technology transferring programme and gave necessary instructions.

At the temporary workshop, the Prime Minister and party inspected the moulds for construction of the vessel.

The Prime Minister also inspected tasks for building watercraft for passengers, coastal liner, police patrol boat, fibre boat and navy boat being carried out by MMU and Silver Wave Trading Ltd.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to historic Hsawdawshin Kyaikkamaw Hill Pagoda in Kyauktan and paid homage to the Buddha Image. They

then offered flowers, lights and incense sticks to the Buddha image at the prayer hall.

At the hall, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung reported on research works being conducted by Archaeology Department in Padagyi and Zokthok regions where laterite culture flourished in the past, evidences of the laterite culture being unearthed in 24 plots in Padagyi region of Thanlyin and Kyauktan Townships and excavation of laterite Buddha images and laterite posts in four plots beginning 2002.

Research Officer U Than Zaw Oo reported on archaeological research works being conducted in Padagyi region, excavation of laterite Buddha images and ancient ordination halls in Padagyi region, Director-General U Nyunt Han of AD on the history of laterite culture and future tasks. The Prime Minister gave instructions on evidence of laterite culture from respective regions to systematically be put on records and compilation of research papers. He urged them to do research and find firm evidence for the legendary events to be able to write history.

Next, the Prime Minister visited the pagoda and left there at 4 pm.—MNA

The trainee faculty members are to make efforts in studying advanced subjects during the scholarship period abroad. And, they are to strive for learning advanced subjects with the concept that the modern technology they learned is to be effectively applied in tasks of the nation.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects the site chosen for Special Industrial Park (Thanlyin-Kyauktan). — MNA

U-21 ISD Soccer Tournament opened

YANGON, 25 July — A ceremony to open the Fifth U-21 (novice class) Inter-State/Division Soccer Tournament of the Sports Minister's Cup for 2004 was held in Patheingyi Sports Grounds, Ayeyawady Division, yesterday evening.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, officials, managers and coaches of 16 football teams, footballers and fans. Just after all the football teams had taken their positions, the minister made an opening speech on the occasion, saying that arrangements are being made for the development of the Myanmar sports standard and today's tournament aims at coming out new generation youth footballers. Footballers selected from the tournament would be seen achieving success in ASEAN U-17 and U-18 as well as BIMST-EC Soccer Tournaments. The footballers to compete in the tournament were to make earnest efforts to become outstanding ones who could bring honours to the State, he pointed out. — MNA

Building of Chindwin Dockyard inspected

YANGON, 25 July — Patron of Sagaing Division War Veterans Organization Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Member of Central Organizing Committee for Myanmar War Veterans Organization Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe on 23 July evening met members of division, district and township WVO at Myathala hall of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council. Chairmen of various WVO presented reports on measures taken for organizing and the commander fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the minister presented Longyis, memberships of the organization and badges to Chairman of Sagaing Division WVO Lt-Col Myo Myint. Afterwards, the commander and the minister inspected worksite for building of Chindwin Dockyard.

They paid homage to Bawditaung Sayadaw in Monywa and offered provisions to the Sayadaw. — MNA



Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Religious Affairs Department accepts cash donations. — MNA

Cash donated for construction of Myanmar monastery in Paris

K 10 million & FEC 2,450 donated

YANGON, 25 July—Wellwishers donated cash for the second time for construction of Theravada Buddhist Missionary Myanmar monastery in Paris, French at a ceremony held at Vijayamingala Dhammathabin on Kaba Aye Hill here this morning.

It was attended by Presiding Sayadaw of the Monastery Kyunnatha Bhaddanta Nandasiri, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Religious Affairs Department, Deputy Director-General U Htin Myo, Deputy Director-General U Tun Mya Aung of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana and departmental officials, Chairman of the Monastery Construction Committee U Shein Win and Vice-Chairman Daw Theingi Win and committee members, disciples and well-wishers.

Well-wishers donated K 9,954,710 and FEC 2,450 including K 1 million each by Dhammadhuta Sayadaw, Shweparami Tawya Sayadaw, disciples of Shweparami Tawya Sayadaw, Yankin Educatiaon College and U Min Lwin of Mantra Co; K 500,000 by U Bon Sein-Daw Cho Cho Lwin and family; K 300,000 each by U Khin Maung Aye-Daw Khin Saw Mu, Dr Naing Tun Aung-Dr Way Way Yin and U Htay Aung-Daw Khin Kyi Lwin; K 200,000 by U Aung Myint-Daw Thu Kha and U Win Myint-Daw Thin Thin; K 150,000 by Daw Aye Thin; and FEC 500 each by U Shein Win-Daw Khin Cho Oo and U Soe Sae-Daw Theingi Win.

Director-General Dr Myo Myint accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the well-wishers. Afterwards, Bhaddanta Nandasiri delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.—MNA

MWAF holds economic talks

YANGON, 25 July — Economic work group of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation organized talks on economics at IBC here this afternoon. After the opening speech of Chairperson of the occasion Honorable Professor (Retired) Daw Hla Myint, Rector of Institute of Economics (Retired) U Myat Thein gave talks on Macroeconomics Environment of Myanmar as well as Professor Dr Daw Khin San Yi of the Administration Department of the same Institute on Business Development and Entrepreneurship. Those present took part in the talks and the ceremony ended after the speakers were presented gifts. The occasion was attended by Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet and members of MWAF and guests. —MNA

Myanmar delegation back from Thailand

YANGON, 25 July — A three-member Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun arrived back here from Bangkok, Thailand by air yesterday evening. They studied placing and fixing of concrete bridge columns, using road recycling machine and concrete-aid, land preparations, the geotextile factory and foundation tasks for construction of Suvarnabhumi International Airport in Bangkok. The Myanmar delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Ministers for Construction U Tint Swe and U Myint Thein, departmental heads of the Ministry of Construction and relatives.

Members of the delegation Deputy Managing Director (Works) U Sai Thein Maung of Public Works, Deputy Chief Engineer (Building) (Lower Myanmar) U Ye Myint Swe, Deputy Chief Engineer (Building) (Upper Myanmar) U Kyaw Lwin and Deputy Director U Kyaw Lin Khaing also arrived back.—MNA



Lt-Gen Maung Bo views round the farm machinery displayed at the demonstration of monsoon paddy cultivation techniques and Agri-16 hand tillers in Hlaingbwe Township. — MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects health, transport, agriculture sectors in Mon, Kayin States

YANGON, 25 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departments concerned, inspected progress of health, transport and agriculture sectors in Mon and Kayin States on 23 July.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party arrived at the station hospital in Theinzayat, Kyaikto Township, where Mon State Health Department Head Dr U Tin Win Kyaw and officials welcomed them.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected the operation theatre, wards and the X-ray room. Next, the Head of Mon State Health Department reported on healthcare in Mon State and functions of hospitals and rural health care centres.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that health plays the most important role in the human society. In building the modern and developed nation, healthy human resources are required. Healthy public only can strive with earnest efforts for building the State. The Ministry of Health is implementing three methods—to give health knowledge to grassroots level, control diseases and effectively provide healthcare. Similarly, the national health plans and the health plans of the Ministry of Health are being implemented.

Therefore, health staff are to place emphasis on achieving success in implementation of the aims of the ministry and nurturing healthy and fit human resources for the State.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo left through Yangon-Mawlamyine Highway and inspected completion of the concrete overpass crossing railroad near Sittoung Village. Officials of the Myanma Railways conducted him round the construction site.

The overpass can contribute towards local people and students from Sittoung Village for their road safety.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party arrived in Hpa-an via Kyaikto and Thaton and proceeded to Thitsa Road leading to Shwegoon. They saw over conditions of roads and small bridges along the road and thriving paddy fields on both sides of the road.

In the evening, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party attended the demonstration of monsoon paddy cultivation and use of Agri-16 power-tiller at the paddy field in Tawunphan Village, Hlaingbwe Township. They were welcomed there by officials of Myanma Agriculture Service and local people.

Chairman of Hpa-an District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Ko Ko Gyi reported on cultivation of monsoon paddy in Hpa-an District for 2004-2005, completion of 26,785 extended acres of monsoon paddy in the district against the target of 500,000 acres in Kayin State and cultivation of monsoon in Hpa-an, Hlaingbwe, Papun and Thandaung townships.

The District Manager of MAS reported on cultivation of pedigree paddy strains for boosting production and extension of cultivable lands.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo delivered an address, saying that monsoon paddy cultivation has been completed by 64 per cent in Hpa-an District. He stressed the need not only to meet local food sufficiency but also to exceed the target of the agriculture. And, concerted efforts are to be made for boosting 100 baskets of paddy per acre with the use of four methods.

They inspected paddy cultivation with System of Rice Intensification Method. Next, they inspected Agri-16 power-tillers manufactured by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. — MNA

*** Health plays the most important role in the human society. In building the modern and developed nation, healthy human resources are required. Healthy public only can strive with earnest efforts for building the State.**

*** The Ministry of Health is implementing three methods—to give health knowledge to grassroots level, control diseases and effectively provide healthcare.**

*** The concrete overpass crossing railroad near Sittoung Village can contribute towards local people and students from Sittoung Village for their road safety.**

*** 26,785 extended acres have been put under monsoon paddy in Hpa-an District. Monsoon paddy cultivation has been completed by 64 per cent in Hpa-an District. Concerted efforts are to be made for boosting 100 baskets of paddy per acre.**

Bangladeshi delegation arrives

YANGON, 25 July—A delegation headed by Minister of Commerce Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Altaf Hossain Choudhury of the People's Republic of Bangladesh arrived here by air this afternoon to attend the first Myanmar-Bangladesh Trade Joint Commission Meeting to be held here.

The Bangladeshi delegation was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and responsible officials, Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar Mr A.B Manjoor Rahim and officials.—MNA

A historical milestone leading the nation to a new age — 5

Aung Moe San

Social science experts said that mutual trust and reliance was greater than democracy; and that there could not be democracy without mutual trust and reliance. That is true. Democracy cannot exist in the absence of mutual trust and reliance. Thus, mutual trust and reliance is greater than democracy, with mutual understanding. During the anti-colonialist and anti-fascist struggles, the Myanmar people made sacrifices based on mutual trust and reliance, that is more important than democracy.

Today, the delegates, who are the national races, have been holding the National Convention with full mutual trust and reliance. Thus, they are trying to materialize the six objectives of the National Convention from the constructive point of view; holding discussions with peaceful progress as the foundation; avoiding force or impolite means in presenting their proposals and options; exercising patience and tolerance in accord with democratic means applying own experiences; and following the majority's opinion and views.

There may be differences in options and ideas in a society. There is no better way than solving the problem of differences from the positive point of view. Because all can know from the historical lessons that disintegration of the national solidarity will bring only the sufferings to the national races. The blood baths resulting from the democracy reforms of the East European countries also remind us of the fact. For example, the Bosnia war and Kosovo war and the conflicts resulting from the disintegration of the Soviet Union are significant lessons. All the countries will have to avoid facing such terrible conditions.

Myanmar has laid down and is implementing the seven-point future policy programme to set up a democratic nation with the united force of all the national people. The State has invited people from all walks of life and various strata representing all the national races and organizations and political parties to attend the Convention. Dutifully, it has invited all the national forces to work hand in hand for the national cause. However, some political parties go against the positive endeavour. And some powers of the world and some media of the West are flattering any force that opposes the endeavours of the Government to build the nation and restore national re-consolidation, and describing them as democracy heroes and democracy activists.

Democratization should not be carried out through the anarchic methods or through the method of relying on aliens. Unrest and terrorism cannot bring democracy. Democracy cannot be built through foreign interferences, pressures and sanctions.

But can they become democracy heroes and democracy activists by opposing the nation-building endeavours of the Government? Not at all! Some oppose the Government more for power than democracy; some, with negative views while relying on aliens; some, for they are not able to take the leadership role; some, for their egoism; and some, because the Government does not yield to their desire to dominate. There are other self-interests to oppose the Government.

Some quarters oppose the Government for differences in the democracy cause. If so, they should build mutual trust with the Government and should join hands with it to build democracy with positive attitude. Only then, will they be exerting efforts to build national re-consolidation and democracy.

Here, we need to analyze all the opposing forces holding negative views to know whether they are true democracy forces or not. One can wield his stick as he likes, but it should not hit others. We need to test the opposing forces to ascertain whether they have qualities of democracy or not.

The social science experts said that human history had never witnessed the taking root of firm democracy in any undeveloped nation; that a nation started to practise democracy only after the development of economy, living conditions and social standard of its people; and that another requirement was the firmness of the civil liberty, the rule of law and effective responsive political institutions. Thus, democratization should not be carried out through the anarchic methods or through the method

of relying on aliens. Unrest and terrorism cannot bring democracy. Democracy cannot be built through foreign interferences, pressures and sanctions. All the people of the nation will have to strive with positive means for development and advancement of the economy and production industries and emergence of a democratic nation. They will have to strive in accord with the seven-point future policy programme of the State, while upholding the law of peaceful development.

In his address delivered at the meeting to announce the adjournment of the National Convention, held on 9 July 2004, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein said: "the National Convention, which was reconvened on 17 May 2004, is going to be adjourned, as a portion, or in other words, a sector of the Convention has successfully completed. As the initial portion has been successfully completed, I would like to express my special thanks to all the delegates, who have collectively taken part for the success of the Convention.

"The Government and the public are like the parents and the children. Without making any discrimination, all parents have equal loving kindness for their children, wishing to see them gain a higher position in life. Even in one's own family, there may be children understanding their parent's situation and having sympathy for them, while there may also be those who always become cross and get angry whenever their desires are not met. But parents' attitude towards their children is always the same. They do not have any favours or bias for any children. Their loving kindness and goodwill for their children is like a straight line, and the same applies to the Government for the people."

"It is a common knowledge that the laying down of the basic principles and detailed basic principles to draw a constitution is the important initial step for the nation out of the seven-point future policy programme of the State. Accepting the guidance of the leaders of the State, and with goodwill for the future of the nation, the National Convention Convening Commission invited all the delegates of the national races, those from all walks of life, those of workers, peasants, intellectuals and intelligentsia, State service personnel, political parties, representatives-elect and the groups that have returned to the legal fold after exchanging arms for peace.

"Some of the delegates to the Convention had to make energetic efforts to attend the Convention without fail, after travelling by land, water and air. And, it is a common knowledge that even some of the aged delegates suffering from certain kinds of ailment, were happy and took pride of themselves for being invited to the Convention, as it is a national cause, and attended the Convention in a wheel chair or on crutches, without taking into account their poor health that may endanger their life. But there are some who failed to attend the Convention, despite the fact that they were invited and did not need to travel afar.

"The Government and the public are like the parents and the children. Without making any discrimination, all parents have equal loving kindness for their children, wishing to see them gain a higher position in life. Even in one's own family, there may be children understanding their parent's situation and having sympathy for them, while there may also be those who always become cross and get angry whenever their desires are not met. But parents' attitude towards their children is always the same. They do not have any favours or bias for any children. Their loving kindness and goodwill for their children is like a straight line, and the same applies to the Government for the people."

Thus, I would like to present that the seven-point future policy programme of the State, in which the convening of the National Convention is the initial step, is the historical milestone leading the nation to enter a new age.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin: 18-7-2004.

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

China's economy moves in right direction as expected

BEIJING, 25 July — Chinese President Hu Jintao said here Friday that the Chinese economy is moving in the right direction as anticipated by economic policymakers.

Hu made the remarks at a meeting with leaders of the country's non-Communist parties, the national federation of industries and commerce and personage without party affiliation.

Premier Wen Jiabao gave a briefing on the country's economic situation during the first half of this year at the meeting, which was presided over by Hu.

"The various measures and policies introduced by the central government are being implemented step by step, and the whole economy is moving towards our anticipated targets of macro-economic regulation," the Premier said.

In order to achieve a sustainable and healthy economic development and narrow the growing income gaps, China has tightened management of land releases and loans to selected sectors in order to cool the economy since late last year. The Chinese economy grew 9.7 per cent in the first half of this year. The government has increased support for farmers to boost grain production and raise their income.

President Hu spoke highly of the proposals and comments made by participants of the meeting to the central authorities on macroeconomic policies. Their remarks are important for the central authorities to perfect the policies, said the President.

Hu said China would continue to implement and improve its policies and measures for macroeconomic control, while giving priority to grain production and consolidating the fundamental position of agriculture and easing energy shortages.

Wen said the achievements China has made in macroeconomic control are still preliminary. He cautioned that the outstanding problems facing the economy have not been rooted out and the macroeconomic control measures should not stop half way. — MNA/Xinhua

Myanmar Swimming Federation working hard to romp away

Article by Nyi Nyi Soe Nyunt & photos by Ko Ko Soe Nyunt

In the past, Myanmar achieved success in swimming contests, bagging medals not only at the ASEAN level but also at the Asia level.



U Tin Maung Win
(Managing Director,
ILBC), President of MSF.

The Myanmar Swimming Federation was established in 1957. A few years later, the federation began winning victories in ASEAN and Asia levels swimming contests until 1970. Later it was far away from victory for over 20 years.

The federation snatched gold medals again in the river-crossing swimming contest held in Cambodia in 1997. Being not content with its development momentum gained at present, the federation is making continuous efforts so as to achieve greater success.

U Tin Maung Win

(Managing Director, ILBC) became the president of the federation in 2002. The federation was reconstituted with 14 members in the early July 2004.

Now it is making a prudent investment of manpower and financial power in order to win international swimming contests and to improve the nation's swimming standard.

The federation held a

press conference to make clarifications to its future programmes at the ILBC school in Tamway Township on 6 July.

On the occasion, the MSF president delivered a speech. In his speech, he said "I am thirsty for greater success, so I will strive together with the officials of the federation to elevate the country's swimming standard".

He said that the



New generation youth swimmers under training.



Myanmar selected swimmer Moe Thu Aung.

federation would take four steps for its all-round development — to produce more swimming referees, to send selected Myanmar swimmers to the People's Republic of China or Australia soon for undergoing training and to produce a large number of new generation swimmers, to build a federation-owned modern swimming pool in Kyaikkasan Sports Ground, and to promote international relations.

He expressed his belief that the federation would surely achieve its goal in the near future thanks to the fulfilment and encouragement of the Minister for Sports and

concerted endeavours of the officials of the federation.

Vice-President of the federation U Nyunt Soe said that he was very encouraged by the effective measures in all spheres taken by the officials of the federation and he was looking forward to victory of the federation.

Vice-President of the federation U Kyaw Soe delivered an address to the conference, calling for organizing more swimming contests in the nation. He pledged that he would try his utmost in carrying out tasks for greater success of the federation.

Secretary of the federation U Cho Maung (Managing Director, Alpha

Alien Trading Co Ltd) presented his personal opinions about a systematic long-term programme to produce new generation youths. He said that the president, vice-presidents and executives of the federation were now making harmonious efforts for its improvement. He also expressed his belief that the federation would achieve greater success soon.

With the vigorous endeavours of the officials, the federation will be able to translate its goal into reality in the near future, enjoying fruitful results of victory in international swimming competitions.

(Translation: MS)

Poll shows world economy seen growing 4.6% this year

LONDON, 25 July — The world economy is on track for its best performance since 2000 this year, thanks to an improved employment market in the United States and Japan's much better than expected performance, a Reuters poll showed.

Growth is also expected to be above trend in 2005, despite a slowdown in the world's top three economies by purchasing power parity (PPP) — the United States, China and Japan.

The median forecast in the July 21-22 survey of 27 strategists at major banks showed global growth of 4.6 per cent this year, making it, according to IMF figures, the best year since growth of 4.7 per cent during the tech boom of 2000.

For 2005, growth was seen slowing to 3.9 per cent.

"We believe that growth will be strong this year, based upon very strong growth seen in both the US and Japan and continued growth in China," said Michael Woolfolk at Bank of New York.

"Next year growth will slow, as China slows and (this has an) impact on the region." Economists have raised their forecasts since a comparable poll in May, which showed growth at 4.2

per cent in 2004 and 3.8 in 2005, because official data has been stronger than expected.

"As of early May I think we only had one healthy (US) jobs number. We've now got three or four (so) people may

be upgrading their US views," said James Shugg at Westpac in London.

"Japan has already been surprising to the upside and may continue to do so," he added.

MNA/Reuters

China to build world's largest population database

BELING, 25 July — China is planning to build a giant database with information about its 1.3 billion population, according to China Youth Daily. The database will include citizens' names, gender, nationalities, birth dates, residence addresses and identity card numbers, the newspaper said.

Many IT companies, including the Lenovo Group and the Sinosoft Group, have placed bids for the database building programme, which will be an unprecedented challenge due to the tremendous quantities of information and complexity of the operation.

Experts here consider that the population database will lay important ground for the country's social and economic development. It will also play a key role to the establishment of information networks concerning employment, tax levy and management, individual credibility, social security, family planning and criminal tracing, the experts say.

In addition, it can also favour the nationwide distribution of the second generation of ID cards currently under way in China, they said.

MNA/Xinhua

Investment in water conservation increasing in Yangtze

WUHAN, 25 July — The spending for water and soil conservancy projects has been rising in the valley of the Yangtze River as people become more aware of the need to protect the environment.

Information from the Yangtze River Water and Soil Conservancy Bureau said they approved 9,189 water conservancy projects last year. Project developers spent 3.71 billion yuan (about 446 million US dollars) on the water and soil conservancy drive while carrying out construction projects in 2003. Hu Jiajun, head of the bureau, told reporters that the department of water resources for the Yangtze River Valley stepped up publicity and implemented the law on Water and Soil Conservancy in the past years, which has helped local government departments and project developers improve awareness of water and soil conservancy and ecological protection.

Local water conservancy organizations in the Yangtze River, in cooperation with other government departments, dealt with 3,091 infringements in the past year.

In the meantime, the bureau has also made efforts to standardize locations of stations used to monitor landslide and mud and rock flow at the upper reaches of the Yangtze.

They will also assign more technical workers to those stations and modernize the equipment used for monitoring natural disasters.

MNA/Xinhua

Nigeria records increase in aviation traffic

LAGOS, 25 July — The Nigerian aviation industry has recorded considerable increase in the volume of airline traffic due to improvement in safety standards, a senior government official said here Friday.

Fidelis Onyehiri, Director-General of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), told newsmen in the nation's commercial capital Lagos that "more mega carriers are in operation in the country than before due to sustained safety records of the NCAA".

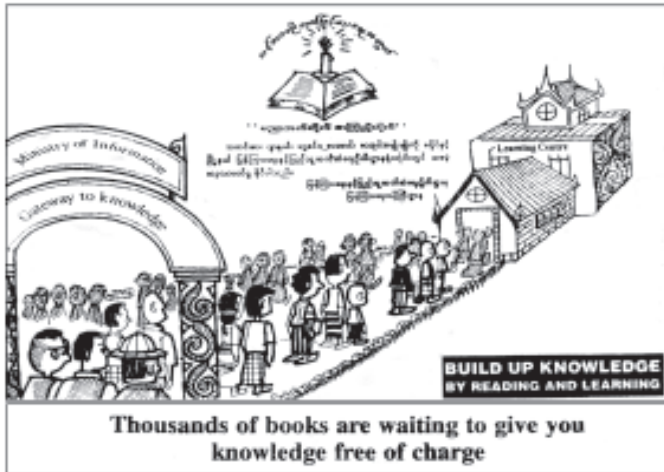
Onyehiri said that "on the last count, 18 international airlines are operating in the country which include world largest carriers such as the British Airways, Lufthansa, KLM, Virgin Atlantic, Air France, South African Airways, Swiss Air, Ethiopia Airways, Kenya Airways and a host of others".

The director said an audit panel of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) scored NCAA 86 per cent on the maintenance of safety in aviation after inspecting it.

Since 1999, the NCAA, Nigeria's aviation regulatory agency, has been making efforts to improve aviation infrastructure and safety in a bid to boost traffic that suffered considerable decline in the 1990s due to poor management of airport facilities.

In 2002 and 2003, the agency was awarded 80 per cent in the area of maintenance of safety standards when the ICAO audit panel visited the country.

MNA/Xinhua



ADVERTISEMENT

Musharraf holds talks with India's FM

ISLAMABAD, 24 July — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf held his first bilateral talks with India's new government on Friday.

Musharraf, one of the chief architects of a formal peace dialogue launched with New Delhi in January, met Indian Foreign Minister Natwar Singh who was in Islamabad for a regional forum but also to review what peace negotiations had achieved so far.

There was no immediate word on what was discussed.

The meeting was not expected to produce any breakthroughs, but was seen as an opportunity for Musharraf to meet the new Indian leadership from the Congress Party, which swept to victory in elections in May.

The nuclear-armed South Asian neighbours came to the brink of a fourth

war in 2002 after Pakistani-based militants launched an attack on India's Parliament, but an olive branch extended by New Delhi and intense US diplomacy helped avert a conflict.

Since then the two countries have agreed to a series of confidence building measures

including restoring transport links and holding a hugely popular cricket series.

Despite concern that the process has stalled since the Congress Party came to power, both sides are keen to show that nothing has changed. — MNA/Reuters

Indonesia to investigate alleged pollution by US company

JAKARTA, 24 July — The Indonesian police chief General Da'i Bachtiar said on Friday that along with the Ministry of Environment the police would soon come to the Buyat Bay at Minahasa District of North Sulawesi Province, and investigate whether the bay was polluted by the US subsidiary PT Newmont Minahasa Raya, a gold mining firm.

The chief of police said that in handling of the environmental case, the police

had signed an agreement to jointly handle the case with the ministry of environment.

"In the near future, we must be able to decide it immediately, it means we must come to the scene of accident and must check, then make an arrest," he told reporters at the police headquarters.

Bachtiar said that the investigation would be conducted by experts and through laboratory test.

Some 100 people living near the bay have reportedly contracted the Minamata Disease, which is caused by mercury poisoning, allegedly resulted from waste dumped by PT Newmont Minahasa Raya.

MNA/Xinhua

German invents glasses doubling as chopsticks

BERLIN, 24 July — A German firm has begun offering sunglasses and prescription spectacles with detachable frame arms that double as chopsticks or forks.

The glasses designer says there is growing demand from time-pressed sushi fans eating their favourite food on the go. "The idea came from the common need for cutlery at any time," said company director Ralph Anderl, who also uses his personal frames to eat the Japanese raw fish delicacy.

"Our so-called sushi specs have been a particular hit in Japan," he added.

The spectacle frames, costing from 270 euros (330 US dollars), are made from

lightweight stainless steel and fit together without the use of screws. But diners may have trouble seeing their food as is not possible to wear the glasses when using the arms to eat with.

The Berlin based "ic!berlin" company has grown continuously since its launch in 1997. It sells its frames in around 1,000 opticians' shops across Europe, the US and Japan.

Opticians say the sushi specs "fly out of the shops".

MNA/Reuters

German sentenced to 5-1/2 years for Microsoft fraud

BERLIN, 24 July — A German man was jailed for five and a half years on Thursday for repackaging cheap versions of Microsoft Corp software and selling them on at a higher price.

Ralph Blasek, a software dealer from Willich, near Bochum in western Germany, was found guilty of repackaging more than 32,000 copies of software products meant for schools and colleges, a Bochum Court spokesman said.

He sold them on through his firm, Dino-Soft, defrauding the world's No 1 software maker of some 4.5 million euros (5.53 million US dollars), the spokesman said.

Microsoft, which helped the German authorities during the investigation and 10-week trial, said in a statement Blasek was the suspected leader of Europe's largest known software counterfeiting network. — MNA/Reuters

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adhesives for affixing false
eyelashes, laundry starches,
scented gelatin used for
washing and stretching clothes,
paint stripping preparations, shoe
creams and foot creams, shoe
polishes, polishing preparations,
soaps, dentifrices, cosmetics,
perfumery and fragrances,
abrasive papers, abrasive cloths,
abrasive sands, artificial perfumes,
polishing papers, false nails, false
eyelashes."

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Hsin Lin Co. (U.S.) Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND
PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mpa@myanmar.net.mm
Tel: 254037 P.O. Box 688
Yangon 26 July 2004

Manila residential building collapses, no casualties

MANILA, 24 July — An 8-storey residential building in the heart of Manila's crowded commercial centre collapsed on Friday, bringing business to a halt and damaging nearby structures, but there were no casualties.

All the tenants in the building, including staff at a small savings bank, had been evacuated earlier when the five-year-old structure started to tilt.

"We are still trying to determine why and how the building collapsed," Manila mayor Joselito Atienza told local television.

"Our first priority is to clean up the debris, then we will call the building owner, architect and engineer to explain why this thing happened."

Ajit Mansukhani, an Indian national who owned the building, blamed a nearby construction site for the incident. He said the huge pit near his property had loosened the soil around the building's foundations.

MNA/Reuters

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့်
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၁။ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့်စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေးလုပ်ငန်း တွင်
အသုံးပြုရန်လိုအပ်သော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ပုံနှိပ်လုပ်ငန်းသုံးပစ္စည်းများကို
ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်။

- Web offset Ink

(1) Black	8700 Kg
(2) Yellow	1200 Kg
(3) Magenta	1700 Kg
(4) Cyan	1900 Kg
- Sheetfed offset Ink

(1) Black	900 Kg
(2) Yellow	600 Kg
(3) Magenta	700 Kg
(4) Cyan	400 Kg
(5) Green	909 Kg
- Negative Plates & Chemicals

(1) 915x626x0.3 mm	1400 Shts
(2) 1035x740x0.3 mm	300 Shts
- Positive Plates & Chemicals

(1) 740x615x0.24 mm	300 Shts
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- Wipe On Aluminium & Chemicals

(1) 635x745x0.24 mm	6400 Shts
(2) 650x550x0.24 mm	16150 Shts

၂။ တင်ဒါပေးသူကြီးမှတ်ပုံတင်(၆-၈-၂၀၀၄)ရက် (၁၆-၇-၀၄) နာရီတွင် ဝိတိသိမ်းပါမည်
၃။ တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်းအသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ပါလိပ်စာတွင်
လာရောက်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပ ပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့်ထုတ်ဝေရေးဓာတ်ကော်မတီ

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
အမှတ် ၂၇၊ ဘဏ်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့
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Time ticks away for hostages, India terms situation "serious"

NEW DELHI, 24 July — As the 72-hour deadline given by the captors of the three Indians in Iraq was ticking away, the Indian Government Friday described the situation as "serious" and said it was doing everything possible to secure their safe release.

"We have been given to understand that the hostages are unharmed and safe," junior federal Minister for External Affairs E Ahamad, who is heading the crisis management group, told reporters here.

The Kuwaiti transport company for which the three-some—Antaryami, Tilak Raj and Sukhdev Singh—had been working also assured that it will do "everything necessary" to ensure the release of the hostages. Along with the three Indians, three Egyptians and a Kenyan were kidnapped.

As part of efforts to secure their release, the government was also in contact with friendly countries of the region. The Indian mission in Kuwait was in touch with the Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company.

"I do not want to give any false hopes. It is a serious situation and has to be dealt with in a sensitive manner", External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh said on his return from Pakistan.

He hoped the hostages would be freed as they have nothing to do with the armed action in Iraq. "They are just civilians working for their bread," he said.

A group calling itself "The Holders of Black Banner" seized the seven truck drivers on Wednesday night and threatened to start killing each of them every 72 hours if their Kuwaiti employers do not pull out of Iraq. The 72-hours-deadline expires at 1430 hours Sunday.

Asked if the Kuwaiti company has agreed to stop operations, Ahamad said it "will do whatever possible" for the release of the hostages.

Observing that the demands of the kidnappers bear no relevance to India's well-known and principled position on Iraq, he said it had been made clear that India would not send its troops to Iraq. "In view of the prevailing security situation there, Government has suspended emigration clearance for workers for Iraq and has also advised Indian workers against going to Iraq," he said.

However, pilgrims wishing to go to the holy shrines in Iraq would be allowed to visit that country, he said.

Ahamad said this information had been widely published by Indian missions in Kuwait and Jordan among employers and their Indian employees so as to prevent forced deployment of Indians working in neighbouring countries into Iraq.

Ahamad said the Government was concerned about the safety and well-being of the Indian workers in Iraq.

The Government had also given clear instructions to its missions in the Gulf countries and particularly in Iraq to extend all possible assistance to workers interested in returning to India to facilitate their safe return, he said. — MNA/PTI

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Pakistan committed to strengthening eco ties with China

ISLAMABAD, 24 July— Pakistani Senate Chairman Muhammad Mian Soomro Friday said Islamabad is committed to strengthening economic ties with China and hoped there will be more exchange of visits between the two countries.

During a joint interview made by the Chinese media based in Islamabad prior to his visit to China, Soomro said during his stay in China, he would discuss with the Chinese leaders how to promote engagement between the Pakistani Parliament and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference as well as the Chinese Na-

tional People's Congress.

Soomro expressed the hope that since Islamabad and Beijing enjoy 'special relations', more Chinese investment could pour in Pakistan and both sides could establish more joint ventures in his country in order to further develop the Sino-Pakistan economic relations.

MNA/Xinhua

Dead whales land in Canaries after naval exercises

FUERTEVENTURA COAST (Spain), 24 July— Two dead whales have landed in Spain's Canary Islands, raising fears they may have been hurt by NATO military exercises off Morocco and that more could have died, officials said on Friday.

The two whales arrived in the area within 24 hours and were dead for several days before their bodies drifted ashore, said Tony Gallardo, environmental expert with the local government of the island of Fuerteventura, one of the

Canaries, which lies only about 60 miles off the southern Moroccan coast.

"There is a strong suspicion that their deaths were related to the NATO exercises that finished a few days ago," Gallardo told Reuters.

Naval and Air Force units from 10 countries involving 20,000 troops and more than 20 warships took part in US-led NATO military exercises off Morocco from 11 to 16 July.

MNA/Reuters

Nigeria, FAO reach agreement to increase rice production

ABUJA, 24 July — Nigeria and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on Thursday signed a technical cooperation agreement, aimed at boosting rice production within the Niger River Basin in Africa's most populous country.

Under the agreement the FAO will offer 232,000 US dollars for the project, which included field investigation of four to five sites in the basin, said Alhaji Mukhtari Shagari, the country's Minister of Water Resources, at the signing ceremony in capital Abuja.

He added that a presidential committee had been set up as part of its efforts to attain self-sufficiency in rice production in the West African country.

Meanwhile, Joseph Johnson, FAO representative in Nigeria, said that with the abundance of fresh water and over 61 million hectares of arable land, Nigeria had the potential to be a major producer and exporter of rice.

MNA/Xinhua

Oscar-winning "Star Trek" US composer dies

LOS ANGELES, 24 July — Oscar-winning US composer Jerry Goldsmith, who had created scores for many famous movies and television shows, including the movie "Star Trek", has died at the age of 75, it was announced Thursday.

Goldsmith, who also composed for "Planet of the Apes", "The Man from U.N.C.L.E.", and "Dr Kildare", died in his sleep Wednesday night at his Beverly Hills home after a long battle with cancer, said Lois Carruth, his personal assistant.

As a renown composer and conductor, Goldsmith had been nominated for 17 Academy Awards, won one, and also took home five Emmys for nearly half a century.

Goldsmith crafted an astonishing number of TV and movie scores that have become hits such as "Total Recall", one of his best scores, as well as the "Star Trek" movies.

MNA/Xinhua

US drug czar says war on terror also fights drugs

TAMPA (Florida), 24 July — The top White House anti-drug official said on Thursday that better security and intelligence since September 11, 2001, had increased drug seizures, contrary to fears the war on terror would hurt efforts to fight illegal-drug smuggling.

John Walters, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, said 400 metric tons of cocaine were seized in 2003 as Customs agents beefed up their scrutiny at border crossings, and government agencies hunted for intelligence about threats to national security.

"We've been even more successful against drugs," Walters told Reuters in an interview as he whizzed around in a patrol boat inspecting the port of Tampa, Florida's largest in terms of tonnage. Walters gave no comparative data or figures on whether drug prices or street availability had been affected. According to the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), 111 metric tons of cocaine were seized in 2001, the year hijacked airliners were flown into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Some US lawmakers had feared a reallocation of resources away from drug enforcement and into the war on terror would allow more narcotics to slip through US borders. But Walters reiterated that both campaigns were linked.

MNA/Reuters



A boy enjoys the cool water of a fountain, braving hot weather in Lisbon. Portuguese hospitals were on the alert as a heat wave was set to push temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) across large parts of the country. — INTERNET

Zambia to resume normal trade relations with Zimbabwe

HARARE, 24 July — Zambia will soon resume normal trade relations with neighboring Zimbabwe after the latter scrapped a fixed foreign exchange rate and registered a fall in parallel market activities, Zambia's top diplomat in Zimbabwe said here on Thursday.

"With the introduction of the auction system for foreign currency and the imminent death of the parallel market, we are optimistic that trade will be back to normal," said Zambia's Ambassador to Zimbabwe Elizabeth Mumba. "The business community in both countries have had problems and thus the need to work together and come up with procedures that promote trade," she said.

The ambassador said this at an annual general meeting of Mashonaland Chamber of Industries held in Harare where a new president for the chamber, Chester Mhende, was announced.

Mumba said trade relations between her country and

Zimbabwe had frozen owing to the prevalence of the parallel market for foreign currency that made imports from

Zimbabwe cheap, which distorted the market and made the Zambian products uncompetitive. — MNA/Xinhua

Italy names Buttiglione as new EU Commissioner

ROME, 24 July — European Affairs Minister Rocco Buttiglione will be Italy's next European Commissioner, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's office announced on Friday.

Italy's present commissioner, Mario Monti, holds the important EU competition portfolio and had hoped that he would be re-appointed to Brussels.

The Prime Minister's office said in a statement that Berlusconi had informed President-elect of the Commission Jose Manuel Durao Barroso and that Barroso had given his agreement to the nomination. — MNA/Reuters

Microsoft reports strong quarterly earnings

LOS ANGELES, 24 July — Microsoft Corp reported on Thursday that for the quarter ended 30 June, 2004, its revenue reached of 9.29 billion US dollars and net income rose to 2.69 billion US dollars. The world's largest software maker said for the fiscal fourth quarter, its revenue and net profit recorded a 15-per-cent and an 82-per-cent increase, respectively.

Diluted earnings per share for the quarter were 25 cents, compared to diluted earnings per share of 14-cents in the fourth quarter of the previous fiscal year.

For the fiscal year which ended 30 June, 2004, Microsoft said its revenue was 36.84 billion US dollars, a 14-per-cent increase over the 32.19 billion US dollars reported last year.

MNA/Xinhua

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SPORTS

Jensen leaves Charlton for Fulham

LONDON, 24 July—Denmark midfielder Claus Jensen has made a 1.25-million-pound (2.30-million-US-dollar) move across London from Charlton Athletic to Fulham, the Premier League clubs said on Friday. Jensen, who played in Denmark's run to the Euro 2004 quarter-finals, has signed a three-year deal with Fulham, having spent four years at Charlton and two at Bolton Wanderers.

Charlton boss Alan Curbishley told the club's web site: "Claus had one year remaining on his contract and made it clear to us that he didn't wish to renew his contract, and that he no longer wanted to play for the club, as he felt he needed a new challenge."

A delighted Fulham manager Chris Coleman said: "I know that he will add a great deal to the squad in terms of his passing ability and his dead ball prowess, and I look forward to him becoming an important part of next season's campaign."

The 27-year-old, who started out at Danish clubs Naestved and Lyngby, will now join the rest of the Fulham squad for pre-season training.—MNA/Reuters



Chinese players take part in training in Beijing, on 23 July, 2004. China plays Qatar in their last Group A match at the Asian Cup Soccer in China's capital on Sunday. — INTERNET

Klinsmann to hold talks in Germany this weekend

BERLIN, 24 July—Juergen Klinsmann will arrive in Germany this weekend for negotiations over his possible appointment as coach of the national soccer team, the German Football Association (DFB) said on Friday.

"We can confirm that discussions will take place at the weekend," DFB spokesman Harald Stenger told Reuters in response to German media reports that Klinsmann was set to meet for final contractual discussions in Frankfurt on Saturday.

"However, I cannot say when and where the talks will take place, nor when Klinsmann will be arriving," he added.

The former Germany captain is widely expected to take over from Rudi Voeller, who resigned as coach after the troubled team was knocked out in the group stage of Euro 2004.

On Thursday, Klinsmann, who has been in

talks with DFB officials since Tuesday, said it was too early to call him the next Germany coach.

"I have said I am ready to be on board in one function or another but it all has to fit," the former Bayern Munich and Tottenham Hotspur striker told a news conference in Los Angeles.

Opinion in Germany is divided over whether Klinsmann should become coach. A poll on Friday by Germany's N24 television channel showed 46 per cent opposed his appointment with 54 per cent in favour.

The DFB said officials from the ruling body had held talks on Thursday with Holger Osieck, who was head coach Franz

Beckenbauer's assistant during Germany's 1990 World Cup-winning campaign, and former Germany striker Oliver Bierhoff.

The 39-year-old former World Cup winner Klinsmann has been involved in sports marketing since ending his playing career and lives in the United States.

He has a training licence but no coaching experience.—MNA/Reuters

Middlesbrough gear up to sign Parlour

LONDON, 24 July—Middlesbrough were hoping to sign former England midfielder Ray Parlour from Premier League champions Arsenal on Friday.

The 31-year-old has spent his entire career with Arsenal, but was reported to be negotiating a three-year deal, with a transfer fee estimated at 1.75 million pounds (3.23 million US dollars).

Confirming Boro's interest, team defence coach Steve Harrison told the club's web site: "His record at Arsenal speaks for itself."

"Over the years he has proved his worth, he's a man, very strong and very strong-willed, plus the fact he can play and score the odd goal or two. He'd be a useful addition."

Known to the Highbury faithful as "the Romford Pele", Parlour was an Arsenal trainee before turning pro with the north London club in 1991 and going on to help them win three Premier League titles, four FA Cups and one League Cup.

Capped 10 times by England, Parlour had a mixed 2003-04 season, taking over the captaincy after an early injury to Patrick Vieira but then struggling to keep his place following a knee problem in February.

Parlour made headlines earlier this month when in an alimony battle his ex-wife Karen was awarded more than a third of his Arsenal contract, which was worth 1.2 million pounds a year.

Brazil, Argentina meet in dream final

LIMA, 24 July—World champions Brazil meet arch-rivals Argentina on Sunday in a perfect final to a Copa America that has already surpassed expectations.

The clash in Lima's national stadium comes less than two months after Brazil's 3-1 win in their World Cup qualifier in Belo Horizonte, when Ronaldo won and converted a hat-trick of penalties.

The Real Madrid striker will not be present this time. Along with Kaka, Ronaldinho and Roberto Carlos, he is one of several top players to be rested for the tournament by coach Carlos Alberto Parreira.

Yet the five-times World Cup winners have still managed to reach the final in an awesome demonstration of their strength-in-depth.

"We've shown the magnitude of Brazilian football," Parreira said.

Meanwhile, Argentina have almost certainly kept coach Marcelo Bielsa in a job by getting this far.

The introverted coach, who last week admitted he had trouble understanding himself, had not been expected to survive a poor tournament after a spell of lacklustre performances and unremarkable results.

Instead, Argentina have scored 14 goals and conceded four on their way to the final. Twenty-year-olds Javier Mascherano and Carlos Tevez have both looked outstanding and Bielsa appears to have secured his position. Brazil have also been unveiling alternatives to the old guard, in particular striker Adriano who is the Copa's top-scorer with six goals in five games including a hat-trick against Costa Rica.

The two giants of South American foot-

ball have not met in the final since the Copa America was reinvented in the late 1980s and it appears organizers did not intend them to clash this time either.

Along with hosts Peru, the pair were top seeds for the three first round groups and would have met in the semifinals if everything had gone to plan and they had won their groups.—MNA/Reuters

Roddick cruises to quarterfinal win over Hrbaty

NEW YORK, 24 July—Defending champion Andy Roddick advanced to the semifinals of the RCA Tennis Championships with a routine 6-2, 6-3 victory over sixth-seeded Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia in Indianapolis on Friday. Roddick showed no ill-effects of having to complete two matches on Thursday because of rain delays to set up a meeting with 10th-ranked Ivan Ljubicic of Croatia at the hardcourt event.

"The big difference today was in movement. I was able to run balls down," Roddick said. The top-seeded American, who is looking for his fourth title of the season, needed just 52 minutes to dispose of Hrbaty and improve his 2004 record to 47-9.

Ljubicic overcame an on-court bee sting to rally past third-seeded Frenchman Sebastien Grosjean 5-7, 7-5, 6-2. On the other side of the draw, unseeded Frenchman Gregory Carraz beat Israeli qualifier Noam Okun 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 to advance to his second semifinal of the season.—MNA/Reuters

South Korea overcome UAE 2-0 with 10 men

JINAN (China), 24 July—Lee Dong-gook and Ahn Jung-hwan scored to give 10-man South Korea a 2-0 win over the United Arab Emirates at the Asian Cup on Friday.

Victory left the Koreans on four points from two games, level on goal difference with Jordan at the top of Group B. The UAE became the first team to be eliminated.

South Korea, who have not won the Asian Cup since 1960, survived a couple of first-half scares until Lee headed in a free kick from Lee Young-pyo four minutes before the break.

Defender Park Jae-hong was then sent off in the 57th minute for a challenge on

Ismail Matar, though replays showed that no contact had been made.

From the resulting free kick, Basheer Saeed curled a left-foot shot against the bar with South Korean goalkeeper Lee Woon-jae well beaten.

South Korea, semifinalists at the 2002 World Cup, ensured victory in injury time, substitute Ahn latching on to a clever pass from Seol Ki-hyeon and finishing with a clinical low shot.

South Korea coach Jo Bonfre made five changes to the team that drew 0-0

with Jordan on Monday, leaving World Cup pair Ahn and Park Ji-sung out of the starting lineup.

The UAE, beaten 3-1 by Kuwait in their opening game, were unlucky not to take the lead in the 24th minute when Lee Woon-jae reacted brilliantly to keep out a close-range header from Saleh Abdulla.

Lee also kept out a fierce 30-metre free kick from Saeed in the 37th minute.

Jordan beat Kuwait 2-0 earlier on Friday to throw Group B wide open.

MNA/Reuters



South Korea's Seol Ki-hyeon, bottom, fights for the ball with the United Arab Emirates' Mohd Qassim Al-Balooshi during their Asian Cup match in Jinan, in China's eastern Shandong province on 23 July, 2004. South Korea won 2-0. — INTERNET

Answers for yesterday's crossword puzzle



MRTV-3

26-7-2004 (Monday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Myanma Panorama &
Myanma Sentiment"
- 9:06 The World of Mro National
Nationals
- 9:10 National News**
- 9:12 Thihathana Throne
- 9:15 National News**
- 9:20 Expedition of Rare
Crocodiles Species In-
habiting in Fresh and
Seawaters (V)
- 9:25 Kayin Dance (We Bu
(or) Paddy Winnowing
Dance)
- 9:30 National News**
- 9:35 Song "To a Silvery
Seagull"
- 9:40 Cruise on Min Kyan Sit
- 9:45 National News**
- 9:50 A Pilgrimage to
Dhammayangyi
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Come and See
Myanmar"

26-7-2004 (Monday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting

- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Mingalabar"
- 15:36 The World of Mro National
Nationals
- 15:40 National News**
- 15:42 Thihathana Throne
- 15:45 National News**
- 15:50 Expedition of Rare
Crocodiles Species In-
habiting in Fresh and
Seawaters (V)
- 15:55 Kayin Dance (We Bu
(or) Paddy Winnowing
Dance)
- 16:00 National News**
- 16:05 Song "To a Silvery
Seagull"
- 16:10 Cruise on Min Kyan Sit
- 16:15 National News**
- 16:20 A Pilgrimage to
Dhammayangyi
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Myanma Panorama &
Myanma Sentiment"
- 16:30 National News**
- 16:35 Myanmar International
Fish Market
- 16:40 Old Master Artist U Ba
Yin Galay
- 16:45 National News**
- 16:50 Water Hyacinth Furni-
ture
- 16:55 Myuun-Kywa-Thanzin
Kagyo Sin
- 17:00 National News**
- 17:05 The Wooden Walking
Stick
- 17:10 Songs on Screen
"Phenomena of Love"
- 17:12 The beautiful green ice
- 17:15 National News**
- 17:20 Folk Art of Pottery
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Come and See
Myanmar"

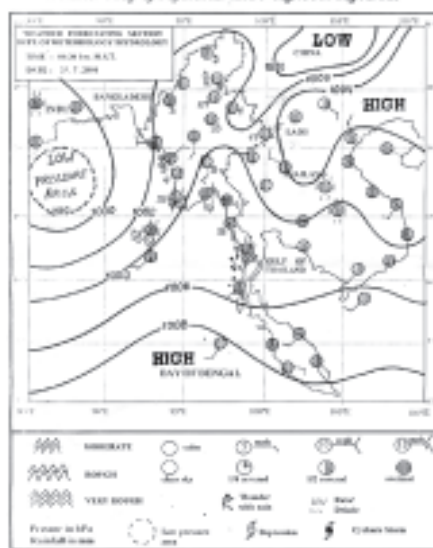
Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Myanma Panorama &
Myanma Sentiment"
- 19:36 Scuba Diving Adventure
- 19:40 National News**
- 19:42 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes
- 19:45 National News**
- 19:50 In All the Ananda's
Glory
- 19:55 The Unforgettable Bon-
fire Dance
- 20:00 National News**
- 20:05 Expedition of Rare
Crocodile Species In-
habiting in Fresh and
Seawaters (IV)
- 20:10 Song "Follow me Let's
go"
- 20:15 National News**
- 20:20 Caneball Viewer's Per-
spectives
- 20:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Mawlamyaing,
The Jewel of the
Crown"
- 20:30 National News**
- 20:35 Interview with an Orna-
mental Fish Breeder
- 20:40 Solo Art Show (Artist
Win Pe Myint)
- 20:45 National News**
- 20:50 Myanmar Art of
Marionette
- 20:55 Dance of the Couple
- 21:00 National News**
- 21:05 The Art of Making
Pennant
- 21:10 Songs on Screen
"Flourishing"
- 21:12 Marine Undertakings of
Myeik Archipelago

- 21:15 National News**
- 21:20 A Thin Kind of Paper
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Mingalabar"
- 21:35 The World of Mro National
Nationals
- 21:40 National News**
- 21:42 Thihathana Throne
- 21:45 National News**
- 21:50 Expedition of Rare
Crocodiles Species In-
habiting in Fresh and
Seawaters (V)
- 21:55 Kayin Dance (We Bu
(or) Paddy Winnowing
Dance)
- 22:00 National News**
- 22:05 Song "To a Silvery
Seagull"
- 22:10 Cruise on Min Kyan Sit
- 22:15 National News**
- 22:20 A Pilgrimage to
Dhammayangyi
- 22:25 Songs On Screen "Heh!
Little Girl"
- 22:30 National News**
- 22:35 Myanmar International
Fish Market
- 22:40 Old Master Artist U Ba
Yin Galay
- 22:45 National News**
- 22:50 Water Hyacinth Furni-
ture
- 22:55 Myuun-Kywa-Thanzin
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- 23:00 National News**
- 23:05 The Wooden Walking
Stick
- 23:10 Songs on Screen
"Phenomena of Love"
- 23:12 The beautiful green ice
- 23:15 National News**
- 23:20 Folk Art of Pottery
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic Sights
"Come and See
Myanmar"

Rainfall on 25-7-2004

– (0.36 inch) at Yangon Airport,
– (0.67 inch) at Kaba-Aye and
– (1.10 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall
since 1-1-2004 was 1621mm (63.82 inches) at
Yangon Airport and 1559 mm (61.38 inches) at
Kaba-Aye and 1551 mm (61.06 inches) at cen

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

Sunday, 25 July, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Chin, Kayin States, Magway and Bago Divisions, scattered in Rakhine and Mon States, and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Kachin State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Bhamo (4.37) inches and Loikaw (2.24) inches.

Maximum temperature on 24-7-2004 was 27.2°C (81°F). Minimum temperature on 25-7-2004 was 19.8°C (68°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 25-7-2004 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 24-7-2004 was nil. Rainfall on 25-7-2004 was (0.36 inch) at Yangon Airport, (0.67 inch) at Kaba-Aye and (1.10 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1621mm (63.82 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1559 mm (61.38 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1551 mm (61.06 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 20 mph from Southwest at 02:05 hours MST on 24-7-2004.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hrs MST today, a low pressure area over the North Bay and adjoining West Central Bay still persist. Monsoon is moderate in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 26-7-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine and Mon States, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Kachin, Shan, Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** General decrease of rain in Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-7-2004: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-7-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 25-7-2004)

The water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an has exceeded the danger level. The water level may remain above the danger level during the next (3) days commencing noon today.

The water level of Ayeyawady River at NyaungU and Chauk are above their danger levels. The water levels may continue to rise by about one and half feet during the next (3) days commencing noon today.



Monday, July 26
View today:

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးရှင် မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ဆောင်သံယမဟာရာယကအစွဲအကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မ မဟာဗျူဟာ အဘိဓမ္မာ မဟာသန္ဓေ စောတိကတိပိဋကဓရ မေဃာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက ဆရာတော်ဘုရား ဗိမ္ဗိဇ္ဇာသာဓကသီလဝါရိယဘုရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

- Songs of national races

8:05 am

- Cute little dancers

8:20 am

- ကျွန်းသားရေလှောင်တံခွန်

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Let's Go

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Songs to uphold

4:30 pm

- National Spirit

4:45 pm

- Practice in reading

4:55 pm

- Musical programme

5:10 pm

- အဆင်သင့်တက္ကသိုလ် ဝတ္ထုရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ တတိယပုဒ် (ရက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရက္ခဗေဒ)

5:25 pm

- Dance Variety

5:35 pm

- လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေး ဂီတတေး

5:45 pm

- မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာတေးဂီတ

5:55 pm

- ကျေးလက်တေးသံများ

5:45 pm

- Musical programme

6:00 pm

- Discovery

6:10 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားကလွန်းအတိအလင်းတွဲ "ဓမ္မာနိမိတ်ရုပ်နီ" (အပိုင်း-၅)

6:30 pm

- Evening news

7:00 pm

- Weather report

7:05 pm

- မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာတေး

7:20 pm

- Industrial Achievement

7:30 pm

- Musical programme

8:00 pm

- News

8:15 pm

- International news

8:30 pm

- Weather report

8:45 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားကလွန်းအတိအလင်းတွဲ "တစ်ရက်အခါ" (အပိုင်း-၇)

9:00 pm

- The next day's programme

Monday, July 26
Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music: Yo ko
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music: Happy go lucky
- 8.55 am** National news/Slogan
- 9.05 am** Music: I'm no rock feller
- 9.10 am** International news
- 9.15 am** Music: See ya
- 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm** Lunch time music
- Baby come back
- New moon on Monday
- It I let you go
- 9.00 pm** Spotlight on the star
- 9.15 pm** Article
- 9.25 pm** Radio Magazine
- Precious wafer
- 9.35 pm** Golden Land's Melody
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL



MEC Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets trainee faculty members learning master degree courses in China, at Myanmar Maritime University.— MNA

Master Plan to be drawn for ...

(from page 1)

In his address, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said after having taken the State duties the government established industrial zones in the environs of Yangon City with the aim of ensuring industrial development in the country. He said Thanlyin-Kyauktan is a region where a seaport can be built. The Thanlyin-Kyauktan Industrial Zone Project was laid down and being implemented in order to establish an industrial zone based on foreign investment, he said.

He said infrastructures needed for emergence of a zone of international standard including the construction of an international sea port, transport and power and water supply were built in Kyauktan Thilawa region.

Only when industries develop will there be rapid economic progress in the country. Therefore industrial development is vitally important for State economy, he added.

The Prime Minister said this month he paid an official visit to the People's Republic of China where he

studied rapidly developing major industrial zones there.

He said he discussed opportunities for co-operation in industrial development of Myanmar in meeting with heads of government and high-ranking officials and those in charge of industrial, and with officials and entrepreneurs of the PRC.

He said there are better foundations for development of industries of international standard in Thanlyin-Kyauktan Industrial Zone. A master plan is to be drawn for emergence of a Special

*** The Thanlyin-Kyauktan Industrial Zone Project was laid down and being implemented in order to establish an industrial zone based on foreign investment.**

*** Only when industries develop will there be rapid economic progress in the country. Therefore industrial development is vitally important for State economy.**

Industrial Park, he added.

He said the special industrial park of international standard will effectively contribute toward the development of national economy. He called on officials concerned to make harmonious efforts in the interest of the State and the people.

Arrangements are to be made in respective sectors for the emergence of

Special Industrial Park (Thanlyin-Kyauktan) which meets the international standard. And suggestions can be made for the project if there is any, he added. Next, Director-General of Department for Human Settlements and Housing Development Col Aung Win reported on the area of the Special Industrial Park, land utilization and arrangements for the special

industrial park project; Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise Managing Director Dr San Oo reported on power supply for the industrial park through the grid; and Irrigation Department Deputy Director-General U Khin Zaw on supply of water from Bantwaygon Dam, Thilawa Dam and Zarmani Dam.

(See page 8)

Foreign Minister U Win Aung calls on Indian Prime Minister

Good neighbourliness between Myanmar & India and economic cooperation discussed

YANGON, 25 July — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung arrived back here by air this morning after paying an official visit to the Republic of India at the invitation of Indian Minister of External Affairs Mr K Natwar Singh.

The Minister and party were welcomed back at Yangon International

Airport by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, directors-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Charge d'Affaires of the Indian Embassy Mr Rahul Kulshreshtha.

Members of the delegation Director-General U Thaug Tun of the Political Department and Officer on Special Duty U Min Thein also arrived

back.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung met with Indian Minister of External Affairs Mr K Natwar Singh at Hyderabad House in New Delhi at 12.50 pm on 24 July. During the meeting, they discussed matters on the warm and cordial relations existing between the two countries, development and cooperation in the economic, transport linkages, human resource development. Frank exchange of views on matters relating to cooperation in the international field were also discussed. Also present



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung calls on Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh at his residence in New Delhi.— MNA

Myanmar FM and Indian counterpart discussed warm and cordial relations existing between the two countries, development and cooperation in the economic, transport linkages, human resource development.



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung meets Indian External Affairs Minister Mr K Natwar Singh at Hyderabad House in New Delhi.— MNA

together with Minister U Win Aung were Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein, Director-General U Thaug Tun of the Political Department, OSD U Min Thein and Counsellor U Ye Myint of the Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi. Together with the Indian Minister of External Affairs were Foreign Secretary Mr Shashank and Joint Secretary Mrs Mitra Vasisht. After the call, the Indian Minister of External Affairs hosted a luncheon to Minister U Win Aung at Hyderabad House.

At 5 pm, Minister U

Win Aung called on Prime Minister of the Republic of India Dr Manmohan Singh at his residence. And, they discussed matters relating to good neighbourliness between Myanmar and India and economic cooperation as well as development of regional cooperation in ASEAN and BIMST-EC.

Minister U Win Aung was accompanied at the call by Myanmar Ambassador to India U Kyi Thein and Director-General U Thaug Tun of the Political Department. Also present at the call together

with the Indian Prime Minister were Foreign Secretary Mr Shashank and Joint Secretary Mrs Mitra Vasisht.

MNA

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