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Sunday, 9 July, 2006

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

Yangon-Thanyin Bridge (2) Project 66 per cent complete

YANGON, 8 July—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspected the Yangon-Thanyin Bridge (2) Project in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon East District, this afternoon.

Superintending Engineer (Project) U Myint Lwin of Public Works of the Ministry of Construction and officials reported on work progress. In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Myint Swe called for completion of the project on schedule meeting the standards set, and timely completion of the tarred approach roads to the facility that will be able to withstand 75-ton loads.

Upon completion, the bridge will link Bagomyit Street in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and Kalawel Village in Thanyin Township, Yangon South District. And the reinforced concrete type facility will be 4,540 feet long and 72 feet



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence inspects physic nut farm of Yangon East District. — MNA

wide with a six-foot-wide pedestrian lane each on either side on it. Its clearance area will be 130 feet wide and 18 feet high. So far, the project has been completed 66 per cent.

Director U Aung Tun of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development reported on progress of constructing Strand Road and three sluice gates. Lt-Gen Myint Swe said that the road will

link Yangon-Thanyin Bridge (2) and Yangon-Mandalay Highway (2) and so it should be robust enough to withstand 75 tons of loads. He called for completion in upgrading the road in the open season.

The road will link Thayetpin Chaung Village and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township Industrial Zone in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Town-

ship. On completion, the facility will be 4.4 miles long and 34 feet wide.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected the bridge project. The superintending engineer also gave an account of the project.

He looked into the physic nut plantation in Ward 93 in the township. Local authorities reported on achievement in exceeding the targets of growing physic nut plants. Lt-Gen

Upon completion, Yangon-Thanyin Bridge-2 will link Bagomyit Street in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and Kalawel Village in Thanyin Township, Yangon South District. And the reinforced concrete type facility will be 4,540 feet long and 72 feet wide with a six-foot-wide pedestrian lane each on either side on it.



The photo shows progress of Yangon-Thanyin Bridge No 2 being built by Bridge Construction Special Group-1 of Public Works. — MNA

Myint Swe gave instructions on the project. So far, Yangon East District has put 7,214.83 acres and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township 544.67 acres under physic nut plants.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe encouraged service personnel and members of social organizations clearing weeds in the plantations.

MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 9 July, 2006

Dhammacakka Day

Today, the Dhammacakka Day, is a day of religious significance to the Buddhists.

After attaining the Buddhahood, the Lord Buddha walked Migadawon where He preached the Dhammacakka Discourse to the Five Disciples, plus devas and Brahmas on Fullmoon Day of Waso.

The Buddha expounded the Four Noble Truths in His first sermon known as the Dhammacakka Pavattana Sutta — the truth of suffering, the truth of cause of suffering, the truth of cessation of suffering and the truth of way to cessation of suffering, and delivered the Noble Eightfold Path for human beings to follow in order that they can escape from suffering and craving.

The Dhammacakka Pavattana Sutta, it is worthy of note, is one of the most important discourses of the Buddha, for it embodies the basic tenets of the Buddhism.

The Buddha Himself preferred the practice of the Middle Way or Majhima Patipada, which avoids the extremes of self-indulgence and self-mortification and of eternalism and nihilism.

The Noble Eightfold Path—Right Understanding, Right Thought, Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right Mindfulness, Right Concentration—are the noble practices of the Dhammacakka Discourse.

We firmly believe that all the Buddhist devotees will be able to follow the Noble Eightfold Path through practice and moderation to find truth, fulfillment and happiness.

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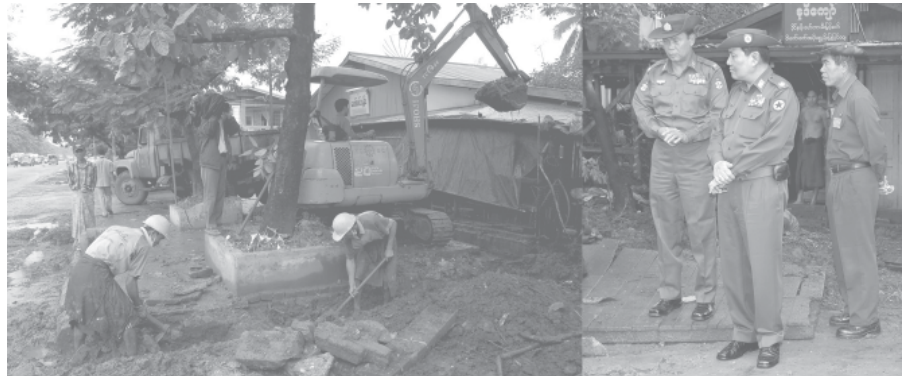
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Commanders' Directive

- * 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

Commander, Mayor inspect sanitation works



Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect sanitation tasks along Thanthuma Road. — MNA

YANGON, 7 July— Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected unblocking of ditches and sanitation tasks at the corner of Waizanyantar Road and Parami Road in South

Okkalapa Township this morning and gave necessary instructions to the officials.

Next, the commander and mayor also looked into dredging of ditches with the help of heavy machinery along Parami Road and Thanthuma Road in ward (5) and ward (14), in South Okkalapa Township. —MNA

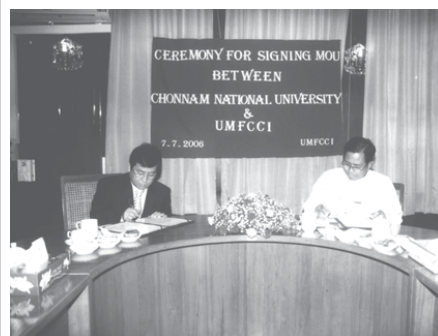
MoU signing ceremony held

YANGON, 7 July — A ceremony to sign the MoU on academic matters between Union of Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Working Committee for Academic Matters) and Chonnam National University of Republic of Korea was held at the meeting hall of UMFCFI this morning.

It was attended by UMFCFI Vice-President U Thaug Tin, General-Secretary of UMFCFI Chairman of Working Committee for Academic Matters U Sein Win Hlaing and committee members, Director of Chonnam National University Professor Dr Hoisoo Kim and members. Those present made discussion on matters related to MoU.

At the ceremony, Chairman of Working Committee for Academic Matters U Sein Win Hlaing and Director of CNU Professor Dr Hoisoo Kim signed the MoU to set up Korea Technology, Culture and Business Education Center (KTCBEC) under UMFCFI Training Center, jointly conducted by Gwangju-Jeannam e-Learning Research Center, Chonnam National University.

MNA



Responsible persons of UMFCFI and Chonnam National University signing an MoU. — UMFCFI

Traffic rules enforcement course opened

NAY PYI TAW, 6 July — Organized by Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee of Nay Pyi Taw, an opening ceremony of traffic rules enforcement course for auxiliary traffic police took place at Mingalarkandaw in Pyinmana on 28 June.

It was attended by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, senior military officers, local authorities and others.

Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin made an opening speech.

A total of 100 trainees attended the 3-day course. — MNA

The Commerce Journal comes out

YANGON, 7 July—Volume-6, No 12 of the Commerce Journal with eight special pages has been in circulation.

The journal carries a wide array of items such as service of Myanmar Trade Net, the differences between leadership and management by Maung Su San, sales of train tickets for company staff, herbal export to Sri Lanka, commerce dialogue by Maung Taing Bin, 100 keys to success by Kyi Shone, Chinese automobiles with own brands by Maung Paso Gyan, local and foreign market news and others.

It is available at No 38, 30th Street, Pabedan Township. — MNA

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ကျောင်းနှင့်ဝန်းကျင်စိမ်းလန်းစိုပြည်ရေးနေ့

အခြေခံပညာကျောင်းအားလုံးပါဝင်ဆင်နွှဲကြပါစို့။

ပညာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ASEAN launches new project to promote tourism

BANGKOK, 7 July — Tourists visiting Southeast Asia can now enjoy the convenience of one-stop-shopping for air tickets, hotels and tour packages for different ASEAN member countries, an ASEAN tourism official said Thursday.

Tunku Iskandar, chairman of Intra-ASEAN Travel Committee told a Press conference here that the project "Visit ASEAN Pass", aimed to promote intra-and inter-ASEAN tourism and supported by the national tourism organizations of all 10 ASEAN countries, was introduced one year ago and launched from January, 2006 at an ASEAN tourism forum.

With the VAP e-booking system coming

into effect, the project has now go fully "live", Tunku said. The next step will be selling it to travel service suppliers all around the world, Tunku noted, adding that up till now, there are already 666 hotels registered as VAP suppliers.

The Visit ASEAN Pass, comprising the ASEAN AirPass, the ASEAN HotelPass and the ASEAN TourPass, is to provide travellers with special deals offered by

the national airlines and members of the national hotel associations and national travel agents associations.

Travellers from all around the world can book air tickets, hotels and tour services for different ASEAN countries by just one visit to any travel agent or ASEAN airline's office which has registered as an ASEAN Tourism Association (ASEANTA) member, without additional cost. —MNA/Xinhua

ထုတ်တုန်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်



A Tibetan visitor stands beside a huge urn while offering prayers near Namtso Lake in Tibet Autonomous Region on 6 July, 2006. Namtso Lake, which means sacred or heaven lake in Tibetan, is 4,718 metres (15,479 feet) above sea level and is the second largest salt-water lake in China next to Qinghai Lake. —INTERNET

Pirates attack three ships off Indonesia

JAKARTA, 7 July — Pirates have attacked three ships, including two UN-chartered vessels and a Japanese bulk carrier, in Indonesian waters around the Malacca Strait in recent days, maritime and police officials said on Wednesday.

Two attacks occurred on ships carrying relief material to tsunami-stricken Aceh Province at the weekend, while a Japanese bulk carrier was targeted on Monday, Noel Choong, head of the piracy reporting centre of the International Maritime Bureau in Kuala Lumpur, told Reuters.

In at least one of the weekend attacks, raiders were armed with AK-47 rifles, grenades and pistols.

"That area has been a piracy hot spot in the past, so we hope it is not the start of a series of attacks and we are monitoring the situation at the moment," Choong said.

Jodi Heryadi, a spokesman for Aceh police, said that in one of

the weekend attacks the crew's wallets, cellphones, shoes and clothes. pirates, who were in fishing boats, took the

MNA/Reuters



Dancers in Malaysian traditional dress perform during a rehearsal of the "Colours of Malaysia" festival in Kuala Lumpur on 7 July, 2006. The month-long festival, now into its eighth year and themed "The Colours and Festivals of Malaysia", will be launched by the Malaysian King Syed Sirajuddin on Saturday. —INTERNET

Police nab "Catch Me If You Can?"

SYDNEY, 9 July — An Australian woman nicknamed the "Catch Me If You Can Thief" appeared in court Friday charged with 34 counts of fraud after she was arrested with more than 100 fake identities and wigs.

Jodie Harris, 28, wanted in three states over a string of audacious identity thefts, had been on the run for years, taunting police to try and catch her.

"We've been waiting for her for some time," Magistrate Les Brennan told Sydney's Central Local Court as Harris was led into the dock Friday. "I knew she would turn up some day," he said.

A pregnant Harris was arrested by police in Sydney on Thursday in a "sting operation" involving a police officer believed to be her former boyfriend.

Local media have dubbed Harris the "Catch Me If You Can" thief, after the movie in which actor Leonardo DiCaprio played a master conman. She allegedly telephoned detectives, taunting them and offering up false promises to surrender.

"She has been pursued

for a long time. She has come close to being arrested for sometime," New South Wales (NSW) state police detective Grant Taylor told reporters.

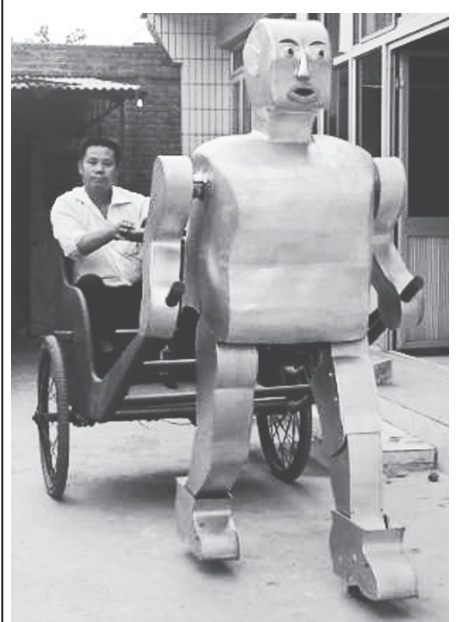
Police told the court that since July 2005, Harris had assumed the identities of at least five women in Brisbane, Sydney and

Melbourne after meeting them socially.

She allegedly stole identity documents such as driver's licenses and tricked bank staff into giving her access to the women's accounts, robbing them of more than A\$250,000 (US\$185,000), local media reported from the court. —Internet



Penguins stagger on the artificial ice at the Polar Animal Hall in Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 5 July, 2006. —INTERNET



Wu Yulu, a farmer who likes making robots, poses with his latest robot at Mawu village in Beijing on 29 June, 2006. Wu, who has made 25 robots in the past 26 years, has been forced to sell his beloved home-made robots to pay off debts after his house burnt down, state media reported on 7 July, 2006. —INTERNET

Bio-diesel producing Jatropha planted in Zambia

LUSAKA, 7 July — A kind of crop producing bio-diesel has been planted in Mkushi, central province of Zambia, according to Zambia News and Information service. Marli Investment, a Mkushi based agro-company, has started an outgrower scheme for "Jatropha", a crop that produces bio-diesel.

It quoted Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU) Mkushi District business manager, Martin Mwansa, as saying in Mkushi on Wednesday that so far some farmers in the district have planted the crop.

Mwansa said about 15 farmers have since been given seed for the crop that matures in two years and that the farmers have been requested to tender until that age. He said the seeds from Jatropha plant produces bio-diesel, a liquid which can be later refined into a final quality product, the common engine diesel that is derived from crude oil. —MNA/Xinhua

Hu says China must ease growing wealth gap

BEIJING, 7 July — Chinese President Hu Jintao on Thursday called for stronger efforts to tackle a widening Gulf between rich and poor that analysts say threatens social stability even as the economy booms.

Speaking during a discussion of China's income distribution, Hu said salaries should be market-oriented but China must focus on fairness, make policies favourable for poorer regions and crack down on illegal earnings, according to a report posted on the central

government website. Beijing must aim for higher minimum living standards in urban areas, better pensions and the expansion of the middle class, he told the meeting. Premier Wen Jiabao also attended the gathering. A Chinese think-tank has suggested higher

minimum wages to halt the emergence of an urban underclass, after a study found that from 1994 to 2004 China's urban poor had become poorer, with minimum wage rises not matching average urban income rises. "We have to stick to the system in which

distribution according to work is dominant ... (but) further attention should be paid to social fairness," Hu was quoted saying. He also called for government agencies to double their efforts to "try to ease the trend of widening wealth distribution gap between regions and certain social groups".

Hu, who also called for adjustment of "excessive" incomes, reiterated a pledge to boost public servants' salaries but said the government needed to do more research into how to do it.

Finance Minister Jin Renqing, in an interview with the official Xinhua news agency, said the government would inject more funds into rural regions to help beef up infrastructure and increase farmers' incomes.

MNA/Reuters

ဝတ်မှုမ်းအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား ၂၀



Zhang Baoxiu, a farmer, shows an odd duck with 4legs at Minzhu village in Zaozhuang city, east China's Shandong Province, on 7 July, 2006. Zhang Baoxiu bought a duck in June, 2006. The duck has four legs, two of 4 webbed feet are normal, and the others grow together. The duck can walk on land and swim in the water like other normal ducks.—INTERNET



Unknown brain disease kills 13 in northern Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 7 July — An unknown brain disease has killed 13 people and hospitalized eight others in the Municipal Hospital of Imperatriz, local media Wednesday quoted health authorities of Brazil's Maranhao state as saying.

The mysterious syndrome, which was first detected at the beginning of this year, has mainly affected the rural region around Imperatriz, the second largest city of the northern Brazilian state. Physicians of the Maranhao State, joined by a team of the Health Ministry's neurologists who arrived on Sunday, have been investigating the disease on site. They have collected blood samples of the people infected with the disease and put them into laboratory analysis.

The disease is not contagious, said experts, adding that it is not fatal if

treated in time. The disease-infected people, with swollen legs, usually feel weak and are extra sensitive. Most of those killed by the disease lived in rural areas, where proper medical care was not immediately available. When they finally reached a hospital, the disease was already well advanced. Experts believe that a lack of Vitamin B1 in diet could be the cause of the syndrome. They say alcoholics are the highly risky group as the high consumption of alcohol reduces the body's capacity to absorb vitamins.

MNA/Xinhua

A local resident of Castlegar, British Columbia uses binoculars to watch as the leading edge of a summer storm accompanied by high winds and plenty of lightning and thunder moves into the area on 6 July, 2006.—INTERNET

Sean Connery to publish views on life and Scotland

EDINBURGH, 8 July — Sean Connery, who has said he would not live in his Scotland again until it became independent, is writing a book about his native country mixed

with autobiographical anecdotes, his publishers said. Canongate Books of Edinburgh said it had acquired world English-language rights to the film star's memoirs, "Connery's

Scotland," in conjunction with Polygon. "Our goal is to produce a very readable, visually stimulating and hopefully intriguing history of Scotland, with personal discoveries," Connery said in a statement. Best known for his screen portrayal of fictional British spy James Bond, Connery will work in collaboration with writer and film-maker Murray Grigor. Connery, the Edinburgh-born son of a truck driver, worked together with Grigor on an award-winning documentary, "Sean Connery's Edinburgh." The star now lives in the Bahamas. The Herald newspaper quoted Grigor as saying: "The content of the book is not quite all settled, and we have just been discussing exactly what will go into it."—Internet



A three-month-old Siberian Tiger is fed milk by a zoo keeper at the Hengdaohezi Siberian Tiger Zoo in Hailin, northeastern China's Heilongjiang, on 6 July, 2006. According to the zoo, which has a total of 256 tigers, it is the world's largest breeding centre for Siberian Tigers.—INTERNET

Eight Asian bodies found on PNG shores

CANBERRA, 7 July — Eight bodies, thought to be Asian, have been found on a remote Papua New Guinea (PNG) beach, raising concerns about people smuggling and transnational crime in the area. The rotting bodies, some torn apart by sharks, were so badly

decomposed that they had to be buried where they were found in Western Province, just across the water from the Australian border in the Torres Strait, Australian Associated Press reported on Wednesday. PNG police were quoted as saying the nationality of the dead was

yet to be determined. But PNG Western Province police commander Inspector Mark Yangen said the dead might have been asylum seekers or illegal fishers whose vessel had capsized. Villagers living between Daru, the capital of Western Province, and

the mouth of the Fly River had been reporting bodies washing up on the beach and until last Thursday, a total of eight were found. Other bodies might still be out at sea or might have washed up elsewhere along the coast, Yangen said. MNA/Xinhua

Floods claim 11 lives in S-W, east China

BEIJING, 7 July — Floods have claimed four lives in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, and seven others are confirmed dead in east China's Huaihe River drainage basin. The floods, caused by heavy rainstorms, have caused 161 million yuan (20.1 million US dollars) in damages and destroyed 12,415 houses and 32,560 hectares of crops. The rainstorms that have ravaged nine counties have affected 1.24 million people. One person remains missing. In east China's Huaihe River drainage basin, 10.86 million people have been affected by torrential rains since last week.—MNA/Xinhua

China, India reopen historic trade route

NATHU LA PASS (Tibet), 7 July— The barbed wire that separated the world's two most populous nations is gone and happy crowds of traders crossed the Sino-Indian border, 44 years after a border conflict closed down one of their main trade routes.

China and India restarted border trade Thursday through the Nathu La Pass, which sits 4,545 metres above sea level and is wedged

between Yadong County of Tibet's Xigaze Prefecture and India's Sikkim State.

They also opened two border trade markets—the Renqinggang market in Yadong and Changgu mart in India's state of Sikkim.

Traders from both sides of the borderline crossed the pass to enter each other's territories after an inaugural ceremony late Thursday morning.

Nathu La Pass was also a major artery of the Silk Road that historically linked China via Central Asia to Europe.

"We're very happy that trade is opened through

Nathu La. It is a small beginning. I hope that subsequently we'll be able to visit the Chinese Mainland through Nathu La in the near future," Sonam Dorjee, member of the State Planning Commission of the Sikkim government, told *Xinhua* in an interview.

Before the pass was officially reopened, China and India raised their national flags and played national anthems on the two sides of their borderline.

Experts say the reopening of Nathu La Pass, plus last Saturday's launching of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, will help pave a new Silk Road and build up regional harmony and prosperity.

China and India recorded 18.73 billion US dollars of trade in 2005, up 37.5 per cent year-on-year, according to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce. The figure is expected to exceed 20 billion US dollars this year.—*MNA/Xinhua*



A Tibetan trader greets to well-wishers after crossing into India through the border post at Nathu La, between Tibet and the tiny northeastern Indian state of Sikkim on 6 July, 2006. Asian giants India and China opened a Himalayan pass to border trade on Thursday, 44 years after a brutal frontier war shut down the ancient route.—INTERNET

အားငါးပွဲ မြို့ ပြည်အကျိုး



A model presents a wedding dress by French designer Christian Lacroix as part of his Autumn/Winter 2006-2007 Haute Couture fashion show in Paris on 6 July, 2006.—INTERNET

California man kills self, four children

LOS ANGELES, 7 July— A California man armed with a hunting gun shot and killed his four young children before turning the gun on himself, a report said Wednesday.

The killings happened early Tuesday, the festive Independence Day, in Gustine, about 150 kilometres southeast of San Francisco, when the 38-year-old father opened fire at his four children aged from 5 to 12, according to local newspaper *Modesto Bee*.

Tremor Branscum died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, and authorities said the victims, including a pair of five-year-old girl twins, each died from a gunshot wound to the head.

Police in the Northern

California city believe the shooting deaths of four children and their father, who had argued with their mother earlier, was murder-suicide.

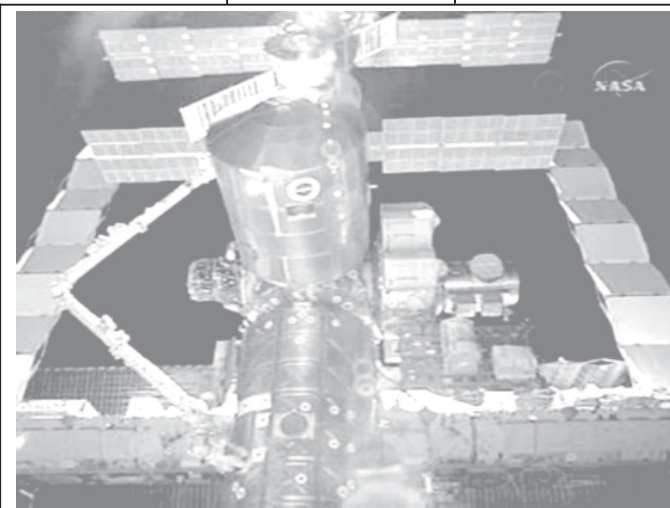
They said Branscum killed his children and himself at home when his wife left with a friend for about an hour after the couple argued loudly at a market.

Neighbours reported seeing the father and children lighting off fireworks just hours before the slayings, according to police.

Calling the slayings

"surreal", Jim Bonta, the mayor of Gustine, said there has been no murder reported in the city for almost four decades.

MNA/Xinhua



The Leonardo multi-purpose logistics module (C) containing supplies for the International Space Station is docked to the Unity node of the orbiting laboratory in this view from NASA TV, on 7 July, 2006.—INTERNET

India to buy three more stealth frigates

NEW DELHI, 7 July— The Indian Navy will acquire three additional *Talwar*-class stealth frigates from Russia at a

cost of 55.14 billion rupees (1.22 billion US dollars), the Indian Government announced Thursday.

The Cabinet Committee on Security, which met under the chairmanship of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh here, gave its approval to the purchase, according to *Indo Asian News Service*.

Of the total cost, 51.14 billion rupees (1.13 billion US dollars) will be the cost of the warships and 4 billion rupees (88 million US dollars) for additional equipment to be fitted on, Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said after the meeting.

The first ship will arrive in India within five years after the signing of the contract, the *Indo Asian News Service* said.

MNA/Xinhua

Coalition soldier killed in east Afghanistan

KABUL, 7 July— A coalition soldier has been killed while on patrol in Afghanistan's eastern Paktika Province after the soldiers received small arms fire from a group of extremists, the US-led military said Thursday.

The firefighting took place in the Gayan District on Wednesday, during which a 10-year-old Afghan girl was also wounded, the coalition said in its news release.

The Afghan girl has undergone surgery and is in stable condition, it added.

Taliban-linked insurgency has claimed the

lives of more than 1,000 people including some 45 foreign soldiers over the past six months.

MNA/Xinhua

Deputy to Blair faces sleaze inquiry

LONDON, 7 July— Britain's Parliament began a career-threatening investigation on Thursday into contacts between Prime Minister Tony Blair's deputy and an American billionaire hoping to open a London casino.

The inquiry is the latest in a string of bad headlines for Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott that also threaten to undermine Blair's already precarious position. Blair allies fear that if Prescott is forced out of office, calls could grow for Blair to leave much sooner than planned after he said he would not seek a fourth term.

Prescott, who denies any wrongdoing, is accused by some local officials and opposition politicians of abusing his power to help US oil and entertainment mogul Philip Anschutz in a bid to open a casino at London's Millennium Dome. Parliament's Standards' Commissioner said he would launch a full inquiry over a visit by Prescott to Anschutz' Colorado ranch and whether it should have been declared publicly.

"Following preliminary enquiries, the commissioner has decided to look at the issues around the hospitality," said a spokeswoman for Commissioner Philip Mawer.—*MNA/Reuters*

The 2006 Miss Universe contestant from Nicaragua Christina Frixione Mendoza poses in Los Angeles on 7 July, 2006. The Miss Universe pageant will be telecast to a worldwide audience from Los Angeles on 23 July. INTERNET



Indian Govt notifies ban on sugar exports

NEW DELHI, 7 July — The Indian Government has banned export of sugar till the end of the current financial year, that is 31 March, 2007.

The ban would, however, not be applicable on preferential quota sugar exports to the United States and European Union, according to a notification by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade

(DGFT). Sugar exports to the US and EU would be permitted only through the Indian Sugar Exim Corporation Ltd up to a quantitative ceiling notified by DGFT, it said. The government had

last month banned exports of pulses and eased the norms for import of sugar and wheat as part of measures to check rising prices of essential commodities.

The notification allows for shipment of the commodity against the contracts in which Letters of Credit were opened before 22 June this year, when the government had announced its decision to ban exports.

MNA/PTI



Doctors prepare to operate on 10-month-old conjoined twin girls at Fudan University's Children's Hospital in Shanghai, on 6 July, 2006. —INTERNET

GSLV to lift off with "INSAT-4C" on 10 July

BANGALORE, 7 July — The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle will blast off into space with the state-of-the-art communications satellite INSAT-4C at 4.30 pm (1100 hours GMT) on July 10, the Indian Space Research Organization said Wednesday.

"As per the present progress, the launch is expected to take place at around 4.30 pm on 10 July from the second launch pad which was commissioned in May 2005 with the launch of the PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle)," the space agency said in a statement here.

"Preparations for the launch are proceeding satisfactorily at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota," it said.

The launch rocket's systems have been integrated and checked, ISRO said. The INSAT-4C, the latest satellite in

the INSAT series, has undergone detailed checks since its arrival at the spaceport from the ISRO Satellite Centre here. After propellant filling, the satellite has been integrated with the GSLV, it said.

ISRO said the mission readiness review is planned for Thursday, followed by a meeting of the Launch Authorization Board that will clear the launch. In the next few days, a complete check of the fully integrated rocket and the satellite will be carried out, it said.

MNA/PTI



The film stills of Chinese director Zhang Yimou's martial arts film "Curse of the Golden Flower" were exposed on 6 July, 2006. Audience and media were very excited by the golden costumes in the stills. —INTERNET

Strongest rainstorm in 45 years hit E China province

NANJING, 7 July — Continuous storms hit parts of East China's Jiangsu Province since 21 June, which have dumped 316 millimetres of rain and have collapsed houses, inundated croplands and caused dozens of casualties.

From 21 June to July 5, this coastal province has had the most rainfall since 1961, nearly four times the average of this period in many years, according to the provincial meteorological bureau.

The disastrous weather inundated large tracts of cropland and

forests and rising water levels are threatening to overflow the shores of a major lake along the lower Huaihe River which runs across the province.

Water flowing into Hongze Lake hit 6,500 cubic metres per second, leading to rising water levels, the bureau said. A

cyclone in an area of the province also caused dozens of casualties, according to the bureau.

Meanwhile, the water levels in other major lakes along the Huaihe River are also rising to flood levels, said the Huaihe River Water Resources Commission. —MNA/Xinhua

Colliery flooding traps eight miners in north China

TAIYUAN, 7 July — Eight miners were trapped in a coal mine flooding in north China's Shanxi Province on Wednesday, said local government sources.

The accident occurred at 6:50 am at Songjiagou coalpit of Leijiagou Coal Mine in Zhongyang County, said Liu Fuxing, head of the county information office.

When the flooding happened, 48 miners were working underground, Liu said.

He said 40 miners managed to escape.

Local officials have rushed to the site to direct rescue operation, and three pumps are busying pumping water out of the flooded pit, Liu said.

The mine is a licensed county-run coal producer with an annual production capacity of 210,000 tons.

MNA/Xinhua

Official says US airstrike kills 19 in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 7 July — The US military air raid on a suspected hideout of Taliban militants left 19, including civilians, dead in the troubled southern Helmand Province on Tuesday night, spokesman of the provincial Government said Thursday.

"The incident took

place in Ghach Zar Village in Kajaki District around 12 o'clock at night," Hajji Mohiudin Khan told Xinhua.

He could not tell how many civilians were killed, saying investigation was underway to identify the victims.

MNA/Xinhua



Aposento da Moita's forcados bullfighter leader Tiago Ribeiro hangs onto a bull during a bullfight in Lisbon's Campo Pequeno arena on 6 July, 2006. —INTERNET

Spain confirms first case of H5N1 bird flu

MADRID, 8 July — Spain has recorded its first case of H5N1 bird flu in a waterfowl outside the northern city of Vitoria, the country's Agriculture Ministry said on Friday.

The government department said the disease had been found in a great crested

grebe in a marsh area. A protective zone with a three-kilometre radius has since been set up.

Preventive measures, including banning outdoor poultry farming within a certain distance from some marshlands, had already been in operation

in Spain, a country which is on a major route of migrating birds from Africa. Bird flu has killed at least 131 people worldwide since it began ravaging Asian poultry in late 2003, according to the World Health Organization. —MNA/Xinhua

Google steps up competition in China's on-line books

BEIJING, 7 July — Google, the world's largest Internet search engine company, is to start an on-line book search service in China, accelerating fierce competition with Baidu, its biggest Chinese rival, the Xinhua-run Shanghai Securities News reported Wednesday. Google had signed cooperation agreements with four publishing houses in China, including the Tsinghua University Press and the Children's Publishing House, the newspaper said.

The US-based company will make their books available on-line, provide search links and grant free access to a segment of each work, but readers would have to pay to read the full content, said Kai-fu Lee, vice-president of Google. —MNA/Xinhua

NLD... or a party protecting interests of one individual

Aung Thein (Dawei)

Uncle Phyo: Come in. Where have you been lately? We haven't seen each other for long. Come and sit. Here are some fresh fruit and green tea.

Aung Thein: I was away in Kawthoung. The seasonal fruit look delicious. Oh, thanks a lot.

Phyo: I have many things to tell you. The Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council organized the press conference (4/2006) in Kengtung, eastern Shan State, on 26 April 2006. At the conference, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said: "The National League for Democracy (NLD) has been continuously carrying out its wrong policy of defying all orders, confrontation, utter devastation, isolating Myanmar by cutting off all her international links, and relying on foreign powers, that would in no way benefit the nation and the people. The NLD has connections with expatriate groups and terrorist insurgent groups. The government has firm and adequate evidence to declare NLD unlawful association."

Thein: I have also heard about it.

Phyo: Concerning the minister's clarification, I would like to know whether the NLD had connections with illegal organizations in the past also.

Thein: It had connections with illegal organizations in the past, uncle.

Phyo: If so, please elaborate on the whole affair, so that the public would be known.

Thein: When authorities acting on information searched the house of Daw Suu Kyi on 20 July 1989, they found 40 persons illegally staying at her house in addition to letters and papers sent to her by underground insurgent organizations and unlawful groups.

Phyo: Please continue.

Thein: Among the letters the authorities found was the 23-9-88 dated letter from KNU chairman Saw Bo Mya to U Aung Gyi, U Tin Oo and Daw Suu Kyi, saying that KNU would provide all-out support to them in opposing and attacking the Tatmadaw, and the copies of the announcement of the Burma Communist Party Central Committee issued on 19 August 1988, and the declaration of BCP 4828 regional committee.

Phyo: Did the authorities find papers of other unlawful organizations?

Thein: Yes. They also found a diary of an ABSDF youth, who went to Phayathonzu region, about his visit to KNU area from Yangon during the period from 18 September 1988 to 16 October 1988, the 13-8-89 dated biography of a member of Democratic Student Front (DSF), India (Manipur), and the Progressive Student Force for Democracy (PSFD), the record on the arrival of four DSF members in Myanmar, and papers on political assessment of the prevailing situation and the stance of DSF and PSFD.

Phyo: Did they also find any letters sent by ABSDF that had been declared a terrorist organization not long ago?

Thein: Than Tun Soe, CO of ABSDF battalion 701 sent a 7-6-89 dated letter to Ko Maw and Ko Aung who were acting as bodyguards of Daw Suu Kyi. In the letter was written that Than Tun Soe had a plan to meet with Daw Suu Kyi; that he had not got the opportunity to do so then; and that he sent video tapes and photos for Daw Suu Kyi.

Phyo: Anything else?

Thein: Of the 40 persons found holding up in Daw Suu Kyi's house was Soe Myat Thu, joint secretary of the logistics committee of ABSDF. Under the assignment of the ABSDF in November 1988, he arrived at Yangon via Kawthoung from Ranong in Thailand. During his stay in Yangon, he met with Daw Suu Kyi, student leaders and war veterans and gave advice to launch an armed opposition against the Tatmadaw. Afterwards, he left Yangon for Bangkok. He met Brang Seng of KIA after the ABSDF Central Committee meeting held at U Thu Ta insurgent camp. He was arrested at Daw Suu Kyi's house while trying to make contacts with foreign embassies on his return to Yangon.

Phyo: Didn't the BCP also make contacts with the NLD in addition to ABSDF?

Thein: Yes, the BCP did. BCP politburo member Kyaw Mya sent a letter to Thet Khaing a member of underground cell (UG) at the end of February 1989. The letter in reality was sent from first vice-chairman of the BCP central military commission Kyaw Zaw (retired brig-Gen Kyaw Zaw) to Daw Suu Kyi. The letter said that the BCP leaders were in favour of Daw Suu Kyi; that they had the similar view as Daw Suu Kyi, urging her to continue to strive for ending the internal strife, vitalizing national politics and flourishing of democracy.

Phyo: The NLD as a legally formed political party should not make contacts with unlawful and illegal organizations at all. It should inform the authorities if those organizations made attempts to contact it. If all what you have just said is true, it can be assumed that NLD has had connections with expatriate groups and terrorist insurgents since long ago.

Thein: All I have told you are true and concrete as they are based on the clarification of the special press conference held on 5-8-89 concerning the BCP's clandestine plots to cause unrest for grabbing power and its infiltration into various political parties.

Phyo: The Information Minister said at the press conference (4/2006) that the government already had firm evidence to declare NLD an unlawful association. The minister's clarification had made profound impact at home and abroad. Some foreign radio stations are interviewing almost daily the so-called student leaders of expatriate groups abroad concerning

NLD's future.

Thein: I have also heard them. The worst is the interview with the persons from inside the nation who called themselves the new generation students of 1988.

Phyo: Aren't the so-called new generation students of 1988 the members of All Burma Student Union formed in November 1988? They were released from prison not long ago after being arrested in March and April 1989 for causing disturbances under the manipulation of the BCP during the 1988 unrest.

Thein: You are right.

Phyo: To my knowledge, those persons once launched opposition against the Burma Socialist Programme Party government under the orchestration of BCP. Now, they with the support of the West bloc are taking part in the interview programmes of some foreign radio stations to tarnish the image of the Tatmadaw government. One of the directors of a foreign organization — US Campaign for Burma — is a former executive of the BCP.

Thein: Yes, I know.

Phyo: At the invitation of the Myanmar Minister for Foreign Affairs, Under Secretary-General of Political Affairs of UN Mr Ibrahim A Gambari visited Myanmar on 18 May this year. The government permitted Mr Gambari to meet and talk freely with NLD executives including Daw Suu Kyi at the Government Guest House. The foreign sources that are slamming Myanmar in various ways should understand the government's goodwill.

Thein: I agree with you. Expatriate groups abroad and their masters are not happy with the government's decision to extend one more year of restriction order on Daw Suu Kyi on 27 May 2006. They are trying to slander the government, which they call "military junta".

Phyo: Whatever the expatriates and their masters are saying from abroad, the government knows best the objective conditions at home. It will do what is necessary for protecting community peace and stability and the rule of law. It has to give priority to majority's interest, rather than an individual's.

Thein: Concerning the minister's clarification at the press conference, please tell me what would be the future of the NLD, and the government's attitude in the future.

Phyo: In my view, the future of NLD depends on the deeds of its members. The party's future will be bright, if they do good. If they make things worse they will meet with legal action. The government's attitude will be according to a motto — "If you are good, I will not be bad". OK, that's all for today.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alin &
Kyemon: 8-7-2006

Energy Minister meets national entrepreneurs

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi met with national entrepreneurs who have purchased the fuel through foreign exchange at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 July.

It was attended by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay, the directors-

general and the managing-directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry and others.

The minister elaborated on the distribution of fuel to the national entrepreneurs and discussed matters on oil price and, storage and distribution of fuel with

those present.

Later, the deputy minister and officials replied to the queries raised by the national entrepreneurs. The minister fulfilled the requirements of the entrepreneurs and the meeting ended. — MNA

Minister for Electric Power No 1 receives Chinese guests



Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min poses for documentary photo with Vice-President Mr Mao Guoquan and party of China Power Investment Corporation of China. — ELECTRIC POWER NO 1

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July—Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min received Vice-President Mr Mao Guoquan and

party of China Power Investment Corporation of the People's Republic of China at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 July.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Electric Power No 1 U Myo Myint and directors-general. — MNA



AMBASSADOR CALLS ON MAYOR: Singaporean Ambassador Mr Chua Hian Kong Robert called on Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin on 8 July. The Mayor receives the ambassador. — YCDC

Vice-Mayor inspects tax free markets

YANGON, 8 July—Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa together with head of markets department U Soe Myint and officials inspected tax free markets in Yankin Township, Tamway Township and Sanchaung Township.

The vice-mayor

and party looked into poultry, fish and vegetable shops run by Yangon Vegetable Cultivation and Poultry Breeding Special Zone, edible oil shops of Myanmar Oil Dealers Association and groceries run by Yangon Division Wholesale Centre and cordially met with shopkeepers and customers.

The vice-mayor

together with chairman of Myanmar Rice Dealers Association and responsible personnel inspected arrival of rice-loaded vessels from Ayeyawaddy Division in Seikkan Township. At the meeting hall, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa gave necessary instructions and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

Tea, physic nut saplings handed over to five villages in Kengtung Township



Commander Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing presents physic nut saplings to a villager. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July — A ceremony to hand over tea and physic nut saplings to five villages of hilly region in Kengtung was held at the model farm in Armude Village near Kengtung-Mongkhok Road in Kengtung Township on 21 June.

Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing explained undertakings

for regional development and urged local farmers to extend cultivation of summer paddy, tea and physic nut plants.

Departmental officials reported on benefits of growing tea and physic nut plants, prevention against forest depletion, and participation in regional development.

The commander handed over 35,000 tea saplings and 19,000 physic nut saplings, 40 bags of sticky rice and

medicines to the representatives of five villages.

Next, the commander viewed cultivation of tea and physic nut saplings at the terrace tea farm. The commander inspected thriving 9,150 physic nut plants in Nam-in Village-tract.

At the hall in Armude Village, the commander met with officials and left instructions on upgrading of the village to a model one. — MNA

Religious Affairs Ministry holds cash assistance presentation ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July — A ceremony to reward service personnel of Ministry of Religious Affairs who won Good Public Service Medals for 2006 by the State Peace and Development Council and to present cash assistance to the children of the staff of the ministry was held at the meeting hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. It was attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Arnt Maung, heads of department and staff.

Firstly, Pro-Rector (Admin) Dr Myint Kyi presented K 1,451,500 for the children of the staff to Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung on behalf of Associated Professor of International Tharavada Buddhist University Sayadaw Dhamma Kathika



Pro-Rector (Admin) Dr Myint Kyi of ITBMU hands over cash assistance for children of staff of Ministry of Religious Affairs to Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

MNA

Bahujanahitadhara Dhamma Duta Ashin Chekinda.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung presented K 3,000 each to 15 staff who won Good Public Service Medals. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko also

presented cash assistance for the children of staff to the officials. Cash assistance provided by the ministry and Sayadaw Dhamman Kathika Bahujanahitadhara Dhamma Dhuta Ashin Chekinda amounted to K 94,425,000. — MNA

PBANRDA holds Waso robes offering ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July — Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs held the 13th Waso robes offering ceremony at the hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

The ceremony was graced under the presence of a nine-Sayadaw led by Pynmana Zaygon Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha

Pandita Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhanddanta Kavisara.

It was attended by Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt and wife Daw Kyin Khine, Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe, Directors-General and the Managing Director of the departments and enterprise under the ministry and families of the ministry.

The Nayaka Sayadaw invested the

congregation with the Five Precepts. Later, the minister and wife and those present offered waso robes and provisions to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha. Sayadaw Bhanddanta Kavisara delivered a sermon and those present shared the merits gained.

After the ceremony, the families of Ministry for PBANRDA led by the minister and wife offered 'soon' to the



Minister Col Thein Nyunt and wife offer Waso robes and provisions to a Sayadaw. — PBANRDA

Ministry of Home Affairs offers Waso robes to Sayadaws



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo and wife offer Waso robes and provisions to a Sayadaw. — HOME AFFAIRS

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July — Under the aegis of Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and wife, staff families of the Ministry of Home Affairs held the 13th Waso robes offering ceremony at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

Member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha

U Tejaniya and members of the Sangha, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and wife Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, departmental heads and staff families.

Chairman of the Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi administered the Five Precepts. Next, Minister

Maj-Gen Maung Oo, wife Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo and party offered Waso robes and provisions to the Sayadaws.

After taking a sermon from the Sayadaw, the congregation shared merits gained.

Later, they donated 'soon' to members of the Sangha. MNA

Merits shared for all-round renovation of PhaungdawU Standing Buddha Statue in Insein

YANGON, 8 July — A ceremony to share merits for completion of the walls, the banner post and the platform of PhaungdawU Standing Buddha Statue was held at Dhamma Yeiktha Dhammayon in the precinct of the pagoda in Myothit (A+B) Ward in Insein Township this morning.

Member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tilokabhivamsa of Ywama Pariyatti Monastery, Chairman of Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myat Min, Chairman of Township PDC U Aung Swe and Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Soe Thein formally opened the walls, the banner post and the platform.

A total of 25 wellwishers donated K 14.45 million to the fund for construction of the all-round renovation of the Buddha Statue. — MNA



Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tilokabhivamsa, Lt-Col Myat Min, U Aung Swe and Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara U Soe Thein formally open the walls, the banner post and the platform of PhaungdawU Standing Buddha Statue in Insein Township. — H

PPE, MMPE hold Waso robes offering ceremony

YANGON, 8 July — Under the auspices of Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win, families of Printing and Publishing Enterprise and Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise held a Waso robes offering ceremony at Kyaukyaydwin Yandana Beikman Pariyatti Monastery in North Okkalapa Township this morning.

MNA



Headmaster U Tint Lwin and teachers, Patron of Parent-Teacher Association Chairman of School Board of Trustees U Aung Tha Tun and members offer Waso robes to five members of the Sangha on 7-7-2006 at Waso robes offering ceremony of No 29 Basic Education Primary School in South Okkalapa Township. — H

POEM:

Special Obeisance On Arrival of Lent

- * At the start of the Lenten period
We pay obeisance with special thoughts
To the Holy One
We do it, holding our palms in supplication
Hearts filled with spirit of offering
We supplicate before Lord Buddha.
- * By this offering in this manner
As Teacher of Disciples Three
We lay down all that we felt amiss
But pray not for their fulfillment
And not as a clamour, for healing
Or to make it known repeatedly, O Lord.
- * The main reason for paying obeisance
Specially now, today
Is for Myanmar at present
Who, with their clear conscience
Shunning bad acts, not veering from the path
And for doing what is good and noble
So that we may overcome
The vicious acts that are being committed
And all acts that tend to corner us
Not veering from our original path
And continue marching, acting confidently
To let Buddha, our Lord, know
We are thus supplicating.
- * Shunning vice and espousing the good
Keeping a clear mind as preached
The wondrous Buddha Dhamma's ability
We dedicate and pray
Specially at the start of the Lenten period
We supplicate, O Lord.

Shoon Mya Aung (Trs)

Donate Blood

Bahan Township MCWA holds annual meeting

YANGON, 8 July — Bahan Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association held the 16th Annual Meeting at No 2 Basic Education High School in Bahan Township this morning, with an address by Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and

Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai.

Chairperson of Bahan Township MCWA Daw Phyu Phyu handed over 1,000 membership applications to Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai.

Next, Chairperson

Daw Mar Mar Wai and party presented prizes to outstanding members and association branches.

The Chairperson of Township MCWA read the annual report and financial statement, and submitted future tasks.

MNA

MMCWA(Central) donates cash and kind



Vice-Chairperson of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint presents medicines to Dr Chit Ko Tin. —MMCWA

YANGON, 8 July — Vice-Chairperson of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and executives presented K 500,000 and medicines worth K 700,000 for Child Cancer Unit of Yangon Children

Hospital to Medical Superintendent Dr Chit Ko Tin yesterday afternoon.

Deputy Director Dr Kyaw Lin and officials, specialists, matrons and nurses attended the ceremony. MNA



Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai speaking at 16th Annual Meeting of Bahan Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association. — MNA

Torrential rains cause floods in some parts of Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July — The rivers and creeks in Myanmar became raging due to the continuous rains that fell down in torrents throughout the nation in recent days.

Due to the incessant heavy rains, some wards, villages, roads and railroads close to rivers and creeks were flooded in Mawlamyine, Kyaikto, Bilin and Mudon Townships in Mon State, Hpa-an and Kya-in Seikkyi Townships in Kayin State, and Taninthayi, Dawei, Yeand Yebyu townships in

Taninthayi Division.

On the morning of 6 July, Maung Tun Myint Aung, 18, son of U Aung Khin Soe of street to BEHS No-4 in Ward 6, Hpa-an, plunged into a drain with his motorbike and lost his life. On the same day, a landslide occurred near the footpath, west of the Moksoe Taung Pagoda in Kyaikhtiyoe Pagoda Region, Kyaikto. In the incident, a temporary hut was thrown into the ravine and Ko Naing Lin Tun and wife Ma Zin

Mar who lived in that hut are missing.

In the remaining incidents, there were no casualties, and officials concerned managed to evacuate the flood victims to safe places.

Now, the floods have abated in those regions. Local Tatmadaw members, personnel, and members of social organizations are helping the victims to return to their homes, carrying out relief measures, and providing relief for them.

MNA

Singapore to train more seafarers

SINGAPORE, 8 July — Singapore on Friday launched a Maritime Training Fund, aiming to train up to 20 seafarers each year for its booming maritime cluster.

Initiated by the Singapore Maritime Officers' Union (SMOU) and local shipping companies, the fund of 2.3 million Singapore dollars (about 1.5 million US dollars) will focus on training in operating more complex navigational tools and handling gas and chemical products, Channel News Asia report said.

The SMOU is to partner with other Asian countries, starting from China in October this year, to recruit from regional nations.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, Minister of State for Finance and Transport Lim Hwee Hua said that manpower development will be one of the key factors in Singapore's efforts to become an international maritime centre.

MNA/Xinhua

Afflux bund of Washaung Dam breached

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July — Owing to the heavy rains in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State on 5 July, the Washaung dam had overflowed its embankment in the afternoon. Therefore, the afflux bund of the dam had to be breached about 200 feet to lower the water level and save the dam.

Tatmadaw members in cooperation with departmental personnel and local residents removed the flotsam in the dam. At the same time, arrangements are being made for rebuilding the afflux bund of the dam. — MNA

Chinese college students join "new countryside" construction drive

BEIJING, 8 July — Chinese college students will go to the countryside during their summer vacation to publicize "new socialist countryside" policies and help rural residents improve their lives.

The students will head to around 1,000 villages in 600 teams, with 100 teams devoted to publicizing government policies, 100 publicizing the "socialist concept of honour and disgrace", 100 providing technical assistance to farmers, 100 giving lectures to rural students, 100 providing medical and health care and 100 teams of PhD students offering advice on local economic

development, according to the activity plan.

The summer vacation of Chinese colleges and universities generally start in July and last for around one and a half months. The government usually organizes college students to make field trips to the countryside and other grassroots units.

A circular, jointly issued by the Ministry of Education and several other organizations, said the activity is "an effective approach" to improving the ideological and political education of college students.

MNA/Xinhua

Former Chinese V-P conferred Honorary Degree in S'pore

SINGAPORE, 8 July — Former Chinese vice-premier Li Lanqing received a Honorary Doctor Degree of Letters from the National University of Singapore (NUS) here on Thursday.

Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew attended the conferment

ceremony at the NUS, along with the faculty and students from the university.

Speaking at the ceremony, Li said that the cooperation and exchanges between China and Singapore in the fields of political relations, economy, trade, education, culture, science, technology and

tourism are getting closer and bearing fruit.

"Through mutually beneficial cooperation, we have not only promoted the fundamental interests of our two peoples, but also contributed to prosperity and progress of our region and the world as a whole," said Li, who retired in 2003. — MNA/Xinhua

UNSC to begin process of selecting new S-G next week

UNITED NATIONS, 8 July — The United Nations Security Council will begin the process of selecting a new secretary-general, for which Indian candidate Shashi Tharoor is in the fray, from next week when it is expected to hold the first "straw" or informal poll on aspirants already in the field.

The poll is designed to gauge the support that each of the declared candidates enjoys among the Council members especially the permanent five — United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — whose backing is necessary for a candidate to be finally nominated.

Though the Council is free to devise its own procedure, generally each candidate is voted separately. The members are distributed blank ballots on which they make a mark to show

whether they support or oppose the candidate.

The permanent five either mark the paper with a different ink or are given ballots with different colours.

Should a permanent member oppose a particular candidate, he or she is informally informed about it but no one would know which of the five has cast negative vote.

There could be several straw polls before a final poll is taken and a nomination sent to the General Assembly for approval.

Currently, there are three candidates in the field — Indian nominee UN Undersecretary General Shashi Tharoor, Sri Lanka's Jayantha Dhanapala and Thai Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai.

MNA/PTI



Soldiers exercise during a training session at a beach in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, on 6 July, 2006. —INTERNET

Indonesians living abroad can lose citizenship

JAKARTA, 8 July — The Indonesian Parliament is slated next week to enact the citizenship bill, under which an Indonesian citizen who lives abroad for five consecutive years and fails to report to the Indonesian mission will lose his citizenship.

"All Indonesian citizens who live abroad for five consecutive years, including corrupt officials who flee justice, and fail to report themselves to the Indonesian mission will lose their citizenship," said Slamet Effendi Yusuf, who chairs the special committee on citizenship bill in the House of Representatives.

The ruling also applies to "those who join foreign military service without prior approval from the President", he said.

But Indonesian students whose adopted countries obliged foreign citizens to join the military service can elude the ruling, he said.

Indonesians who take oath of allegiance to a foreign country or hold foreign passport on their names can also lose citizenship.

MNA/Xinhua

APEC symposium on total supply chain security opens in S'pore

SINGAPORE, 8 July — The inaugural Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Symposium on total supply chain security opened here on Thursday with the participation of some 320 policy makers, industry practitioners and professionals from over 15 countries and regions.

They are expected to address issues like threats and vulnerabilities to the global supply chain, benefits to facilitating trade and business, perspectives from governments and industry on principles and approaches towards supply chain security, international cooperation, as well as challenges for the future.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Singapore's

Deputy Prime Minister S. Jayakumar said that the long global supply chains are vulnerable to disruption by external forces and events with terrorist attacks being the biggest threat.

"To safeguard global trade and commerce, the security of the global supply chain as a whole needs to be enhanced. Collective attention must be paid to this complex task," he noted, adding that the consequences of such disruption could be devastating for many economies worldwide.

Stressing that Singapore approaches the supply chain security issue on a holistic basis, Jayakumar, who is also Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Law, announced the establishment of the country's national supply chain security programme.

MNA/Xinhua



Revellers hold up red scarves as they celebrate the start of San Fermin festival in Pamplona, Spain, on 6 July, 2006. — INTERNET

Two killed in coal mine collapse in northern Turkey

ANKARA, 8 July — Two people died as they were trapped under a collapsed coal mine in northern Turkey on Friday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

According to the report, the collapsed coal mine in Azdavay Town of Kastamonu Province belonged to a private company.

Bodies of an engineer and an administrator of the private company

were pulled under the rubble at the end of rescue operations that lasted more than five hours.

Meanwhile, six workers who entered the collapsed mine to rescue the trapped people were

poisoned by the gas leakage, said the report, adding that they were rushed to a hospital for medical treatment and they are in stable condition after treatment.

MNA/Xinhua

Dutch police seize massive drugs in Rotterdam

BRUSSELS, 8 July — Dutch police have intercepted a shipment of 204 kilos of heroin in the Netherlands as part of an international operation against a Turkish drugs gang, Dutch media reported on Friday.

The drugs were hidden inside speakers in a delivery van stopped in Rotterdam on Tuesday, the National Detective Service of the Netherlands was quoted as saying.

The consignment came from Turkey and passed through Germany on the way to the Netherlands.

Five people were arrested and police found a further 14 kilos of heroin in the Amsterdam home of one of the suspects.

German police seized a further 90 kilos of heroin and arrested six people

on Wednesday.

Justice officials and police in the two countries have been working closely in recent months to combat a Turkish crime gang that dominates the heroin scene in the Netherlands. It also uses the Netherlands to distribute the drugs to Britain, Germany and France, according to the Dutch police. Five other people were arrested in May by the Dutch police as part of the investigation. The drugs are believed to have come from Afghanistan.

MNA/Xinhua



KPMG employee Sophie Chen (C) teaches Yao Yuan (L) from Gezhi High School how to answer a business call on 6 July as part of the 2006 JA Job Shadow Day programme in Shanghai, China. —INTERNET

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Flood kills three oil workers in N-W China

URUMQI, 7 July — Three oil workers were killed and five are missing after a flood washed away their workcamp in Yumen, northwest China's Gansu Province on Thursday, a local source said.

More than 50 workers lived in the camp operated by Tuha Oil Field Company which is headquartered in Hami, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Putin wants quicker reaction from Iran

Moscow, 7 July — Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday he wanted a "quicker" response from Iran to major powers' proposals over its nuclear programme, but spoke out against sanctions.

"We would like this reaction to be quicker, and the talks that should begin on the basis of these proposals should be constructive," he said, through an interpreter, on an interactive webcast. "To wait endlessly is counter-productive, but it would be more counter-productive to drive this problem into a dead-end and that is why I would not speak about sanctions at the moment."

Putin next weekend hosts President George W. Bush and the other leaders of the G-8 nations for a summit where the Iranian issue will be a major topic.

Iran said on Thursday it would take its time over the package of proposals, which include trade and technology incentives and

are intended to persuade Iran to halt uranium enrichment.

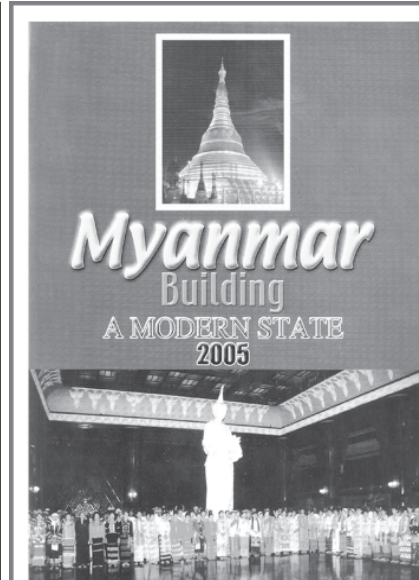
Major powers have demanded an answer by 15 July, when their leaders will meet at the G-8 summit in Putin's hometown of St. Petersburg, but Iran says it will respond on 22 August.— *MNA/Reuters*

Iran defies int'l calls for early reply

BRUSSELS, 7 July — Iran defied international calls for an early reply to an offer of incentives aimed at ending a nuclear stand-off, insisting on Thursday it would use a key 11 July meeting merely to raise questions on the package.

The European Union is due to hold preliminary talks with Iran on Thursday and more detailed discussions next Tuesday in which it expects a formal response to a package of technology, trade and other incentives to halt uranium enrichment.

"The Tuesday



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Oil near record above \$75, eyes on US gasoline

LONDON, 7 July — Oil stayed within sight of a new record high beyond 75 US dollars on Thursday as investors fretted over gasoline supply in the United States, where drivers burn 40 per cent of the world's motor fuel.

Prices have climbed more than 5 US dollars a barrel over the past two weeks, fuelled by signs that US pump prices near 3 US dollars a gallon have yet to pinch the wallets of motorists in the world's

biggest energy user. Investment funds, a key driver of a four-year rally that began at 20 US dollars, remain convinced there is no end in sight to the bull market and helped propel Wednesday's climb to a new

record of 75.40 US dollars a barrel.

"It will be much more than 100 US dollars before the bull market is over," billionaire US investor Jim Rogers told *Reuters* on Thursday. He has predicted the current bull market has another 15 years to run.

US crude for August shed 30 cents to 74.89 US dollars a barrel by 1014 GMT. London Brent crude was off 36 cents to 73.62 US dollars a barrel.

In another indication of the market's sustained strength, Goldman Sachs raised its forecast for five-year-ahead US crude by 7.50 US dollars to 67.50 US dollars a barrel because of the rising costs of bringing new oil on line.

Goldman, the biggest trader of energy among investment banks, also lifted its second-half 2006 estimate by 5 US dollars to

75 US dollars.

US Government data due at 1430 GMT will provide further clues on the health of demand in the United States. The data is expected to show a 1.1 million-barrel decline in gasoline stockpiles and a 1.9-million-barrel draw on crude inventories for the week to June 30, a *Reuters* poll found. Distillate stocks were seen up 1.1 million barrels.

NYMEX gasoline futures led Wednesday's rally, rising 5.7 cents or 2.6 per cent, on forecasts that US demand increased last week ahead of the holiday weekend. Supply concerns raised by the row between key oil producer Iran and the West over Teheran's atomic ambitions, along with a partial loss of Nigerian supply, had helped drive prices to the previous record at 75.35 US dollars in April.— *MNA/Reuters*

New York Mayor testifies in favour of guest worker programme

NEW YORK, 7 July — New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg on Wednesday testified in favour of the guest worker programme at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on immigration reform.

Outlining his support of the programme that would allow illegal immigrants to work legally in the United States while putting them on a path to citizenship, the mayor called on lawmakers to hold businesses accountable for

violating current laws.

"By winking at businesses that hired illegal immigrants, the federal government sent a clear signal to those in other countries: 'If you can make it into our country, you'll have no trouble qualifying for employment,'" said Bloomberg.

Bloomberg also backs a DNA or fingerprint database to track and verify the identity of legal US workers. He also supports an increase in

work visas and opposes suggestions of mass deportations.

"The truth of the matter is we need lots of immigrants to come into this country every year," said Bloomberg. "Our birth rate is not high enough to sustain the growth in the economy that we need."

This is the third time this year that the mayor has testified before a congressional committee on issues concerning the city.— *MNA/Xinhua*



A man looks at the shattered windshield of a car after a bomb attack outside a building in Baghdad on 7 July, 2006.— *INTERNET*

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S African granny, 132, may be World's oldest

JOHANNESBURG, 7 July — At 132 years of age, South African granny Moloko Temo may be the world's oldest citizen, though her name has not appeared in the Guinness Book of World Records, local media reported on Thursday.

Temo, who lives in Mohodi Village in South Africa's northern province of Limpopo, celebrated her 132nd birthday on Tuesday, said The Citizen newspaper.

"Her skin still looks healthy, even though she is wrinkled, and her complexion is very light," said the newspaper, which carried a picture of her identity document that records her year of birth as 1874.

Another newspaper

Sowetan said Temo has outlived three of her eight children, has 29 grandchildren, 59 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Agnes, Temo's 77-year-old daughter, told the newspaper that though her elderly mother cannot see and has to use a wheelchair, she still speaks well and enjoys the company of others.

Efforts were being made to have her recognized as

the world's oldest living person by the Guinness Book of World Records, which currently lists Maria Esther de Capovilla of Ecuador, born on 14 September, 1889, as the oldest living woman.

"I wish I can live to see the 2010 Soccer World Cup (in South Africa). Everyone here is talking about it," Temo told Sowetan at her colourful birthday party in her village on Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua



A little girl muses over life possibilities on Mars at the Beijing Planetarium, where an exhibition on the birth of the solar system opened on 6 July, 2006.—INTERNET



Photo taken on 6 July, 2006 shows the Discovery crew members (from front to back) Mission Specialist Michael Fossum, Commander Steve Lindsey, Mission Specialists Piers Sellers, Stephanie Wilson and Lisa Nowak float in the Destiny module of the International Space Station after arriving on 6 July, 2006. The seven member crew aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery will conduct 2 spacewalks during their visit.—INTERNET

Hollywood to make movie based on London Olympics promotion video

LOS ANGELES, 7 July — Hollywood studio Paramount/Nickelodeon has signed a deal with British TV director Daryl Goodrich to make a feature-length movie based on his video that helped London win the bid for the 2012 Olympics, reports said Wednesday.

Goodrich's three-minute promotion video was shown as part of the London bid committee's final presentation to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Singapore last year.

It seemed that the short film, titled "Inspiration", impressed the IOC members as London was chosen to host the 2012 Games. The video featured a Mexican boy and his rusty

selection as 2012 host, Hollywood studios and agents began calling Goodrich and his producer Caroline Rowland about possible projects.

Advised by renowned British film producer Lord

Puttnam, whose credits include the Oscar-winning "Chariots of Fire", Goodrich and Rowland set up a production company and were considering various film ideas with sports themes.—MNA/Xinhua

Sales volume of Mercedes-Benz rise by 25% in China

BEIJING, 7 July — Sales of Mercedes-Benz in China surged 25 per cent in the first five months of this year to reach 13,122 units, Beijing Daily reported on Wednesday.

Till Becker, CEO of DaimlerChrysler in Northeast Asia attributed the sales increase to strong demand for the Benz-S series. The report said the consumption tax introduced by China on 1 April, which was aimed at discouraging consumers from buying cars with large engines seems to have had little impact on the sales of imported luxury sedans.— MNA/Xinhua

New study show colon cancer related to body measures

LONDON, 7 July — European researchers have found that men and women with a large waist circumference and a large waist-to-hip ratio (WHR) have an increased risk of developing colon cancer.

In a European-wide study known as EPIC (European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition), researchers got the conclusion after examining in 368,277 participants the associations between various body measures and the risk of colon and rectal cancer, according to the main European science website AlphaGalileo on Wednesday.

The analysis is based on a six-year follow-up during which 984 participants developed colon cancer and 586 rectal cancer, according to the researchers.

The study results showed that women with a WHR over 0.85 had a

52-per-cent higher risk of colon cancer than those with a WHR under 0.73 and similar values were observed in men, whose colon cancer risk increased by 51 per cent from the group with the lowest WHR (less than 0.89) to the group with the highest WHR (equal to 0.99).

The study results also showed that height was also rather strongly associated with cancer risk in both sexes, with women taller than 167.5 centimetres having a 79-per-cent higher chance of developing colon cancer than short women (less than 156.0 centimetres) and men tall 180.5 centimetres (the tallest ones) having a 40-per-cent higher chance

than short men under 168 centimetres (the shortest ones).

In the study, the researchers also observed sex-specific differences with body mass index (BMI) (calculated by dividing the body weight in kilogrammes by the square of the body height in m2) and found men with a BMI over 29.4 had a 55-per-cent higher risk of colon cancer than slim men with a BMI under 23.6 and women had only 6 per cent higher risk at the most between the corresponding groups.

However, there is no relation between the body measures of the investigation and rectal cancer risk.

The results support the hypothesis that

abdominal body fat is especially important for development of colon cancer, the researchers claimed — MNA/Xinhua



A polar bear sleeps soundly on the artificial ice at the Polar Animal Hall in Dalian, northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 5 July, 2006. The polar animals enjoy a comfortable cool environment during the hot summer.—INTERNET

SPORTS

FIFA World Cup Fixture
Monday, 10 July 2006
Italy v France, 00:30 MST



Vijay Singh of Fiji watches his tee shot on the seventh hole during the second round of the Western Open golf tournament in Lemont, Illinois, on 7 July, 2006.
 INTERNET

Watson takes charge at US Senior Open

NEW YORK, 8 July— Tom Watson moved to plug one of the few holes in his glittering resume by firing a second-round four-under 66 to grab a one-shot lead at the US Senior Open at the Prairie Dunes Country Club in Hutchinson, Kansas on Friday.

Watson, winner of eight majors and three seniors titles, mixed six birdies with a pair of bogeys to move to four-under 136 heading into the weekend and into contention for his first US Senior Open crown.

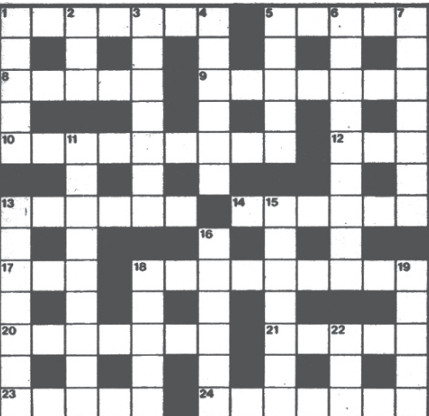
Defending champion Allen Doyle, Mark James, Bob Gilder and Morris Hatalasky were a shot in arrears.

"I had the Watson of old kind of feel today," Watson told reporters. "Hit it sideways a little bit here and there and hit some really good shots and hit some bad shots and let the putter do the work.

"I could say I'm hitting on all cylinders, but I'm not exactly doing that right now.

Overnight leaders Jay Haas of the US and Canada's Dave Barr both struggled in the difficult scoring conditions. — MNA/Reuters

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Foaming wave
- 5 Raise anchor
- 8 Unrelenting
- 9 Diversity
- 10 Constant
- 12 Service charge
- 13 Traduce
- 14 Misgivings
- 17 Curve
- 18 Puritan
- 20 Hero of Wagnerian opera
- 21 Perch
- 23 Fish basket
- 24 Faithfulness

DOWN

- 1 Foundation
- 2 Before
- 3 Realm
- 4 Disclose
- 5 Get the better of
- 6 Indescribable
- 7 Tomboys
- 11 Producing desired result
- 12 Severe
- 15 Neat
- 16 Smoke-stack
- 18 Honey-badger
- 19 Song
- 22 Lubricate

Wie goes through to meet Pak in World Matchplay

GLADSTONE (New Jersey), 8 July— Top seeds Annika Sorenstam and Michelle Wie kept on course for a dream final with second round victories at the Women's World Matchplay Championship on Friday.

Wie reached the last 16 with a 3 and 2 win over the US Solheim Cup player Christina Kim, coming back from one down after eight holes with a spurt of three winning birdies in four holes from the turn.

The 16-year-old Hawaiian now faces a tough third round tie against one of her idols, South Korean Pak Se Ri.

"Christina and I are good friends, but you just have to try and treat everyone just like another opponent," said the Hawaiian youngster who is seeded second to Sorenstam.

"I felt I played really solid and pulled out the birdies when I needed them." Her eyes lit up at the prospect of playing Pak, another player who hit the headlines very early in her career. In her rookie 1998 season, Pak, then aged 20, won four times on the LPGA Tour, including two majors.

"I've never played Se Ri before but I really respect what she has done. She came out here (on the LPGA Tour) and achieved so much early on and I've always really admired her," said Wie.

Sorenstam won the

first two holes with birdie and brushed past American Heather Young by 3 and 2. "Heather put up a good fight and it was a good match, but I'm very happy with the way I'm playing," said the Swede, who started the week by winning her third US Women's Open.

Sorenstam goes through to meet 20-year-old Brittany Lang, one of the up-and-coming generation of US players.

Another attractive clash features two of the Ameri-

can teenagers, Paula Creamer, who was No.2 to Sorenstam on the Tour last year, and rookie Morgan Pressel who tied for second as a 17-year-old amateur in last year's US Women's Open.

Creamer ended the reign of defending champion Marisa Baena, from Colombia, by 5 and 3 with some splendid golf while Pressel was a 3 and 1 winner against last year's beaten finalist Meena Lee of South Korea.

MNA/Reuters

Inspired Nadal reaches Wimbledon final

LONDON, 8 July— An inspired Rafael Nadal beat Marcos Baghdatis 6-1, 7-5, 6-3 on Friday to set up a dream final against triple Wimbledon champion Roger Federer.

The Spanish second seed, who beat Federer in the French Open final last month, battered his Cypriot opponent to a standstill in front of an enthralled Centre Court crowd.

Baghdatis, 21, was overwhelmed in a 30-minute first set but the second produced a breathtaking battle as the pair contested sublime rallies.

Despite going two sets and then a break down Baghdatis refused to give up, but 20-year-old Nadal would not be denied and he became the first Spanish man to reach the final here since Manuel Santana in 1966, clinching victory in two hours 26 minutes.

MNA/Reuters



Spain's Rafael Nadal celebrates during his men's semi-final match against Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London on 7 July, 2006.—INTERNET

Podolski named Best Young Player of 2006 World Cup

BERLIN, 8 July— German rising star Lukas Podolski won the FIFA Best Young Player award of the 2006 World Cup on Friday.

The 21-year-old Polish-born striker has scored three goals in Germany's six World Cup matches so far. His two early goals in the Germany-Sweden knockout duel sent the hosts into quarterfinals. The other goal came from Germany's last Group A match against Ecuador.

Podolski said: "I would have liked to have taken home the World Cup. But this is a great honour and is a great motivation to become more successful."

Podolski beat off competition from 40 candidates including Cesc Fabregas from Spain, Lionel Messi

from Argentina, Cristiano Ronaldo from Portugal, Luis Valencia from Ecuador to win the coveted prize.

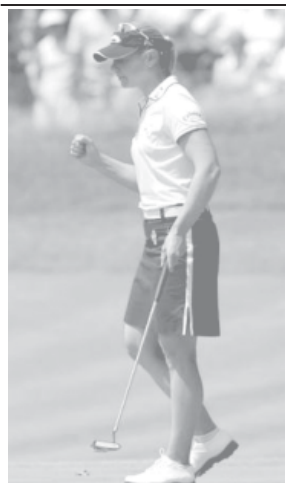
"Podolski not only scored three goals, he was a key element in Germany's attack," explained Holger Osieck, head of the FIFA Technical Study Group. "He showed a great understanding with Miroslav Klose and the two players formed a very effective partnership. Together, they netted eight of Germany's 11 goals."

Klose, the German First Division top scorer from Werder Bremen, is now leading the top scorer list with five goals. — MNA/Xinhua

Finalists unable to train at stadium

BERLIN, 8 July— World Cup finalists France and Italy cannot train at the Olympiastadion before Sunday's final because of the condition of the pitch, FIFA said on Friday.

Spokesman Andreas Herren confirmed that FIFA had taken the decision "because of the state of the pitch and because of the heavy rainfall in Berlin over the last couple of days". — MNA/Reuters



Annika Sorenstam of Stockholm, Sweden pumps her fist after sinking a putt on the first hole during second round play of the LPGA Women's World Match Play Golf Championships in Gladstone, New Jersey, on 7 July, 2006.—INTERNET

Scolari says third-place match causes suffering

STUTTGART, 8 July— The third-place match at the World Cup causes suffering for the teams involved, said Portugal coach Luis Felipe Scolari ahead of his side's game with Germany on Saturday.

Scolari said it was a struggle to motivate players only days after they suffered agonizing defeats in the semifinals of the competition.

Hosts Germany were beaten 2-0 by Italy on Tuesday, conceding two goals deep into extra time, and Portugal went down to a 1-0 defeat against France on Wednesday, sunk by a controversial penalty.

"From the business perspective, maybe it's a good thing," said Scolari.

"If you're on our side of the fence, this game represents suffering, rather than a match you are happy to take part in.

"After losing to France, it's very difficult to motivate the players for this.

"It's difficult to stop our players and ourselves thinking about what we missed out on. You think about what you've lost and not about what you might win. — MNA/Reuters

Minister for Industry-1 inspects factories in townships of Mandalay Division

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July — Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, accompanied by Secretary of Mandalay Division USDA U Tin Maung Oo and executives of district and township USDAs, met with the secretary and executives at Mahlaing Township USDA Office yesterday.

Mahlaing Township USDA Secretary U Shwe Nann reported on progress of rural development tasks and fulfillment of school furniture.

The Secretariat Member explained organizational tasks and undertakings of the rural development tasks.

At Mahlaing Cotton Factory, the minister inspected cotton ginning tasks, boilers and machines. Next, the Secretariat Member attended the ceremony to grow physic nut plants organized by Taungtha Township USDA at Panpaung Village-tract.

At Taungtha Cotton Factory, the minister inspected arrangements for installation of cotton ginning machines.

Afterwards, the Secretariat Member attended the ceremony to donate school furniture and exercise books to basic primary schools at the office of Taungtha Township USDA. Secretariat Member U Aung Thaung presented school furniture and exercise books to 189 basic education schools through Township Education Officer Daw Marlar May Thin.

Next, member of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee Minister U Aung Thaung met members of Taungtha Township War Veterans Organization, secretaries and executives of Kyaukpadaung, Natogyi and Taungtha Township USDAs.

Township WVO Chairman U Aung Than reported on social and economic matters of WVO members and carrying out of public welfare tasks. Executives and organizers of Kyaukpadaung, Natogyi and Taungtha Township USDAs briefed the Secretariat Member on carrying out of public welfare tasks. The



USDA Secretariat Member Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung presents school furniture for basic education schools to Taungtha Township Education Officer Daw Marlar May Thin.

INDUSTRY-1

Secretariat Member presented K 3 million for construction of new building at Kyawzvi BEHS donated by wellwishers to officials.

While in Taungtha, Minister U Aung Thaung inspected sales of products from the Ministry of Industry-1 at Taungtha Win Thuza Shop and left necessary instructions. He proceeded to Vest Factory (Taungtha) and viewed production process of the factory. Factory Manager U Saw Lin and Managing Director U Oo Thein Maung gave supplementary reports. Later, the minister instructed officials to make efforts for exceeding the production target. — MNA

11 quit NLD as they have lost interest, faith in it because of its evil deeds

YANGON, 8 July — Members of KhinU Township National League for Democracy in Sagaing Division — U Kyaw Shwin, U Aung Myint, U Toe Maung, U Win Aung, Daw Kyi Sein, Daw Nyo Hmi, Daw Yin Yin Hla and Daw Nyo Nyo Win of Ngatingyi Village and U Si, Daw Khin Myat and U Myint Sein of Magyioak Village — resigned of their own accord from the party on 12 and 23 June respectively. They sent their resignations to NLD Headquarters and authorities concerned.

In their resignation letters, the 11 members said they quit the NLD as they have lost interest and faith in it because of its evil deeds.

MNA

Weather Forecast for (9-7-2006)

Nay Pyi Taw & neighbouring areas

Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Yangon & neighbouring areas

Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay & neighbouring areas

Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

INSIDE

Politburo member Kyaw Mya sent a letter to Thet Khaing a member of underground cell (UG) at the end of February 1989. The letter in reality was sent from first vice-chairman of the BCP central military commission Kyaw Zaw (retired brig-gen Kyaw Zaw) to Daw Suu Kyi. The letter said that the BCP leaders were in favour of Daw Suu Kyi; that they had similar view as Daw Suu Kyi, urging her to continue to strive for ending the internal strife, vitalizing national politics and flourishing of democracy.