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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Their Sein and wife attends Waso robes offering ceremony of Camp Commandant's Office

YANGON, 16 July — The Camp Commandant's Office of the Ministry of Defence organized the ceremony to donate Waso robes to members of the Sangha at Sangyoung Monastery on Sangyoung Street in Mayangon Township this morning, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Their Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win.

Also present on the occasion were Joint-Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Dwipitaka Kovida Kalewa Tawya Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa, Presiding Nayaka of Sangyoung Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Viçitta and members of the Sangha, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo

and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and wife Daw San San Yi, Camp Commandant Maj-Gen Hla Aung Their

and wife Daw Amy Khaing, officers, other ranks and families.

(See page 8)



Lt-Gen Their Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win and congregation share meits gained at Waso robes offering ceremony of Camp Commandant's Office of Ministry of Defence.— MNA

INSIDE

I would like them to adopt a more positive approach to the nation, to observe goodwill and sincerity of the government, and to come and see things in the right perspective and feel the truth.

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MAUNG KO OO



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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 17 July, 2005

Women taking part in nation-building endeavours shoulder-to-shoulder with men

The world population is now 6.5 billion and the largest group of young women ever in history is entering their child-bearing age. Most are from developing countries. On the average, every day 70,000 teenage girls marry and 40,000 give birth. Skilled attendance at birth reduces maternal mortality by 74 per cent.

As regards education, UNICEF estimates that out of 121 million children who are not able to attend school, 65 million are girls. Globally 600 million women are illiterate compared to 320 million men.

Touching briefly on the situation in our country, the population of Myanmar stands at 54.3 million with 27 million male and 27.3 million female. Myanmar has a very high adult literacy rate of 93.3 per cent while the primary school enrolment is about 96.6 per cent.

Myanmar enjoys a significantly high literacy rate, when compared with the world literacy rate. In this regard, women enjoy literacy rate on equal terms with that men do.

The ceremony to mark the World Population Day was held at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road on 15 July 2005 with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said that one of the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development is to provide gender equity and equality and empowerment of women, as it is significant to human development. It is also the third goal of the Millennium Development Goals.

Therefore, equality is essential to achieving the MDGs and the ICPD Programme of Action.

The theme of the World Population Day for 2005 set by UNFPA is "Equality". In the course of history, Myanmar women have not only been enjoying rights equal to men but also have the opportunity to play an important role on equal status with men for the development of their families, human societies, the nation and the people as a whole.

The government is encouraging and nurturing Myanmar women to enhance their capabilities and effectively fulfil their roles. The Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation is engaged in all the affairs of the mass of Myanmar women.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon all the Myanmar women to make relentless efforts for national development and development of women, while enjoying rights on equal terms with men.

Ceremony of conveying replica of Buddha images to be held

YANGON, 16 July — A ceremony to offer Waso robes and convey replica of Inlay PhaungdawU Buddha images will be held at Shweminwun Tawya Monastery in Thitsenitkon Ward in Mingaladon Township on 20 July, the full moon day of Waso.

Those wishing to donate Waso robes and provisions to members of the Sangha of Dhamma Maydini Pariyatti Sarhintaik and Monastic Education School (North Okkalapa) may contact Shweminwun Tawya Monastery (Tel:699163, 635976, 09-5011279).—MNA

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Families of Home Affairs Ministry offer Waso robes

YANGON, 16 July — Under the aegis of Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and wife Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, staff families of the Ministry of Home Affairs held the 12th Waso robes offering ceremony at the ministry this morning.

The congregation took Five Precepts from Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhiddhaja Maha Rattha Guru Agga Maha S a d d h a m m a j o t i k a Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara.

Later, members of Sangharecited Paritta and, the minister and wife



Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo and wife Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo offering Waso robes and alms to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Phone Swe and wife, and departmental heads donated the offertories to members of the Sangha. Next, State Sangha Maha

Nayaka Committee Joint Secretary Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Yenangyoung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejanियाdeliv-

ered a sermon.

Later, the congregation shared the merits gained and donated 'soon' to Sayadaws.

MNA

Ministry of Rail Transportation holds Waso robes offering ceremony

YANGON, 16 July — Under the patronage of Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung

Min and wife Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha, staff of the Ministry of Rail Transportation donated Waso robes,

offertories and cash to the funds for building the three-storey refectory at Taunggyi Pariyatti Mon-

astery in Bahan Township this morning.

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and wife, Deputy Minister Thura U Thuang Lwin and wife, Deputy Minister U Pe Than and wife, and wellwishers offered 'soon', Waso robes, provisions and K3.6 million towards the funds for medicines and for construction of the three-storey building to the Sayadaws.

The administrator Sayadaw of the monastery invested the congregation with a sermon. Later, those present shared merits gained. — MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and wife Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha offer Waso robes to a Sayadaw of Taunggyi Pariyatti Monastery in Bahan.—RAILWAYS

Ministry of PBANRDA donates Waso robes, alms to Sayadaws

YANGON, 16 July — The Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs held the ceremony to donate Waso robes and alms to members of the Sangha at the Dhammayon of Department of Development Affairs in Bahan Township, this morning.

Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt and wife Daw Kyin Khaing, officials and the congregation took the Five Precepts from Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Kyaikpi Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Gunesana.

Minister Col Thein Nyunt and wife, Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Than Tun and Col Tin Ngwe, OSD Brig-Gen Kyaw Thu and officials presented

Waso robes and provisions to the Sayadaws. Member of SSMNC Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vimalabhi-

vamsa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

Later, 'soon' was offered to the Sayadaws. — MNA



Minister Col Thein Nyunt and wife offer Waso robes and alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gunesana.—PBANRDA

China develops new method to desalinate brackish water

HANGZHOU, 15 July— China has recently developed a new method to desalinate brackish water at a lower cost, in its latest bid to ease shortage of fresh water.

The new technology will be commercialized soon as the developer, the Hangzhou Research and Development Centre of Water Treatment Technology under the State Oceanic Administration, has recently inked a contract with a paper-making mill in south China's Guangdong Province on jointly building a brackish water treatment facility at the estuary of the Pearl River in the province.

cial with the R&D centre based in this capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, the brackish water treatment facility will have a daily processing capacity of 100,000 tons.

Adopting the new technology the centre developed, Zhu Shufei from the centre said, the facility's desalination cost will be roughly the same as price of daily-used running water and much lower than that of sea water desalination.

The facility will adopt reverse-osmosis-based filtration technology in the whole process of desalination, Zhu said.

Currently, there are approximately 1 million people in western part of China and in the coastal regions have to drink brackish water. Commercialization of the new brackish water desalination technology will help provide more quality fresh water for water-thirsty areas in the country. — MNA/Xinhua



This undated file photo shows the Senado Square and Holy House of Mercy in the historic area of China's Macao Special Administrative Region. The 29th session of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s World Heritage Committee decided in Durban, South Africa, on 15 July, 2005, to have Macao's historic settlement listed among the world heritage sites, China's Xinhua news agency reported.—INTERNET

International Fashion Week to be staged in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 15 July— The Third Shanghai International Fashion Week is due in this east China's metropolis in mid-October this year, which will be accompanied with a fashion fair and a children's garment show, said sponsor of the fashion week.

A series of activities will be held during the fashion week, including information releases, exhibitions, evaluation of fashion designs, symposiums, forums and fashion purchasing festival.

The sponsoring of the fashion week is targeted at enhancing Shanghai' fashion image and promoting the growth of the city's fashion industry, the sponsor source said.— MNA/Xinhua

Al-Iraqiya crew in Iraq attacked by gunman

NEW YORK, 15 July —A gunman fired on a car carrying an Al-Iraqiya television crew in Baghdad on Thursday, wounding three staffers, according to news reports.

The crew was on its way to cover the funerals of car-bomb victims when a masked assailant walked up to its car in the New Baghdad neighbourhood and opened fire, Al-Iraqiya correspondent Bassem al-Fadhli told *The Associated Press*. Al-Fadhli was traveling in the car, but he was not injured.

The driver, a cameraman, and an assistant cameraman were wounded, he told the AP. The Committee to Protect Journalists could not immediately reach Al-Iraqiya officials for

comment, but the station reported the attack on the air and said one of the three wounded staffers had suffered severe injuries.

The crew was assigned to cover the funerals of people killed in an explosion Wednesday in the neighbourhood, al-Fadhli told the AP. The Wednesday blast killed up to 27 people, including 18 children and teenagers.

At least three staffers of Al-Iraqiya, the Iraqi public network, have died since hostilities began more than two years ago.—Internet

ထိုက်တုန်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်

Cambodian retired King wishes to keep birthplace as museum

PHNOM PENH, 15 July — Cambodian retired King Norodom Sihanouk expressed his wish to keep his birthplace as a museum, local newspaper *The Cambodia Daily* reported on Thursday.

The property, the royal house 'Tak Sin Pi Rom' was loaned by Sihanouk to former

leader of the North Korea (DPRK) Kim Il Sung as a token of friendship and support.

"I offered His Excellency Marshall Kim Il Sung of DPRK, who supported me in everything and who I regarded as a sibling, the royal house 'Tak Sin Pi Rom' as the Embassy of DPRK," the former King said in his message posted on his web site on Tuesday.

Sihanouk, 82, said he loaned the property to

North Korea for 20-year period, and that in about eight to nine years the property would again belong to his family.

"When the 20 years end, I publicly declare that I offer the royal house to the state, the nation and Cambodian citizens as affiliated with the National Museum," the retired King wrote.

Norodom Sihanouk also called on the government never to sell or dismantle his birthplace.

MNA/Xinhua

India gives Bhutan financial package

NEW DELHI, 15 July— India on Thursday approved a 19.84-billion rupee assistance package for Bhutan's development in the July 2002-June 2007 plan period.

The approval was granted after a meeting of the Cabinet Committee under Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Thursday morning.

Of the total 19.84-billion rupee assistance package, 7.1 billion rupees are used as development subsidy, 7.34 billion rupees as project assistance and other subsidies, and the rest 5.4 billion rupees as refunds, an official statement said.

"The package would be funded from the non-plan budget of the ministry of external affairs," the statement said.

The government decision is expected to help foster the close ties between the two countries.

India has extended support to five-year plans of Bhutan since 1961.

MNA/Xinhua

Regional officials discuss anti-poverty issues in Laos

HANOI, 15 July — Officials of ASEAN member countries and its dialogue partners China, Japan and South Korea are gathering in Lao capital city Vientiane to discuss how to develop national anti-poverty programmes, according to sources from Laos on Thursday.

The conference, which opened on 13 July, aimed to carry out measures to build anti-poverty programmes, the report quoted Lao Prime Minister Bounnhang Vorachith as saying.

During the meeting, delegates exchanged views on experiences in the fight against poverty in their countries, and sought ways to boost cooperation between the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), its partners and international organizations to devise action plans and find financial sources for the programme.

The results of the meeting would be submitted to the 38th ASEAN ministerial meeting (AMM), which will take place in Vientiane later this month, and the 11th ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur by the end of this year, said the report.

ASEAN delegates are from Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers examine the remains of a vehicle after a suicide car bomb attack in Baghdad on 15 July, 2005. — INTERNET



Fans of the 'Harry Potter' series purchase a copy of British author J K Rowling's latest book 'Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince' at a Tokyo's bookstore, Saturday morning, on 16 July, 2005. —INTERNET

ဝက်ရှုမ်းသား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Nepal opens aviation training centre

KATHMANDU, 15 July — Nepal has constructed an aviation training center with an objective of providing pilots basic training for the first time in Nepal, Army Chief said here on Thursday.

The Royal Nepal Army Aviation Training Centre, constructed at the premises of the Sri No 11 Brigade of Royal Nepal Army at the Tribhuvan International Airport in central Kathmandu, is to provide training to six pilot trainees in the beginning, said General Pyar

Jung Thapa, Chief of Army Staff of Nepal, when inaugurating the centre. "Royal Nepal Army is expected to be self-reliant in generating skilled pilots after the operation of the centre," Thapa noted. The training centre

also plans to train non-military trainees by charging fees in coordination with the Civil Aviation Authority, a governmental body of Nepal, he added. The centre is well equipped with a technical library, exercise

MNA/Xinhua

Local language test required for work in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 15 July — The Indonesian Government will, starting from next year, require all foreign workers to pass an Indonesian-language proficiency test to obtain work permits, a local newspaper reported on Thursday.

"Foreign workers must master the Indonesian language before they can work here, as well as Indonesians to master English before working abroad. This is to ensure that jobs that could be carried out by Indonesians don't fall to foreigners," Minister of Manpower and Transmigration Fahmi Idris was quoted by the *The Jakarta Post* as saying.

He added that the language proficiency test would be carried out by the National Certification Agency for Workers, which would be officially opened this month, in cooperation with related ministries.

The requirement was aimed indirectly at reducing the flow of foreign workers into the country, with Indonesia intending to liberalize its labour sec-

tor under international agreements, said *The Jakarta Post*.

The government is to start opening its doors to job seekers from countries grouped within the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) next year, and in 2008 for those from outside ASEAN as mandated by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

However, the policy could mean undesirable consequences and inevitable fees for the approximately 130,000 foreigners working in the country, as well as affecting foreign investment that is badly needed to help drive economic growth.

The plan to require a language proficiency test was first discussed in mid 2003, with the Ministry of Education planning to launch a test similar to the

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

However, the plan could not be realized following protests from the business community, as well as a lack of funds to prepare testing facilities.

MNA/Xinhua

Two South Korean military jets crash into sea

SEOUL, 15 July — Two South Korean fighter jets crashed into the sea in separate incidents eight minutes apart, killing one of the pilots and leaving three crew members missing, an Air Force spokesman said on Thursday.

Both planes crashed on training missions Wednesday night.

In the first case, an F-4E fighter with two aboard went down in waters south of the Korean Peninsula and shortly after an F-5F fighter with two aboard crashed west of the penin-

sula, the spokesman told a news conference.

South Korean and US forces stationed in South Korea were searching for the missing airmen, he said.

The spokesman said he could not comment on why the jets crashed until

investigations were complete. The pilots of the two planes were using night vision goggles, he added.

"We are troubled because these incidents happened nearly simultaneously," he said.

MNA/Reuters

Indonesia, Japan in free trade talks

JAKARTA, 15 July — Under an agreement inked with Japan during Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's visit to Tokyo in June, senior officials from the two nations are to open the first round of free trade talks here on Thursday.

Modalities needed for further and more substantive negotiations will be proposed at the two-day talks, part of scheduled rounds of negotiations aimed at establishing a bilateral Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), Minister of Trade Mari Elka Pangestu was quoted by *The Jakarta Post* newspaper as saying.

The modalities will cover, among other things,

the basic principles of negotiations, the structure and coverage of the negotiations, place and frequency of meetings, as well as setting up formations for expert groups, she said.

Indonesia will identify the areas in which to negotiate after the modalities are agreed upon.

The areas range from trade of goods and services, Customs procedures, rules of origin, investment policy, government pro-

urement, movement of natural persons to intellectual property rights.

Soemadi Brotodiningrat, former Indonesian ambassador to Japan, heads the Indonesian delegation to Thursday's talks, while Japan is led by Mitoji Yabunaka, Deputy Minister for Japanese Foreign Affairs in charge of EPA.

From Indonesia's perspective, aside from seeking cooperation to enhance local industrial competi-

tiveness through Japan's assistance in developing supporting domestic industries, it also raised other concerns in the sectors of agriculture and fisheries.

In agriculture, Indonesia has asked Japan to recognize the country as being free of foot-and-mouth disease, so that in the future Indonesia may export meat and dairy products to the Asian giant.

MNA/Xinhua

German challenger won't deploy Iraq troops

BERLIN, 15 JULY — German opposition leader Angela Merkel said in an interview published on Friday she will follow the lead of Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's government and not send troops to Iraq if she wins upcoming elections.

The vow drew derision from Schroeder's party, who pointed out that she had been a leading critic of Schroeder's stance against the war.

Merkel, who is seen as more supportive of America than Schroeder, told the Hanover-based *Neue Presse* daily that a conservative-led German government "will put Europe's relationship with the USA back on a sensible footing."

Her party platform promises to "reinvigorate" relations with the US, strained by Schroeder's vehement op-

position to the Iraq war. But she is treading carefully on Iraq ahead of the election, reflecting the war's huge unpopularity in Germany.

Asked whether voters could count on her continuing Schroeder's policy of keeping German soldiers out of Iraq in the future, Merkel replied: "Yes."

Polls show Merkel, the leader of the conservative Christian Democratic Union, has a strong chance to become Germany's first female chancellor in elections expected in September.—Internet



US troops secure an area where a suicide car bomber attacked their convoy in Baghdad on 15 July 2005.—INTERNET

ASEAN, China, Japan, S Korea to enhance energy cooperation

SIEM REAP (Cambodia), 14 July—The Second ASEAN, China, Japan and South Korea Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM+3) was held here on Wednesday, focusing on “Promoting Greater Energy Stability, Security and Sustainability through ASEAN+3 Energy Partnership.”

Ministers of 10 ASEAN member countries, Japan and South Korea, and representative from China attended the meeting.

The meeting had a comprehensive discussion on key energy concerns and agreed to further enhance their energy cooperation to cope with the growing energy demand and rising dependence on oil import.

They agreed to take

necessary steps to respond to the high price including joint study on oil market and trading in the ASEAN+3 countries.

They also reaffirmed the importance of oil stockpiling and to strengthen dialogue with the Middle East and other oil producing countries to foster mutual understanding.

With the successful developing of the ASEAN+3 Energy Security Communication Sys-

tem, the ministers and their partners believe that the regional capacity for timely emergency response will be enhanced.

Chinese Embassy’s Counsellor Peng Anhai, on behalf of the Chinese Government, attended the meeting. In his speech, Peng said that “Chinese Government has laid great emphasis on sustainable development of energy.”

Acknowledging ASEAN+3 energy coop-

eration has achieved tremendous progress, Peng said that “looking into future, energy cooperation between ASEAN and China, Japan and South Korea holds great potential.”

He, in the meantime, reaffirmed that “the Chinese Government is ready to cooperate with the ASEAN countries together with Japan and South Korea in the energy sector.” —MNA/Xinhua

Singapore Navy launched fourth frigate

SINGAPORE, 15 July—The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) launched its fourth frigate *RSS Tenacious* at Singapore Technologies Marine yard on Friday, according to a statement by the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF).

The launch of *RSS Tenacious*, the third self-built frigate which will undergo harbour and sea trials in the next phase, marks another milestone for the Formidable-class frigate programme started by the MINDEF a decade ago.

According to the programme, Singapore will acquire several more frigates in the coming years,

which are expected to play a significant role in the Singapore Armed Forces’ future war-fighting system.

To save time, sophisticated sensor and weapon systems to be installed in the frigates are undergoing shore-based testing while the ships are being built, said the statement.

MNA/Xinhua

ADB to release \$50m for Bangladesh’s power sector

DHAKA, 14 July—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is likely to release 50-million-US-dollar aid for the power sector development programme in Bangladesh by this month, *The Independent* reported on Wednesday.

The Bangladeshi Government has started the process of corporatizing Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) and Power Development Board (PDB).

To release the amount, ADB earlier set eight conditions including the major condition of corporatization of two organizations for getting the loan, *The Independent* quoted sources in

the Power Division as saying.

Other conditions for the loans were settlement of outstanding power bills of different state-owned enterprises, settlement of arrears among the power agencies, and appointment of independent auditor in DESA.

Sources said that most of the conditions of the ADB were partly complied with and the Bangladeshi

Government was in the process of meeting the conditions.

The loan would be released by this month, Power Secretary Nazrul Islam said.

The daily also quoted officials of the Power Division as saying that the Finance Division would use the loan to provide power agencies arrear bills of different ministries.

MNA/Xinhua



Miss Azerbaijan talks to a Chinese man at the opening ceremony for the finals of the 34th Miss Intercontinental competition in Huangshan, east China’s Anhui Province on 14 July, 2005.—INTERNET

China to push forward DDA negotiations with other WTO members

DALIAN, 14 July—With only four months left for the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Hong Kong at the end of this year, the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations have entered a crucial phase, and China is willing to push forward the process together with other WTO members, said Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai on Wednesday in Dalian.

He was here to attend the two-day WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting. Bo met separately with the United States Trade Representative Rob Portman, Brazil Foreign Affairs Minister Celso Amorim and the WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchpakdi, and exchanged views with them on current DDA round talks.

In a meeting with Portman, Bo said that China has worked hard to boost the DDA and wishes to seek a converging point with the United States to push forward the negotiation process.

Having stated China’s stand on the DDA negotiations, Bo stressed that China made a lot of commitments before joining the WTO,

and has implemented these commitments by conquering various difficulties.

He said that China had cut its overall tariffs from 42 per cent in 1992 to present 9.9 per cent. As a developing and new member of the WTO, China has made huge efforts in expanding its opening-up.

In the new round of DDA negotiations, Bo said, China’s status as a developing and new member of WTO should be given full recognition.

Portman briefed Chinese Commerce Minister the stand of the United States in the DDA negotiations and expressed the wish of the United States to push forward the DDA process together with China.

MNA/Xinhua

Raising of free-range ducks banned in Thailand

BANGKOK, 14 July—Thai Government has banned the raising of free-range ducks in the wake of the recurrence of bird flu infection in the Central Suphanburi Province, local Press reported on Wednesday.

At a meeting of officials in charge of avian influenza prevention on Tuesday, Deputy Prime Minister Phinij Jarusombath asked them to make sure that farmers in 25 provinces, mostly in the central region, halt the raising of free-range ducks immediately until the end of the year.

Last week, new cases

of bird flu has been confirmed at five spots in Suphanburi’s Sam Chuk District, where more than 450 fowl has been destroyed. The ban will be officially announced in one or two days, Nirundorn Aungtragoolsuk, director of the Bureau of Disease Control and Veterinary Services was quoted by *Bangkok Post* as saying.

Believing the free-range duck has contributed to the spread of bird flu, the Livestock Department earlier banned the activity but later reached compromise with some 1,000 farmers allowing them to move their ducks within designated zones.

MNA/Reuters



The 697-tonne tanker *Kyokuyo Maru* goes up in flames after a collision off Cape Mikizaki, about 320 km (200 miles) west of Tokyo, on 15 July, 2005. Two ships, one tanker carrying gasoline, collided in dense fog off western Japan on Friday, leaving one crew member dead and five missing, coast guard officials said.—INTERNET

More relief materials allocated to S China autonomous region

NANNING, 14 July—Red Cross societies of south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and of its capital, Nanning, allocated disaster relief materials to the flood-stricken the region.

Some 120 tons of rice, more than 200 chests of clothes and 1,000 quilts were sent to the flood-ravaged Pingnan, Xiangzhou, Tengxian, Xincheng, Yongfu and Liuzhou.

Severe floods plagued Guangxi from June 18 to 27, claiming 54 lives and damaging 45,000 houses and nearly 410,000 hectares of farmland.

More than 8 million people were affected and direct economic loss of more than 7 billion yuan (843 million US dollars) was incurred.

Major rivers in the autonomous region such as Guijiang, Liujiang, Qianjiang, and Xijiang have all been flooded.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh to import vegetables from Bhutan

DHAKA, 15 July — The Bhutanese agricultural department is eyeing Bangladesh as a potential market for vegetables produced by the farmers in that hilly kingdom, local Press reported on Thursday.

The Bhutanese authorities recently signed an agreement with a Bangladeshi company to export different kinds of vegetables to Dhaka during monsoon when the supply of kitchen items run short due to low production, *The New Age* reported on Thursday.

An official of Nitol-Niloy group of Bangladesh was quoted as saying that under the agreement, the Bhutanese exporter will supply vegetables from July to September. It is a

matter of hours carrying vegetables in trucks from Bhutanese border to Bangladesh through a short transit in India, the official said.

The Agriculture Ministry of Bhutan will initially start the export by taking commodities from some identified farmers in the western region of the country.

If the initial supply proves successful, the ministry would encourage other farmers in Bhutan to grow vegetables for Bangladesh.

Vegetables grow plenty in different valleys of Bhutan but lack market for sale. Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan, is the only market for vegetables but it cannot consume all what farmers of the country produce. Most of the time, vegetables are dumped because there are not enough buyers.

Bhutan export fruits especially orange to Bangladesh in huge quantity every season, alongside some processed fruits and agro-products.—*MNA/Xinhua*

India, Afghanistan discuss security situation

NEW DELHI, 15 July — India and Afghanistan on Wednesday discussed the security situation in the war-ravaged country and shared concerns over reports of regrouping of Taleban elements which were engaged in acts of terror and violence.

This figured during talks visiting Afghan National Security Adviser Zaimal Rassoul had here with Indian External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh.

The two sides also discussed progress in the ongoing reconstruction

efforts in Afghanistan. India has pledged to continue its wholehearted assistance to the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

Rassoul's trip comes ahead of the visit to Afghanistan by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the second half of August.

Singh will be meeting Afghan President Hamid Karzai and other top leaders in Kabul.

Singh also had a meeting with Ali Altatas, UN Secretary-General's special envoy on reforms for the Asia Pacific Region. —*MNA/PTI*



Chinese archaeologists evacuate cultural relics unearthed from ancient tombs in Samnaxia city, central China's Henan Province, on 15 July, 2005. — INTERNET

Record number of contestants to compete in 55th MissWorld pageant

HAIKOU, 15 July — A new record number of beauty contestants will compete in the 55th Miss World pageant scheduled to take place on 10 December in Sanya, a seaside resort on the southern tip of Hainan Province, the organizers said.

It will be the third Miss World activity ever hosted by this Chinese city.

So far, Miss World brokerage organizations in 125 countries and regions have applied to take part in this year's Miss World contest and the contestants will begin arriving from 11 November, said

the organizers.

Before the final contest, the contestants are required to attend a range of activities, including a film prize-awarding ceremony slated for 12 November, a city tour of Sanya, a publicity event to mark the World AIDS Day in Beijing.

Champions of previous Miss World pageants will also be invited to this year's gala, according to the organizers. The 54th Miss World soiree, also held in Sanya last year, attracted contestants from 107 countries and regions in the world, a record high.

—*MNA/Xinhua*



A young student rides on a horse during a training session at Tuen Mun Public Riding School in Hong Kong on 15 July, 2005. — INTERNET

Two ships collide off Japan, one crew member dead

TOKYO, 15 July — Two ships, one a tanker carrying gasoline, collided in dense fog off western Japan on Friday, leaving one crew member dead and five missing, coast guard officials said.

The collision between the 697-ton tanker *Kyokuyo Maru* and the 499-ton freighter *Nikko Maru* took place around 4 am (1900 GMT) off Cape Mikizaki, about 320 kilometres (200 miles) west of Tokyo.

Neither vessel sank but the *Kyokuyo Maru* was carrying gasoline and burst into flames, a coast guard official said, adding that it was not immediately clear whether the gasoline had leaked into the surrounding water.

One crew member from the *Kyokuyo Maru* died and five were missing. The five crew members on the other vessel were safe.

—*MNA/Reuters*

Japan grants drilling rights in E China Sea to oil firm

TOKYO, 15 July — The Japanese Government has granted Teikoku Oil Co concessions to conduct experimental drilling in the East China Sea near natural gas fields being explored by a Chinese consortium, Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Shoichi Nakagawa said on Thursday.

The central government gave the green light after winning approval from the governors of south Japan's Kagoshima and Okinawa Prefectures, which have state-designated jurisdiction over the sites.

On April 28, Teikoku Oil applied for the experimental drilling rights at three sites covering a combined 400 square kilometres in the East China Sea, following the ministry's decision earlier that month to unfreeze concession-granting procedures.

The sites are located just east of what Japan claims is the median line separating the 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zones (EEZ) of Japan and China in the East China Sea.

The oil firm originally applied for exploration rights in the sea area in 1969 and 1970 but the government shelved the applications because of unsettled EEZ demarcation in the sea between Japan and China.

China does not accept and acknowledge this median line since it was unilaterally drawn by Japan without discussing with China. The EEZ was claimed by China on the continental shelf basis, while the drilling activities are being conducted on the Chinese side in the area.

However, the Chinese Government calls for negotiation to solve the dispute and joint exploration. It has held talks with Japan to settle the dispute.

—*MNA/Xinhua*

Kindergartens shut down after discovery of disease in Thailand

BANGKOK, 15 July — Some 28 kindergartens and nurseries in Bangkok has been shut down temporarily after a steep increase of foot-and-mouth disease among their children, local Press reported on Friday.

The 28 schools and nurseries, where the epidemic has been detected recently, were ordered to close for seven to ten days since Thursday. Some schools had just a few cases, while in others, whole classes have been infected.

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (AMA) teams has sent epidemiologists and public health officials to provide

information to schools and nurseries across the capital, said Bangkok Deputy Governor Pensri Pichaisanit.

The communicable disease, which is spreading among children aged 3-10, usually displays symptoms of a rash with blisters. In extreme cases, it can be fatal, although nobody is known to have died from the disease in Thailand.

Teachers and caretakers have been advised to check on their children for any sign of the illness. Children with fever, lesions in the mouth and rashes on the hands and feet must be sent back home immediately, Pensri was quoted by *Bangkok Post* as saying.

He added that the BMA would take every effort to prevent the spread of the disease. — *MNA/Xinhua*

See things in right perspective and feel the truth

Maung Ko Oo

It was the morning of 26 June 2005 (Sunday). Moving along Pyay Road on our way home from the Shwedagon Pagoda, my wife and I saw a thick black smoke rise into the air beyond the Myanma Radio and Television compound. We did not know why, but we were anxious to know about it.

It was clear to me only after I had read the paper next day. It was the destruction of seized narcotic drugs in commemoration of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. I learnt that the ceremony is held annually; that commencing from 1990, the destruction ceremony had been held for 19 times in Yangon; and 34 ceremonies had been held to destroy narcotic drugs, precursor chemicals and poppy seeds seized in border areas and other towns.

It reminded me of the history of narcotic drugs in the nation. In the past there was no poppy cultivation in Myanmar let alone production of drugs. It is totally against ethic and the way of life of Myanmar people. Being convinced well that abuse of narcotic drugs leads to financial ruin and tarnishes the dignity of human society, Myanmar people absolutely abhor and regard drinking alcohol and smoking and consuming opium as bad habits. So, there have been anti-opium drive in the nation since many years ago.

As a matter of fact, those who introduced cultivation of poppy and bad habits of smoking and consuming opium in the nation were the colonialists. After 1885, they officially allowed the people to cultivate poppy in Shan State, Kayah State, Kachin hill region, and the regions on the east bank of Thanlwin River. Their promulgation of laws on control of opium was totally ineffective without any relation to the pragmatic world since such action was taken just for the name sake. They ignored poppy cultivation and production of opium instead of banning such acts.

It is hard to inherit fine traditions but easy to get into bad habit. Gradually, the bad habits were firmly rooted, so all possible means had to be employed to address the problem. What is important is to ward off drug-related cases in the nation.

It is learnt that the price of heroin, marijuana, stimulant tablets, Ephedrine and diazepam destroyed on 26 June was more than US\$ 328 million, and the narcotic drugs destroyed from the first to 19th time, US\$ 14,661 million. However much the value of

the seized narcotic drugs was great, the nation has to destroy the drugs that pose threat to the nation and the people and the world. Myanmar is taking all possible measures pragmatically to eradicate narcotic drugs.

I would like to cite the speech delivered by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo at the prize-presentation ceremony for literary, music and arts competitions to mark anti-narcotics movements.

According to the World Drug Report issued by the UNODC, there was a 73 per cent decline between 1996 and 2004, and according to the US

According to the World Drug Report issued by the UNODC, there was a 73 per cent decline between 1996 and 2004, and according to the US Government Drug Strategy Report (2005), there was a 34 per cent decline in poppy cultivation in 2004 if compared with that in 2003. And the opium output was reduced to 292 tons, down from the output of 2,560 tons eight years ago, accounting for 88 % decline. It was indeed a tribute to the Myanmar's anti-narcotics campaigns.

Government Drug Strategy Report (2005), there was a 34 per cent decline in poppy cultivation in 2004 if compared with that in 2003. And the opium output was reduced to 292 tons, down from the output of 2,560 tons eight years ago, accounting for 88 % decline. It was indeed a tribute to the Myanmar's anti-narcotics campaigns.

In my opinion, it indicated the State's efforts to eliminate narcotic drugs with the considerable expenditure of money, manpower, time and methods on implementation of its drive in the interests of world people. In fact, the drug issue is the concern of all the nations, not the concern of the individuals alone. That is why the government has been making such strenuous efforts to wipe out narcotic drugs that pose danger to the world people, while striving with might and main for national development.

Some broadcasting stations such as BBC, VOA and RFA have turned a blind eye to the drugs elimi-

nation steps the State has been taking for many decades, but are manufacturing news and making accusations against the nation that there still exists smuggling and trafficking of drugs in the nation because there was cultivation of poppy; and that Myanmar produces narcotic drugs most in the world after Afghanistan.

Here, I would like to ask why they are turning a blind eye to the government's unremitting efforts to put into motion a variety of projects to combat narcotic drugs. The government's anti-drug campaigns have received adequate media coverage daily. They should have given up their one-sided broadcasts and are urged to observe the prevailing situations and drug-elimination drive in the nation. Myanmar is implementing such tasks as national duties in accord with the international standard rules and regulations.

The motto of this year's International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, Value yourself... make healthy choices, suits Myanmar's way of life. To be frank, the majority of the drug addicts are youths. It is needed to raise the health standard of the youths who can shape the brighter future of the nation. Then, it will be able to place greater emphasis on the drive for uplift of national prestige and integrity.

The government is seeking better ways and means to address such narcotics issue, to root out drug-related cases, to avert undesirable consequences, and to repel the dangers of narcotic drugs. It informs the people through the media drug related social evils.

It can be witnessed that Myanmar has been exerting sustained efforts on self-reliance basic.

The government is worthy of respect for its implementation of a wide range of methods in order that the dangers of drugs cannot hinder national development.

However, western media are distributing fabricated stories, holding negative views, ignoring the nation's prevailing situations, and making various accusations against the nation.

Therefore, I would like them to adopt a more positive approach to the nation, to observe goodwill and sincerity of the government, and to come and see things in the right perspective and feel the truth.

Translation: MS

Minister for Industry-1 inspects textile mills in Mandalay Division...

(from page 16)

Member of the Secretariat of the USDA U Aung Thuang met secretaries and executives of Meiktila, Wundwin, Mahlaing and Thazi Township USDAs. They reported on organizational matters, public welfare services and future tasks.

cussed concepts of USDA members, implementation of five rural development tasks and cooperation with the people for success of the seven-point Road Map.

The Minister inspected the site for construction of a textile mill near Mya Kyaingtaung Pagoda in Pyawbwe. Managing Director of Myanma Textile Industries U Oo Thein Maung and Chairman of Yamethin District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Kyi Shein and officials reported on work to be done.

U Aung Thuang met secretaries, executives and township organizers of Pyawbwe and Yamethin Township USDAs.

MNA

ကျေးရွာတိုင်းကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက်များ ထူထောင်ဖို့၊
ပိုင်းဝန်းကူညီဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့။

၂၀၀၅-ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လ (၁၂)ရက်နေ့ထိ နိုင်ငံအဝန်းတွင် ကျေးရွာ
ကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုးစာကြည့်တိုက် (၂၁,၇၀၅)တိုက်
ဖွင့်လှစ်ပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

ကျေးရွာကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုး စာကြည့်တိုက်များအတွက် သုတ/ရသစာအုပ်များကို
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လှူဒါန်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန
ပြန်ကြားရေးနှင့်ပြည်သူ့ဆက်ဆံရေးဦးစီးဌာန



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win offer Waso robes and alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Viçitta.— MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win presenting Waso robes and offertories to a Sayadaw.— MNA

Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein and ...

(from page 1)

The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa administered the Five Precepts. Mem-

bers of the Sangha recited Parittas.

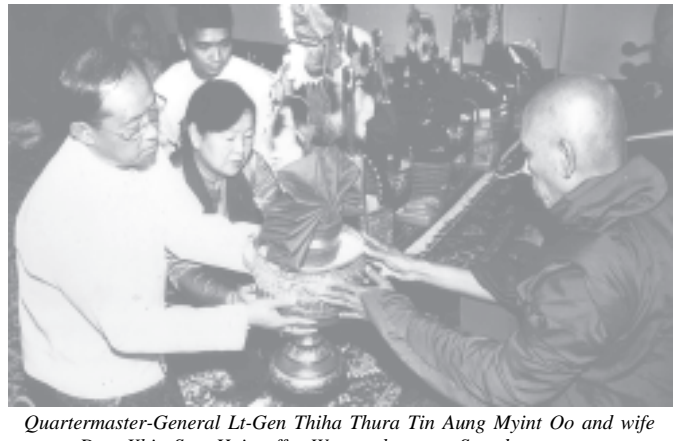
Next, Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife offered Waso robes and alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Viçitta.

The members of the State Peace and Development Council and wives and officials donated Waso robes and provisions to members of the Sangha.

The congregation took a sermon delivered by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa and shared merits gained. — MNA



Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and wife Daw San San Yi offer Waso robes and alms to a Sayadaw.— MNA



Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Khin Saw Hnin offer Waso robes to a Sayadaw.— MNA

Ministry of Science and Technology families offer Waso robes

YANGON, 16 July— The Ministry of Science and Technology held the ceremony to donate Waso robes and alms to members of the Sangha at the meeting hall of the ministry, this morning.

Present on the occasion were Presiding Sayadaw of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Bhaddanta Aggadhama of Dhamma Younggyi Pariyatti monastery at Kyaukyedwin ward in North Okkalapa Township and members of the Sangha, Minister for Science and Technology

U Thaung and wife Daw May Kyi Sein, Deputy Ministers and their wives, Directors-General, Rectors and departmental heads under the ministry, families and guests.

First, the congregation received the Five Precepts from the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha. Next, Minister U Thaung and wife offered Waso robes and alms to the Sayadaws. Afterwards, The deputy ministers and officials donated Waso robes to members of the Sangha. Later, they offered 'soon' to the Sayadaws.

MNA



Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein and wife Daw Amy Khaing offer Waso robe to a Sayadaw. — MNA

47th Waso robe offering ceremony held at Hninzigon Home for the Aged

YANGON, 16 July — The 47th robe offering ceremony organized by Hninzigon Home for the Aged Management Committee, was held at Thiriyadana Hall of Hninzigon Home for the Aged this morning.

The congregation took Five Precepts from Thakayta Township Palikari Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Dighanikaya Kovida Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Ingisa.

On behalf of Hninzigon Home

for the Aged Administrative Committee, Vice-Chairman U Kyaw Shein supplicated the purpose of offering robes. Afterwards, committee members and wellwishers donated the provisions to members of the Sangha.

Next, the Palikari Monastery Presiding Sayadaw delivered a sermon and the congregation shared the merits.

Besides, altogether 240 aged from Hninzigon Home for the Aged donated robes to 14 sayadaws.

MNA



Minister U Thaung and wife Daw May Kyi Sein offer Waso robe to a Sayadaw. — MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects pepper plantation of local farmer U Khin Maung in Thangyotaunggon, Thincchaing Village-tract, Taung-up Township.—MNA

For extended cultivation of...

(from page 16)

In Thandwe District, the plan was set to put 1,588 more acres of land under monsoon paddy in Thandwe Township, 6,900 acres in Taungup Township, and 1,000 acres in Gwa Township, totalling 9,488 in 2005-06. So far, 8,995 acres of monsoon paddy has been cultivated.

At Cold Storage and Ice Factory of Thantwe Marine Products Co Ltd, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports on functions of the factory presented by Managing Director U Khin Maung Lay. Next, they viewed round prawn and fish processing works at the cold storage.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Taungup Rubber Farm of Myanma General and Maintenance Industries near Thandwe-Taungup Road. Assistant Manager U Myint Thwin briefed them on the location and area, cultivation matter, the plan to extend 125 acres of rubber plantation in 2005-06 and 500 acres in 2006-07, collection of seeds, grafting nursery, seeding and future tasks.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected the rubber nurseries and seeding works and thriving 6,050 rubber plants. Next, they oversaw rubber plantations

along both sides of Thandwe-Taungup Road.

They met with officers, other ranks and families of Taungup Station in Taungup and left instructions on agriculture and livestock breeding tasks to be carried out on a manageable scale and welfare tasks of the families.

At Taungup Township PDC Office, they explained development of the region at the meeting with local authorities, social organization members and local people.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivered a speech, saying that Taungup Township needs to grow monsoon paddy and pepper to meet the target.

The growing of rubber will be creating the job opportunities for local people as well as a business to earn income. Thus, it is necessary to organize the local people to grow rubber on extended areas.

The Government is implementing the border areas development plan, the 24-region development plan and five rural development tasks for equitable improvement of all regions of the country. Peace and stability, growth of economy and development of human resources play an important role in making progress of the State. That is why, local authorities in cooperate with the local people are to harmoniously carry out regional development tasks in line with the plans of the Government.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than viewed thriving 29,000 pepper plants on 30 acres of a local farmer and urged local growers to extend

pepper cultivation.

Arrangements are being made to extend cultivation of 300 acres of rubber plantations this year.

The township has put 1,589 acres of land under rubber plantations.

At Kaingshay Bridge, they oversaw construction tasks. It was a 540-foot-long bailey bridge. Now, The bridge is being upgraded to a reinforced concrete one. Next, they inspected maintenance of roads and durability of bridges along Taungup-Maei section.

In the evening, they arrived at Pyinwun Camp of Yangon-

Kyaukpyu Road Project. Officials reported to them on construction of the road in the mire applying geotextile method, completion of 16 miles long road — 14 miles earth work and two miles geotextiled work —and finding the axis of Yanbye-Peinnetaung short cut.

Chairman of Kyaukpyu District PDC Lt-Gen Myo Tint briefed them on running of a bus line on Kyaukpyu-Taungup section and arrangements for smooth transport. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions. They spent the night in Maei.

MNA

In Thandwe District, the plan was set to put 1,588 more acres of land under monsoon paddy in Thandwe Township, 6,900 acres in Taungup Township, and 1,000 acres in Gwa Township, totalling 9,488 in 2005-06. So far, 8,995 acres of monsoon paddy has been cultivated.

Petronas Oil Co of Malaysia grants scholarships to Myanmar students for second time

YANGON, 16 July — Petronas Oil Co of Malaysia in cooperation with

the Ministry of Energy granted scholarships to eight Myanmar students

for further studies in Petronas Technological University yesterday.

It is the second ceremony to grant scholarships to Myanmar students. The ceremony was held at the Ministry of Energy on Pyay Road. Present were Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, resident representative of Petronas Oil Co Mr Abu Bakar Sin Salleh, Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dato' Cheah Sam Kip, heads of departments and enterprises and officials.

The minister presented scholarships to the students. They will have to serve at the Ministry of Energy after their further studies.— MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and party pose for documentary photo.

ENERGY

POEM

Neo-colonialist—what he craves to be

- * Say what you want to say, maybe it is
Natural and surely realistic
What I want, what I've said
If not included therein
I will not recognize it.
- * Show what you want, whatever you show
Maybe so pretty, but if what you show
Is in variance with my pattern
If it's like that
I will not recognize it.
- * Do whatever you like, but if it includes not
You, no matter how good yours
May be,
I will not recognize it.
- * Well, remember the words you utter
Your display, your acts
If they're definitely
To your liking
I will elevate your life, back you up
You continue to do as I bid
Then, I will unstintingly
Be your saviour, you remember.

Byan Hlwar (Trs)

Organizational (Basic) Course No 1/2005 winds up

YANGON, 16 July — The Organizational (Basic) Course No 1/2005, organized by Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, concluded at the training hall of General Administration Department on Saya San Road, here, this afternoon.

President of MAAF Daw Than Nwe, in her address, urged Myanmar women to organize their fine traditions and capabilities as a strength of the nation for gaining more success in

the society, join hands with other social organizations, cooperate with the Government, the people and Tatmadaw for emergence of a new peaceful, modern and developed nation, actively participate in the implementation of the seven-point Road Map of the State up to the discipline-flourishing democratic country, and bring out qualified organizers in the tasks to uplift the living standard of women in the respective regions by applying experience ob-

tained from the training course.

President Daw Than Than Nwe, Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint, Head of Organizational Department Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo and General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun presented completion certificates to the trainees.

Altogether 51 women trainees from State and Division Women's Affairs Organizations attended the five-day course. — MNA

Commander inspects water treatment plant in Amarapura

YANGON, 16 July — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and officials inspected water treat-

ment plant in Shwege Village in Amarapura Township on 15 July.

The commander met a hiking and mountaineering team at the Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Office. They will climb Hsintaung and Myinmahitaung in Kalaw Township. Secre-

tary of Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyi Thein, Division MCWA, MCDC and others presented food, medicines and K 500,000 to leader of the team Dr Khin Maung.

The team includes 86— 29 men and 57 women. — MNA

Commander and Mayor inspect tasks on beautifying Yangon City

YANGON, 16 July — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin together with officials inspected tasks on

beautifying the city, proper flow of drainages and paving the roads this morning.

The commander and the mayor looked into unblocking of the drainages along Maha Bandoola Street, Anawrahta Road and Bo Aung Kyaw Road. They also oversaw removing of

waste from the drainages along Bo Myat Tun Street, Baho Road and inspected paving of the roads in Kyimyindine, Kamayut and Mayangon Townships where the officials conducted them around. The commander and the mayor then gave necessary instructions.

MNA

Deputy Health Minister Dr Mya Oo inspects hospitals in Bago Division

YANGON, 16 July — Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, accompanied by officials of the Health Department, arrived at People's Station Hospital in

Ottwin Township in Bago Division on 13 July afternoon. The deputy health minister met with health committee members, social organizations and made a

speech. Afterwards, he inspected operation theatre, medicine store, laboratory room and X-ray room and attended to the needs.

On arrival at Nyaungchayhtauk Station Hospital, Pyu Township Hospital and Kanyuntkwin Station Hospital, Penwagon Station Hospital in Kyaukdaga Township and Township Hospital, the deputy minister met with health committee members, social organizations, officials and health staff. During his tour, the deputy minister gave instructions on providing maternal and child health care, malaria, TB and AIDS preventative measures, providing enough medicines in rural areas and taking measures to set up the fund for needy patients under the leadership of health committees in cooperation with social organizations and the people.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung presents first prize to Ma Khin Kyay Mon Oo of Yankin TTC in poster contest at the World Population Day ceremony on 15-7-2005. — NLM



Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min and wife donate Waso robes and alms to Sayadaw at the 7th Waso robes offering ceremony of the ministry. — COOPERATIVES

New school building of BEMS No 9 in Insein Township opened

YANGON, — 16 July — The opening ceremony of the new school building of No 9 Basic Education Middle School in Insein Township was held in conjunction with a cash donation ceremony for the multi-media classrooms at the school this morning. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister for Education U Than Aung attended the ceremonies.

Also present were Deputy Ministers for Education U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, directors-general of the departments under the ministry, the chairman of Myanmar Examinations Board, departmental officials, the chairman of Yangon North District PDC and members, the

chairman of Insein Township PDC and members, the township education officer, teachers and students, the chairman and members of the school board of trustees, members of social organizations, wellwishers and guests.

First, the headmistress and the chairman of the school board of trustees formally opened the new school building. Next, the commander, the minister and party viewed the learning of the students in the multi-media classrooms.

Then the cash donation ceremony followed. Speaking on the occasion, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe said in Yangon there are 163 BEHSs, 246 BEMSs and 2255 BEPSs. Among them, 163 BEHSs, 121 BEMSs and 44 BEPSs

have been installed with multi-media classrooms. The State is taking every step to improve the education of students on whom the country relies in building a modern developed nation. That is why teachers and students on their part are to build a constant learning society. The commander said he thanked the Ministry of Education and wellwishers for the opening of the school building and for the cash donations. Minister U Than Aung also spoke on the occasion.

Afterwards, the commander and the minister presented certificates of honour to wellwishers who donated K 4.24 million. Later, the headmistress spoke words of thanks. The school building was constructed at a cost of K 9.3 million. — MNA

Commander inspects regional development in Kutkai Township

YANGON, 16 July — Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint and officials on 14 July met with officials at the briefing hall of Nanhumon Creek

(Kaungkha) Hydel Power Project in Lweikhan Village, Kaungkha, Muse District, where an official reported on progress of work and future tasks. The deputy minister reported on other salient points.

Next, the commander, the deputy minister and party proceeded to Nanhumon Creek

(Kaungkha) Hydel Power plant and inspected the test-run of two turbines installed at the plant. Afterwards, the commander and the deputy minister inspected Lweikhan Basic Education Middle School and paid homage to the Buddha images kept in the chamber of the Maha Dhammaranthi Pagoda in Kaungkha. On arrival at the Kaungkha Station Hospital, they inquired after the patients and provided them with food and cash assistance.

The commander and party inspected the maize cultivation zone in Lweisansit, Kutkai and the poppy substitute-crops cultivation project in Manmaw region and gave instructions to officials. Next, they looked into the model Hsinshweli paddy plantation and coffee plantation near Lashio. — MNA

Work coord meeting of Shan State (East) Development Affairs Committee held

YANGON, 16 July — A work coordination meeting of Shan State (East) Development Affairs Committee was held at Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Office in Kengtung on 14 July.

Present were Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and officials. Director of Shan State (East) Development Affairs Committee U Tin Aye reported on measures undertaken, arrangements for construction of Yankhan market and parking lot.

MNA

Vietnam to foster relations with China

HANOI, 16 July — “Vietnam’s Party and State will continue to develop their consistent friendship and comprehensive cooperation with China on the basis of mutual trust,” said Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien.

During the upcoming visit of Vietnamese State President Tran Duc Luong to China, the two sides will work out key directions and specific measures to effectively develop their cooperation, especially in the fields of politics, economy, culture, science, technology, security and defence, local newspaper *Vietnam News* on Friday quoted Nien as saying.

They will also sign some economic and trade agreements, issue a declaration on concluding the bilateral negotiations for Vietnam to join the World

Trade Organization, and discuss a series of bilateral matters, as well as regional and international issues of mutual concern, he added.

The visit, slated for 18-22 July, is an evidence of the meeting tradition of high-ranking leaders of Vietnam and China, which helps boost the relations between the two parties and two states to a higher level, particularly in the fields of economics, trade and investment for the two peoples’ benefit, peace, stability and cooperation in the region and the world, Nien said.

Mentioning relations between China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Foreign Minister said Vietnam has helped boost China-ASEAN trade ties, contributing to the development and wealth in the region.

The trade turnover between Vietnam and China is expected to exceed 10 billion US dollars in 2010, Nien said. The turnover, which stood at 6.74 billion dollars in 2004, was more than 3.2 billion dollars, in the first quarter of this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Moscow tightens metro security in anti-terror step

Moscow, 16 July — Moscow launched new security controls on its transport system on Friday, hoping to stop attacks like those that killed more than 50 people in London last week.

When the measures are fully implemented, police will have access to a secure metro-wide communications system, while video cameras in carriages will be added to those already operating in stations.

“The most important part of the project is the establishment of video surveillance in the carriages, and the broadcasting of the pictures to a situation centre,” said Dmitry Gayev, head of the Moscow metro, in an interview with *Izvestia* daily.

“Now we are finishing the installation of such cameras on our whole fleet, but the tests will take a little time.”

Moscow has long

sought new ways to halt militant attacks. Chechen rebels have killed hundreds of people in the city, with suicide attackers targeting a rock concert, the metro, a theatre and other landmarks.

But the project has been given new urgency by the suicide bombing of three underground trains and a bus in London last week, an attack which brought back memories of the February 2004 explosion that shattered a metro carriage in Moscow.

At least 40 died in the Moscow metro blast, which has been blamed on a suicide bomber.

“A special radio network is being created, which will allow our

workers to communicate between themselves or with the police and pass on all necessary information,” he said.

“The system will work everywhere: on the stations, on the escalators, at the depots, in the tunnels.”

Moscow tightened security after the 2004 attack. It banished the traders who cluttered up metro entrances and brought in more police who can check passengers’ documents.

Officials said the fact a suicide bomber blew herself up outside a metro station in August last year was proof that security measures stopped attackers entering the tunnels. Ten people died in the bombing.—MNA/Reuters

Eight more dead, 50 missing in Romania floods

BUCHAREST, 16 July — Eight more people were killed and 50 others missing on Thursday as floods caused by heavy rains continued hitting large areas of Romania, the *Rompres* news agency reported.

Floods have hit more than 30 counties of the Balkan country over the past few weeks, swelling rivers, inundating homes and churning up roads.

Thousands of people were also left homeless in the floods, the worst in more than 40 years. An official from the weather service said rainfalls in many areas over the last 10 days “equal the average for an entire year”.

In eastern Romania, roads remained closed and railway traffic was disrupted. Many areas were left without electricity or gas.

TV footage showed that a large number of troops, using boats and helicopters, were rescuing hundreds of

stranded people in disaster areas.

The government has earmarked 140.5 billion new lei (about 4.7 million US dollars) for disaster relieving efforts.

Prime Minister Calin Popescu Tariceanu appealed to people to donate money to help those left without homes in the country, saying food supplies from state reserves would be sent to flooded areas and the Cabinet would approve a financial aid package at its Thursday meeting.

Meteorologists said heavy rains would stop pouring in many areas over the next four to five days, but warned that more rain was expected.

MNA/Xinhua

China Tibetan Cultural Week opens in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 16 July — The China Tibetan Cultural Week opened on Friday in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in celebration of the coming 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Tibet Autonomous Region.

The cultural week will feature exhibitions of Tibetan cultural relics, religious rituals conducted by about ten living Buddhas and performances of Tibetan songs and dances.

A number of senior officials from the central government sent letters of congratulations, including Jia Qinglin, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Raidi, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC), and Liu Yandong, head of the United Front Work Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

The excellent traditional Tibetan culture is a resplendent pearl in

China’s folk cultural treasure-house, as well as China’s invaluable spiritual fortunes, and it is the joint responsibility for the Chinese at home and abroad to inherit and carry forward the excellent traditional Tibetan culture, read the letter from Jia Qinglin.

The Cultural Week will help people in Hong Kong know more about Tibetan traditional culture and the glamour of the snow-covered region and promote the exchanges and cooperation between the two regions in various aspects, read the letter from Raidi.

The activity will display the glamour of the snow-covered pearl, Tibet, to Hong Kong, the oriental pearl, and provide a rare chance for Hong Kong people to know more about the

Motherland’s splendid culture and a stage for Tibet to display its unique charm in the metropolis, read the letter from Liu Yandong.

Tung Chee-hwa, Vice Chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, Gao Siren, director of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the HKSAR, and Elsie Leung Oi-sie, secretary for justice of the HKSAR government, also attended the opening ceremony.

The cultural week is jointly sponsored by the Information Office of the State Council, the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the HKSAR, and the people’s government of the Tibet Autonomous Region.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese residents pose for a picture after washing themselves with sea mud during a ‘Crazy for Mud’ event at a seaside park in Daishan county, east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 16 July, 2005. About 3000 visitors attended the festival.—INTERNET

East African Community’s e-commerce law in the offing

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 16 July — The East African Community (EAC) has started to formulate a law regulating e-commerce businesses in and outside the regional economic integration.

The EAC Secretariat has been instructed to set up a special committee to formulate the model law on e-commerce for the EAC member states of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, according to reports reaching here on Friday from Arusha in northern Tanzania where the EAC Headquarters is seated.

The committee will comprise of experts from the EAC sub-committees, the EAC Task Force on Approximation of Laws and the EAC Communications Sector. The guidelines for the EAC e-commerce law were already mapped out by Uganda’s Attorney-General Khiddu Makubuya, Kenya’s Attorney-General Amos

Wako and Tanzania’s Deputy Attorney-General Johnson Mwanjika.

The EAC, an East African regional economic integration entity that was first established in 1967 and then revived in 1999, is striving to boost its integration process after starting its Customs Union in January this year.—MNA/Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENTS

ပလတ်စတစ်ပုလင်း (၂)မျိုး ဝယ်ယူလိုခြင်း

- ၈၆၅** ပလတ်စတစ်ပုလင်းအမျိုးအစား လိုအပ်ချက် ပေးပို့ရမည့်နေရာ
 ၁။ 100 ml PET Bottle လိုအပ်ချက် ၃၀၀၀၀၀ ခု ပြန်ဟန်နိုင်အောင်လုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ
 (Amber Colour)(Screw Cap (ခုရောင်းဆယ်ယူနိုင်ဖို့အတွက်)
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 Temper-evident Type)
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- ၂။** 500 ml PET Bottle လိုအပ်ချက် ၂၀၀၀၀၀ ခု ပြန်ဟန်နိုင်အောင်လုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ
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 with Safety Ring Pilfer Proof
 Temper-evident Type)
 L.D.P.E Plastic

တင်ပို့လိုက် (၂၂-၇-၂၀၀၅) သောကြာနေ့ (၁၄၀၀)နာရီ
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 ဖုန်းနံပါတ်ဖြင့် တင်ပို့ပေးရန်အတွက် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ (ဆက်သွယ်ရန် တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ် - ၆၆၃၄၇၀)
 စက်ရုံမှ
 ပြန်ဟန်နိုင်အောင်လုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ

INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER
 TENDER NO (1) (ES) A.M.D (2005-2006)

1. Sealed Tender are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, for the supply of the following stores (in Myanmar Kyats.)

Sr No	Description	Quantity
1.	Zwe/Zetor 50 Super Zetor 6711/ 7011/8011 Tractor Spares	4-Lots, 186-Items
2.	SH-50, SH-654 Tractor Spares	2-Lots, 123-Items
3.	TN-800 Tractor Spares	1-Lot, 55-Items
4.	Tractor Tyres & Tubes	1-Lot 10-Items
5.	Tractor Fuel Injection Pump, Nozzles & Plungers.	1-Lot, 18-Items
6.	Assorted Taper Roller & ball Bearing	1-Lot, 35-Items
7.	Crawler Tractor and Excavator Spares	1-Lot

2. Tender Closing date: 18-8-2005 (Thursday) 12:00 hrs.
 3. Tender documents are available at Equipment & Stores Branch of Agricultural Mechanization Department (Head Office), AMD Bayintmaung Raod, Insein Township, Yangon, during office hours from (18-7-2005). Only Tenders Purchased from AMD will be accepted..
 3. For more details, Contact: 01-682209, 01-682593.

Director General
 Agricultural Mechanization Department

World Bank lends \$120m to Tamil Nadu

WASHINGTON, 15 July — The World Bank has approved a 120-million-US-dollar credit to support the government of the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu for implementing a poverty eradication programme in the state.

The Tamil Nadu Em-ployment and Poverty Reduction Project called "Puthu Vazhvu" (new life) aims at creating opportunities and build social capital in poor communities and to involve the communities themselves in designing and implementing the changes that will affect them.

ports the Government of Tamil Nadu's strategy for reducing poverty among the rural poor and other vulnerable groups who are currently outside the reach of most development interventions," Michael Carter, World Bank Country Director, said in a Press release on Tuesday.
 The project builds on Tamil Nadu's existing

programmes and good practices using what we call the Community Driven Development approach, Meena Munshi, Senior Economist at the World Bank, said.
 "This puts poor people at the centre of the planning and implementation of the changes that will affect their lives," Munshi added.

MNA/PTI



A NASA-funded astronomer has discovered a world where the sun sets over the horizon, followed by a second sun and then a third, as pictured in this artist's conception released by NASA on 13 July, 2005.—INTERNET

ချိပ်ပီတင်ဒါကြော်ငြာ

၁။ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်လင်းလုပ်ငန်းပိုင် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ မော်တော်ယာဉ်/ဆိုင်ကယ်များကို မျက်မြင်အခြေအနေ အတိုင်း ချိပ်ပီတင်ဒါ စနစ်ဖြင့် ရောင်းချပါမည်-

စဉ်	ယာဉ်အမျိုးအစား	ယာဉ်အမျိုးအစား	ကြည့်ရှုနိုင်သည့်နေရာ
၁	၂၂/၅၄၀၀	မာဇဒါ ၁၆၀၀	သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်လင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ဗဟိုဌာန) အမှတ် ၂၁၂ သိမ်မြောက်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။
၂	၂၂/၅၄၀၇	မာဇဒါ ၁၆၀၀	
၃	၅/၆၅၈၀	မာဇဒါ ၁၆၀၀	ပြန်ဟန်နိုင်အောင်လုပ်ငန်းစက်ရုံ အမှတ် ၅၃၊ နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ သွယ်(၁)၊ ဗဟိုဌာန၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့။
၄	၁၂/၅၄၀၆	ဘွန်ဒါ (၁၂၅-စီစီ)	
၅	၁၂/၅၄၀၅	ဘွန်ဒါ (၅၀-စီစီ)	

၂။ တင်ပို့ရမည့်ကမ်းခြေများကို တစ်စုံလျှင် ၂၅၀၀/- နှုန်းဖြင့် (၁၈-၇-၂၀၀၅)နေ့မှစ၍ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်လင်းလုပ်ငန်း(ဗဟိုဌာန) တွင် နှုန်းချိန်အတွင်း ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

၃။ တင်ပို့ရမည့်ပတ်သက်၍ သိရှိလိုပါက ဖုန်းနံပါတ် - ၂၀၀၈၀၉ နှင့် ၂၀၀၈၀၃ သို့ ဆက်သွယ်ရန်အတွက် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

ချိပ်ပီတင်ဒါရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့
 သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်လင်းလုပ်ငန်း

UNDP helps Uganda clear mines in north

KAMPALA, 15 July — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has earmarked 200,000 US dollars to eliminate land mines in the areas that have been affected by the 19-year war in northern Uganda, local media reported on Thursday.

The UNDP office in Uganda said it wanted a 50-per-cent reduction of mines in the north by 2007 under the National Mine Action Programme in the East African country.

The strategic objective of the UNDP is to have a reduction and clearance of mines and unexploded ordnance contaminated land in Gulu, Kitgum, Lira and Pader districts by December 2007 in accordance with regional and national rehabilitation and development plans.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese SOEs invite world investors for cooperation

SHENYANG, 15 July — A total of 24 key state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in northeast China are publicly opening up their businesses for both domestic and overseas investors, a step further to promote ongoing reforms in the country's old industrial base.

It is expected that the move will help to improve the SOEs' overall capacity and upgrade their products through system innovation, said an official with the local state asset watchdog.

To realize the goal, the 24 enterprises will try to introduce strategic investors and develop mixed-ownership economies by way of setting up joint ventures, cooperative production and transferring state-owned stock rights, according to Liu Yongsheng, director of the Shenyang Municipal Commission for Supervision and Management of State-owned Properties.

Located in Shenyang, capital of China's old industrial base of Liaoning Province, the 24 enterprises register gross assets of 79.23 billion yuan (about 9.5 billion US dol-

lars), some 71.8 per cent of the properties held by all the SOEs in the city.
 The 24 backbone enterprises cover machinery, pharmaceutical, computer sciences and many other sectors, boast a long history of growth, strong technological competence and competitiveness in the domestic and even overseas market, said Liu.
 They employ 122,000 workers, which constitute 51.4 per cent of all employees in the SOEs here, Liu noted.
 He noted that the 24 large-scale enterprises, with satisfying business profits, are representative of Shenyang's SOEs.
 Shenyang will soon publish specific measures to tackle a number of problems concerning the allocation of employees and relief of the enterprises'

social burdens, a bid to create a good environment for overseas investors to participate in the cooperation campaign.

Specific information concerning business invitations of the 24 enterprises will be published at a web site of SOEs reform in Liaoning Province, a web site of the Shenyang Property Right Trading and the web sites of the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges.

The 24 enterprises include Shenyang Machine Tool Group, Shenyang Air-Blower Group, Shenyang Hongmei Enterprises Group, and Changbai Computer Group.

SOEs and those enterprises whose shares are controlled by the state have always played a vital role in the city's economic and social development. —MNA/Xinhua

Romania may ask foreign help to cope with floods

Bucharest, 15 July — Romania may ask for international help to clean up damage caused by recent floods which have killed five people and left thousands homeless, Prime Minister Calin Tariceanu said.

Torrential rains have hit more than half of the Balkan country over the past few weeks, swelling rivers, inundating homes and churning up roads.

"The damage is great, not only are houses destroyed or flooded, but also infrastructure," Tariceanu said late on Wednesday, returning from a visit to the northeast of Romania, the worst hit area. "We may even ask for international help."

MNA/Reuters

DONATE BLOOD

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဒြားတိုးတက်လာ နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ခုံ

FAO says world tea production reaches new highs

ROME, 15 July — World tea production continued to reach new highs in 2004, and the output grew by 2 per cent to reach an estimated 3.2 million tons, according to an FAO report on Thursday.

The report, prepared for the Intergovernmental Group on Tea meeting in Bali (20-22 July 2005) to review the current world tea market and its medium-term outlook, said the expansion in production was due mainly to the increases recorded in Turkey, China, Kenya, Malawi, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

The growth in output from these countries more than offset declines in other major producing countries, including India and Bangladesh.

In China, tea output for 2004 approached the 800,000 tons milestone as policy initiatives to promote production and trade of tea began to have an impact on the sector, it said.

In Sri Lanka, production increased slightly by 1.3 per cent to 309,000 tons in 2004. In Indonesia, where a 1.20-per-cent growth was recorded, output reached 170,000 tons in 2004. In Turkey, production was reported to have expanded dramatically in 2004

as output increased by 32 per cent to reach around 205,500 tons, due to higher yields.

Tea production in Kenya increased by more than 11 per cent in 2004 to reach 328,000 tons. Malawi also reported a significant increase of 19 per cent in tea production with output reaching 50,000 tons.

In India, tea production declined by 4.3 per cent to reach around 820,200 tons due to unfavourable weather conditions and the closure of up to 70 tea gardens in Assam. FAO said that world tea exports increased by 4.4 per cent in 2004 to reach 1.47 million tons, as shipments from all major exporting countries increased during the year.

Tea exports from China expanded by more than 7 per cent to reach 282,000 tons, and were dominated by green tea, which accounted for more than 75 per cent of its total exports.

World net tea imports continued to increase in 2004, by 1.5 per cent, reaching 1.42 million tons.

In 2004, tea prices opened at 1.56 US dollars per kilo in January and closed at 1.73 US dollars per kilo in December, reflecting an improvement on the demand side, according to FAO.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese tumblers perform during the Closing Ceremony of the Third Beijing 2008 Olympic Cultural Festival in China's capital Beijing on 16 July, 2005. The Third Beijing Olympic Cultural Festival started on June 23 and ends on Saturday.

INTERNET

Cell phone saves immigrants lost in Arizona Desert

MEXICO CITY, 15 July — A group of stranded illegal immigrants facing death in the parched Arizona Desert saved themselves by using a cell phone they found to call rescue services, the US Border Patrol said on Thursday.

The group got lost in the desert near Arivaca, south of Tucson, Arizona, on Wednesday after their guide abandoned them during a four-day trek across the border from Mexico.

Lost and low on water, they used a cell phone they found in their guide's bag to dial 911. Rescuers dispatched helicopters and located the group in the desert shortly after sunset.

"Their quick thinking in using the phone to call for help and lighting signal fires saved their lives," the Tucson Sector of the US Border Patrol said in a news release.

Since the beginning of July, 21 illegal immigrants have died of heat exhaustion while crossing through the desert to Arizona, where summer temperatures soar to highs of around 120 F (49 C).

The sun-baked state is the principal route used by mostly Mexican immigrants seeking a new life in the United States. Last year, more than half a million were arrested there. The Border Patrol said on Thursday there was a strong possibility that a heatwave in Arizona could cause a record number of immigrant deaths.—MNA/Reuters

Talking on cell phones while driving dangerous

SYDNEY, 15 July— People talking on cell phones while driving are at least four times more likely to be involved in a collision and using a hands-free device does virtually nothing to reduce the risk, new research has shown.

The University of Sydney study, based on a survey of 400 car crash victims, found that people using hand-held phones were five times more likely to have a collision.

It also found that people using hands-free devices while driving were four times more likely to have a crash resulting in injuries.

Governments around the world, including Germany, Australia and several US states, have prohibited the use of hand-held cell phones while driving, but the new re-

search, published in the *British Medical Journal*, suggests the ban should be widened.

"This research has highlighted that hands-free isn't fine, that it does also elevate your risk of crashing," study co-author Professor Mark Stevenson told Reuters on Thursday. "The key message here is that we need to basically avoid using phones whilst driving. That is what is going to minimize your risk," said Stevenson, of the George Institute's Injury Prevention and Trauma Care Division at Sydney University.

The research included

talking on phones and sending text messages while driving, he said.

The study involved more than 400 drivers and was conducted in the emergency departments of three hospitals in Western Australia state.

Dr Suzanne McEvoy, the report's principal author, said more than half of the study participants reported having a hands-free phone device in their vehicles.

"The increased likelihood of crashing was not influenced by gender, age of the driver or availability of a hands-free device," McEvoy said.

Stevenson said re-

spondents agreed to have their billing records made available by their phone service providers.

Using those records, researchers compared phone use just before the collision with journeys taken by the same drivers in the week before their crash. "This is the first study that's looked at outcomes that are injury-related," Stevenson said.

He said researchers looked at whether drivers had been using their phones up to 10 minutes before their collision. "The majority were in a very short time period just before the crash."

MNA/Reuters

Zimbabwe suspends hunting of lions

HARARE, 15 July — The Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority announced on Wednesday it has imposed a two-year moratorium on the hunting of lions in Gwayi, Matabeleland North, to boost their population.

"We have put lions in Gwayi under moratorium for two years because we want the population to improve as well as the quality of trophies," Director General of the authority Morris Mutsambiwa said. "We want people to hunt lions they are satisfied with."

Mutsambiwa made the remarks while addressing a Nigerian national parks delegation in the country to familiarize themselves with the operations of their local counterparts as well as the country's flora and fauna.

The 12-member delegation, which arrived in the country on Monday, will

leave on Wednesday next week.

Mutsambiwa added that hunting of lions in the area had also been suspended because the big cats were under human threat.

The country has an estimated lion population of about 3,500.

The director general said hunting of lions in other areas was however allowed.

Meanwhile, he said efficiency at the organization had greatly improved following its transformation from a public entity into a quasi-government institution about two years ago.

MNA/Xinhua



Mickey and Minnie Mouse at Disneyland, California on 14 July, 2005. Disneyland celebrates its 50th birthday this weekend. — INTERNET

S P O R T S

Reyes, Clichy extend contracts with Arsenal

LONDON, 16 July— Arsenal's Spanish forward Jose Antonio Reyes and French defender Gael Clichy signed new long-term contracts with the Premier League club on Friday.

"Jose Antonio has signed a new six-year contract, securing his future with the club until 2011," the FA Cup winners said on their official website.

"Gael has also extended his contract, securing his future with the club until 2010".

Reyes, 21, who joined Arsenal from Spanish club Sevilla in January 2004 for a club record 17 million pounds (29.90 million US dollars), had a tough time at Highbury last season with reports suggesting he had found it difficult

to settle in London.

The striker was the victim of a radio hoaxer last February who claimed to be a Real Madrid representative offering him a transfer back to Spain. Reyes said he was keen on the move.

The following month he was quoted by a Spanish newspaper saying he had set his heart on a move to Real and wanted the Madrid side to open negotiations as soon as possible.

However, Reyes has now put the uncertainty about his future behind him by committing his

future to the north London club.

"I'm so happy to have extended my contract with Arsenal and I'm looking forward to having many more successful years with the club," he said.

The Spanish international has already collected Premier League and FA Cup winners medals. He has made 66 appearances, scoring 17 goals.

French Under-21 international Clichy joined Arsenal from Cannes in August 2003 and has made 46 appearances.

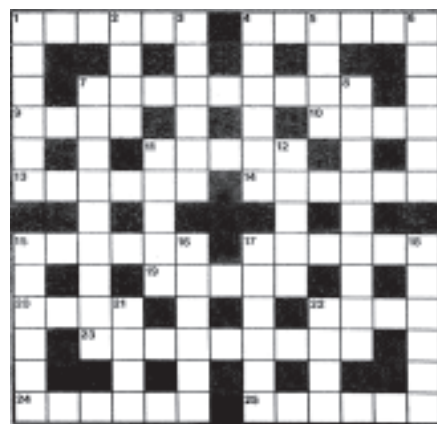
"I'm delighted to have signed a new contract and to have put my future with Arsenal," said the 19-year-old. "I really wanted to sign a new contract and I hope it will help me to improve."

In August 2004, aged 18 years and 10 months, Clichy became the youngest player to earn a Premier League winners medal. —MNA/Reuters



Estonia's Markko Martin drives his Peugeot 307 WRC during the Villa Giardino-La Falda stage 6 of the XXV Argentine Rally, in the northern Argentine province of Cordoba, on 15 July, 2005.—INTERNET

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

- 1 Server at table
- 4 Moment
- 7 Conclude
- 9 A fruit
- 10 Margin
- 11 Funeral hymn
- 13 Serviette
- 14 Christian festival
- 15 Belly
- 17 Sea-bird
- 19 Moist
- 20 Greedy
- 22 Paint coarsely
- 23 Done by night
- 24 Extreme fear
- 25 Expand

Down

- 1 Instrument of offence
- 2 Layer
- 3 Stay
- 4 Contrive
- 5 Paper money
- 6 Make beloved
- 7 Waterproofed sheet
- 8 Leading article
- 11 Dyke
- 12 Made comfortable
- 15 Earth, e.g.
- 16 Type of watch
- 17 Make a hole through
- 18 Struck a high ball
- 21 Sullen
- 22 Very weak-minded

CONCACAF Gold Cup starts to hot up

CAMBRIDGE (Massachusetts), 16 July— The CONCACAF Gold Cup hots up this weekend when the tournament reaches the quarterfinal stage.

"Nobody wants to go home," US goalkeeper Kasey Keller told reporters on Friday.

"But the one difference in the Gold Cup, compared to a (World Cup) qualifier or something like that, is the no teams have their full squads here.

"That takes a minor bit of intensity out of it but gives a great opportunity for a lot of players to play three or four or five games that they normally wouldn't get... so those guys are going to be showing some intensity".

The US face Jamaica in Foxboro, Massachusetts on Saturday, the same day Costa Rica play Honduras.

Holders and four-time champions Mexico meet Colombia in Houston, Texas on Sunday.

The last quarterfinal is between Panama and South Africa.

Mexican coach Ricardo La Volpe is wary of the Colombians.

"We have to respect Colombia," La Volpe said. "It's a very complicated team because it's full of youth.

"Usually, when those young players get a chance to play for their national team, they play extremely hard because they want to impress their coach."

The heavily-favoured Mexican, who earned rave reviews after reaching the semifinals of the Confederations Cup in Germany last month, resume the final phase of World Cup qualifying in August.

During the early stages of the Gold



Jamaica goaltender Shawn Sawyers (C) watches the ball during the first half action against Mexico in the qualifying round of the CONCACAF Gold Cup match in Houston, Texas, on 13 July, 2005.—INTERNET

Cup, US coach Bruce Arena used 22 members of his 23-man squad.

"It's too early to make final conclusions on the newer players," said Arena.

"There things take time but this (tournament) is a good chance to evaluate them. There's a transition period for everybody".

One relative newcomer to have stone is Jamaica forward Jermaine Hue, who has scored twice for the Reggae Boyz.

The semifinal will be played on Thursday at the Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

MNA/Reuters

Abidal breaks foot in Lyon draw

PARIS, 16 July— Olympique Lyon and France defender Eric Abidal will be out of action for up to three months with a foot injury, the Ligue 1 champions announced on Friday.

Abidal broke his left foot when Lyon drew 1-1 with Colombian side Once Caldas in their opening game at the Peace Cup tournament in Pusan, South Korea.

"I did not feel anything when it happened. Then I left for the hospital and I have been told I could be out for 12 weeks," Abidal told the club's website.

Once Caldas took the lead through Soto in the 12th minute but Mahamadou Diarra, who has been linked by the media with a move to Arsenal, equalized 20 minutes later.

Lyon midfielder Michael Essien, who said earlier in the day that he was hopeful of completing a move to English champions Chelsea, was sent off in the 74th minute for a second bookable offence.

MNA/Reuters

Woods surges cler at St Andrews after second round

ST ANDREWS (Scotland), 16 July— Tiger Woods took control of the British Open with a flawless 67 to more four shots clear of the field late in the second round on Friday.

The world number one, a stroke ahead overnight after an opening 66, played impeccable golf to collect three birdies on the front nine and another two on the way home to put him on course to repeat his open triumph at St. Andrews five years ago.

American Weeds, seeking his 10th career major, was caught at six under par by world number two Vijay Singh and South African Trevor Immelman before he started his second round, but he picked up two birdies in the first five holes to move clear once again.

Further birdies followed at the ninth, 10th and 14th holes although Weeds missed several good opportunities to extend his lead further. —MNA/Reuters

Vieira agrees personal terms with Juventus

TURIN (Italy), 16 July— Former Arsenal captain Patrick Vieira has agreed personal terms to complete his move to Serie A champions Juventus, the Italian club said on Friday.

The Turin-based side sealed a 20-million-euro (24.38-million-US-dollar) deal with Arsenal for the French international midfielder on Thursday.

"Vieira has signed and is happy with the deal. It is all sorted out," a spokesman for the club told Reuters on Friday.

Vieira, who helped Arsenal to win seven major domestic titles during his nine-year stay, was due to be presented to the media later in the day. —MNA/Reuters

Arteta to make permanent move to Everton

MADRID, 16 July— Spanish midfielder Mikel Arteta will make a permanent move from Real Sociedad to Everton subject to passing a medical, the Primera Liga club said on Friday.

Sociedad said that Everton would pay 2.9 million euros (3.54 million US dollars) for the 23-year-old, who played on loan at Goodison Park for the second half of last season following Thomas Gravesen's departure for Real Madrid.

A former Under-21 international, Arteta began his career at Barcelona before spells at Paris St Germain and Glasgow Rangers.

He played a key role in helping Rangers win the Scottish title in 2003 when he scored a last-minute penalty in their 6-1 rout of Dunfermline Athletic in the final league game of the season as they pipped arch-rivals Celtic on goal difference. Arteta returned to his home city of San Sebastian to sign for Sociedad for 4 million euros at the start of last season, but failed to win a regular place and left for Everton during the January transfer window. —MNA/Reuters

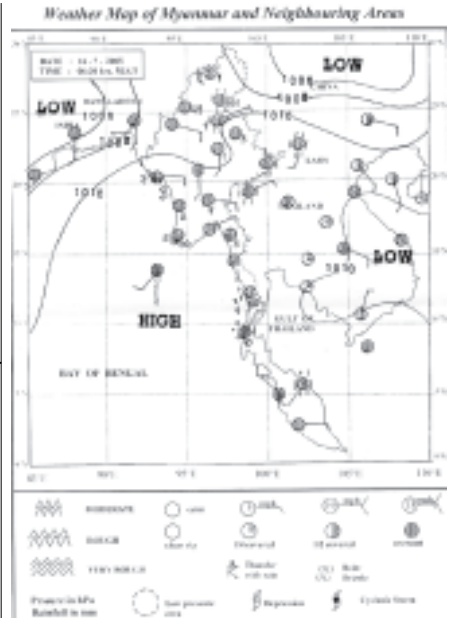
တုပ်ကွေးရောဂါမှကာကွယ်ရန်

- * နေပူမှုလျှော့ချရန်...
* တစ်ကိုယ်ရည် သန့်ရှင်းရေးကို...
* လူများပြားထူထပ်သောနေရာများကို...
* နှာချေလျှင်၊ ခြောင်းဆိုးလျှင်...
* ဖျားနာမည့်ကုသယူရိပါက...
* အာဟာရပြည့်ဝအောင်...
* မိတာမင်စီအပြည့်အဝပါသောအသီးအနှံနှင့်အရွက်များကိုစားပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



Joint Treasurer U Maung Maung Gyi of Hninzigon Home for the Aged accepts K 100,000 for construction of Hospital for the Aged donated by U Chit Tun-Daw Mya Kyi of Macao recently.— (H)



WEATHER

Saturday, 16 July, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, rain or thunder-showers have been scattered in Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Mandalay Division.

Maximum temperature on 15-7-2005 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 16-7-2005 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 16-7-2005 was 88%. Total sunshine hours on 15-7-2005 was (0.8) hours approx.

Bay inference: Monsoon is weak in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 17-7-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin State, scattered in Chin, Shan and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: General decrease of rain in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-7-2005: Likelihood isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

UN panel fails to agree on how to govern Internet

UNITED NATIONS, 15 July — A group set up by the United Nations to come up with a global plan for managing the Internet said on Thursday that it has been unable to agree on who should do the job or how it should be done.

The Working Group on Internet Governance instead came up with four rival models for overseeing the web and sorting out technical and public policy questions.

In a report to be submitted to the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis in November, the group also proposed creation of a permanent forum to carry on the debate.

To understand the problem, "you must recognize that the Internet was set up largely by academicians for limited use, but has grown beyond anyone's wildest expectations, with nearly one billion users today",

Markus Kummer, the working group's executive coordinator, said in a telephone interview.

At issue for the world body is who runs the Internet and how it can better serve the world.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has long pressed industry, government and private interest groups to try to narrow the "digital divide" and ensure that people in poor nations have greater access to the Internet.

The Internet is now loosely managed by various groups.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

(ICANN), for example, manages the domain name system and is under the control of the US Government.

Helping set technical standards are the International Telecommunication Union, an international organization; the private sector-led Internet Engineering Task Force, and the academia-oriented W3C.

Among the governance options put forward by the group were a continuation of the current system, creation of a world body to address public policy issues stemming from the work of ICANN, and creation of a body to address a

broader range of public policy issues.

The fourth option is to create three bodies, one to address policy issues, one for oversight and one for global coordination.

The group also recommended a coordinated global effort to combat spam, or junk e-mails, and urged that law enforcement authorities respect the right to freedom of expression when they crack down on Internet-related crimes.

MNA/Reuters



Sunday, 17 July Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music: Me, myself & I
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music: Thinking of you
8.55 am National news/Slogan
9.05 am Music: Learning by lining
9.10 am International news
9.15 am Cultural images of Myanmar -Preserve cultural heritage for posterity
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Story for children -"Little rabbit has a cold"
1.50 pm Songs for children
9.00 pm Weekly new review
9.10 pm Music
9.15 pm Article
9.25 pm Music -Forever -Bright eyes -Here we are
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL



Sunday, 17 July View on today:

- 7:00 am 1. Recitation of parittas by missionary Sayardaw U Okktamatharra
7:25 am 2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am 3. Morning news
7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am 5. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မော်(၃၈)ပြောက်လာ
8:10 am 6. အတူပြိုင်ပွဲ
8:20 am 7. ရော့ဂျောင်းရော့ဂျောင်းတစ်
8:30 am 8. International news
8:45 am 9. Say it in english
11:00 pm 1. Martial song
11:10 pm 2. Musical programme
11:25 pm 3. Round up of the week's TV Local News

- 11:40 pm 4. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "စောရင် ရွာနဲ့ မိစ္ဆာနွဲ့ဦးမီး" (အပိုင်း-၂၁)
12:15 pm 5. ကြားပြောပြောပြအစောစောပဒေသာ
12:25 pm 6. Myanmar Video Feature: "သင်ခန်းစာ" ကျော်ဟိန်း၊ ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ညီနန္ဒာ၊ နန္ဒာလှိုင်၊ လှိုင်ရွှေဝင်းထွန်း (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကျော်စောလင်း)
2:15 pm 7. (၂၃)ကြိမ်မြောက်အရှေ့တောင်အာရှအားကစားပြိုင်ပွဲဝင်မည့် မြန်မာအားကစားအဖွဲ့များ၏ ကြိုတင်ပြင်ဆင်မှုများ (အထူးမ)
2:25 pm 8. Musical programme
2:35 pm 9. ပုံညွှန်တန်းတံတား
2:45 pm 10. International News
4:00 pm 1. Martial song
4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm 3. English for Everyday Use
4:45 pm 4. သာယာချိုအေး(၃၈)ပြောက်လာအစောစော

- 5:00 pm 5. အစေးသစ်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေးရန်ပြင်ဆင်ကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -တတ်ယူနဲ့(စာတည်းအဖွဲ့) (စာတည်း)
5:15 pm 6. Dance of national races
5:30 pm 7. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
5:40 pm 8. Musical programme
5:55 pm 9. Sing and enjoy
6:30 pm 10. Evening news
7:00 pm 11. Weather reports
7:05 pm 12. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "ရုပ်ရှင်ရှင်သန် တစ်ရာတစ်လီ" (အပိုင်း-၄၀)
7:30 pm 13. Agricultural source country's development
7:45 pm 14. Musical programme
8:00 pm 17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "အရူသံသရာ" (အပိုင်း-၅၉)
21. The next day's programme

For extended cultivation of rubber, officials are to organize the local growers

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects extended cultivation of monsoon paddy, rubber and pepper in Thandwe, Kyaukpadaung Districts



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects progress in construction of Kaingshay Bridge on Taungup-Kyaukpadaung Road.— MNA

YANGON, 16 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint met with departmental personnel at the office of Thandwe District Peace and Development Council in Thandwe on 13 July morning.

Local authorities reported on agriculture, livestock breeding and administration matters of Thandwe Township and District.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that Thandwe Township and District are

to extend cultivation of monsoon paddy to meet the target of 1.1 million acres in 2005-06. It is necessary to draw the plan on sanitation and beautifying of Thandwe for sightseeing of tourists.

Three main points —peace and stability and prevalence of law and order, economic growth, development of human resources — are the drive for emergence of a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Therefore, systematic plans are to be laid down for restoring peace and stability and prevalence of law and order in the region.

He stressed the need to carry out agriculture

and livestock breeding tasks with concerted efforts for economic development, and to put the land under 10 main crops of the State, rubber and pepper. For extended cultivation of rubber, officials are to organize the local growers by giving educative talks and necessary assistance.

Furthermore, he said that efforts are to be made for boosting the paddy per-acre yield and cultivation of double cropping, and speeding up production of sea water prawn. Local authorities are to try to achieve greater progress of the region by joining hands with the local people.

(See page 9)

Over 120,000 various saplings planted in Yangon Station



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe plants a sapling at Yangon Station tree planting ceremony.

YANGON COMMAND

YANGON, 16 July — Tree planting ceremony of Yangon Station of Yangon Command took place at the station in Mayangon Township this morning. It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and De-

velopment Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay. Maj-Gen Myint Swe, in his address, said that Yangon Command holds the ceremony every year with the aim of conserving

the forest. Yangon Station had been holding the first ceremony in the command. Planting tree is conducive to the posterity. Tatmadawmen and their families of the command are to take part in the greening project of 30-mile radius Yangon International Airport all the year round, noted the commander.

Yangon Station Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint, Col Myint Soe of Yangon Station and Director U Khin Win of Forestry Department reported on progress of planting trees and conserving them to the commander. At the ceremony, the commander and wife delivered the saplings to those present.

The commander and wife planted the saplings to mark the ceremony. The officials then grew the assorted saplings. The commander and party viewed round planting of the saplings and the ceremony ended. Over 120,000 various saplings were planted today.—MNA

Minister for Industry-1 inspects textile mills in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 16 July —Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang, Managing Director of Myanmar Textile Industries U Oo Thein Maung and officials inspected construction of Textile Mill (Myittha) near Langwa Village in Myittha Township on 15 July.

The minister inspected storage of electrical and construction materials and scale model of the mill. He told officials concerned to finish the work in time. Member of the Secretariat of the USDA U Aung Thuang met secretaries and executives of Kyaukse, Singaing, Myittha and Tada U Township USDAs.

They reported on the future tasks and public welfare services.

U Aung Thuang fulfilled the requirements and discussed implementation of five rural development tasks with greater momentum and emphasis on public welfare services.

The minister inspected Wundwin Textile Mill and gave instructions on minimizing loss and wastage, reduction of expenditure, quality of the product and fire prevention measures.

He also inspected sale of foodstuff at Winthuzar shop in Meiktila.

(See page 7)



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thuang oversees construction of Textile Factory (Myittha) in Myittha.— INDUSTRY-1