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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

Renal transplants successfully performed Secretary-1 visits recipients and donors in good health



Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein observes renal transplant at the New General Hospital. —MNA

YANGON, 18 July — Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein observed the 11th renal transplant at the New General Hospital here today.

First in the meeting room, the Secretary-1 observed the renal transplant that was recorded yesterday on close circuit TV, while he was briefed by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and leader of the operation team Professor Dr Paing Soe, Director-General of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar).

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 asked after the health of the patient, U Kyaw Min, saying that thanks to the high efficiency of medical professionals, Myanmar can conduct renal transplants successfully one after another. He lauded the immense goodwill of the donors who usually are close relatives of the patients. He visited the donor Ma Theingi Chaw, younger sister of U Kyaw Min.

Lt-Gen Thein Sein then visited another patient,

Daw Yin Kyi, and the kidney donor, her son U Moe Yu, in the operation theatre. Later, he watched the renal transplant on Daw Yin Kyi through the close circuit TV.

After posing for photo together with the op-

eration team, he cordially greeted the members and left the hospital.

The two patients and the two donors are in good health. — MNA



Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein visits kidney donor Ma Theingi Chaw. —MNA

INSIDE

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 19 July, 2005

Crush all perpetrators endangering the State

Stability of the State, prevalence of law and order and national unity have been accorded special priority ever since the assumption of the state responsibilities by the Government. After that, relentless efforts are being made for ensuring strong economy of the State and development of human resources.

In the meantime, economic and social development infrastructures have been laid down and are being implemented for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Those basic infrastructures are being established with own resources and own capacity. At present, unprecedented progress has been made in various sectors throughout the nation.

Youths are being inculcated with nationalistic fervour and Union Spirit and being trained to be skilled in the fields of science and technology for national development.

The youths, who are to be endowed with knowledge and expertise, are to strive for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation, making the most of development infrastructures created by the State.

Only when they put to use expertise and good foundation in harmony will the nation be perpetual and able to stand tall among the world nations. Accordingly, the socio-economic life of the people will improve.

Each and every citizen is to place in the fore Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, realizing the values of the Union, sovereignty, independence and Union Spirit. This is an inborn duty of each and every citizen.

Nowadays, a handful of people and some foreign nations are meddling in the internal affairs of Myanmar and putting pressure on her under the pretext of human rights and democracy.

The entire national people are to be well aware of the fact that these are a form of instigation created by internal and external destructive elements, which is detrimental to own national stand, own history and culture, national prestige and character.

At a time when efforts are being made for the emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation, the onus is on each and every citizen to crush all perpetrators endangering national unity, stability of the State and national development.

Religious Affairs Minister receives Nepalese Ambassador

YANGON, 18 July—Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung this morning received Nepalese Ambassador Lt-Gen (Retd) Victory SJB Rana at his office on Kaba Aye Pagoda road here.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung

Ko, Director-General U Myo Kyaw of Religious Affairs Department, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, Pro-rector (Admin) Dr Myint Kyi of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University and officials. — 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

Commander, minister attend stake-driving for Bago Hospital

YANGON, 18 July—Member of Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko and CEC member of USDA Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min yesterday, attended a stake-driving ceremony for the construction of new two-storey building of Bago General Hospital. The commander and the minister, next, attended the opening of Pannadipaka three-storey building of



Wellwishers formally open Pannadipaka three-storey building in presence of Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min.— MNA

Nimitayon monastery in Bago. The minister also attended tree planting ceremony near Mazin

dam. Also present on the occasion were Commander of No 77 Light Infantry Division Brig-

Gen Win Myint, local authorities and members of social organizations.

MNA

Third Intercountry Training of Trainers on HIV/AIDS Voluntary Counselling and Confidential Testing opened



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint makes an address at the Third Intercountry Training of Trainers on HIV/AIDS Voluntary Counselling and Confidential Testing. — MNA

YANGON, 18 July—The Third Intercountry Training of Trainers on HIV/AIDS Voluntary Counselling and Confidential Testing was opened at a ceremony at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, officials of the ministry, representatives of UN agencies, ambassadors, trainees and others.

In his address, the minister said, HIV is one of the emerging threats to the mankind since late twentieth century. It has created a lot of negative

consequences and has affected the security and social development in many countries. In spite of new diagnostic methodologies and treatment we are still faced with the threat and impacts of the disease. In Myanmar, HIV/AIDS is regarded as a disease of National Concern. HIV and AIDS prevention and control activities have been taken under the leadership of National Health Committee. National AIDS Programme has been implemented covering advocacy, health education, awareness raising, prevention of sexual transmission of HIV/STD with 100% Targeted condom pro-

motion programme, prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV and providing of care and support. These activities are carried out through coordinated efforts of related department, NGOs, UN Agencies and communities. As Myanmar has introduced ART therapy, it is necessary to provide quality VCT services to clients.

In conclusion, the minister said, by conducting this kind of training workshop for capacity building on VCT, representatives from various sectors can discuss and recommend for strengthening multisectoral coordination and collaboration to achieve the goals of is-

sues concerning with VCT.

Next, Resident Representative Professor Adik Wibowo of World Health Organization read out the message sent by Director Dr Samlee Plianbangchang of WHO South East Asia Region. Afterwards, Resident Representative of UNICEF Ms Carroll C Long gave a speech.

Altogether 32 trainees from Myanmar, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, China, Laos, the Philippines, Butan, East Timor and Maldives are attending the training which will last up to 30 July.

MNA

Pakistan committed to fight extremism, terrorism

ISLAMABAD, 17 July—Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf Friday reiterated Pakistan's firm commitment to combating extremism and terrorism.

Addressing top police officers from around the country in Rawalpindi, twin city of Islamabad, Musharraf made it clear that the government would not tolerate extremism and would continue to combat the menace of terrorism with unflinching determination and force, as it was in the interest of Pakistan's continued socio-economic progress.

Pakistan, he underscored, stood at cross-roads in its history and there was an urgent need to address extremism existing on the fringes of its society.

"We have to transform the society and bring about harmony for our long-term progress, we owe it to our future generations to rid the country of the malaise of extremism and allowing the vast moderate majority to progress and

prosper in accordance with our immense potential," Musharraf said.

On the country's fight against terrorism, he said, Pakistan would continue its operations against terrorists and eliminate masterminds and planners from the country. In this context, he referred to the country's success in capturing about 700 terrorists and said the Pakistani police and its intelligence organizations deserved all the praise and appreciation.

Musharraf also directed law enforcement agencies to launch a countrywide campaign against collection of donations, display of arms and holding of gatherings by banned outfits and remove all hate materials from markets by December this year at the latest.

MNA/Xinhua



Asiana Airlines' cargo planes are parked at a cargo terminal in Incheon, west of Seoul, on 18 July, 2005.—INTERNET

Indian PM to visit US next week

NEW DELHI, 17 July—India's Prime Minister visits the United States next week hoping to seal a growing friendship with Washington with a landmark deal over sharing nuclear technology and backing for a UN Security Council seat.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's three-day state visit starting 18 July is being seen by New Delhi as a touchstone of US President George W Bush's intention to take the relationship between the world's two largest democracies to new heights.

Singh will hold talks on issues ranging from defence to trade, aviation to agriculture. But the success of his visit may be measured by whether the Bush Administration agrees to help boost India's civilian nuclear energy programme and back its candidature for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

"What this visit would be doing is reaffirming at the highest level the transformation that is taking place in India-US relations," Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran said. "What we are really looking at is a genuine partnership between India and the US."—MNA/Reuters



Bathers play with waves at the Katase Beach in Fujisawa, southwest of Tokyo, on 18 July, 2005, Marine Day national holiday, as the temperature soared to 33 degrees Celsius (91.4 degrees Fahrenheit) in Tokyo.—INTERNET

Bangladesh's garment export earning increases in current fiscal year

DHAKA, 17 July—Bangladesh's garment export is most likely to cross six billion US dollars in the just ended fiscal year 2004 -2005, officials of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) said.

The New Age on Saturday quoted EPB officials as saying that statistics of the July, 2004 — May, 2005 period of the fiscal and the trend observed in the statistics of June, 2005 clearly show that Bangladesh's export earning has certainly crossed the six billion dollars figure.

Statistics released by the EPB last week showed that in the first eleven months of the just ended fiscal year, the country earned a total of 5.756 billion dollars by exporting ready made garments, more than the figure in the same period of the previous fiscal year which earned a total of 5.686 billion dollars from ready made garments export.

Total earning from the export of ready made garments in the fiscal year of 2004 — 2005 will cross 6.1 billion dollars, said one senior official of

the statistics division of the EPB.

From July 2004 to May 2005, the country's total export earning stood at 7.79 billion dollars, including 5.76 billion dollars earned by ready made garments that constituted 73.93 per cent of the total export. Total export earning in fiscal year 2003 — 2004 was 7.6 billion dollars.

Bangladesh's ready made garments will face more competition as new exporters are emerging in global apparel market after the beginning of the quota-free era, Mir Shahabuddin Mohammed, vice-chairman of the EPB said, hoping that Bangladeshi exporters would maintain the growth of exports by meeting the new requirements of buyers like compliance, competitive prices and speedy supply.

MNA/Xinhua

FAO says global tea exports increasing

DHAKA, 17 July—The world tea production last year reached a record 3.2 million tons, according to a UN report.

The report released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization on Friday showed that the tea export increased by 50,000 tons which is more than the production in 2003, but production of the major exporters like India and Bangladesh has decreased, local daily *The Independent* reported on Saturday.

Increase in export was

due mainly to record production 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, the report said.

World tea exports increased by 4.4 per cent in 2004 to 1.47 million tons, according to the report.

World net tea imports

increased in 2004, by 1.5 per cent which is 1.42 million tons. This trend reflected the increases in traditional developed country markets of the European Community (an increase of 2.4 per cent), the United States (5.3 per cent) and Japan (2 per cent), where imports reached to 215,000 tons, 99,000 tons and 56,000 tons, respectively.

MNA/Xinhua

Armed Police builds China's first anti-explosion lab

BEIJING, 18 July — China's first anti-explosion laboratory, a facility for teaching, training and scientific research, was put into use last Friday in the Fuzhou Command Academy of Armed Police in Fujian Province, east China.

Equipped with some 400 kinds of explosion devices, teachers and researchers can conduct nearly 1,000 kinds of tests and training programmes covering principles of detonation, simulated explosion and defusing of explosives.

The anti-explosion simulation system, which stores some 2,000 cases of explosions, can also monitor the temperature, heart-beating, blood temperature and breathing of explosive defusing personnel.

MNA/Xinhua

1,766 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 17 July—As of Sunday, 17 July, 2005, at least 1,766 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 1,357 died as a result of hostile action. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EDT Friday.

The British military has reported 92 deaths; Italy, 25; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each. Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,627 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,248 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.—Internet



A Chinese power line worker perched on a electricity pole as he performs maintenance work in Beijing, China, on 18 July, 2005.

INTERNET

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CNPC produced 396 million barrels of crude oil in first half of '05

BEIJING, 18 July — PetroChina Company Limited, a listed company of the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), China's largest oil and natural gas producer, announced last Friday that its crude oil output reached 396 million barrels in the first six months of 2005, 2.1 per cent higher year on year.

Thanks to the soaring international oil price and thriving domestic market demand, PetroChina saw an all-around growth in its production sectors in the first half of 2005.

PetroChina has fulfilled over half of its crude oil output goal in the first six months, 8.1 million barrels more than the same period of last year. Its output of marketable natural gas was 506.3 billion

cubic feet, 96 billion cubic feet more than the first half of 2004 with a year-on-year growth of 23.4 per cent. In the exploitation and mining sector, PetroChina has made a great breakthrough in the Bohai Bay Basin and in such regions as the Ordos Basin in North China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, northeastern Songliao Basin, the heart of Sichuan Province and the Tarim Basin. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Beijing to have 11 million tons of electronic garbage next year

BEIJING, 18 July — Beijing will have 11.52 million tons of electronic garbage next year, the *Beijing Evening News* has quoted officials as saying.

A big consumer of household appliances, Beijing will cast aside 35.76 million TV sets, washing machines, refrigerators, air-conditioners and computers, and 23.45 million mobile phones in 2006, according to the paper.

The total amount of electronic garbage is expected to reach 15.83 million tons in 2010, officials with the State Development and Reform Commission were quoted as saying.

Discarded electrical appliances contain six kinds of poisonous substances including lead, cadmium and

mercury, which are harmful to both the environment and people's health, the paper says.

Some law-breaking vendors just dismantle the discarded appliances only to recycle the noble metal, abandoning the remaining components, which seriously pollute the earth, air and underground water.

To solve the problem, a plant that can recycle 1.2 million tons of electronic garbage will be put into operation in the Beijing Economic and Technological Development Zone at the end of this year.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore aims to attract more foreign students

SINGAPORE, 18 July — Singapore aims to attract 150,000 foreign students in the next seven years, up from the current 50,000, according to Channel NewsAsia report on Sunday.

It quoted the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) as saying that the outreach programme involving study trips for foreign students is expected to cover countries in the Middle East.

The STB is trying to make good use of such study trips, which include English classes and sightseeing, in attracting foreign students who plan to study abroad.

Currently, Asian countries are the main source of foreign students studying in the city state.

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand, Laos to cooperate on border security

BANGKOK, 18 July — Thailand and Laos have agreed to join forces in suppressing movements by groups with ill-intentions along the border and narcotics and human trafficking gangs, as well as international terrorism, reported the *Thai News Agency* on Saturday.

The agreements were reached at the 14th Joint Border Committee Meeting, held in the Lao capital of Vientiane on Friday.

Thai Defence Minister General Thammarak Isarangura Na Ayuthaya led a Thai delegation to attend the meeting. General Thammarak announced that Thailand would support scholarships for Lao officers to undergo military training in Thailand. The two countries have also agreed to cooperate in resolving the problem of people with dual citizenships.

Bangkok and Vientiane have also pledged to jointly crack down on movements against the sound relationship between the two sisters' countries along the border by hostile groups. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Iraq's oil exports suspended by strike

BASRA, 17 July — Iraq's oil exports were suspended for 24 hours because of a strike by 15,000 employees of the South Oil Company, a company official said.

The export of oil was stopped this morning at 8:00 am (0400 GMT) by 15,000 employees who are demanding higher wages," said the company official, requesting anonymity.

Employees were also demanding a better share-out of oil export revenues by the government, he added.

Nearly all of Iraq's daily output of 2.1 million barrels in June came from southern oilfields, while all of the 1.43 million barrels a day of exports flowed

through southern terminals, according to Oil Minister Ibrahim Bahr al-Ulum.

Northern oil export routes remain paralyzed due to the security situation.

A week ago, the governor of Basra, Mohammed Mosbeh-al-Waeli, demanded a fair share of oil revenues from the central government for his southern Iraqi province, hinting that failure to do so could foment secessionist sentiment in his Shiite heartland.

Internet

Thai exports in 2005 to sustain 20% growth

BANGKOK, 18 July — Thai Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Somkid Jatusripitak has said that major exporters had assured him that exports in 2005 would sustain growth not less than 20 per cent, equivalent to 117 billion US dollars.

He said he was assured by the overseas trade directors that although the country's exports during the first half of 2005 grew only 13 per cent, exports during the second half would definitely meet the government's target, the *Thai News Agency* reported on Saturday.

Despite the assurance given by major exporters, Somkid on Friday told the overseas trade chiefs based in 53 countries to work harder during the second half of the year. — *MNA/Xinhua*

China Int'l Beer Festival to incorporate Munich characteristics

BEIJING, 18 July — The 2005 International Beer Festival will combine Munich characteristics, according to the festival organizers.

The festival will introduce a Munich beer tent. Both the inner side and outside decoration will display characteristics of the Munich Beer Festival, such as German-style wooden chairs, German cooks and German bands.

The festival has already attracted 30 international and domestic beer manufacturers, with over 100 kinds of beer. The annual beer festival was launched in 1999 and moved from Beijing to Dalian in 2002. It has already become one of the most influential beer festivals in the world.

The festival will take place in Dalian from 28 July to 8 August. — *MNA/Xinhua*



A woman looks at a destroyed truck after a suicide bomber killed at least 60 people in the small highway town of Musayyib, 60 kms (40 miles) south of Baghdad, on 17 July, 2005. — *INTERNET*

Symposium stresses Buddhism's role in building harmonious society

HONG KONG, 18 July — Over a dozen venerable monks from China's Mainland and Hong Kong on Saturday explored the role of Buddhism in building a harmonious society in the country.

Speaking at a symposium held here under the title of "Nurturing a harmonious society through Buddhism", Venerable Kok Kwong, President of the Hong Kong Buddhist Association, said. Buddhism advocates mercy, equality of all beings and

benefitting others while benefitting oneself, which all help create harmony in society and peace in the world.

"A harmonious society" is a concept stressed by the Chinese Government which refers to harmony in social relations,

human relations, social atmosphere and social causes and manifests the government's determination to attach equal importance to economic and social development.

Saicang Luo zang Huadan, the 6th Living Buddha at the ancient

Derlong Monastery of Gansu Province, noted that as a peaceful religion, Buddhism has harmony as one of its core values. By bringing people peace in mind, Buddhism can help maintain stability in society.

MNA/Reuters

Beijing hosts record number of overseas tourists in first half of '05

BEIJING, 18 July — Beijing received a record high 1.665 million overseas tourists in the first half of this year, up 26.2 per cent over the corresponding period last year, according to the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Statistics.

The number of tourists from foreign countries rose by 27.4 per cent year on year to reach 1.409 million in the first six months, while those from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macao regions went up by 20.3 per cent to reach 256,000 in the same period.

Beijing has recorded a monthly double-digit growth in the number of visiting overseas tourists for six consecutive months, receiving approximately 280,000 visitors monthly. —MNA/Reuters



Filipino public investors monitor their shares inside the Philippine Stock Exchange in Manila's Makati financial district on 18 July, 2005. — INTERNET

China to intensify quality control of export toys

GUANGZHOU, 18 July — China will continue its efforts in testing and controlling toys for export to guarantee their quality and safety, according to the State General Administration of Quality Supervision Inspection and Quarantine.

"China will continue mobilizing great human resources and funds into toy quality testing," said Yuan Changxiang, director of the administration's test and control department, at a China-EU forum on toy safety on Thursday.

According to him, China has established five special laboratories for toy quality testing and is spending more than 20 million yuan (2.4 million US dollars) in the testing every year. Chinese quality supervision departments will also develop cooperation with the European Union to learn the latest information about toy quality and safety and modern testing methods.

A world leading toy exporter, China has more than 8,000 toy companies,

which employ 3 million workers and yield more than 50 billion yuan (6 billion US dollars) in output value a year.

China issued a set of regulations on the quality and safety of toys in 2003, which took effect in October the following year.

"This signifies that the Chinese Government pays great heed to toy quality and is making efforts to improve the quality of toys, aiming at reaching international standards," Yuan said. —MNA/Xinhua

Pakistani tribesmen vent anger over US counterattack

MIRANSHAH (Pakistan), 18 July — Thousands of Pakistani tribesmen shouted anti-US slogans on Saturday as they buried three of 24 suspected Islamist militants killed inside Pakistan by US forces operating out of Afghanistan.

Mourners chanted "Down with infidel America" and "Long Live Islam" at the funeral held in two villages in the North Waziristan tribal region, 300 kilometres (180 miles) southwest of the Pakistani capital, Islamabad.

Pakistan's tribal belt is overwhelmingly Pashtun and most people are deeply conservative Muslims, sharing common religious and ethnic roots with Taliban fighters trying to oust US-led forces from Afghanistan.

Tension has been building for months in Pakistan's North Waziristan since the Army completed a series of offensives against al-Qaeda militants in neighbouring South Waziristan. — MNA/Reuters

Pakistan detains two more suspects in London probe

ISLAMABAD, 18 July — Pakistani security forces have detained two men in the eastern city of Lahore on suspicion of links with one of the suicide bombers in last week's attacks in London, an intelligence official said on Saturday.

The overnight detention came hours after the security agencies investigating connections with the bombings rounded up four suspects in the central city of Faisalabad.

Intelligence officials had earlier revealed that Shehzad Tanweer, one of the three British-born bombers of Pakistani origin, had visited Faisalabad and Lahore during his two trips to Pakistan over the past two years.

"We are interrogating whether these two people (detained in Lahore) had any links with Tanweer," an intelligence official told Reuters. But he gave no details.

MNA/Reuters

US is to blame for Iraqi turmoil

CAIRO, 17 July — A senior Egyptian official said Friday that the US-led invasion brought neither security nor stability for the Iraqis, the official MENA news agency reported.

Osama al-Baz, political adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, was quoted as saying that the US focus was only on fighting certain groups believed to be anti-American.

"The US defends only American diplomats who stay in fortified locations, and Americans working in oil companies there," said Baz.

On the July 7 London blasts, Baz said he hoped

that Arabs and Muslims would not stand accused collectively of being responsible.

Baz, however, acknowledged that the bombers ascertained to be Muslims, their action would further mar the image of Islam, especially as the Western mentality was already poised to embrace anti-Arab and Muslim notions.

On his reading of US

attempts to impose reform in the Middle East, the presidential adviser said this was one side of the coin, as neo-conservatives were now dictating the US foreign policy.

Yet, other US quarters understand the fact that Washington does not have power enough to impose reform on Middle Eastern states, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Death toll of Iraq fuel truck bomb attack rises to 98

BEIJING, 18 July — The death toll of Saturday's suicide bomb attack in Musayyib town, south of Baghdad, has risen to about 98.

Police said other 156 people were wounded. The Iraqi government has condemned this brutal attack and sent condolence to the victims' families.

A suicide bomber blew himself up Saturday evening near a gas station, causing a firestorm that set several buildings and shops on fire along with dozens of cars.

It is the deadliest suicide bomb attack in Iraq since the new Shiite-dominated government was formed in April. Musayyib is located within the area dubbed the "triangle of death", a hotbed of insurgency against the US forces and the US-backed new government.

In another development, 19 people killed on Sunday in four suicide car bombings targeted Iraqi and US security patrols in Baghdad.

MNA/Xinhua



Vegetable vendors pick up their melons after a suicide bomber killed at least 60 people near a vegetable market in the small highway town of Musayyib, 60 kms (40 miles) south of Baghdad, on 17 July, 2005. —INTERNET

China says Turkey's WTO proposal on textile unacceptable

GENEVA, 18 July— China said Friday that Turkey's proposal to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on textile is one-sided and unacceptable, according to officials close to the world trade body.

China was referring to the proposal tabled by Turkey on establishing a work programme in the Goods Council of the WTO to fully and periodically review global textile, clothing production and trade and to develop "appropriate remedies".

In the paper, Turkey said that China's exports of textile increased a lot since the quota on textile and clothing was abolished last January and many devel-

oping countries now face the risk of being swept away from their traditional export markets. At the Goods Council's meeting on Friday, Chinese officials said that Turkey was attempting to make China a scapegoat by using dubious figures and hasty generalizations.

Turkey had failed to mention that its textile exports had grown up to 30 per cent in some markets, and that it is now the second largest supplier to

the European Union (EU) with 14-per-cent market share, according to the Chinese officials.

They added that China's painful structural adjustment had paid off in the rise of not only its exports, but also imports as it is now the third largest textile importer in the world. It has also offered duty-free textile access for 25 poorest countries in Africa.

MNA/Xinhua



Twin sisters Angeli (R) and Ange, who were born attached at the waist and hips, look on during a news conference at Gleneagles hospital in Singapore on 18 July, 2005.—INTERNET

WWF plans to protect rainforests in Borneo Island

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 July — The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) plans to launch a programme to protect depleting rainforests on the Borneo Island, local Press reported on Sunday.

Called "The Heart of Borneo", the project aims to assist Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei in conserving 220,000 square kilometres of rainforests through a network of protected areas and sustainably-managed forests, the *New Straits Times* reported.

"If they (tropical forests) are fragmented into a patchwork of small areas, they rapidly suffer serious species loss. For forest conservation to have real success, very large blocks of forest must be sustainably managed," WWF Malaysia Executive Director Mikhaail Kavanagh was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

The jungles of Borneo, the world's third large-

est island, is home to elephants, rhinos and other species such as the clouded leopards, sun bear and Borneo gibbons.

It is also home to over 200 bird species, 150 reptile and amphibian species and almost 100 mammals species.

WWF conceived the concept of the Heart of Borneo when discovering that government agencies in Brunei already had the same idea and were prepared to launch it, Kavanagh said.

Brunei hosted a workshop this April, with participants from government agencies of Indonesia, Malaysia and international organizations, Kavanagh said.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese firemen secure a giant panda trapped in a tree with a rope in Duijiangyan City in southwestern China's Sichuan Province recently.—INTERNET

Russia renews call for pullout of foreign troops from C Asia

MOSCOW, 17 July — The Russian Foreign Ministry Friday renewed a call in a statement that foreign troops in Central Asia to support anti-terror mission in Afghanistan should leave as the active operations in the Asian state were coming to an end.

The renewed call came after US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Richard B Myers said Russia and China were trying to bully some smaller Central Asian nations into demanding a date for the withdrawal of US forces based in the region.

Myers made the remarks as commenting the joint declaration issued by the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) last week in Kazakhstan capital of Astana. The SCO consists of China, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan.

The Russian Foreign Ministry statement rebuked Friday "As is well-known, all decisions made within

the framework of the SCO are consensus-based and reflect the collective opinion of all the member countries".

As to foreign military presence in the Central Asian region, the ministry said it should benefit stability in the region and be confined to anti-terror mission in Afghanistan.

The Astana declaration has said "Member states of the SCO believe that participants in the anti-terrorist coalition should define a deadline for the temporary use of infrastructure and their military presence on SCO member state territory." — MNA/Xinhua

Official says closer ties with China meet Russian geopolitical goals

MOSCOW, 17 July — Closer relations with China meet Russia's geopolitical goals and will contribute to strengthening the country's position in the world, a Russian presidential representative said on Friday.

"Russia is not very popular in the European Union; they are doing everything they can to reduce our participation in or influence on European issues.

So it is very important that here in the east, in Asia, we have a friendly nation, China," Konstantin Pulikovskiy, the presidential representative

to the Far East federal district, told the *ITAR-TASS* news agency.

Growing ties with China "meet Russian geopolitical aims and strengthen the positions of our country in the world", Pulikovskiy said.

Pulikovskiy backed growing involvement of Chinese businesses in the region's mining and tim-

ber industries, saying Chinese companies offer better bids.

The presidential representative called for better regulation of border trade between the two countries, but stressed there was no talk of imposing restrictions on Chinese goods and businesses in Russia.

MNA/Xinhua

EU still seeks negotiated Airbus/Boeing settlement

PARIS, 17 July — European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said on Friday he still wanted the dispute over state subsidies for aerospace firms Airbus and Boeing to be resolved through negotiation rather than legal action.

"I have always said we wish to negotiate it (a settlement), not litigate," he told reporters in Paris. "It shouldn't be weighing down the WTO (World Trade Organization) in Geneva."

Washington and Brussels announced in late May they would reactivate a pair of tit-for-tat cases over government support for trans-Atlantic aircraft rivals Boeing and Airbus. The United States made the decision first saying new efforts to negotiate a settlement had failed.

Both sides said in June they remained open to a negotiated settlement but have given no timetable for resuming talks.

Mandelson said it was too early to say whether there would be negotiations with the United States over the dispute but added: "It should be properly resolved between governments and companies."

Mandelson said trade ministers from more than 30 rich and poor countries had made progress on global trade talks at their meeting in China earlier this week.

"Whether that means that we can have a key agreement by the end of July I'm not so sure," he added. — MNA/Reuters

Equatorial Guinea vows to adhere to One-China policy

YAOUNDE, 18 July — Equatorial Guinean President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo said in Malabo on Saturday that his country will stick to the One-China policy and work to further promote bilateral ties which will benefit the peoples of both countries.

Obiang said while meeting Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Lu Guozeng that Equatorial Guinea is forever a reliable friend of China, which has selflessly helped his country in economic and social development efforts, according to reports reaching here.

Lu, for his part, said the Chinese Government cherishes its traditional friendship with Equatorial Guinea and is looking forward to cooperating with its government to enhance bilateral relations.— MNA/Xinhua

Colombia, Brazil, Argentina at odds over IDB presidency

BOGOTA, 18 July — Colombia, Brazil and Argentina have been locked in a heated quarrel over who should be the new chief of the Washington-based Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the local Press reported on Saturday.

The election of a new IDB president will take place on 27 July in Washington. Brazilian Joao Sayad, IDB vice-president of finance and management, Argentine economist Aldo Ferrer and Peruvian Economy Minister Pedro Pablo Kuczynski are all running for the presidency.

But according to diplomatic sources, the favourite candidate for the post is Colombian Ambassador to the United States Luis Alberto Moreno, who is supported by the United States, Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama.

The IDB is the world's largest regional development bank with a chief mandate of providing development loans to member states.

The winner will succeed Uruguayan Enrique Iglesias, who will leave the

IDB on 30 September to become the new secretary-general of the Iberian-American Summit.

Peruvian Kuczynski said Moreno is in the lead because of support from the United States and Mexico.

Kuczynski said he would withdraw his candidacy if he lacks enough support. "I would be delighted to stay in Peru," he said.

The United States, Brazil, Argentina and Mexico are main IDB shareholders.

The United States has 30 per cent of the vote while Latin American nations have little more than 50 per cent. The rest is held by mainly European countries.

The IDB, established in 1959 by the Organization of American States, now has 47 member countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Seekers of UNSC seats woo African ministers

UNITED NATIONS, 18 July — Foreign ministers from Brazil, India, Germany and Japan on Sunday reached no agreement with the African Union on rival bids for UN Security Council enlargement but pledged to continue talks this week.

The ministers, aspirants for permanent Council seats, are hoping for a UN General Assembly vote on enlargement of the 15-member body — whose composition reflects the balance of power at the end of World War II — during the last week of this month.

Without support of the 53-member African Union, which has sent ministers from Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt and Libya, the four aspirants have little hope of getting approval from two-thirds of the 191-member Assembly.

Conversely African nations have little hope of getting permanent Security Council seats without support of the four aspirants and their supporters.

The ministers, in a statement, said they might meet again, this time in Geneva, on 25 July while their UN ambassadors would carry out talks.

"We can't both win," Indian Foreign Minister Matwar Singh said in refer-

ence to his own proposal and that of the African Union. "It's not possible for any group to get two-thirds by itself. So we have to find a way for our differences not only to narrow, but to disappear."

UN General Assembly chairman Jean Ping, who will be away most of this week, said dates for a vote would be discussed on 22 July. He was flanked by Foreign Ministers Joschka Fischer of Germany, Nobutaka Machimura of Japan, Celso Amorin of Brazil and India's Singh.

Germany's UN ambassador, Gunter Pleuger, told reporters earlier, "It is absolutely necessary we come to a decision before the end of July."

The four aspirants have postponed a vote several times as rival plans emerged and the United States and China lobbied against all the proposals.

MNA/Reuters

Immigration detainee gets Australian visa after 7 years

MELBOURNE, 18 July — Australia's longest-held immigration detainee has been granted a visa after seven years in confinement, the government said on Sunday.

Peter Qasim remained in a hospital on Sunday where he has been treated for depression but Immigration Minister Amanda Vanstone said he was free to leave. "He will probably stay there until his particular doctors are working, which will be on Monday, and he'll make a decision with them what he does. But the plain facts are, at law he's entitled to walk out," Vanstone said.

The long detention of Peter Qasim has cast a spotlight on Australia's tough immigration policy, where illegal arrivals are detained in tightly policed camps condemned by international human rights groups.

Qasim claims to be an Indian national from the disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir but Australia has been unable to verify his identity and India has refused to accept

him back.

Vanstone said a month ago that Qasim would be one of 50 asylum-seekers detained for two years or more who would be offered visas allowing them to live outside of detention centres until their cases could be successfully finalized.

Vanstone said Qasim's visa had been finalized on Saturday.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese students grow more prudent in rush to go abroad

BEIJING, 18 July — Though still keen on studying abroad, Chinese students have become much more rational today on that issue, as the number of students pursuing overseas study has been gradually decreasing year by year since 2003.

In 2003, about 123,000 students went overseas for further education, whereas the number dropped to 115,000 last year, said Cai Junjie, a department manager at Beijing JJJ, a leading overseas education consultancy in China. "It's important for students to make clear their aims before going abroad. Fortunately, more and more students have realized that and given careful thought to studying overseas," Cai said. Because of its more favourable visa policies this year, the US Embassy in China saw an increase in the number of visa applications in the first six months of 2005.

However, for many other countries, things were just the opposite, the *China Daily* reported on Saturday.

The United States is still the first choice for Chinese students who aspire for a foreign diploma, followed by Britain, Canada and Australia. "The number

of applicants we've had so far is slightly down compared to the same period of last year," said Nick Davison, a visa officer with the British Embassy in Beijing. "It's not only Britain. As far as I know, many other countries except the United States have witnessed a slight decrease in the number of applications."

Song Lijun, director of the international exchange and cooperation office of the Beijing Municipal Education Commission, considers this decrease a sign of China's maturing education market. "It's natural. Because of the college expansion plan, higher education is now more available in China," Song said.

The highly competitive employment market is another important factor. "Students who have finished their studies abroad and come back to China are no longer scarce and the demand for them has dipped," said Song.

MNA/Xinhua

Thai students clinch 4 medals from Biology contest in China

BANGKOK, 18 July — Four students contesting in the International Biology Olympiads, held between 10-17 July in Beijing, were able to collect three gold and one silver medals with one of them came second after a Chinese student won the highest marks, the state-run *Thai News Agency* reported on Sunday.

The winners — all men — came from three schools in Bangkok.

Varakorn Kulalert, student of Trium Udom Suksa School, one of the gold medal winners was also able to come second in earning highest marks after the Chinese contestant.

Some 200 students from 50 countries and districts took part in the contest. Upon learning the results of the contest, Her

Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana Krom Luang Narathiwat Rajanagarindra, sent her congratulations to the winners. Varakorn, who received a silver medal from the same contest last year, said he wanted to see more young Thai students to concentrate more on science because science and technology were vital for developing the country.

MNA/Xinhua



Chinese volunteers release fish fries into the East China Sea on a ship in Zhoushan, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 17 July, 2005. More than 200,000 fries, including yellow-fin tunas, Japanese prawns, jelly fishes and aculephs were released by 40 volunteers from Shanghai. — INTERNET

Thai immigration police ordered to speed up services

BANGKOK, 18 July — Thai acting immigration police chief has ordered some 100 heads of immigration police checkpoints nationwide to speed up their works, especially on providing services to foreign tourists, the *Thai News Agency* reported on Sunday.

With an aim to restructure as well as changing the image of Immigration Police Bureau, Police Major-General Suwat Thamrongrisakul on Saturday told chiefs of immigration checkpoints that services must be carried out faster by eliminating unnecessary procedures, for example, extension of tourist visa.

He said students would be recruited to assist in service operations and to release vital information through a computerized system, which would benefit both Thais and foreigners.

Outsiders will also be invited to scrutinize operations of immigration police with an objective to prevent corrupt practices within the agency, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on inspection tour of site for ...

(from page 16)

After Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than had inspected the site chosen to build the hydel power project, he gave necessary instructions to officials concerned. He said that the State is implementing hydel power projects in the places of water resources to distribute electricity to be used in the fields of economic, social welfare and production and to narrow the development gap between rural and urban areas.

An creek hydel power project's catchment area is 259 square miles and its annual rainfall, 141.35 inches. Its annual inflow is 171,322 acre feet. The embankment of the dam will be 1640 feet in length and 175 feet in height. The hydel power plant will be equipped with three 5-megawatt turbines which expect to generate, the power plant will generate 25 megawatts of electricity. The project will begin in coming open season.

At the meeting hall of An Township PDC, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental personnel at township level, members of social organizations, local authorities, nurses and local people and held discussions on regional development tasks with them.

During the meeting, Chairman of An Township

PDC U Kyi Win reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party on sector-wise function of administration, economic, social welfare and education. Next, officials concerned gave supplementary reports.

Afterwards, Chairman of Kyaukpyu District PDC Lt-Col Myo Tint briefed them on a wide range of functions for administration, economic, social welfare, health and education. Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and officials gave supplementary reports.

In connection with the reports, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than fulfilled the requirements. Speaking on the occasion, he said An township is a gate way to Rakhine State and also the hub on Minbu-An road section. One can go from An to Sittway, Gwa, Yanbye and Kyaukpyu by land. An will become a commercial town soon.

With a view to ensuring equitable development across the country, the State laid down 24 development regions and has been implementing has been implementing five rural development tasks. Officials of An Township and local people are to actively participate in the drive for five rural development tasks. The State designated ten main crops, three perennial ones and three new ones suitable for the region. Particularly, cultivation of rubber and pepper is to be extended. Departmental officials are to give educative talks, to organize and to render assistance to growers. Measures to be taken for double cropping and mixed cropping, per acre yield and quality strains. Breeding of sea water prawns are to be extended scientifically. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged

those present to participate in carrying out development tasks of An Township by joining hands with regional officials and local people. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than cordially greeted those present. An Township expects to cultivate 44,100 acres of monsoon paddy with extended 6,900 acres in 2005. So far 17,070 acres of monsoon paddy were put under cultivation. The remaining cultivation acres will be completed in time. 28,500 acres will be put under cultivation by using quality strains for winning targeted per acre yield. Rubber is expected to be cultivated in 560 acres. 15,000 saplings will be distributed to plantations in time. Arrangements are under way to extend up to 2500 acres of pepper. Out of 182,698 acres, 32,403 were put under cultivation in Kyaukpyu, Yanbye, Manaung and An Townships in Kyaukpyu District. Kyaukpyu sets target to grow 1,540 acres of rubber and 1,200 acres of pepper for 2005-2006. After that, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to An runway and looked into earth work. Commander of Military Engineering Unit Lt-Col Thauung Myint briefed them on preparation of earth work and future tasks. Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint gave supplementary reports.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on timely completion of the projects and efficient use of fuel and inspected measures being taken for earth work by the use of heavy machinery. —MNA

An Township expects to cultivate 44,100 acres of monsoon paddy with extended 6,900 acres in 2005. So far 17,070 acres of monsoon paddy were put under cultivation. The remaining cultivation acres will be completed in time. 28,500 acres will be put under cultivation by using quality strains for winning targeted per acre yield. Rubber is expected to be cultivated in 560 acres. 15,000 saplings will be distributed to plantations in time. Arrangements are under way to extend up to 2500 acres of pepper.

Over 50,000 trees planted in tree planting ceremony in Thanlyin



Maj-Gen Myint Swe and officials view the tree planting ceremony in Thanlyin, Yangon South District. — MNA

YANGON, 18 July — Tree planting ceremony for 2005 of Yangon South District was held this morning in Thanlyin Township.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and departmental officials also participated in the tree planting ceremony and planted the trees.

With a view to keeping a balanced climate by planting trees and avoiding illegal timber extraction, tree planting ceremonies are held annually, the commander said

in his address made at the ceremony. In Thanlyin District's tree planting ceremony, Departmental staff, members of social organizations, students and locals planted trees totaling 50,000 including perennial trees and shady trees.

According to an official of the Forest Department, there are over 7,050 species of trees in Myanmar. The Forest Department has distributed over 1.5 million of saplings to Yangon Division to be able to plant in the tree planting ceremonies held in the division in this monsoon season.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe watering a plant at Yangon South District's tree planting ceremony for 2005 held in Thanlyin.

YANGON COMMAND

Mines ministry offers Waso robes

YANGON, 18 July— The 14th Waso robe offering ceremony of families of the Ministry of Mines took place this morning at the ministry, here.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of members of the Sangha led by Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Siridhamma. Also present were Minsiter for Minies Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and wife Daw San San, the deputy minister and wife, officials and family members. First, the congregation received the Five Precepts from the Sayadaw. Next, members of the Sangha recited Paritta. The minister and wife and party offered Waso robes and alms to members of the Sangha. The Sayadaw delivered a sermon followed by sharing of merits gained. After the ceremony, the congregation offered 'soon' to members of the Sangha. —MNA

Families of Energy Ministry offer 'soon' to monks

YANGON, 18 July — Families of the Ministry of Energy offered 'soon' to the Presiding Sayadaw and members of the Sangha of State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) at Moegok refectory on Thirimigala Kaba Aye Hill this morning.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and wife and the congregation first took the Five Precepts from Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Vacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Pandita Bhivamsa. Next, the minister and wife offered alms to the Sayadaw. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay presented K 220,000 for offering 'soon' to the members of the Sangha.

Then 'soon' was offered to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha. — MNA

Greening tasks in Mandalay, Magway divisions inspected

YANGON, 18 July — Director General U Tun Tun of the Arid Zones Greening Department of the Ministry of Forestry inspected Bankon Dam wetland plantations and Bago Yoma greening plantations on block Nos 51 and 52 in Kinnmontaung reserve in Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Division from 13 to 15 July. He also inspected the permanent garden, the 398-acre plantation for firewood in Daungnay protected forest in Magway, gardening and greening tasks being carried out in Minbu township, Phankhasan region greening tasks in Yanangyoung township, 495-acre plantation for firewood in Kyimyin protected forest area, Ngalingpokaung greening tasks in NyaungU township in Mandalay Division and Kyauksintawya greening tasks in Wundwin township. — MNA

More electricity to be produced from garbage power plants in Thaketa, Ahlon

YANGON, 18 July — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn this morning inspected the water supply tasks being carried out by the YCDC in Thingangyun and Thaketa townships to supply water to the garbage power plants in Thaketa and Ahlon townships of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise. Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn and officials concerned inspected the laying of 12-inch pipes in Thingangyun and Thaketa townships being carried out by YCDC.



Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn inspects pipe connection on Nantha Street in Thingangyun township. — YCDC

Twelve-inch pipe linking 24-inch water supply pipe from Gyobu Reservoir and the garbage power plant in Thaketa Township is 17,600 ft long. On completion of laying water pipe, YCDC will supply one million

gallons of water to the plant and it is expected that the plant will generate 20 kilowatts hours more of electricity.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn and

party went to Ahlon Township and also inspected sinking of six 10-inch tube-wells and construction of underground water storage tanks.

On completion, six

tube-wells will supply 1.5 million gallons of water to Ahlon Township's garbage power plant. It is expected that the plant will produce 39 megawatts electricity. — MNA

Minister inspects sesame plantation and rice mills in Bago and Magway Divisions

YANGON, 18 July — Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein inspected sesame plantations cultivated by Myanmar Oil Entrepreneurs Association in Aung Lan Township, Magway Division on 16 July. He also met with local authorities, President of MOEA and officials and sesame growers, and gave necessary instructions.

U Thein Han, President of MOEA reported on progress of growing sesame and rendering assistance to the farmers. The minister then viewed round the plantations and fulfilled the requirements.

Yesterday, the minister and party also inspected Kinpuntaung teak plantations, developed by Asia World Co and Dagon Timber Co and left necessary instructions.

The minister then looked into No 566 Rice Mill, pigsties of the mill and Bran Oil Mill in Pyu Township.

Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein also oversaw No 535 and 505 Rice Mill in Kyauktaga Township, and the Rice Mill and Bran Oil Mill in Nyaunlebin Township. He urged them to systematically use the machinery and to take security measures.

MNA

MVF hosts dinner in honour of Indian team

YANGON, 18 July — Myanmar Volleyball Federation hosted a dinner in honour of the men's volleyball team of Sports Hostel of Excellence of India at Karaweik Palace Hotel here yesterday evening.

The Indian team is here to play Myanmar-India friendly matches.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, officials of the ministry, Chairperson of the Central Working Committee of Myanmar

Women's Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye and patrons, MVF President Managing Director U Tun Myint Naing of Asia World Co Ltd, officials of Indian embassy, managers, coaches and athletes of MVF, officials and guests attended the dinner.

U Tun Myint Naing and manager cum-coach of the Indian team Mr S Dakshina Moorthy gave speeches.

The MVF president presented gifts to the Indian team.

MNA

Jobs created for young women

YANGON, 18 July — Under the aegis of Yangon Division Mater-

Shwepyitha and Hline-thaya townships in Yangon North District

who got the jobs to Yangon Division MCWSC Secretary Dr



Head of Shwepyitha township Labour Department U Thein Lwin presents appointment orders for young women to a group leader. — MNA

nal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, a ceremony to seek jobs for the women of

took place at Kanaung Hall in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone this morning. On the occasion Chairperson of the committee Daw Khin Thet Htay explained functions of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and measures being taken by the Yangon Division MCWSC for creating jobs for young women. The heads of the Labour Departments of Shwepyitha and Hline-thaya townships presented appointment orders for the women of the two townships to their group leaders. District MCWSC Chairperson Daw Saw Shwe presented membership applications of the women

Hla Myint. Next, Daw Aye Aye Mar of

Shwekyaban Garment Factory expressed thanks.

General Manger U Zaw Min of Pacific Knitte in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone explained measures to be taken for creating job opportunities for young women in co-operation with the Yangon Division MCWSC. Also present at the ceremony were members of the Yangon Division MCWSC, Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Myat Min, local authorities, district and township MCWSC members, the chairmen and members of industrial zone management committee of Shwepyitha and Hline-thaya townships and industrialists. —MNA



Shan State (South) volleyball team poses for a photo after winning the Championship in the 11th Inter State and Division Volleyball Tournament. —NLM



Head of Hlinethaya township Labour Department U Khin Maung Than presents appointment orders for young women to a group leader. —MNA

Ministry of Industry-2 offers Waso robes to monks

YANGON, 18 July — Under the patronage of Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin and wife Daw Moe Moe Myint, families of the Ministry of Industry-2 offered Waso robes to members of the Sangha of Aungpan Monastery on Bahan-3 Road, Myoma Ward, Bahan Township yesterday.

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin and wife, Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and wife, directors-general and managing directors and staff families took the Five Precepts from Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhamma Pala. The minister and wife and party then offered Waso robes and provisions to the members of the Sangha.

MNA

The congregation led by Construction Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun and wife taking the Five-Precepts from Sayadaws at the Ministry's Waso robes offering ceremony. — MNA



Families of Ministry of Construction donate Waso robe

YANGON, 18 July — A ceremony to offer Waso robes was held at the Dhammayone of Ministry of Construction on Shwedagone Pagoda Road this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were members of the Sangha of Shwetuwon monastery in Thingangyun township.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and wife Daw Myint Myint Ko, deputy ministers U Thint Swe, Brig-Gen Myint Thein and wife, directors-general and managing directors under the ministry, and families.

First, the minister and wife and party took the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadaja Bhaddanta Thaththiya, and then they donated Waso robes and offertories to the members of Sangha and shared the merits gained. — MNA

Minister inspects belt conveyor at work

YANGON, 18 July — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe observed a belt conveyor at work at No 1 Sule Wharf of Myanma Port Authority here today.

Accompanied by Deputy Minister U Pe Than, Maj-Gen Thein Swe heard a report on salient

points of the machine conveying bags of rice, beans and maize onto Shweli sea-going vessel, presented by Managing Director of MPA U Thein Htay and officials.

The minister also inspected the storage of goods in the ship and its loading capacity. He also

attended to the needs presented by Deputy Minister U Pe Than and Managing Director of Myanma Five Star Line U Khin Maung Kyi.

MPA General Manager U Cho Than Maung explained the functions of the conveyor with the help of charts. — MNA



Transport Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects a belt conveyor which is loading cargo onto Shweli Vessel at No 1 Sule Wharf. — TRANSPORT

Ministry of Industry-1 families offer Waso robes



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and wife offer Waso robes to a Sayadaw at the Ministry's Waso robes offering ceremony. — MNA

YANGON, 18 July — Families of the Ministry of Industry-1 offered Waso robes at Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Nikaya Monastery in Dagon Myothit (East) Township this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung and wife Daw Khin Khin Yi, the directors-general and managing-directors, the directors, general managers and their families.

First, the minister and party received the Five Precepts from Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara.

Minister U Aung Thaung, wife Daw Khin Khin Yi and party offered Waso robes and provisions to the members of the Sangha, and shared merits gained.

MNA



Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung presents Waso robes to a Sayadaw at the Ministry's Waso robes offering ceremony. — MNA

Ministry of culture holds robe offering ceremony

YANGON, 18 July — Families of the Ministry

of Culture offered Waso robes at the ministry on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this evening.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara and members of the Sangha, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, wife Daw Khin Khin Lay, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, wife Daw

Khin Myint Wai, the directors-general, the rector of University of Culture and their families.

First, Joint-secretary Agga Maha Pandita Agga Mahajotikadhaja Yenangyoung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejaniya administered the Five Precepts to the congregation.

The minister and wife, the deputy minister and wife and party then offered Waso robes and alms to the members of the Sangha and shared merits gained.

MNA

Shuttle delay worries "ISS" partners

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 18 July — The international partnership dependent on the US shuttle fleet to complete the *International Space Station* is getting nervous as NASA pledges to take as much time as it needs to fix *Discovery*.

Japan, one of 16 nations involved, has spent more than 3 billion US dollars on space station vehicles and modules including a laboratory named Kibo — Japanese for "hope".

Kibo now sits — along with Europe's *Columbus* module, a connecting node, station trusses, solar arrays, and a sparkling seven-sided cupola window — in a hangar at Florida's Kennedy Space Center, not too far from where NASA is troubleshooting *Discovery*.

The shuttle's launch, which had been set to be the first since the 2003 *Columbia* accident, was postponed on Wednesday

because of a fuel sensor problem.

"It is a concern," said Japan's space station programme manager Kuniaki Shiraki, who was at the space center last week to watch Japan's Soichi Noguchi and six NASA astronauts blast off aboard *Discovery* to resume servicing and resupplying the orbital outpost.

Shuttles have been grounded and construction of the multibillion-dollar *Space Station* halted since *Columbia* disintegrated on 1 February, 2003, as it returned to Earth.

Its wing had been damaged at liftoff by a piece of foam insulation that fell off the fuel tank, and the shuttle was de-

stroyed over Texas as superheated atmospheric gases blasted into the hole. All seven astronauts aboard perished.

Shuttles are due to be retired by 2010, leaving little time to finish the station, which before the accident had been set to get 28 shuttle missions.

NASA is now looking to fly 20 missions to the station at best, and more likely about 15, said NASA administrator Michael Griffin.

Even getting those flights off the ground, however, will depend on the effectiveness of the shuttle's new tank and other post-*Columbia* safety changes, he added.

MNA/Reuters

Thailand reinforces control of bird flu in cock-fighting rings

BANGKOK, 18 July — In a bid to contain bird flu in the country, Thai Deputy Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister Newin Chidchob has announced that if bird flu is found in any cock-fighting ring, it will then be immediately closed.

The stiff action came after the indigenous chickens in Thailand's central province of Suphanburi were confirmed last week to have contracted with the deadly disease.

Speaking after a meeting here on Saturday with officials of the Department of Livestock

Development, Newin was quoted by the *Thai News Agency* as saying that he had given three directive measures to the officials so that they could implement them in the same direction.

"Deputy provincial governors will, from now on, be assigned to head working committees re-

sponsible for supervising cock-fighting rings in their provinces. Other members of the committees will comprise of representatives from the Department of Livestock Development, and the Ministries of Public Health and Interior, as well as local farmers," he disclosed. MNA/Xinhua

Briton charged with molesting Thai boys

BANGKOK, 18 July — A British man has been charged with molesting underage children in Thailand, using computer games to lure dozens of boys to his home, police said on Saturday.

Nicholas John Rabet, 56, was detained last Thursday at a rented house in the resort town of Pattaya with 11 game machine consoles, snacks and plastic bags filled with clothes of children who came to play at his place, police said.

"We've charged him with molesting children aged under 15, no matter whether it was consensual or not," Police Colonel Preecha Soonthornsiri told Reuters by telephone.

Rabet could face a maximum jail term of

five years if found guilty.

The age of sexual consent is 15 in Thailand.

Rabet offered his house as a free game arcade for children aged between 6-14 on the condition they took off their clothes while playing the games to prevent them from stealing game cassettes, Preecha said.

A bell would be hung on the front door to

show that he was at home and the boys could come to play, Preecha said. Preecha said there were hundreds of boys who had played at the house, but there were about 30 of them who visited regularly, and would be paid between 500-1,000 baht (12-24 US dollars) for performing acts on him.

MNA/Xinhua

Amazon fetes 10th year with Bob Dylan, Norah Jones

SEATTLE, 18 July — Online retailer Amazon.com Inc. celebrated its 10th year with a concert on Saturday for its employees and customers that included a rare joint performance by Bob Dylan and Norah Jones.

The free concert for over 2,500 employees in Seattle, which was also broadcast over the web, was aimed at showcasing Amazon's success at becoming the Internet's biggest retailer, unlike other unlucky companies that died along with the bursting of the technology bub-

ble five years ago.

Jones, whose debut album "Come Away With Me" won eight Grammy Awards in 2003, paused once during her performance to say that: "this is the part where we usually do a Bob Dylan Song."

"But don't worry, we won't, because we're too

scared to do that," Jones said of the singer-songwriter who set the tone for 1960s counterculture and influenced many later artists.

Amazon said that Jones' performance will be her "first and only show in 2005."

MNA/Reuters

Tourists flee Mexico's Cancun as "Emily" approaches

CANCUN (Mexico), 18 July — Thousands of sun seekers abandoned the palm-fringed Caribbean beaches around Cancun, Mexico, on Saturday, and local fishermen fled for cover as powerful Hurricane Emily headed toward the coast.

A Category 4 hurricane packing winds of 155mph, Emily was expected to hit Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula — one of the world's most popular vacation spots — late on Sunday after tearing past southern Jamaica on Saturday.

Emily's power put it on the verge of blowing into a rare Category 5 storm

on the five-step scale of hurricane intensity, one capable of destroying buildings.

As the government issued a hurricane warning, tourists were brought in from islands, shops and bars boarded up their windows and foreigners cut short their vacations and flew home.

Quintana Roo Governor Felix Gonzalez told re-

porters that of 130,000 tourists in the state, 30,000 had left on Saturday and another 40,000 were due to leave on Sunday.

"We had planned to leave Cancun on Tuesday or Wednesday but we're leaving right now," said US accountant Ben Morras, 32, heading back to Seattle with his girlfriend.

MNA/Reuters

World economy improvement boosted oil demand in 2004

KUWAIT CITY, 18 July — The 2004 improvement in world economy has led to a record increase of 2.6 million barrels in daily demand for oil compared with 1.9 million in 2003, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported on Saturday.

Citing a recent petroleum study prepared by the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), KUNA said the overall world demand for oil had reached 82.3 million barrels per day in 2004.

The high demand for oil in the first half of 2004 was due to the high economic performance, it said.

The report showed that international economy had continued to grow at high rates in the past two years, reaching 5 per cent in 2004 compared with 3.9 per cent in 2003. In the meantime, the industrialized countries' demand for oil had increased in 2004 by 1.4 per cent compared with 2003 to reach 49.4 million barrels per day.

The oil used by industrialized countries constitutes 60 per cent of worldwide use and the United States alone was responsible for 20.4 million barrels per day in 2004, the report said. — MNA/Xinhua

Iran tells EU it will hold firm on nuclear fuel

TEHERAN, 18 July — Iran warned the European Union on Saturday it would never surrender its right to nuclear fuel, talking tough only two weeks before EU diplomats are due to present final proposals to break Iran's atomic impasse.

Teheran says it has every right to enrich the uranium it mines in its central deserts into fuel for nuclear power stations but Washington argues this fuel is destined for atomic warheads.

Diplomats from an EU troika of Britain, France and Germany have been seeking a compromise, asking that Iran surrender its fuel-making programme in return for economic incentives. They have until late July or early August to present Iran with a final set of proposals to resolve the deadlock. — MNA/Xinhua



In this undated photo released by the Mumbai Natural History Society shows a Great Indian Bustard whose number is estimated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature at 500 in India — INTERNET

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Austria pledges support for Serbia-Montenegro's European integration

BELGRADE (Serbia-Montenegro), 17 July— Visiting Austrian President Heinz Fischer said here on Friday that Austria supports Serbia-Montenegro's efforts to integrate into Europe during its EU presidency in the first half of 2006.

Following a meeting with Serbia-Montenegro President Svetozar Marovic, Fischer said that Austria wants to promote bilateral relations, and that the region's stability and prosperity are in Austria's interest.

Serbia-Montenegro's European integration has been stalled due to the perceived lack of full cooperation with The Hague international tribunal, which demands the arrest and extradition of former Bosnian Serb Army commander General Ratko Mladic, who was indicted with war crimes.

"Our goal is to make 2005 a year of success by concluding the case of General Mladic, either by his voluntary surrender, or by arresting him if he shows up in the Serbia-

Montenegro territory," Marovic said.

He said that after resolving the issue, Serbia-Montenegro could expect to speed up negotiations with the EU and gain membership in NATO's Partnership for Peace programme.

Serbia-Montenegro's future integration into Europe is still overshadowed by uncertainties arising from independence-minded republic of Montenegro and UN-administered province of Kosovo.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Records set to tumble as Harry Potter goes on sale

SYDNEY/LONDON, 17 July — Witching hour passed and Harry Potter fans poured into bookshops around the world on Saturday, snatching up copies of the latest instalment in the series that promises to be the fastest-selling book in history.

Ending months of hype, and elaborate measures to prevent details of the boy wizard's latest adventures leaking out, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* hit the shelves at one minute past midnight London Time.

Children from

around the world descended on the Scottish city of Edinburgh, where Potter author JK Rowling read from the latest book the moment the deadline passed.

"I am excited," she said on her way into a dramatically lit Edinburgh Castle. "You get a lot of answers in this book."

On Sunday, 70 aspiring cub reporters representing international newspapers and broadcasters will hold a Press conference with Rowling.

In Australia, thousands of "Pottermaniacs",

some carrying live snakes, besieged bookstores in the outback, in the country's snowfields and along its beaches.

Before dawn on Saturday morning in Sydney more than 1,000 fans boarded a special train called the Gleewarts Express, which took them to a secret location outside the city where they received their copies.

Dressed as their favourite characters, fans poured over their copies in a cold and eerie country mist.

MNA/Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V. SEA MERCHANT VOY: NO (583)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. SEA MERCHANT VOY NO (583) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20-7-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. SONG SHAN VOY NO (052) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-7-2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W.3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: COS CO SHIPPING CO LTD. CHINA

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Enron agrees

to settle energy manipulation charge

WASHINGTON, 17 July — Bankrupt Enron Corp on Friday agreed to pay more than 1.5 billion dollars to settle charges of market manipulation during the energy crisis that hit California and other western US states in 2000 and 2001.

The settlement announced by Enron and California authorities would resolve charges that Enron used a series of sham trades and other tactics to inflate the price of electricity, resulting in shortages in some western states. Enron will pay 47.5 million dollars in cash to three western states in the settlement.

In addition to the cash payment, California would get the bulk of the settlement calling for an 875-million-dollar unsecured claim in the Enron bankruptcy proceeding. The states of Washington and Oregon would get 22.5 million dollars from this sum.— *MNA/Xinhua*

US industrial production increases 0.9% in June

WASHINGTON, 17 July— US industrial production rose 0.9 per cent in June, the fastest pace in 16 months, reflecting a big increase in the output of utilities, the Federal Reserve (Fed) reported on Friday.

Output in the nation's factories, mines and utilities in June was 3.9 per cent higher than that in the same month of last year.

The June rise of 0.9 per cent was the best showing since a 1.1-per-cent

increase in February 2004, according to the Fed.

The Fed said that a jump of 5.3 per cent in the output of utilities, the result of warmer-than-usual temperatures, accounted for more than one half of the June gain.

Meanwhile, manufacturing output advanced 0.4 per cent in June following a 0.5-per-cent rise in May. Production at mines, a category that includes oil production, rose 0.4 per cent following an increase of

0.2 per cent in May.

In June, capacity utilization for total industry rose to 80.0 per cent. The rate was 2.2 percentage points above its value in June 2004 but was 1.0 percentage point below its 1972-2004 average.

Despite last month's large rise, the Fed said that total output advanced only 2.1 per cent at annual rate in the second quarter, the smallest quarterly increase since the second quarter of 2003.— *MNA/Xinhua*

EC, UNICEF, Nigeria sign agreement on water project

ABUJA, 17 July— The European Commission (EC), the UN Children's Fund and the Nigerian Government have signed a four-year grant agreement for Nigeria's Rural Water and Sanitation project worth 5.5 billion naira (about 41.6 million US dollars).

According to EC official Marc Fiedrich, the project to be completed in 2009, will provide safe drinking water to more than 2.1 million Nigerians in the nation's 1,400 communities.

"This is part of the goal of supporting developing countries to achieve the Millennium Develop-

ment Goals. Water is often referred to as 'life' and we believe that access to safe drinking water will have a positive effect on the morbidity and mortality rates of this country," he added.

According to the official, the project is aimed at providing safe drinking water and promoting sanitation and hygiene in 1,400 rural communities in six states of Abia, Cross River, Gombe, Kebbi, Osun, and Plateau.

"The 2003 National Demographic and Health Survey data show that there has been significant deterioration in access to safe water leading to in-

creased deterioration of health standards. We are therefore pleased to be part of a project that will reduce the burden of waterborne diseases, especially among children," said UNICEF Representative in Nigeria Ayalew Abai.

The Rural Water and Sanitation project is part of a larger EC-funded programme which was approved in December 2004 for 14.4 billion naira (about 109 million dollars), which aims to support water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion in urban centres, small towns and rural areas in the same six states.

MNA/Xinhua

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UN alarmed by surge in violence in Middle East

UNITED NATIONS, 17 July — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Saturday expressed alarm at a surge in violence in the Middle East, welcomed Palestinian steps to prevent attacks on Israeli civilians and cautioned Israel against overreacting.

"The Secretary-General strongly believes that at this critical moment a glimmer of a better future, with two states living side-by-side in peace, still exists," a UN statement said. "It is therefore essential that all committed to a negotiated settlement remain focused on this goal."

The flare-up of violence, which began on Tuesday when a Palestinian suicide bomber killed five Israelis in the coastal town of Netanya, has un-

dermined a truce declared by Israel and the Palestinian Authority in February.

The fresh attacks on both sides have raised the prospect of a disruption to Israel's planned evacuation of 9,000 settlers from all 21 settlements in Gaza and four in the West Bank next month, which had stirred new hopes of reviving Middle East peace.

Annan "views with alarm the renewed violence between Israel and the Palestinians," the UN

statement said.

"The recent suicide bombing in Netanya and rockets fired from Gaza, killing innocent Israeli civilians, are shocking and condemnable. There is a pressing need to put a stop to such actions," the statement said.

Palestinian moves to prevent such attacks were "a welcome development", the statement added.

Following the Netanya bombing and a

wave of rocket attacks launched from Gaza at Israeli targets, Israel killed seven Hamas gunmen and stepped up its airstrikes against targets in Gaza that its Army said were used by Hamas to produce weapons.

"There should be no doubt about Israel's legitimate right to self-defence but it must be exercised proportionately and in conformity with international law," the UN statement said.—MNA/Reuters

Florida man killed by alligator during swim

MIAMI, 17 July — A Florida man was attacked and killed by a 12-foot alligator while swimming in a canal in west Florida, a wildlife official said on Saturday.

Kevin Albert Murray, 41, of North Port, died in the attack in the Apollo Waterway in Port Charlotte on Friday evening.

"The alligator was captured and killed," said Gary Morse, a spokesman for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. It was the 16th fatal alligator attack in Florida in about 50 years of recordkeeping, Morse said. Alligators, once an endangered species, number more than 1 million in Florida and come in contact with people more frequently as the state's human population grows, he said.

Wildlife officials have recorded an increased number of attacks this year, in part because heavy rains have filled canals and other waterways, allowing gators to roam into neighbourhoods. — MNA/Reuters

Key figures in BALCO steroid case plead guilty

WASHINGTON, 17 July — BALCO Laboratories owner Victor Conte, BALCO vice-president James Valente and trainer Greg Anderson pleaded guilty to anabolic steroid charges in federal court at San Francisco, the United States recently.

The plea deals, agreed by the three key figures at the centre of the largest doping scandal in American sports history, will result in little or no time in jail and could spare some of the world's top athletes the embarrassment of possible subpoenas or revelations had the case gone to trial scheduled on 6 September.

Conte and Anderson admitted to one count of conspiracy to distribute steroids and a money laundering count. Valente pleaded guilty only to the distributing charge. Numerous other counts were dropped as a result of the guilty pleas.

Under the agreement, Conte faces

four months in prison and another four months home confinement.

Sentencing guidelines suggest Anderson could end up serving up to six months in prison. Sentencing is scheduled for October.

The BALCO scandal has badly damaged the reputations of top track and field stars such as Marion Jones and former 100-metre world record holder Tim Montgomery. More than a dozen elite stars have been suspended since the US Anti-Doping Agency in 2003 identified BALCO as the source of a previously undetectable steroid. — MNA/Xinhua



Water whipped up by Typhoon Haitang hits the shore of Taiwan's northern coast near Keelung on 18 July, 2005.—INTERNET

EU mulls easing mad cow rules to fight new threats

BRUSSELS, 17 July — Mad cow disease is under control in Europe and measures to prevent it could be relaxed, the European Commission said on Friday, urging the EU to focus attention on emerging disease threats such as bird flu.

The number of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) cases has dropped to 850 positive tests for the brain-wasting disease in 2004 in the enlarged 25-nation bloc from 2,129 in 2002 in the former 15-nation bloc, the Commission said.

The EU executive will look at raising the 12-month age limit for removing the vertebral column from cattle which has taken T-bone steak off dinner tables across Europe since 2000.

"The EU has made great strides in its battle against BSE," EU Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner Markos Kyprianou said in a statement.

"Any adaptations made to the BSE measures will not affect in any way our fundamental objectives of BSE eradication and the protection of the EU citizen," he added.

The EU's food safety agency (EFSA) reviewed the 12-month age limit earlier this year and said it could be raised to 21 months, as only four BSE cases under the age of 35 months had been reported since 2001.

The Commission also wants to end the mandatory requirement where if one cow tests positive for BSE, the whole herd must be slaughtered to lessen the economic losses.

MNA/Reuters

Belarus expels Polish diplomat in tit-for-tat row

MINSK, 17 July — Belarus said on Friday it was ordering out a Polish diplomat in the latest tit-for-tat expulsion since the ex-Soviet state accused Warsaw of trying to plot an uprising against its government.

Belarus has given Andrzej Buczak, an adviser in the Polish Embassy in Minsk, until July 21 to leave the country in retaliation for the expulsion of a Belarus diplomat from Poland, Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Vanshina said.

"The Polish side forced the Belarus side to take (this) decision ... The actions of the Polish side vio-

late our joint agreements and are harming Belarus-Polish relations," she said. Belarus under President Alexander Lukashenko has been described by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as the "last dictatorship" in Central Europe.

Lukashenko has accused Western governments of plotting to overthrow him by staging a popular revolution like last

year's "Orange Revolution" in neighbouring Ukraine. Neighbours Poland and Belarus dispute who started the round of diplomatic expulsions.

Warsaw said Minsk triggered the dispute in May when it ordered the expulsion of Polish Embassy First Secretary Marek Buccko for actions aimed at "destabilizing" Belarus.

MNA/Reuters

55 feared dead in Equatorial Guinea plane crash

MALABO, 17 July — A Russian-made plane carrying 55 people crashed shortly after takeoff in Equatorial Guinea on Saturday and those on board were all feared dead, government officials said.

The Antonov plane, owned by local company Equatair, was on an internal flight between the capital Malabo on Bioko Island and the city of Bata on the mainland. The plane crashed near Baney, 17 kilometres (10 miles) from Malabo, Ricardo Mangué Obama, a Deputy Prime Minister in charge of the government task force investigating the crash, told Reuters by telephone.

"We don't know the cause of the accident. We can't confirm any death toll but clearly it was a serious accident and we have no information on any survivors so far," he said.

Mangué Obama said the 55 on board included six members of the crew. Local media reports said as many as 80 people could have been on the plane but there was no confirmation of that.—MNA/Reuters

AngloGold Ashanti says 3rd miner dies in tremor

JOHANNESBURG, 17 July — South African rescue workers have found the body of a miner who was missing after an earth tremor at AngloGold Ashanti's Tautona mine, the company said on Saturday. That brings the total number of people who died in Friday's earth tremor near Carletonville, southwest of Johannesburg, to three.

AngloGold Ashanti, the world's second biggest gold producer, said the tremor of 2.8 magnitude on the Richter Scale hit a tunnel nearly 3 kilometres underground. The firm, majority owned by diversified miner Anglo American, said seven other miners were rescued, three of whom were injured and taken to hospital. — MNA/Reuters

S P O R T S

Israel midfielder Benayoun joins West Ham

LONDON, 18 July— Israel midfielder Yossi Benayoun has joined newly-promoted English Premier League side West Ham United from Racing Santander, the London club said on Saturday.

Benayoun has joined for a fee of 2.5 million pounds (4.40 million US dollars) and his four-year deal is subject to a work permit.

"We are delighted to have signed such a highly-rated player who was being chased by a number of other leading Premiership clubs," West Ham managing director Paul Aldridge said on the club's official web site.

Benayoun, Israel's top soccer player, was also being chased by English club Bolton Wanderers but he opted for West Ham.

"I know other clubs were interested

in me but I was very impressed when I met the people at West Ham," he said.

"I also think my qualities will suit their style of play."

The 25-year-old has been one of Racing's most influential players since moving from Maccabi Haifa in 2002.

He notched up 20 goals in three seasons for the Primera Liga club and created numerous chances for his fellow forwards.

"He's a creative midfield player, who brings an educated discipline to the attack," said West Ham manager Alan Pardew.—MNA/Reuters

Sevilla sign Italian midfielder Maresca

MADRID, 18 July— Sevilla has signed Italian midfielder Enzo Maresca on a four-year deal from Juventus, the Primera Liga club said on Saturday.

Juventus said Sevilla had paid 2.5 million euros (about 3.02 million US dollars) for the 25-year-old, who played on loan at Fiorentina last season and is the third new recruit to join the Spanish club in the close season.

The Andalucians, who have appointed Juande Ramos to replace Joaquin Caparros as coach, have also signed Brazilian striker Luis Fabiano from Porto and former Valencia reserve keeper

Andres Palop. The deal to sign Maresca will increase speculation that the club will now be prepared to sell Brazilian forward Julio Baptista to Arsenal.

Sevilla president Jose Maria del Nido said on Friday that he had rejected a bid of 20 million euros (24.18 million dollars) from the London club for the 23-year-old international, but admitted that they were already looking for a player to replace him. —MNA/Xinhua

Wright-Phillips asks to talk to Chelsea

MANCHESTER (England), 18 July— England winger Shaun Wright-Phillips has asked Manchester City for permission to talk to Chelsea about a move to the Premier League champions.

"Shaun has expressed his desire for Manchester City to reach an agreement with Chelsea over his transfer," City spokesman Paul Tyrrell said on the club's web site on Saturday. The move comes a day after City turned down a 20-million-pound (35.18 million US dollars) offer from Chelsea for the 23-year-old, the step-son of former Arsenal and Eng-

land striker Ian Wright.

"The only way to move this forward is for us to agree a fee with Chelsea," City manager Stuart Pearce told Sky Sports News. "We know the market value for Shaun."

Asked if Chelsea would meet City's valuation, Pearce said: "I would think so otherwise a deal won't be done".

Wright-Phillips was a

late withdrawal on Saturday from the City squad that played Fourth Division Macclesfield in a pre-season friendly after complaining of a stomach problem.

"We're disappointed whilst respectful of his wishes," said Pearce. "It would be very difficult for me to sell our club above what Chelsea could achieve in the next 10 years."

Wright-Phillips, who has been capped four times by England, has played over 150 league games for City since making his debut in the 1999-2000 season.—MNA/Reuters

Russian Lysenko sets world women's hammer record

MOSCOW, 18 July— Russia's Tatyana Lysenko set a world record in the women's hammer with a throw of 77.06 metres, eclipsing the previous mark by almost a metre.

Romanian Mihaela Melinte's record of 76.07 metres had stood since 1999.

Lysenko set the new mark with her sixth and final attempt at the Vladimir Kuts Memorial meeting in Moscow's Luzhniki Olympic Stadium on Friday.

The 21-year-old from the small town of Bataisk in Russia's south has been in great form in recent weeks.

On her third throw she broke her own national record of 75.95 metres set at last month's Moscow City championships. She had another throw of 75.95 at the Russian championships in Tula three days ago.

"I knew I was capable of setting the record. It was just a matter of having good conditions and not making technical errors in my throws," said Lysenko.

"But of course, my main goal this year is to do well (at the world championships) in Helsinki."

The world championships begin on 6 August.

MNA/Xinhua

Isinbayeva sets record again, Phillips wins long jump

MADRID, 18 July— Russia's Olympic champion Yelena Isinbayeva broke the women's pole vault record by sailing over 4.95 metres at the IAAF Super Grand Prix meeting on Saturday.

The 23-year-old cleared the bar on her second attempt to break her own mark of 4.93 set in Lausanne on 5 July.

It was the 15th world record of Isinbayeva's career and took her another step closer towards the record total of 35 set by Ukrainian pole vaulter Sergey Bubka during his career.

Bubka embraced the former gymnast after she soaked up the applause of an appreciative crowd in sweltering heat at the Vallehermoso Stadium.

"I knew I was ready to break the record again but it was quite difficult out there," said Isinbayeva. "It was very hot and the wind

was tricky too, but my coach kept telling me that my technique was good."

It was a triumphant return to Madrid for the Russian who set her world indoor record of 4.92 in the Spanish capital at the European Indoor Championships in March.

Her latest record was a break from tradition, though, as she tends to set new marks one centimetre at a time but this time she beat her previous best by two.

"In Greece I failed at a new record of 4.94 so this time I decided to go for two more centimetres instead," explained the Russian. "I'm certainly on my way to reaching five me-

tres but we'll just have to see when it can be done."

Saturday's performance earned Isinbayeva her eighth outdoor world record and she said a five-metre vault at next month's world championships in Helsinki was possible.

World and Olympic champion Dwight Phillips won a high class men's long jump when he sailed out to 8.47 metres in the second round to post the leading mark in the world this year. Jamaica's James Beckford was second with a jump of 8.28 and Miguel Pate of the United States third with 8.24.

There was also an outstanding performance in the women's long jump with Olympic bronze medallist Tatyana Kotova winning with a massive leap of 7.20 metres.

A following wind of 2.3 metres prevented the Russian registering the best mark of 2005.

In the hammer Kamila Skolimowska of Poland produced a huge final throw of 74.27 metres to push world champion Yipsi Moreno of Cuba into second place with her earlier effort of 71.75m.

MNA/Reuters



Russian pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva celebrates after setting a new women's pole vault world record at the IAAF Super Grand Prix athletics meet in Madrid, on 16 July, 2005. Isinbayeva cleared 4.95 metres to break her own previous record of 4.93 metres set in Lausanne, Switzerland, on 5 July, 2005. —INTERNET

Madrid opens tour with victory over Chivas

CHICAGO, 18 July— Real Madrid staged a late rally to overcome Mexican side Chivas Guadalajara 3-1 in the opening match of their six-game friendly tour of the United States and Asia on Saturday.

After a lacklustre first half, the match burst into life in the 73rd minute when Francisco Palencia gave Chivas a surprise lead, pouncing on Jhonny Garcia's pass to score from close range.

Madrid's response was almost immediate and the nine-times European champions equalized four minutes later when David Beckham's free kick was headed home by Alvaro Meija.

The Spaniards continued to press for a winner and were rewarded in the 87th minute when midfielder Guti found the net with a blistering strike from

outside the penalty area.

Roberto Soldado added the third, seconds before the final whistle.

"It was a very good game for us and very important," Beckham said. "Chivas worked very hard and that was what we needed."

Madrid's next match is against Los Angeles Galaxy on Monday before they depart the US to continue the tour in Beijing, Tokyo and Bangkok.

The Spanish league kicks off at the end of August.

MNA/Reuters

Scientist says more scandals possible after BALCO

RALEIGH (North Carolina), 18 July— The scientist whose laboratory helped unravel the BALCO doping scandal that brought global attention to the use of drugs in sport fears there may be more scandals.

"I've wondered if I'm going to wake up in another five years and have another BALCO," said Dr. Don Catlin, whose UCLA Olympic Analytical Laboratory identified the scandal's centrepiece designer steroid, THG. "I don't want to," Catlin told Reuters in a telephone interview from his Los Angeles laboratory. But he warned that there could be a repeat.

"We are working on it but basically the powers to be are going to have to come up with substantial new funding," he said.

Millions of dollars are needed for additional laboratories and chemists to catch cheats, anti-doping officials have said.

The scandal reached a legal turning point on Friday when Bay Area Laboratory Cooperative (BALCO) founder Victor Conte and two other defendants agreed to plea bargains that will mean short prison terms for Conte and Greg Anderson, the personal trainer to San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds.

Both admitted to conspiring to distribute steroids to athletes and laundering money.

Despite BALCO's notoriety and its link to such high-profile athletes as Bonds, the New York Yankees' Jason Giambi and track and field star Marion Jones, the scandal did not halt the use of drugs in sport, Catlin and others said.—MNA/Reuters

အပင်အာဟာရအပြည့်အဝရရှိရန် ပုလဲဓာတ်မြေ ဩဇာကို အကျိုးရှိရှိအသုံးပြုရေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

၁။ ပုလဲဓာတ်မြေဩဇာသည် စနစ်တကျ အသုံးမပြုပါက ပါဝင်သည့် အပင်အာဟာရ နှိုက်ထရိုဂျင် ဓာတ် (၆၀) မှ (၈၀) ရာခိုင်နှုန်းအထိ လေးလွှင့် ဆုံးရှုံးစေနိုင်ပါသည်။ ဆုံးရှုံးမှုကြောင့် စပါးတစ်ကေလျှင် ပုလဲဓာတ်မြေဩဇာ (နှစ်) အိတ်သုံးပါက (၅) ပုံ (၁) ပုံသာ အပင်မှ ရရှိနိုင်ပါသည်။

၂။ ဆုံးရှုံးမှုသည် (၁) အမိုးနီးယပ်အိုင်ယွန်း (NH₄⁺) အဖြစ် စီးဆင်းနေခြင်းပါသွားသည်။ (၂) အမိုးနီးယားဓာတ်ငွေ့ (NH₃) အဖြစ် လေထဲတွင် အငွေ့ပျံ့ဆုံးသွားသည်။ (၃) နှိုက်ထရိုဂျင်ဓာတ် (N₂) အဖြစ် လေထဲသို့ အငွေ့ပျံ့သည်။ အပူချိန်နိမ့်သော နံနက်ပိုင်းတွင် စပါးခင်းများ မြေရေပြင်ဓာတ် (pH₂) ဝန်းကျင်တွင်ရှိသော်လည်း မိုးနည်းပိုင်းအပူချိန်မြင့်တက်လာပါက မြေအချဉ်ဓာတ်မှာ (pH₁) ထိ ရှိလာပြီး အမိုးနီးယားဓာတ်ငွေ့ (NH₃) အဖြစ် ပြောင်းလဲကာ ဆုံးရှုံးမှုများစေသည်။

၃။ သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ ပုလဲဓာတ်မြေဩဇာ အကျိုးရှိရှိ အသုံးပြုနိုင်ရန်အတွက် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း စနစ်တကျ သုံးစွဲရန် နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်-

(က) စပါးပင်သက်တမ်း တစ်လျှောက်လုံးအတွက် တစ်စက်လျှင် ပုလဲဓာတ်မြေဩဇာတစ်အိတ်နှင့် သဘာဝမြေဩဇာ (နှာချေး/မြေဆွေ/အမှိုက်ဆွေ/ဘိုကာရီ) သုံးအိတ် သုံးစွဲပါ။

(ခ) သုံးစွဲမည့် ပုလဲဓာတ်မြေဩဇာနှင့် သဘာဝမြေဩဇာကို တစ်ကြိမ်တည်းမသုံးစွဲဘဲ စပါးပင်မှ နှိုက်ထရိုဂျင်ဓာတ် လိုအပ်ချိန်များဖြစ်သည့် ကောက်ပင်လှန်ချိန်၊ ပင်ပွားအများဆုံး ထွက်ချိန်၊ မှိုကပ်ချိန် (သို့မဟုတ်) ရောင်စွက်ကတ်ကို သုံး၍ အပင်လိုအပ်ချိန်တွင် ထည့်သွင်းပါ။

(ဂ) တစ်ကြိမ်လျှင် ပုလဲဓာတ်မြေဩဇာ တစ်အိတ်နှင့် သမအောင်ရေပါ။ ရေစပ် ရာတွင် အစိုဓာတ်များ မများလွန်းစေဘဲ သင့်တင့်သော အစိုဓာတ်သာရှိအောင် ဂရုပြု၍ အပေါ်မှ ပလပ်စတစ် ဂုန်နီအိတ်၊ ဖျာစသည်တို့ဖြင့် လုံခြုံစွာ ဖုံးအုပ်၍ တစ်ညနပ်ထားပါ။

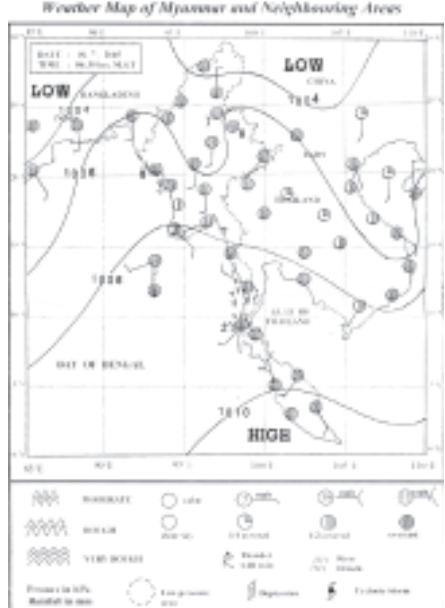
(ဃ) မိုးအုပါက နေ့လယ်ပိုင်းတွင် မြေဩဇာအရေကို ကြိတ် နှိုင်းသော်လည်း နေပူပြင်းပါက နံနက်ပိုင်း (၇) နာရီမှ (၉) နာရီအတွင်းနှင့် ညနေ (၃) နာရီနောက်ပိုင်းမှ ကြိတ်ပါ။

(င) မြေဩဇာအရေကို စပါးခင်းတွင် ကြိတ်ထည့်ပြီးတိုင်း တမန်းပြင်အောက်သို့ ရောက်ရှိရန် မြေပြင်နင်းမြှုပ်၍ သော်လည်းကောင်း၊ စပါးခင်းလှိုက်တမန်းနှိုး ကိရိယာအသုံး ပြု၍သော်လည်းကောင်း တမန်း အောက်ရောက်အောင် ဆောင်ရွက်ပေးခြင်းဖြင့် ပိုမိုထိရောက်နိုင်ပါသည်။

လယ်ယာစိုက်ပျိုးရေးနှင့် ဆည်မြောင်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန



Daw Khin Aye and family of Dagon Township donate K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Vice-Chairman of the management board of the home Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Retd). — H



WEATHER

Tuesday, 19 July
Tune in today:
8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music:
 -I see your smile
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music: Hello
8.50 am National news/Slogan
9.00 am Music: Sleeping satellite
9.05 am International news
9.10 pm Music:
 Sometimes love just ain't enough
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Lunch time music
 -Vincent
 -It must've been love
 -Can't help falling in love
 -I honestly love you
9.00 pm English Speaking Course Level III Unit ()
9.15 pm Article/Music
9.25 pm Week's sports reel
9.35 pm Music for your listening pleasure
 -It's raining
 -Everytime you go away
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

Monday, 18 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 thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin, Chin, Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Shan, Rakhine States and Taninthayi Division, isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mogok (3.23) inches, Myeik (1.61) inches, Mawlamyine (1.26) inches and Hpa-an (1.02) inches.
 Maximum temperature on 17-7-2005 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 18-7-2005 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18-7-2005 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 17-7-2005 was (4.6) hours approx. Rainfalls on 18-7-2005 were nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (37.36 inches) at Mingaladon, (34.57 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (40.32 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from West at (14:00) hours MST on 17-7-2005.
Bay inference: Monsoon is weak in the Bay of Bengal.
Forecast valid until evening of 19-7-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Northern Shan States and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Southern and Eastern Shan, Rakhine, Chin, Kayin and Mon States and upper Sagaing Division, isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%.
State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for subsequent two days: Weak monsoon.
Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-7-2005: Some bright hours with one or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-7-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

17 foreign militants killed in Pakistan's tribal area

ISLAMABAD, 18 July — Seventeen foreign militants including few females were killed and four injured in an exchange of fire with Pakistani security forces on Saturday night in an area south of Miran Shah in North Waziristan tribal agency, said a military Press release issued on Sunday.
 One Pakistani soldier was also killed in the clash, which lasted for about six hours during the night.
 Arms and ammunition including detonators, explosive material,

switches, circuit diagrams, other equipment and written instructions to make improvised explosive devices were recovered by the security forces.
 Four Kazakhstan passports were also retrieved by the security forces indicating nationality of some of them, the others were also suspected to be foreigners from the same region.
 Diaries and other hand-written notes, presumably in the Kazakh language, were also recovered.
 The security forces

condoned an area south of Miran Shah on Saturday night upon receipt of credible information about presence of foreign militants in few isolated compounds.
 Saturday's clash took place two days after 24 Taleban fighters were killed in Pakistan's tribal area by the US-led coalition forces.
 Pakistani security forces have launched operations in the tribal areas to hunt for al-Qaeda terrorists and Taleban remnants since late 2001. Hundreds of foreign militants

have been killed while 600 more captured in the operations in the past years.
 Pakistan, a key US ally in the war on terror, says that 70,000 troops have been deployed in the tribal areas and 669 check posts have been established to check illegal cross-border movement.
 MNA/Xinhua

TV Myanmar

Tuesday, 19 July
View on today:

7:00 am
 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Oattamathara

7:25 am
 2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
 3. Morning news

7:40 am
 4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am
 5. ကဗျာသံနဲ့ဇယျာဉ်

8:00 am
 6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am
 7. Song of yesteryears

8:20 am
 8. ကဏ္ဍာတ်တစ်လုံးရေကူး ရေလှောင် တမံ

8:30 am
 9. International news

8:45 am
 10. Let's Go

4:00 pm
 1. Martial song

4:15 pm
 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
 3. ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း၊ အမှတ်(၃)အခြေစိုက် ဝတ္ထုဦးစီးဌာန၊ ဆွေအကြိမ် မွေကြွယ်ဝပွဲအထိမ်းအမှတ် (အထက(၁) သင်္ချာလှည့်) (အမျိုးသားဝတ်စုံအဖွဲ့)

5:00 pm
 4. အစေးသင်တန်းသို့လုပ်ညွှန်ရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်စနစ်စာ -ဒုတိယနှစ် (တော့ဒေသန္တရအေး အထူးပြုများ) (တော့ဒေသ)

5:15 pm
 5. Dance national races

5:30 pm
 6. ဝါဆိုလအတွဲစားများ

5:45 pm
 7. Sing and Enjoy

6:10 pm
 8. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“ရယ်လွင်ဆော့မြေ ပုဂံကံဆိတ်ကလေး” (အပိုင်း-၆)

6:00 pm
 19. Evening news

7:00 pm
 10. Weather reports

7:05 pm
 11. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ရွေးနိမိတ်ချစ်ရုပ်ပြင်” (အပိုင်း-၆)

7:35 pm
 12. သွေးလွန်ထုပ်ကွေး ရောဂါ ကာကွယ်ရေးအေးဒီစီ မြင်ကွားကင်းစင်ကော့ဇ်များ ထူးထောင်သင်ကြားပေး

7:45 pm
 13. ထူးမြတ်တင်ဆန်း ကြားသတင်း

8:00 pm
 17. News

8:10 pm
 18. International news

8:20 pm
 19. Weather report

8:30 pm
 20. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ပေဟန်ဆောင်း၏ ရွတ်သံစဉ်” (အပိုင်း-၃၆)

21. The next day's programme

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on inspection tour of site for An creek hydel power project



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meeting with departmental officials, members of social organizations and locals in An, Rakhine State. — MNA

YANGON, 18 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and

officials concerned went on an inspection tour of the site for a hydel power project to be built on An creek, three and a half miles from An on 15 July.

At the briefing hall of An creek hydel power project, Deputy Director U Thein Tin of Hydro Electric

Power Department No 6 Construction Group briefed them on aims of the project, its location, its data, preparatory work, geological surveys, completion of general functions, tasks being carried out and future plans.

(See page 8)

Minister inspects Ye Nwe Multi-purpose Dam Project

YANGON, 18 July — During his tour of Bago division on 16 July, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspected monsoon paddy fields that flanked Yangon-Mandaly Highway and Ye Nwe Multi-purpose Dam Project in Kyauktaga Township.

At the project, officials concerned reported on construction tasks and irrigation system of the dam. The minister also touched on matters related to generation hydroelectric power with officials of the Electric Power Department. Next, he inspected the spillways-1 and 2 which are completed.

The dam is located across Ye Nwe Creek near



Myochaung Village in Kyauktaga Township, Bago Division. It is expected that the dam will store 931,800 acres of water upon completion. The embankment of the dam is 1,050 ft long and 251 ft

high and 113,503 acre-feet of water have been stored. *MNA*

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo inspects Ye Nwe Dam which is under construction in Kyauktaga Township, Bago Division. — A & I

Industry-1 Minister inspects factories in Bago



YANGON, 18 July — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected thriving plantations of bamboo

in Yeni No 2 Paper Mill of Myanma Paper and Chemicals Industries on 16 July evening. The minister next went to the pulp chemicals production department and inspected production process there.

The minister looked into stockpiling of bamboo. General Manager U Thein Soe of MPC I reported on construction of a 50-ton pulp factory and an 80-ton cement plant. The minister inspected production of paper through pulp and rolls of paper. Next, he visited Win Thuza Shop in the compound of Southern Command and Yoma soft drink and ice factory in Toungoo. The minister met officials at the briefing hall of Zeyawady sugar mill. The mill manager reported on purchase and cultivation of sugarcane. The managing director of Myanma Foodstuff Industries gave a supplementary report. Then the minister viewed production line.

The minister and party visited the starch factory of Myanma Foodstuff Industries in Daik U and inspected the fish breeding pond and tapioca plantations. At the briefing hall, General Manager Lt-Col Tun Myint reported on cultivation of tapioca to the minister, who then gave necessary instructions. The minister oversaw production process at Daik U starch factory and production of glucose. Later, the minister visited Win Thuza shops in Bago.

Minister U Aung Thaung inspects Yeni No 2 Paper Mill of Myanma Paper and Chemicals Industries in Yeni, Bago Division. — INDUSTRY-1

MNA