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Thursday, 21 July, 2005

## 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

## Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing donate Waso robes to Sayadaws at sixth Waso robes offering ceremony of Ministry of Defence

YANGON, 20 July — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attended the sixth Waso robes offering ceremony of the families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) of the Ministry of Defence at Pylonchantha Ordination Hall of Nikaya Monastery in Ward 26, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, at 9 am on Fullmoon Day of Waso (Dhammaçakka Akhadaw Day), today.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara and member Sayadaws, Nikaya Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Tipitakadhara Dhamma Bhandagarika Bhaddanta Silakkhandha Bhivamsa and members of the Sangha, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, SPDC members and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and

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Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara invests Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and congregation with the Nine Precepts. — MNA

## Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to King of Belgium

YANGON, 21 July — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty King Albert II of Belgium on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Belgium which falls on 21 July 2005. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party receive the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. — MNA

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

**PERSPECTIVES**

Thursday, 21 July, 2005

**Boost public health care services for better health**

The State Peace and Development Council is expanding the horizon of the health care services for ensuring health and longevity of the entire national people.

In order to achieve this goal, the government has been constructing basic foundations the length and breadth of the nation to enhance the health infrastructure of the nation, while paying a serious attention to health care concerns for the people. As a result, many achievements of the national surgeons have gone down in the annals of the nation's medical history.

Chairman of the National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein observed the 11th renal transplant performed at the New Yangon General Hospital on Bogyoke Aung San Street on 18 July.

The NHC chairman asked after the health of the patient, saying that thanks to the high efficiency of medical professionals, Myanmar had achieved success in conducting renal transplants one after another. He lauded the immense goodwill of the donors who usually are close relatives of the patients.

Myanmar has set up a milestone in its medical history with the brilliant performances on separation of conjoined twins, restoration of amputated limbs, and renal transplants.

The medical staff in Myanmar including physicians, surgeons and nurses have been providing health care services, giving medical treatments to the people, taking preventive measures against the diseases, and giving health education talks not only in urban regions but in rural areas.

In this regard, the medical staff are to carry on their studies and improve their skills to catch up with the medical science that is making a rapid progress and to give loving-kindness-based medical treatments to the patients.

Wellwishers and social organizations should cooperate to help provide health care services for needy patients through establishment of medical trust funds in hospitals and to carry out health care tasks in states and divisions.

At a time when the government has been creating opportunities for uplift of health and fitness and ensuring longevity of the people, wellwishers are urged to contribute towards the drive in harness with service personnel in the medical field.

**SID offers Waso robes to members of the Sangha**

YANGON, 20 July— The 51st communal Waso robes offering ceremony of the Special Investigation Department of Myanmar Police Force took place at Aungthabye Ye Yeiktha on Kyaikwaing Pagoda Road, Mayangon Township, on Fullmoon Day of Waso, today.

Present on the occasion were Commander of SID Police Brig-Gen Myint Thein and wife, Police Senior Officers and their wives, families of the department and guests.

At the ceremony, they donated Waso robes and 'soon' to Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Ratttha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara and members of the Sangha. The Magway Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits.

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

**Waso robes offering ceremony held at Shwedagon Pagoda**

YANGON, 20 July — A ceremony to offer Shwekyar Thingan was held as Buddha Pujiya at Shwedagon Pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Waso, today.

Member of the Pagoda Board of Trustees donated Shwekyar Thingans to four Buddha images in the precinct of the pagoda and Padamya Myetshin Buddha Image on the upper terrace.

Next, the ceremony to donate cash towards the funds of all-round renovation of the pagoda followed. Director-General U Aye Kyu of Department of Basic Education (Yangon City), the deputy director-general, township education officers and school heads handed over K 13,979,375 donated by schools from four Yangon districts under No 3 DBE, Latha BEHS No 2, Dagon BEHS No 1, Sangyoung BEHS No 2, Tamway BEHS No 1 and No 4, Kamayut BEHS No 2 and Bahan BEHS No 2 to members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

At 9.30 am, members of the pagoda board of trustees, religious associations and devotees took the Nine Precepts from Pagoda Ovadaçariya Abhidhaja Maha Ratttha Guru Agga Maha Pandita Nyaungdon Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sobhana. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Later, wellwishers donated Waso robes and alms to the Sayadaws. — MNA



The Shwekyar Thingan offering ceremony in progress at a Buddha Image of Shwedagon Pagoda.— MNA

**A & I Ministry offers Waso robes**

YANGON, 20 July—The 14th Waso robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was held at the assembly hall of the Ministry here this morning.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and wife, heads of department under the ministry presented Waso robes and offertories to Sayadaws and shared merits gained.

At the ceremony, members of the Sangha led by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Joint-secretaries Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Yenangyoung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejaniya and Agga Maha Pandita Dwipitakadhara Dwipitaka Kovida Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa recited the parittas.

First, the congregation received the Nine Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejaniya.

After the ceremony, the congregation also offered 'soon' to members of the Sangha.

MNA



Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and wife Daw Ni Ni Win offer waso robes and alms to a Sayadaw.— A&I

**Cash donated to build new monastery building**

YANGON, 20 July — Cash donation ceremony to build new Danyawady monastery building at Danyawady Monastery in Bahan Township was held in conjunction with Waso robes offering ceremony this morning at the monastery.

At the cash donation ceremony, Chairman of the monastery construction committee and officials accepted the cash totalling K 11.6 million donated by wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them. Officials and wellwishers also offered Waso robes to the members of Sangha at the ceremony.

MNA

**All this needs to be known**

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



Chairman of Danyawady Monastery Construction Committee U Kyaw Thar Hla accepts K 10 million donated by U Aung Tha Tun (a) U Ngan Gyar and wife Daw Ma Mya Oo of Bogale Market Street in Botahtaung Township.— MNA





Chinese men rescue a pig trapped on his pig farm which was flooded by Typhoon Haitang in Cangnan County in east China's Zhejiang Province on 19 July, 2005.— INTERNET

### Sri Lanka textile sector exports up 9.1% in 2004

COLOMBO, 19 July — Sri Lankan textile exports during the year 2004 topped 2,809 million US dollars, an increase of 9.1 per cent against 2,575 million dollars in the year 2003, official *Daily News* reported on Monday.

Garments accounted for nearly 94 per cent of total textile sector exports, the paper said.

The total exports for year 2004 were 5,757 million US dollars as against 5,133 million dollars in 2003, registering an increase of 12.2 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

### Malaysian firm to buy 52.05% stake of Indonesia's Lippo Bank

JAKARTA, 19 July — A Malaysian Government-owned investment firm, the Khazanah Nasional Bhd, has agreed to buy a majority stake in Lippo Bank, Indonesia's ninth-largest lender by assets, local media on Monday quoted a statement as saying.

Khazanah has agreed to a conditional agreement to acquire 52.05 per cent stake in Lippo for between 3.18 trillion rupiah (some 353.3 million US dollars) and 3.30 trillion rupiah (about 367 million US dollars), according to the statement.

The proposed acquisition will be conducted through Khazanah's wholly owned unit Santubong Investments BV.

"Khazanah is committed to the long-term development of Indonesia and views this investment as an important milestone towards further strengthening the ties between Malaysia and Indonesia," the statement said.

Khazanah said that the planned acquisition needs all regulatory approvals including approvals from Indonesian central bank, Bank Indonesia and the approval of Lippo's shareholders.

Khazanah will also offer to buy the remaining Lippo Bank's shares in the lender, upon the completion of the deal, the statement added. MNA/Xinhua

### Qatar eyes Nepali women workers

KATHMANDU, 19 July — Private companies in Qatar have forwarded requests to the Nepali manpower companies for around 5,000 Nepali women workers for the organized sector, an official at the Nepal Association of Foreign Employment Association (NAFEA) told *Xinhua* in an exclusive interview on Monday.

"Qatar now is very positive about employing Nepali women workers, and those working to send women workers to Qatar have been comparatively busier these days," said Keshar Karki, executive member of the NAFEA, a flagship of more than 500 companies, half of which are sending Nepali workers to Malaysia and the rest to Saudi, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

The hardworking nature and honesty of Nepali women are the attributes that have led the companies in Qatar to demand for a growing number of women workers from Nepal, Karki said.

Official statistics show that about 600 Nepali women went abroad in the last 11 months, but if the present trend continues then the figure will go up

to 10,000, Karki said.

A team of NAFEA recently visited countries like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, they found out other countries also show interest to take in Nepali women workers, Karki noted.

The government of Nepal should cash in on the opportunity and make arrangements to send conflict-hit women to Qatar, Karki said, adding: "This will in turn contribute to addressing the unemployment problem in Nepal."

The country has been plagued by guerillas' anti-government insurgency which took place in the Himalayan kingdom in February 1996, leading to the migration of a large number of women from mountainous areas to cities. — MNA/Xinhua

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## Eight dead, 15 injured in powerful Srinagar blast

SRINAGAR, 20 July— At least eight people, including six soldiers, were killed and over 15 were wounded when militants triggered an IED(Improvised Explosive Devices)-laden car near a school in the high security Civil Lines area in Srinagar on Wednesday, an official said.

However, Jammu and Kashmir DGP Gopal Sharma confirmed that four soldiers were killed and more than 11 others wounded in the blast.

Sharma also ruled out that it was a suicide attack. The explosion occurred at about 09.05 hrs IST.

Militant outfit Hizbul Mujahiddin (HM) has claimed responsibility for the blast. An HM spokesman called up a local media office and said the outfit had carried out the blast but denied that it was a suicide attack.

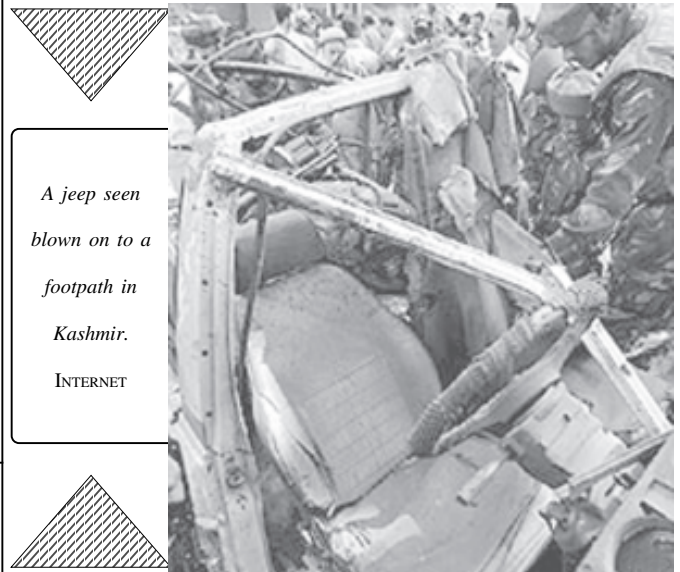
The ultras, who were targeting an Army vehicle, triggered the blast near the Burnhall school, situated opposite the Sher-e-Kashmir stadium. The explosion was so powerful that the windowpanes of the nearby buildings were shattered by the impact.

The explosives-packed Maruti car was parked near the official residence of the state Chief Justice S N Jha in the high security zone, which also houses the residences of several ministers, including Deputy Chief Minister

Mangat Ram Sharma and state Congress chief and minister Peerzaada Mohammad Sayeed.

The UNMOGIP (United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan) office, a police station and the winter secretariat are also located in the area. A mosque and the Syed Sahib Sufi shrine are in the vicinity.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had flagged off the inaugural Srinagar- Muzaffarabad bus from the Sher-e-Kashmir stadium on 7 April.— *Internet*



A jeep seen blown on to a footpath in Kashmir. INTERNET

### 1,771 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 19 July—As of Tuesday, 19 July, 2005, at least 1,771 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 1,361 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 on Tuesday.

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, 1,632 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,252 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 13,559 US servicemembers have been wounded, according to a Defence Department tally released on Tuesday.

Internet

## Chinese most prone to colorectal cancer in Asia

**HONG KONG, 19 July**—A study spanning 14 cities across Asia has found the highest incidence of colorectal cancer among ethnic Chinese, a trend which researchers in Hong Kong on Monday blamed on a more Westernized diet.

Between October 2004 and April 2005, doctors performed colonoscopies on 5,055 people and found polyps in 19.4 per cent of the subjects. Of these, 4 per cent had cancer.

A further analysis found that colorectal polyps and cancers were found in more than 18 per cent of ethnic Chinese, followed by just over 12 per cent of Indonesians, 12 per cent of Malaysians, 10 per cent of Thais and 8 per cent of Filipinos.

Ethnic Indians were the healthiest in this regard, with only 5 per cent suffering the same condition.

A leading researcher in the study blamed the phenomenon on the genetic makeup of ethnic Chinese and their changing diet.

"The prevalence of colorectal polyps and cancer among ethnic Chinese is very high, as high as in Caucasian populations," Leung Wai-keung, professor at the Chinese University's Institute of Digestive Diseases, told *Reuters* in an interview.

"Our belief is that the Chinese ge-

netic makeup is very susceptible to colorectal cancer but this race has been protected by traditional Chinese diet."

"But now, with lifestyle changes, a Westernized diet, this genetic susceptibility has been brought out," he said, adding that diets rich in fat and red meat were the chief culprits.

Asked about the growing popularity in Asia of weight-loss programmes from Western nations which advocated diets that were low in carbohydrates and high in fat and meat, Leung said they would have to be followed over the long term to be harmful.

The study covered the cities of Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Delhi, Jakarta, Fukuoka, Kitasato, Kurume, Seoul, Kuala Lumpur, Manila, Singapore, Taipei, Kaohsiung and Bangkok.

Among ethnic Chinese examined in the survey, researchers found those in Hong Kong the most susceptible to advanced colorectal polyps and cancer — 11 per cent of them were diagnosed with the condition.

MNA/Reuters

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A study spanning 14 cities across Asia has found the highest incidence of colorectal cancer among ethnic Chinese, a trend which researchers in Hong Kong on Monday blamed on a more Westernized diet. A vendor seen drinking water at a wholesale market in Nanjing, east China's Jiangsu Province, in this 4 July, 2005 file photo.—INTERNET

## Iraq reconstruction projects face hurdles

**UMM QASR, 20 July**—At Iraq's only outlet to the sea, Bob Hearn is one of two Americans trying to give this country an economic shot in the arm. Sometimes he sleeps in his car when major shipments arrive, trying to reassure ship captains the port is functioning again. But success remains far away, as it does for many US-funded reconstruction projects in Iraq.

Although ships are trickling back two years after the invasion to oust Saddam Hussein, the port is more than a year from international accreditation, which could increase ship traffic fivefold. For now, Hearn can't even get the US military to route supplies through Umm Qasr.

Thousands of US and Western reconstruction workers across Iraq are in the same situation — struggling to rebuild the country in a volatile environment. Frustrated Iraqis dismiss US explanations for delays.

"That's our big challenge — hiring people so

they're not shooting at us. They just want some money," said Hearn, who oversees a multimillion dollar project that has cleared away several sunken ships and repaired some loading docks.

Many reconstruction workers in Iraq see a direct link between their efforts and easing the US military's burden.

For now, Hearn is trying to persuade the US

military to ship its supplies to the port here instead of to Kuwait, arguing the move could employ thousands of Iraqis and end American troops' need to drive the equipment north. But he has not succeeded, in part because 50 sunken ships still lie in the short waterway leading from the Persian Gulf to the port. Some date back to the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.—*Internet*

## Sri Lanka, Malaysia sign open skies pact

**COLOMBO, 19 July** — Sri Lanka and Malaysia have signed an open skies agreement aimed at promoting the airline frequencies between the two countries, the local web site Lankapage reported on Monday.

The new deal provides for an open skies policy in keeping with current aviation trends and grants the right to each of the designated airlines to carry international traffic between Sri Lanka and Malaysia, Sri Lankan Civil Aviation Ministry said.

Delegations of the two countries met in Colombo last week to discuss matters relating to air services and to negotiate the text of a new air services agreement replacing the one signed in 1969.

"The designated airlines of the two countries are permitted to determine the frequency and capacity of the international air services that each wishes to offer based upon commercial consideration in the market place," the ministry said.—MNA/Xinhua

## Over 100 sickened in food poisonous incidence in S Philippines

**MANILA, 18 July** — More than 100 persons were sickened as a result of a mass food poison incidence in the southern Philippines on Monday, the local government reported.

According to the authorities in Upi Town, Maguidanao Province, at least 134 people have been sent to hospitals after eating anchovies.

Among the sick, about 20 were in a critical condition, doctors said.

Upi Mayor Ramon Piang told reporters that the victims bought the anchovies from four vendors and began suffering from severe headaches, stomach pains and vomiting on Saturday.

The incidence is still under the investigation, he added.

MNA/Xinhua



An injured boy rests in an ambulance after being turned away from Yarmouk Hospital after doctors went on strike over claimed abuses in Baghdad on 19 July, 2005.—INTERNET

## India's trade deficit widens further in first quarter

**NEW DELHI, 19 July** — India's exports in the first quarter of the new fiscal grew by 19.04 per cent as compared to the previous financial year in the same quarter. According to the foreign trade data for the first quarter of the 2005-06 financial year released here Monday, exports during April-June period in the 2005-2006 year, are valued at 20,900.31 million US dollars which are 19.54 per cent higher than the level of 17,483.26 million US dollars achieved during the first quarter of the previous financial year.

However, India's imports registered a quantum jump of over 38 per cent.

India's imports during April-June, 2005-2006, are valued at 32,360.13 million US dollars, representing an increase of 38.02 per cent over the level of imports in the same period last fiscal.

While oil imports increased by of 33.16 per cent in the same period this fiscal, non-oil imports grew by over 40 per cent in the same quarter when compared to the oil imports in April-June 2004.

The trade deficit for the first quarter of the current fiscal is estimated at 11,459.82 million US dollars which is higher than the deficit at 5,962.44 million US dollars during April-June, 2004-2005. The government has set the export target for this fiscal at 92 billion US dollars compared to about 80 billion US dollars achieved during the previous year. —MNA/Xinhua



## National Film Festival concludes in Nepal

**KATHMANDU, 19 July** — The first National Film Festival, which began from 10 July in Kathmandu, has concluded on Sunday, Radio Nepal reported on Monday.

Nepali King Gyanendra gave away awards in the closing ceremony to dozens of personalities contributing to the development and promotion of Nepali cinema in Nepal and outside, the state-run radio said.

Awards were given to 17 veterans of Nepali cinema, which comprised of producers, directors, writers, actors and actresses, while another 25 personalities in 21 other categories also won awards, the radio noted.

The weeklong festival was marked by the screening of new and old Nepali movies, interaction

programmes on different aspects of cinema, cultural shows, food festival, and so on.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Minister for Information and Communication and Chairman of the Main Organizing Committee, Tanka Dhakal, said the film festival was an important step in promoting Nepali cinema at a time when the movie industry is in a lean phase.

The film festival was organized by Nepal Film Development Board with financial support from the government.

MNA/Xinhua

## Waterborne diseases spread fast across Bangladesh

**DHAKA, 19 July** — Different waterborne diseases, including diarrhoea, have been spreading fast across Bangladesh, especially in flood-hit areas.

At least 16 people died of diarrhoea and 63,410 caught the waterborne disease in the last one month. Of them, three died and 14,538 contracted the disease in the past week alone, *New Age* quoted sources in the control room of the directorate of health as saying on Monday.

The number of people affected by diarrhoea and admitted to the hospital from 1 July to 7 July was 1,357, but the figure was 1,920 from 10 July to 16 July, it reported.

A number of people have also been affected by other waterborne diseases like dysentery and pneumonia due to lack of pure drinking water in the

flood-hit areas and the areas clogged with water.

More than 600,000 people were marooned in seven districts on the Brahmaputra Basin in northern Bangladesh as more areas were inundated with further deterioration of the overall flood situation till Sunday, official BSS news agency reported. BSS quoted Water Development Board as saying that the rainfall recorded during the past one week at different points of greater Rangpur in northern Bangladesh was almost around 600 millimetres, the fifth highest annual average rainfall recorded in these areas in recent decades.

MNA/Xinhua

## Iraq, neighbours discuss border control

**ISTANBUL, 19 July**— Iraq's Interior Minister is demanding that his country's neighbours take stronger measures to stem the flow of money and recruits to guerillas, and Turkey said on Tuesday that ending infiltration was critical for stability in the region.

Turkey is demanding that Iraq and the United States take stronger measures to stop Turkish Kurdish guerillas based in Iraq from crossing into Turkey—while agreeing that halting infiltration into Iraq is also vital.

"Controlling the borders is the most urgent problem that stands in front of us," Turkish Interior Minister Abdulkadir Aksu said in his opening speech at a meeting of Iraq's neighbours. "The success of the process in Iraq will be our success as well." The interior ministers from Turkey, Iran, Syria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Jordan as well as Iraq were expected to pledge to take steps toward increased border security and intelligence sharing at the meeting on how to increase regional security.

Internet



Construction workers in Guanghan City. China's economy grew 9.5 percent in the first half of the year, 0.2 percentage points lower than the same period in 2004.

INTERNET

## Iran, Iraq sign two MoUs on economic cooperation

**TEHERAN, 19 July** — Iran and Iraq signed here on Sunday two memoranda of understanding (MoU) on bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade and transportation, the official IRNA news agency reported.

One MoU, inked by visiting Iraqi Minister of Trade Abdul Basit Karim and his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Shariatmadari, was aimed at expanding bilateral cooperation in various trade and commercial fields, said the report.

Based on the MoU, the two countries expressed readiness to sign free trade agreements, facilitate issuance of trade visa, hold ex-

clusive exhibitions, facilitate rendering of technical and engineering services and make joint investment in infrastructure constructions, the report added.

The development of border markets, the establishment of Iran's trade bureau in Baghdad and the cooperation of the Iraqi side in this regard were also among issues agreed upon by the two sides.

Additionally, the MoU

also stressed Iran's readiness to export automobile, cement, steel and petrochemical products to Iraq.

Meanwhile, Iranian Minister of Transportation Mohammad Rahmati and his Iraqi counterpart Salam al-Maliki signed another MoU on expansion of rail, road, air and sea transportation between the two neighbours.

MNA/Xinhua

## Singapore's non-oil exports up 1% in June

**SINGAPORE, 19 July** — Singapore's non-oil domestic exports (NODX) registered an increase of 1 per cent to 11.21 billion Singapore dollars (about 6.64 billion US dollars) in June as compared with the same period of last year.

According to the figures released by the International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore) on Monday, the growth reversed last month's contraction of 5.6 per cent, the first negative growth rate in 35 months.

The export of electronics continued to decline by 4.2 per cent in June, while the export of non-electronic products grew by 6.7 per cent in the same month, reversing the drop of 6.6 per cent in May.

The NODX to China, one of the top three growth contributors for the month besides Taiwan province and Thailand, sustained a double-digit growth of 18 per cent in June.

The NODX to the United States and the European Union contracted by 14 per cent and 0.3 per cent respectively last month.

Singapore's total trade rose 11.3 per cent in June.

MNA/Xinhua

## China to build dinosaur park around Cretaceous footprints

**JINAN, 19 July** — The construction of a dinosaur park will soon begin in east China's Shandong Province in a bid to preserve a large number of rare dinosaur footprints dating back to the Cretaceous period.

The park, covering some 60 square kilometres in Junan County of Yimeng Mountain Area, will exhibit the intact remains of dinosaur footprints, the physiognomy of volcano lava, fossilized insects, and traces of rain, water waves and splashes of mud made by passing dinosaurs.

The footprints, found two years ago in a 700-by-100-metre quarry, belong to two categories of Cretaceous dinosaurs. One is

of the shape of beast feet and the other is of the shape of bird claws, said Zhao Xijin, an expert with the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

During the Cretaceous period, there was a huge lake in the region, home to a large number of herbivorous and carnivorous dinosaurs, said Zhao, who specializes in the research of ancient vertebrates and palaeoanthropology.

It is rare to discover

flocks of intact dinosaur footprints in the stratum. The park will not only restore the traces of dinosaurs' activities to visitors, but will offer valuable materials for the research of Cretaceous dinosaurs, the expert said.

"A geological park is of great importance in the protection of the rare dinosaur footprints, which require very special conditions to be well preserved," said Zhao.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi policeman looks at a body in a car after gunmen killed three men in Baghdad on 19 July, 2005. —INTERNET

## Top-notch Chinese student unable to apply to key universities

BEIJING, 19 July—Li Yang, 16, obtained first place in this year's National College Entrance Examination amid the 44,929 examinees in south China's Hainan Province. His score of 897 points theoretically made him qualified to apply to all the country's prestigious universities.

However, his applications to the country's key universities were officially disqualified on Friday by the Hainan Provincial Educational Department because Li was an examination immigrant — the study time he spent in Hainan Province did not meet Hainan Provincial regulations.

The provincial regulation stipulates that only students who possess Hainan residence permits and finish the last two years of high school courses in Hainan are entitled to apply to the country's top universities. Students who only fulfill one of the two requirements can only apply for the country's common universities.

Li, who has a Hainan residence permission, but spent more than ten years in Hubei Province's education system before transferring to a Hainan high school where he studied for less than two years, can only apply to common universities.

Li was one of the tens of thousands of examination immigrants in the country. An official with the Hainan Provincial Education Department disclosed that more than 9,600 high school students from central China's provinces of Henan, Hubei, Hunan and Jiangxi came to Hainan Province to attend the National College Entrance Examination to take advantage of Hainan

Province's lower university recruitment standards.

In China, the examination content of the annual National College Entrance Examination in different provinces is almost entirely unified. But admissions standards for university enrollment for students from different provinces vary dramatically due to regional education imbalances, which are caused by China's regional economic disparities. Due to lower education investment, the quality of primary school and middle school education in economically-backward provinces is lower than that in affluent provinces. Government, therefore,

lowers admission standards for students from economically and educationally backward provinces to ensure a certain proportion of students there still receive higher educations.

This favourable policy toward economically and educationally backward provinces, however, has been criticized for causing "unfair" competition. As a consequence of the policy, examinees from economically affluent provinces face inordinately fierce competition in college admissions since entrance standards for them are dozens of points higher than those for students from poor provinces.

MNA/Xinhua

## HK, EU to strengthen structured dialogue

HONG KONG, 20 July—The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government and the European Union (EU) Commission should develop, broaden and deepen cooperation in areas of common interest through a structured dialogue, a joint statement said here on Monday.

Both sides are instructing respective officials to assess options and recommend ways forward in this regard, said the statement issued by Donald Tsang, Chief Executive of HKSAR, and Jose Manuel Barroso, president of the EU Commission.

The two parties further agreed that it would be useful to periodically review progress in the dialogue at the leadership level and update mutual agenda to meet future demands as their dynamic relationship continues, the statement added.

The statement also mentioned the Sixth

Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, which will be held in Hong Kong in December. Since trade has been a key driver in EU-Hong Kong relations, both sides attach great importance to achieving a substantive outcome of the conference which will pave the way for the successful conclusion of the Doha Development Round.

It is Barroso's first visit to China as president of the EU Commission. Hong Kong is the last stop of his five-day official visit. He had visited Beijing, Shanghai and Macao before his arrival in Hong Kong. — MNA/Xinhua



Models pose with a Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution IX during the official launch of Mitsubishi cars in Kuala Lumpur on 18 July, 2005.—INTERNET

## Iraq port paralysed, commodities import flows hit

AMMAN, 19 June—Iraq's main port of Umm Qasr remained paralysed for the fifth day on Monday after a dispute between the Transport Ministry and private trucking fleets halted unloading of vessels, regional shipping agents said.

Smooth flows at Umm Qasr, Iraq's primary outlet for imports of commodities, are vital to solve shortages in the state's food distribution system, which have caused popular complaints and undermined economic recovery efforts by the US-backed government.

Iraqi Transport Minister Salam al-Malaki, who is on a visit to Jordan, told Reuters negotiations

have almost solved the dispute, but shippers said there was no movement at the Gulf port and corn and rice cargoes have not been unloaded.

"We wanted to regulate the private fleets. I think that the issue has been solved," Malaki said.

Shipping agents said the dispute concerns the ministry's demands for higher fees from private trucks, adding that using

the government's fleet, which was huge before the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, was not an option because it has been mostly looted.

It remains to be seen whether the ministry would rescind an order to use only its own battered fleet at Umm Qasr and honour previous contracts with private fleets after receiving orders from the Iraqi Cabinet to do so, they said.—MNA/Reuters

## Road accident kills 16 in northern Iran

TEHERAN, 19 July—Sixteen people, mostly students, were killed and four others injured when a minibus collided head-on into a truck in Iran's central province of Teheran on Saturday, the official IRNA news agency reported on Sunday.

The accident took place near Firouzkouh, a town 130 kilometres east of Teheran city.

The minibus driver and 15 of the passengers aboard, who were students of a university and accompanying relatives, were killed in the fatal accident, the report said.

Meanwhile, four other people were seriously injured and were rushed to hospitals in Teheran city by helicopter, according to the report.

At the first view, police blamed the accident on the recklessness of the minibus driver, who suddenly swerved to the left, IRNA said.

Iran has one of the highest rates of road accidents in the world, and official statistics show that in every 24 minutes there is one person dead in the road accident. Transport experts blame most of the accidents on hazardous roads and reckless driving.

MNA/Xinhua

## S Korea opposes Japan in raising abduction issue in nuke talks

SEOUL, 19 July—South Korea on Monday voiced opposition to Japan's idea to raise the Japanese citizens kidnapping issue in the upcoming six-party nuclear talks.

"Clearly, the purpose of the six-party talks is to resolve the ... nuclear issue so that other issues can be consulted on through different channels, including bilateral ones," a ranking South Korean official was quoted by South Korean Yonhap news agency as saying on Monday.

The South Korean official, who is overseeing Seoul's foreign and national security affairs, also said South Korean delegation to the six-party nuclear talks will present the nature and purpose of the talks — the

resolution of the nuclear issue — in the keynote speech at the upcoming fourth round of the six-party nuclear talks.

North Korea announced it will rejoin the six-party talks aimed to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula in the last week of July. But the exact date of opening of the talks is yet to be decided.

Moreover, the unnamed South Korean official called on Japan to be more active in ending the nuclear issue, saying Tokyo has been passive in recent trilateral consultations with South

Korea and the United States.

But, the official did not elaborate on what he meant by Japan's passive position.

The top nuclear negotiators of South Korea, the United States and Japan gathered here last week to coordinate their strategy in resolving the nuclear issue in the six-party talks, which also involve China, North Korea, and Russia.

The South Korean official's remarks came four days after Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda said that his country will strongly press for the resolution of the kidnapping

issue at the nuclear disarmament talks.

In 2002, North Korea's top leader Kim Jong-il admitted that his country's agents had kidnapped 13 Japanese citizens in the 1970s and 1980s to use as language and culture instructors.

Kim said among the 13 Japanese citizens, five were alive, eight others had died of illness or in accidents.

However, Japan is skeptical of North Korea's explanations about the eight dead, urging North Korea to show evidence to support its claim.—MNA/Xinhua



# Human resource development in full swing across the nation

*Chingya (Maubin)*

On his inspection tour around Pathein in Ayeyawady Division in 2004, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying that at a time when the government was taking all possible steps for regional development, Ayeyawady Division on its part was to effectively harness its land, water and forestry resources in abundance for its greater development. And the region had also got an adequate number of human resources capable of tapping the natural resources, so what was needed was just to make efforts and take innovative measures.

The Head of State also gave guidance during a visit to Pathein Government Technological College. He said that only when human resources were well qualified, would the nation become one of the top countries, and in that regard turning out educated human resources was a must for national development.

With a view to ensuring development of human resources for emergence of a developed nation, the government has designated 24 development regions and established in those regions many universities, degree colleges, computer colleges and technological colleges that are the most important factor for development of human resources. Now, the government's goodwill and the emergence of the educational institutions have borne fruit.

In his speech at the seminar (2004) on promotion of national education (higher education), Minister for Education U Than Aung said that the regions in which universities and colleges were located were rich in natural resources. And if the resources could be put into use for the community, the existence of the universities and colleges would be more meaningful.

Now, respective universities and colleges have been opened in each development region for local youths to pursue higher education. In compliance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, Maubin University was constructed in Maubin Region. The Head of State also inspected the Maubin University Project on 22 February 2003 and gave guidance on the project. Maubin University was put into commission on 18 December 2002, and the inauguration of the main building of the facility took place on 18 July 2003.

Maubin University is situated on the 67.07-acre campus in Aikaing Village-tract, Maubin Township. Thanks to the facility, local youths in eight townships in Maubin and Pyapon Districts—Maubin, Nyaungdon, Pantanaw, Danubyu, Pyapon, Bogalay, Kyaiklat and Dedaye—can pursue higher education in their region at fair expense.

More than 5,000 students, including those of University of Distance Education, attend Maubin University, creating opportunities for local people to do businesses such as running restaurants and hostels, and marketing of personal goods.

Out of K 69,827.75 million plus over US\$ 550 million the government spent on border areas development projects from May 1989 to 6 July 2005, K 3,930.07 million went to the plans for promotion of the education standard of border areas. That is in-

dicative of to what extent the government has placed emphasis on the education sector of border areas.

In the past, there were only a few schools in border areas, but these regions have so far been facilitated with 852 basic education primary schools, 90 basic education middle schools and 92 basic education high schools. On 30 June 1999, the government established the Education and Training Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, and since then the department has been constantly conducting a variety of courses for the development of the youths in the regions.

Up to now, the department has opened 27 youths training schools and 21 vocational training centres for women. At present, 1,908 boys and 341 girls are attending the classes of the youths training

**The universities and colleges throughout the nation have been carrying out tasks on research based on natural resources of respective regions and have prescribed suitable subjects on technologies that can enhance regional development.**

schools. The government opened Nationalities Youths Resource Development Degree Colleges (Yangon) and (Mandalay) on 15 June 2000 and 12 July 2000 respectively for enabling youths, who have passed matriculation examinations from the schools, to continue their studies.

As to the opportunity for pursuing higher education, the number of universities and colleges in the nation has now surged to 156, up from 32 in 1988.

Previously, the higher education sector made available the limited fields of arts and science, technology, medicine and forestry. Now, there have emerged different additional fields such as computer, maritime, aerospace engineering, culture, and cooperatives.

In relation to the field of medicine, there have emerged five institutes of medicine, two dental institutes, one institute of nursing and paramedical science, two institutes of pharmacy, and one university of community health. Under the Ministry of Science and Technology are four technological universities, two universities of computer studies, one aerospace engineering university, 26 government technological colleges, 24 government computer colleges and 11 government technical institutes.

Simultaneously, the government has installed modern teaching and learning aids, computers and electronics on information and technology, networks on information and technology, international level workshops and laboratories, international standard libraries, and modern research departments in the universities and colleges to enhance the higher education of the nation.

It is also helping prescribe new subjects by combining new studies and branches through cross-

disciplinary and Inter-disciplinary approach methods to keep the national level with international standards in science and technology, thereby increasing learning opportunities for the students.

Previously, under the Ministry of Education were 79 under-graduate, diploma, honours, and masters degree courses, and now there are 192 degree, honours, and doctorate courses including 24 masters (research) degree courses and 21 doctorate courses, accounting for additional 113 courses.

In addition, it has opened four doctorate courses, 15 masters degree courses, and one BE Aerospace degree course including under-graduate courses (regular), honours courses, and post-graduate diploma courses under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Similarly, respective departments for development of human resources have opened 173 certificate courses, under-graduate courses, post-graduate courses, and masters degree courses. The number of courses conducted at universities and colleges under the Ministry of Education has reached 365.

So far, the universities under the Ministry of Health have launched international level post-graduate courses on medicine—29 masters degree courses on medicine, 28 post-graduate diploma courses, 30 doctorate courses on practical medicine, and seven doctorate courses on basic practical medicine.

As a result, success has been achieved in the higher education sector in creating learning opportunities, raising the education standard, and launching more courses in accordance with the national education promotion goals. The new universities and colleges in respective regions across the nation have been developing human resources.

The government has taken measures for enabling local youths to pursue higher education in their own regions with the aim of ensuring further development of human resources in the 24 development regions. The faculty members are also nurturing their students and doing research constantly to sharpen the qualifications of the youths in the regions where they are posted.

For example, the bio-research is being carried out at Pathein University in Ayeyawady Division where agriculture thrives well, and research on plant resources at Myitkyina University in Kachin State that is endowed with rare species of plants and flowery plants. Now, Maubin University has been able to contribute towards technological development and to create fine prospects that benefit not only the region concerned but also the nation.

The universities and colleges throughout the nation have been carrying out tasks on research based on natural resources of respective regions and have prescribed suitable subjects on technologies that can enhance regional development.

The human resource development drive is now in full swing in all regions of the nation due to the government's earnest efforts and arrangements to uplift the level of higher education or that of universities and colleges of respective development regions thereby contributing towards community development there.

**Translation: MS**



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer Waso robes to Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee the Magway Sayadaw. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party donate "soon" to members of the Sangha. — MNA

## Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing donate...

(from page 1)  
the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and their wives, the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command and wife, ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, deputy ministers, departmental heads, local authorities, families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air) and guests.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offered

'soon', fruits, water, lights, joss sticks and flowers to the Buddha Image in the Ordination Hall and paid homage to it.

Master of ceremonies Deputy Director U San Thin Hlaing of Yangon Division Religious Affairs Department supplicated on the agenda of the ceremony.

First, the congregation paid obeisance to the Buddha Image with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa*.

Senior General Than

Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party took the Nine Precepts from Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. Members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta. Next, the Senior General and wife donated Waso robes and alms to the Chairman Sayadaw.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offered Waso robes and donations to the Sayadaw.

(See page 9)



Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San donate Waso robes to a Sayadaw. — MNA



Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, offering Waso robes to a Sayadaw. — MNA



General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet offer Waso robes to a Sayadaw. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presenting Waso robes to a Sayadaw. — MNA



Prime Minister General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe offer Waso robes to a Sayadaw. — MNA





Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer lights to the Buddha image kept in Pylonchantha Maha Ordination Hall. — MNA

## Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing donate Waso robes to Sayadaws ...

(from page 8)

Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Lt-Gen Thein Sein and SPDC members presented Waso robes and offertories to members of the Sangha.

Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of the Monastery Bhaddanta Silakkhandha Bhivamsa delivered a sermon, and Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party shared the merits gained.

The ceremony ended with three-time recitation of *Buddha*

*Sasanam Çiram Tiitthatu.*

After the ceremony, the Senior General and wife offered 'soon' to the Sayadaws.

Next, they donated rice to members of the Sangha of the monastery and offered 'soon' to them.

MNA



Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, donates "soon" to a member of the Sangha.—MNA



Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, presents "soon" to a member of the Sangha. — MNA



Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, donates "soon" to a member of the Sangha. — MNA



Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of General Thura Shwe Mann, offers "soon" to a member of the Sangha. — MNA



Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Prime Minister General Soe Win, presents "soon" to a member of the Sangha. — MNA

**Meritorious deeds performed at pagodas...**

(from page 16)  
Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panditabhivamsa and members of the Sangha consecrated the Image. Later, the Rector Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by shar-

ing of merits. The Waso robes offering ceremony was held at Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha at 9th Mile, here, this morning.

Similar ceremonies were held at Chaukhtetkyi, Meilamu, Kyaikkasan, Moegoung, Yanmyoang,

Shwenaban, South Okkalapa MyoU Zedi, Dagon MyoU Zedi and other pagodas and stupas, monasteries and religious buildings, and devotees, pilgrims and wellwishers attended the ceremonies. — MNA



Pilgrims pay homage to Buddha Image at Thrimingalar Kaba Aye Pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Waso (Dhammaçakka Day) (20-7-2005). — MNA

Shwedagon Pagoda's precinct is packed with pilgrims on Fullmoon Day of Waso (Dhammaçakka Day) (20-7-2005). MNA



**Waso robes offering ceremony held at Shwephonepwin Pagoda**



Those present receiving the Nine Precepts from the Sayadaw. — MNA

YANGON, 20 July — The 48th Waso robes offering ceremony organized by Shwephonepwin Pagoda Board of Trustees was held this afternoon at the pagoda in Pazundaung Township.

First, the congregation received the Nine

Precepts from Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Narinda Bhivamsa of Phayaphyu Monastery.

Next, Ovadacariya Sayadaws of the pagoda board of trustees recited the parittas.

Officials, members of the board of trustees, members of social organizations and wellwishers also presented Waso robes and offertories to the Sayadaws.

MNA

**Reordination, Waso robes offering ceremony held at Pantapwinttaung Tawya**



A wellwisher offers Waso robes and alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññasara. — MNA

YANGON, 20 July — The eighth Waso robes offering ceremony was held in conjunction with the reordination of Presiding Sayadaw of Pantapwinttaung Tawya Monastery Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Paññasara at the monastery in Taikkyi Township this morning.

First, the congregation took the Nine Precepts from the Sayadaw and offered eight requi-

sites to the Sayadaw. Next, the Sayadaw was re-ordained at the ordination hall. Afterwards, the eighth Waso robes offering ceremony followed. Wellwishers donated Waso robes to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññasara.

The Sayadaw offered the robes to members of the Sangha again.

Later, the congregation shared the merits gained.

MNA

**တပ်ကွေးရောဂါမှကာကွယ်ရန်**

- \* နေပူမှလာပြီးချက်ချင်း ရေချိုးခြင်း ကိုရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- \* တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်း ရေ ကိုဂရုစိုက်ပါ။
- \* လူများ ပြောထုတ်သောနေရာများ ကိုရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- \* နှာချေလျှင် ချောင်းဆိုး လျှင်လက်တိုင်ပုဝါ ဖြင့်ဖု အုပ်ပါ။
- \* ဖျားနာမည်ဟုသိသယရှိပါက ရေများ များသောက်ပါ အနားယူပါ။
- \* အာဟာရပြည့်ဝအောင်စားသုံးပါ။
- \* ဝိတာမင်စီအပြည့်အဝပါသော အသီးအနှံနှင့် အရွက်များ ကိုစားပါ။

လိုအပ်ပါက နံနက် ၈ နာရီခန့် ဆေးရုံများသို့ သွားရောက်ပြသ စစ်ဆေးမှုခံယူပါ။

**ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန**



## Trees planting ceremony takes place in Taikkyi Station

YANGON, 20 July — A ceremony to plant trees was held in Taikkyi Station of Yangon Command on 17 July morning.

During the ceremony, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe planted a



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe plants a sapling at the ceremony. — YGN COMMAND

tree.

Also present on the occasion were Col Myint Naung of Phugyi Station, Commander of Taikkyi Station Col Tint Wai, senior military officers, Secretary of Yangon Division PDC Lt-Col Myint Kyi and departmental officials at division level, Chairman of Yangon North District PDC Lt-Col Myat Min and officials, officers and other ranks of regiments and units and families.

Speaking on the occasion, Maj-Gen Myint Swe said that the tree planting ceremony held in Taikkyi Station is the fourth time in Yangon Division. Taikkyi Station is contiguous to Bago Yoma.

It is situated in the area of greening the 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport all the year round. As a result, the perennial crops and shade trees are to be planted in the places where the monsoon and summer paddy are not grown in the station.

Next, Station Commander Col Tint Wai briefed him on planting of trees in the station and measures to be taken for planting trees and Director of Division Forest Department U Khin Win on collection and distribution of saplings and preventive measures against cutting trees illegally.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and officials distributed saplings to those present. The commander planted a teak sapling to mark the ceremony. The commander, officials and families took part in the tree planting ceremony.

A total of 10,050 trees were planted in Taikkyi Station today. — MNA

## Paunglaung dam starts power generation beginning 17 July

YANGON, 20 July — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw inspected Myohla (Tatkon) Dam project in Tatkon Township, Mandalay Division, on 18 July.

Built on Myohla creek, the earth dam is 2,000 feet long and 80 feet high, with a maximum storage capacity of 13,000 acre-feet. From its 30 feet long reinforced concrete spillway, the dam can irrigate 10,000 acres of crops.

After hearing the presentations of officials, the commander made arrangements to fulfil the requirements. At Paunglaung multipurpose dam project, the commander gave instructions on work. Officials also conducted him around the control room and operation sectors of the power plant.

**Depending on the volume of water in the reservoir, the power plant is running its four 70-megawatt turbines to generate 180 megawatts at night and 45 megawatts in the day time beginning 17 July.**

Depending on the volume of water in the reservoir, the power plant is running its four 70-megawatt turbines to generate 180 megawatts at night and 45 megawatts in the day time beginning 17 July. Up to now, the reservoir has stored 28,949 acre-feet of water. At its maximum water storage of 560,000 acre-feet, the facility will irrigate 35,000 acres of crops — 19,000 acres in Mandalay Division and 16,000 acres in Bago Division.

In the evening, the commander attended the ceremony to launch the bio gas power station of Hteeleing village four miles east of Yangon-Mandalay highway in Yamethin Township.

Locals contributed K 3.5 million and Mandalay Division Union Solidarity and Development Association K 1 million to build the mini power station.

After paying respects to and presenting offertories to the Sayadaw of the village monastery, the commander inspected the station hospital and looked after the health of patients. — MNA

## USDA Secretary-General meets with members in Kanyutkwin, Nyaunglebin

YANGON, 20 July — Secretary-General of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Maj-Gen Htay Oo on 17 July made cash donation in Kanyutkwin, Bago Division (East), to the funds of the renovation of

Dhamma Withawdani ordination hall in Kanyutkwin. He also presented cash to officials for all-round renovation of Mokaung Pagoda.

Afterwards, Maj-Gen Htay Oo met with executives and members of

USDA at USDA office in Kanyutkwin. At the meeting, he briefed on future tasks of the association and urged them to make efforts for successful implementation of the five rural development tasks.

At the meeting with

USDA members in Nyaunglebin Township, Secretary of Nyaunglebin Township USDA reported on regional development tasks. Next, Maj-Gen Htay Oo urged them to make efforts with Union Spirit for the emergence of peaceful, modern and developed nation. — MNA

## FM sends felicitations to Belgian counterpart

YANGON, 21 July — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Karel de Gucht, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Belgium which falls on 21 July 2005.

MNA

## Minister looks into factories in Indagaw industrial region



Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin inspects aluminium wire factory. — MNA

YANGON, 20 July — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, accompanied by Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and officials concerned visited Indagaw industrial region in Bago Division yesterday afternoon. During the arrival, Managing Director of Myanmar Machine Tool and Electrical Industries U Kyaw Win and General Manager U Pe Than Hlaing briefed them

on production process of aluminum wires.

In connection with the reports, the minister gave instructions on stockpile of raw materials, production with full capacity, standardization of quality products, production of varieties of sizes and nurturing of skilled workers.

Next, the minister and party looked into progress in building of electrical and electric mo-

tor factory of MMTEI and installation of machine parts. Officials conducted them round the factory.

Afterwards, the minister gave instructions on measures to be taken for systematic installation of machine parts and test run, takeover of technology, timely completion of production, building of roads in the factory's environs, worksite safety and duty assignment to skilled workers. — MNA

## Myanmar archers taking part in international championship

YANGON, 20 July — Myanmar team is taking part in the compound and recurve events of the 29th international archery championship being held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to 25 July.

Compound event archers of the Myanmar

team are Paw Oo, Lin Naing, Ye Min Swe, Myo Aung Hsan, Thin Thin Khaing, Yu Nanda Htaik and Kathi, and recurve Nyi Nyi Tun, Tun Lin Aung, Zaw Win Htaik and Zaw Min Tun.

Led by Myanmar Archery Federation Presi-

dent Dr Khin Shwe, the team, also comprising Vice-President Dr Zaw Tun, Coach Cum Manager U Kyaw Oo and Coach Daw Myat Thuza Myint, left Yangon by air this morning. The members were seen off by officials.

NLM

Myanmar archery team seen at airport on 20-7-2005 before departure for Malaysia. NLM



## UN aide targeted in oil-for-food probe loses job

UNITED NATIONS, 19 July — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's special adviser for North Korea has not had his contract renewed amid investigations about his ties to a suspect in the scandal-tainted oil-for-food programme.

Canadian entrepreneur Maurice Strong has not been accused of any wrongdoing but was questioned by investigators about his links to South Korean lobbyist Tongsun Park, accused by federal prosecutors of bribing UN officials with Iraqi funds.

"His contract expired last Thursday and was not renewed," UN spokeswoman Marie Okabe said on Monday. "If he is cleared of any involvement in the oil-for-food programme, the Secretary-General will consider availing himself of his expertise on an informal

basis." Strong voluntarily withdrew from his duties as Annan's adviser on North Korea in April after questions were raised about his ties to a South Korean lobbyist suspected of bribing UN officials with Iraqi funds.

In an unrelated matter, his stepdaughter soon afterward resigned from a UN job after it was learned Strong had put her on his payroll in possible violation of UN rules.

An independent inquiry led by former US Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker began investigating Strong after he acknowledged business ties to Park, indicted earlier this year in US federal court as an unregistered Iraqi agent under president Saddam Hussein.

Park was earlier a central figure in an influence-peddling scandal in

Washington in 1977. According to a criminal complaint filed by US federal prosecutors in April, Park told an informant he had invested about one million US dollars in an unnamed Canadian company set up by the son of a high-ranking UN official, who was not named.

Strong, who has been associated with the United Nations for decades, mainly as an environmental official, later confirmed that Park invested the money in Cordex Petroleum Inc, a now-bankrupt Calgary oil company. But he has denied any involvement with the oil-for-food programme.

Strong and his son Frederick were major investors in Cordex in the 1990s, along with CSL Group Inc., a holding company owned by Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin. — MNA/Reuters

## Poll shows more US COs seeing shortages of skilled labour

WASHINGTON, 19 July — A latest survey has showed that US businesses increasingly are reporting shortages of skilled workers, suggesting the US labour market is improving steadily.

The National Association for Business Economics (NABE), which polled 103 corporate planners and financial analysts recently, said on Monday that more than a third of them reported their companies had difficulty hiring skilled workers. That

marked the highest level in four years.

Meanwhile, the survey showed that the shortage of skilled workers has been a growing problem for businesses. Over the last year, the proportion of NABE respondents reporting such shortages has risen 10 percentage points to 35 per cent. That surge has occurred despite a steady increase in the proportion of businesses reporting increases in wages and salaries, according to the survey.

The unemployment rate in the United States declined to 5 per cent in June, the lowest since August 2001 when US unemployment rate was 4.9 per cent.

The NABE survey also showed that US businesses remain upbeat about the economic outlook. A majority of the respondents said they expect the economy to expand by about 3 per cent to 4 per cent in the second half of 2005.

MNA/Xinhua

## South Africa develops wine tourism

JOHANNESBURG, 19 July — South Africa, one of major wine producers in the world, will further develop wine tourism by incorporating wine tourism into the African cultural experience, according to a report here on Monday.

The local daily *Star* reported that the total turnover of the wine industry in 2003 amounted to 10.6 billion rand (about 1.6 billion US dollars), of which 4.2 billion rand (about 640 million dollars) was derived from the wine tourism industry.

A study by the South African Wine Industry Information & Systems found that excluding tourism, the wine industry contributed 16.3 billion rand (2.47 billion dollars), or 1.5 per cent, to the coun-

try's gross domestic product in 2003 and approximately 11.4 billion rand (1.73 billion dollars) of this remained in Cape Town and the Western Cape Province.

There was, therefore, a real obligation to drive transformation in the wine tourism sector, Noki Dube, the chief executive of Cape Town Routes Unlimited, said last week at a wine tourism workshop.

This agenda included community involvement, skills transfer and capacity building, ownership ratios, overall fit into local economic development planning and targeted domestic market focus, Dube said.

Cape Town and the Western Cape were already members of the Great Wine Capitals,

which included the regions of Melbourne, Bordeaux, Porto, Bilbao-Rioja and Florence.

This network served to encourage international winery tourism as well as economic academic and cultural exchanges between famous wine capitals.

Dube said the challenges and opportunities were the creation of a distinctive image for South African and Western Cape wines associated with tourism, the linking of the winelands experiences to the authentic experiences of the townships.

They also include the incorporation of wine tourism into the African cultural experience and the continual creation of sustainable jobs in the wine industry. — MNA/Xinhua



India's tiger and freshwater dolphin populations are rapidly dwindling as poachers kill the endangered species to feed a lucrative trade in traditional medicines, newspaper reports said.—INTERNET

## Algeria's Bouteflika lifts ban on alcohol imports

ALGIERS, 19 July — Algeria has lifted a ban on alcohol imports, a government official said on Monday, in a move that will help negotiations for World Trade Organization membership.

President Abdelaziz Bouteflika used Parliament's summer recess to push through a decree late on Sunday to amend a law introduced last year by Islamic parties in the national assembly to ban imports of wine and beer.

Algeria, an oil-producing country, needs to open up its 90-billion-US-dollar economy to foreign markets if it is to gain WTO membership. It hopes to wrap up accession talks this year.

MNA/Reuters

## Nissan to recall 140,000 SUVs in North America

WASHINGTON, 19 July — Nissan North America Inc said on Monday it will recall more than 140,000 Murano sport utility vehicles (SUV) amid concerns that a broken wire in the alternator could deplete power to the engine and lead to a crash.

The recall involves more than 125,000 vehicles from the 2003-2005 model years in the United States and more than 15,000 vehicles in Canada, a spokesman from Nissan said. But he said that no injuries or crashes linked to the problem have been reported as yet. The recall is expected to begin on 3 August. Dealers will be instructed to inspect and replace the alternator with a new ver-

sion that has been upgraded to prevent the problem.

The US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said in a posting on its web site that a wire could break inside the alternator and prevent the battery from charging. The charger warning and brake warning lamps would come on and the battery would start to discharge. After a short time, the engine would go into a condition that limits the vehicle's speed and stop running, creating the potential for a crash.

MNA/Xinhua

## Nigeria, TOTAL sign contract on developing deep-sea oil

ABUJA, 19 July — The Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and the French oil company TOTAL have signed a production sharing contract to develop oil resource in the deep offshore Niger Delta, Nigerian Minister of State for Petroleum Resources Edmund Daukoru said here on Monday.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in the Nigerian capital Abuja on Monday, Daukoru said under the contract, 7.6 million US dollars would accrue to the NNPC as a signature bonus and another 10 million dollars after the

first oil.

The NNPC is the concessionaire of the Oil Prospecting Lease 223 block and has 30 per cent share while TOTAL is the contractor and has 70 per cent holding in the block.

Describing the block as attractive, Daukoru said "every square in it is a potential oil discovery".

"We cannot wait for the first oil given the prosperity of the block," he added. The French company's managing director welcomed the opportunity to exploit oil from the block, promising that TOTAL would strike the first oil in the next seven

years.

The NNPC is partnering in the block through its exploration and production arm the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company (NPDC).

Daukoru and Managing Director of TOTAL Jacques Marraud Des Groitres signed the contract on behalf of their respective companies. The contract is for 30 years and is also renewable.

Nigeria is the largest oil producer in Africa and the sixth largest oil exporter in the world with a daily crude output of over 2.4 million barrels.

MNA/Xinhua

**The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago.  
The second best time is now.**



ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွင့်လှစ်တိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့



Lucky the Dinosaur is seen in Lake Buena Vista, Florida on 19 July, 2005. Lucky, the latest innovation in Disney Audio-Animatronics design will be transported to the Hong Kong Disneyland in China where he will be an opening day cast member when the theme park opens on 12 September, 2005.—INTERNET

### “Emily” lashes Mexican beach resorts

CANCUN, (Mexico), 19 July— Hurricane Emily pounded Mexico’s Caribbean beach resorts early on Monday, driving many tourists out of their fancy seafront hotels and into shelters to escape its destruction.

Packing 135-miles per hour winds, Emily knocked out power, toppled trees and whipped up huge waves at the popular resort of Cancun and along the “Maya Riviera”, normally a playground of white beaches, aquatic parks and golf courses.

Thousands of tourists cut short their beach vacations and fled for home over the weekend. But many were unable to leave or decided to see it through, so they hunkered down as the Category 4 hurricane tore in from the Caribbean.

“This is my first trip outside the United States and then this happens ... I’m just going to keep praying,” said Rod Jones, a schoolteacher from Michigan, as he sat nervously in a blacked-out hotel room early on Monday, clutching a pillow.

Outside, trees were bent over and large branches were ripped off and dragged along the streets.

Mexico shut down most of the offshore wells in its

most productive oil fields, and two ports that export crude were closed due to churning seas.

Luxury beachfront hotels were boarded up, so inland hotels put up the 5-star refugees as well as local residents. Some squeezed in 15 people per room and schools and gymnasiums were also used in the operation to protect about 60,000 people.

Soldiers packed 2,000 visitors from three luxury hotels into one gymnasium in Cancun and simply barred the doors.

“I am dying here,” screamed Spanish tourist Juan Moreno, 27, from Madrid as he banged on a locked iron gate. There was no fan or air conditioning, and hotel staff tied to calm down a woman who was hyperventilating.

Many locals who live in ramshackle houses feared for their homes as they packed a few possessions and headed for shelter. — MNA/Reuters

### Abortion pill maker alerts doctors to five deaths

WASHINGTON, 19 July — Five women who took the abortion pill RU-486 have died from bacterial infections since its US introduction nearly five years ago, the manufacturer reported on Monday.

“No causal relationship between these events” has been established with the drug, also known as Mifeprex or mifepristone, maker Danco Laboratories LLC said.

“Childbirth, menstruation and abortion, whether spontaneous, surgical or medical, all create conditions that can result in serious and sometimes fatal infection, and there is no evidence that Mifeprex and misoprostol present a special risk of infection,” the company said in a statement.

Misoprostol is a drug that women must take two days after Mifeprex to complete the abortion.

Danco said it was sending a letter to alert physicians about the cases and updating warning information on the drug’s label.

Mifeprex already carries a warning about the possibility that women who take the drug could experience serious and sometimes fatal infections. The company is updating the label to give physicians more information to help them spot the problem, Danco spokeswoman Cynthia Summers said.

“With these very rare infections, we want people to be able to recognize them early,” she said.

RU-486 is approved for terminating a pregnancy of 49 days or less. Abortion opponents fought vigorously to keep it off the US market and have asked the FDA to revoke the approval.

More than 460,000 US women have taken Mifeprex since September 2000, Danco said.

One of the deaths occurred during a clinical trial in Canada in 2001, the company said. The other four were reported in California. Two of the California deaths were reported in late 2003, one in early 2004 and one in mid-2005. Three of the cases involved a rare bacterium known as Clostridium sordellii, Danco’s statement said.

Women who take Mifeprex and misoprostol should contact a doctor or visit an emergency room immediately if they experience abdominal pain or discomfort or general malaise more than 24 hours after taking misoprostol, Danco said. — MNA/Reuters

### Nigerian Govt donates food to Niger

LAGOS, 19 July— The Nigerian Government has donated 6,500 bags of grains to Niger Republic as part of efforts to mitigate the ravaging drought in its northern neighbouring country, the official News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reported on Monday.

The relief consignment, worth 54 million naira (about 415,000 US dollars) was presented to Niger by the Jigawa State Government at the weekend in Babura, a border town between the two countries.

The grains, including millet, maize and sorghum, were conveyed in 16 trucks from Jigawa to Damagaran in Niger Republic for distribution to the affected communities, said Malam Ibrahim Dandoka, chairman of Nigeria’s Donation Committee.

Presenting the items, he said “the donation is a gesture based on the spirit

of neighbourliness and brotherhood between the two countries”.

He added that the measure was aimed to alleviate the hardship experienced by the Nigerian communities that suffered from famine.

“The donation is to reduce the current hardship experienced by the people of Niger Republic,” he said.

He added that the donation would go a long way in reducing famine and ensuring food security, noting that “the measure is taken to promote security in the border communities.”

MNA/Xinhua

### Robots replace child jockeys in UAE camel race

ABU DHABI, 19 July — Remote-controlled robot jockeys made their debut as camel riders in the United Arab Emirates on Monday, competing in a trial race after the Gulf Arab State tightened a ban on child jockeys.

Robots weighing up to 15 kilos (33 pounds) were dressed in the clothes of human jockeys during the race held in the capital Abu Dhabi, which officials described as “successful”, the WAM news agency reported. Earlier this month the UAE outlawed using children under 18 in camel races, a practice condemned inter-

nationally as a form of slavery, raising the age limit from 16.

The UAE and neighbouring Qatar, which has also banned child camel jockeys, want to replace them with robot riders which receive orders from an instructor via a remote control system on the back of the camel. UAE officials plan to order up to 10,000 robots

from Asian countries and Japan at the cost of about 2,000 US dollars each. Rights groups have said that several thousand boys, some as young as four, work as jockeys in the lucrative sport in the oil-rich state. They say many children, mainly from poor Asian countries, had been abducted or sold by their families and that the boys were

kept in prison-like conditions and underfed to keep them light so the camels run faster. MNA/Reuters

### Model plane lovers to stage simulated “anti-Japanese” air-war

BEIJING, 20 July — Model plane lovers will launch a simulated “anti-Japanese” air-war on 13 August to mark the 58th anniversary that Japanese troops attacked Shanghai, the Beijing-based The First Daily reported on Tuesday.

More than 80 air models are expected to participate in the simulated air battle, the largest of its kind since the People’s Republic of China was founded in 1949, the paper says.

To mark the the 60th anniversary of the victory over the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, China will stage a series of activities to mark the event.

The air models, most of which are modeled on US and Japanese airplanes popular during World War II, will be locked in 86 fierce fights in the air 60 metres to 120 metres above ground, according to the paper. — MNA/Xinhua



Cosplayers dressed as characters from the Japanese comic ‘The Twelve Kingdoms’ (R) and the Japanese online game ‘Shin Sangohumushou 4’ (C) pose during a cosplay contest at a shopping mall in Hong Kong on 19 July, 2005.

INTERNET

## SPORTS

**Italy striker Gilardino joins AC Milan**

MILAN, 19 July — Parma's Alberto Gilardino, the most prolific Italian striker in Serie A over the last two seasons, has joined AC Milan, the club said on Monday.

"I'm very happy, it was a long negotiation that fortunately ended in the best way," Gilardino told Milan's in-house television channel. "Everything about this team fascinates me — the club, the history, the top players who are part of it. Gilardino has signed a five-year contract. Milan gave no immediate details of the size of the transfer fee.

Parma were asking for 35 million euros (42.25 million US dollars) when Milan first enquired about Gilardino towards the end of last term with an initial offer above 20 million.

The 23-year-old Gilardino, who has scored 46 goals in 72 games over the last two seasons, will form a strike partnership with European Footballer of the Year Andriy Shevchenko.

"Why did I choose Milan? Because they are the strongest club in Europe and for me it is a great honour to wear these colours," he said on signing for the Champions League finalists.

Gilardino has been a regular for Italy since Marcello Lippi took over last July after the striker was controversially left out of the Italy squad for Euro 2004 in Portugal.

Last season Milan openly expressed



Newly signed forward Alberto Gilardino waves to fans prior to a training session at the AC Milan training facility in Carnago, near Milan, Italy, on Tuesday, 19 July, 2005. The Italian centre forward was transferred from Parma to AC Milan, the Milanese team announced on Monday.—INTERNET

an interest in Gilardino, who is widely expected to spearhead Italy's attack at the World Cup if they qualify for the 2006 finals in Germany.—MNA/Reuters

**Real says Ronaldo not for sale under any conditions**

MADRID, 19 July— Real Madrid denied media reports on Monday they had been trying to arrange an exchange deal between Ronaldo and Inter Milan striker Adriano.

"In the light of the reports about a possible deal involving Ronaldo and Adriano Real Madrid would like to reiterate that they will not listen to any offer nor will they negotiate the sale of Ronaldo," read a statement on the club's web site. "The club would like to make it absolutely clear that neither the president (Florentino Perez) nor any representative of the club will consider an offer for the Real Madrid player."

Ronaldo, 28, joined Real for 46.3 million US dollars from Inter Milan in 2002 and has been the club's leading scorer in each of the last three seasons.

At present he is touring the US States and Asia with Real Madrid.

Although they have denied any interest in Adriano, Real have made no secret of their desire to sign another Brazilian international, Robinho, despite the unwillingness of his club Santos to sell him. Spanish and English media have been reporting that if Real succeeded in signing the 21-year-old forward they would be willing to sell England striker Michael Owen, but as yet the club has not made any official comment about the former Liverpool player's future.—MNA/Reuters

**Southampton's Jakobsson returns to Helsingborg**

STOCKHOLM, 19 July— Southampton defender Andreas Jakobsson has signed a 2-1/2-year contract with his former Swedish first division team Helsingborg, the club said on their web site on Monday.

Jakobsson, 32, made 29 appearances and scored two goals for Southampton last season, which ended with the club being relegated from the Premier League.

He joined Southampton in 2004, having spent the previous season with Danish Superleague club Brøndby.

He played for Germa-

ny's Hansa Rostock during 2000-2003 and for Helsingborg from 1995-2000.

Jakobsson won 36

caps for Sweden, retiring from the national team after the Euro 2004 championships in Portugal.—MNA/Reuters

**Dalmat signs five-year deal with Racing**

MADRID, 19 July— French midfielder Stephane Dalmat has signed a five-year contract with Racing Santander, the Primera Liga club said on Monday.

The 26-year-old, who began his professional career at Chateauroux in 1997, joined Inter Milan from Paris St Germain for 9 million US dollars in 2001, but was unable to secure an extended run in the first team during his two-season spell at the Serie A club.

He was loaned out to Tottenham Hotspur in August 2003 and made a good start at the London club, but he fell out of favour with caretaker manager David Pleat and was sent back early to Inter Milan after a training ground incident.—MNA/Reuters

**Construction of modern stadium at full swing in Tanzania**

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 20 July— The construction of a 60,000-capacity modern stadium was put in full swing here on Monday when Tanzanian President Benjamin William Mkapa laid the foundation stone.

The New National Stadium is designed to meet both the FIFA and IAAF standards as well as those required by other Olympic sports, according to project manager and architect Aloyce Mushi.

The stadium, with a construction cost of 54.6 million US dollars, has special ramps and lifts for the disabled to reach the spectators stands, 70 per cent of which are to be roofed up.

The Tanzanian and Chinese governments are jointly financing the construction of the stadium, part of a sports complex that is also to have an indoor

gymnasium and a theatre. President Mkapa wrote on the visitors' book that upon completion the stadium will stand out as a fitting monument of the friendship between China and Tanzania.

Chinese ambassador to Tanzania Yu Qingtai said at the foundation stone-laying ceremony that the modern and top-quality stadium would be a new testimony to the bilateral friendship.

The old Tanzanian National Stadium, just in the vicinity of the New National Stadium, has a seating capacity of not more than 6,000 spectators.

MNA/Xinhua

**Parreira supports Ronaldo leaving national team in 2006**

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 July— Brazilian national team coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, said Monday he understood the decision of Real Madrid striker Ronaldo to leave the national team by the end of the Germany 2006 World Cup.

"Playing a cup at 33 or 34 is complicated for a striker. Ronaldo has to make use of his age. In 2006 he will live his fourth World Cup and has already helped Brazil a lot," said Parreira as cited by Lancepress news agency.

Ronaldo said on Sunday Spanish television network Television Espanola, while in Los Angeles, where he is with Real Madrid as part of a pre-season tour, that Germany will be his

last World Cup and that he is decided to leave room for new players from his country.

He said that in spite of these words he does not plan to abandon his career nor Real Madrid.

Parreira, who was Monday at the city of Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul State (south) offering a conference for businessmen, has said in other occasions that Ronaldo could be replaced in the national team.—MNA/Xinhua

**Challenger Tokuyama reclaims WBC title**

TOKYO, 19 July— Masamori Tokuyama defeated Katsushige Kawashima to take back his WBC super flyweight title in a unanimous decision on Monday.

Tokuyama, a DPR Korean resident of Japan who lost the title to his Japanese rival one year ago, opened a gash above his opponent's eye in the fifth at Osaka. Kawashima fought back, landing a punch to send Tokuyama to the canvas in the 12th round.

US judge James Jenkins scored the match in favour of Tokuyama, 118-109. Japanese judges Kazuo Abe and Hisatoshi Miyazaki favoured Tokuyama 117-110 and 115-112, respectively.

It was Kawashima's third attempt to defend his super flyweight title, since he won a technical knockout over then-champion Tokuyama on June 28, 2004 in Tokyo. Kawashima also won a unanimous decision over Mexico's Raul Juarez in September and a split decision over Jose Navarro of the United States in January.

With the victory, Tokuyama improved to 31-3-1 with 8 KOs. Kawashima was 28-4-0 with 18 KOs.

MNA/Xinhua



Qatar's Mohamad Salem Al-maal (R) fights for the ball with Switzerland's Maric Mijat during their friendly soccer match between the Qatar Under-21 and Switzerland Under-21 teams at the Vevey Stadium in Switzerland on 19 July, 2005.—INTERNET





**Meritorious deeds performed at pagodas and religious buildings, Dhammaçakka Akhadaw observed on Fullmoon Day of Waso**

YANGON, 20 July — Today is Fullmoon Day of Waso (Dhammaçakka Akhadaw Day) in 1367 Myanmar Era. Pagodas, stupas and religious buildings in Yangon City were teeming with devotees from dawn to early evening, offering Shwekyar Thingans and Waso flowers to the Buddha images, taking precepts and practising meditation.

Devotees and pilgrims did meritorious deeds at Shwedagon Pagoda. They performed donation of Shwekyar Thingan, flowers, water,

of Desana from members of the Sangha. At night, wut associations recited religious verses.

The Shwekyar Thingan offering ceremony in conjunction with the ceremony to observe Dhammaçakka Akhadaw Day was held at Sule Pagoda this morning. Joint-Secretary of YCDC U Tin Soe and members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees offered Shwekyar Thingan to Buddha Images. In the afternoon, wut associations recited religious verses at the prayer hall.

At Botahtaung Pagoda, Tipitaka Maha

Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Manitabhivamsa of Maha Aungmye Township delivered Desanas to the congregation in the afternoon.

Similarly, the Dhammaçakka Akhadaw Day was observed at Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Pagoda in conjunction with the ceremony to donate Waso robes to the Buddha images. The congregation recited Dhammaçakka and Anattalakkhana Suttas and shared merits gained. Next, members of the Pagoda Board of Trustees offered Waso robes to the Buddha Images.

Chairman of All-



The precinct of Shwedagon Pagoda is teeming with pilgrims on Fullmoon Day of Waso (20-7-2005). — NLM



Members of the pagoda board of trustees offering

Waso robes to a Buddha image of Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Pagoda on the Fullmoon Day of Waso (20-7-2005).

MNA

devotees attended the Dhammaçakka Akhadaw Day at Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image in Insein Township. The Deputy Minister and party offered 'soon' and Shwekyar Thingan to the Buddha Image. They also donated Waso robes and alms to members of the Sangha.

Waso robes offering ceremonies and other

religious ceremonies to mark the Fullmoon Day of Waso and Dhammaçakka Akhadaw Day were held at Ngadatgyi Pagoda in Bahan Township, Varadatha Buddha Tooth Relic Pagoda in Mayangon Township, Maha Wizaya Pagoda in Dagon Township, Koedatgyi Pagoda in Sangyoung Township and

Kyaikwaing Pagoda in Mayangon Township.

This morning, the 28th Dhammaçakka Akhadaw Day was held at Myanmar Buddhist Missionary Organization on Shwedagon Pagoda Road in Bahan Township. Chairman U San Tun and officials offered candle lights and water to the Buddha Image. Rector of State (See page 10)

**Prime Minister General Soe Win sends felicitations to PM of Belgium**

YANGON, 21 July — General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Guy Verhofstadt, Prime Minister of Belgium, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Belgium which falls on 21 July 2005. — MNA

lights joss sticks and fruits to Buddha images at the prayer halls of the pagoda, recitation of Dhammaçakka and Anattalakkhana Suttas, practising of meditation, donations to those present at the pagoda and taking

Gandawin Monastery Sayadaw Dwipitakadhara Dwipitaka Kovida Bhaddanta Obhasabhivamsa of Dagon Myothis (East) Township and Maha Withoddayon Taikthit Thahtaytan Monastery Sayadaw Agga

round Supervisory Committee for Mindhamma Hill Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Shein Aung Bo and members, religious associations and

Pilgrims seen at Maha Wizaya Pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Waso (Dhammaçakka) (20-7-2005). MNA

