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Wednesday, 27 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

Wellwishers donate K 120,857,500 and US \$ 4,000

Secretary-1 attends cash donation ceremony for supply of potable water in rural areas



partment on Thanlyetsun, Botahtaung Township here this afternoon with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, well-wishers and specially invited guests.

First, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses donation ceremony to provide drinking water to rural areas. — MNA

There are altogether 23,225 villages—8042 in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway Divisions and 15,138 in other states and divisions, where potable water is scarce or insufficient.

The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry have been taking systematic measures for development of rural regions. In the process, they spent K 250.13 million in 2000-2001 fiscal year, K 321.61 million in 2001-2002 fiscal year, K 572.02 million in 2002-2003 fiscal year, K 653.44 million in 2003-2004 fiscal year, 1036.74 million in 2004-2005 fiscal year and 1182.36 million in 2005-2006 fiscal year on supply of potable water in rural regions.

Under the project, the ministry has been able to supply potable water to 14,309 villages out of (See page 8)



YANGON, 26 July—The 10th cash donation ceremony of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs for supply of drinking water in rural areas took place at the meeting hall of the Development Affairs De-

The ministry has been able to supply potable water to 14,309 villages out of 23,225 across the nation through the funds of the government and public contributions. A total of 1335 well-wishers donated 1053.0674 million plus US\$ 70252, Euro Currency 770 and FEC 10,012 from the first to ninth donations.

velopment Affairs Col Thein Nyunt explained matters on acquisition of potable water in rural regions, saying that the five rural development tasks have been laid down and are being implemented to bring about equitable and harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation.

The respective departments and committees under Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are engaged in urban and rural development tasks, he added.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe had given guidance on implementing the tasks for supply of potable water in rural regions of the three arid divisions, where drinking water is scarce, through the ten-year project, he noted.

Minister Col Thein Nyunt speaks at the ceremony.
MNA



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

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 27 July, 2005

Work hand in hand with government for regional and national progress

Peace and stability prevailing in all regions of the Union, the State Peace and Development Council is in a position to put its energies into nation-building tasks for parallel development of each and every region and all-round development of the Union as a whole. Up to now, many infrastructures have been built which can contribute to the development of the education, health, transport and economic sectors. While trying to ensure food sufficiency and secure living for the entire national people, the government is striving for industrial development in order that the nation can become an industrialized one.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, also Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, attended the inauguration of Kaungkha Hydelpower Station in Kutkai Township, Shan State (North), on 24 July. In his address at the opening ceremony, the Secretary-1 said that the national brethren were becoming more and more united and the nation was enjoying peace and stability and the rule of law unprecedented in any period of Myanmar history and that it was necessary for all nationals to preserve the favourable environment for posterity.

The history of the Union of Myanmar shows that national unity, peace and stability of the nation, community peace and the rule of law are the sine qua non for national development, transition to democracy and perpetuation of the State.

More than 10 years ago, the people living in border areas are a stranger to peace and stability, secure living and development as they were having to go through various forms of sufferings due to the lack of security which itself was the result of armed insurgencies. Now, the people there are free from those sufferings and their regions have seasonal crops plantations and perennials, tarred roads, bridges, schools, post and telegraph offices and power stations, enjoying the fruits of development.

Therefore, we would like to call on the entire national people always to continue working hand in hand with the government for the development of their respective regions and that of the Union as a whole.



President of UMFCCI U Win Myint and Secretary-General U Sein Win Hlaing receive Managing Director Mr Tomohiro Ando and Ms Kako Sasai of Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) on 26 July and discuss matters on displaying of booths of Myanmar entrepreneurs at Mekong Sub-region Country-Wise Exhibition to be held in Tokyo from 21 to 24 February 2006.—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

Contract on oil and gas exploration signed

YANGON, 25 July — At the invitation of Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, a Thai delegation led by Minister of Energy of Thailand Mr Viset Chooipiban and wife arrived here by air yesterday afternoon. The delegation was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay and wife and departmental officials.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi met his Thai counterpart at the Sedona Hotel this morning. Next, a ceremony to sign a production sharing contract on oil and gas exploration between Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise and PTTEP International Ltd of Thailand took place at the hotel.

It was attended by Myanmar Investment Commission Vice-Chairman Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Re-



Myanmar and Thai officials pose for a group photo after signing production sharing contract between MOGE and PTTEP International

Ltd of Thailand. ENERGY

settlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, visiting Thai Energy Minister Mr Viset Chooipiban and delegation members, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay, Chairman of PTTEP Mr Maroot Mrigadat, officials and guests.

The energy minister and the Thai minister delivered opening speeches

on the occasion. MOGE Managing Director and Chairman Mr Maroot Mrigadat signed the contract for block No (M-11) and exchanged the documents.

Next, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut presented work permit and MIC permit to the chairman of the PTTEP. Then, a ceremony to mark the first extraction of oil at the offshore block No (M-9) was held. The ministers,

guests and officials viewed the display of exploration of oil and gas at block Nos (M-3), (M-4), (M-37) and (M-9).

In the afternoon, the visiting Thai minister called on Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut at his office.

The Thai delegation left here by air for home this evening. They were seen off at the airport by the deputy minister for energy and officials.

MNA

Disaster Management Training begins

YANGON, 26 July — The Ministry of Health and World Health Organization co-sponsored the Disaster Management Training at the Traders Hotel here today, with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, officials of the Health Ministry, Resident Representative of WHO Professor Adik Wibowo, officials of the UN agencies, officials of the related departments and organizations and guests.

The minister said that natural disasters can ruin the normal health care activities. In this regard advanced health management task concerning the disasters has become an essential need. There can be delays in relief work due to weakness in leadership and organization and the failure to mobilize the relief forces. With the leadership of the Head of State,

the National Disaster Preparedness and Management Committee has been formed. The committee has been laying down disaster preparedness and management policies and mobilization projects which are a part of national disaster preparedness project to prevent and control the disasters in time. It is required to cooperate with the related government institutions and social organizations to prevent natural disasters.

Professor Adik Wibowo also gave a speech.

Officials of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Fire Services Department, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department, and Myanmar Red Cross Society will give lectures. Officials at various levels of the Health Department are attending the course that continues till 28 July. — MNA

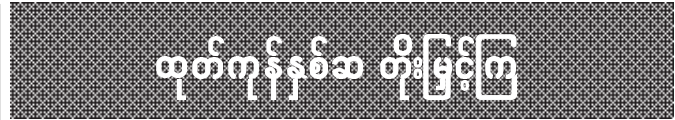


Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint addresses Disaster Management Training at the Traders Hotel.

MNA



Commuters wait on the platform at Tokyo Railway Station as train services were halted after a strong earthquake rocked Tokyo and its vicinity on 23 July, 2005. A 5.7-magnitude earthquake shook eastern Japan late Saturday afternoon, rattling buildings in the capital and temporarily suspending flights and trains services. —INTERNET



China's central bank head calls yuan move "initial" step

BEIJING, 25 July—The head of China's central bank on Saturday described this week's revaluation of the yuan as an initial step whose benefits outweighed its drawbacks.

"We made an initial 2-per-cent adjustment of the exchange rate level," Zhou Xiaochuan, the governor of the People's Bank of China, told state television. He said the central bank would adopt a gradual approach to reform of the country's exchange rate regime in line with the principles laid down by the ruling Communist Party.

Zhou was speaking two days after

Beijing revalued the yuan or Renminbi, by 2.1 per cent in a move long anticipated in financial markets. At the same time, China scrapped an 11-year-old peg to the dollar and replaced it with a managed float whereby the yuan will be controlled in a tight range with reference to a basket of currencies of the country's main trading partners.

MNA/Reuters

Survey shows 52% of Japanese distrust US Government

TOKYO, 25 July—While 52 per cent of Japanese people do not trust the US Government, 59 per cent of US citizens think of Tokyo as trustworthy, a joint public perception survey by *Kyodo News* and the *Associated Press* found Sunday.

The survey, conducted earlier this month to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, covered 1,045 respondents aged 20 or older in Japan and 1,000 aged 18 or older in the United States.

Japanese distrust of the United States has risen 26 percentage points from a similar survey conducted in 1991 shortly after the Gulf War. The figure reflects rising concern about the unilateralism of US President George W Bush's Administration on foreign and security policy as seen in the Iraq war.

Those in the United States who have "very" or "somewhat" favourable views toward Japan accounted for 81 per cent, exceeding the 68 per cent of Japanese who indicated the same attitude toward the United States.

Most respondents on both sides think bilateral relations will remain intact over the next several years, while only 25 per cent of the US and 3 per cent of the Japanese respondents believe ties between the two countries will improve.

MNA/Xinhua

HK remains vigilant in food safety

HONG KONG, 25 July—Hong Kong's Secretary for Health, Welfare & Food York Chow said on Sunday that the community must remain vigilant in maintaining and enhancing food safety standards even though the current situation is satisfactory.

Of the 62,000 food samples taken for microbiological and chemical tests under the Food Surveillance Programme last year, the overall failure rate was only 0.3 per cent, Chow said while officiating the Food Safety Day roadshow on Sunday.

He stressed the importance of three-way cooperation, involving the government, the trade and the public in ensuring food safety.

MNA/Xinhua

Shortage in food rations raises concern

BAGHDAD, 25 July—A shortage of items in Iraq's monthly food rations is starting to worry government planners and the UN World Food Programme, particularly as most of the Iraqi population still depends on food aid. "There is a shortage of oil, tea, sugar, rice and washing powder, across all governorates," said Ali Mazlon, Deputy Director of the state company for food stuff at the Ministry of Trade, which is responsible for the distribution of food items under the Public Distribution System [PDS].

The WFP reported significant commodity shortages earlier this month. "The July circle of the PDS is well underway," it said in mid-July. "However, there continue to be significant shortages in the supply of commodities in many governorates.

"This situation has been exacerbated by the continuing shortages in water and electricity, and now increasingly in fuel such as gas, kerosene and petrol."

Mazlon said there were several reasons for the shortages. First of all there was insecurity, he said, with few trucking companies willing to operate in Iraq because of the kidnapping of some drivers and threats to others, particularly on the western border with Syria.

There has also been a slow response to Iraq's food and commodity needs by suppliers, he added.

"I have not had any tea, sugar or oil for a month - and I cannot afford to buy it," Baghdad housewife Samira Jabbar said. At present tea is being imported from Sri Lanka and India, rice from Thailand and the US, sugar from Brazil and the United Arab Emirates, and oil from various countries worldwide.

"We understand that this is a big problem, but there is not much we can do at the moment as we are also waiting for more funds to come through," Mazlon said, but without specifying the figures expected or received.—Internet

1,778 US soliders killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 25 July—As of Monday, 25 July, 2005, at least 1,778 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 1,366 died as a result of hostile action. The figures include five military civilians.

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

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, 1,639 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,257 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

Internet



Soldiers from the 256th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, and an Iraqi soldier (2nd L) search for four guerillas who earlier attacked an Iraqi unit near Baghdad in this military handout photo released on 22 July, 2005.—INTERNET

Power woes in north India cripples industry

NEW DELHI, 25 July—About 90 per cent of industrial units across northern India are forced to use captive generators to overcome the erratic power supply that dogs them, according to the findings of a latest study.

This has severely undermined their competitiveness and global reach, with smaller units taking even worse hits, said a PHDCCI (Progress, Harmony and Development Chamber of Commerce and Industry) survey among 90 companies in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi. Over 55 per cent of the respondents said they met 10-40 per cent of their power requirements through captive plants, while 20 per cent depended on diesel generators for more than 40 per cent of their requirements.

MNA/Xinhua

Beijing hosts international congress of science history

BEIJING, 25 July — More than 1,000 world science historians convened here on Saturday to discuss science and technology development and its interactions with globalization and diversity.

Lu Yongxiang, vice-chairman of China's National People's Congress Standing Committee, said at an inaugural to the 22nd International Congress of History of Science that Albert Einstein a century ago created the Theory of Relativity and hence inserted a great impact to the scientific community and the world as a whole.

A total of 600 years ago, said Lu, also president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Zheng He, a Chinese general of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), led an imperial fleet for the world's first global voyage.

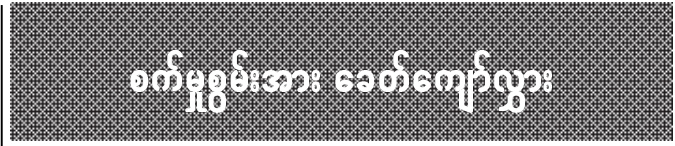
"The first marine exploration by Chinese did not necessarily mean scientific revolution would occur first in China," said Lu, citing that China lagged far behind Western powers in science and technology at modern times, which was clearly explained by well-known

British science historian Dr Joseph Needham.

Lu said, discussions in the coming week in Beijing among global science historians might strengthen human beings' understanding on essence of science and offer help to share valuable experience between different countries.

He said the Chinese tradition, or the Confucian tradition, always places history and classics as the most important part of human knowledge. Learning history will help people to find ways for the future, he said.

Since its establishment in 1929, the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science's Division of History of Science has never organized any congress in China before this one. Only five countries other than European ones hosted such an event.— *MNA/Xinhua*



Volunteers of the Baghdad al-Sadr political office unload food rations and medical supplies donated by residents of Sadr City area of Baghdad, Iraq, on 23 July 2005.—INTERNET

Japanese jetliner makes emergency landing at Manila Airport

MANILA, 25 July— A Boeing 747 jetliner of Japan Airlines (JAL) made an emergency landing at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila on Sunday afternoon after smoke was seen coming out of the plane's engine, airport officials said.

The Tokyo-bound JAL 742 plane turned back 15 minutes after takeoff from the airport after its pilot requested for an emergency landing, saying the plane's indicator showed fire under the plane's wing, according to airport officials. The plane took off at 02:43 pm local time (0643 GMT) and made a successful emergency landing at the airport at 03:15 pm (0715 GMT).

The 308 passengers and 20 crew members were ordered to disembark while airport mechanics started a check-up on the plane. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Singapore-based budget airlines merge amid tougher competition

SINGAPORE, 25 July— Two Singapore-based low-cost airlines, Jetstar Asia and Valuair, announced on Sunday their merger in a fierce competitive industry.

"Jetstar Asia and Valuair today announced the formation of a new Singapore company that will own and operate both airlines," the companies said in a joint statement.

According to Channel NewsAsia reports, the new company, which has yet to be named, will be chaired by Geoff Dixon, who is chairman of Jetstar Asia and Chief Executive Officer of Australia's Qantas Airways.

Ken Ryan, Chief Executive Officer of Jetstar, will be the chief executive of both Valuair and Jetstar Asia.

The airlines are expected to operate in their own right for the foreseeable future with little or no change to the services they offer.

The merge comes when the region's low-cost airline industry has been under pressure to consolidate amid tough competition, and speculation about a union between Jetstar Asia and Valuair has been rife in recent weeks.

Valuair, Jetstar, Tiger Airways and AirAsia begun their services since the middle of last year with some tickets costing less than a train fare between the same destinations.

Valuair is estimated to have lost 4.1 million Singapore dollars (about 2.4 million US dollars) last year while Jetstar Asia, in which Qantas Airways has a 49-per-cent stake, also faces intense price competition and soaring fuel prices. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Algeria pulls staff out of Iraq

LONDON, 25 July— Algeria has withdrawn all its diplomats from Iraq following the kidnap of two of its staff last week.

"I can confirm that there are no longer any Algerian diplomats in Baghdad," said Minister Abdelkader Messahel.

Algeria said the decision was a precautionary measure and was not made in response to the kidnapers' demands. Iraq has been trying to encourage other countries to set up embassies in Baghdad, but Egypt's top envoy has already been abducted and killed.

The group al-Qaeda in Iraq claimed to have carried out both attacks.

Internet

Iraq increased threat of attacks, says former British PM John Major

LONDON, 26 July—The war in Iraq has heightened the threat of terrorist attacks in Britain, former Prime Minister Sir John Major has claimed.

His intervention is a setback to Tony Blair's attempt to play down any link between the London bombings and the Iraq conflict.

Sir John told BBC radio yesterday: "I think what has happened is not that the Iraq war and other policies created that threat, I think it was there and growing, though it was not in full bloom. — *Internet*

South Koreans carry an effigy of US President George W Bush and Statue of Liberty during an anti-war rally in downtown Seoul, on 23 July, 2005. About 500 persons demanded withdrawal of US troops from South Korea.

INTERNET



China reports 14.6% mid-year growth in fiscal revenues

BEIJING, 25 July— China's fiscal revenues grew by 14.6 per cent year-on-year during the first half of this year to 1.639 trillion yuan (about 202.3 billion US dollars), the Ministry of Finance said on Sunday.

Budget spending at central and local levels totalled 1.242 trillion yuan (153.3 billion US dollars) during the January-June period, up 15 per cent, the ministry said.

Central fiscal revenues rose 10.1 per cent, while fiscal spending by local governments jumped by 20.9 per cent and local fiscal revenues grew by 21 per cent.

An official with the ministry blamed low central fiscal revenues to increased spending by the central governments on export tax rebates.

The central government paid 150.3 billion yuan (18.5 billion US dollars) in export tax rebates during the first six months of this year, or 104.4 billion yuan (12.7 billion US dollars) more than the same period of last year.

The national fiscal revenues would have jumped by 21.9 per cent if the central government had not paid the increased sum of export tax rebates, and the central fiscal revenues would have been increased by 19.4 per cent, the official said. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Wen Jiabao calls for stepping up emergency management

BEIJING, 25 July — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao called on governments at all levels to improve emergency management, noting that it is an important guarantee to national security, social stability and people's interest.

Wen made this remark at a State Council's working meeting on emergency management held here on Sunday.

Government departments at various levels should set up and keep improving emergency warning systems for all sectors of society, and step up emergency management work, he said, urging prioritizing emergency management and spending more public resources like human power, funds and materials on social management and public services, said Wen.

Preventive planning and management by law and science and technology were also underlined at the

meeting.

In addition, Wen acknowledged that cooperation and coordination among departments must strengthened in a bid to respond quickly and efficiently to emergency situations.

Social units at grassroots levels, including schools, communities, hospitals, enterprises and rural villages, should further improve their ability in facing up emergencies. Publicity of information on public safety, emergency management, disaster prevention and control and self-rescue work should be enhanced as well, Premier Wen said. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Package explodes at Japan post office, no injuries

TOKYO, 25 July — A small package exploded at a post office in southern Japan on Monday morning but there were no injuries and the incident appeared to have been an accident, police said.

"It appears not to have been an explosive," a Fukuoka prefecture police spokesman said.

The explosion occurred around 9:40 am (0040 GMT) in Fukuoka City, 560 miles southwest of Tokyo.

"There was a loud bang. There were customers nearby but because the scale was small, no one was injured," *Kyodo News* agency quoted a post office employee as saying after an A4-sized cardboard package exploded shortly after being handed over.

Japanese media said police were still investigating the contents of the package to determine the cause of the explosion. — *MNA/Reuters*

Five held accountable for fatal colliery gas blast in N-W China

URUMQI, 25 July — Five people, who were accused of being accountable for the coal mine gas blast that claimed 83 lives in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, were captured, local government official said on Sunday.

The five people include Jiang Jinpeng, former board chairman of the Shenlong Coal Mine Limited Company which runs the colliery, Liu Junbo, head of the coal mine, Ren Yanlu, director of the mine's production and technology section, Su Jindu, the mine's deputy head in charge of work safety, and Zhou Fuping, the mine dispatcher who was on duty at the time of the blast on 11 July, said Chi Wenhui, deputy secretary of the government of Jichang Hui Autonomous Prefecture, where the mine is located.

Chi said some ventilators in the

mine stopped working, leaving the gas accumulated in the shafts to reach the density of explosion and wire sparkles induced the blast.

In addition, overproduction, absence of a work safety licence and ill-management were owed to the tragedy, said Chi.

The colliery turned out some 180,000 tons of coal in the first half of this year, far exceeding its annual capacity of 30,000 tons and leading to an extremely high gas density in the colliery shaft.

MNA/Xinhua



A police forensic officer (R) gets ready to enter a flat in a housing estate in Stockwell, south London, on 23 July, 2005. Police were questioning two men arrested in south London as they combed the city in one of the biggest manhunts in British history on Saturday for four men wanted for failed bomb attacks on London's transport system. —INTERNET

US, allies agree to Poland's plan to withdraw troops from Iraq

WARSAW, 25 July—The United States and its allies in the US-led coalition in Iraq had agreed to Poland's plan to withdraw its troops from Iraq by the end of January, 2006, said Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski on Monday.

He said in a public radio speech that Polish Defence Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski discussed the issue during his US visit on 19 July with US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld.

Kwasniewski also said that Poland completed its fifth and last large-scale rotation of troops in Iraq in July, adding Poland had accomplished its important mission there. — *Internet*

US soldier killed, another injured in southern Afghanistan

KABUL, 25 July— A US soldier was killed and another injured in an attack by suspected Taleban militants on Sunday in southern Afghan Province of Helmand, US military said.

"The US forces were on a regular patrol in northeast Girishk area of Helmand when a group of about 20 enemy forces attacked them, one US soldier was killed and another injured," US spokesperson Cindy Moor told *Xinhua*.

"The Afghan interpreter working for US forces was also wounded in the attack. The wounded US soldier and the interpreter were then sent to US

airfield in Kandahar for treatment," she added.

In the fighting back, US troops killed one enemy and wounded another two. The two wounded have also been sent to the Kandahar airfield, Moor said.

The extra forces and helicopters have already been sent from Kandahar to the area for further investigation, Moor added.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Illegal construction blamed for loss of 16 lives in Kunming

KUNMING, 25 July— The dam that collapsed on Thursday with a loss of 16 lives in southwest China's Yunnan Province was an illegal construction project, local police sources said on Sunday citing initial investigation results.

The dam of a small reservoir collapsed in torrential rains on early Thursday morning at Daqiao Village in Yiliang County, also injuring 23 villagers.

The reservoir, which had a storage capacity of 80,000 cubic metres, was built without any official approval and there has been no one in charge of the management after the reservoir started operation.

The dam has fatal construction faults that resulted in the failure of resisting powerful rainfalls, according to technical materials provided by the local government. — *MNA/Xinhua*

US soldier killed by roadside bomb in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 25 July— Military officials said a roadside bomb has killed a US soldier north of Baghdad.

The death adds to another day of carnage in Iraq. Suicide car bombers struck twice today in Baghdad.

Officials said the first blast hit a central Baghdad security checkpoint at daybreak. The Iraqi Defence Ministry says 12 people and the bomber died, and 18 others were injured. The bomb shook the heart of town and sent a plume of black smoke over the area where Saddam Hussein's statue was famously toppled in April 2003.

About three hours later another bomber hit a former Saddam Hussein palace being used by the Ministry of Interior police. Two commandoes were reported killed and 10 other people injured.

Internet

Workers from Panama Canal Authority clean the bottom of Miraflore floodgate during maintenance work at the Panama Canal near Panama City, Panama, on 22 July, 2005.

INTERNET





Manchester United's Dong Fangzhou (L), Ryan Giggs (2nd L), coach Alex Ferguson (C) and Chinese children pose for photographs at the 'United for UNICEF' news conference in China's capital of Beijing on 26 July, 2005. — INTERNET

Permanent residents in Beijing top 11.7 million

BEIJING, 25 July — Permanent residents in Beijing, or holders of "hukou" — a residence certificate — issued by Beijing's public security authorities, have topped 11.7 million, according to the municipal government.

Beijing Municipal Development and Reform Commission said the number of permanent residents in Beijing has risen 2 per cent in the first half of this year, higher than the 1.5-per-cent year-on-year growth projected for the whole year.

Plus the growing number of migrants, the city is bulging with about 15 million people, the commission said in a re-

port to the Beijing Municipal People's Congress, the city's legislature, on the city's economic and social development during the first half-year.

Beijing Municipal Statistics Bureau already announced earlier the city's population was nearing 15 million, 3.6 times of the figure reported in 1949, the year New China was founded.

The bureau said Beijing's population has risen by an annual average of 195,000 over the past 55 years, but the annual increase was 290,000 in the 14 years from 1991 to 2004. The migrant population, particularly rural labourers from other provinces who are doing odd jobs in Beijing, accounted for 63 per cent of population growth in this period. — MNA/Xinhua

Australia signals willingness to join Asia Summit

SYDNEY, 25 July — Australia signalled on Sunday that it would likely bow to regional pressure and sign a peace pact that is a prerequisite for joining a new East Asia Summit later this year.

The 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations has insisted that Australia, keen for a stronger voice in Asian diplomacy and seeking wider trade ties, sign ASEAN's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation before Canberra is invited to December's East Asia Summit in Malaysia.

The 1976 treaty prohibits the use of force in the settlement of regional disputes and binds members from interfering in the internal affairs of

ASEAN countries.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said he hoped to negotiate an agreement with ASEAN members when they gather in Laos this week for the group's annual meeting.

Asked if Australia would sign the treaty if a clarifying statement was attached that made clear it would not prejudice other treaties or understandings, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said: "In those

circumstances we would sign it, but there's just those one or two details".

"On a literal reading of that treaty, we've had concerns about its implications for our relations with non-ASEAN countries, in particular of course, the United States," Downer said.

"If we can satisfy ourselves that those concerns are no longer going to be of any real significance and the ASEANs can satisfy us to that extent, then I think it would be appro-

priate for us to sign the treaty," he told Nine Network television.

ASEAN said in April that Australia and New Zealand could only join the new East Asia Summit, created by ASEAN members plus South Korea, China and Japan in 2004, if they sign the treaty.

New Zealand has indicated it will sign but Australia initially described the treaty as unnecessary and outdated.

MNA/Reuters

China hopes to boost renewable energy cooperation with Spain

BEIJING, 25 July — China hopes to strengthen cooperation with Spain in the renewable energy sector, Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan said here on Saturday.

"Actively exploring renewable energy is an important principle of China's energy development strategy," Zeng said when he addressed a China-Spain renewable energy seminar. Also on hand was visiting Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

Zeng said China will further adjust the existing energy structure and en-

courage the development of renewable energy.

"By 2020, we expect the utilization of renewable energy to be equivalent to 400 million tons of standard coal, raising the ratio of renewable energy usage in China's total energy consumption from current 7 per cent to 13 per cent," Zeng said.

MNA/Xinhua

Overall balance of payment surplus widens in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 25 July — Despite a huge deficit in the current account balance, Bangladesh's overall balance of payment (BOP) surplus is set for consolidation at around 300 million US dollars at the end of fiscal 2004-05.

The BOP surplus has been attributed to large inflow of remittances sent by expatriate Bangladeshis, higher grant and loan disbursement, and hefty direct investment, local daily *The Financial Express* reported on Sunday.

The daily quoted central bank sources as saying that the increased BOP surplus was due "mainly to a remarkable surplus" of 783 million dollars in financial account, particularly for multilateral loans amounting to 825 million dollars during the period. The net foreign direct investment during the period was estimated at 342 million dollars compared with 321 million dollars previously.

The central bank said the total aid disbursement

during July-April of 2004-05 stood sharply higher at 1.112 billion dollars compared with only 581.8 million dollars during the same period of previous fiscal.

The flow of remittances has soared recently, which experts attributed to an uneasy situation being experienced by many Bangladeshi expatriates in Western countries over terrorist attacks. They are either repatriating bulk of their earnings or returning home with entire savings. Bangladesh received a record 3.86 billion dollars' worth of remittances in the just ended fiscal 2004-05 (July 2004-June 2005), up about 14.5 per cent over that of the previous fiscal, central bank officials was quoted by the daily as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian Minister concludes Nepal tour

KATHMANDU, 25 July — India's Minister of State for External Affairs Rao Indrajit Singh left for New Delhi on Saturday, wrapping up his three-day visit to Nepal.

During his stay in Kathmandu, Singh had held parleys with vice-chairmen of the Council of Ministers Tulsi Giri and Kirti Nidhi Bista and Foreign Minister Ramesh Nath Pandey and received an audience from Nepali King Gyanendra on Friday evening.

The Indian minister, who arrived in Kathmandu on Thursday, sought Ne-

pal's support for India's bid for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

"India has asked for Nepal's support in its bid for a UNSC seat. The issue will have to be discussed in the Cabinet, which will take the final decision," Tulsi Giri, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, told reporters after his meeting with Singh. — MNA/Xinhua



Microsoft Corp Vice President Peter Moore shows off his new Xbox 360 game console at Xbox Summit 2005 in Tokyo on 25 July, 2005. Microsoft said on Monday it would launch its Xbox 360 in Japan and Europe in time for the year-end holiday shopping season. — INTERNET

China planted 4.8 million hectares of trees in 2004

BEIJING, 25 July — China planted 4.8 million hectares of trees in six major forestry projects in 2004, accounting for 86 per cent of its afforested area of the year, according to a bulletin publicized by the State Forestry Bureau on Saturday.

The Chinese Government invested 35.1 billion yuan (about 4.3 billion US dollars) in the forestation projects in 2004, the bulletin said. A total of 25.32 million hectares of trees have been added thanks to the nationwide projects launched in 1998, which have cost 126.4 billion yuan (about 15.6 billion US dollars), it said.

The projects will cost more than 700 billion yuan (about 86.3 billion US dollars) and cover over 97 per cent of counties across the country.

MNA/Xinhua

Myanmar holds national level workshop on Drug Substitution



Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint speaks at the opening of National Level Workshop on Drug Substitution. — MNA

YANGON, 26 July — The Ministry of Health and the Global Fund co-sponsored the national level workshop on Drug Substitution at Traders Hotel here yesterday, with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, President of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Than Than Nwe, President of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Khin Win, Vice-President of MAAF Daw Khin Lay Myint and members, officials of the Health

Ministry, guests, officials of the UN agencies, members of international and local social organizations and departmental personnel.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the aims of the workshop are to fight the menace of the narcotic drugs by providing medical treatment to addicts; and to lower the HIV infection rate.

The workshop plays a vital role in controlling the drug menace as it also aims at applying advance methods like in other nations. The government has opened 26 major centres and 40 minor

centres to treat addicts and two youth rehabilitation centres. The local authorities, local people, the Health Department and the related departments and NGOs will have to harmoniously strive to prevent and control the spread of HIV occurred due to drug addiction.

Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Mr Shahrokh Mohammadi also gave a speech.

Participants of Myanmar and international organizations then took part in the discussions.

MNA

Talks on fine traditions of ancient universities held

YANGON, 26 July — Retired Professor of Yangon Education University Dr Ma Tin Win this morning gave talks on fine traditions of ancient universities at Yangon East University here.

The talks were jointly conducted by the Information Department of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and Yangon East Univer-

sity. After the talks, Yangon East University presented books on general knowledge for libraries in rural areas to Ministry of Information.

An official of Thanlyin Township Women's Affairs Organization presented membership certificates of the organization to members of the education family of the institute.

MNA



Head of the Information Division of MAAF Daw Kyi Kyi Win delivers an opening speech at the talks. — DISTRICT IPRD

Myanmar Green Book 2005/2006 comes out

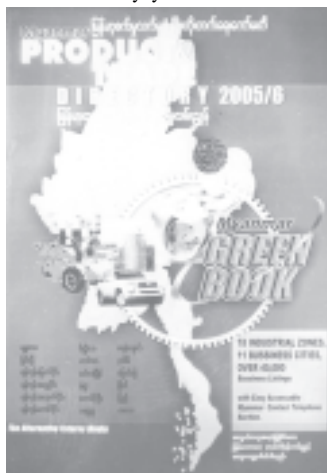
YANGON, July 26 — Myanmar Green Book 2005/2006 published by the Alternative Futures Media came out today.

The bilingual book contains addresses of industries in 18 industry zones in Myanmar, businesses in 10 commercial cities in Myanmar - Yangon, Mandalay, Monywa, Pakokku, Myingyan, Meiktila, Taunggyi, Kalay, Shwabo, Yanangyoung and Magway and advertisements were also put in it.

The book is available on CD-ROM. For further information, contact Room No — 02-05, Asia Plaza, at the corner of Bogyoke Aung San Street and 38th Street and dial Phone numbers 09-90 32344 and the Alternative Futures Media Head Office and its

branches in Mandalay, myine, Yanangyoung, Monywa, Pokokku, Magway, Myaungmya, Myingyan, Meiktila, Hinthada, Patheingyi, Taunggyi, Mawla-Pyay. — MNA

The cover of Myanmar Green Book 2005/2006 published by Alternative Futures Media. MNA



Drive safely

Minister looks into measures for hydro electric power project

YANGON, 25 July — Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, accompanied by Director-General of Hydro-electric Power Department U Win Kyaw and officials concerned arrived at Nanchu creek hydro electric power plant, Mandalay Division on 22 July.

The minister and party inspected an axis of the project, sites chosen for building the diversion weir, progress in building approach road and Nanchu creek bridge and tasks to be carried out.

Nanchu creek hydro electric power plant to be built on Nanchu creek will produce 4 megawatts.

On arrival at

Paunglaung hydro electric power plant, the minister and party looked into generation of electricity, control room and building of spillway and fulfilled the requirements.

On arrival at Kunchaung hydro electric power plant in Pyu, Bago Division on 23 July, the minister and party inspected measures being taken for earth work with the use of heavy machinery and building the spillway.

The minister gave instructions on timely completion of the project.

The following day, the minister and party arrived at Yengwe hydro electric power project in Kyaukdaga and looked into progress in building

power station and water intake structure and gave necessary instructions to officials concerned.

The next day, the minister and party arrived at Shwegyin hydro electric power plant and inspected earth work and building of water intake structure.

Afterwards, the minister gave instructions on cooperation among the departments, measures to be taken for timely completion of the project tasks, supervision for standardization of materials, systematic drive and maintenance of machinery, efficient use of fuel, cement and iron rods, worksite safety and staff welfare and security measures. — MNA

Wellwishers donate...

(from page 1)

23,225 across the nation through the funds of the government and the public contributions.

A total of 1335 well-wishers donated 1053.0674 million plus US\$ 70252, Euro Currency 770 and FEC 10,012 from the first to ninth donations.

Moreover, social organizations such as the Union Solidarity and Development Association and the Maternal and Child Welfare Association have been actively taking part in the project.

As part of the project for development of rural regions, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) sank 177 tube-wells while the Bridge Asia Ja-

drinking water in rural areas by the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd, K 7.2 million by Managing Director U Myint Oo and Director U Shwe Lay of Thiha Yaza Co Ltd, K 1 million by Myanmar War Veterans Organization, K 250,000 by USDA Headquarters and K 500,000 by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepted K 12,845,000 donated by wellwishers. Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Brig-Gen Pyi Sone K 4.7 million, Yangon Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin K 5,050,000, Minister Col Thein Nyunt K 3,750,000, Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa K 2,850,000, Minister Dr



Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepts cash K 500,000 donated by MCWA at cash donation ceremony. — MNA

1,250,000, Deputy Ministers for Progress of Border Areas and National Races

lagas. Regions which receive less than 39 inches of rain annually are facing wa-

ter shortages and hardships in finding water during summer. The people of the regions had to spend almost six hours a day to fetch clean water, and common infectious diseases broke out in the regions due to contaminated water. DAD launched the 10-year rural clean water project in 2000-2001. The government, the DACs, wellwishers, social organizations and international organizations are providing assistance for the project.

Thanks to the cooperative efforts, of the 8,042 villages in the three dry regions — Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay divisions — 7,157 villages or about eight million rural people now have potable water supply. In other areas that were facing water shortages, the DAD ensure clean water

supply to 7,152 villages out of a total of 15,183 villages. The department has been sinking tube-wells in all areas including the delta and coastal regions, and sound foundations are emerging.

Seven townships in Sagaing Division, seven townships in Magway Division and 11 townships in Mandalay Division now have clean water supply. Efforts should be made for all the villages of the entire three divisions to have access to potable water. At the ninth donation ceremony, 1,335 persons donated over K 1053 million, US \$ 70,252, and FEC 10,012. At the tenth ceremony, 180 donors presented K 120,857,500 and US \$ 4,000. The generosity of the donors is beyond expression. — MNA



Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepts cash K 250,000 by USDA Headquarters for supply of pure drinking water in rural areas. — MNA

pan (BAJ) sank 72 tube-wells.

The UNICEF also contributed its shares in the project by implementing the tasks for supply of potable water in three divisions from 2001 to 2005.

As supply of potable water is being implemented with added momentum, altogether 25 townships are now able to enjoy drinking water, and Pakkoku Township will also be able to do so.

The Secretary-1 accepted K 10.8 million donated for supply of pure

Kyaw Myint K 2 million, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu K 4.5 million, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung K 2,750,000, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein K 10.5 million, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein K

and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun K 1.5 million and Col Tin Ngwe K 1,750,000.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that the DAD has been assigned duty to develop rural areas in all aspects, and according to its list, it needs to ensure clean water for 23,225 vil-

Seven townships in Sagaing Division, seven townships in Magway Division and 11 townships in Mandalay Division now have clean water supply.



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepts cash donated by wellwishers for supply of drinking water in rural areas. — MNA



Minister Col Thein Nyunt accepts cash donated by a wellwisher for supply of drinking water in rural areas. — MNA



Minister Dr Kyaw Myint accepts cash donated by wellwisher for supply of drinking water in rural areas. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects...

(from page 16)
 next proceeded to Ywathigon Village where they inspected the harvesting of summer paddy on the farm of U Pauk Si. They then inspected supply of irrigation water through Letpanche river-water pumping project and arrangements for cultivation of monsoon paddy and thriving summer paddy plantations in Letpanche village. They next visited Ohnhne village and inspected paddy cultivation.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to the briefing hall of Kyawzi

river-water pumping project in Kyawzi village and gave necessary instructions to officials. The project will benefit over 700 acres of farmland.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party visited the site for Ngathayauk river-water pumping project in Ohnhne village and Ngathayauk dam project site. At the briefing hall, Deputy Director of Construction-7 U Myo Tun reported on construction tasks. 74.5 percent of the project has been completed so far.

At the departmental combined office in

Ngathayauk, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsenders. An official reported on facts about the town and implementation of development tasks. Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions. Next they inspected development of the town. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party visited Ngathayauk People's Hospital where they looked into man's ward, operation theatre and X-ray room. Together with the com-

MNA

U Ye Win appointed as Ambassador to Thailand

YANGON, 26 July — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Ye Win, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Thailand. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect resurfacing of Strand Road in Kyinmyindine township. — YGN COMMAND

Thai Deputy Prime Minister Dr Surakiart Sathirathai returns home



Thai Deputy Prime Minister Dr Surakiart Sathirathai offers Shwethingan to Maha Muni Buddha Image. — MNA

cussions on bilateral relations between the two countries.

Next, the Thai Deputy Prime Minister and the Mayor paid homage to Maha Myatmuni Buddha Image and offered flowers, light and candles and Shwethingan to the image. Afterwards, the Thai Deputy Prime Minister and party signed in the visitors' book and made cash donations.

After that, the Thai delegation left by special flight at 7 pm.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, ministers and guests view the booths on display at the 26th Special SOM. — MNA

YANGON, 26 July — Visiting special envoy of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Deputy Prime Minister Dr Surakiart Sathirathai and party arrived at TadaU International Airport, Mandalay Division by special flight yesterday evening.

The Thai delegation was welcomed by Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han.

On arrival at VIP lounge, the Thai delegation together with the Mayor, they were welcomed by Deputy Chief Justice U Khin Maung Latt of Supreme Court, Deputy Attorney-General U Han Shein of the Attorney-General's Office, Director-General of No 2 Basic Education Department U Thaug Khine and senior military officers. The Thai Deputy Prime Minister and the Mayor held dis-

26th Special SOM-26th...

(from page 16)

enhance the competitiveness in global market. In this regards, exchange of modern technology among member countries should be materialized more effectively.

In his address, he also said that transfer of modern technology and sharing knowledge and experiences should be recognized as the important measures and he urged member countries to seek assistance and cooperation from the dialogue partners of the ASEAN.

As water resources plays the important role in boosting crop production, the Government of Myanmar set down the special programme to develop the irrigation facilities throughout the country. During the last decade, all together 176 of small, medium and large scale dams and reservoirs have been constructed, he said.

Regarding the forestry sector, he continued to say that the 1995 Myanmar Forest Policy has been formulated in a holistic and balanced manner within the overall context of the environment and sustainable development.

Myanmar is committed to sustainable forest management through regional initiatives and mechanisms. Myanmar is working hand in hand with ASEAN members in

different aspects including ensuring sustainable forest management, capacity building and human resources development, promoting of ASEAN trade in forest products and private sector participation.

He also urged the senior officials of AMAF to look forward to the future directions underlying the Strategic Thrusts of VAP and to formulate and implement the concrete Plan of Action through realization of the

existing problems and issues. The host country chaired the special meeting. It was also attended by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han, Secretary of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyi Thein, ministers for agriculture and forestry from ASEAN countries, departmental officials and invited guests. — MNA



Thai Deputy Prime Minister Dr Surakiart Sathirathai makes cash donations to the funds of Maha Muni Buddha Image. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and the ministers pose for a documentary photo together with ASEAN high-ranking officials. — MNA

Myo Hla (Tatkon) Dam inaugurated in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 26 July — The inauguration of Myo Hla (Tatkon) Dam built by Construction-5 of Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was held at the dam in Tatkon Township, Mandalay Division yesterday.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo delivered addresses.

Also present were members of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council, Chairmen of Yamethin

Dam was opened for greening of environs and boosting agricultural production and he was pleased to see that the dam would contribute towards uplift of socio-economic life of local people. Now is the time the government, the Tatmadaw and the people have laid down better foundations and are implementing the tasks for emergence of a genuine discipline-flourishing democratic nation and for perpetuation of the country.

The government is making efforts for strong economy and uplift of national education promotion taking advantage of the prevailing peace and



Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw makes a speech at opening of Myo Hla (Tatkon) Dam in Mandalay. — MNA

the people. Myo Hla Dam is one of them.

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is striving for successful implementation of the guidance

behind when compared with other regions, for there was insufficiency of drinking water.

In the time of the State Peace and Development

national development in addition to development of the region.

Next, a resident of Tatkon Township, on behalf of the local people, expressed thanks for the emergence of the dam.

After that, the commander and the minister greeted those present on the occasion.

At the auspicious time, the commander formally unveiled the stone inscription of the facility. He and the minister sprinkled scented water on it.

Next, the commander and the minister formally opened the dam.

Later, they had a documentary photo taken to-

gether with officials of the project, members of social organizations and local people.

Afterwards, the commander and the minister inspected the storage of water and the spillways.

After the opening ceremony, the commander and the minister heard a report presented by an official of the Irrigation Department on the salient points of the project and construction of spillway and diversion weir for storage of more water and greening work.

In response to the report, the minister gave necessary instructions.

MNA



Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw formally opens stone plaque of the dam.

MNA

District and Tatkon Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations, War Veterans Organization, Fire Brigade and Red Cross Brigade, teachers and local people.

In his address, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo said Myo Hla (Tatkon)

stability in the nation. All-round development has been made nationwide due to the correct way of the government and practical implementation.

He said Head of State Senior General Than Shwe often gave guidance on boosting of agricultural production especially in the arid zone. Dam projects and water pumping projects are being carried out in the interest of

of the Head of State. The dam will irrigate 500 acres of crops. Four dams and lakes were repaired for irrigation of 1,300 acres of land and the ministry is implementing water supply project.

He said it is the 44th dam in Mandalay Division and the 176th in the State. The dam will supply water to over 3,300 acres of farmland.

Next, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw made a speech. He said that Mandalay Division, Magway Division and Sagaing Division are in the arid zone of the Upper Myanmar with scanty rainfall. Apart from the regions where there are dams, reservoirs, lakes and ponds, monsoon crops do not grow well in the zone as water is scarce.

Meanwhile, health, social and economic sectors in the region lagged

Council, a number of dams and reservoirs were built in different parts of the nation for development of agriculture. It had spent a large amount of funds on the project. At present, the dam opened today is the 44th of its kind in Mandalay Division and all the irrigation facilities in the division are now benefiting over 372,866 acres of farmland.

The newly opened dam is 2,100 feet long and 80 feet high with a 940 feet long and 30 feet wide spillway. It will be able to benefit 3,300 acres of irrigated lands and contribute to double and mixed cropping.

Moreover, arrangements are being made to supply electricity to nearby villages through the dam.

In conclusion, the commander called on officials and local people to safeguard and maintain the facility for its durability as it will contribute to

Birthday of Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vejjabala held

YANGON, 26 July — The 99th birthday anniversary of Sayadaw of Yadanamanaung Monastery in Pyay Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Vijjabala was held in conjunction with re-ordination ceremony at the monastery on 23 July.

At the ceremony, the congregation led by Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Chairman Brig-Gen Hla Min took the Five Precepts from the Sayadaw and presented offertories to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha. — MNA

C-in-C (Air) chess c'ship opens

YANGON, 26 July — Chess championship of Commander-in-Chief (Air) opened at the regional station in Toungoo yesterday. Brig-Gen Kyaw Aung

of the station, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) gave a speech.

Seven teams are taking part in the contest that continues till 29 July. — MNA

Mongnong Township Hospital provided with oxygen tank

YANGON, 26 July — With the aim of providing the best possible medical care, officers and other ranks of the Mongnong Station in Shan State (South) on 20 July provided oxygen tank and two accessories worth K

170,000 to Mongnong Township Hospital in Shan State (South).

Brig-Gen Thuang Aye of the Station presented the tank and accessories to Dr Aung Kyaw Win of the hospital.

MNA



Maj-Gen Htay Oo makes a speech at opening of Myo Hla (Tatkon) Dam in Mandalay. — MNA

So this is real beauty

Tekkatho Hla Maung

It was when I was in service in Buthidaung.

The road linking Buthidaung and Maungtau was only 16 miles long, but it was on May Yu mountain range. Sometimes wild animals passed across the road. Situated on a hill top at the border shared by Buthidaung and Maungtau was a TV retransmission station. Wild animals often passed across the uphill road that led to that station. So, the staff on duty at the station and security personnel were worthy of praise.

The whole world will be pleasant and beautiful only when everything is in their proper place and everyone safeguards the human society and conserves the environment.

I was completely fascinated by the natural scenic beauty while I was on the motorboat plying in May Yu River, that rises from the valleys, north of Buthidaung, and empties itself into the sea near Angumaw in Rathedaung Township. May Yu River was really pleasant with the plantations on both banks, Awrama mountain range in the east, and May Yu mountain range in the west.

The plains are meant for helping the people grow plants, rivers and seas, for producing marine products, mountain ranges, for conserving water resources, producing natural resources and creating natural habitat for beasts and birds.

Therefore, in carrying out respective duties, one should not interfere in the internal affairs of others and should not destroy others' property deliberately. Only then, will the world be worth living for the people.

However, there still exist many people who are seeking means and who are committing acts to destroy the beauty of the world. As a result material world or natural environment and living beings are greatly disturbed or affected adversely.

The three catastrophes — war, famine and epidemic diseases — also destroy the process of the world and bring tragedies to the people. However, the world people can overcome such evils through unity and harmony.

Various types of wars have killed countless people, ravaged many cities, eliminated many villages, and jeopardized peace and stability of the world.

The people should take all necessary precautionary measures in concert in order to avert the

risks of epidemic diseases and famines. All the people are responsible for warding off everything that poses danger to human society. In addition, they are to prevent dangers, not to cause risks. Only then, will the world be pleasant and peaceful.

In the world, some are beautifying the environment while some are destroying it.

Repair of roads means "beautifying the environment", and throwing away rubbish and spitting betel spittle on roads means destroying the beauty of the environment.

Similarly, making donations and charities represents enhancing the beauty, and committing crimes, destructive and terrorist acts means destroying the beauty.

Carrying out community welfare services with positive attitude depicts serving the interests of human society, and perpetrating acts with negative attitude to upset the public, amounts to destroying the beauty of human society.

One should discharge one's responsibilities by doing one's bit in a proper way so as to bring progress to one's motherland and people. Besides that, if one has been in harmony with human society in preserving the environment and is benevolent towards everyone, one can deservedly perceive the beauty of the world.

One who puts out fires protects the environment, and one who commits arson harms the beauty of the environment.

One who builds bridges serves the interests of human society, and one who destroys them hinders the development of a nation.

One who prays for the well-being of others is willing to serve the interests of others, and one who hatches a sinister plot destroys the progress of others.

The government has been putting into motion a wide range of projects for national development such as the 13 district greening project, Bago Yoma greening project, and Inlay Lake and its environs greening project. And it is now upgrading Yangon City to a garden city of Southeast Asia. Simultaneously, it is taking measures for greening Yangon City and its environs and beautifying Kandawgyi Gardens. Without doubt, the nation will become a green and peaceful

land and Yangon City, a garden city if each and every citizen contributes towards the drive and maintains the facilities. I learnt a motto from a friend of mine — The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is now.

A house full of books and a garden full of flowers. Literacy enhances man's qualifications. Every citizen should preserve the beauty of the environment through the knowledge they have gained from the beneficial publications.

In this regard, steps are to be taken effectively to nurture the entire people to promote their knowledge. That is why the government is constantly opening libraries and wellwishers donating publications to the libraries in accord with the motto "Strive in concert for establishment of a self-reliant library in every village".

As a matter of fact, everything is impermanent. Where have gone Rome, Rajagio, and Savatthi? Even the earth on which we live will meet its end one day.

The world will be more pleasant and peaceful if everyone is equipped with the spirit of goodwill. The beauties in the secular world are indeed illusory ones based on man's delusion.

When one is enlightened, one can enjoy the absolute beauty of the truth. As one can realize the essence of the real beauty only when one has insight into the Four Noble Truths, one should practise meditation so that today's world will be really peaceful and pleasant.

It is natural that we people, ordinary human beings, are fond of enjoying sensual pleasures, so we cannot view the beauties in the secular world with indifference. However, one should not perpetrate acts with destructive attitude, and should not act anything without regard for the interests of the world, the nation and the people either.

One should discharge one's responsibilities by doing one's bit in a proper way so as to bring progress to one's motherland and people. Besides that, if one has been in harmony with human society in preserving the environment and is benevolent towards everyone, one can deservedly perceive the beauty of the world.

* * * * *

Translation: MS

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 24-7-2005

ADVERTISEMENTS

MIN KYAW MIN'S SPOKEN ENGLISH CLASS

သင်တန်းသစ်ကို ၃-၈-၂၀၀၅ ရက်တွင်စမည်။ တနင်္လာ၊ ဗုဒ္ဓဟူး၊ သောကြာ 9.00 am to 11.30

Multi-media style lab, audio-visual aid နှင့်

ခေတ်မီအထောက်အကူများသုံးမည်။

၁၀ တန်း၊ ဘွဲ့ရ၊ ဘွဲ့လွန်များအတွက် အကျိုးဝင်၊ အသုံးဝင်မည်။ ကမ်းနားလမ်းနှင့် ၄၃ လမ်းထောင့်၊ ဗိုလ်တထောင်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ဝမ်းရန် ဖုန်း-၂၉၆၁၆၁

* ခေတ်မီနိုင်ငံတော်ဆီသို့ ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်၊ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ၏ သမိုင်းဖြစ်စဉ်များ တပ်မတော်၏ အစဉ်အလာအသွယ်တို့ကို... * စည်းရုံးချစ်ကြည် ရွှေ့ပြည်သင်ဆည်း တက်ညီလက်ညီ နှိုင်းတိုက်နေသော တိုင်းနှင့်ပြည်နယ် (၁၃)ခု၏တည်ဆောက်ရေးအောင်မြင်မှုများကို မော်ဂျန်းမုတ်တမ်းတိုင်းတင်ပြထားသည့်

တပ်မတော်အစိုးရလက်ထက် ခိုင်ခံ့တော်ဖွဲ့ (ပြီးတိုးတက်မှုမှတ်တမ်း) (၁၉၈၈ - ၁၂.၂.၂၀၀၅)

- + မြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနက စီစဉ်ထုတ်ဝေသည်။
+ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ၏ သမိုင်းဖြစ်ပေါ်တိုးတက်မှုနှင့်အညီ တည်ဆောက်ရေးအောင်မြင်မှု၊ အခြေခံ အဆောက်အအုံများကို ကိုယ်စားပြုမှု၊ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်မှုအခြေပြုစေရေးများ၊ ရောင်းဝယ် ခြေခံများဖြင့်ပေါ်ပြထားပါသည်။
+ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်မှု အခြေပြုစေရေး ၂၄၀ ရောင်းဝယ်ခံပိုင် ၁၄၀ကျော်၊ ဧည့်သည်များ စာမျက်နှာ ၃၃၀ ကျော်ဖြင့် ဖွဲ့စည်းထုတ်ဝေပါသည်။



- စာပေစီမံခန့်ခွဲရေးဦးစီးဌာန၊ ၅၂-၅၃-၁၊ ကုန်သည်လမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ၃၈၀၄၄၆၊ ၂၅၉၀၃၁
စာပေစီမံခန့်ခွဲရေးဦးစီးဌာန၊ ရတနာပုံဆွဲခန်း၊ ၅၈လမ်း ၃၃-၃၄လမ်းကြား၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ၀၂-၃၀၀၀၈၆
သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာန၊ ၂၁၂ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ၂၃၄၃၀၆

British police say more innocents could die in bomb hunt

LONDON, 25 July — British police say more members of the public could be shot in error as they escalate their battle against terrorism and hunt for four men who tried to set off explosions on London's transport system last week. The warning comes after police, who are engaged in one of the biggest manhunts in British history, mistakenly shot dead a Brazilian man on Friday, thinking he was a suicide bomber. Britain's most senior policeman, Ian Blair, defended the shoot-to-kill policy for dealing with suspected suicide bombers and said police were in a race against time to find those behind last Thursday's attempted bombings

of three underground trains and a bus, the second attack on the capital in two weeks. "This is a terrifying set of circumstances for individuals to make decisions," Blair told Sky News television. "Somebody else could be shot." Electrician Jean Charles de Menezes, 27, was shot five times in the head after being chased on to an underground train by undercover police, witnesses said. The shooting has sparked intense debate about the shoot-to-kill policy in a country which takes prides in having a largely unarmed police force. Only 10 per cent of police in London routinely carry weapons. But in the days since

the July 7 bombing of three trains and a bus in London in which 52 people were killed and 700 wounded, Britain's newspapers and television news broadcasts have been filled with images of heavily armed police on the streets of London. Raids by police across the capital and scores of security alerts have heightened the already tense atmosphere in the city. Police arrested a third man under anti-terrorism laws on Saturday. Interior Minister Charles Clarke, who on Sunday postponed a family holiday, also defended the shoot-to-kill policy, under which police marks-men are being told to aim for the head rather than the chest to kill a suspected bomber.— MNA/Reuters

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Suspicious packages found at LA, no explosives found

LOS ANGELES, 25 July — Suspicious packages were found at four Los Angeles locations on Sunday, including a downtown train station and a subway facility, but no explosives were found, authorities here said. With area transit facilities still under a heightened state of alert in wake of the London bombings, officials took no chances when an abandoned backpack was found at Union Station around 1:30 pm local time, said Los Angeles sheriff's Deputy Alba Yates. The station was evacuated until police determined the backpack con-

tained clothing, Yates said. Earlier, a suspicious package was found about 11:30 am at the Metro Red Line headquarters and the package also contained nothing harmful, she said. The Transit Services Bureau, which oversees the city's Metro system, remains on an orange or heightened state of alert, she said. Two other suspicious packages were also found in the Los Angeles area Sunday, but no details on those incidents were immediately available, said a spokeswoman of the Los Angeles Police Department. MNA/Xinhua

Police arrest man over London bombs

LONDON, 25 July— British police arrested a third man over attempted bomb attacks on London and defended a shoot-to-kill policy for suspected suicide bombers amid criticism over the mistaken killing of a Brazilian. The man was arrested on Saturday night as police hunted four men who tried to set off bombs on the city's transport system on Thursday. That failed attack came two

weeks after suicide bombers linked by officials to al-Qaeda killed 52 people. Police arrested the man in south London, where two other men had been detained on Friday, a spokesman said. Police have not suggested any of those held is one of the four prime suspects shown in closed circuit television pictures released by police with an urgent public appeal for help.— MNA/Reuters

Small bomb explodes in Cairo, carrier hurt

CAIRO, 25 July — A small bomb exploded in a southwestern suburb of Cairo on Sunday, seriously injuring the man who was carrying it, police sources said. The explosion, apparently from a primitive nail bomb, took place in the entrance to the man's apartment building, they said. They named him as Sami Gamal Ahmed, 33, who works at Qasr-el-Ainy hospital in central Cairo. Ahmed was in critical condition in hospital with many nails embedded in his body. There were no other casualties and little damage to the building, the sources said. There was no known link with the three big explosions that killed up to 88 people at hotels and shopping areas in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on

Saturday, they added. The sources, who asked not to be named, said the man was entering the building, bringing the bomb with him, when it exploded. He lived alone in the suburb of Kafr Tuhumus. In April, a small Islamist group carried out two bombings in Cairo, apparently aimed at tourists. The bombers died. MNA/Reuters

Saturday, they added. The sources, who asked not to be named, said the man was entering the building, bringing the bomb with him, when it exploded. He lived alone in the suburb of Kafr Tuhumus. In April, a small Islamist group carried out two bombings in Cairo, apparently aimed at tourists. The bombers died. MNA/Reuters

Cypriot tourists return from Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh

NICOSIA, 25 July— Around 165 Cypriot tourists, who had been spending their holidays in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh which was hit by multiple bomb attacks on Saturday, returned to the island on early Sunday morning. The tourists went back to Cyprus overnight in a special chartered flight of Cyprus Airways. A spokesman of the Embassy of Cyprus in

Egypt said among those who returned was a Cypriot who was slightly injured in the attacks. Around 130 Cypriots decided to remain in the Egyptian resort and return on Monday or Tuesday as scheduled. The Cypriot Foreign Ministry, which is in contact with other European countries regarding the attacks, has so far not issued a travel advisory for the area.

Three bomb attacks hit Sharm el-Sheikh on Saturday, killing at least 88 people and wounding some 200. The resort has been an attractive tourism destination especially for Westerners. MNA/Xinhua

Donate blood

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပွင့်လင်းတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ဖို့

Florida mailman wins Hemingway look-alike contest

KEY WEST (Florida), 25 July— A Florida mailman credited his persistence with winning Key West's annual Ernest Hemingway look-alike competition, beating nearly 160 snowy-haired men resembling the Nobel Prize-winning US writer.

Bob Doughty, 61, of Deerfield Beach, Florida, a US Postal Service letter carrier clad in a wool cable knit turtle neck, said his favourite Hemingway book was *The Old Man and The Sea*.

He won the contest, held late on Saturday, on his 13th attempt. "Longevity and patience. Keep trying," he said.

The 25th annual Hemingway Days festival, in this island city at the tip of the Florida Peninsula, celebrates the 21 July birthday of Hemingway,

born 106 years ago.

At this year's event, competition organizers welcomed Richard Hemingway, 44, of Davison, Michigan, onstage as the fourth and youngest child of Ernest Hemingway, who committed suicide in 1961, in Ketchum, Idaho.

"I was born five days before Ernest died," said Richard Hemingway, who recently started using the writer's last name after being known as Richard Steel.

He said he learned

at age 43 that Ernest Hemingway was his father. His mother, a one-time Key West resident and friend of playwright Tennessee Williams, told him the news shortly before she died. Ernest Hemingway secretly married his mother while living in Cuba, likely while also married to fourth wife Mary, and supported her financially, said Richard Hemingway, who described himself as a machinist, amateur inventor and poet and song writer.

His mother passed on advice from Ernest

Hemingway, telling Richard Hemingway not to study great classical literature.

"He believed it would keep writers from developing their own style," he said. "I stayed away from the great books of literature."

While in high school, Richard Hemingway read *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, by JRR Tolkien. "I would have taken writing more seriously if I had known Ernest was my father."

MNA/

Havana on health alert after eight children die

HAVANA, 25 July — Cuban health authorities urged Havana residents on Sunday to take extra hygiene precautions as they investigate the deaths of eight children from an unknown cause.

A government communique said that there had been an increase in digestive and respiratory illnesses reported over the last two weeks in the Cuban capital coinciding with power, cooking gas and water problems, in part caused by Hurricane Dennis, which passed a few miles east of Havana on 8 July.

The statement said children were particularly susceptible, and in some cases high fever and other complications developed.

"In this context eight deaths among minors have occurred which are being meticulously investigated," the communique, broadcast during the government's nightly television newscast, said.

While children die at high rates in developing countries from various diseases, such deaths are rare in Communist Cuba, which takes pride in a relatively well-developed and free health care system.

MNA/Reuters



A flock of seagulls in search of food morsels swoops towards a passenger on board a Greek ferry sailing along the Athens coast. —INTERNET

British scientist who linked smoking to cancer dies

LONDON, 25 July — Sir Richard Doll, the British scientist whose research first established the link between smoking and lung cancer, has died aged 92.

Oxford University said Doll, who gave up smoking after his groundbreaking work in the late 1940s, died on Sunday in hospital after a short illness.

"His pioneering epidemiological work has led to the dramatic reduction in smoking rates in Britain over the past 50 years," John Hood, the university's vice-chancellor, said in a statement. "This research has saved many millions of lives." One of the world's most re-

nowned epidemiologists, Doll warned in a 1950 study, co-written with Sir Austin Bradford Hill, that smoking was a major cause of lung cancer.

Their early results showed that smokers were much more likely to die of lung cancer than non-smokers, while longer-term results linked cigarettes to heart disease and other illnesses. "It wasn't long before it became clear that cigarette smoking may be to blame," Doll once said of his research.

"I gave up smoking two-thirds of the way through that study."

Doll caused controversy in 2001 when he said in a BBC radio interview that "the effects of other people smoking in my presence is so small it doesn't worry me".

He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1971 and received a string of international prizes, including the United Nations award for cancer research in 1962.

MNA/Reuters

Mexico reopens oil port, tropical storm "Gert" lands

MEXICO CITY, 25 July— Mexico reopened a major oil exporting port in the Gulf of Mexico on Sunday as tropical storm Gert made landfall farther north on Mexico's southeastern coast, officials said.

The port of Pajaritos at Coatzacoalcas in Veracruz State reopened on Sunday afternoon, an official at the port said. It had been closed on Sunday morning amid high seas and strong winds.

Gert lashed the coast with heavy rains and sustained winds near 45 miles per hour as it made landfall on Sunday evening near Tampico in Tamaulipas State, officials with Mexico's civil protection agency said.

Rainfall of 4 to 8

inches and as much as 12 inches in some areas was expected across eastern Mexico, where some towns were still struggling to recover from Emily's punch, the National Hurricane Centre in Miami said.

"These rains could cause life-threatening flash floods and mud slides, especially in areas previously affected by Hurricane Emily," the hurricane centre said. Local officials blamed four deaths on Emily.

MNA/Reuters

Over 10 million Nigerian children unregistered

LAGOS, 25 July — A backlog of more than 10 million children in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, was unregistered, the country's National Population Commission chairman said four months ahead of its 2005 census.

Chief Samu'ila Makama blamed the situation on the zero funding of the commission from 2001 to 2004, the official *News Agency of Nigeria* reported Saturday. The commission once invoked the provision of the law on vital registration which empowered it to charge 200 naira (about 1.5 US dollars) as registration fee for late registration.

But this compounded the problem as most parents were not able to pay the money and could not register their children, Makama said. About three-quarters

of Nigeria's 130-million-strong population still live in abject poverty on less than one dollar per day.

Makama noted that the penalty fee of 200 naira had been reversed with effect from 1 July, to enable the commission to achieve its aim of 100 per cent birth registration this year.

"I will also like to announce to all parents once again that all births are registered free of charge within the first 60 days of birth and the first 30 days in the case of death," he added.—MNA/Xinhua

Over three million people in Niger affected by drought

ADDIS ABABA, 25 July —The African Union (AU) said Saturday drought compounded with locust outbreaks has affected more than three million people in Niger, most devastatingly children.

The pan-African

body, through its Policy Committee of the Special Emergency Assistance Fund for Drought and Famine in Africa (SEAF) considered the drought and famine situation in the country, according to a Press re-

lease sent from the AU headquarters.

The problem is likely to increase unless coordinated urgent actions are taken to control the situation, the release said.

MNA/Xinhua

Germany to ban private flights over Berlin

BERLIN, 25 July — Germany plans to introduce a ban on flights by private planes over central Berlin after a small aircraft crashed on Friday near the Reichstag Parliament building and Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's office.

"We will introduce a no-fly zone for recreational planes over the government quarter," German Transport Minister Manfred Stolpe told a news conference on Sunday.

"This will prevent hobby pilots and private planes from flying over the area near the Reichstag and the Chancellery."

MNA/Reuters

S P O R T S

Beckham in tunnel bust-up after spitting row

TOKYO, 26 July— David Beckham was involved in a furious halftime bust-up after accusing a Tokyo Verdy player of spitting at him during a pre-season game on Monday.



Real Madrid's David Beckham of Britain protests against Japan's Tokyo Verdy's rough play during their friendly match at Ajinomoto Stadium in Tokyo on 25 July, 2005.—INTERNET

The England captain and Real Madrid teammates Ronaldo and Michel Salgado tried to force their way into Verdy's changing room to get to Kazuyuki Toda after an ugly clash on the pitch.

"Toda spat in my face," Beckham told Reuters after Real's shock 3-0 defeat. "That in life is horrible but in football no players like that.

"Our players saw it and they weren't happy about it."

Asked what happened in the tunnel at halftime, Beckham smiled: "Only handbags but nothing much. Just a few words exchanged, nothing more."

Beckham became embroiled in a running feud with former Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Toda early on in Real's fourth match of their six-game pre-season tour.

Real coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo blamed Verdy hard man Toda for trying to provoke Beckham.

"Toda was very dirty," he told reporters. "He kicked Beckham when the ref wasn't looking. At halftime some of the players got over-excited."

Toda, who left the pitch on a stretcher with damaged ligaments in his right arm after a late tackle, denied that he had deliberately spat at Beckham.

"Beckham kicked me and I swore at him," he said. "Some spit flew but it didn't hit him. That's why he got angry I think.

"They were fouling a lot and so were we. But Beckham kicked me and that annoyed me." Verdy's caretaker manager Nobuhiro Ishizaki tried to calm his players after the blazing tunnel row.

"I told the players I didn't want them going out committing fouls and upsetting Real's players," he said. "But it was a very physical game and these things happen."

Beckham played almost an hour after missing Saturday's 3-2 victory over Beijing Guo'an with a hamstring injury. Real take on J-League side Jubilo Iwata on Wednesday before finishing their money-spinning tour with a friendly in Thailand.—MNA/Reuters

Inter Milan kick off tour with win at Leicester

LEICESTER (England), 26 July— Inter Milan launched their pre-season tour of England with a 2-1 win over Second Division Leicester City on Monday.

The Serie A side announced on Saturday they were pulling out of the tour because of safety fears following the London bombings earlier this month, only to reverse their decision 24 hours later.

Leicester were sunk by goals from Santiago Solari and Lampros Choutos. Substitute Chris O'Grady replied with a penalty for the home team.

Roberto Mancini's side will continue their four-match tour with a game against Second Division Crystal Palace on

Wednesday. Coach Mancini said his players were not unduly worried about playing in London.

"From Milan to Rome to London, the fear is the same," he told reporters. "There's not a huge fear because of playing in London, any more than playing in other places."

Inter are also due to play Premier League Portsmouth and Second Division Norwich City on their tour.

MNA/Reuters

Ferguson searching for consistency

BELING, 26 July— Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson is close to settling on his strongest side as the Premier League team continue their pre-season tour of Asia.

United face Chinese side Beijing Guo'an on Tuesday in the second game of the tour after a 2-0 victory over Hong Kong on Saturday.

"What we've been trying to do in the past two to three games is play two teams, one in each half. But tomorrow, we'll be changing that policy. We will play a team we think is one of our strongest," Ferguson told a news conference on Monday.

He said he was anxious to settle on a consistent team with a Champions League qualifier looming next month.

The United manager is also searching

for a player to fill the considerable boots of his captain Roy Keane, who is due to retire when his contract expires at the end of next season.

"I've been experimenting with Alan Smith in the centre midfield, because we're talking about how to find another Roy Keane," Ferguson said.

"Of course, that's impossible. There are no replicas of these types of players."

Keane, 34 next month, is not in Asia because of injury, though there were reports over the weekend of a recent training ground row with Ferguson.

MNA/Reuters

Kahn doubtful as Trapattoni returns to old club Bayern

FRANKFURT, 26 July— Bayern Munich could be without goalkeeper Oliver Kahn when they begin their League Cup defence with a semifinal against VfB Stuttgart on Tuesday.

The Germany international was forced out of training on the eve of the game with a back problem and may have to make way for the 21-year-old Michael Rensing as Bayern make their debut in the traditional pre-season competition. Tuesday's game at Bayern's new World Cup stadium will see both Stuttgart coach Giovanni Trapattoni and his opposite number Felix Magath confronting their former clubs.

Trapattoni, the experienced Italian who replaced Matthias Sammer as Stuttgart coach last month, had two spells in charge at Bayern, winning the Bundesliga title in 1997.

Magath joined Bayern last year after three-and-a-half seasons at Stuttgart, during which he saved the club from relegation and turned them into one of

Bayern's biggest rivals. "Naturally, I want to win," Trapattoni said. "I have some great friends in Bavaria but friendship stops when the first whistle blows."

While Bayern were given a bye through to the semifinal stage, Stuttgart had to come through a tiring quarterfinal against Hertha Berlin on Saturday, winning on penalties after a goalless draw in 90 minutes.

Jon Dahl Tomasson, the Denmark striker who scored the shoot-out winner, will once again start the match on the bench. Schalke 04, runners-up to Bayern in the Bundesliga last season, take on Werder Bremen in the second semifinal on Wednesday. The final takes place in Leipzig on August 2, three days before the start of the Bundesliga season.

MNA/Reuters

Real Madrid slump to 3-0 defeat in Tokyo

TOKYO, 26 July— Real Madrid suffered an embarrassing 3-0 defeat by Tokyo Verdy on Monday in the first of two pre-season games in Japan.

The Spanish club were stunned by a team who had conceded 26 goals in their last six games and recently fired Argentine coach Osvaldo Ardiles.

Daigo Kobayashi gave Verdy a shock lead after seven minutes and Real's problems mounted when Brazilian striker Washington slid home the second goal in the 27th minute.

England striker Michael Owen went close in the 35th minute but Real were caught out again eight minutes after the break by Takuya Yamada's near-post header.

David Beckham started after missing Saturday's 3-2 win over China's Beijing Guo'an with a hamstring injury.

The England captain was involved in a simmering feud with former Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Kazuyuki Toda that threatened to spill over as the teams left the pitch at halftime.

"Some of their players were very dirty especially the number six Toda," Real coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo told reporters. "He kicked Beckham when the

referee wasn't looking."

Luxemburgo acknowledged that Real's punishing pre-season tour was beginning to take its toll.

"The fatigue showed today," he said. "Real Madrid want to win things but we also have to think of business."

Beckham's last contribution before being taken off in the 58th minute was an audacious free kick from the halfway line that almost caught out Verdy goalkeeper Yoshinari Takagi. Real had already cancelled Tuesday's training session with the players complaining of fatigue and they lacked urgency and creative spark.

They began the pre-season tour with victories over Mexico's Chivas Guadalajara and the Los Angeles Galaxy in the United States.

Real's six-match trip is set to earn the club around 25 million US dollars but there were swathes of empty seats among the crowd of 30,000 in Tokyo.

Real play Jubilo Iwata on Wednesday before finishing the tour with a friendly in Bangkok.—MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's forward Ronaldo of Brazil (R) fights for the ball with Tokyo Verdy's defender Kenta Togawa during the first half of their international friendly match at Ajinomoto Stadium in Tokyo on 25 July, 2005.—INTERNET

Egyptian police fight battles as blast probe widens

SHARM EL-SHEIKH (Egypt), 26 July – Egyptian police fought gunbattles in desert mountains near the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on Monday in a hunt for militants who killed at least 64 people in a bomb attack.

Two days after Egypt's worst attack since 1981, police were surrounding a group of Bedouins suspected of having links to three blasts which tore through hotels and shopping areas popular among foreign tourists. A police source said 25 Bedouins had been arrested after an exchange of fire with police in the hills inland from the hamlet of el-Ruwaisat, north of Sharm el-Sheikh.

Security sources earlier said the Bedouins were believed to be protecting two Pakistanis wanted for questioning but authorities later played down that version.

Authorities said police had been able to track the course of two vehicles used in the attacks and that the suspected bombers came over the mountains from the northern hamlet of Ras Sidr, on the west coast of the Sinai Peninsula, posing as quarry workers.

At least 64 people, mostly Egyptians, died in the attacks, Minister of Tourism Ahmed el-Maghrabi said. That figure, however, does not take into account additional body parts.

Officials at Sharm el-Sheikh International Hospital on Saturday put the number of dead at 88.

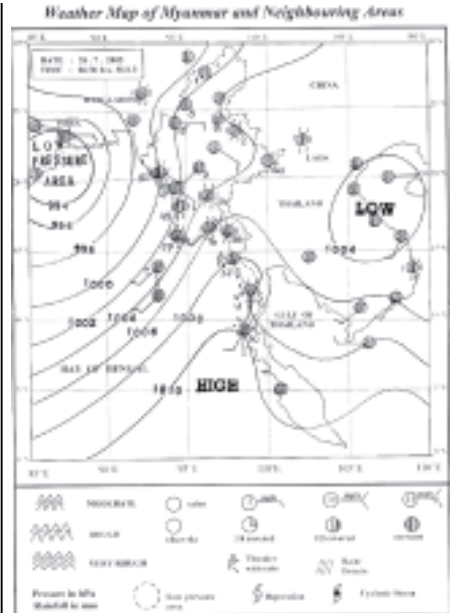
Seven non-Egyptians, including two Ita-

lians, one Briton, one American and a Czech, have been confirmed dead. Ten Britons and four Italians are still missing.

At roadblocks in and near Sharm el-Sheikh, authorities distributed photographs of some 50 foreigners, including five Pakistanis, who police said may be linked to the attacks. A security source later said the Pakistanis were wanted for questioning and that they were not the prime suspects.

Some of the 50 people wanted for questioning were "known international terrorists", security sources said.

MNA/Reuters



WEATHER

Tuesday, 26 July, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain has been isolated in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thaton (4.13) inches, Mawlamyine (3.58) inches, Mudon (3.05) inches, Hpa-an (2.99) inches and Maungtaw (2.56) inches. Maximum temperature on 25-7-2005 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 26-7-2005 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 26-7-2005 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 25-7-2005 was (1.4) hours approx. Rainfalls on 26-7-2005 were 0.67 inch at Mingaladon, 0.70 inch at Kaba-Aye, 0.91 inch at central Yangon.

Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were 42.56 inches at Mingaladon, 41.61 inches at Kaba-Aye and 46.89 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 14 mph from Southwest at (14:35) hours MST on 25-7-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, yesterday's low pressure area over Northwest Bay still persists. Monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 27-7-2005: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Southern Shan State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas will be experienced at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 40 mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-7-2005: Some rain. Degree of certainty is 100%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-7-2005: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

အရည်အသွေးကောင်း ဂုဏ်လျှော်/ချဉ်ပေါင်လျှော် ထွက်ရှိရေးနိုးဆော်ချက်

ယခုအခါ ဂုဏ်လျှော်/ချဉ်ပေါင်လျှော် စိုက်ပျိုးပြီးစီးချိန်ဖြစ်ပြီး မိုးကြို ဂုဏ်လျှော်/ချဉ်ပေါင်လျှော်များ စတင်ရတံသိမ်းနေပြီဖြစ်၍ အရည်အသွေးကောင်းနှင့် အထွက်နှုန်းကောင်း လျှော်များရရှိစေရန် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်နိုင်ပါရန် နိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

- ၁။ အရည်အသွေးကောင်းပြီး အထွက်နှုန်းမြင့်မားစေရန် သီးကင်းစင်စေချိန်တွင် ရတံသိမ်းပြီး လျှော်ပင်များကို အရွက်ကြွေစေရန် ကွင်းထဲတွင် အရိုးပေါ်အရွက်ဖုံးထပ်၍ (၃-၄)ရက် အုပ်ထားပါ။
- ၂။ လျှော်စိမ်းရာတွင် ရေအနက်အနည်းဆုံး (၄)ပေရှိပြီး မြည်းညှင်းစွာ စီးဆင်းနေသော ရေတွင် တစ်လွှာချင်း ဖောင်းပွဲ၍ ရေစိမ်းပါ။ လျှော်ဖောင်းအောက်ဆုံးအလွှာကို မြေနှင့်မထိအောင်နှင့် အပေါ်ဆုံးအလွှာကို ရေတွင်ပေါ်မနေစေရန် ဂရုပြုပြီး လျှော်အမျိုးအစားကောင်းရန် ရေကြည်ရေသန့်တွင် ရေစိမ်းပါ။
- ၃။ လျှော်ဖောင်းဖိရာတွင် စွန့်ထုတ်ပျက်စီးနိုင်သည့် အစေးထွက်သော တုံးများမသုံးစွဲဘဲ သစ်သားတုံး၊ ဝါး စသည်တို့ဖြင့် ဖိထားပါ။
- ၄။ ရေစိမ်းရက်မလိုအစရန်နှင့် မလွန်စေရန် ဂရုပြုပါ။ ရေစိမ်းပြီး ရက်သတ္တပတ် (၁)ပတ်ကြာမှစ၍ နေ့စဉ် လျှော်ဖောင်းအား နူး/မနူး စမ်းသပ်၍ လျှော်နူးပါက ချက်ချင်းခွာယူပါ။
- ၅။ ခွာယူပြီးလျှော်များကို လေသလပ်မခံဘဲ အခွံအခေါက်နှင့် အမျက်သရိုက်များ ကင်းစင်အောင် ရေကြည်တွင် ဆေးကြော၍ တန်းတင်အမြောက်လှန်းပါ။
- ၆။ ကောင်းစွာမြောက်သွေသော လျှော်များကို အတန်းအစားခွဲ စည်းထုံး၍ နိုးစပ်ရာ အဝယ်စခန်းများ တွင် ရောင်းချပါ။
- ၇။ နည်းပညာနှင့် အကူအညီရယူလိုပါက နိုးစပ်ရာ မြန်မာ့ဂုဏ်လျှော်စည်းလုပ်ငန်း၊ ဒေသရုံးများနှင့် ဆက်သွယ် အကူအညီရယူပါ။

လယ်ယာစိုက်ပျိုးရေးနှင့်ဆည်မြောင်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန



Wednesday, 27 July

Tune in today:

- 8.30 am Brief news
- 8.35 am Music: Just between you & me (April Wine)
- 8.40 am Perspectives
- 8.45 am Music: Iron horse (Motorhead)
- 8.50 am National news/Slogan
- 9.00 am Music: Rainbow theme (Frozen Rainbow)
- 9.05 am International news
- 9.10 am Music: Wise man (Uriah Heep)
- 1.30 pm News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm Lunch time music -Keep searching (Del Shannon) -A lover's conea to (Toys) -Dancing on the Saturday night (Barry Blue) -Green green grass of home (BT Jone)
- 9.00 pm Variations on a tune -Words
- 9.15 pm Article/Music
- 9.25 pm Music at your request -Take a bow (Madonna) -Nothing gonna change my love for you (George Bensan) -Just the way you are (Billy Joel)
- 9.45 pm News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm PEL



Wednesday, 27 July
View on today:

- 7:00 am
 1. ကေးဂျူရှင် မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် တုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အစည်းကော်မတီအဖွဲ့ဝင် အဘိဓမ္မာဟာရဂ္ဂုရုအဘိဓမ္မာအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဓမ္မာတိကတိပိဋကဓရဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တ ဝိစိတ္တသာရာတိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တုရားတော်
- 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. မြေမြားကြွကြွ ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက
- 8:05 am
 6. အရေးကြီးပုံ
- 8:20 am
 7. ဝိစိတ္တကျရောက်ခန်းတံခါး

- 8:30 am
 8. International news
- 8:45 am
 9. Let's Go
- 4:00 pm
 1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
- 4:30 pm
 3. ရန်ကင်းတိုင်း အမှတ်(၃) အခြေစိုက်ပညာဦးစီးဌာန၊ ဓမ္မဗေဒကြိမ်ဓမ္မစကြာဝတီစွတ်ပူဇော်ပွဲ (ဒုတိယဆု) (အထက-၁၊ ဒဂုံ) (အမျိုးသမီးတစ်ရွက်အဖွဲ့)
- 4:45 pm
 4. အထူးသတိပြုရန်လုပ်ညွှန်ရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (သမား)၊ မိတူဗေဒ၊ ရုပ်ပေးအထူးပြုများ (သမား)
- 5:00 pm
 5. Song of national race
- 5:10 pm
 6. Classical song
- 5:20 pm
 7. ရုရှယ်နုလင် အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်
- 5:30 pm
 8. မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာလက်စဉ်
- 6:00 pm
 9. သုတနုလင် ဓမ္မဇာတ်ရှင်
- 6:30 pm
 10. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
 11. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
 12. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတိုလမ်းဆွဲ "လေလှိုင်းကြားတိုက်ယုံရမိသွ" (အပိုင်း-၁)
- 7:40 pm
 13. ကြားမြင်သတ ပြည်ဝေရာဓမ္မဒေသ
- 8:00 pm
 14. News
 15. International news
 16. Weather report
 17. ရွှေသမားအကြိမ်(၁၂-ကြိမ်) မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာယဉ်ကျေးမှု အဆို၊ အက၊ အရေး၊ အတီးဖြင့် ပျော်မြင်ပွဲ အစမ်းအမှား ပျော်ဖြေမှုအစီအစဉ်
 18. The next day's programme

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects NyaungU Airport, river-water pumping projects



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects measures being taken for earth work by the use of heavy machinery at worksite of NyaungU Airport. — MNA

YANGON, 26 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence inspected NyaungU Airport on 24 July morning. He was accompanied by Mandalay Division PDC Chairman Central Command Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Magway Division PDC Chairman

Col Phone Maw Shwe and departmental officials.

First, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the lounge and cargo inspection room. At the briefing hall of the airport runway extension project, Aviation Department Director General U Tun Hlaing reported on construction tasks. Deputy Minister for Transport

Col Nyan Tun Aung gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on timely completion of the project meeting the set standards and measures to tighten security and inspected earth work being carried out with the use of heavy machinery. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to the briefing hall of

Kyaukku river-water pumping project being implemented near Myaynelay village in NyaungU Township. Director U Maung Maung Lwin of Water Resource Utilization Department U Maung Maung Lwin reported on work being carried out and future tasks. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

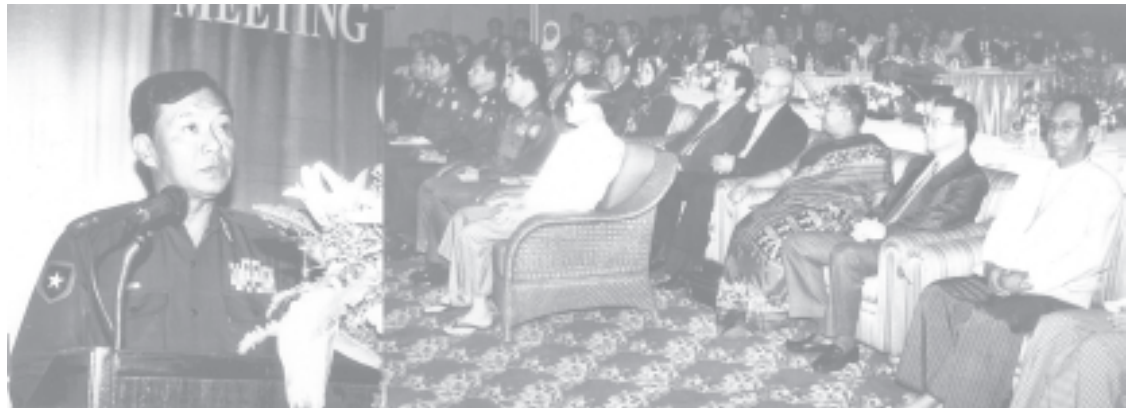
At the mile post (2/4) on NyaungU Myingyin motor road construction of canals and left necessary instructions. Lt-Gen Ye Myint next visited the Thukaungte river-water pumping project near Auknyint Village and stressed the need for officials to complete the project in time and to

meet the set standards. On arrival at the Thithaungtaung village, Lt-Gen Ye Myint looked into cultivation of monsoon paddy on the farm of U Hla Kyaw and thriving paddy plantation of Daw San with the use of Ngathayauk river-water pumping station. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party (See page 9)

26th Special SOM-26th AMAF held

YANGON, 26 July — The 26th Special Senior Officials Meeting of ASEAN Ministers for Agriculture and Forestry hosted by Myanmar took place today at Sedona Hotel in Mandalay.

Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw made an address. In his address he said Mandalay Division, moving forward to the transition of market economy has experienced with economic activities, mostly relying on agriculture. Since an-



Commander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw addresses the 26th Special SOM-26th AMAF in Sedona Hotel, Mandalay. — MNA

cient time of Myanmar Kingdom irrigation schemes were established in this division for

Despite low rainfall in most areas of Mandalay Division, establishment of dams and reservoirs contributes towards the development of agriculture.

agricultural development. Despite low rainfall in most areas of Mandalay Division, establishment of dams and reservoirs contributes towards the development of agriculture. Various kinds of crops such as rice, oil crops, pulses, cotton, sugarcane, coffee, tea, vegetables and fruit have been grown up to 152 per cent.

Agro-based indus-

tries and industrial zones are also being established to generate the job opportunity in order to alleviate poverty and food security in the region as well. Exerted efforts are also being given to the reforestation for greening in the region to preserve the natural environment and sustainable development of agriculture. As favorable topographic na-

ture and location in central Myanmar, road and rail net-working are linking diversely to facilitate transportation of goods not only to different regions in the country but also to increase border trade with China and In-

dia, he added. Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation of Myanmar Maj-Gen Htay Oo also made an address. He said it is necessary to improve the quality and standardization of ASEAN products to (See page 9)



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo addresses the 26th Special SOM-26th AMAF in Sedona Hotel, Mandalay. — MNA

INSIDE

One should discharge one's responsibilities by doing one's bit in a proper way so as to bring progress to one's motherland and people. Besides that, if one has been in harmony with human society in preserving the environment and is benevolent towards everyone, one can deservedly perceive the beauty of the world.