New Central Women’s Hospital opened in Mandalay

YANGON, 5 July — The new Central Women’s Hospital was opened in Mandalay on 3 July with an address by Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the ministers, the Mandalay mayor, the Chief of Staff (Navy), the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental officials, members of Division, District and Township Peace and Development Councils, Medical Superintendent of Central Women’s Hospital (Mandalay), doctors, nurses and students.

The doctors and nurses formally opened the signboard of the hospital.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint formally opened the hospital.

Awards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt planted a star flower sapling at the designated place. In his address, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said opening of Central Women’s Hospital in Mandalay on 3 July, Myanmar Women’s Day, showed how Myanmar laid emphasis on the women sector.

In the past, the newly opened hospital existed as a department in the compound of Mandalay General Hospital. The Head of State gave guidance that Mandalay is the centre of upper Myanmar. Like Yangon, economic and social structures are to be built gradually. That is why economic and social infrastructures are being built one after another in accord with the guidance. He said the newly opened hospital is a social structure. Mandalay needs a central women’s hospital due to the improvement in every aspect, growing population and wider social environment. He said it is vividly seen that the government placed emphasis on health care services of the people.

He said the government carried out the tasks for development of education and health sectors in remote areas. Moreover, it built other necessary infrastructures, he said.

He said border area development projects were successful to some extent. The government focused on education and health sectors after designating 24 special development regions. These tasks have been undertaken not because the country is rich. Depending on wealth of the nation, priority was given to education and health sectors, he added.

The government has been building hospitals, schools and universities with own wealth and resources, and fulfilling equipment needed, he said.

Therefore, there emerged new splendid Central Women’s Hospital opened today. It is incumbent upon the people to understand and realize the genuine goodwill of the government.

The health care services are being launched with the aim of enabling women and mothers to enjoy health and fitness and of rendering full health care services to newborn children who will become intellectuals and intellectuals. The government is making all-out efforts for the emergence of a new modern and developed nation. The health care services are being launched with the aim of enabling women and mothers to enjoy health and fitness and of rendering full health care services to newborn children who will become intellectuals and intellectuals. The government is making all-out efforts for the emergence of a new modern and developed nation.

The government focused on the women sector, he said.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt plants a star flower tree in the compound of New Central Women’s Hospital in Mandalay on 3 July. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects round the New Central Women’s Hospital in Mandalay on 3 July. — MNA
Nurture youths to be able to safeguard favourable political, economic and social environment

Nowadays, some super powers with an advantage in the field of science and technology are exploiting the developing nations for the sake of their own interests and security under the pretext of ideology, security, defence, democracy and human rights.

At such a time and in such a situation, the Union of Myanmar is being faced with the challenge of safeguarding her national identity and her status as an independent sovereign nation and catching up with other nations in the technological race.

The opening of the Special Refresher Course No 5 for faculty members of universities and colleges was held at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township on 2 July and it was attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, who is also Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee.

In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister stressed that the Union of Myanmar, in trying to overcome the challenges facing her, was doing her best to consolidate her spirit of nationalism, the unity of the people, the solid foundation of her economic resources and the establishment of human resources of high calibre, for these were the forces that could weather the challenges. Only then would Myanmar be able to avoid the danger of being overshadowed by other nations and to build a peaceful and developed Union.

In this very sensitive age when all changes are interconnected, only a nation whose people are highly educated, learned with wide-ranging views and a strong spirit of nationalism will be able to protect and promote the national interest. Now is the time for the education sector to nurture such a patriotic force and instil a deep spirit of nationalism among the people of the country.

It is vital for youths, the custodians of the nation’s future, to broaden their views and have firm foundations of knowledge. For, only then will they be able to guide the State to a better future and the Government be able to ensure a sound political, economic and social environment in the best interest of the nation in the long run.

We would like to call on all university teachers, on behalf of the State, to train and nurture their students so that they will have the capability, will and spirit to carry out the task of building up and protecting the political, social and economic foundations already put in place.

Gold, jewellery handed over to Ministry of Culture

Yangon, 5 July — U Aung Htwe was honoured at a ceremony held at Kyunyadana Hall in the Myeik Peace and Development Council Office on 2 July as he handed over gold and jewellery of ancient times to the Ministry of Culture through the authorities concerned. He found them in a pot while digging in his farm.

Present on the occasion were Director-General of the Department of Archaeology U Nyunt Han, Secretary of Myeik Peace and Development Council Li-Col Myo Nyunt, and officials from the Union Solidarity and Development Association, the War Veterans Organization, the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Organization, BEHS teachers and townswomen. First, Li-Col Myo Nyunt explained the purpose of holding the ceremony. Next, Director-General U Nyunt Han awarded K 5,456,000 to U Aung Htwe who expressed his thanks, and the ceremony came to a close.

Prizes presented to winners of ASEAN Radio Quiz

Yangon, 5 June — The ASEAN Radio Quiz sponsored by Myanmar Radio and Television was held at the MRTV on 2 July morning with the participation of enthusiasts.

Of the participants, U Than Win of Mawlamein, Mon State stood first; Maung Hlaing Bwa Win of Thinganngyun, Yangon Division, second; and Ma Ei Kay Khine Tun of Dagon Myothit (North), Yangon Division, third. The consolation prize went to Maung Tin Win of Thinganngyun, Yangon Division. Officials concerned presented prizes to the winners.

Gems and jade sales of UMEHL to be held on 16-19 Aug

Yangon, 5 July — The 17th gems and jade sales of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited will be held at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kabal Aye Pagoda Road from 16 to 19 August 2004.

Inspection of gems and jade will be conducted from 16 to 18 August while sale of gems and jade by bargain and auction system will be held on 19 August.

Buyers are to register on 13 August with fees of K 4,000 for citizens and US$ 20 for foreigners. Gems and jade entrepreneurs may entrust their gems and jade and jewellery for sale, and are to pay 0.4 per cent of the value of items put on sale to the UMEHL. Tax on the sold items will be collected according to Myanmar Gems Law and rules. For further formation, contact is to be made to Myanmar Ruby Enterprise of No 24/26 (Ex-Central Bank of Myanmar building), Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon (Tel 371053 or 370561) and Myanmar Imperial Jade of No 24/26 (Ex-Central Bank of Myanmar building), Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon (Tel 371027 or 370564) during office hours.

Tree planting ceremony held

Yangon, 5 July — A tree planting ceremony for greening Bago Yoma was held at No 56 plot of Nyaungbinzinv reserved forest near Siton village, Letpadan Township, this morning.

Chairman of Thayawady District Peace and Development Council and members, local authorities and departmental officials, USDA members and local people, together with staff of forestry department led by Assistant Director U Kyaw Kyaw, planted 6,000 trees.

Gold, jewellery handed over to Ministry of Culture

Yangon, 5 July — U Aung Htwe was honoured at a ceremony held at Kyunyadana Hall in the Myeik Peace and Development Council Office on 2 July as he handed over gold and jewellery of ancient times to the Ministry of Culture through the authorities concerned. He found them in a pot while digging in his farm.

Present on the occasion were Director-General of the Department of Archaeology U Nyunt Han, Secretary of Myeik Peace and Development Council Li-Col Myo Nyunt, and officials from the Union Solidarity and Development Association, the War Veterans Organization, the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Organization, BEHS teachers and townswomen. First, Li-Col Myo Nyunt explained the purpose of holding the ceremony. Next, Director-General U Nyunt Han awarded K 5,456,000 to U Aung Htwe who expressed his thanks, and the ceremony came to a close.

Prizes presented to winners of ASEAN Radio Quiz

Yangon, 5 June — The ASEAN Radio Quiz sponsored by Myanmar Radio and Television was held at the MRTV on 2 July morning with the participation of enthusiasts.

Of the participants, U Than Win of Mawlamein, Mon State stood first; Maung Hlaing Bwa Win of Thinganngyun, Yangon Division, second; and Ma Ei Kay Khine Tun of Dagon Myothit (North), Yangon Division, third. The consolation prize went to Maung Tin Win of Thinganngyun, Yangon Division. Officials concerned presented prizes to the winners.

Gems and jade sales of UMEHL to be held on 16-19 Aug

Yangon, 5 July — The 17th gems and jade sales of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited will be held at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kabal Aye Pagoda Road from 16 to 19 August 2004.

Inspection of gems and jade will be conducted from 16 to 18 August while sale of gems and jade by bargain and auction system will be held on 19 August.

Buyers are to register on 13 August with fees of K 4,000 for citizens and US$ 20 for foreigners. Gems and jade entrepreneurs may entrust their gems and jade and jewellery for sale, and are to pay 0.4 per cent of the value of items put on sale to the UMEHL. Tax on the sold items will be collected according to Myanmar Gems Law and rules. For further formation, contact is to be made to Myanmar Ruby Enterprise of No 24/26 (Ex-Central Bank of Myanmar building), Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon (Tel 371053 or 370561) and Myanmar Imperial Jade of No 24/26 (Ex-Central Bank of Myanmar building), Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon (Tel 371027 or 370564) during office hours.

Tree planting ceremony held

Yangon, 5 July — A tree planting ceremony for greening Bago Yoma was held at No 56 plot of Nyaungbinzinv reserved forest near Siton village, Letpadan Township, this morning.

Chairman of Thayawady District Peace and Development Council and members, local authorities and departmental officials, USDA members and local people, together with staff of forestry department led by Assistant Director U Kyaw Kyaw, planted 6,000 trees.
Iraq strategic oil pipeline hit, exports reeling

BAGHDAD, 4 July — Saboteurs attacked a strategic oil pipeline linking Iraq's northern and southern fields on Sunday, further cutting exports that were halved by a hole blown in another pipeline a day before, officials and witnesses said.

The attacks on oil — Iraq's economic lifeline — undermine the new Iraq government's attempt to bring about economic recovery and improve the poor living conditions that feed insurgency and political unrest.

An international oil company executive said the attackers had good intelligence.

"They seem to have access to maps and inside information about pumping. They do not want any body to do business in Iraq, and they are succeeding," he said.

This will only help oil prices stay high. We must not forget that there are regional powers that prefer seeing Iraq supplies disrupted."  

Smoke rising hundreds of metres into the air from the pipeline hit on Sunday in the Hawijat al-Fallujah area could be seen from Baghdad some 50 miles to the north-east.

Prime Minister Iyad Allawi has vowed to defeat saboteurs who have stopped Iraq oil exports several times this year. Industry insiders say northern crude was being secretly pumped through the strategic pipeline from Kirkuk fields for export through two offshore southern terminals.

Northern crude is usually pumped through a pipeline to Turkey, but sabotage has forced Iraq to divert flows south. Oil prices are hovering around $36 a barrel for Brent crude and $2 higher for US light crude — a level seen as taking into account the risk of further cuts in Iraq supplies.

Iraq's exports from the southern terminals fell to 960,000 barrels per day (bpd) on Saturday after saboteurs blew a hole in one of two pipelines feeding them.

An Iraqi fireman tries in vain to put out a tanker blaze after an American-escorted convoy was attacked on the highway west of Baghdad, on 4 July. No one was injured in the attack. — Internet

Americans rally for Kerry at Brandenburg Gate

Berlin, 5 July — Dozens of American and German supporters of US presidential candidate John Kerry rallied in front of Berlin's Brandenburg Gate on Sunday to mark the US Fourth of July holiday.

They carried banners in the centre of the German capital criticising President George W Bush and handed out leaflets urging US expatriates in Berlin to register to vote in November.

"More than 10,000 live in Berlin," read a leaflet, "translated into German and English. "They can vote but most don't. Do you want a new American president?" Then tell an American to vote. "Among the anti-Bush banners carried was a poster saying "Freedom and Democracy, US-American Style — Shame!" that included a picture of a hooded Iraqi prisoner being abused. "Drop Bush, not Bombs!" read another poster.

A few hundred metres away, the German chapter of Republicans Abroad staged a voter register drive at a Fourth of July party next to the Bundestag Parliament building.

The Republicans said the expatriate vote could decide the election.  

MNA/Reuters

Bangladesh may become tea-importing country after 2020

DILSHAD, 5 July — Tea production could not increase Bangladesh would become a tea-importing country after 2020.

Tea consumption in Bangladesh is increasing 3 per cent per annum but its production is increasing 1 per cent only. The New Nation reported Sunday.

Currently Bangladeshi tea gardens are producing 56 million kilos of tea per annum. Of this 12 million kilos is exported which earns 900 million taka (15.5 million US dollars).

Bangladesh’s current population growth rate is 1.6 per cent. Experts held that in 2020 Bangladesh’s population will reach 181 million. If the tea consumption growth rate continues, in 2020 tea consumption will reach 65 million kilos while its production will reach only to 54.1 million kilos.

The government reportedly is considering framing of a 20-year strategic plan for development of the tea sector and to increase its production.

For implementation of the strategic plan, 640 million taka ($11.03 million US dollars) will be spent for research and other 510 million taka ($8.79 million US dollars) will be spent for trade and marketing strategy.

The strategic plan suggests that total land for tea production has to be increased to 69,000 hectares from existing 50,000 hectares. It also suggests that tea production has to be increased to 1,748 kilos per hectare from existing 1,176 kilos.

Out of 161 tea gardens now in the country, 26 are managed by foreign companies which produce half of the country’s tea production.

The tea gardens owned by Bangladeshi companies failed to increase production due to lack of planning, modern technology and equipment.

MNA/Xinhua

Turkey pulls military observers from Iraq

ISTANBUL, 4 July — Turkey is withdrawing the last of its military observers from northern Iraq, where they had been deployed since 1991 to oversee a cease-fire between two rival Kurdish factions, a government official said Sunday.

There is no reduction, however, in the several thousand Turkish soldiers in northern Iraq, who have been hunting Turkish Kurdish rebels in the mountains for years, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Turkish military observers were sent to northern Iraq to supervise a British and US-backed truce between the region’s two main Kurdish factions, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Democratic Party. The two factions had been fighting for control of an autonomous region in northern Iraq since 1991.

The official said the withdrawal would take place in the coming days. The observers “played an important role in bringing peace to the north of Iraq,” he said. "Now, the mission of the (observers) is over," he said. The number of Turkish military observers currently in northern Iraq is around 30, according to Turkish media. The observers numbered about 400 in the 1990s. — Internet

Syrian, Iranian presidents call for departure of Iraq’s “occupiers”

TEHERAN, 4 June — Iranian President Mohammad Khatami and his visiting Syrian counterpart, Bashar al-Assad, both called for the rapid departure of foreign troops from Iraq.

"This crisis was predictable, and its source was the aggression and occupation of Iraq by the United States,” Khatami told reporters after he greeted Assad, who arrived here earlier for a two-day visit. "There is no ambiguity between us and Syria where Iraq is concerned. The solution is the quick end to the occupation, the installation of a government comprising all elements of the Iraqi people and the cooperation of the international community to bring stability and reconstruction," he said Sunday.

For his part, Assad said "Iraq is on the top of our list of preoccupations" although he said the two would also discuss “Palestine and the halt in the peace process”.

"Regarding Iraq, we have always been in agreement with Iran on the need for Iraq’s territorial integrity, a representative government and the departure of the occupying forces,” he added.

Both Syria and Iran have been accused by the United States of supporting anti-coalition insurgents inside Iraq. Assad, on his third visit to the Islamic republic since taking office in 2000, was accompanied by a high-level delegation, including Vice President Abdel Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shara.

After being greeted by Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi at Teheran’s international airport, Assad met Khatami and was later lined up to meet Iran’s all-powerful guide, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The Syrian President paid a short visit to Teheran in February 2003 on the eve of the US-led war against Iraq, after an earlier trip in January 2001. Khatami last visited Syria during a May 2003 tour of Arab states. — Internet

Typhoon Mindulle kills one in east China

HANGZHOU, 5 July — Typhoon Mindulle killed one and left two missing at Taihu Lake in Zhejiang Province, according to sources with local government.

The storm caused by the typhoon made a 12-year-old boy drown and two others were reported missing. Some 100-strong local policemen have rescued 48 people from 15 boats still on Taihu Lake after receiving SOS signals. — MNA/Xinhua

A member of the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps, his face covered for fear of identification, questions a motorist at a checkpoint on the outskirts of Baghdad, on 4 July. 2004. — Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR   Tuesday, 6 July, 2004  3
Bremer warns of pitfalls in Iraq Government

WASHINGTON, 4 July—The former top US administrator in Iraq said Sunday that the country’s new democracy would be “shabby and messy” as the interim government confronts a continuing insurgency.

“ ‘It took a while and the Iraqis are going to have to work their way through it. And there will be ups and downs, but the direction is right,’ he said.

Bremer did not comment on specific approaches of the new government.

It isn’t going to be an American-style democracy,” Bremer said on “Fox News Sunday.”

Thailand introduces methadon treatment to drug addicts

BANGKOK, 4 July—In an attempt to reduce the spread of HIV-AIDS virus among heroin addicts, Thailand has introduced the methadon treatment to governmental drugs rehabilitation centres, the state-run Thai News Agency said here Saturday.

At a Press conference, Public Health Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan said methadon was now available for heroin addicts at all governmental drugs rehabilitation clinics nationwide, which reflected Thailand’s awareness of human rights for drugs users.

Methadon is a narcotic analgesic drug similar to morphine but not addictive. It has been widely used as a substituted drug to heroin which eventually will help addicts kick off their habit.

Sudarat hopes the harm-reduction based methadon programme will reduce the spread of some viral diseases such as HIV-AIDS among Thai heroin users.

Thailand has seen a reduction in new HIV-AIDS cases in several risk groups, but the spread of the deadly viral disease is still high among heroin users.

Chinese experts use wasps to combat forest pests

SHILOHZIANG, 4 July — A total of 30.1 million wasps were released into the forested Lianfeng Hill inside Beidaihe, a wellknown seaside summer resort in Qinhuangdao City, north China’s Hebei Province, in a bid to help fight plant disease and insect pests there.

Xu Denghua, head of the Forest Diseases Prevention Centre with Qinhuangdao City Forestry Bureau, said Tuesday’s release was intended to use wasps to combat pine-borne pests that are threatening the growth of pine trees around the hill, where 400 hectares of pine trees are grown.

The release is just of part of the city’s plan to procure 500 wasps each year, and to use wasps to combat pine-borne caterpillars that have almost gone out of control at Lianfeng Hill this year.

The wasps will be released on five occasions. Last year, 100,000 wasps were released to fight the longhorn beetles endangering the growth of trees in Beidaihe District, and the action proved effective, said Xu.

“We can protect our forest resources by using the food chain among insects without causing any pollution to the environment,” said Xu.

Musharraf orders crackdown on terrorist groups in Karachi

ISLAMABAD, 4 July — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has ordered a crackdown on almost 30 terrorist groups in Karachi after a report on terrorism in the southern port city was presented to him, Daily Times reported Saturday.

The English-language paper quoted unnamed sources as saying that a comprehensive report covering all aspects of terrorism in Karachi was presented to Musharraf at a high-level meeting held Wednesday.

Musharraf has ordered an immediate crackdown against these groups, they said. “So far, around 30 terrorist groups have been identified which are sectarian-related groups whereas 15 are related to terrorism directed against Western interests,” said the report obtained by the paper.

The report added that 21 top terrorists are at large and another 19 belonging to the middle planning tier are also wanted by the authorities.

“Therefore, the threat of further terrorism has been reduced,” it warned.

Former envoy attacks Iraqi blunders of US and Britain

LONDON, 5 July—Tony Blair’s former envoy to Baghdad yesterday launched his strongest attack on Britain and America, declaring that both countries had made catastrophic mistakes before and after the invasion of Iraq.

Abandoning his usual diplomatic lan-
guage, Sir Jeremy Greenstock went much further than the prime minister, to say Brit-
ain had been “wrong” to claim that Saddam Hussein had stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons.

Speaking on BBC1’s Breakfast with Frost, Sir Jeremy said: “There’s no doubt that the stockpiles that we feared might be there are not there.”

His remarks come as ministers brace themselves for Lord Butler’s report on the war was “understandable” because of the intelligence about Iraq’s banned weapons.

US to blame for Iraq violence, Iran tells Brahimi

TEHERAN, 4 July—Iran has again hit back at US accusations it is fomenting anti-coalition violence in Iraq by telling a top United Nations envoy that the conduct of US troops was to be the ongoing unrest.

“ ‘The Americans are trying to publicise false information and create conflict and suspicion between Iraqi officials and the neighboring countries,” Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi was quoted as telling UN envoy for Iraq, Lakhdar Brahimi.

“The erroneous actions of the US occupiers is the main cause of insecurity in Iraq,” the student news agency ISNA quoted him as saying in talks in Tehran on Saturday. The US, has borne the brunt of a stream of allegations from US officials that it has been aiding anti-US insurgents in neigh-
boring Iraq.

Iran has consistently denied the charges.

Macao, Mongolia exchange visa-free status

MACAO, 4 July — Macao Special Administrative Re-
gion (SAR) and Mongolia on Saturday accorded an equal visa-free status to each other.

Morinda Da Rosa Silva Chan, secretary for Adminis-
tration and Justice of the Macao SAR Government signed the agreement here with Mongolian Ambassador to China Luvsandavya Amarsanaa. Chief Executive of the Macao SAR Govern-
ment Edmund Ho Hau Wah and visiting Mongolian Presi-
dent Nachagyn Bagabandu attended the signing ceremony.

Musharraf orders crackdown on terrorist groups in Karachi

ISLAMABAD, 4 July — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has ordered a crackdown on almost 30 terrorist groups in Karachi after a report on terrorism in the southern port city was presented to him, Daily Times reported Saturday.

The English-language paper quoted unnamed sources as saying that a comprehensive report covering all aspects of terrorism in Karachi was presented to Musharraf at a high-level meeting held Wednesday.

Musharraf has ordered an immediate crackdown against these groups, they said. “So far, around 30 terrorist groups have been identified which are sectarian-related groups whereas 15 are related to terrorism directed against Western interests,” said the report obtained by the paper.

The report added that 21 top terrorists are at large and another 19 belonging to the middle planning tier are also wanted by the authorities.

“Therefore, the threat of further terrorism has been reduced,” it warned.

The situation of law and order has deteriorated in Karachi since April, inno-
cent citizens, police and the Army have been targets in a series of killings and bomb explosions. About 50 people have been killed and over hundred injured in terror at-
tacks in the past months.

MENA/Xinhua

Supporters of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein chant anti-US slogans in central city of Multan, on 2 July 2004. They demanded immediate withdrawal of coalition forces from Iraq. — Internet

MENA/Xinhua

Musharraf orders crackdown on terrorist groups in Karachi

ISLAMABAD, 4 July — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has ordered a crack-
don on almost 30 terrorist groups in Karachi after a report on terrorism in the southern port city was presented to him, Daily Times reported Saturday.

The English-language paper quoted unnamed sources as saying that a comprehensive report covering all aspects of terrorism in Karachi was presented to Musharraf at a high-level meeting held Wednesday.

Musharraf has ordered an immediate crackdown against these groups, they said. “So far, around 30 terrorist groups have been identified which are sectarian-related groups whereas 15 are related to terrorism directed against Western interests,” said the report obtained by the paper.

The report added that 21 top terrorists are at large and another 19 belonging to the middle planning tier are also wanted by the authorities.

“Therefore, the threat of further terrorism has been reduced,” it warned.

The situation of law and order has deteriorated in Karachi since April, inno-
cent citizens, police and the Army have been targets in a series of killings and bomb explosions. About 50 people have been killed and over hundred injured in terror at-
tacks in the past months.

MENA/Xinhua

Supporters of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein chant anti-US slogans in central city of Multan, on 2 July 2004. They demanded immediate withdrawal of coalition forces from Iraq. — Internet
Blair aides, spy chiefs facing Iraq criticism

London, 5 July — Some of Britain’s top spymasters and government figures face criticism by an inquiry into intelligence British Prime Minister Tony Blair cited to justify war against Iraq, media reported on Sunday.

The report will also criticize the government’s top lawyer, Lord Goldsmith, who advised Blair the war was legal, but who has since admitted privately he had doubts about his own advice, the newspaper said. The Independent on Sunday said Blair’s office would come under fire in the report by Lord Butler to be published on 14 July.

It said its powerful former communications chief Alastair Campbell would be censured for trying to influence Scarlett over what to include in the dossier.

Blair took Britain to war — against the majority of public opinion — on the basis of a dossier that claimed Iraq was stockpiling weapons of mass destruction and that President Saddam Hussein could have some weapons ready for use in 45 minutes.

No weapons of mass destruction were found in Iraq and the 45-minute claim has been discredited.

The government’s leader in Parliament, Peter Hain, refused to comment on the newspaper report.

Key Blair ally hails Brown as “natural successor”

London, 5 July — Britain’s Finance Minister Gordon Brown was dubbed a natural successor to Tony Blair on Sunday by one of the Prime Minister’s key allies, prompting fresh talk of rivalry in the country’s most powerful political partnership.

Former Cabinet Minis-

ter Peter Mandelson, a close friend of the Exchequer, Brown had the qualities needed to succeed Blair as Labour Party leader. “When Tony Blair chooses to stand down as Prime Minister, or is not elected by the public, I think that Gordon Brown will be his New Labour successor,” said Mandelson, a member of Parliament who was Northern Ireland secretary until 2001.

“He will be Tony Blair’s natural successor. Gordon is a big person, is a big politician with very big ideas, as we’ve seen in what he’s done already in government.”

Mandelson’s remarks, in an interview for Britain’s Channel 5 to be shown later this week, were made available on Sunday.

They add more fuel to a blaze of gossip in British political circles about the apparently hostility between Blair and Brown and how it will play out when Blair’s premiership ends.

A biography of Blair unveiled last week said Brown, the longest-serving Finance Minister for decades, once thumped a table and shouted at his boss: “When are you going?... I want the job now!”

Most analysts believe Blair has now survived the worst over Iraq, which made him more politically vulner-

able than at any other time since coming to power in 1997, and is therefore under less pressure to give way to Brown.

But Mandelson’s endorsement of Brown is all the more surprising because British media trace the ami-

nity between Brown and Blair back to Mandelson’s backing in 1994 of Blair for the Labour leadership rather than Brown.

Blair has said he will stand for a third election, expected next year, and aides have also made clear he in-

tends to lead a referendum campaign over the EU Con-

stitution, expected in 2006.

China, GCC members to negotiate free trade agreement

Beijing, 5 July, China and Gulf Co-operation Council have started talks for the establishment of a free trade agreement, which will boost the economic ties between the two sides, the state media reported today.

A high-level GCC dele-

gation, headed by Kuwaiti Finance Minister Mahmoud al-Nouri, is visiting China currently to discuss modalities for the establish-

ment of a FTA, Faisal al-

Ghais, Kuwait’s ambassador to China and current chair-

man of the council of GCC ambassadors in Beijing, said.

The delegation com-

prises finance ministers and other senior officials from the six GCC nations, namely Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia, plus a high-level team headed by GCC Secretary-General Abdulrahman al-Attiyah. Kuwait currently chairs the council. Kuwaiti Prime Min-

ist Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah will also start his week-long visit to China from today.

“It will be a historic visit, which will surely comprehensively promote bilateral trade and economic rela-

tions,” al-Ghais was quoted

China should initiate protection list for intangible heritage

Surabaya, 4 July — An elite cultural relics expert suggested here at the ongoing 28th session of the World Heritage Committee that China should initiate a special protection list for the country’s oral and intangible heritage.

“This move is aimed at saving various endangered traditional techniques and folk craftsworks and arts,” said Luo Zhewen, President of the Chinese Cultural Rel-

ics Society, while stressing the importance of doing a good job in applying to put masterpieces of oral and in-

tangible heritage on the list of the United Nations Edu-

cational, Scientific and Cul-

tural Organization.

As a well-known expert on China’s ancient architec-

ture, Luo worried much about the loss of ancient con-

struction techniques.

China boasts many unique technologies and craftsmanship in maintaining and preserving ancient buildings.

For example, workers can successfully replace de-

cayed wooden girders and columns without moving other parts of the building.

WHO tobacco treaty may become law by end of 2004

Geneva, 5 July — The World Health Organisation Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) is to become international law by the end of this year, WHO said Friday.

The treaty, closed for signature this week, has collected the signatures of 90 per cent countries and over half of the 40 ratification needed for its entry into force, WHO spokes-
person Fadelia Chaib said.

Chaib said the WHO FCTC has become one of the most rapidly embraced UN conventions, with the signing of 167 member states and the European Community and ratification from 23 countries, just one year after it opened for signature in Geneva.

The WHO FCTC, adopted unanimously by all WHO member states in May, 2003, has provisions that set interna-

tional standards on tobacco price and tax increases, tobacco advertising and sponsorship, labelling, illicit trade and second-hand smoke.
Fallujah residents sift through debris in Fallujah, Iraq, on 1 July, 2004, after the US military launched another airstrike.


Images of Iraq

Hotel employees at the Sheraton Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, clean up the damage around a blast after a rocket attack on the building on 2 July, 2004.

A local resident inspects a burnt-out minibus with a multiple rocket launcher inside, in Firdous Square next to the Sheraton Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, on 2 July, 2004.

A man surveys the damage after a mortar attack on the outskirts of Baghdad Iraq, on 30 June, 2004.

Iraqi men walk past a damaged building which was destroyed after a car bomb exploded in Mosul, Iraq, on 25 June, 2004.


Smoke billows from a pipeline after it was attacked near the Hawijat al-Fallujah area, around 80 km (50 miles) southwest of Baghdad, on 4 July, 2004.
New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

Township Development Affairs Committee of Twante, Yangon Division, is carrying out the tasks for laying floor on Aungtheikdi Bridge linking Shwehsandaw and Obo wards. — PBANRDA

A feeder canal of Ngathayauk river water pumping station that benefits crop plantations in Bagan-NyaungU region, Mandalay Division. — KYEMON

A tubewell is sunk to supply potable water to rural people living in Indaw, Sagaing Division. — KYEMON

Namkhamkha hydro-power station that generates 5 megawatt for the people living in Mogaung Township, Kachin State. — PBANRDA

Langkho bridge on Namasan-Mongton-Monghtat road in Langkho Township, Shan State (South) is 290 feet long and it serves the people for their convenience. — KYEMON

Border and rural area developments
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt...  
(from page 16)  
five rural development tasks have been laid down and are being implemented. Therefore, all the regions of the State have harmoniously progressed.

Development undertakings are being carried out not because of the wealth of the country but because of the economic benefits gained from the economic projects that had been laid down and implemented successfully and thrifty practiced by the State, he said. The government is striving its utmost for the development of the State economy. The more prosperous the nation, the more the arrangements will be made for socio-economic life of the people, he added.

According to the reports of the Madaya Township PDC chairman, it is found that the township has good prospects to do other businesses as well as farming business. The township has enjoyed food sufficiency, and it is heartening to note that cultivation of oil palm and beans and pulses is thriving. There-
“MRTV Modern Music Band” entertains NC delegates

Delegations sign attendance registers to attend the Plenary Session.

The vocalists entertained the delegates with songs to the accompaniment of MRTV Modern Music Band. Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented K 150,000 for the composers of the MRTV Daw Tin Tin Myint. NC Delegates Dr Khin Shwe, U Win Aung, U Aung Than Oo, U Nyo Min, U Win Myint and U Huy Myint of the National Races group also presented cash awards to the composers who composed songs in honour of the National Convention and vocalists.

The NC delegates also took part in the entertainment and accepted the prizes presented by NCCWC Chairman Chief-Judge U Aung Toe. NCCRC Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kayaw Hsan, NCCCC Joint-Secretary Maj-Chief-Judge U Khin Aung Myint. — MNA
Three Gorges to generate 37.5 kw of electricity this year

YICHANG, 5 July — The Three Gorges hydropower plant is expected to generate 37.5 kw of electricity this year, 5 kw more than in previous years.

China enjoys record high retail in first five months

BEIJING, 5 July — China has seen a strong momentum of consumption in the first five months in 2004 as the total retail of consumer products surged 12.5 per cent year on year. Vice-Minister of Commerce Yu Guangzhou said at a recent conference that during the January-May period, China’s imports grew 41 per cent, of which 95 per cent were used for production and construction, thanks to the booming of domestic consumer demand.

China has also increased other imported goods such as crude oil, ironstone and agricultural products including wheat, rice and edible oil, to control the overheated investment momentum. However, the growth rate of imported goods appeared to decline, Yu said, mainly because the central government has launched a series of policies to control the overheated investment momentum.

In May, the growth rate of investment in fixed assets dropped 7.4 per cent, successfully turning the unfavourable balance performed by the previous four months and earning 2.1-billion-US-dollar surplus, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

People’s Desire

Oppose those relying on external elements, taking as stone, 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

Efficient use of electricity

- Use daylight as the main source of light
- Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot-fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

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

Three Gorges to generate 37.5 kw of electricity this year

Moe Htet Myint

I paid a visit to Ayeyawady Division, my native place, where my maternal relatives reside. Today’s Myanmar is enjoying peace and stability and developing significantly. And I witnessed development of the division in all sectors. Our car was passing Aung Zeya Bridge. I fell asleep while driving along Myat Tun Bridge. I woke up only when the car came to a stop before the car at Bo Myat Tun Bridge. “You got a sound sleep because of the fine tarred road,” my son said. The road was so smooth that I felt comfortable and could not help nodding as I slept.

Bo Myat Tun Bridge is listed among the longest ones in Myanmar, and it is the lifeline of Ayeyawady Division, linking Yangon-Pathein Road, Yangon-Hinthada Road and Yangon-Myitkyina Road. Lying across the Ayeyawady River, the facility links Thaungtan Village and Kyeinpinse Village in Nyaungdon Township. The 8,544-foot-long and 40-foot-wide bridge is of reinforced concrete type. The construction project was started on 15 June 1996. And the bridge was inaugurated on 16 June 1999.

The State usually names the bridges in honour of persons who safeguarded the national prestige and independence and brought honour to the country for instance; Anawrahta, Bayintnaung, Aung Zeya, Maha Bandoola, Hsinbyushin, Bala Minhtin, Bo Myat Tun, Nawade and so on. So, I took honour in such bridge names.

Bo Myat Tun Bridge was completed on 15 June 1999. The bridge, which was placed over the Ayeyawady River near Kyinpinse Village, was constructed over two years and two months. The bridge is 2,140 feet long and 28 feet wide.

72 percent of machinery installation have been completed. The bridge was completed on 15 June 1999.

People can travel easily by car due to village-to-village and town-to-town roads. Our car headed for Nyaungdon, Hsinbyushin, Bala Minhtin, Bo Myat Tun, Nawade and so on. So, I took honour in such bridge names.

Nyaungdon Township. The 8,544-foot-long and 40-foot-wide bridge is of reinforced concrete type. The construction project was started on 15 June 1996. And the bridge was inaugurated on 16 June 1999.

The State usually names the bridges in honour of persons who safeguarded the national prestige and independence and brought honour to the country for instance; Anawrahta, Bayintnaung, Aung Zeya, Maha Bandoola, Hsinbyushin, Bala Minhtin, Bo Myat Tun, Nawade and so on. So, I took honour in such bridge names.

Bo Myat Tun Bridge was completed on 15 June 1999. The bridge, which was placed over the Ayeyawady River near Kyinpinse Village, was constructed over two years and two months. The bridge is 2,140 feet long and 28 feet wide.

72 percent of machinery installation have been completed. The bridge was completed on 15 June 1999.

People can travel easily by car due to village-to-village and town-to-town roads. Our car headed for Nyaungdon, Hsinbyushin, Bala Minhtin, Bo Myat Tun, Nawade and so on. So, I took honour in such bridge names.

Bo Myat Tun Bridge was completed on 15 June 1999. The bridge, which was placed over the Ayeyawady River near Kyinpinse Village, was constructed over two years and two months. The bridge is 2,140 feet long and 28 feet wide.

72 percent of machinery installation have been completed. The bridge was completed on 15 June 1999.
Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein presents cash award to a vocalist. — MNA

The Plenary Session continues in Pyidaungshu Hall, Nyaunghnapin Camp, Hmawby.

Minister inspects Hlainethaya Industrial Zone

YANGON, 5 July — Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Development Committee In-Charge of Hlainethaya Industrial Zone Minister for Industrial 2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, together with departmental officials, arrived at Hlainethaya Industrial Zone Management Office yesterday morning and gave necessary instructions on the matters related to vehicles and farm equipment manufacturing as well as HSD and electricity supplies reported by the chairman and officials of the management committee. The minister and party then went to Shwe Tun Co Ltd in Zone 8 and heard the reports of the company officials. Afterwards, he inspected the farm equipment manufacturing in Shwe Tun Factory. The minister gave necessary instructions and fulfilled the requirements after hearing the reports of the company chairman. — MNA

PRC delegation arrives

YANGON, 5 July — A delegation led by Deputy Minister for Information Industry Mr Xi Guohua arrived at Yangon International Airport. They were welcomed by member of CSSTB Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force U Aung Myint, officials of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications and officials of the People Republic of China Embassy to Myanmar at the airport.

A 20-member Chinese delegation led by Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Information Industry Mr Xi Guohua arrives Yangon International Airport on 4 July and they were welcomed by member of CSSTB Vice-Chairman of e-National Task Force U Aung Myint and officials. — MNA

Delegates sign the attendance registers to attend the Plenary Session. — MNA

Chairman of NCCC Secretary-2 of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein signs the attendance registers to attend the Plenary Session. — MNA

Talk on facts about MWAF held

YANGON, 5 July — A talk on facts about Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was held this morning at the Forest Department, with an introductory speech by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, MWAF General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win, advisers to the Environmental Conservation Work Committee of MWAF Daw Khin Htay Myint, wife of the minister, and Daw Aye Aye, wife of the deputy minister, directors-general and managing directors and their wives and officials and their wives.

Daw Khin Htay Myint delivered a speech. Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win next explained facts about MWAF and those present made discussions. — MNA

Drive safely
Russian raid on YUKOS could stop oil output

Moscow, 4 July — Police seized vital computer servers during an eight-hour raid on the Moscow headquarters of Russia's YUKOS oil firm on Saturday, the company said, a move that could halt a fifth of Russia's oil output.

Upto-40 planeloads of police entered the steel and glass block in south central Moscow in the early afternoon and Interior Ministry special forces in grey fatigues and black berets stood guard and cordoned off the building.

The investigative actions are being undertaken as part of a criminal case into fraud and tax evasion by entities controlled by YUKOS, a spokeswoman for the general prosecutor's office told Reuters.

Although it pumps more oil than Libya, YUKOS is in crisis: its founder Mikhail Khodorkovsky is on trial for fraud and tax evasion, faces tax bills of almost 7 billion US dollars — half to be paid within days — and a court has frozen its bank accounts.

Many stock market dealers see YUKOS' troubles as part of a Kremlin punishment for Khodorkovsky's political ambitions. The firm's shares have lost more than half their value since early April this year.

YUKOS has already said its legal battles could disrupt its output of 1.72 million barrels a day, and spokesman Alexander Shishkin said the seizure of computer servers in Saturday's raid could bring production to a halt.

MNA/Xinhua

Global chips sales continue to grow at double digit rate

Los Angeles, 4 July — Worldwide sales of semiconductor products rose to 17.32 billion US dollars in May, up 36.9 per cent from the same month a year ago, according to statistics released Friday by the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA).

The SIA said the May figure is also a sequential increase of 2.1 per cent from the 16.97 billion dollars reported in April.

The association called the increase "normal" for May, which it says is traditionally one of the stronger months for semiconductor sales.

"Worldwide sales of microchips followed historical patterns in May, normally a strong month for the industry," said George Scalise, president of the SIA.

MNA/Xinhua

US factory orders fall in May

Washington, 4 July — Orders of US factories dropped 0.3 per cent in May for the second straight month, following a larger 1.1-per-cent decline in April, the Commerce Department reported Friday.

The report showed that the weakness was concentrated in orders for "durable" goods, which are costly manufactured goods, such as cars, expected to last at least three years. Orders for durable goods in May dropped by 1.8 per cent, following a 2.7-per-cent decline in April.

May’s orders for cars, machinery, computers, and electrical lighting equipment were among the categories seeing orders go down.

Presenting his ministry’s budget to Parliament members, who urged the government to put more attention on village roads, Magufuli said that the government also intended to finish Tanzania-Mozambique Bridge with the cost of 45 million dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

Tiny prehistoric skull found in Kenya

Nairobi, 4 July — A prehistoric human skull uncovered at an archaeological site in Kenya has bridged a 400,000-year gap in the East African region’s human fossil record, scientists said on Friday.

The tiny incomplete skull found at the Olorgesailie site is between 900,000 and 970,000 years old. It is the first find in the region that falls within the 600,000 and one million years range, said Washington-based Richard Potts of the Smithsonian Institution.

“It’s small and at this stage I would speculate that it is a female,” Potts told a news conference at the National Museums of Kenya where the fossil will be kept. He added, however, that it was not possible to determine the gender conclusively based on the brow ridge, left ear region and fragments of the brain case found at the site, which is about 55 miles southwest of Nairobi.
Singapore, India hold talks on closer ties

SINGAPORE: July 4 — Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong on Saturday held talks with visiting Indian Minister of External Affairs Natwar Singh on bilateral relations and regional situation.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, both sides agreed that the proposed closer economic cooperation agreement between the two countries should be concluded as soon as possible. They also exchanged views on the latest developments of regional situation, including the process of economic integration in Asia and the developments in Iraq.

Goh expressed hope that India would play an important role in Asia's growth and prosperity.

While trying hard to ride on the economic growth of China in recent years, Singapore has stepped up its efforts to boost relations with India, especially in the field of economy and trade.

---

“Cassini” team says Saturn’s rings may be eroding

PASADENA (California) (July 4) — An eruption of atomic oxygen spotted around Saturn by the Cassini spacecraft suggests that the planet’s iconic rings are eroding and could be gone in 100 million years, NASA scientists said on Friday.

Cassini scientists believe that the atomic oxygen is evidence of a collision between objects in Saturn’s ring system, which are largely made up of ice and could have released the gas as they broke apart.

The researchers said that within 100,000,000 years this process would erode the entire E ring, assuming there was no replenishment.

Cassini team investigator Donald Shemansky said it was “very peculiar to witness.”

Unless those objects are replenished in the rings, Cassini investigator Donald Shemansky said, there would slowly be “eaten away” within about 100 million years.

Shemansky cautioned that project scientists had not reached firm conclusions about the eruption and were not even certain that it came from a collision among objects in the E ring. Other possibilities include a meteorite crashing into the ring or even an event such as an ice volcano — on Enceladus, one of Saturn’s 31 known moons.

“Remember, we’ve only seen one of these so far,” Shemansky said, adding that the eruption apparently occurred in late January and was picked up by Cassini’s instruments.

“Cassini,” which settled into orbit around Saturn earlier this week after a journey of nearly seven years and 2.2 billion miles, on Friday also took its first close-up images of the surface of Titan, Saturn’s largest and most intriguing moon.

“If you don’t see the surface you can’t read the story of its geology,” Porco said at a press conference at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

Titan is of particular interest to the Cassini team because its methane and nitrogen atmosphere and the presence of hydrocarbons on its surface are seen as similar to a pre-mordial Earth before life began.

In addition, the Cassini team says Saturn’s rings may be eroding due to the internal pressure from a collision among objects in the ring system.

The team also said that the rings of Saturn are being eroded due to the presence of hydrocarbons on the surface of Titan, Saturn’s largest moon. The gas molecules, which are thought to be coming from the surface of Titan, are causing the rings to thin out over time.

---

Fiji launches anti-AIDS drug treatment programme

WELLINGTON, 4 July — Fiji has launched its first anti-AIDS drug treatment programme to deal with increasing number of AIDS cases in recent years, according to a government Press release reaching here Friday.

Fiji’s Health Minister Solomon Naivalu launched the programme Friday, saying that statistics to date revealed there were 156 people reported to be living with HIV/AIDS in Fiji.

However, he said, the numbers may be an underestimate since there was limited information amongst the high risk populations.

Naivalu said treatment had been one of the most neglected areas of the country’s fight against the disease.

But with the launch of the drug treatment programme, and increased prevention efforts, they are now an opportunity to change the course of the infection in Fiji, he said.

Naivalu said that Fiji Government had placed HIV/AIDS as one of the priority concern of the country.

“With firm political will and political commitment greater attention is being paid to HIV/AIDS than ever before, together with stronger collaborations, we have an unprecedented opportunity to reduce the spread of HIV infection,” the minister said.

The minister said the National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan for 2004-2006 has adapted the multi-sectoral approach and is more comprehensive with more attention given to care and treatment.

In an effort to strengthen the management of the disease, the Ministry of Health established the “HIV Centre” right here at the Reproductive Health Clinic where people living with HIV/AIDS could readily access services.

---

ADB launches major water projects in Africa

TUNIS, 4 July — The African Development Bank (ADB) Group has launched here two major initiatives for the development of water resources in Africa, for which the ADB will mobilize 14.7 billion US dollars.

More than 300 participants representing governments, multilateral finance and development institutions, private enterprises, non-governmental organizations and the civil society from about 100 countries are holding a conference aimed at winning support for African water initiatives.

The meeting seeks to strengthen partnerships in support of the ADB’s new initiative to develop the African water sector: the Rural Water and Sanitation Initiative, which was formally launched Thursday, as well as the African Water Facility, a regional initiative the ADB Group will manage.

ADB President Omar Kabbaj said in an opening speech that “perhaps, more than any other sector, water and sanitation impact on all the main themes of the development agenda — poverty alleviation, environment and sustainability, private sector growth, education, participatory development and good governance.”

The absence of access to safe water supply and sanitation services undermines human dignity, contributes to the poor health statistics on the continent and may lie at the root of many of the continent’s current social, economic and political problems, the ADB president told the delegates.

Kabbaj said that in implementing these initiatives, the Bank will give high priority to deepening relations with all its development partners, especially the World Bank, UN agencies and the European Commission.

The ADB will mobilize 360 million dollars annually through to 2015, while the rest of the 14.7 billion dollars will be mobilized from bilateral donors, multilateral funds and African governments and local communities, he said.

---

Senior CPC official hails “Chinese Culture Year in France”

PARIS, 4 July — A senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) spoke of the development of the “Chinese Culture Year in France”, a nine-month fair aimed at promoting cultural exchanges between China and France.

Using the fair’s closing ceremony at the Orangerie du Chateau de Versailles in Paris Friday night, Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee, said it was pleased to attend the closing event on behalf of Chinese President Hu Jintao.

He said the “Chinese Culture Year in France” will promote the cultural exchanges between China and France and help people from both sides to learn from each other and deepen their friendship, adding that such a fair is beneficial to safeguarding the cultural diversity of the world.

Li vowed that China will make joint efforts with France to push forward the cultural exchanges between China and France — MNA/Xinhua

---

Chile-Australia social security agreement takes effect

SANTIAGO, 4 July — Chile and Australia put into effect this month a social security agreement that will provide benefits to thousands of people residing or working in the two countries, the Chilean Government said Saturday.

The agreement, signed on March 25, 2003, in Canberra, will prevent a double taxation on pensions received from an expatriate’s home country.

Australia, where at least 30,000 Chileans live, will no longer count such payments as income in the Australian pension system, the Chilean Government said Saturday.

The agreement recognises the pension rights of each country, so a Chilean will be able to draw a pension for his work in Australia.

In addition, pension payments can be received outside the granting country on condition that the social security coverage person is recognised in each country and that physical examinations are conducted in the residing country. — MNA/Xinhua

---

Senior CPC official hails “Chinese Culture Year in France”

PARIS, 4 July — A senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) spoke of the development of the “Chinese Culture Year in France”, a nine-month fair aimed at promoting cultural exchanges between China and France.

Using the fair’s closing ceremony at the Orangerie du Chateau de Versailles in Paris Friday night, Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee, said it was pleased to attend the closing event on behalf of Chinese President Hu Jintao.

He said the “Chinese Culture Year in France” will promote the cultural exchanges between China and France and help people from both sides to learn from each other and deepen their friendship, adding that such a fair is beneficial to safeguarding the cultural diversity of the world.

Li vowed that China will make joint efforts with France to push forward the cultural exchanges between China and France — MNA/Xinhua

---

Singapor launches first locally-built stealth frigate

SINGAPORE: July 4 — Singapore Saturday launched its first locally-built stealth frigate, RSS Intrepid, which packs more capabilities than other ships of the same size, and with a much smaller crew of only 20 personnel.

The first such frigate, built in France will undergo trials soon, while the RSS Intrepid is the first of five warships that are locally built by Singapore Technologies Marine.

The frigate, which will be equipped with advanced weapon and sensor systems, will have a sturdy outfit against threats from the air, surface and underwater.

Speaking at the launching ceremony of the warship, Singapore’s Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said that these ships, together with the rest of the 3rd Generation Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) that is being built, are significant contributions to a strong and prosperous Singapore.

---

Donate blood

---
Scolari says Greeks pose a challenge to Europe

LISBON, 5 July— Greece's backs-to-the-wall victory at Euro 2004 throws down a challenge to more attacking sides to find a way to beat them, Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said on Sunday.

Portugal suffered the fate of holders France and an in-form Czech Republic side in Sunday's final at the Luz Stadium, with a single goal from Greece consigning the hosts to defeat and clinching an unlikely tournament victory.

"Greece have a spectacular defensive system and they play in a style that lets the mistakes of their opponents play in their favour," the Brazilian coach said.

"I don't think this was a step backwards for football. Winners should be able to play against any style and we found ourselves unable to do it.

"The more offensive teams now have to look for alternatives to win against a system like this." Scolari said he was disappointed with the result while stressing that his own side had had a successful tournament.

"We had much more control of the ball, more shots, but they were more efficient because they scored and we didn't.

"I want to congratulate the Greek coach and his players but we also had a great tournament." We're vice-champions of Europe and if we con-

Greece bursts with joy as dream comes true

ATHENS, 5 July— Millions of Greeks around the world erupted in joyful celebration, hardly believing their eyes after Greece beat holders Portugal in the Euro 2004 final on Sunday.

"It is true, the dream is real, we are holding the Cup which are in seventh heaven," Screamed the commentator for Greek national TV, calling on all Greeks to dream, tonight we will celebrate.

"The Greek soul won, with a bit of help from the German method," said Aspasia Vlahos, other way to central Athens to celebrate. "If you have faith, dreams really can come true."

The Greek squad, coached by German Otto Rehhagel, started the tournament as 80-1 outsiders and fought their way to the final past holders France and then the Czech Republic before beating the hosts 1-0 in the final.

In a well-rehearsed ritual, millions flooded streets and squares across Greece after the final whistle, draped in the national colours of blue-and-white, whistling, setting off fireworks and chanting the national anthem.

In Athens, a city supposedly under a partial security curtain before the August 13-29 Olympic Games, hundreds of thousands made their way downtown in cars, on mopeds and on foot, beeping car horns, waving flags and hugging total strangers.

Flares turned night to day around central Omonia Square, where people climbed up statues, lamp posts, trees, raced their motor-bikes in impromptu motor-cadet and joined marching bands in clapping and singing.

"Greeks know how to dream, tonight we will celebrate. Greece will burn, no one will go to work tomorrow," said civil servant Mary Makri.

Celebrations were triggered when a 57th-minute goal by Angelos Charisteas united every Greek in the land in a collective scream of ecstasy.

Greeks burst with joy as dream comes true.
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets officials in Madaya Township, inspects development tasks in Mandalay

YANGON, 5 July — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party on 3 July met with members of Madaya Township Peace and Development Council, departmental officials, social organizations and town elders at Bayintnaung Hall of Madaya Township, Mandalay Division.

First, Madaya Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Myo Nyunt reported on facts about the township including population, prevalence of law and order, natural resources, monsoon and summer paddy cultivation, sufficiency of rice and edible oil, livestock breeding, education, health and supply of drinking water and regional development tasks.

Afterwards, Myanmar Education Committee Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented TV, VCR and a set of computer each for Madaya Basic Education High School and Salunphyu BEHS, through respective headmasters. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended to the needs for education and health sectors and delivered a speech.

In his speech, the Prime Minister said he always remembered the marble rock in Madaya Township from which Lawkatt Chanthha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Image was sculpted.

Requirements have been fulfilled after hearing reports on education and health sectors. So, he believed that the education standard of local students will rise and they will become intellectuals and intelligentsia on whom the state can rely.

Moreover, health care centres were opened in some rural areas so as to provide health care services for the local people. Owing to the upgrading Madaya hospital, local people will be fit and will be able to carry out tasks for economic enhancement. Therefore, per capita income of the local people will increase and social standard of the local people will improve, he said. After Myanmar had regained independence, sufficient health care services could not be given due to various reasons. Since late 1988, the government has taken measures for the development of rural areas. Thanks to these efforts, rural areas have significantly developed. The government is making efforts with goodwill for the equitable development of all the regions in the state. Special development regions were designated and endeavours are being made to develop the regions in inner areas of the State like rural areas. Moreover, (See page 8)

Members of Panel of Chairmen at the Plenary Session of the National Convention. — NLM

Delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia submits proposal to Plenary Session of National Convention

YANGON, 5 July — The Plenary Session of the National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnhapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division at 9 am today.

Delegates of intellectuals and intelligentsia, one of delegate groups to the National Convention submitted their proposal paper concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of power in legislative, executive and judicial sectors to be concluded in drawing the State Constitution.

Present at the Plenary Session of National Convention were Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Brig-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen and officials of the sub-committees, media personnel, delegates of political parties of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, National Unity Party, Union Kayin League, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development (See page 9)