Panditanan ca sevana, to associate with the wise; this is the way to auspiciousness.

The National Convention is the concern of all our national races.

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Strive in concert for further development of the Union

The State Peace and Development Council is taking long-term measures so that the Union of Myanmar can have a promising future and experience all-round development and stand as a sovereign nation eternally.

The Government is accelerating its efforts for building education, health, transport and communications, economic and social infrastructures the length and breadth of the nation.

The Central Women’s Hospital was inaugurated in Mandalay in Upper Myanmar on 3 July and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt himself graced the opening ceremony. It was with the purpose of providing wider health care services to the increasing population of the City of Mandalay that the hospital was built. Thus, it will be possible to look after the health of women, mothers and infants more carefully.

The Prime Minister, during his trip to Mandalay, visited Madaya Township and met members of the township peace and development council, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townenders at the Bayintnaung Hall on 3 July.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister called on all those present and the entire people to work in concert in the interests of the nation as well as in their own with Union Spirit under the leadership of the Government.

Myanmar has a favorable environment not only for agriculture but also for other economic enterprises and so it can produce rice, edible oil and beans and pulses enough for its consumption. However, the local people should work harder to increase harvest.

Today, the living standard of the people in all regions across the Union is becoming higher as the Government has been fulfilling all the requirements for better health care services and development of economic enterprises.

We would like to urge the entire national people to actively lend themselves in all the regions across the Union is becoming higher as the Government has been fulfilling all the requirements for better health care services and development of economic enterprises.

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

Cash and kind donated to MMCWA

YANGON, 6 July — Wellwishers donated cash and kind to the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association at the meeting hall of Multipurpose Building of the Association at the corner of Parami and Thanthuma Roads in South Okkalapa Township here this afternoon.

MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe attended the ceremony and accepted donations.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Central Executive Committee of the MMCWA. U Win Aung and family of Dagon Int’l Ltd donated K 121.4 million to be used for construction of Kyaukant Township MMCWA building; U Ko Ko Htwe and family of Tan Win, K 2.6 million worth of furniture for Kyaukant Township MMCWA; Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Daw Khin Nwe Yi and family (Shweparpun Family), K 12 million to be used for the nursery school to be opened in Hline Township by the MMCWA; the Summit Parkview Hotel, K 2.2 million; U Hla Win of MK Co Ltd, K 1 million worth of 380 child’s shirts and 1,200 Country Top table powder cans; U Nyo Min and family of Minnazi Co Ltd, K 500,000; Nu Life Int’l Co Ltd, K 840,000 worth of medical equipment; Myintmaha Co Ltd, K 272,750; and Daw Beauty Kyi of Mo Aya Co Ltd, K 500,000 worth of milk powder cans for the early childhood development centre.

After accepting the donations, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented certificates of honour to wellwishers and expressed her thankings.

After the ceremony, wellwishers viewed round the campaign photos of the MMCWA in the hall. — MNA

Health educational talks held

YANGON, 6 July — Early Childhood Development Centre organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation held health educational talks for the parents at the meeting hall of MWAIF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, CEC members, patrons of Supervisory Committee, patron of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htun, doctors, teachers and parents of the centre and guests.

MWAIF president Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe delivered an address. Next, CEC member of MWAIF Retired psychiatrist Prof Dr Sao Sai Lon gave talks on the relation between parents and their sons and daughters, surgical specialist of YGH Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Mu on gastrointestinal track cancer and assistant director Dr Khin Maung Lwin of central health education department on 4 kinds of cleanse. MWAIF president Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe then presented gifts to the doctors who gave talks.

After the talks, president Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and guests viewed around the documentary photos on health educational movements in the hall. — MNA

Film entertainment to National Convention delegates

YANGON, 6 July — The Entertainment and Welfare Subcommittee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee is organizing entertainment programmes for delegates to the National Convention daily at the gymnasium of Nayangpin Camp. Yesterday evening, the delegates were entertained with a film entitled “Ma Thudhammasi” directed by Kyi Soe Tin and starring Kyaw Ye Aung, Zaw Lin, Mo Mo Myint Aung, Shumawa San San Aye and Myint Myint Khaing. — MNA
US airstrike kills 12 in Iraq as government readies emergency measures

FALLUJAH, 5 July—At least 12 people were killed in a US airstrike on a suspected militant hideout in Fallujah as Iraq’s caretaker government put the final touches on emergency security measures.

The attack occurred at 7:15 pm (1515 GMT) when US warplanes dropped four 500-pound bombs and two 1,000-pound bombs “against a Mujahideen safe house,” said a US military spokesman.

It is the deadliest single incident since the US-led coalition handed official power to a caretaker government on June 28.

Hospital sources said at least 12 people were killed and five injured in the attack on the house in the Shuhada neighbourhood of the Sunni Muslim bastion of Fallujah, west of Baghdad.

“I saw eight bodies pulled out,” said volunteer Ahmed Hassan as he lifted debris frantically and dozens searched for people buried in the wreckage.

“I saw at least three people were injured.”

The attack is the fifth such raid over the past two weeks in Fallujah, where previous air strikes targeted suspected safe houses of Al-Qaeda-linked militant Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi.

In a bid to tap hotbeds like Fallujah, national security advisor Mouaffaq al-Rubaie said that emergency security measures will be unveiled by week’s end and include the right to slap down curfews and arrest suspects more easily.

“We were ironing out the creases, crossing the ‘ts and dotted the ‘i’s,” Rubaie told reporters.

The measures, intended to crush a 14-month insurgency, will include curfews, restrictions on movement and “preemptive arrests,” allowing police to target and detain people on strong suspicions that they were involved in missiles.

Rubaie said. Internet

Norwegian troops in Iraq regret anti-war sentiment at home

BAGHDAD, 5 July—Chief of the Norwegian troops in Iraq, Colonel Tor Helge Moen, says his troops are frustrated over the opposition at home to their engagement in Iraq.

Moen says the debate in Norway has had a negative influence on the troops’ motivation, particularly when family and close friends have questioned whether or not they have done a good job in Iraq.

The frustration over the debate at home, stems from the fact that afterall there was a unanimous Parliament (Storting) behind the decision to send Norwegian troops to Iraq. Colonel Moen says to NRK Radio. The Norwegian troops are now ending their engagement in Iraq, and 130 of them are returning to Norway Monday afternoon. —Internet

Iraq rebuilding fund largely unspent

WASHINGTON, 3 July—The Bush administration has spent only two percent of the huge amount of money it set aside to rebuild Iraq.

The measure was approved after weeks in which administration officials and congressional Republican leaders said the money was needed quickly to hasten work, stabilise Iraq and improve the security of US troops there.

Until now, the administration has provided data only on the amount of money obligated, which means spent or owed for specific contracts.

But Friday’s report said nearly $5.3 billion is now owed or has been spent — compared with $2.2 billion as of the last report, for the period through 24 March.

When the White House filed its first report in January, it estimated $10.3 billion would have been spent through 30 June.

Patrick Clawson, a former World Bank official now deputy director of the bipartisan Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said while understandable, the spending rate was too slow for the battle to win support from Iraqi citizens. —Internet

Australia strengthens counter-terrorism cooperation with RP

CANBERRA, 5 July—A small team of Australian Defence Forces (ADF) Special Forces personnel will be deployed to the Philippines in coming weeks to continue counter-terrorism training with the armed forces of the Philippines.

The training is part of an annual exercise conducted under Australia’s Defence Cooperation Programme with the Philippines, the Australian Department of Defence said Sunday in a statement.

The exercise aims to provide the skills that can assist the Philippines in its efforts to protect its citizens and visitors to the country against terrorist attack, the statement said.

This year’s exercise will focus on command group training, the use of night vision aids, medical assistance and weapons safety. MNA/Xinhua

Australia, Thailand sign free trade deal

CANBERRA, 5 July—Australia and Thailand signed a free trade deal on Monday that could pave the way for free trade talks between Australia and New Zealand and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Prime Minister John Howard and Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra witnessed the signing of the deal in the Australian capital, Canberra.

"By 2010, 95 per cent of all current trade between Australia and Thailand will be completely free," said Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile, who signed the deal with Thai Commerce Minister Wattana Muangsook.

Australian officials estimate the deal will boost Australia’s economy by $10 billion and New Zealand and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The agreement is Australia’s second with an ASEAN-member country after it signed a free trade deal with Singapore last year.

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Asian Parliament holds Executive Council meeting in Manila

MANILA, 5 July—A total of 60 delegates from 20 Asian countries Monday attended the executive council of the Asian Parliaments for Peace (APP) in Manila.

As APP president, Philippine House Speaker Jose de Venecia is expected to finalize the agenda of the body’s next general assembly and re-emphasize the theme of peace in the region. In the one-day meeting, heads of delegations will separately deliver their statements and Pakistan, the host country of the next APP General Assembly later this year, is expected to report on its preparations.

The delegates are also scheduled to make a courtesy call on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the Presidential Palace. At the fourth APP General Assembly last September in Manila, participants drew up the Manila Declaration, which includes vision of a hundred years of peace in Asia and proposals for regional economic and political integration.

The executive council is composed of the APP president, vice-president, and one member from each country.

The parliament represented in the meeting are from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, South Korea, Laos, Nepal, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand, Tajikistan and Vietnam. —MNA/Xinhua

A US Marine escorts a busload of former Prisoners as they arrive in Ramadi on 5 July, 2004 following their release from Abu Ghraib Prison, west of Baghdad. —Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 7 July, 2004 3
Halliburton contractor dies weeks after mortar attack in Iraq

HOUSTON, 5 July—A contractor for Halliburton Co subsidiary KBR died from injuries sustained during a mortar attack in Iraq, the company announced.

Vernon O’Neal Richerson, 61, of Willis north of Houston, died Friday, more than two weeks after the June 16 attack, the company said. He was the 42nd Halliburton worker to die in Iraq and Kuwait.

“Vernon was aware of the risk he was embarking on, but did not let danger stand in his way to perform his job in support of US troops in Iraq,” Halliburton said in a statement.

The company released no further details and urged respect for the privacy of Richerson’s family as KBR works to cooperate with coalition authorities to protect personnel in the region.

Two other truck drivers working for KBR — William Bradley of Chesterfield, NH, and Timothy Bell of Mobile, Ala, have been missing since 9 April when their fuel convoy was attacked outside Baghdad. KBR is Halliburton’s engineering and construction subsidiary.

More than 24,000 workers and subcontractors for KBR, formerly known as Kellogg, Brown & Root, work in the Iraq-Kuwait region. Their duties include extinguishing oil well fires, cleaning oil sites, food service and mail delivery.

He said he was unable to do his job because he only sees his players when they playing home games, which have been moved to Jordan, or at occasional training camps outside Iraq.

ADB sets up fund to curb money laundering

MANILA, 6 July—A trust fund has been formally established by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to curb money laundering and terrorist financing in the region, the body said Monday.

The ADB said in a statement that Japan, Australia and the United States initially put up an undetermined amount of money for the Cooperation Fund for Regional Trade and Financial Security Initiatives, which will be still open for more contributors in next three years.

As the ADB said, the fund will provide technical assistance to Asian developing countries to improve port security and “combat money laundering and terrorist financing.”

It will also help establish financial intelligence units and legal and supervisory regimes as well as promoting Customs security and modernization, the body added.

Citing the Bali bombings in 2002, which left over 200 dead and resulted in a decline in tourist receipts equal to 1 per cent of Indonesia’s gross domestic product, the ADB warned that terrorism poses a real threat to the regional economy especially efforts to eradicate poverty.

For the reason, the ADB had pushed for the establishment of the fund, which was first raised by the United States last year during the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

“The fund will allow the ADB to play a more active role in building regional capacity for anti-money laundering and controlling the financing of terrorism and will help in carrying out APEC’s secure trade agenda,” ADB President Tadashi Chino said in a statement.

The ADB, established in 1966, has become a most influential regional organization composed of 63 member countries. In 2003, the Bank approved loans amounting to 6.1 billion US dollars and technical assistance of 177 million US dollars.

Oregon Marine becomes latest casualty in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 5 July—An Oregon Marine has become one of the latest casualties in Iraq.

The Department of Defence identified Lance Cpl James B Huston, Jr, 22, of Umatilla as one of two Marines who were killed while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Huston died 2 July in a vehicle accident while his unit was responding to hostile action in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. The death of Lance Cpl Timothy R. Creager, 21, of Millington, Tennessee was also listed.

Creager died 1 July in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq, also due to hostile action.

Irrigation development fund increased

HANOI, 6 July—Vietnam’s information technology (IT) market posted a growth rate of 28.8 per cent to 515 million US dollars from June 2003 to May 2004.

Of which, the country’s software industry alone was valued at 120 million dollars, a year-on-year rise of 41 per cent, the Ho Chi Minh City Informatics Association said Monday.

In the reviewed period, Vietnam exported 30 million US dollars’ worth of software, up 50 per cent, recorded domestic sales of one million computers, and saw the number of Internet users rise 2.5 times.

The number of Internet users in the country rose to 4.7 million, or over 5.8 per cent of its population, in late May 2004 from 1.9 million in June 2003. Of the figure, the number of Internet subscribers grew to nearly 1.2 million from 466,000.

Vietnam is carrying out a programme entitled “Digital Opportunities for Vietnamese Rural Youth”, aimed at eradicating computer illiteracy, and offering 20 million rural young people access to the Internet by 2008.

In 2003, the country’s IT market plus the telecom-munication market were valued at nearly two billion US dollars, said an official, adding that the figure would increase to 3.5 billion US dollars in 2010.

To reach the target, Vietnans will upgrade IT infrastructure, develop human resources, improve IT applications, and strengthen the domestic IT industry. It also plans to encourage all economic sectors to take part in the IT and communications sector.

Pakistan to start bus service to China, Middle East

ISLAMABAD, 6 July—Pakistan will start a bus service within 2004 from Islamabad to China, the Middle East and Iran with the cooperation of the private sector, the official Associated Press of Pakistan reported Sunday.

An unnamed official of the Islamabad District Transport Authority said Sunday that different national companies have offered their services to share the market plan and that only one company has been recommended yet while others are being considered. The schedule of the bus service to different countries will be announced at the time of launching the project, he said.

Noting that the service will definitely promote trade and tourism among these countries which would bring prosperity in the region.

The procedure regarding the service will be finalised shortly, the official said.

Pakistan to invite all its players to Jordan training camp

WASHINGTON, 5 July—Fearing for his safety, Bernd Stange said Monday he has resigned as coach of Iraq’s national soccer team.

Stange had a contract with the Iraqi Soccer Federation that ran until 2006. The German said he was warned his life would be in danger if he returned to Iraq.

“We agreed to that on the telephone four days ago and wanted to announce it officially on Tuesday. But someone, unfortunately, let the news out early,” Stange was quoted as saying by the German newspaper ‘tip’.

Stange has been in Jordan since 8 April, when the German Foreign Ministry advised him to leave Iraq.

They can earn up to $120,000 tax-free for a year’s service with overtime pay. They can earn up to $120,000 tax-free for a year’s service with overtime pay.

Pakistan started bus service to China, Middle East
Khatami calls for cooperation of Iraq’s neighbours

THEHAN, 6 July— Iranian President Mohammad Khatami on Sunday urged all Iraq’s neighbours to strengthen cooperation to restore security and stability in Iraq, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Sunday.

Following his meeting with visiting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, Khatami told reporters that all regional states would suffer from the insecurity and instability in Iraq, adding that Iraq’s crisis is creating problems not only for the Iraqi people but also for the occupying forces.

The solution to Iraq’s crisis is to end the occupation immediately and to establish a representative government in the country, he said.

“This crisis was predictable and it was rooted in US policy as well as its invasion and occupation,” the President was quoted as saying.

Khatami welcomed Assad’s visit and said that the exchange of views on the Iraqi issue between Iran and Syria would be very useful.

Before the meeting, Assad told reporters that he would discuss all issues of mutual interest, as well as regional situations, including the Iraqi and Palestinian crisis in the meetings with Iranian officials.

Damascus has always had similar positions with Teheran on Iraq’s territorial integrity, the right to self-determination of the Iraqi people and the need for occupying troops to withdraw from Iraq, said Assad, the IRNA said.

Assad arrived in Teheran for a two-day working visit. This is the second tour by the Syrian President to Iran after he made a short visit to Teheran in February 2003 before the US-led war against Iraq.

Khatami told reporters afterwards.

Mubarak back to work, meets Fischer

MUSCO, 6 July— Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who is under medical supervision in Germany after an operation for a slipped disc, resumed work on Monday and met German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer for talks on the Middle East.

The President appeared fit and relaxed, shaking Fischer’s hand when he met him at the Munich hospital and walking a few steps. Mubarak expressed his concern over the situation in Iraq, Fischer told reporters afterwards.

“We are happy that he is on the way to recovery and that he can return home cured soon,” Fischer said.

Mubarak’s German doctor said the operation was a success and that the patient was up and walking, but would stay under supervision for a few more days.

Egypt’s Health Minister has said Mubarak will return to Cairo in the middle of this week.

Mubarak flew to Munich two weeks ago because of a back problem and waited five days to see whether physiotherapy alone would be effective before doctors decided whether to operate.

His sudden departure from Egypt caused concern because he has no obvious successor.

But a television appearance dispelled rumours he was seriously ill.

HK e-government programmes to focus on customers

HONG KONG, 5 July— The future focus of Hong Kong’s e-government programme will be to put customers at the centre of public service delivery so as to bring greater value to both customers and the government.

This was highlighted in a new booklet on e-government published recently by Hong Kong’s Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau.

“Second, it is an effective way to drive wider adoption of IT in the business sector and community. And third, it demonstrates the government’s leadership role in promoting Hong Kong’s international status as an innovative digital city,” he said.

The booklet outlines the achievements of the e-government project, in terms of programme implementation and international recognition, since the release of the first Digital 21 Strategy in 1998. It also sets out the roadmap for the next wave of e-government development.

“Our focus in the years ahead will be on understanding our customers, creating value based on what they need, driving utilization through creation of customer value and rationalizing channel management through a mutual realization of customers’ and government benefits,” Tsang said.

Kuwait cancels three arms deals worth $1.42b

KUWAIT CITY, 6 July— Kuwait’s Defence Ministry has recently cancelled three major armament deals worth some 430 million Kuwaiti dinars (1.42 billion US dollars) because of pressure from the Parliament, the Kuwait Times published reported Monday.

Kuwaiti member of the National Assembly Nasser Al-Sane told the paper that a major deal, which would cost 1.15 billion dollars, to purchase a command, control, communications and computer intelligence (C4I) system from British firms has been completely abandoned.

The ministry also cancelled another deal to buy an unknown number of British armoured vehicles worth 231 million US dollars and a deal worth 330 million US dollars to install an interim system, he said.

“Among the reasons is the system is not compatible with the existing command and control system used by the Kuwaiti Armed Forces. If it had been installed, it would have caused major accidents,” Sane said.

“Cancelling the deals is a big gain for Kuwait. We have managed to save hundreds of millions public funds from being squandered,” he added.

Sri Lankan PM urges fight against dengue epidemic

COLOMBO, 6 July— Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse has appealed to all sectors of the country to make efforts to bring under control the fast spreading of the dengue epidemic, the official Daily News said on Monday.

“Attempts to control dengue will be a success only if it receives the support and participation of every single citizen,” Rajapakse said on Sunday, stressing the accelerating of the nationwide dengue control programmes currently being implemented.

Rajapakse’s appeal came after repeated warnings by health authorities that the dengue epidemic could hit a peak during this month owing to the poor response from the public towards
Lebanon confirms killing of US Marine hostage

BEIRUT, 5 July — Militants in Iraq who kidnapped US Marine Corporal Wassef Ali Hassoun have killed him, Lebanon’s Foreign Ministry said on Sunday.

A source at the ministry said the Lebanese consul in Baghdad, Hassan Hijazi, told Beirut on Saturday that Hassoun, an American of Lebanese origin, had been killed by his captors, but gave no further details.

There was no immediate confirmation from the US military in Baghdad. It was not clear how the Lebanese consul had learnt of Hassoun’s death.

The government last month banned the Mehdi Army of Ansar al-Sunna, which ended an uprising of any religion. We must make those who hide behind slogans and factions and faiths and religions. A militant group, the Army of Ansar al-Sunna, said it had beheaded Hassoun in statements on Arabic television and posted on two Internet sites on Saturday.

“We beheaded the Ma- rine of Lebanese origin Hassoun and you will see the film with your own eyes soon,” the statement said. The group said it was holding another “infidel” hos- tage, but did not identify him.

Hassoun’s family in northern Lebanon told Reuters it had not received confirmation of the killing.

“If this act is irreligious, immoral and inhuman,” Hijazi said in comments carried by Lebanon’s national news agency. “Those who did it are the enemies of their religion and of any religion. We must oppose those who hide behind slogans and factions and faiths and religions.”

Iraq’s firebrand cleric says committed to truce

BAGHDAD, 6 July — Firebrand Shi’ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr is committed to a truce with US-led troops and his militia will be disbanded once foreign forces leave Iraq, his brother Sami Ali Hassoun said. “We are committed to the truce but peacefull resistance will remain until the last moment that foreign troops are present in Iraq,” Hassoun told the Associated Press.

Last month, Sadr told members of his militia to go home, appearing to move away from armed confrontation towards a wider role in Iraqi politics. But he has urged Iraqis to oppose the continued presence of about 160,000 mainly US foreign troops.

Iraqi interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi demanded on US television on Sunday that all Iraqi militias, including those loyal to Sadr, lay down their arms.

The government last month banned militias and reached a deal with nine of them to disarm, though not with Sadr’s Mehdi Army.

“Dissolving the Mehdi Army is a matter for the religious authority. If it does not make this decision, then the Mehdi Army will be automatically dissolved when the occupation forces leave Iraq,” Sadr said. Iraq’s interim government, which formally took over sovereignty from the US-led authority last week, has indicated it might offer an amnesty to insurgents who lay down their arms.

“Those talking about amnesty for the resistance should be from the opposing side, not the government speaking in the name of the occupation forces,” Sadr said. “I don’t know to whom the government has given this amnesty, to those carrying out terrorist activities or to those who are resisting occupation.”

Sadr has withheld full support for the interim government because it is unselected. Its leaders were selected by a UN envoy in urgent need of surgery. “Before I made up my mind, I have studied the economic advantages and disad-
vantages of the free trade agreements (FTA) with both Australia and New Zealand,” Thaksin said. “I would like to sign with both countries. Those who oppose it don’t understand the issue well.”

“Before I made up my mind, I have studied the economic advantages and disad-
vantages of the free trade agreements (FTA) with both Australia and New Zealand,” Thaksin said. “I would like to sign with both countries. Those who oppose it don’t understand the issue well.”

Thai PM begins visit to Australia, New Zealand

BANGKOK, 5 July — Thai Prime Min-
er Thaksin Shinawatra began his five-
day official visit to Australia and New Zealand Sunday, hoping to boost their bilateral trade ties and strengthen rela-
tions, the Thai News Agency reported.

Thaksin said he would sign free trade agreements (FTA) with both Australia and New Zealand during his visit. He told report-
ers before leaving here that the FTA with the two countries would benefit Thailand’s trade and economy.

“The exercise will advance Australia and Thailand’s shared goal of defeating terror-
ism and demonstrates our willingness to work together to address this threat,” said the statement.

Australia and Thailand are committed to working together to refine counter-terror-""
New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

To provide better health care services to the rural public, a 100-bed new hospital was built in Shwegyin, Bago Division. — MNA

Rural health care centre was opened in Gyowahtalun village, Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Division. — DISTRICT IPRD

Thazi Township Development Affairs Committee sinks a tubewell in Myaysoe village, Thazi Township, Mandalay Division. — KYEMON

Farm machinery being used to grow quality strain paddy in Thonze Township, Bago Division (West). — MNA

Border and rural area developments

Mole creek bridge on Bhamo-Myitkyina road in Moemauk Township, Kachin State, is 325 feet long. — PBANRDA
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt...  

Next, the prime Minister and party proceeded to Myoma affiliated high school and inspected the site chosen for building the annex. Minister for Education U Than Aung explained matters relating to the annex. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the opening ceremony of multimedia classrooms of the high school in Yanethin. The headmistress of the school and the secretary of school board of trustees formally opened the classrooms by cutting a ribbon. The Prime Minister unveiled the signboard of the classrooms. Next, he viewed round computer-aided instruction room, audio-visual room, projected media room, printed media room, computer skill room, language lab, drawing room and domestic science room. The Prime Minister and party posed for a documentary photograph with the headmistress, teachers and students.

At 12.30 pm, the Prime Minister and party arrived Tatkon by helicopter and were welcomed by Tactical Operations Commander Col Thein Hlaing and officials. Next, the Prime Minister met with departmental personnel and officials of social organizations at the Township Peace and Development Council Office in Tatkon. Responsible personnel reported to him matters on the town, agriculture and sufficiency of rice. The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements. He also gave away a TV set, a VCR and a computer set each for Tatkon BEHS-1 and Tatkon BEHS-2. In delivering an address at the meeting, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that he and party arrived there to fulfill the requirements for education and health sectors, development tasks in the township. After hearing reports, the Prime Minister general Khin Nyunt cordially greeted those present. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party went to Tatkon People’s Hospital and met doctors and staff.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party proceeded to Pyinmana by helicopter where Col Win Myint Hospital and met doctors and staff.

In cooperation with members of social organizations, departmental officials are to make field trips to rural areas and to actively participate in efforts for improvement of transport, education and health sectors, for supply of drinking water and for extension of cultivation. In conclusion, he stressed the need of departmental officials and local people to cooperate in the tasks for development of socio-economic life of the people. After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt cordially greeted those present. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party went to Tatkon People’s Hospital and met doctors and staff.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party proceeded to Pyinmana by helicopter where Col Win Myint of Pyinmana Station welcomed them. Next, they met members of Township Peace and Development Council, social organizations and departmental officials. First, Pyinmana Township PDC Chairman U Myint Lwin reported on education, health, agriculture, transportation sectors, development tasks and water supply tasks in the township. After hearing reports, the Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements for education and health sectors.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented TV, VCR and a set of computer each for Basic Education High School in the township through the headmasters. In his address, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that they had already fulfilled the requirements for education and health sectors during their recent tour of Pyinmana. During this tour also, they will attend again to the needs of education and health sectors.

Pyinmana Township is the one where there is favourable weather condition for growing ten major crops. However, priority will have to be given to self-sufficiency with the effective use of irrigation facilities in the region since there is only 93.80 per cent of self-sufficiency. Likewise, emphasis will have to be placed on self-sufficiency in edible oil as there is only 48.48 per cent of self-sufficiency in edible oil.

The government has been making all-out efforts for region-wise economic development, for better transport and for construction of more dams and reservoirs as well as schools, hospitals, universities and colleges.

Similarly, projects for development of border areas and national races were laid down and are being implemented for bringing about harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation while the five rural development tasks are being implemented for regional development.

It is incumbent upon the entire national people to make concerted efforts for development of their own regions as the government is placing emphasis on bringing about equitable and harmonious development across the nation.

Departmental officials are to strive to be in oneness with the people by fulfilling their needs, going through the true conditions of their life. Moreover, they are to enlist the strength of the local people and are to make relentless efforts together with them for successful realization of the national objectives.

In taking systematic steps for regional development, the departmental officials are to enlist the strength of social organizations in the region. Social organizations, on their part, are to strive to be in oneness with departmental officials and the people and are to make strenuous efforts with Union Spirit for development of their own regions.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister greeted those present.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspected the Government Technological College construction project site in Mandalay and gave instructions on sanitation and greening measures to officials.

MNA
Delegate group of intellectuals...

(from page 16)
Kachin State Special Region-1, Kachin State Special Region-2, Kayah State Special Region-1, Kayin Region, Kayin Region-1, Kayin Region-2, Kayin National Democratic Party (KNPP) Dragon Group, Kayin National Democratic Party (KNPP) (Splinter, Hota), Kayinn National Unity and Solidarity Organization (Ka Ma Sa Nya), Shan State Nationalities People’s Liberty Organization (Ya La La Pha), New Mon State Party, Democratic-Kayin Buddhist Association (DKBA), Haungthayaw Special Region Group, the Nyeinchaungy Myohtit Group of Hpa-an Region Militia, Mon Armed Peace Group (Chaungchi Region), Mon (Splinter) Nai Saik Chan Group and Arakanese Army (AA) which exchanged arms for peace.

Before the plenary sessions of the National Convention, Chairman of National Convention Convening Committee, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-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 Tun Aung Chein of the group led by U Saw peace, Shan State Nationalities People’s Liberation Organization (Ya La La Pha), New Mon State Party, Democratic-Kayin Buddhist Association (DKBA), Haungthayaw Special Region Group, the Nyeinchaungy Myohtit Group of Hpa-an Region Militia, Mon Armed Peace Group (Chaungchi Region), Mon (Splinter) Nai Saik Chan Group and Arakanese Army (AA) which exchanged arms for peace.

Delegates in the attendance list of the Plenary Session of the National Convention. — MNA

Victorious football team honoured

YANGON, 7 July — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi honoured victorious footballers and coaches included in football team of the Ministry of Energy which won in Premier League 2003-2004 Soccer Tournament at Yanada hall of the ministry this morning. Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay and heads of department, managers, coaches and footballers and guests.

First, the manager and leader of the team presented the championship shield to the minister.

Next, the minister made a speech on the occasion and presented cash award to coaches and footballers individually. On behalf of the team, a victorious athlete Zaw Htet Aung expressed his thanks and left refreshments were served.

MNA

NCC Chairman Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein signs in the attendance list of the Plenary Session of the National Convention. — MNA

Judge U Tin Win reads out the proposal. — MNA

Film technician U Nyunt Win reads out the proposal. — MNA

MMA Vice-Chairman-1 Dr Ko Lay reads out the proposal. — MNA

Included in drawing the State Constitution. Afterwards, the plenary session came to a close at 11.45 am.

The plenary session of the National Convention continues at 9 am on 7 July.

In the afternoon, NC delegates pose for a documentary photo in Pyidaungsu Hall. — MNA
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Information Industry Deputy Minister of PRC

YANGON, 6 July — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received a delegation led by Deputy Minister of Information Industry Mr Xi Guohua of the People’s Republic of China at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha Road. Present also at the call together with the Prime Minister were Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Vice-Chairman of Myanmar e-National Task Force U Aung Myint, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet. The guests were accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Deputy Minister of Information Industry of PRC Mr Xi Guohua. — MNA

Robin Family Get-together held

YANGON, 6 July — Jointly organized by Fuji Heavy Industries (S’pore) and Twin Star Co Ltd, Robin Family Get-together was held in conjunction with Selection of lucky persons for Twin Incentive Trip at the Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel on Alaphy Pagoda Road here this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were the managing directors and officials of the two companies, Robin sale representatives, and media personnel. First, Twin Star Co Ltd Managing Director U Lin Kyi and Fuji Heavy Industries (S’pore) Assistant Market Manager Mr Eddy Yap extended greetings. Twin Star Co Ltd Market Manager U Nyan Tun explained matters related to functions of the company. Next, U Lin Kyi explained selection programmes for Malaysia Incentive Trip. After Mr Akashi, Managing Director of Fuji Heavy Industries (S’pore) had extended greetings, the list of winners for Malaysia Incentive Trip was announced. Later, as part of Robin spareparts special sales, officials explained sale promotion programmes for Ey Series engines.

Officials concerned also replied to the queries raised by sale representatives, followed by U Lin Kyi’s concluding remarks, which brought the ceremony to an end. Twin Star Co Ltd is the sole agent in Myanmar responsible for sale of Ex and Ey Series engines, water pumps and generators manufactured by Fuji Heavy Industries (Japan). — MNA

Commander, Mayor inspects Dengue Fever preventive activities in North Okkalapa Township

YANGON, 6 July — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swt and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever preventive activities launched as part of mass campaign in North Okkalapa Township, Yangon East District, and gave instructions. At North Okkalapa Township Development Affairs Office, officials concerned reported to them on the preventive measures and educative talks on the DHF given by the officials. Next, Maj-Gen Myint Swt and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin urged the local authorities and staff of the Health Department and YCDC to carry out the activities in cooperation with NGOs and the people. Next, Maj-Gen Myint Swt, Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and party inspected the dengue fever preventive activities being carried out by campaigners in North Okkalapa Township.

Later, they went to Aungmingala Bus Terminal in Mingaladon Township and inspected paving of roads in the terminal and gave instructions to the officials on timely completion of work meeting the set standard. Afterwards, they also inspected paving of the walkway on the bank of Inya Lake with stone slabs and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the commander and the mayor inspected the upgrading tasks of Yangon Kandawgyi Garden and Zoological Garden. They next proceeded to the Central Model Fish Market in Kymyindine Township and gave instructions on cleanliness, proper flow of drainage and maintenance of roads in the market. — MNA

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

* Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
* Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US$ 5.5 million in a year
* The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bothered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

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Cash and kind donated to hail National Convention

YANGON, 6 July — Ceremonies to donate cash for storm victims in Rakhine State and delegates of Rakhine State, and to present cash and kind in honour of National Convention from delegates of National Convention and wellwishers were held in Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnyapun Camp in Hmaukw Township, here at 1.30 pm today. Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony and accepted the cash donated by wellwishers.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Secretary of NCC for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut accepted them and presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

Likewise, K 1 million was donated by U Teza of Htoo Trading and K 500,000 each by U Khin Maung Lwin of Hein construction, U Kyaw Kyaw of KY Kyaw Kyaw construction, U Aung Naing of Asia Winner Industrial Co, U Tin Myint of Mother Land construction, U Kyaw Lin of Kyaw Nyunt & Brothers Iron Trading, U Win Myint of United Commercial Group Co, and U Aung Zaw Win of Shine construction.

NCC Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe accepted the cash donations and presented certificates of honour to the wellwishers.

The other donations were K 1 million each by U Tun Win, U Than Aung (Three Star Factory) and U Khin Maung; K 200,000 by U Hla Shwe (Timber Treading); K 300,000 by U Soe Myint (FM); K 1 million by Dr Khin Shwe and party; NCC Work Committee Vice-Chairman Attorneys-General U Aye Maung accepted the donations and presented honour of certificates to the donors.

The other donations were K 500,000 each by U Hla Sein (Thiri Chaungtha Hotel); Captain Than Oo (Bay View Hotel); Daw Tun Tin Win (Queen Park Hotel); U Thein Shwe (Bagni Power Hotel); U Tin Win (MMG Hotel); U Zaw Min (Pandorama Hotel); and K 200,000 by U Kyaw Dun of Mya Pinle Hotel of Ngwehsunga beach.

NCC Commission Joint Secretary Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the donors.

Delegates of national races from Kachin State donated K 502,200; delegates of national races from Magway Division K 35,000; and delegate Pado Aung Hsan of a group which has exchanged arms for peace K 100,000. Director-General of Relief and Resettlement Department U Thay Oo accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the donors.

NCC Commission Secretary for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented 1 million donated by the seven NC delegates who suffered great losses in the recent storm in Rakhine State. To be exact, delegate U Hla Aung of Taungup Township, delegate U Khin Maung Theyin of Pauktaw Township and delegates U Shwe Mann Tin and U Tun Lu of Myaybon Township suffered great losses while delegate U Ko Ko Naing of Myaybon Township, delegate U Maung Mya Sein of Minbya Township and delegate U Kyaw Nu of Kyakhydaw Township suffered considerable losses. On behalf of wellwishers, Dr Khin Shwe briefed on the purpose of the donations.

NCC Commission Management Committee Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lin Maung thanked the donors. Todays' donations were K 21.775 million, goods worth K 1.95 million by 61 wellwishers and K 200,000 by Dr Khin Shwe.

The other donations were K 500,000 each by U Myint (NgaPal Construction); K 200,000 each by U Kyaw Naing Oo (Ngaing Group Construction), U Zaw Min (Zaw Min Trading); U Htay Win (UNEB); U Kyaw Thaung (Happy Juice); U Kyaw Naing (Golden Sun Moon Co); Haji U Hla Aung (Maha Bawgawaddy Int’l Co); and U Chit Sein (Shwe Tinntaung Co); and K 150,000 by U Myo Win (Win Shweyi Construction). NCC Commission Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the donors.

The other donations were K 100,000 each by U Aung Thein (Potentates Co Ltd), U Kyi Lwin (Royal Int’l Ltd), U Kyaw Htun Thein, Daw Khan Than Myint (Kyayaw Family Construction), Dr Sone Han (V-Plane Co Ltd), U San Ni Thwin and U Nyan Thi Hlaing (Pinlon Haikha) NCC Management Committee Chairman Auditor-General.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DAVEI VOY NO (27)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAVEI Voy No (27) arrived on 7-7-2004 are hereby notified that their cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm on claims day and Tuesday, 12 noon to 4 pm on claims day.

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

AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE
Phone: 295279, 295280, 295281, 295658, 295659

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CARAKA JAYA NIAGA III 32 VOY NO (01/04)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CARAKA JAYA NIAGA III 32 Voy No (01/04) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8/9-7-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the claims day.

AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE
PHONE: 295646, 295679, 295276, 295659

Bahrain downplays US warning of imminent attacks

6 July — Bahraini officials downplayed a US warning of imminent attacks on the country, claiming their country was safe, the Gulf News reported Sunday.


According to the official, the US Government had informed Bahrain of the warning. Other Bahraini officials said their country was safe and stable despite the recent attacks in neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

MNA/Reuters

INVITATION TO TENDER

(TENDER No. 6/TIMPE/HSD/5/2004-2005)

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise the Ministry of Energy for the Supply of 6000±10% Metric Tons HSD (Gas Oil Regular 0.5%) on payment of one hundred (100) F.C. per set.

2. Tender Closing Date: 21-7-2004 at 12.00 noon.

3. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, No. (23), Min Ye Kyaw Zwa Road, Yangon, during office hour commencing (27-7-2004) on payment of one hundred (100) F.C. per set.

4. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

Book import in Bangladesh
down due to piracy

Dhaka, 5 July — Import of foreign books in Bangladesh has gone down alarmingly over the last few years because of widespread piracy across the country.

Some renowned publishers and book importers are on the verge of shutting down their business, as they cannot compete with the dishonest trend, the Daily Star reported Sunday.

All kinds of pirated books are now available in the capital. Photocopies of famous Indian novels are the most sought-after.

Export of Indian books and periodicals to Bangladesh showed an 8-10% decline in revenue earning in 2001-2002, compared to the year before, according to the report.

With the cost of production being less here, several Bangladeshi publishers print copies of Indian books and send them back across the border.

The illegal versions are then sold in India, often at half the price of the original book.

Pirated editions of best sellers like the Living History by Hillary Rodham Clinton, Brick Lane by Monica Ali are available at several traffic points in the country, at a remarkably cheap price. It is reported that a syndicate of around 30 publishers in Dhaaka is engaged in this crime.

So far seven thousands publishing houses in the country are desperately seeking an intervention from the government.

The government reportedly has already formulated a policy to counter piracy and is working on its implementation.—MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

W51 mines found off Spanish coast

MADRID, 5 July — Two mines thought to date from the World War II were found off the Spanish coast after a swimmer spotted one device nesting on the seabed, police said on Sunday.

Bomb disposal experts cordoned off the beach to deactivate the first mine, which measured some 20 inches in diameter.

They then found another mine nearby, a police spokes-

man in the northeastern city of Girona said. The second mine was then also disassembled and deactiv-

ated on Monday.

"The first one appeared on July 2 and it was deac-

tivated today, and then another one 500 metres away from the first," he said.

"It looks like they come from the Second World War," he added.

MNA/Reuters
UNESCO takes Angkor off heritage danger list

BEIJING, 6 July — A UNESCO panel meeting in China has removed Cambodia’s ancient temple and palace complex of Angkor from its list of endangered world heritage sites.

The Angkor complex sprawls over more than 154 square miles and includes the Angkor Wat and Bayon temples and other remains from capitals of the Khmer kingdom built from the 9th to 15th centuries.

“The removal of Angkor from the danger list is a commendation to the efforts made by the Cambodian Government,” Ros Borath, deputy director of Cambodia’s Department of Monuments and Archaeology, was quoted as saying by Xinhua late on Sunday.

“It is also a commendation to the international cooperation on the conservation of Angkor.”

The announcement was made at the 24th session of the World Heritage Committee of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the eastern Chinese city of Suzhou.

The site was put on the World Heritage List and World Heritage in Danger list in 1992 after surviving invasion, civil war, the Khmer Rouge and most recently legions of tourists.

Xinhua said the threats also included illegal excavation, pilfering and landmines.

Nigeria jails French granny for cocaine trafficking

LAGOS, 5 July — A French grandmother arrested in Nigeria for cocaine smuggling has been sentenced to two years in prison, local media reported on Saturday.

Jacqueline Vigouroux, 52, a mother of five and grandmother of two, is the first foreign national to be convicted of drug trafficking by a Nigerian court.

She was caught with 4 kilos of cocaine. Vanguard newspaper reported.

Justice Abdul Kafarati also sentenced Vigouroux to two years for illegal possession of drugs, but said the two terms would run concurrently, the paper said.

Britons injured in robbery case in Tanzanian island

DAAR ES SALAM, 5 July — Three young Britons were seriously injured after being shot by a group of suspected bandits in Pemba, the second largest island in Tanzania.

Northern Pemba Regional Police Commandeer Ali Mohd Mbilikira confirmed on Sunday that about six bandits robbed a camp on Friday night where there were nearly 30 young students of anthropologists who came from different colleges abroad.

The police officer said that these bandits wearing police uniform forced the watchman to open the gate and fired at these young people, and the three injured has been transferred to a hospital in the Tanzanian capital for further treatment.

The bandits took away 2,500 British pounds and some other properties.

It is the first such incident to occur in Pemba, the sister island of Zanzibar, where there was always considered as peaceful and harmonious by the foreigners, the police officer added. — MNA/Xinhua

New fossilized hominid skull found in Kenya

Nairobi, 6 July — A small fossilized skull of a hominid that lived 930,000 years ago has been found in a Kenyan archaeological site, Richard Potts, director of the human origins programme at the US Smithsonian Institution, told a news conference in Nairobi on Friday.

He said a team he led uncovered the fossil last summer during a dig at Olorgesailie, in northwest Kenya.

“What we found was a partial skull of an early human that dated to what is otherwise a 400,000-year gap in the African human fossil record,” he said.

The discovery would likely to fuel a scientific debate about whether different species of early humans coexisted or only one kind of human lived at any given time, scientists said.

Potts said his team discovered parts of the brain case, a complete brow ridge and other fragments from the skull of a fully grown individual, thought to be about the size of a modern-day teen.

No face bones were found, and traces of bite marks on the skull indicate mauling by a carnivore, Potts said. It is not known whether that happened before or after death.

The individual would have lived about 930,000 years ago, Potts said.

Around that time period, the best-known fossil species in our family tree is that of Homo erectus”, Potts said.

He said that the Kenya skull is similar to Homo erectus specimens, but left open the possibility that it could be something else.

He said that his team will continue doing more analysis at the Kenya site, which was discovered in 1942 by Mary Leakey.

Kenya is perhaps the only country in the world that can boast of possessing the longest and most complete record of man’s cultural development. — MNA/Xinhua

Rainstorm, hailstone hit north China province, killing six

TAIYUAN, 6 July — Six people died in rounds of rainstorm and hailstone attacks in parts of the northern province of Shanxi, causing a total economic loss of 400 million yuan (48 million US dollars), according to local civil affairs authorities.

Since the annual summer flooding season began, a total of 31 counties have been hit by rainstorm, hailstone and floods, according to the latest statistics from the provincial civil affairs bureau.

The hailstone, the biggest of the size of an egg, brought serious damages to humans, animals, crops and houses, bureau officials said.

The longest rainstorm-hailstone strike lasted about 40 minutes, ruining almost everything on the ground.

Some 660,000 people were affected by the disasters, of whom six have died and 17 injured. About 100,000 hectares of farmland were damaged, of which 8,900 hectares became very poor.

The disasters also damaged over 2,000 houses.

Civil authorities have distributed food, clothes, drinking water, medicine and tents to victims. — MNA/Xinhua

China’s Internet advertising revenue tops one billion yuan

BEIJING, 6 July — The revenue of China’s Internet advertising rose to 1.08 billion yuan (132 million US dollars) in 2003, over twice as much as the amount in 2002, according to the State Administration for Industry and Commerce.

The market for Internet advertising has a great prospect since China boasts over 78 million netizens, said Wang Jinjie, deputy director with the office of advertising management of the administration.

A total of 870,000 people are engaged in China’s advertising business with a revenue of over 13 billion US dollars, which is around 92 per cent of the nation’s GDP, Wang said. He said the conventional advertising also achieved steady growth of over 10 per cent last year.

Statistics indicate most of the ad business still goes to TV and newspaper, which account for 23.64 per cent and 22.53 per cent respectively. In 2003, TV earned three billion US dollars and newspapers got 2.9 billion US dollars from advertising.

Radio broadcast and magazines won 308 million US dollars and 294 million US dollars, according to the statistics. — MNA/Xinhua

Fossils illegally exported from China seized in Australia

Canberra, 6 July — Australian Customs officers have seized 648-million-year-old fossils illegally exported from China. The three fossils were detected by X-ray technology in an air mail parcel at the mail centre in Adelaide, capital of the State of South Australia, last month.

The oldest fossil contains many fragments of a bilobate, dating back to the Palaeozoic period about 540 to 250 million years ago, a Customs spokeswoman said Monday.

The second is a marine reptile from the Triassic period from 248 to 206 million years ago, and the third is a bilobate fish dating to Cretaceous period between 144 and 65 million years ago.

The fossils have been referred to the Environment and Heritage Department to determine their authenticity. — MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh, US hold combat engineering exercise

DHAKA, 5 July — A combined combat engineering exercise of the US 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force and Bangladesh Army began on Saturday in Natore District in western Bangladesh, reported the Independent on Sunday.

The exercise held at Engineer Centre and Penic Ganga Engineering College.

The exercise will focus on mutual training and combat engineering subjects to increase inter-operability between the two forces.

This is the second time for the US Marine forces to participate in such an exercise with the Bangladesh Army. The first one was held at the same place in April, 2003. — MNA/Xinhua

The Empire State Building is visible at right lit in red, white and blue as fireworks illuminate the sky over Manhattan on 4 July. — INTERNET

France’s oldest national park, Sept-Îles, lying off the western Brittany coast, has served for decades as a sanctuary for a range of seabirds. — HISTORIST
Fire breaks out at main Olympic Stadium entrance

ATHENS, 6 July— Greek firefighters put out a small fire near the entrance to the main Olympic stadium in Athens where building work is being finished ahead of the August Games, a police spokesman said on Monday.

Initial reports said the blaze started in a pile of rubbish outside the stadium and spread to some seats that were waiting to be installed, but that it was quickly put out by the fire brigade.

"A fire broke out at the entrance to the main Olympic Stadium," the police spokesman said. "We don't yet know the cause. Seats and electrical cables were burnt." The fire has been put out; it was a small fire and was dealt with swiftly," a Fire Brigade spokesman said.

Greece endured months of criticism for delays in building Olympic venues and erecting a roof over the 80,000-seat coliseum. But last month officials unveiled the main stadium, still needing many finishing touches but more than able to host sporting events. MNA/Reuters

Zagorakis named player of Euro 2004

LISBON, 6 July— Greece captain Theodoros Zagorakis was named the Player of Euro 2004 on Monday, the day after Greece's shock 1-0 win over Portugal in the final.

The choice was made by UEFA's eight-man technical study group plus one vote from fans who had named their preferred player on the organiser's web site.

"Throughout the tournament, as well as in the final against Portugal, he showed leadership quality and skill and technical ability as well as his character," said French coach Gerard Houllier, a member of the UEFA panel and the former Liverpool manager.

A hard-working midfielder Zagorakis was also named Man of the Match for the final which completed a remarkable success for Greece, who had been 80-1 outsiders before the tournament.

Zagorakis will be presented with his trophy at a gala in Monaco on August 26.

The 32-year-old AEK Athens midfielder was one of five Greek players named in an "All-Star Squad" by the panel.

Goalkeeper Antonios Nikopolidis, who kept three clean sheets in the knock-out stage, was selected along with the Czech Republic's Petr Cech as one of the two goalkeepers in the squad.

Greek centre-half Traianos Dellas and right-back Georgios Seitaridis featured among the seven defenders while Zagorakis was in midfield and Sunday's goalscorer in the squad.

"I want to stress that Greece, since last night, is on the lips of everyone in the world who follows this mass and magical sport called football," he said.

"This great joy links us even more with sport and I am sure it will peak during the Olympic Games." A lot of thousands of fans who had gath ered at the airport cheered as the aeroplane carrying the team touched down, while fire engines squirted water in arches over it in a sight celebratory welcome.

The Greek national anthem rang out as the plane taxied in and the players emerged, led by captain Theodoros Zagorakis holding the trophy and German coach Otto Rehhagel.

Hysteria erupts as triumphant Greeks land

ATHENS, 6 July— Thousands of ecstatic Greeks cheered and waved flags as the plane carrying the victorious Greek soccer team landed at Athens Airport on Monday, while huge crowds lined Athens streets ahead of homecoming celebrations.

Greece's success in becoming Euro soccer champions prompted delicious celebrations by Greeks in Portugal as well as millions across Greece and around the world.

The squad's success provides a much-needed shot in the arm for Greek pride in hosting the August 13-29 Olympic Games, an event dogged by negative publicity over construction delays, security worries, budget overruns and profiteering.

As Greece's packed Panatheniac Stadium, where the first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896, Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis congratulated the team ahead of their arrival.

"I want to stress that Greece, since last night, is on the lips of everyone in the world who follows this mass and magical sport called football," he said.

"This great joy links us even more with sport and I am sure it will peak during the Olympic Games." A lot of thousands of fans who had gath ered at the airport cheered as the aeroplane carrying the team touched down, while fire engines squirted water in arches over it in a sight celebratory welcome.

The Greek national anthem rang out as the plane taxied in and the players emerged, led by captain Theodoros Zagorakis holding the trophy and German coach Otto Rehhagel, in an event televised live across the nation. Fans at the airport danced and chanted "Hellas ole, ole" and "The German (Rehhagel) is mad", two of their favourite chants during the tournament.

The winner prompted all-night celebrations as millions flowed streets and squares across the country, draped in national colours, cheering, setting off fireworks and beeping car horns.

Barca aiming to close Deco deal this week

MADRID, 6 July— Barcelona are expecting to close a deal to sign Portuguese midfielder Deco this week, according to club president Joan Laporta.

"We only have to tie up the final details of the agreement," Laporta told Monday's sport newspaper Marca. "I am quite optimistic and believe that Deco will end up being a Barcelona player."

The Spanish sports Press said Barca were prepared to pay Porto 12 million euros (£19.75 million) for Deco, a player considered one of the best midfielders in Europe.

Cresco fails to turn up for pre-season meeting

HASTINGS (England), 6 July— Chelsea are looking to fill a midfield and an attacking vacancy for next season, but Argentine striker Hernan Crespo is unlikely to fit into their plans, new manager Jose Mourinho indicated on Monday.

Crespo, who joined Chelsea at the start of last season, failed to turn up for a pre-season meeting on Monday and Mourinho said he had not heard from him or his agent.

"Cresco was not there (and) until now I have not heard from him," Mourinho said at a media conference.

Mourinho, who replaced Claudio Ranieri at the Premier League club last month, said players' attitudes were important in making his transfer plans.

He had spoken to Romana Adrian Mutu who said he was keen to stay. "A player's desire is crucial," Mourinho said.

Mourinho, who is taking Chelsea on a pre-season tour to the United States later this month, said he wanted a squad of about 24 players but he dismissed media reports that Chelsea were about to sign Dutch midfielder Edgar Davids from Barcelona.

Mourinho said he was prepared to pay Porto 12 million euros (£19.75 million) for Deco, a player considered one of the best midfielders in Europe.

Chelsea's Mourinho says team ethic the key for Greece

HASTINGS (England), 6 July— New Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho put Greece Euro 2004 success down to a great coach and team ethic.

The 41-year-old Portuguese, who took unfancied Porto to Champions League glory last season, said on Monday: "Football is changing and teams are the big thing not individuals." Mourinho, whose squad began the Euro 2004 tournament with a 1-0 defeat by Greece, had been impressed by the Greeks' team ethic.

"I don't believe that Davids will play for Barcelona next season," said the Barca president.

"We are looking for another player that has his sort of defensive characteristics," Davids, who was part of the Dutch squad that reached the Euro 2004 semifinals, joined Barca on loan from Juventus during the winter transfer window.

He played an important part in their late season renaissance that catapulted the team into second place in the league.

The midfielder's contract with Juventus ends in the close season.

South African centurion Philip Richardson wins in his bid to make it into the Guinness Book of World Records as the fastest 100-year-old to run 100 metres at the Mandela Park Sport stadium Khayelitsha near Cape Town, on 4 July, 2004.

Richardson's bid for the World Records was foiled on Sunday when a power failure stopped the electronic clocks. Picture taken on 4 July, 2004. — INTER.NET
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt tours Yamethin, Takton and Pyinmana

YANGON, 6 July — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt arrived in Yamethin to follow the development of the township and to meet with those present at the meeting.

He said that according to the reports, local rice sufficiency is only 75.73 per cent and the local self-sufficiency of edible oil is 257.8 per cent while the sufficiency of pulses and beans is 247.57 per cent. It shows that Yamethin has surplus in edible oil and pulses and beans while it is not self-sufficient in rice.

Yamethin has surplus in edible oil and pulses and beans for continued efforts for having more surplus of edible oil and pulses and beans and for becoming self-sufficient in rice. The main economic undertaking in Yamethin is agriculture and thus irrigated water should be utilized effectively, quality strain of paddy be used and double cropping be carried out, he said. He also called for making efforts for ensuring Yamethin to possess characteristics of a district town. He also dealt with measures for keeping the town clean and pleasant and growing of shady trees. The Forest Department is to make earnest efforts for conserving forest reserves and extending forest plantations as scheduled, he pointed out. He urged the Development Affairs Department to improve roads linking villages as well as linking villages with towns. As rural development is important for regional development, he said, the township level departmental personnel are to join hands with those of social organizations and strive for implementation of the five rural development tasks.

After the meeting, the Prime Minister cordially greeted those present at the meeting.

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

YANGON, 6 July — The Plenary Session of the National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungshapin Camp in Hmauby Township, Yangon Division at 9 am today.

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

Present at the Plenary Session 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 Lan 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, independent representatives-elect, delegates of national races from Kachin State, Kayah State, Kayin State, Chin State, Mon State, Rakhine State, Shan State (South), Shan State (North), Shan State (East), Sagaing Division, Taninthayi Division, Bago Division, Magway Division, Mandalay Division, Yangon Division and Ayeawady Division, delegates of State service personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, the President’s Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General’s Office, the Auditor-General’s Office, the Multi Party Democracy General Election Commission’s Office, Civil Service Selection and Training Board, Yangon City Development Committee, Mandalay City Development Committee, ministries, individual persons of the other invited delegates and delegates of peace groups from Shan State (North) Special Region-1, Shan State (North) Special Region-2, Shan State (South) Special Region-3, Shan State (East) Special Region-4, Shan State (North) Special Region-5 (KDA), Shan State (South) Special Region-6, Shan State (North) Special Region-7.

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