Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects Paunglaung Multipurpose Dam Project, development of Pyawbwe, Meiktila

YANGON, 7 July — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Chief of Staff (Navy), deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads and officials, left Pyinmana by helicopter at 8.30 am on 5 July and arrived at the site of Paunglaung Multi-purpose Dam Project where Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint and officials welcomed them.

In the briefing hall, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint reported on progress of the main embankment being built by Irrigation Department, the spillway and completion of other irrigation facilities and Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint on completion of the diversion tunnel and other structures and the power intake being built by Hydroelectric Power Department, construction of the underground power plant and installation of turbines, test-running of power plant and cooperation among the departments. The Prime Minister urged them to cooperate between the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Electric Power for timely completion of the tasks.

Next, the Prime Minister and party went to the project site and inspected building of the main dam with the use of heavy machinery.

The Prime Minister and party also inspected building of canal of the spillway and phases 1, 2, 3 and 4 of stable tanks. At the underground power plant, the Prime Minister and party inspected installation of turbine No 1, No 2, No 3 and No 4. Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint and officials conducted the Prime Minister and party round the plant.

The turbine No 4 has been installed. So, it will be possible to generate 70 megawatts of electricity soon.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected the power control room. Director (Machine/Electric Installation) U Saw Lwin reported on matters related to the control room. The Prime Minister and party also inspected transformers at the transformer tunnel.

(See page 8)

General Thura Shwe Mann tours Putao, Machanbaw

YANGON, 7 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Members of SPDC Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Li-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Myo Oo, senior military officers and departmental officials, on 2 July morning arrived in Myitkyina, Kachin State.

They were welcomed there by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of the Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun and senior military officers, departmental officials and members of social organizations.

General Thura Shwe Mann and party, together with Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, proceeded to Putao, Kachin State, by air. At Putao Airport, Col Khang Soe of Putao Station, Putao District Peace and Development Council Chairman Li-Col Myint Soe and departmental officials and social organizations welcomed them.

Afterwards, they arrived at the 700 feet by six feet Malikha Suspension Bridge linking Naungkhaing and Machanbaw villages across Malikha River.

(See page 16)

The National Convention is the concern of all our national races.
TOWARDS SUCCESSFUL REALIZATION OF FIVE RURAL DEVELOPMENT TASKS

Out of the fifty-three million people in Myanmar, seventy per cent live in rural areas and therefore agriculture is the main pillar of the national economy and the main industry of the rural people. This being the case, efforts will have to be made to boost the agricultural production for strengthening the national economy and at the same time special emphasis given to development of rural areas.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance on easy and smooth transportation, supply of potable water, higher educational standard, better health care services and development of agriculture and livestock breeds for rural areas.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, on his inspection tour of Upper Myanmar, met district- and township-level departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townsmen in Yamenthin on 6 July. On the occasion, the Prime Minister urged the departmental personnel to try to meet the needs and wishes of local people, to be in one with them and to lead and organize them in such a way that they will come to take part in the national endeavours as well as in their respective regional development tasks.

Yamenthin Township is 75.73 per cent sufficient in rice, 257.80 per cent sufficient in beans and pulses. Local people are required to try their best to boost the yield of agricultural produce by making the most of dams and lakes in their area and by seeking the assistance of Irrigation Department and Myanma Agriculture Service.

As Yamenthin District is covered by the dry zone, the Forest Department is to make the district green and pleasant by carrying out forest conservation and reafforestation work. Development committees have to take all the necessary steps for easy and smooth transport in rural areas.

As rural development is important to township development, we call on township-level departmental personnel to make field trips to rural areas more often and work in concert with social organizations for successful realization of the five rural development tasks.
Four US Marines killed in Iraqi operation

BAGHDAD, 7 July — Four more United States Marines have been killed in action in Iraq's restive Al-Anbar Province, the US military said, taking its death toll in the region to 14 in just over one week.

US officials suspect alleged Al Qaida militant Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi and his supporters are operating in Fallujah and surrounding Al-Anbar Province.

“Four marines assigned to First Marine Expeditionary Force were killed in action July 6 in the Al-Anbar Province while conducting security and stability operations,” the US military said in a statement.

US-led military forces have carried out several air raids over the past week on what they say are Al Qaida safe houses in Fallujah.

On Monday, two marines were killed in action and one died later from wounds received during an operation in the area.

An Islamist website later carried a statement attributed to a Zarqawi group claiming responsibility for the deadly attack. “Thanks be to God, the toll was two helicopters down,” it said on a website.

The claim has not been verified.

The latest deaths raised to at least 644 the number of US soldiers killed in action in Iraq since last year’s US-led invasion.

Chinese, Mongolian Presidents agree to enhance eco, trade cooperation

BEIJING, 6 July — Chinese President Hu Jintao held talks here Monday with Mongolian President Nagaayyn Bagabandy, and they agreed to put first emphasis on some important areas to enhance the overall economic and trade cooperation.

“Resources exploration and infrastructure cooperation should be at the top of the agenda, and the projects agreed by the two sides should be initiated at an early date,” Hu told Bagabandy, who is paying a six-day state visit to China. The two countries also signed two documents Monday on trade and banking cooperation, as well as an agreement on offering economic aid to Mongolia after the talks. A diplomat on the scene said that the signing of the documents be taken as an actual step to realize the consensus reached last June by the two heads of state when Hu paid his first state visit to Mongolia.

During that visit, the two heads of state had agreed to further cooperation on finance, infrastructure, and sandstorm prevention. Hu had put forward a four-point proposal to promote Sino-Mongolian relations, including conducting economic and trade cooperation of reciprocity.

The two countries also had established the good-neighborly partnership of mutual trust during Hu’s trip.

During Monday’s talks, Hu reaffirmed the main content of his proposal, as well as the importance of economic and trade cooperation, saying that it has witnessed remarkable results.

Bagabandy spoke highly of Hu’s view on developing the bilateral cooperation, pledging to follow the principles of the joint documents to further the cooperation in the economic field and resources exploration, as well as in the other areas.

In fact, pushing forward economic cooperation is one of the purposes of Bagabandy’s China trip. Minister in charge of finance and economy, president of the Mongolian bank, and other senior trade officials are among his 72-member entourage.

Bagabandy told the Press that the two countries still have great potential for increasing economic and trade cooperation, and how to dig out more cooperative areas should be the top concern of the two governments.

Gas pipeline set ablaze north of Iraq, poses threat to power supplies

KURKUK, 7 July — A gas pipeline feeding electricity power plants in central and northern Iraq was attacked and set ablaze near the oil city of Kirkuk, energy officials said, warning of more power cuts.

“A device exploded along the pipeline about 90 kilometres (55 miles) south of Kirkuk, sparking a fire,” said Humer Hassan, the head of Northern Gas Company which is based in Kirkuk, 255 kilometres north of Baghdad.

Hassan said the “strategic” pipeline served many electricity power stations in the north as well as a gas canister factory in Taji, north of Baghdad — a key source of power for people’s homes.

“This is going to affect electricity production for the country and the production of gas for domestic use,” he added, without giving figures for the extent of the impact.

The head of electricity for northern Iraq, Sabah Chakur, warned that “electricity production will be affected” by the attack. “The fire is still raging,” he added.

The two officials said the gas line linked the treatment centre for the Northern Gas Co to gas fields in Abu Ajiil, which stretched to the Tikrit and Taji areas, passing several power stations in northern Iraq.

Only hours earlier, Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said militant attacks on Iraq’s fuel trucks and pipelines had resulted in a huge drop in electricity production in the past three days.

Foreign Minister says India will not send troops to Iraq

NEW DELHI, 7 July — India will not send troops to Iraq but will help in humanitarian and rehabilitation work, including training Iraqi oil industry personnel, Foreign Minister Natwar Singh told Parliament on Thursday.

“The question of sending troops to Iraq does not arise,” he was quoted as saying by the Press Trust of India news agency.

“Even if asked, India will not send its troops. I am saying it in black and white,” he said. India’s previous Hindu nationalist government, which was ousted by Congress in recent elections, had opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq and turned down US requests to send troops to Iraq without a clear UN mandate.

Philippines seeks US technical assistance for anti-drug fight

MANILA, 6 July — The Philippine Government has asked the United States for more technical assistance in its anti-drug fight, a local newspaper reported Tuesday.

Philippine Daily Inquirer said that Jose Calida, justice secretary and executive director of the Dangerous Drug Board (DDB), made the appeal to the US Drug Enforcement Administrations in a recent seminar on Clandestine Laboratory Site Safety in Metro Manila.

Calida said that the US technical support could help a lot in accurate drug identification, technologically advanced investigation of drug cases and the use of technical knowledge on illegal drug matters.

The support should also include employable anti-drug strategies and tactics against drug lords and traffickers, he added.

Meanwhile, Calida noted the peculiarity in the country’s experience on illegal drugs. “It is this peculiarity of the Philippine experience that makes some of our drugs cases unique and the responses to peculiar incidents demands local knowledge,” he said.

Chinese general leaves for visit to Russia, Egypt, S Africa

BENGU, 6 July — General Guo Boxiong, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of China, left Beijing Monday on an official good-will visit to Russia, Egypt and South Africa.

Guo is expected to meet with government officials and military officers of the three countries during his visit and exchange views with them on issues of mutual interest, the Foreign Affairs Office of the Defence Ministry said in a press release.

His entourage is composed of senior officers of the Beijing Military Area Command, the Second Artillery Corps, the Chinese Navy, the Air Force, among others.
Allawi says no need for troops from Iraq’s neighbours

DUBAI, 6 July — Iraq does not want peacekeeping forces from neighbouring countries, to protect sensitivities among its myriad ethnic groups and religious sects, interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said in remarks aired on Monday.

“There is a decision taken by the Governing Council when it was still in office. This decision took into consideration sensitivities in Iraq.” Allawi told Al Arabiya television in an interview due to be aired in full later on Monday.

“We decided that it would be better to avoid raising sensitivities we don’t need right now.”

“Our neighbours, however, can help us more by protecting their borders and curbing infiltrations,” Allawi added.

ghan, saying that better sanitation is the solution to the problem. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraq group says US Marine taken to safety

DUBAI, 6 July — An Iraqi group said it had moved abducted US Marine Wassef Ali Hassoun to “a place of safety” after he pledged not to return to the American Armed Forces, Al Jazeera television said on Monday.

Al Jazeera said the announcement came in a statement it received from the Islamic Response Movement, the same group it reported on June 27 as claiming to have kidnapped Hassoun and threatening to behead him. In the statement the group did not say where Hassoun had been taken, Al Jazeera said. It gave no further details.

Eight days ago Al Jazeera showed a video of a blindfolded man dressed in camouflage sitting in a chair with a hand holding a sword above his head. A Marine Corps identity card named him Wassef Ali Hassoun. It quoted the Islamic Response Movement as saying it had kidnapped a US Marine after luring him from a US base.

MNA/Reuters

Internet

Internet

Nigeria earns $6b annually from gas sector

ABUJA, 6 July — Nigeria’s gas sector has generated six billion dollars per annum from zero dollar before 1999, head of the giant state-run oil firm NNPC Femi Kutolekun said here on Monday.

“I have read the report,” he said.

He noted that the west African country has made a lot of efforts to earn more revenue through world-class gas utilization projects, from which lots of jobs were also being created. — MNA/Xinhua

Portugal provides Mozambique with fund for cholera prevention

MAPUTO, 6 July — Portuguese Ambassador to Mozambique Antonio Sennfeld has given 10,000 US dollars to Mozambique in order to support cholera prevention actions in this southern African country, local media reported on Monday. Sennfeld said that the money is the contribution of his government to the fight against the epidemic, particularly in the central region of Mozambique.

Mozambican Health Minister Francisco Songane promised that the money will be used for the intended purpose and in the indicated place. He lamented the fact that cholera is a cyclical epidemic in Mozambique, saying that better sanitation is the solution to the problem. — MNA/Xinhua

Group claims abduction of Egyptian in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 July — A guerrilla group in Iraq said Wednesday that it had kidnapped an Egyptian truck driver working in the country and released video to the Al-Jazeera television station of the man.

The group, calling itself the “Iraqi Legitimate Resistance,” said they took the man, who identified himself as Alsayed Mohammed Alsayed Algarabawi, captive while he was driving a truck of fuel for US forces in Saudi Arabia.

The video, members of the group stood armed and masked around Algarabawi. The station did not say whether the group made any demands or threatened to kill its captive. Al-Jazeera spokesman Jihad Ballout in Qatar said the channel received the video Tuesday.

Other militant groups have captured and threatened to behead several foreign Muslim hostages, creating an uproar among many Muslims, including other militants. Nearly all the captured Muslims have been released unharmed.

US study says overweight children risk iron deficiency

CHICAGO, 6 July — Overweight children are at double the risk of being iron deficient, perhaps because of bad diet or lack of exercise, a study said on Tuesday.

Iron deficiency is a global problem most commonly found in poorer people lacking proper nutrition, but the study concluded that the rising number of obese people in the developed world should be checked and treated.

Too little iron in the blood can cause anaemia and lead to learning and behavioral problems as well as pose limits on work and exercise.

One out of seven US children is overweight, a three-fold increase in the past 30 years, and many do not get screened for iron deficiency, Yale University researcher Karen Nead wrote in the journal Pediatrics.

In her study of 10,000 children aged two to 16, nearly one in 10 of the overweight teenagers was iron deficient. Among two- to five-year-olds, 6 per cent were iron deficient.

Overall, the rate of iron deficiency was double among overweight children compared to normal-weight children and was more likely the higher the children’s body mass index, a ratio of weight to height known as BMI.

The association between iron deficiency and being overweight may be caused by lack of exercise or a diet lacking in iron-rich foods, the study said.

It also said that genetics could play a role, and that overweight girls tend to grow faster than their peers, making it difficult for them to keep up with their bodies’ iron requirements.

MNA/Reuters

WASHINGTON, 6 July — In the third recent warning by the United States that terrorist attacks may be imminent in Bahrain, the State Department has authorized non-emergency personnel to leave the country, said the report.

Secretary of State Colin Powell on Monday announced that the families of defence department employees and other employees at a major Bahraini base that supports the US Navy’s Fifth Fleet operating in the Gulf have been authorized non-emergency personnel to leave Bahrain.

MNA/Xinhua

US authorizes non-emergency personnel to leave Bahrain

**Text continues on page 5**
US troops kill Iraqi child in checkpoint shooting

Baghdad, 7 July — US soldiers killed an Iraqi child and wounded another when they fired on a car that failed to stop at a checkpoint in Baghdad, the Army said on Tuesday.

“The soldiers fired on the vehicle after the driver failed to obey verbal and visual instructions to stop, switched off the vehicle lights, and forced guards out of the way as he attempted to bypass the checkpoint,” a US military statement said.

It said the incident happened late on Monday. The statement said the mother and the wounded child were taken to hospital while the father, who was driving, was questioned by police.

Many Iraqis accuse US soldiers of being too hasty to open fire and of killing many innocent civilians. Baghdad residents say they often fail to notice police lights and unannounced checkpoints while driving at night. Power cuts regularly plunge streets into darkness, making checkpoints even harder to spot.

London, 7 July — Half of the British public want British troops to be withdrawn from Iraq as soon as possible, nine percentage points more than those who want the troops to stay until there is a stable democracy, according to a poll published Tuesday.

The Times newspaper quoted the latest Populus poll as showing that 51 per cent of the respondents believed British forces stationed in Iraq should “leave as soon as possible” while 42 per cent want them to “stay for as long as it takes.”

The poll, which revealed continuing deep divisions on Iraq in Britain, found that over half of the British people thought the US-led war against Iraq was wrong while less than 40 per cent believed it was right.

According to the poll that came after the US-led coalition transferred power to the interim Iraqi government last April, 42 per cent said they were planning to vote for parties that want the troops to stay until there is a stable democracy, according to a poll published Tuesday.

Men f volleyball in Iraq are 52 to 43 percent, while women thought they should be withdrawn by 58 to 43 percent.

MNA/Reuters

China, Kuwait to further bilateral relations

Beijing, 7 July — China is willing to work with Kuwait to push forward the comprehensive development of the friendly relations between the two countries as well as other Arab states of the Gulf, said Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing here Monday.

In his meeting with visiting Kuwaiti Foreign Min-
ister Sheikh Muhammad Sabah Al-Saleh Al-Sabah, Li expressed appreciation for Kuwait’s support for China on the Taiwan and human rights issues, and China’s bid for the 2008 Olympic Games.

Li said China spoke positively of the efforts of Kuwait, which is currently holding the rotating presidency of the Coopera-
tion Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, to push forward the bilateral cooperation.

Muhammad appreciated China’s successful holding of the third foreign ministers’ meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue on 21 June and 22 in Qingdao, a coastal city in east China’s Shandong Province.

He emphasized the importance of their current China tour, noting that it is the first visit of the first official visit of Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-
Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah since he took office in 2000. Muhammad said Kun-
wait is ready to further de-
velop the friendly coopera-
tive relations with China in various fields. Muhammad is visiting China with Sheikh Sabah. During their eight-day official visit to China, Sheikh Sabah will also visit Premier Wen Jiabao and Chair-
man of the Standing Com-
mittee of the National Peo-
ple’s Congress Wu Bangguo. Sheikh Sabah and his delegation will also visit Shanghai in east China.

MNA/Reuters

Abdullah calls for respect for all nations’ sovereignty

Kuala Lumpur, 7 July — Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said there is a vital need to respect the sovereignty of all nations which make up the international system.

Malaysia believes that only a universal commitment to multilateralism would overcome the destruction of the interna-
tional system, Abdullah said when opening the Malaysian International Conference in Putrajaya, Federal Admin-
istrative Centre.

In this regard, the Prime Minister said that the United Nations must be empowered not only to maintain peace and security but also to be the reliable guarantor of na-
tional sovereignty and terri-
torial integrity of all coun-
dies. He said that what hap-
pened to Iraq has shattered the confidence of the world to people in the invisibility of national sovereignty.

“Events surrounding the case of the hostages symbolize of the prevailing dominance of unilateralism over multilateralism. For the sur-
ival of the international sys-
tem, we need to promote a return to reason and modera-
tion through dialogue and reconciliation,” said Abdullah.

Abdullah said Malaysia welcomes the transfer of sovereignty to the interim government of Iraq, hoping that the United States handed over sover-
eignty to the Iraqi Interim Government two days earlier than scheduled, with a sur-
prise ceremony formally end-
ing 14 months of occupation.

MNA/Reuters

UN seeks aid to prevent W Africa locust plague

Rotterdam, 7 July — Aid is urgently needed to contain the most serious desert locust swarm of the past 15 years engulfing West Africa, a United Nations agency said on Monday.

The desert locusts have shifted from breeding areas in northwestern Africa to countries including Mauritania, Senegal and Mali and are likely to multiply over the next few weeks, said the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The last locust plague in 1987-1989 cost more than 300 million US dollars to contain and control. It was outpace by 28 countries compared with some nine million US dollars pledged to this year’s campaign, the Rome-based agency said in a statement.

The international aid is urgently needed to supplement the major efforts already made, in particular by the countries concerned, and to prevent the situation from developing into a plague, the agency said. Although more than four million hectares (10 million acres) have been treated with pesticide, including land in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania, the FAO said more was needed because of the size of the swarm.

MNA/Reuters

Canadian couple jailed for keeping boys in cages

Ottawa, 7 July — A Canadian couple who often kept their two adopted sons chained in cages over a 13-year period were jailed for nine months on Monday, CTV television said.

The 42-year-old woman and 51-year-old man, who cannot be named in order to protect the boys’ identities, pleaded guilty to charges of forcibly confining, failure to provide the necessities of life and assault with a weapon.

The two boys were the couple’s nephews and had lived with them from an early age in a small farming community northeast of Toronto. The court heard the boys had initially been locked in wire-mesh enclosed baby cribs for hours on end day after day for years and later moved to cages, CTV said.

Police said the boys were badly malnourished and had been beaten. They were dis-
covered after a tip-off in 2001.

MNA/Reuters

French FM stresses China-France global strategic partnership

Paris, 7 July — French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier on Monday stressed the global strategic part-
nership between China and France.

“The minister, while hail-
ing the success of China Year in France, made wishes for the forthcoming France Year in China which is scheduled to start in October,” MNA/Inshua.

Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Prime Minister, said the United Nations must be empowered not only to maintain peace and security but also to be the reliable guarantor of national sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries.

He said that what happened to Iraq has shattered the confidence of the world in people in the invisibility of national sovereignty.

“Events surrounding the case of the hostages symbolize of the prevailing dominance of unilateralism over multilateralism. For the survival of the international system, we need to promote a return to reason and moderation through dialogue and reconciliation,” said Abdullah.

Abdullah said Malaysia welcomes the transfer of sovereignty to the Iraqi Interim Government two days earlier than scheduled, with a surprise ceremony formally ending 14 months of occupation.

MNA/Inshua

Over half of Britons favour troops pullout from Iraq

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The poll, which revealed continuing deep divisions on Iraq in Britain, found that over half of the British people thought the US-led war against Iraq was wrong while less than 40 per cent believed it was right.

According to the poll that came after the US-led coalition transferred power to the interim Iraqi government last April, 42 per cent said they were planning to vote for parties that want the troops to stay until there is a stable democracy, according to a poll published Tuesday.

Men favoured British troops staying in Iraq by 52 to 43 percent, while women thought they should be withdrawn by 58 to 43 percent.

MNA/Inshua

China provides food aid to West Africa

Jingzhou, 7 July — China has provided 4,010 kilos of hashish seized in Lahore, the country’s second largest city.

A report of the Dawn newspaper Monday quoted police sources as saying that a police team Sunday stopped the suspected truck at a checkpoint on road, recovered the contraband and nabbed one drug-smuggling suspect. Local police have registered a case against the accused and inves-
tigations are underway, said the Dawn.

MNA/Inshua

4,010 kilos of hashish seized in Pakistan

Islamabad, 6 July — Pakistani police have seized 4,010 kilos of hashish delivered by the country’s second largest city.

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tigations are underway, said the Dawn.

MNA/Inshua

300 million US dollars to contain and control operations were carried out in Mauritania, the FAO said more was needed because of the size of the swarm.

MNA/Inshua

Sunflowers in the wind: People stroll through a sun-
flower field swaying in the wind inKisarazu, suburban Tokyo.

In tray

MNA/Inshua

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MNA/Inshua

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MNA/Inshua
To make collective efforts for rural water supply

Article by Maung Ba Pe (Oktha); Photos by Ko Ko Soe Nyunt (NLM)

Over 20 per cent of the nation’s population are residing in 12 per cent of the total area of the country and they are facing the daily problems of unavailability of clean domestic water. Thus, it is a great chance for service personnel to make efforts for ensuring the supply of clean potable water and domestic use.

Truly, central Myanmar is an arid zone having annual rainfall of less than 100 inches. In that arid region, there are 15,802 villages in 85 townships constituting Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions. Caused by the nature, there were less social infrastructures in that region. Of the social infrastructures, the availability of clean potable water is of great importance and a difficult social issue at the water-scarce arid region.

In the arid region, the majority basic water resources are storage ponds of rain water. Rain water can be stored in those ponds and those water can be used for a certain period in the post rainy season. Those rain water storage ponds are generally about one mile away from village and sometimes when there was no water left in those ponds, the rural people had to fetch water at other ponds which are 4 or 5 miles away from the village. Hence, the villagers had to spend 3 or 4 hours daily to fetch water for domestic use. One-third period in daily life went into fetching water apart from the times for doing business, pursuing education and earning livelihood.

Moreover, scarcity of water leads to poor care in personal hygiene as well as outbreak of diseases such as dysentery, cholera, diarrhoea, trachoma, etc. To relieve the social problems encountered by the rural people in the arid region, the Head of State gave guidance for tapping underground water there. The Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was assigned duties for sinking tubewells. In fact, it is the realization of one of the five rural development tasks which calls for supply of sufficient water in rural areas.

The Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for PRANRDA exerted efforts in the implementing the noble task of rural water supply. Energetic efforts were made to accomplish the task before the target 10-year period. At the annual work co-ordination meeting for fiscal 2003-2004 of the Development Affairs Department held on 29-6-2003, Prime Minister Khin Nyunt gave instructions for paying serious attention to ensuring better transportation and water sufficiency supply in rural areas in line with the five rural development tasks. Accordingly, the Development Affairs Committees made earnest efforts.

The Development Affairs Department has drawn up 10-year plan for sufficient supply of water in the rural areas. The plan began in 2000-2001 and will end in fiscal 2009-2010. At the completion of the plan, each and every village in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions will get at least one water supply system. Of 15,802 villages in the three divisions, only 7,760 villages are getting sufficient water and the water supply projects are to be implemented in 8,042 villages. Of those villages, 335 villages which can rely on no other water resources except rain are given first priority. 3,677 villages which did not get water sufficiently are given second priority. The third priority is given to 3,830 villages which did not get clean potable water.

The 10-year water supply plans are also drawn up in other States and Divisions. There are 36,208 villages in other States and Divisions. Of them, 15,183 villages need to have water supply projects to be exact, 344 villages have difficulties in obtaining water, 5,489 villages are having insufficient water and 9,350 villages are not having clean drinking water.

The Development Affairs Department started to implement the water supply project. As a result of the implementation of the water supply project, the villagers can now enjoy clean potable water and domestic use. Nowadays, over 6.6 million people from 10,602 villages in the entire nation, over nine million people from 15,715 villages in the entire country, 5,715 water supply projects in 10,602 villages can now enjoy benefits of the water supply projects.

To mark the sufficient water supply in entire townships, signboards were put up with ceremonies in Myinnmu, ChaungU, Taungdwingyi, Minbu, Aunglan, Kyaukse, Myittha and Myingyan townships. Such ceremonies will also be held in 12 more townships. Service personnel of the DAD made enthusiastic efforts for rural water supply and it is very meritorious for them. In cooperation with USDA, MMCWA, UNICEF, BAJ and JICA, the department has accomplished 61 per cent of the 10-year plan. Continued efforts are certainly be made.

Village belles fetching potable water conveniently from a concrete tank in Myoma Kaungpinsi village in NyangU Township, Mandalay Division.

Villagers of Myoma Kaungpinsi village in NyangU Township, can now get sufficient potable water.
Delegate group of State service personnel...

(from page 16)

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 Nyeinchanhlay Myothit Group of Hpa-an Township of Kayin State which exchanged arms for peace, Shan State National Army, the group led by U Saw Tun Oo of Rakhine State, Homein Region Welfare and Development Group, Shwepyayae (MTA) Group, Manpan Region Militia Group, Mon Armed Peace Group (Chaungchi Region), Mon (Splinter) Nai Saik Chan Group and Arakanese Army (AA) which exchanged arms for peace.

Before the start of the plenary session of the National Convention, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Committee Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chair of the National Convention Convening Work Committee, Dr U Aung Kyi emcee the Plenary Session. — MNA

Delegate Dr Daw Myat Myat Oo Khin of the Ministry of Health reads the proposal. — MNA

Delegate U Hla Thaung Htike of the Ministry of Sports reads the proposal at the Plenary Session. — MNA

Delegate U Hla Thein of the Ministry of Rail Transportation reads the proposal at the Plenary Session. — MNA

Delegate U Than Aung of the Office of the National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as master of ceremonies and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi as co-master.

The master of ceremonies announced the start of the meeting with the permission of the meeting chairman as attendance was listed at 1069 out of 1088, accounting for 98.25 per cent.

Next, delegates from delegate group of State service personnel read proposals concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of power in the legislature, executive and judicial sectors to be included in the State Constitution.

Delegates at the Plenary Session of the National Convention. — MNA

Delegate group of State service personnel...

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U Hla Thein of the Ministry of Mines then presented the proposal on energy, electricity, mineral, forestry and industry sectors which related to detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of power in the legislature, executive and judicial sectors to be included in the State Constitution.

U Hla Thaung Myint of the Ministry of Rail Transportation read out the proposal on transportation, construction and communication sectors.

Afterwards, the plenary session took a break at 2.55 pm and continued at 3.15 pm.

Dr Daw Myat Myat Oo Khin of the Ministry of Health presented the proposal on social sector concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of power in the legislature, executive and judiciary to be included in the State Constitution.

After that, the plenary session went into recess at 4 pm. It continues on 9 am on 8 July. — MNA

Delegate U Yan Naing of the Ministry of Hotels & Revenue reads the proposal at the Plenary Session. — MNA

Delegate U Than Nyunt of the Ministry of Finance & Revenue reads the proposal at the Plenary Session. — MNA

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Delegate U Than Nyunt of the Ministry of Finance & Revenue reads the proposal at the Plenary Session. — MNA
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects …

(From page 1)

Afters, the Prime Minister and party arrived in Pyaywbe by helicopter at 9:30 am. At Amin Hall in Pyaywbe, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party met township, ward level, departmental officials, social organization members and local people.

Chairman Pyaywbe Township Peace and Development Council U Khin Kyi reported on the location and area of the township, population, land resource, cultivable land, rice and edible oil sufficiency, education, health, agriculture, livestock breeding, social and transport sectors.

After hearing the reports, the General fulfilled the requirements for education, transport, requirements for cultivation and transport matters.

Next, the General presented TVs, VCRs and computers to school heads of respective Basic Education High Schools. Afterwards, the Prime Minister delivered an address on the fulfillment of the requirements for education, transport, economic development tasks; Yangon, Meiktila and Pymanna townships of Yamethin District yesterday.

Projects have already been fulfilled in economic development tasks, social sector, education, transport matters and regional developments in Pyaywbe Township. The government, on its part, plans to spend a large sum of money to bring about rapid progress, as Meiktila Township is set up with rural regions. With the aim of ensuring development of the township and the welfare of the people who are residing in the township and raising their living standard, as administration and management machinery of the township, the General pointed out, departmentally, officials are to strive to be one with the people, and make concerted efforts harmoniously for development of the township.

Furthermore, he said, social organizations in the township are to participate in the development tasks of the township. In conclusion, the Prime Minister urged them to make concerted efforts harmoniously for development of the township.

Meiktila District is in the Meiktila region is a place where human resources can be produced. Local people are to make concerted efforts for extending cultivation of edible oil and rice, make concerted efforts for carrying out the greening project. He said he believed that the Meiktila region would be successful. He called on local authorities, departmental officials, local people and the ministers of respective townships that make up of villages be developed.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to Meiktila Lake and local officials are to strive together with members of social organizations and local Council to make concerted efforts for bringing about about equitable and harmonious development the length and breadth of the nation, the government is giving priority to improvement of the living standard and socio-economic life of the people. That is why the entire national people are to make concerted efforts and coordinated efforts for all-round development of the Union, realizing endeavours and goodwill of the government.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister greeted those present on the occasion.

Next, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University, Technological University, Institute of Education and local Colleges were opened. So Meiktila region is a place where human resources can to provide necessary assistance to students of respective universities and institutes, he said.

Continuing, he said, Meiktila is a region of oil crops, cotton, beans and pulses and various kinds of timber crops. He spoke of the need to cultivate other crops. The government has to imported edible oil yearly, spending a large sum of foreign currency because there is no self-sufficiency. He pointed out, concerted efforts are to be made for extended cultivation of edible oil and rice with foreign currency spent on edible oil and they are to be used in national and regional development undertakings. Therefore, all, are to make relentless efforts for development of production including agricultural sector.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers an address in meeting with faculty members at Meiktila University. — MNA

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Flourishing democratic nation

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Flourishing democratic nation
State Peace and Development Council Member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence donates catusch for Kaunghmulon Pagoda in Machanbaw Township. (News on page 1) — MNA

Commander inspects livestock breeding farms of Yangon Command

YANGON, 7 July — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe this afternoon inspected No 1 livestock breeding farm in Insein Township and attended to the needs. At the briefing hall, responsible officials reported to the commander on farming of broilers and layers, breeding of fish and pigs and selling of chickens and eggs.

Afterwards, the commander and party went to the central fish breeding farm of Yangon Command in Mingaladon Township. An officer of the farm reported to the commander on hatching of fingerlings, breeding of fish and pigs at the farm. After hearing reports, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on selling of meat, fish and eggs at the tax-free markets in Yangon.

Next, the commander and party inspected hatching of fingerlings, breeding of fish and pigs and layers. Similarly, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and party proceeded to No 3 livestock breeding farm at Danyingon in Insein Township and inspected the farm and fulfilled the requirements.

Over 150,000 chickens have been sold till today.

State Peace and Development Council Member General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence inspects Malikha suspension bridge across Malikha River. (News on page 1) — MNA

Seven Myanmar students awarded Petronas scholarships

YANGON, 7 July — A ceremony to award scholarship to seven outstanding Myanmar students by Petronas, Malaysia’s National Petroleum Corporation, one of the collaborating oil companies with the Ministry of Energy, was held at Sedona Hotel this morning.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Mr EN Rahim Ismail of Petronas Oil Co delivered speeches. Present were Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Hray, heads of departments under the ministry, Petronas Country Manager for Myanmar Mr Abu Baker Saleh and officials of the Ministry and the company.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi awarded scholarships to the students. The scholarships cover all expenses for education at UTP. On completion of their studies, they will serve the Ministry of Energy. It is the first time that Petronas has awarded scholarship to Myanmar students. — MNA
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects agriculture, livestock breeding in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 7 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council and departments concerned, left here by car for Ayeyawady Division to inspect agriculture and livestock breeding on 6 July morning.

At Ho Myat Tun Bridge, they were welcomed by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Development Council Office Naing and officials. Accompanied by the commander and officials, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected completion of monsoon paddy cultivation and regional development.

At Basic Education High School in Danubyu, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met local authorities and local people. The chairman of Township Peace and Development Council reported on matters related to the township. The commander also reported on arrangements for extended cultivation of monsoon paddy. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party cordially greeted those present.

Drug dealers sentenced

YANGON, 7 July — A combined team comprising members of Local Intelligence Unit and Tachilek Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, on 12 December 2003, searched the renting house of Aryn (a) Sein Shwe Maung of 2nd Khatta Street, Sangsai Ward, Tachilek and seized him together with 4,600 stimulant tablets.

In connection with the case, action was taken against the suspect, son of U Sai Soe Maung, at 2 Khatta Street, Sangsai Ward, Tachilek under Section 15/19 (a) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Zeyawady Police Station. He was sentenced to 5 years’ imprisonment under Section 15 and 19 years’ imprisonment under Section 19 (a). — MNA

Tree Planting Ceremony for greening of Bago Yoma held

YANGON, 6 July — With the aim of greening the Bago Yoma Monsoon Tree Planting Ceremony was conducted this morning by the Ministry of Forestry on the border between Mingaladon and Hlegu Townships in Yangon North District. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein formally opened the ceremony and planted the saplings. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and officials distributed the saplings to the members of NGOs and local people.

Over 5,000 saplings were planted on both sides of No 3 Highway in Barlar Region in Yangon North District. — 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 every day 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 4,552,822 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 bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presents cash assistance for renovation of Danubyu Township Hospital to an official. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects operation theatre at Danubyu Township Hospital. — MNA

Similarly, a combined team comprising members of Local Intelligence Unit and police of Zeyawady Police Station, acting on information, searched the house of Zaw Lwin, 1st Aungmingala Street, Zeyawady on 21 November 2003, and seized him together with 1,077 grams of marijuana.

In connection with the case, action was taken against the suspect, son of U Hla Myint of 1st Aungmingala Street, Zeyawady under Section 15/19 (a) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Zeyawady Police Station, Phu Township. The court of First Instance of Bago District Judge on 10 February 2004 handed down Zaw Lwin to five years’ imprisonment under Section 15 and 15 years’ imprisonment under Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, 1985. — MNA

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Over 5,000 saplings were planted on both sides of No 3 Highway in Barlar Region in Yangon North District. — MNA
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects the Paunglaung multi-purpose dam project on 5-7-2004. (News on page 1) — MNA

The progress of work in construction of main building of the Institute of Economics in Meiktila seen on 5-7-2004. (News on page 1) — MNA

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 7 July — The Nursery Market Festival continued at Myay Padetha Park in Bahan Township here today for providing assistance to growers and attracting the public to be interested in agriculture, horticulture, livestock breeding and vegetable farming. Poultry farming and fish breeding are also exhibited there. — MNA

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 7 July — The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for PBANRDA are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce. One 200 feet deep two-inch diametre tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diametre tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diametre tube-well costs K 500,000. Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Director (Sagaing Division DAC) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Magway Division DAC) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division DAC) (Tel: 02-54657). — MNA
United Airlines to launch direct flight linking Shanghai, Chicago

SHANGHAI, 6 July — Passengers can travel directly from Shanghai to Chicago from October 31 onwards, according to sources with the Carrier United Airlines.

The American company announced the decision shortly after a new Sino-US aviation cooperation agreement was reached.

Nowadays travellers have to connect flight in one of the three cities of Tokyo, San Francisco and Los Angeles when going from China to the east coast in the United States. The new Shanghai-Chicago route will cut the whole journey by five hours and reduce flight fare by one third.

According to the UA arrangement, Boeing 777 will be used to fly the daily route. Other specifics about UA flights linking Shanghai and San Francisco exceeded 90 per cent in the past months.

The new flight is widely expected to better serve the two countries and increase frequent travelling exchanges between the two countries, experts say. — MNA/Xinhua

Russian ship sinks off Bulgaria, two missing

SOFIA, 6 July — Two sailors from a Russian cargo ship are missing after it collided with a Georgian container ship and sank in the Black Sea off Bulgaria’s northern coast late on Sunday, Bulgaria’s Transport Ministry said on Monday.

Rescue efforts to locate the two missing crewmen when going from China to the east coast in the United States. The new Shanghai-Chicago route will cut the whole journey by five hours and reduce flight fare by one third.

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

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 8 July, 2004
Long nursing shifts raise error risk

WASHINGTON, 7 July — Nurses in US hospitals about 40 per cent of the time are working long shifts that raise the risk of medical mistakes such as giving the wrong medication or the wrong dose, a study released on Wednesday said.

The likelihood of a hospital nurse making a mistake was three times higher once a shift stretched past 12.5 hours, according to a study published in the journal Health Affairs.

The study, led by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania, tracked 393 hospital nurses and found about 40 per cent of their shifts exceeded 12.5 hours over a four-week period.

Extended nursing shifts are growing more common as hospitals struggle with a shortage of registered nurses. Working more than 40 hours per week or working unscheduled overtime also made errors more likely.

The researchers called for fewer long shifts and less overtime. "Routine use of 12-hour shifts should be curtailed, and overtime — especially that associated with 12-hour shifts — should be eliminated," they wrote.

Data on the impact of long nursing shifts have been limited, although many studies have linked sleep-deprived physicians to medical mistakes, the study’s lead author said.

"There are over 50 studies of physicians’ work schedules, but we have never looked at our largest group of health-care providers, which are registered nurses," Ann Rogers, the study’s lead author, said in an interview.

Rogers, an associate professor at the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Nursing, and colleagues reviewed logbooks from 393 registered nurses throughout the country who made medical errors.

The study analyzed data from 5,317 shifts over a four-week period. The longest shift lasted 23 hours and 40 minutes.

"During the 5,317 shifts, there were 199 medical errors. Most were medication errors such as administering the wrong drug or the wrong dose, or giving medication later than scheduled. The study did not assess the impact of the errors on patients," Rogers said.

The nurses also reported 213 near errors, cases in which the nurses caught themselves before they made a mistake.

Working overtime raised the chances of making at least one error, regardless of how long the shift was originally scheduled to last, the study said.

MNA/Reuters

Study finds early vitamin use linked to asthma

CHICAGO, 7 July — A study of more than 8,000 infants found a possible link between the use of multivitamin supplements and the risk of asthma and food allergies, researchers said on Tuesday.

The report from children’s National Medical Centre in Washington and other research centres said the reason for the apparent link was not clear. It suggested more study is required to find if the link is a factor in an increase in asthma and allergic disease in recent years.

The research was based on data from a government study that began following mothers and infants in 1991. It found "an association between early infant multivitamin intake and asthma among Black infants and in association with early infant multivitamin intake and food allergies in formula-fed infants."

It also found an increased risk of food allergies among all children given multivitamins at age 3.

The researchers said more than half of all toddlers in the United States are taking multivitamins, which are also often added to infant formula. The report said animal tests have found certain vitamins may cause cell changes that can increase an odds of allergic response when certain antigens are encountered.

MNA/Reuters

Study finds cough drugs no better than sugar syrup

CHICAGO, 7 July — Two ingredients commonly used in cough syrup are no better than sugar water in suppressing night-time coughing in children, according to a study published on Tuesday.

The two ingredients are dextromethorphan — often listed on labels as "DM" — and diphenhydramine, an antihistamine. The former is the most common non-prescription cough suppressant on the US market, and commonly abused by adolescents who try to get high on cough medicine.

"Consumers spend billions of dollars each year on over-the-counter medications for cough," said Ian Paul, a physician and assistant professor of pediatrics at Pennsylvania State University's College of Medicine.

"The findings were based on 100 children aged 2 to 6 who had upper respiratory infections. Their parents were asked to observations for the children's cough and how well both parents and children slept the previous night.

In the evening of the day the parents were questioned the children were given either one of the commercial preparations or an inert placebo — in this case simple syrup.

"There was a significant improvement for all symptoms over the previous night, which should reassure clinicians and parents that, regardless of treatment, the natural history of an upper respiratory infection favours resolution of symptoms with time," Paul said.

In an interview, Paul said the improvement in symptoms across-the-board was due to both the natural progression of an infection easing one day to the next and the well-documented "placebo effect," where symp-

MNA/Reuters

Forest clearing threatens mountain gorillas

JOHANNESBURG, 7 July — Africa's endangered mountain gorillas have suffered a fresh blow from illegal settlers who have cut a swath of forest out of some of their Congo home, conservation groups said on Monday.

There are about 700 mountain gorillas left in the world in the lush mountains and volcanoes straddling Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and any loss of remaining habitat can push them closer to extinction.

"Over the last two months, 15 square kilometres or six miles of prime mountain gorilla habitat have been cleared by illegal settlers in Virunga National Park, a World Heritage Site," Swiss-based WWF said in a statement.

"Since April, convoys of people from Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo have destroyed large tracts of the park, home to the mountain gorilla and other endangered species, to create agricultural and pastoral land," it said.

In all of Virunga there is only about 425 square kilometres of suitable gorilla habitat and so the loss of even 15 square kilometres is huge.

"This is particularly significant since it is encroaching on an area where gorillas live. There are three family groups in that area comprising about 50 animals," said Dr Peter J Stephenson, WWF's African Great Apes Programme coordinator.

WWF said evidence of the deforestation was uncovered by the Congolese Institute for the Conservation of Nature and that most of the damage took place from early May to June. "Several thousand people moved in to the area to farm illegally in Virunga," he said.

"The forest has been entirely cut down and turned into timber or charcoal," the WWF said.

MNA/Reuters

German mountain climber feared dead in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 6 July — A German mountaineer in his 60s was feared dead after a fall while descending Pakistan’s second highest peak, Nanga Parbat, expedition officials said on Monday.

The man was part of a six-member German expedition that set off in May to climb the 26,658-foot peak, whose name in Urdu means “Naked Mountain.”

The accident happened last week ahead of the 51st anniversary of the peak’s conquest by a German climber.

"He slipped while descending along with his colleagues," said Easir Karim, the tour operator who organized the trip, adding that the team had safely reached the summit.

The remaining members of the expedition returned safely, added Karim, who identified the missing man as Gunter Jung.

A German Embassy spokesman confirmed a national was feared dead, but declined to give his name. — MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

A piglet sleeps on a tiger at Siracha Zoo, 80 km east of the Thai capital Bangkok, on 2 July, 2004. The zoo is trying to boost visitor numbers by teaching domestic animals such as pigs, and wild animals such as tigers, to live together in harmony from an early age. — MNA/Reuters

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR. Thursday, 8 July, 2004 13
**US Open champion Goosen climbs to sixth in world rankings**

**London, 7 July**— US Open champion Retief Goosen moved up one spot to sixth in the world rankings after his five-shot victory at the European Open in Ireland on Sunday.

The 35-year-old South African, who fired a four-under-par 68 at the K Club to complete back-to-back wins in successive starts, dislodged 2003 US Masters winner Mike Weir in the global pecking order.

Weir, who missed the cut at last week’s Western Open on the PGA Tour, slipped to seventh.

The rest of the top 10 remained unchanged with Tiger Woods retaining his monopoly at number one for a record 256th consecutive week and 336th overall.

The 28-year-old American is five weeks short of Greg Norman’s 331 weeks in top spot, the record since the official rankings were introduced. On the PGA Tour, Canada’s Stephen Ames clinched his maiden title with a two-shot victory at the Western Open on Sunday and jumped 14 places to 17th in the world. — MNA/Reuters

**Greek President urges Rehhagel to stay on as coach**

**Athens, 7 July**— Greece’s President joined the chorus of voices pleading with German coach Otto Rehhagel to stay on at the helm of the triumphant national team on Tuesday.

“We (Greeks) plead with him to stay in Greece,” Costis Stephanopoulous said in response to media speculation the Germans want Rehhagel, affectionately known as King Otto, to return to Germany as national coach before the 2006 World Cup.

“Mr Rehhagel is not a Greek, but he has become something more than a Greek,” added Stephanopoulous during a reception to honour the 2004 Euro champions.

“I won’t ask him, as some journalists did, if he will stay in Greece... that’s up to him. I want to tell him that if he stays in Greece he will sat- isfy us all. And if he leaves, we will love him, we will think of him and always re- spect him.”

Greece’s staggering success in winning Euro 2004 prompted delicious celebra- tions by millions of ecstatic fans across Greece and around the world.

Greece, who started the tournament as 80-1 outsiders, stunned the soccer world on Sunday by defeating hosts Portugal 1-0 in Lisbon, a feat seen by many as the coun- try’s greatest sporting achievement.

On Tuesday, Rehhagel thanked the President and praised the performance of his players. “We are very proud of our team which played very well... and we are proud of our fans,” he said.

Stephanopoulous pre- sented the players and their German manager with hon- orary national pins usually reserved for military heroes. The team was also honoured by Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis.

The Greeks’ unexpected success at the European championships has united the country and made fans out of people who never be- fore watched a soccer match. — MNA/Reuters

**Lazio release coach Mancini as Inter move in**

**Roma, 7 July**— Roberto Mancini moved a step closer to becoming coach of Inter Milan on Tuesday, when Serie A rivals Lazio released him from his contract.

The 39-year-old has been widely re- ported as being on the brink of taking charge at Inter ever since Alberto Zaccheroni’s resi- gnation last month. Lazio’s director general, Giuseppe De Mita, announced the decision to let Mancini go at the end of a shareholders meeting on Tuesday.

“We’ve resolved all our outstanding is- sues as regards Roberto Mancini. As far as we’re concerned he’s released (from his con- tract). Now he’s Inter’s problem,” De Mita was quoted as saying by Italian Press agency ANSA.

Mancini’s agent, Giorgio De Giorgio, said he expected his client’s move north could happen as early as Wednesday.

“Everything’s OK between Lazio and Inter and Mancini,” he said.

“Mancini doesn’t yet have a formal agree- ment with Inter and I don’t expect his move there to be made official this evening.”

The former Italy international, whose deal with Lazio was not due to expire until 2008, is considered one of the brightest young coaches in Serie A.

Having started out as assistant to Sven Goran Eriksson at Lazio, Mancini took over Fiorentina during the 2000-2001 season, lead- ing them to the Italian Cup in his first season in charge.

He quit the following year as Fiorentina spiralled towards bankruptcy before rejoin- ing Rome-based Lazio in August 2002.

Mancini again had to cope with serious financial problems that forced the departures of players Alessandro Nesta and Hernan Crespo, but guided the club to fourth place in Serie A and the semi-finals of the UEFA Cup in the 2002-03 season. — MNA/Reuters

**Thai brewer set to sign Everton shirt deal**

**Bangkok, 7 July**— A Thai brewer is set to sign a shirt sponsorship deal with English Premier League side Everton in Bangkok, a company official said on Tuesday.

Thanit Thamsukati, an adviser at Thai Beverages, producer of Thailand’s best sell- ing Beer Chang, declined to confirm media reports the deal was worth 1.5 million pounds (2.75 million US dollars) for three years from the start of the new season in August.

“The figures came from their dreams,” Thanit told Reuters. “Details of the deal will be disclosed tomorrow at the signing.”

Thawatchai Satchakul, one of the negoti- ators of the agreement, told Reuters last month Thai Beverages would pay 900,000 US dollars per year to Everton, whose shirts were previously emblazoned with the logo of Chinese mobile phone company Kejian.

Everton would not comment on the deal on Tuesday. — MNA/Reuters

**Paraguay soccer players train in front the Misti volcano, at Sachaca Stadium in Arequipa, on 6 July, 2004. Paraguay will face Costa Rica on 8 July in the first round of the Group C of the Copa America 2004 tournament.** — INTERNET

**Singapore**

**Sanz announces agreements with Euro 2004 trio**

**Madrid, 7 July**— Real Madrid presidential candidate Lorenzo Sanz said on Tuesday that he had reached agreements to sign Czech Republic internationals Milan Baros and Tomas Rosicky as well as Portugal midfielder Maniche.

“We were at the final of Euro 2004 and made important agreements with three play- ers while we were there,” Sanz told a news conference at his election headquarters.

“If we win the election, Maniche and Baros will be at the disposal of Real Madrid coach Jose Antonio Camacho from next Monday. Rosicky will be available to sign for the club in a year’s time.”

When pressed on the exact terms of the agreements Sanz said that with regard to Porto midfielder Maniche he had approved the deal with both the player and his club. However he said he had not yet spoken to the clubs of Liverpool forward Baros and Borussia Dortmund playmaker Rosicky.

Baros was one of the outstanding players at Euro 2004, scoring five goals as he helped the Czech Republic into the semifinals of the tournament.

Maniche also had an excellent tourna- ment, scoring a spectacular long distance curler in his side’s 2-1 win over the Nether- lands in the semifinals.

Agreements such as those announced by Sanz have become regular features of presi- dential elections at Spanish clubs.

His defeat in the 2000 election was in large part due to Florentino Perez’s promise to pay the $56 million needed to buy Portugal midfielder Luiz Figueroa’s contract from arch-rivals Barcelona.

Last year Joan Laporta won the Barce- lona presidential election partly on the basis of a promise to sign England captain David Beckham after reaching an agreement with his then club Manchester United.

Laporta failed to live up to his pledge, though, as Beckham refused to agree to the move and instead joined Real Madrid. Sanz is standing against Perez and businessman Arturo Baldasano in the election. — MNA/Reuters

**Over 36,000 police officers to watch over Copa America Games 2004**

**Lima, 7 July**— Approximately 36,500 police officers have been deployed to pro- tect smooth running of the Copa America 2004, it was announced on Monday by the General Director of the National Police of Peru (PNP), general Feliz Murazio.

According to the security plan, operational since Friday, July 2, the participants in the event started to arrive, 16,000 police offic- ers are to be deployed in the seven stadiums of the event and 20,000 more will guard hotels, airports and other strategic points at this capi- tal and in the provinces of Puno, Chiclayo, Trujillo, Cusco, Arequipa and Tacna.

Murazio presented during a Press confer- ence, the logo that symbolizes the police institution “Politica, your friend the police officer”, in the opening of the operation.

The Copa America will start on Tuesday and conclude on June 25, with the participa- tion of 10 South American teams and two guests from outside the region (Mexico and Costa Rica). — MNA/Informe

**Thai broadcaster’s star looks forward to at the opening of the Olympic Games in August 2004. The Byzantine era monument of Hagia Sophia is seen in the background.** — INTERNET

**Maria Sharapova , the 2004 women’s Wimbledon champion, helps Austin Chen, 4, of Ellington, Conn, during a tennis street clinic in New Haven, Conn, on Tuesday, 6 July, 2004. Sharapova, ranked 8th in the world, has committed to play in the Pilot Pen Tennis tournament in New Haven in August.** — INTERNET
WEATHER

Wednesday, 7 July, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Tanintharyi divisions; rain or thunderstorms have been widespread in Kachin, Rakhine States, scattered in Shan, Chin, Kayin, Mon States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Kachin State and upper Sagain Divi-

Maximun temperature on 6-7-2004 was 31.0°C (88°F). Minimum temperature on 7-7-2004 was 22.4°C (72°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 7-7-2004 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 6-7-2004 was nil. Rainfall on 7-7-2004 was 1.10 inches at Yangon Airport, 0.12 inch at Kaba-Aye and 0.20 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1330mm (52.36 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1197mm (47.13 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1224mm (48.19 inches) at central Yangon.

Forecast valid until 8-7-2004: Rain or thunderstorms will be widespread in Kachin State, scattered in Chin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, upper Sagain, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Weak monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-7-2004: One or two rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-7-2004: Partly cloudy.
Delegate group of State service personnel submits proposal to
Plenary Session of National Convention

The New Light of Myanmar

YANGON, 7 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 State service personnel, one of delegations 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 included in writing 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 Maj.-Gen Lwin Maung and Management Committee members, chairmen and officials of the sub-committees, media personnel, delegates of political parties of Kokang Democratic and Unity Party, National Unity Party, Union Karen National League-1, Union Pa-O National Organiza-

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.