Senior General Than Shwe sends condoleance to Austria

YANGON, 7 July — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of condoleance to the Government of the Republic of Austria, on the sudden demise, on 6 July 2004, of His Excellency Dr Thomas Klestil, Federal President of the Republic of Austria. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife to pay official visit to PRC

YANGON, 9 July — At the invitation of HE Mr Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, accompanied by wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, will pay an official visit to the People’s Republic of China in the near future. — MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann inspects development of Mohnyin, Phakant, Tanai Townships

YANGON, 8 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, 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 Mya Oo, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and departmental officials, left Myitkyina on 4 July morning and arrived in Mohnyin at 8.45 am. They were welcomed there by Mohnyin Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Myint Aung and members, departmental personnel, social organization members and national races.

At Seinle Yadana Hall in Mohnyin, the General met township level officials, social organization members, teachers, students and local people. He presented gifts to Township Chairman U Myint Aung and exercise books for basic education schools to Township Education Officer Daw Thin Moe Aye. The Township Education Officer reported on pass rate of matriculation examination in the township in 2002-2003 academic year and arrangements for the education promotion programme. Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min gave a supplementary report, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win extended greetings. Next, General Thura Shwe Mann delivered an address. He said that accompanied by the ministers, the deputy ministers and officials, he arrived there to exert development momentum of Mohnyin and to attend the needs. The government restored peace and stability of the entire nation first. At present, it can be seen that the country is peaceful and stable, achieving economic development. Hence, it is unprecedented that the government carried out supply of water for cultivation all over the country and it opened and upgraded buildings concerning development of human resource and infrastructures such as roads, bridges, airports, education and health sectors. Progress have been made in economic sector as a result of implementing correct objectives including one of the economic objectives—development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well. So, the government is spending large sums of money on implementing dam, reservoirs and river water pumping projects for water supply programme so as to develop economic sector. It can be seen that roads and bridges are being built all over the country including Mohnyin region. With regard to the social sector, all the national races enjoy benefits of construction of educational buildings for human resource development, installation of multimedia equipment, providing health care and opening and upgrading of new hospitals and dispensaries. Thanks to restoring peace and stability in the country, all the people can enjoy fruitful results of economic, education, health and transport sectors. Development has been made in the country due to harmonious efforts of the government, the people and service personnel.

(See page 8)
Make collective efforts for development of the Union

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, during his tour of Pyaywte, Tatkoon and Pyinnmana Township in Yadanabon District, Mandalay Division, on 4 and 5 July, fulfilled the requirements of these townships regarding education, health, transport and communications for regional development. Moreover, the Prime Minister opened basic education schools, hospitals and clinics and upgraded the existing ones in Meiktila District for human resource development.

In his meeting with township- and district-level departmental personnel and members of social organizations in Meiktila on 5 July, the Prime Minister said that the Government had been planning to spend large sums of money on the project for greening Meiktila District and that it was necessary for the local people to extend cultivation of crops and to boost agricultural production.

The Head of State has given guidance on greening all the regions in the dry zone as much as national wealth permits. When the greening project for the entire Meiktila plains is completed, the problem of potable water being insufficient will be tackled and there will also be adequate supply of water for agriculture. As a result, the agriculture sector will develop and the living standard of the local people become higher.

Meiktila being one of major cities in central Myanmar, the Government has provided it with all the necessary infrastructures. Meiktila District is very suitable for cultivation of cotton, beans and pulses and edible oil crops in addition to various kitchen crops. Therefore, local people will have to try to grow more crops. Rural development is important for regional development as townships and regions are made up of villages. This being the case, departmental personnel, social organizations and local people are required to unite and help themselves to the implementation of the five rural development tasks.

The Government, in its effort for parallel development of all regions across the Union, has given special emphasis to economic development and higher living standard of the people according to regional needs. Therefore, we would like call on the entire national people to actively participate in all the national favours being made by the Government for the development of the Union.

**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

**Myanmar Gazette**

YANGON, 8 July — The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the appointment of Director-General U Mya Nyin of the Attorney-General’s Office on expiry of the one-year probation period. — MNA

Film entertainment for NC delegates

YANGON, 8 July — The Entertainment and Welfare Sub-committee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee is organizing entertainment programmes for delegates to the National Convention daily at the gymnasium of Nyamunghpin Camp. Yesterday evening, the delegates were entertained with a film entitled “Taypyayna Ma Shwe Htan” directed by Zinnyaw Maung Maung and starring Kyaw Thu, May Than Na, Waing and Nwe Nwe San. — MNA

MWA Vice-President Daw Than Than Nwe delivers an address at the talks. — PRABDA

Talks on Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation held

YANGON, 8 July — Talks on the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation were held at the meeting hall of the United Nations’ Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races at No 245, Thanlyinsoon Road, Botataung Township, here at 2 pm today.

Present on the occasion were MWA Vice-President Daw Than Than Nwe, Secretary General Dr Daw San Shwe, MWA national races affairs working group advisors Daw Kyin Khang, advisors, women employees and families numbering over 500.

MWA Vice-President Daw Than Than Nwe gave talks on the MWA. Afterwards, Advisor Daw Kyin Khang presented souvenir of the ministry to MWA Vice-President Daw Than Than Nwe. — PRABDA

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 8 July — The Nursery Market Festival continued at Myay Padetha Park in Bahan Township here today with the aim of providing necessary assistance to growers and attracting the public to be interested in agriculture, horticulture, livestock breeding and vegetable farming. Kitchen crops, fruits and saplings of herbal plants are being shown at the festival. Poultry farming and fish breeding are also exhibited there.

Educative booklets and pamphlets on advanced cultivation methods and utilization of fertilizers and pesticides are also available there. — MNA
Senate report to detail Iraq intelligence flaws

WASHINGTON, 8 July—A Senate Intelligence Committee report this week will sharply criticize the CIA for a predisposed mindset that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction before the war, Senate and government officials said on Wednesday.

The report, scheduled for public release on Friday, will say that intelligence analysts did not question the long-held belief that Iraq had banned weapons and saw ambiguous information as supporting that view, a Senate source said.

The report was also expected to criticize intelligence agencies for using unreliable and inadequate sources. “They used the thinnest sources to justify the greatest conclusions about a threat of mass destruction and other activity in Iraq,” Senator Richard Durbin, an Illinois Democrat on the panel, told Reuters.

The main US justification for going to war against Iraq was its alleged possession of weapons of mass destruction and its association with Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups.

The report was also expected to criticize intelligence agencies for not taking into account information as supporting that view, a Senate source said.

Both Republican and Democratic senators on the committee, which voted on Wednesday to make the report public, said it would sharply criticize the intelligence agencies.

Republicans said the report was also meant to be a constructive factor in the debate of how to reform the US intelligence apparatus.

“There’s no question that if you look at the conclusions, they literally beg for changes and reform,” Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, a Kansas Republican, said. “There were a number of failures.”

The report will also criticize the leadership at the CIA, including the agency’s director George Tenet, whose resignation is effective 11 July. —Internet

France to establish diplomatic ties with Iraq

ATHENS, 7 July—Visiting French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier confirmed here on Tuesday that his country will restore diplomatic relations with Iraq soon, adding that the French attack is already in Baghdad.

“I announced the day after the transfer of sovereignty took effect in Baghdad (28 June) that we were ready to re-establish diplomatic relations,” Barnier told reporters after meeting his Greek counterpart Petros Molyvdas.

“Our head of diplomatic mission (in Iraq) was received yesterday by (Iraqi interim Prime Minister) Iyad Allawi and things will unfold very quickly,” Barnier said.

The French minister reaffirmed that his government would provide technical assistance but would not send any French soldiers to Iraq. France will be “present in the process of Iraq’s political and economic reconstruction alongside our other European partners,” he said.

The two ministers also discussed the issue of the EU Constitution as well as the Middle East, Iraq, the Balkans and Cyprus.

Barnier, who is on a 24-hour working visit to Greece, emphasized that Europe is faced with a major challenge since the EU Constitution concerns how Europe with 25 member states will operate.

He stressed that all member states must realize that if the constitutional treaty is not ratified there is no Constitution.

“The dialogue began in Europe a decade ago and the goal is not only an economically united Europe, but a politically-united Europe as well. This is why foreign policy and a consistent stance on various issues are necessary,” he added. —MNA/Xinhua

Philippines mulls military pullout demand amid Iraq kidnapping

MANILA, 8 July—President Gloria Arroyo called an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss the case of a Filippino worker reportedly taken hostage by militants demanding the withdrawal of Philippine soldiers and police from Iraq.

Officials said it was possible the hostage was a Filipina soldier in the past two months: South Korean translator Kim Sun-II and American contractor Nicholas Berg.

The Philippines still has 51 soldiers and policemen based in south-central Iraq who were part of the US-led occupation forces.

Sovereignty was transferred to an interim Iraqi government last week.

Aside from the soldiers and police, more than 3,000 Filippino civilians are in Iraq, many of them employed by contractors and working inside US bases there.

Bunye said Manila repatriated more than 200 of them following the killings, but the rest elected to stay. —Internet

Slovenia’s Parliament approves new foreign minister

BELGRADE, 7 July—The Slovenian Parliament Tuesday approved career diplomat Ivo Vajgl as new foreign minister after his predecessor Dimitrij Rupel was dismissed over the dispute with Slovenian Prime Minister Anton Rod on Monday.

The Parliament, dominated by Rup’s centre-left coalition, voted 47-23 in favour of the 61-year-old Vajgl. Slovenia’s foreign policy does not need dramatic changes after it became member of NATO and the European Union, Vajgl told the Slovenian Television.

Vajgl was previously Slovenia’s ambassador to Germany and has also served as envoy to Austria and Sweden since Slovenia declared independence in 1991.

This is the second reshuffle of Rup’s Cabinet in just three months, following the replacement of five ministers in April. Slovenia is one of the 10 mostly east European countries that joined the EU in May. —MNA/Xinhua

US soldier kicks down a door during house to house searches near Martyrs Square in Baghdad, Iraq, on 7 July, 2004. —Internet

US Iraq military deaths amount to 867

BAGHDAD, 7 July—As of Wednesday, 7 July, 867 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 645 died as a result of hostile action and 222 died of non-hostile causes. The military did not provide an update over the holiday weekend.

The British military has reported 59 deaths: Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 729 US soldiers have died — 536 as a result of hostile action and 193 of non-hostile causes, according to the military as of Wednesday. —Internet

United Nations, 7 July—-Australian demographer John Caldwell and his companion, physician Catherine Hamlin, were conferred the United Nations Population Awards on Tuesday for their work to improve people’s health and welfare.

At a ceremony held at the UN headquarters in New York, the two winners each received a certificate, a gold medal and an equal share of a monetary prize.

Caldwell, the emeritus professor of demography at the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University in Canberra, won this year’s UNaward for his exceptional contribution to population studies. His work to frame the HIV/AIDS epidemic in an epidemiological and socio-cultural perspective won him the award for the establishment of a fistula hospital in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, with her late husband, Reginald Hamlin. The hospital specializes in treating obstetric fistula, a devastat-
Philippines halts troop deployment to Iraq

RAMOSA, 8 July—Armed Iraq guerrillas threatened to kill a Filipino hostage if his country does not withdraw from Iraq, according to a video that aired Wednesday. The Philippines responded hours later by ordering a halt to further deployment.

Few detainees in Iraq are foreign

WASHINGTON, 7 July — Fewer than 2 per cent of the captives held in Iraq as security threats are suspected foreign fighters, undercutting Bush Administration assertions of the big role of non-Iraqis in the insurgency, USA Today said on Tuesday.

Of the approximately 5,700 people considered to be enemy fighters or security risks held captive by coalition forces in Iraq, 90 are non-Iraqis, according to information from the US military command handling detention facilities in Iraq, the newspaper reported.

The numbers suggest that some Bush Administration officials overstated the role of holy warriors, or jihadists, in the insurgency, which disrupted efforts by the US-led occupying force to stabilize the country since last year’s invasion.

But even though there are relatively few non-Iraqis in custody, US officials believe non-Iraqis are involved in organizing or financing attacks against US forces. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian al-Qaeda operative, has claimed responsibility for a series of bombings and assassinations in Iraq.

“A number of foreign fighters are troubling,” Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman told USA Today last week.

Of the 90 foreign captives, more than half are Syrian, the report said. Syria borders Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

US bars 19 ships for security from 1-5 July

WASHINGTON, 7 July—The United States denied entry to 19 ships and detained 30 in port from July 1 to July 5 under tough new US military security rules designed to thwart terrorist attacks, the Coast Guard said on Tuesday.

“The foreign vessels detained or denied entry failed to comply with the requirements of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code,” the Coast Guard said in a statement, referring to the UN regulations that went into effect on July 1. The statement did not say where the ships came from or what cargo they were carrying.

The Coast Guard had released an earlier statement giving larger figures for the number of ships denied entry or detained during the five-day period. But the statement was withdrawn with word that a corrected version would be issued later. There was no immediate explanation for the initial release of incorrect figures. —MNA/Reuters

Mexican President starts South American tour

MEXICO CITY, 7 July — Mexican President Vicente Fox started a South American tour Tuesday, during which he will formalize Mexico’s intention to become an associate member of the area’s most active trade bloc, the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR).

During his four-day tour of Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay, Fox will attend a MERCOSUR Summit in Puerto Iguazu, in Argentina’s northern province of Misiones, at which MERCOSUR leaders will consider Mexico’s application to join the trade bloc. MERCOSUR groups Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Paraguay, with Bolivia, Chile and Peru as associate members.

In a interview with Brazilian daily Folha de Sao Paulo published on Tuesday, the Mexican President said his country’s entry into the MERCOSUR will give “virility” and “new energy” to the bloc.

MNA/Xinhua

Filipino taken hostage in Iraq

MANILA, 8 July—A Filipino abducted in Iraq will be executed unless the Philippines withdraws its troops from the country within 72 hours, a group said on a video broadcast on Al-Jazeera television today.

The kidnapped Filipino, employed by a Sanluc company working with US troops based in Iraq, was shown cowering on his knees.

The pan-Arab television station broadcast footage of a man sitting on his knees, dressed in an orange jumpsuit, surrounded by three masked men wearing guns and reading their threat from a statement.

The group said it had killed an Iraqi security guard who was with the Filipino.

An identity card bearing the picture of an Iraqi and a card on which was written “Ghadeer Security Service. Hafidh H Amer, Security Officer,” was also shown by Al-Jazeera.

Yesterday, the Philippines special envoy to the Middle East, Roy Cimatu, said he would recommend that President Gloria Arroyo keeps Manila’s small troop contingent in Iraq. —Internet

Bangbandy expects “win-win” result in eco cooperation with China

BEIJING, 8 July — Mongolian President Nachagyn Bagabandy said here Tuesday that he expected a “win-win” result in Mongolian-Chinese economic and trade cooperation.

At the Mongolian-Chinese economic and trade talks, Bagabandy said Mongolia attached great importance to the relations with China. Bilateral relations had been promoted on the basis of the treaty of friendly relations and trade cooperation, and two joint statements in 1998 and 2003. During Chinese President Hu Jintao’s visit to Mongolia June 2003, the two countries set the general direction of bilateral relationship in the 21st Century, which is to establish a good-neighbourly partnership of mutual trust.

Bagabandy said he was satisfied with the remarkable fruits that had been made in carrying out the consensus and the trust and understanding between Mongolia and China had been deepened. Bagabandy said that during President Hu’s visit, they also agreed to promote economic and trade cooperation.

Mongolia has rich natural resources. Bagabandy said Mongolia had always taken resources exploration as an important cooperative area with China. He said the two states would exploit jointly the iron ore, oil and coal resources in Mongolia and Mongolia would export more resources to China.

Liu Wenjie, vice-chairman of the Chinese Council for the Promotion of International Trade, said China needed large quantities of resources as its economy developed in a high speed. Mongolia had rich reserves of coal, non-ferrous metal and other resources, so there would be great promise in bilateral cooperation in the resources area. He believed this inspiring trend would continue.

According to statistics from the General Administration of Customs of China, trade volume between China and Mongolia in the first five months of 2004 reached 268.543 million US dollars, increasing 64.4 per cent over 2003, in which China’s export volume to Mongolia was 101,609 million dollars, and the import volume reached 166,934 million dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

Police seize 850 kilos of marijuana in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 7 July— Argentine police seized 850 kilos of marijuana and arrested 19 suspects, including nine Chileans and two Paraguayans, in operations conducted Monday night and early Tuesday in the provinces of Buenos Aires and Mendoza.

The marijuana, from Paraguay and hidden in coal sacks in a house in Mendoza, was worth US$2.6 million, according to the Argentine interior minister. (The article also states it is worth US$1.05 million.)

The police arrested the suspects Monday night, according to the minister. The police also said they smashed a drug trafficking ring operating in Argentina, Chile and Paraguay.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldiers take the street near Martyrs’ Square in Baghdad, Iraq, on 7 July, 2004. —INTERNET
Vets protest war in Iraq

AUSTIN, 8 July—Two military service members who recently returned from Iraq spoke out against the war Wednesday during a rally at the Capitol, telling a small but boisterous crowd that the Bush administration misled America about the threat of terrorism there.

“I supported this war at first, when my administration led me to believe that it was the right thing to do to oppose the government of Saddam Hussein and free the Iraqi people,” said Capt David Harris, a 12-year veteran who recently returned from Iraq.

He criticized the administration for accussing Saddam Hussein of harbouring weapons of mass destruction, which have not been found in Iraq. Harris called on the small crowd to vote for the Democratic president ticket of Sens. John Kerry and John Edwards.

Mike Hoffman, a former Marine who was in the first wave of service members to cross into Iraq last year, said Iraq is still dangerous despite Saddam’s capture. “Democracy cannot be forced on people who don’t want it,” he said.

Brahimi says UN keen to have vital role in Iraq

ANNAN, 7 July—UN special envoy for Iraq Lakhdar Brahimi said here Tuesday that the United Nations is keen to have a vital role in Iraq, but security remains a major concern.

After meeting with Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Muasher, Brahimi told reporters that the United Nations will hold discussions with concerned parties in Iraq to protect the UN staff there.

Earlier in the day, Brahimi said after meeting with Prime Minister Faisal al-Fayez that the world body will resume its mission in Iraq when security problems are solved.

He said it is necessary for the United Nations to have a role in Iraq, noting that UN Secretary General Kofi Annan will soon appoint an aide for him in Iraq. For his part, the Jordanian Premier said that Jordan supports the UN efforts in Iraq, confirming the necessity of rebuilding political, security and military institutions in Iraq in order to end the foreign occupation.

Al-Fayez said that Jordan stands with the Iraqi people as well as the internationally-recogized interim Iraqi government. Brahimi, who arrived in Jordan Monday after a visit to Iran, said Iraq’s neighbours can help Baghdad in many ways other than sending troops.

He also conveyed a letter from Annan to Jordan’s King Abdullah II. The UN envoy will then head for Baghdad from Amman.

The United Nations evacuated most of its staff in Iraq after its top envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello and 21 others were killed in an attack on its headquarters in Baghad on August 19 last year.

The government first issued an advisory against travel to Iraq in April after seven South Korean Christian missionaries were briefly detained by mili-
tionaries. They were released unharmed.

About 3,000 troops from a specialist unit leave for Iraq next month in what will be South Korea’s larg-
est overseas military mis-

ion since the Vietnam War. They will become the third largest contingent in Iraq after US and British forces. About 600 South Ko-

rean army medics and en-
gineers were deployed to Iraq in May 2003.

Retired British judge to probe Gulf War illnesses

LONDON, 7 July—A retired British judge launched a privately funded probe on Tuesday into why veterans of the 1991 Gulf War have become ill, but the government has not yet decided whether it will participate.

Lord Lloyd of Berwick, who as a former Law Lord once sat in Britain’s high-
est court, said an anonym-
ous private donor had funded his inquiry to “as-
sess the circumstances that have led to the ill health and in some cases death of over 6,000 British troops following deployment to the Gulf”.

He said he had invited the government to partici-

pate. A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said it was considering the request but had not taken a de-

cision.

The question of whether there is a “Gulf War Syn-
drome” of diseases that af-
fect veterans of the conflict has been argued bitterly on both sides of the Atlantic.

Veterans and their sup-

porters suspect that vaccines given to troops or other environmental factors have made thousands sick.

Both the United States and Britain pay war pen-
sions to some veterans who have fallen ill, implying recognition of a link be-
tween their service and their illnesses.

But they say that no di-

rect link has been estab-

lished showing service in the Gulf caused particular symptoms, and that veter-

ans are no more likely than others to die of ill health.

The British Govern-

ment has repeatedly re-

j ected calls for an official independent inquiry, say-

ing it has spent millions of pounds on scientific re-

search into the question.

“We accept that Gulf vet-

erans report more ill health than other service personnel, and are determined to find out what the cause is if we have to,” the Ministry of Defence said in a statement.

“We are researching these is-

sues at a cost of 8.5 million pounds.”

Gulf War illnesses

Veterans of all nations who served in Iraq after its top envoy Sergio Vieira de Mello and 21 others were killed in an attack on its headquarters in Baghdad on August 19 last year, have made thousands sick.

Portions of Lebanon and pursing wea-

pons of mass destruction and missile programmes.

South Korea repeats warning against travel to Iraq

SEOUL, 7 July—South Korea repeated on Tuesday a strong government warning against travel to Iraq, saying it would be hard to protect civilians who ignored advice or slipped into the unstable country without telling the embassy.

Authorities are still in-

vestigating the govern-

ment’s handling of the be-

heading last month of a South Korean interpreter, who was found to have been abducted by his Islamic militant killers weeks be-

fore the government be-

came aware of the case.

The small crowd applauded after each veteran spoke.

Not far way, down the Capitol prom-

enade, Austin’s Women in Black gathered for their weekly protest, holding up peace signs and passing out literature opposing the UN invasion of Iraq — Internet

Veterans protest war in Iraq

James C. Bergiglia, a Vietnam veteran and retired military chaplain, said the protest was not about politics.

“It’s about getting young Americans, the best of our country, back here in the states so that they can defend us and get on with fighting terrorism, which has absolutely noth-

ing to do with Iraq,” he said.

Bergiglia is affiliated with Veterans For Peace, a 3,500-member group based in St. Louis that has appeared at rallies across the country.

The small crowd applauded after each veteran spoke.

An Iraqi policeman holds back a grieving Iraqi man trying to run inside a hospital searching for his dead brother near Martyrs’ Square in Baghdad, Iraq, on 7 July, 2004. At least four people were killed and 20 others injured in running gun battles between US-backed Iraqi National Guard and masked guerrillas. — Internet

Lebanon urges US to reconsider sanctions against Syria

DAMASCUS, 7 July—Lebanese President Emile Lahoud urged the United States to reconsider its decisions to impose sanctions on Syria, the Arabic official al-

Thawra newspaper reported Tuesday.

Lahoud told the paper in an interview that “the US Admin-

istration must reconsider its decisions due to Syria’s role in the region, because the stability in the region cannot be at Syria’s expense, par-

ticularly they have more than one admitted Syria’s re-

markable role in combating terrorism.”

In May, Wa-

shington announced new sanctions on Syria, accusing Damascus of supporting ter-

ror, continuing its occupation of Lebanon and pursuing wea-

pons of mass destruction and missile programmes.

Singaporeans urged to do business in Middle East

SINGAPORE, 8 July—Singapore’s Minister for Trade and Industry George Yeo on Tuesday urged Singapore companies to do business in the Middle East region.

Speaking at a business conference here, Yeo said that the Singaporean Government is now reviewing its policy on the Middle East and will give the region greater importance in the future.

Stressing that closer political and economic relations with the region will benefit Singaporeans, Yeo said that with more countries in the region diversifying into non-

oil sectors and liberalizing trade and investment, significant new opportunities are opening up.

Describing the Middle East markets as “significant”, he said the minister that Singaporean companies can find business opportunities in many areas such as e-

government, industrial parks, housing, township planning, logistics, port services, healthcare and education.

A woman watches as an American soldier passes by following heavy fighting between Iraqi security forces and guerrillas in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 7 July, 2004. — Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Friday, 9 July, 2004
Iraqi men examine a car destroyed by a US airstrike in the restive town of Fallujah, 55 km (33 miles) west of Baghdad, on 6 July, 2004.

An Iraqi man searches through the rubble of a house following a US airstrike in the restive town of Fallujah on 6 July, 2004.

An Iraqi man searches through the rubble of a house following a US airstrike in Fallujah, on 6 July, 2004.

Fallujah residents look under rubble after US forces dropped bombs in Fallujah, Iraq, on 5 July, 2004.

A crude oil pipeline was destroyed on 22 July, 2004 at Al-Mishahdah, 50 kilometres north of Baghdad, Iraq.


A Fallujah resident looks into a bomb crater after US forces dropped bombs on a purported militant safehouse in Fallujah, Iraq on 5 July, 2004, killing at least 10 people.

Images of Iraq
Rural housing projects for better living

The Development Affairs Department is implementing rural housing projects to raise the living standard of rural people. The photo shows a rural house built by the Development Affairs Department in Mogaung Village in Aunglan Township, Magway Division.

Rural housing being built in Ywagyi village in Thatzi Township, Mandalay Division.

The Development Affairs Department is implementing rural housing projects in Thityakauk Village of Magway Township.

The Development Affairs Department is implementing rural housing projects to raise the living standard of rural people. The photo shows a rural house built in Mogaung Village in Aunglan Township, Magway Division.

A rural house being built in Ywagyi village in Thatzi Township, Mandalay Division.

The Development Affairs Department is implementing rural housing projects in Thityakauk Village of Magway Township.

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The Development Affairs Department is implementing rural housing projects to raise the living standard of rural people. The photo shows a rural house built in Mogaung Village in Aunglan Township, Magway Division.

A rural house built in Tarau (Kyakhatwayon) Village in Natalin Township, Bago Division (West).

A rural house built by Development Affairs Department in Nyaungwaing village in Kyauktan Township, Yangon Division.

Myatyadana Housing Project which is included in Thanlyin-Kyauktan Development Project.

The government is trying its best to raise the living standard of rural people. The five rural development tasks are being implemented with momentum throughout the country. One of the government’s endeavours to raise the living standard of rural people is the implementation of rural housing projects. Thanks to these, people living in rural areas now own modern homes and they are enjoying the fruits of the government’s efforts.
General Thura Shwe Mann inspects ...

(from page 1)

He added that the seven-step programme of the State has been laid down and is being implemented for emergence of a peaceful, modern and democratic nation. As the National Convention, the first phase of the future programme, is being held successfully, momentum is being gained. So, the entire people should participate in building a discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

As Mohnyin region has favourable condition of education sector, he urged parents, teachers and students to cooperate in turning out students to become intellectuals and new generation youths to pursue higher education in Mohnyin region. As such, the government has opened Mohnyin Degree College and Government Technical Institute (Mohnyin) with the aim of enabling the students to pursue higher education in Mohnyin region. As such, he stressed the need to cooperate so as to nurture well-versed students to achieve success of the education goal — the modern and developed nation will be built through education.

He said that all the national brethren upholding the Three Main National Causes: non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of the national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty are to unidly carry out development of the region with added momentum for more progress of the region. After the ceremony, General Thura Shwe Mann cordially greeted those present.

General Thura Shwe Mann and party proceeded to Donbun Village in Phakant Township, Myitkyina District. At the village Basic Education Middle School, Chairman of Phakant Township PDC U Min Swe reported on matters relating to economic, social, education, health, agriculture, livestock breeding and transport sectors.

Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo reported on providing of educational and health assistance to Indawgyi region. Next, the General presented gifts for the village-tract to Village Chairman U Kyaw Thaung and a colour TV for the school to Headmaster U Than Tun.

Speaking on the occasion, the General said that local people and service personnel are to make efforts harmoniously for gaining more development of Indawgyi region including Lonton Village-tract. Furthermore, parents, teachers and students should cooperate so as to nurture well-versed students to achieve success of the education goal — the modern and developed nation will be built through education.

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Measures for supplying cultivation water to Meiktila plain co-ordinated

YANGON, 8 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, arrived in Meiktila on 7 July.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended a coordination meeting on supplying cultivation water to Meiktila Plain. Present were Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Col Tin Oo Lwin of local station, officials and members of Township Agricultural Coordination Committee.

In his address, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said Meiktila District is in the dry zone. However, the farmers make effort for regional development with diligence and they expect rain. They also feel the heat in summer, he said.

Dams and reservoirs were built where they were needed in connection with greening of Anya region and tasks for availability of underground water were also implemented under the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, he said.

The Head of State gave guidance that dams are to be built in possible areas. River water pumping stations are to be built in the areas where dams could not be built. He pointed out that basic resources of a country are land, water, mountains and climate. Lt-Gen Ye Myint continued to say that at the times of Myanmar kings, there were 38 dams which benefited 288,251 acres of land in Mandalay Division. During the period from 1961-62 to 1988-89, altogether 23 dams were built to benefit 234,480 acres of land. During the period from 1988-89 to June 2004, a total of 40 dams were built to irrigate water to 333,353 acres of land in the division. As a total, there are now 101 dams benefiting 856,084 acres in Mandalay Division, he observed.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe toured Meiktila District on 13-4-2004 and during his tour he gave guidance to make efforts for supplying cultivation water in summer as well as in monsoon.

Afterwards, he inspected flow of water into Meiktila Lake, storage of water and dredging of the lake. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Nyaunggon Dam Project site and inspected it. The dam is located near Nyaunggon Village, Meiktila Township. It is 6,400 feet long and 40 feet high and it can benefit 150 acres of farmland.

On arrival at Taunggyay Dam Project site, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on progress of construction. The dam will be possible to supply over 4,000 acre-feet of water to Kyetmauktaung Dam beginning this rainy season. For the second phase, Kyaukdaga Dam Project is being implemented. — MNA
Delegate group of State service personnel continues reading proposal to Plenary Session of National Convention

YANGON, 8 July — The Plenary Session of the National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nayangshinpa Camp in Hmaukaw Township, Yangon Division, at 9 am today.

Delegate groups of State service personnel, one of the delegate groups to the National Convention, continued reading the proposal concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of legislative, executive and judicial power to be included in the State Constitution.

Present at the National Convention were Chairman of National Convention Convening Committee 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 Lan 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 Kayin League, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, Lahu National Development Party, Wa National Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party and Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization, independent representatives-elect, delegates of national races from Kachin State, Kayah State, Kayin State, Mon State, Rakhine State, Shan State (South) and Shan State (North), Shan State (East), Sagaing Division, Taninthayi Division, Bago Division, Magway Division, Mandalay Division, Yangon Division and Ayeyawady Division, delegates of intellec-
tuals and intelligentsia, delegates of workers from Kayin State, Kayah State, Kayin State, Mon State, Rakhine State, Shan State (South) and Shan State (North), Shan State (East), Sagaing Division, Taninthayi Division, Bago Division, Magway Division, Mandalay Division, Yangon Division and Ayeyawady Division, delegates of State service personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, the President’s Office, the Pyithu Bhittaw 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, Management Committee members, chairmen of National Peace and Development Convention, Chairman of National Convention, Chairman of National Convention Convening Committee 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 Lan Maung and Management Committee members and NC delegates signed the attendance register at Pyidaungsu Hall where the National Convention is being held and the Recreation Centre. U Tun Yin Law of Delegate Group of Political Parties presided over the meeting together with members of Political Parties presided over the meeting together with the permission of the meeting chairman as attendance was listed at 1,071 out of 1,088, accounting for 98.44 per cent.

Next, delegates of State service personnel read the proposal concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of legislative, executive and judicial power to be included in the State Constitution. U Aung Kyi, Minister of Home Affairs, submitted the proposal regarding management sector.

Delegate U Thaugu Tun of the Supreme Court read the proposal on the judicial and all remaining sectors regarding detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing and distribution of power legislative, executive and judicial power to be included in writing the State Constitution.

After that, the Plenary Session went into recess at 10.25 am. It continues at 9 am on 9 July. — MNA

Delegate U Nyan Tun of Attorney-General’s Office reads proposal — MNA

Delegate U Ba Myint of Ministry of Home Affairs reads proposal — MNA

Delegate U Thaugu Tun of Attorney-General’s Office reads proposal — MNA

Director (Meeting) U Than Aung and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi enter Plenary Session of National Convention — MNA

NCCC Chairman Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein signs attendance register at National Convention — MNA

NC delegates attend the Plenary Session — MNA

NC delegates sign attendance register — MNA

Member of the Panel of Chairmen and delegates seen at the Plenary Session of the National Convention — MNA

Tun Aung Chein of the Service Personnel and U Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Delegate Group of intelligentsia submitted the proposal relating to the meeting together with members of political parties.

Delegate Group of Workers, Dr U Than Aung Tun of the Supreme Court read the proposal on the judicial and all remaining sectors regarding detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing and distribution of power legislative, executive and judicial power to be included in writing the State Constitution.
Ancient European remains discovered in N-W China

XIAN, 7 July — Archaeologists confirmed that the human skeletons discovered this May in northwest China's Shaanxi Province belong to three Europeans who lived in China over 1,900 years ago.

"The physical characteristics of the bones showed it is a typical European race," said Wang Minghui, an expert with the archaeological institute under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

The skeletons were spotted at Zhonghuan Town of the province's easternmost Minhe Hui and Tu Autonomous County. Since 2002, archaeologists have excavated nine tombs of Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD) at a construction site of a brickfield in the town, but it was not until this May that they felt the skeletons in two tombs "very special", said Ren Xianyang, deputy director of the provincial archaeological institute, who added they invited Wang, who specializes in human bone identification, to take part in the study on the finds. Qinghai is on the southern section of the world-known land trade corridor — the Silk Road, linking China with Central and Western Asia and to the eastern shores of the Mediterranean begins in the country's northwest and runs 7,000 kilometers. — XINHUA

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANDO, 8 July — The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs 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 diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter 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 & 253988), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Sagaying Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Mawlamyine Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-54657).
Don’t smoke

Concrete weakness found in Paris terminal collapse

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Dated: 9 July, 2004

Chinese Premier sends congratulatory message to AU summit

Beijing, 7 July — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao delivered a congratulatory message to the third summit of the African Union (AU) on Tuesday.

“Since its inception two years ago, the AU has played a significant role in Africa’s solidarity and cooperation, regional conflict resolution and economic and social progress,” the message said.

According to a cleaning operator Aeroports de Paris (ADP) as it prepares for par-
NZ to introduce new guidelines for handling heart attacks

WELLINGTON, 7 July — New Zealand is developing new guidelines on the best ways to treat heart attacks caused by a country’s main killer — cardiovascular disease, New Zealand Press Association reported Wednesday.

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in New Zealand, accounting for more than four in every ten deaths, according to the Health Ministry. Death from all cardiovascular diseases is higher among Maori than the general population and coronary heart disease is the leading single cause of death for Maori.

Maori have the highest rate of hospital admissions for heart failure — nearly three times that of Europeans.

Pacific peoples have the highest mortality rate for cerebrovascular disease and the highest hospital discharge rate for stroke.

The chances of being dependent 12 months after a stroke is three times higher among Maori and Pacific peoples than among Europeans. The guidelines were being developed to better handle the disease which was more serious in New Zealand than other countries, Clinical Services Strategy Manager Andrew Holmes said in a statement.

“New Zealand has high rates of heart disease compared with other similar countries,” Holmes said. “In the coming years, the majority from the Pacific and Maori will be affected.”

“One of the recommendations is to extend the rapid discharge for first heart attacks patients,” Holmes said. “We know how to treat heart attacks, and its treatment costs hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars each year, so it’s important we take the time to get the guidelines that deliver the best health outcomes,” Holmes said.

He said the Cardiac Society, the Ministry of Health and the New Zealand Guidelines Group would work together to produce appropriate advice about the best management of acute coronary syndrome. He said there was considerable debate internationally and within New Zealand amongst health professionals about the effectiveness of medical treatment compared with surgical treatments.

“IT’S very difficult for doctors to have sufficient time to keep up with and compare the many new studies and decide what they mean for their day-to-day practice.”

Guidelines would help clinicians steer a path through the ongoing debate about whether and when acute invasive surgery or aggressive drug treatment gives the best long-term outcomes for heart attack patients, Holmes said. — MNA/Xinhua

HK students to attend national education course in Beijing

HONG KONG, 7 July — To enhance Hong Kong students’ understanding of the Chinese Mainland and strengthen their sense of national identity, a group of Hong Kong student leaders will attend a newly launched course in Beijing.

The two-day national education course will highlight current developments in the Mainland and allow the students to better understand and interact with the Mainland students.

Chief Executive Yang Chieh Hwa officiated at a flag presentation ceremony of the “Award Scheme for Hong Kong Outstanding Leaders: National Education Course” at Government House Tuesday.

Of the 180 participants, 46 are expected to take a leading role in promoting national education at schools upon completion of the course.

“During the trip, we will be received by officials of the central government in the Great Hall of the People,” said Wu Ka Man, a participant in the course who, like the others, wore a crisp white shirt. This was customized with the name “Brand Hong Kong "flying dragon" and a burgundy tie on which the dragon is also embroidered.

The students will also interview Chinese first space man Yang Li Wei and some Olympic champions.

These are golden opportunities that come only once in a lifetime,” Wu added. “I hope that I will gain a better understanding about the development of China,” said Lee Yi Kam, another participant. She is interested in the topic of law and will try to compare the different views between Hong Kong and Mainland students.

The course will be held from July 11 to July 21 at the University of Hong Kong, and Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications. It will include lectures on Chinese history and culture, and recent economic, political and technological developments in mainland.

The students will also go on visits to places of interest and participate in sharing sessions. — MNA/Xinhua

Austrian President Klestil dies on eve of retiring

VIENNA, 7 July — Austrian President Thomas Klestil, dies late on Tuesday aged 71 on the eve of his departure from office.

Doctors said earlier on Tuesday they could do nothing but hope and pray for Klestil’s survival after his heart stopped beating on Monday, triggering multiple organ failure.

A new government was formed on Monday to inform you that the President, Dr. Thomas Klestil, has died at 11:33 p.m. (2333 GMT), due to a continuing deterioration of his inner organs,” Dr Christoph Zielinski told reporters. The dying president had threatened in March to resign when more than 60 percent of his people voted to keep him in power.

Zielinski said Klestil’s family was at his bedside when he died and declined to give further details. Klestil was laid to rest late on Monday.

Klestil, who in 1996 was hospitalised twice with breathing difficulties, was under sedation and artificial respiration. He was due to step down on Thursday after two six-year terms and become a largely ceremonial post to Social Democrat Heinz Fischer. — MNA/Reuters

Panama Canal Authority tells ships to tighten security

PANAMA CITY, 7 July — The Panama Canal Authority has warned ships to tighten security against a possible terror attack or face being denied passage through the waterway linking the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

Juan Hector Diaz, the authority’s security chief, told Reuters on Tuesday that security has been ramped up to protect the canal, which handles 14,000 ships per year, the majority from the United States, Japan and China. “It’s for the well-being of everyone,” Diaz said. “It’s in Panama’s interest to protect itself from a ship that could be risky for the canal installations.”

The threat to deny ships passage comes as the canal authority implemented this month the global sea anti-terror law, known as the International Ship and Port Facility Security code. The United States has said it will strictly enforce the code, pledging to board all ships in its waters from July 1 and potentially turning away vessels not compliant with the new anti-terror measures.

“The new Panama Canal Authority security requirements will apply to all vessels arriving at Panama Canal waters,” the authority said on its web site. — MNA/Reuters

Russian military helicopter crash kills four

MOSCOW, 7 July — All four crewmen were killed when a Russian military helicopter crashed south of Moscow on Tuesday, local news agencies said.

The crash is the latest in a run of accidents involving MI-8 helicopters both in Russia and abroad, and comes a week after one of the craft on loan to the UN peacekeeping mission in Sierra Leone crashed into a hillside, killing 24 people.

Russian news agencies quoted the Air Force, said the MI-8 helicopter was one of a pair flying in the Tula region. The second aircraft landed and launched a search for the missing crew members. — MNA/Reuters

Study says old people may hold key to human civilization

WASHINGTON, 7 July — Old people may hold the key to human civilization, researchers said on Tuesday.

They found evidence that, around 30,000 years ago, many more people started living into old age, in turn fueling a population explosion.

Rachel Caspari of the University of Michigan and Sang-Hee Lee of the University of California at Riverside believe that groups in which old people survived better were more successful, in turn allowing more people to live into old age.

There has been a lot of speculation about what gave modern humans their evolutionary advantage. This research provides a simple explanation for why there has been such a proliferation of old people, Caspari said.

“We think with increases in longevity two things happened to increase survivorship,” Caspari said. “We think with increases in longevity two things happened to increase survivorship.”

Caspari, an anthropologist specializing in evolution, added in a telephone interview. — MNA/Reuters

Tower of London reclams ancient free-fire zone

LONDON, 7 July — The historic Tower of London has reclaimed a free-fire zone around its walls once deemed vital for its survival.

The entire eastern side of the Tower, palace and fortress of the monarchs of England for nearly 1,000 years, has been fully revealed with the creation of a giant esplanade 50 metres wide and 200 metres long.

“This has reopened the old Tower Liberties — a military free-fire zone, one arrow shot from the outer wall,” said archaeologist Graham Keevil.

The Liberties were an area of clear ground running round the outside of the moat which encircled the Tower of London reclaims ancient free-fire zone around its walls once deemed vital for its survival.

The entire eastern side of the Tower, palace and fortress of the monarchs of England for nearly 1,000 years, has been fully revealed with the creation of a giant esplanade 50 metres wide and 200 metres long. — MNA/Reuters

Porcupine bathe in a pool to cool off on 5 July, 2004, at Shangh hai Zoo in Shanghai, China. According to local media maximum temperature in Shanghai reached 37°C (99°F) on Monday. — INTERNET

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Royle wins claim for Manchester City dismissal

LONDON, 8 July — Former Manchester City manager Joe Royle has been awarded over £422,000 (777,400-dollar) compensation after a successful claim against the Premier League club.

Royle, now in charge at First Division club Ipswich Town, was sacked by City following their relegation from the top flight in 2001. He claimed he was entitled to compensation and a judge awarded him a total of £422,819.08 pounds.

City said they were considering an appeal. A statement on their website read: “The result is very disappointing. The judgment is contrary to the firm advice we received from our QC and leading experts.”

“It does not recognize the common understanding of when a club is relegated and we expect that the result will be reversed,” Royle’s legal team said.

Royle was manager at the club between 1989 and 1996, and had a second spell from 1998-2000. He was a player manager for the club between 2000 and 2001 when he was sacked.

He claimed he was entitled to compensation and a judge awarded him a total of £422,819.08 pounds.

Novo agrees four-year deal with Rangers

GLASGOW, 8 July — Rangers have beaten off competition from Scottish champions Celtic to sign Spanish striker Nacho Novo from Dundee in a 450,000-pound (829,000-dollar) deal.

The 25-year-old Novo spoke to local media at Rangers’ Murray Park training ground on Tuesday and described the move as “a dream come true” after signing a four-year deal with the Glasgow club.

Dundee accepted a 500,000-pound bid from Celtic for Novo last week but despite holding talks with them, the player, who scored 25 goals in Scotland last season, opted to join their bitter city rivals.

Argentina’s Andres d’Alessandro fights for the ball with Ecuador’s Ebelio Ordonez during their soccer match of the Copa America Peru 2004 in Chiclayo on 7 July, 2004.

Santini blames on FFA chairman

PARIS, 8 July — Jacques Santini, admitted on Tuesday that his position as outgoing coach affected France’s performance at Euro 2004 but put the blame on French Football Federation chairman Claude Simonet.

“I have been punished by the Federation,” Santini said. “I cannot avoid that my contract has been renewed,” the former France coach told sports weekly France Football.

“Mr. Royle has received extra reward for failure,” said former French international Jean-Marc Desailly.

The absence of a player who participated in Brazil’s 2002 World Cup is a setback to a squad lacking in top-flight experience.

Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira selectors left several top class players out of the Copa America squad, including the Spanish-based trio of Ronaldo, Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos.

Instead, he has opted for a younger group of players, many of who are on the fringe of the national team.

The injury is also a blow for Kleber, who has lost his place in the starting line-up in the last year and had been hoping for a good Copa America to help him win back his place.

Brazil have two other injury worries, Flavergo goalkeeper Julio Cesar, standing in for the absent of Dida, has recovered rapidly from a thigh strain and trained normally on Tuesday.

Chelsea midfielder Julio Baptista was also responding to treatment for an inflated ankle tendon and was likely to be fit for Brazil’s second game against Costa Rica, Lasmar said.

Desailly leaves Chelsea

LONDON, 8 July — Chelsea captain Marcel Desailly left the club on Tuesday, ending his contract with the club by mutual consent. Chelsea’s web site said in a statement that Desailly would return to the south of France to consider his future.

The defender spent six years at Chelsea, making 222 appearances.

Desailly, 35, retired from international soccer on July 4, after France was eliminated in the quarter-finals of Euro 2004. He has made a record 116 appearances for France, including winning the 1998 World Cup and 2000 European Championship.
**Scholars from US observe Plenary Session of National Convention**

**YANGON, 8 July** — Scholars from Yale University, Columbia University and New York University in the United States of America led by Professor Daw Win Win Kyi of Bergen Community College, Yale University, visited the Plenary Session of the National Convention at the Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnhapin Camp in Hmauby Township at 8.30 am today. The scholars, accompanied by officials of Office of the Chief of Military Intelligence, arrived at the Plenary Session of the National Convention where they were welcomed by National Convention Convention Commission member Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and officials. Next, the scholars observed the Plenary Session of the National Convention. They were cordially greeted by Chairman of NCCC State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Secretary of NCCC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Chairman of NCC Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and committee members at Pyidaungsu Hall.

The scholars had documentary photos taken inside and in front of Pyidaungsu Hall. Afterwards, MRTV-3 interviewed Prof Daw Win Win Kyi and member of the study group, Dr Jon Abdullah Yasin of Harvard University concerning the National Convention.

Next, the scholars had their breakfast hosted by NCCC at Anawrahta Yektha of Nyaungnhapin Camp. The scholars toured Nyaungnhapin Camp and left there at 10 am. — MNA

**Yangon Command Commander’s Shield Football Tournament concludes**

**YANGON, 8 July** — The final match and prize-presentation ceremony of Yangon Command Commander’s Shield Football Tournament took place at the football ground of the Command in Mingaladon Township here this afternoon. Among the spectators were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Hay, Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin and wife, senior military officers, military region commanders and station commanders and their wives, officers and other ranks and their families.

In the final match, the Central Ordnance Depot Team beat No 323 Supply and Transport Team 6-4. At the prize-presentation ceremony No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi, Brig-Gen Aung Khin Soe of Mingaladon Station and Mingaladon Station Commander Brig-Gen Min Thein gave away prizes to the footballers individually.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented the championship shield to the Central Ordnance Depot Team, which has won the first prize three times consecutively. — MNA

**Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects construction, agriculture in Ayeyawady Division**

**YANGON, 8 July** — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials, arrived Hinthada, Ayeyawady Division, on July 8.

They met officers, other ranks and families of regiments and units at Ayeyamin hall and gave instructions on measures to be taken for education and health as well as cultivation and livestock breeding to earn more income. Next, they cordially greeted those present. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented cash to Maternal and Child Welfare Association of the local battalion and inspected cultivation and livestock breeding on a manageable scale. Later, they went to Hinthada University and inspected the library and progress of construction.

At Myokwin river water pumping project in Myokwin of Hinthada Township, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than heard reports related to the project and instructed officials to cooperate tasks among departments concerned for its completion in time. The project will have one main canal and 15 feeder canals. The project will benefit 6,000 acres of land in the first phase and 3,000 acres in the second.

On arrival at Kunchaung Dam project site, officials reported on progress of tasks. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attended to the needs. The dam is being built for irrigating 25,000 acres of land in Ingapi Township. The earth dam is 194 feet high. 6,600 feet long. The conduit and the spillway are of reinforced concrete. The dam can generate five megawatt of electricity. On arrival at Ma Mya Dam Project in Hninwataung of Myanmar Township, they inspected the conduit, the control tower, the embankment and spillway. The earthen dam has 11,800 feet by 150 feet embankment. The conduit and the spillway are of reinforced concrete. The dam can store 70,000 acre feet of water. On completion, the dam can irrigate 10,000 acres of land in Myanmar Township and prevent floods in farmlands both sides of Ma Mya Creek. Moreover, the dam will be possible to generate two megawatt of electricity.

At Kunchaung-2 Dam Project site, they heard reports on building of the dam by officials and fulfilled the requirements. Next, they inspected the control tower and building of embankment with the use of heavy machinery. The earthen dam will be 16720 feet long and 135 feet high. The conduit and the spillway are being built of reinforced concrete. The dam can store 100,000 acre-feet of water and benefit 20,000 acres of farmland. It can generate two megawatt of electricity. Now, 80 per cent of the project were completed. Next, they proceeded to 400 acres of model paddy plantation in Lahapass Village and viewed demonstration of modern cultivation technology. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on boosting production of monsoon paddy and efforts to be made for cultivation of double cropping. — MNA