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

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Mongolia

YANGON, 11 July — On the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of Mongolia, which falls on 11 July 2004, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Natsagin Bagabandi, President of Mongolia. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects construction of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon), National Race Village

YANGON, 10 July — Chairman of Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected construction of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon) and National Race Village this morning.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments, arrived at the site for construction of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon) near Yadana Road in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township. They were welcomed by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and officials.

Minister Col Thein Nyunt reported on location and area of the college, construction of buildings including the three-storey main lecture hall, power and water supply and greening tasks.

Next, Director-General of Education and Training Department of the Ministry of PBANRDA Col Than Win reported on (See page 8)

New building for BEPS, hospital opened in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township

YANGON, 10 July — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremonies to open the People’s Hospital and new building of Basic Education Primary School No 7 built by Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development of the Ministry of Construction in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township this morning.

Also present on the occasions were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the mayor, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, departmental personnel and wellwishers.

At 9.20 am, the ceremony to open Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township People’s Hospital was held. The commander, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein and Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo formally opened the hospital. Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt planted a Myinzuthaka tree to mark the opening ceremony.

Next, he inspected wards, operation theatre, store laboratory at the hospital. The 16-bed People’s Hospital is 122 feet by 104 feet one-storey RC building. (See page 8)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Regional development through united and collective efforts

Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Sho Mann of the Ministry of Defence and party, on 4 July, toured Mohynin, Tanai, Lotton village in Mohynin Township, Dunbun village and Shuduzut village in Phakant Township, Kachin State, and inspected regional development tasks.

In his meeting with departmental personnel, members of social organizations, teachers and students at Hukaung Hall in Tanai, the General said that the State, the Tatmadaw, the people and all the service personnel will have to cooperate in making efforts in the interests of the State upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

The Government is implementing regional development tasks throughout the country. Systematic arrangements are being made for better transport to link one region and another. As there emerged Shwebo-Myitkyina road and Mandalay-Tagaung-Shwegu-Bhamo-Myitkyina road, people living in Kachin State have now access to other regions of the nation.

With the emergence of new roads and bridges in Kachin State, there can be seen development in the transport and other sectors. Universities and colleges have been built in Myitkyina and other major towns such as Bhamo and Mohynin.

As there are good economic foundations in Phakant Township, the State, with the aim of developing the township, is fulfilling the needs in economic, education and health sectors. Similarly, Tanai Township, blessed with natural resources, has a great potential for regional development and thus local people are to try their best for development of their region.

As regards the agriculture sector of Kachin State, paddy, edible oil crops, beans and pulses and other crops are grown in the state and there is food sufficiency in the region.

It is safe to say that better transportation and successful implementation of regional development tasks are the results of stability in the region.

We firmly believe that the State, the Tatmadaw, the people and all the service personnel will double their efforts to enable the entire national people to enjoy the fruits of peace and regional development.

**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

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**Facts about MWAF lectured at Ministry of Commerce**

Yangon, 10 July — Vice-President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Khin Lay That gave a lecture on facts about MWAF at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Commerce this morning.

First, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone extended greetings. Next, Vice-President Daw Khin Lay That explained emergence of the Federation and background history, seven objectives, organizational set up, duties and functions of 16 working groups and urged those present to cooperate on their own accord in implementation of the noble objectives of the Federation.

Adviser to the Economic Working Group of the Federation wife of the minister Daw Aye Pyi Wai Khin presented souvenir to the Vice-President.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Presidents of the MWAF Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, Patron of Yangon Division Organization for Women’s Affairs Daw Khin Thet Huy, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, departmental heads and their wives, executives of the Federation and women staff totalling about 250.

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**Meeting of ASEAN Co-ordinating Committee on Services held**

Yangon, 10 July — The 37th Meeting of the ASEAN Co-ordinating Committee on Services held by the Union of Myanmar commenced at Traders Hotel this morning.

Present on the occasion were Secretary of the Work Committee for Implementation of ASEAN Economic Agreements Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Huy, Deputy Auditor-General Daw Thin Thin, members of the work committee, members of the Committee on Trade in Services, representatives of ASEAN countries — Brunei, Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, officials of the ASEAN Secretariat and departmental officials of the ministries concerned.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu extended greetings. Secretary of the Sub-committee on Trade in Services Director-General U Khin Maung Latt of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism Services gave a speech.

Next, they discussed gradually reducing the constraints in construction, tourism, health care, waterway transport, communication and economic services concerning the trade in services in ASEAN countries. The meeting will be held till 13 July. — MNA
875 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq last year

WASHINGTON, 10 July — As of Friday, 9 July, 875 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 651 died as a result of hostile action and 224 died of non-hostile causes.

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 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 773 US soldiers have died — 542 as a result of hostile action and 231 as a result of non-hostile causes.

The latest deaths reported by ministry:

— A soldier died Thursday in a non-hostile incident.

US-led forces death toll passes 1,000

Baghdad, 9 July — In the 466 days since the invasion and occupation of Iraq, US-led forces have suffered 1,002 fatalities. According to the US Department of Defense (DOD), 24 occupation soldiers have died in the first nine days of July, bringing the total to 1,002. Twenty-two of the military fatalities in July have been US soldiers.

Of the total figure, there have been 881 US military fatalities, 60 British, and 60 listed as other. More than 650 of the 881 US fatalities have been attributed to what the DOD lists as "enemy fire.

April 2004 was the most costly month in terms of casualties; the DOD listed 135 US fatalities, mostly due to fighting in and around Falluja.

The number of wounded also soared for that month, reaching 1157, eight times higher than the monthly average since the March 2003 invasion.

The total number of wounded as of 26 June is 5394, with May and June registering higher-than-average figures: 742 and 444, respectively. However, the DOD does not report the number of non-combat related wounded.

In recent weeks, political analysts have warned that the US military could be in a untenable situation in Iraq. Recent reports that the number of heavily-armed Iraqi fighters is more than 20,000 have added to fears that the US, and by default, the US-appointed Iraqi government, may be facing a quagmire.

More than 5,390 US soldiers have been wounded in Iraq. US reports that foreign fighters were behind the attacks on US-led forces were debunked last week when American officials admitted that foreigners accounted for less than two per cent of 5,700 “security risk” detainees currently held throughout Iraq.

Sudan FM warns US not to create Iraq-style crisis over Darfur

Khartoum, 9 July — Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Ismail warned Washington not to spark an Iraq-style crisis over the civil war in Darfur, insisting that US sanctions threats only aggravated the situation.

Ismail warned “those voices which have drawn the world to the Iraq war not to take it to a new war which it will be difficult to disengage from.”

In the interview with the independent Al-Rai Al-Aam daily, the minister said US calls for the UN Security Council to consider sanctions only weakened his government’s efforts to resolve the crisis and complicated its relationship with the world body.

They also risked “weakening the credibility of agreements recently concluded with the UN Secretary General (Kofi Annan) and US Secretary of State (Colin Powell)” in which Khartoum undertook co-sign the state-sponsored Arab militias held responsible for much of the suffering in Darfur.

Khartoum has already drawn up a draft Security Council resolution that would impose sanctions against armed militia leaders and has threatened to widen the scope of the text to cover government officials if Khartoum does not move quickly to rein in abuses.

The Sudanese Foreign Minister was speaking on his return from an African Union summit in Addis Ababa, at which the regional body approved the deployment of 300 armed troops in Darfur by the end of the month to protect its observers and civilians in the region.

The Al-Sahafa daily meanwhile reported that Sudanese President Omar al- Bashir would leave for Ginevra in West Darfur State, for talks with his Chadian counterpart Idriss Deby on the deployment of a joint military force to patrol the common border.

China steps up small town construction

Beijing, 9 July — Chinese Minister of Construction and Housing Guangtian told a national conference here Thursday that China would speed up small town construction with certain priorities, and various types of trade, tourism and agriculture-based small towns would be helped to be established in the impending future.

The development of China’s small towns is one of the most important national strategies to boost rural economic and social development, Wang said, noting that active but prudent promotion of the small town construction should help prevent rapid population from rushing into cities.

However, the construction minister noted that the establishment of such towns should have certain priorities, stressing that some key villages and counties with good economic foundation should be put on the first line of the name list. Wang also said the urbanization progress should be made in a humanistic, comprehensive, coordinated and sustainable manner, using Chinese local resources to explore and make use of natural resources in a rational way, and efforts to preserve cultural resources and to harmonize the economic growth, development of human beings, natural resources and environment.

An Iraqi woman looks over the remains of her family belongings in her burnt-out home in Baghdad, on 8 July, 2004. She said that American forces fired into the home Wednesday from the adjacent building, starting an electrical fire. —Internet

Iraqi militants threaten to kill Bulgarian hostages

Dubai, 9 July — Militants in Iraq threatened in a video tape broadcast on Thursday to kill two Bulgarian hostages within 24 hours unless US-led forces freed prisoners.

The Arabic satellite television station Al-Jazeera said the tape had come from the Tawfik and Jihad group headed by Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who has been accused by Washington of links to Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaeda.

The tape showed two men, identified as Bulgarians, sitting in front of their captors and said they would be killed unless imprisoned militants were released.

There was no immediate comment from Bulgarian officials, and it was not clear whether the captive Bulgarian soldiers were military personnel or civilians.

Bulgaria has been an ally of the United States over Iraq and has contributed troops to US-led forces.

A number of foreigners have been kidnapped in Iraq in the past few months.

At least three have been killed by their kidnappers, while some have been freed and others remain captive.

Zarqawi’s group has claimed responsibility for the beheading of two civilians, an American and a South Korean.

Another group killed an Italian citizen, but later freed three of his colleagues.

Militants claimed responsibility for killing captive US soldiers in Kuwait and the Netherlands Maupin, but there has been no independent confirmation.

China appoints new agriculture secretary

Manila, 10 July — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo announced Friday the appointment of Arthur Yap as her new Secretary of Agriculture to replace Luis Lorenzo who would assume chairmanship of the state-run Land Bank of the Philippines.

Lorenzo himself recommended Yap as his successor. Philippine Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye told reporters. Yap brings to the Cabinet a wealth of experience in food supply management, having been administrator of the National Food Authority and concurrent chairman of the Food Terminal Inc. since 2002, a Presidential Palace statement said.

He is expected to pursue his predecessor’s programmes at the Agriculture Department, particularly those involving Arroyo’s objective of creating 10 million jobs in the next six years of her administration. — MNA/Xinhua

An Iraqi embassy guard stands outside the Philippines Embassy in Baghdad, on 8 July, 2004. — Internet

Internet
British moviegoers applaud Moore’s anti-Bush Fahrenheit 9/11

LONDON, 9 July—Moviegoers in London, capital of the staunchest ally of the United States in the war in Iraq, gave a generally warm reception to the prize-winning polemical documentary Fahrenheit 9/11 which savagely attacks US President George W. Bush.

The film, by Michael Moore, which denounces the war and Bush’s motives for embarking on it, won the top prize at this year’s Cannes film festival and opened in London on Friday. But they doubted that it would have any effect on British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who took the country into the war even though many Britons were opposed, or on domestic politics.

“The movie was all right, a bit partisan but it’s good stuff, quite moving,” said Richard, 35. “Moore is partisan but I think everybody knows that. He doesn’t hide it.”

“I don’t think anyone will be greatly moved,” said Sarah, 22. “It’s a bit like watching Michael Moore performing a hard hitting, opinionated and very passionate monologue.”

Andrew, 35, said: “I could have a small impact on Blair and his public support, but I think most of the audience of this film is already opposed to Blair and the war.”

“I wasn’t too enthused and outraged as all of British media had suggested.”

— Internet

Hoon asks Iraqis to probe death of eight British soldiers in Iraq

BRITISH CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT (The CCIO) The files of British investigators on the presumed murders of sergeant Simon Cullingworth and sapper Luke Alisop last June as well on the death of six soldiers belonging to the Royal Marines military unit as part of the Iraq war.

In a communique, he said he had forwarded to the Iraq War Central Criminal Court (CCCI), which was established by the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) last year, the CPA’s handed over power to Iraq’s interim government on June 28.

China hopes for early restoration of security in Iraq

BRITISH CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT (The CCCI) The CCCI represents the best prospect of dealing with such cases in an expeditious and fair manner as Iraq law has a bar to extraditing its own nationals to a foreign state, including the UK.”

The decision was made so as to fall into line with regulations of the CCCI, which was established by the US-led Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) last year, he said.

China and Iraq agree to cooperate in such fields as politics, economy, education, science and technology, according to the agreement. China is willing to strengthen the cooperation and dialogue.

Chinese cancer medicine approved for clinic use in Russia

BRAZIL, 9 July—A kind of medical injection made up of traditional Chinese medicine has been recently permitted by the Russian health authority for clinic application for cancer treatment, sources with Chinese health authority said on Thursday.

The Kanglai injection contains active substance which is extracted from herb medicines and capable of killing cancer cells and improving people’s immunity as well, said sources from the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

The remedy was first introduced and produced by the Zhejiang Kanglai Pharmaceutical Co Ltd in 1997. It is widely applied in more than 2,000 Chinese hospitals for over 400,000 cancer patients.

Iraqi politicians loyal to the Shi’ite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and local children chant in the street in the Sadr City district of Baghdad, on 9 July, 2004. — Internet

Chinese, Dutch congress leaders vow to boost ties

THE HAGUE (The Netherlands), 9 July — Chinese and Dutch congress leaders on Thursday pledged to boost the ties between the National People’s Congress (NPC), China’s top legislature, and Dutch Parliament as well as those between the two countries at large.

The pledge was made during the talks between NPC Standing Committee Vice-Chairman and Dutch Congress President Van Zhaoguo and Yvonne Timmerman-Buck, president of the First Chamber of the State-General of the Netherlands, and her colleague Frans Weisgals, president of the Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament.

Bilateral relations between China and the Netherlands have been developing smoothly, Wang said.

He noted that bilateral cooperation in such fields as politics, economy, education, science and technology has been enhanced.

China appreciates the Netherlands for its adherence to the one-China policy, said the NPC vice-chairman.

Wang said China hopes the Netherlands could push forward the China-EU all-round strategic partnership into a higher level during its tenure as the EU presidency. The Netherlands took over the rotating presidency of the EU on July 1.

Gorst to the ties between the two parliaments, Wang said such ties have become an important part of the relations.

The Netherlands and Chinese side is willing to continue to push forward the relations.

The Netherlands took over the EU presidency for its adherence to the China-EU all-round strategic partnership.

Wang arrived in the Netherlands on July 6 for an official good-will visit. The Netherlands is the first leg of Wang’s tour of four European countries, which will also take him to Iceland, Malta and Austria.

— MNA/Xinhua

Mortar fire rains down on Iraqi cities

BAGHDAD, 9 July—A loud blast, which a US security contractor said was due to mortar fire, shook central Baghdad, sending a plume of white smoke into the air.

"We had a mortar attack," the contractor said near the al-Sadr hotel as ambulances and police cars, sirens wailing, rushed to the scene late on Friday.

Witnesses said there were several injuries. A Reuters correspondent said the blast appeared to have occurred near the hotel, although this could not be immediately confirmed.

Abu-al-Adeem Muhammad, Aljazeera’s correspondent in Baghdad, said the missiles passed over the Aljazeera office, which is situated few kilometres from al-Sadr hotel.

Four Iraqi deaths were reported, including a six-year-old boy and another wounded by mortar fire on Friday in a second day of heavy fighting in the city of Samarra, a hospital source said.

“We have received two dead bodies and one injured Iraqi,” said Abdel Hamid al-Samarrati, director of the general hospital in the town, 125 kilometres (75 miles) north of the Iraqi capital, adding that the incident happened at 20:50 (1650 GMT).

Local residents said US forces in the area of firing the mortars, but a US military spokesman said he had no information at present about the incident. Five US soldiers and six Iraqis, including two national guards individuals, were killed in the defiant Sunni Muslim stronghold on Thursday during a car bomb and mortar attack on a national guard station, followed by US-led military retaliation.

— Internet

Iraqi workers wait with their belongings inside a departure lobby after airport officials stop them leaving for Iraq at Manilla’s international airport on 8 July, 2004. — Internet
EU threatens to sue Britain over anti-“booze cruise” laws

BRUSSELS, 9 July — Britain must lose its cloakdown on smuggling or could face court action for deterring Britons from buying cheap drink and tobacco abroad, the European Commission said on Wednesday.

The Commission and Britain have long argued over the interpretation of European Union laws allowing Britons to go on booze cruises to France to escape high excise duties on alcohol and tobacco.

British authorities have used their discretion to confiscate goods and cars from people returning with large amounts of alcohol and cigarettes, a policy the EU executive said was unacceptable.

The UK sanctions, which are based on defying the national guard and sometimes cars, quite often go too far and interfere with people exercising the rights given to them by the EU’s internal market. ’European Internal Market Commissioner Frits Bolkestein said in a statement. “This is obviously not acceptable.”

If Britain fails to change its policy, it could face legal action at the EU’s top court for failing to respect EU laws, the Commission said in the statement.

The Commission acted after receiving complaints from travelers. There was no immediate comment from London.

EU rules allow member citizens to buy goods while abroad and not for profit. The row is over the punishments which Britain imposes on people returning home with drink and cigarettes for friends and family.

The British Treasury has defended its determination to fight smugglers, saying Britons who consumed alcohol and tobacco was costing taxpayers four billion pounds (7.41 billion US dollars).

EU guidelines introduced after duty fees were abolished say travelers can bring home up to 90 litres of wine, 200 litres of beer and 800 cigarettes.

In 2001, the Commission reprimanded London for the first time, but British policies could take years to change.

Scientists said in a report released Thursday.

Scientists charged on Thursday.

Report says US science policy swayed by politics

WASHINGTON, 9 July — The Bush Administration is still packing scientific advisory panels with ideologues and its determination to fight smugglers, a group of scientists charged on Thursday.

The Union of Concerned Scientists said in a report that the Administration’s policies could take years to undo and that the best and brightest would be frightened away from jobs in the National Institutes of Health and other government institutions.

The union, chaired by Dr. Kurt Gottfried, Emeritus Professor of Physics at Stanford University in California and Dr. George Weinstock of Baylor College of Medicine in Texas, said they had been asked inappropriate questions when they were nominated.

Weinstock said a staffer at the Health and Human Services Department called to ask “leading political questions”. “There is no doubt in my mind that these questions represented a political litmus test,” he said in a statement.

Gottfried said he received a similar call in which he was asked about his own embryonic stem cell research, which the White House opposes.

Four US soldiers, two Iraqi national guards killed in mortar strike

BAGHDAD, 9 July — Four US soldiers and two Iraqi national guards were killed in a mortar attack Thursday that collapsed the Iraqi national guard headquarters in Samarra, some 110 kilometres north of Baghdad, a US military spokesman said.

Eighteen soldiers from the US 1st Infantry Division and three Iraqi national guard soldiers were also wounded in the attack at approximately 10:55 am local time (0655 GMT).

“There was a mortar attack on the Iraqi national guard headquarters in Samarra. They fired four mortar rounds, striking and collapsing the building used by the national guard and 1st Infantry Division soldiers,” said the division’s spokesman.

The US troops fired back with four 120-millimetre mortar rounds at the guerrillas’ suspected targets, he added.

Earlier, another US military spokesman said that three US soldiers and one Iraqi national guard were killed in the mortar attack.

Meanwhile, reports said four Iraqi civilians were killed and about 30 others were injured in fierce clashes between guerrillas and the Iraqi security forces backed by US-led multinational forces Thursday in Samarra.

US helicopters over the city, opening fire at some suspected targets while the US tanks were in a different part of the city, according to the reports.

Samarra has been a hotbed of insurgency against the US-led multinational forces in Iraq.

Britain receives over 90 compensation claims from Iraqi families

LONDON, 9 July — The British Ministry of Defence (MoD) said Thursday that it has received 91 claims from Iraqi families that demanded compensation for the deaths of their relatives allegedly caused by British troops.

According to the MoD, it had rejected 54 compensation claims, accepted three and there were 34 cases remain to be decided.

Fifty-two of the claims covered Iraqis allegedly shot by British troops and others included fatalities due to road traffic accidents and unexploded ordnance, the MoD said to the British Parliament in a statement.

Four claims related to deaths in detention, the British Treasury has defended its determination to fight smugglers, saying Britons who consumed alcohol and tobacco was costing taxpayers four billion pounds (7.41 billion US dollars).

The US troops fired back with four 120-millimetre mortar rounds at the guerrillas’ suspected targets, he added.

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Blair faces damaging report over Iraqi arms claim

LONDON, 10 July — British Prime Minister Tony Blair is facing a fresh setback as local media report that an inquiry will conclude the claim that Saddam Hussein could deploy weapons of mass destruction (WMD) within 45 minutes was “vague and poorly founded”.

The 45-minute claim, used by Blair to justify war on Iraq, was made four times in the British Government’s dossier on Iraq’s WMD issued in September 2002, including in Blair’s foreword.

Since no such banned weapons have been found in Iraq, the 45-minute claim has been discredited. Even Blair himself has admitted those weapons may never be discovered.

On Friday, the Evening Standard newspaper said Lord Butler’s report on prewar intelligence, to be published on July 14, will conclude the claim “should never have been published because it was poorly sourced and vague”.

According to the newspaper, which did not reveal the source of its report, Lord Butler will also say Foreign Secretary Jack Straw overruled legal advice that the Iraq war would be unlawful without a second UN resolution.

A BBC report quoted a member of the inquiry team as saying Friday that the Butler’s report will highlight the “limitations” of intelligence.

Earlier this week, the Financial Times, citing people familiar with the contents of the report, said that the report is expected to conclude that the intelligence to substantiate the claim was of insufficient quality and intelligence gathered on Iraq was inadequate.

It was also understood that the report criticizes the credibility of the source of the 45-minute claim and the process by which the information was assessed, the Financial Times newspaper added.

However, Commons leader Peter Hain warned against reading too much into media speculation ahead of the report’s publication. Downing Street has refused to comment ahead of the report’s publication.

Lord Butler’s criticism is also expected to get repercussions from both MI6, which gathered the intelligence, and the joint intelligence committee, which assessed its inclusion in the government dossier, according to the local media.

Iraqi PM cancels visit to EU

BRUSSELS, 10 July — Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi has cancelled his visit to Brussels scheduled on Monday due to the worsening security situation in his country. European Union (EU) official said Friday.

“We are told yesterday that Allawi couldn’t come next week,” said Dutch ambassador to the EU Thoms de Bruijn at a briefing on the upcoming EU foreign ministers’ meeting to be held from Monday to Tuesday.

Bruijn said Allawi had accepted the invitation issued last month by the Netherlands, which is at the helm of the rotating EU presidency.

The invitation was aimed to let Allawi meet EU foreign ministers to discuss face-to-face how EU member states can contribute to Iraq’s reconstruction.

The replacement of Allawi, whether it is an Iraqi foreign minister or not, is still under discussion, according to Bruijn. — MNA/Reuters

China, ASEAN declare to enhance regional judicial cooperation

KUNMING, 10 July — The two-day China-Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Prosecutors-General Conference concluded Friday with a joint declaration of establishing a cooperative mechanism in the fight against cross-border organized crimes.

Jia Chunwang, procurator-general of the Chinese Supreme People’s Procuratorate, and his counterparts of ten ASEAN members Friday evening signed the declaration in Kunming, capital of southwestern China’s Yunnan Province.

All procurators-general acknowledged that under the accelerating globalization of economy and information, it is necessary to strengthen the regional judicial cooperation to find effective means to deal with non-traditional challenges and threats, said the declaration.

All of them agreed to launch close cooperation in fighting against terrorism, drug trafficking, money laundering, human and weapon smuggling, and other cross-border crimes in line with related international laws and conventions.

They also vowed to widen the judicial cooperative fields and set up active judicial cooperation in collective evidence, investigating suspects and witnesses, seeking lost properties and extraditing criminals, the declaration said.

In order to improve cooperative efficiency, they decided to build special networks concerning information collection, search, exchange and transfer to enhance cooperative efficiency.

The joint declaration shows that China and ASEAN countries have achieved comprehensive agreements in fighting against cross-border crimes to maintain the regional stability, said Jia Chunwang.

China and ASEAN countries have decided to establish a regular annual meeting mechanism of procurators-general.

The next meeting will be held in Thailand in 2005. Due to the diversified legal systems in different Asian countries, some loopholes certainly exist in the fight against the transnational crimes.

In recent years, China and the ASEAN countries have enhanced their direct cooperation in specific judicial fields, and have made remarkable progress in the combat against cross-border crimes.

Singapore asks India to concentrate Eastwards

NEW DELHI, 10 July — Visiting Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong asked Friday New Delhi to “look east” more and stressed that his nation wanted to have enlarged investments in India.

Goh arrived here on a three-day trip Thursday night to become the first head of government to visit India after the United Progressive Alliance government assumed office in May.

In a statement to the Press, Goh said he was looking forward to enhancing bilateral relations during his stay here.

Leading a high-level delegation, including Foreign Minister S Jayakumar and Trade and Industry Minister George Yeo, Goh is scheduled to hold discussions with Manmohan Singh besides External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh, Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath and former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

He will also call on President APJ Abdul Kalam and Vice-President Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and meet Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

On the economic front, he will declare the launch of a Singapore-India partnership fund with the support of the Confederation of India Industry and the Singapore business federation to encourage exchanges between the two nations.

The past decade has witnessed an important expansion in bilateral economic relations between Singapore and India.

Singapore is India’s largest trading partner in ASEAN with a trade turnover of 2.9 billion US dollars and also the biggest ASEAN investor in the nation. — MNA/Reuters

Malaysian naval fleet concludes Shanghai tour

SINGAPORE, 10 July — The Malaysian naval fleet under the command of Captain Janul Bin Osman and Captain Zulkifli Abubakar left here Friday. The fleet includes the multi-purpose supply KD Sri Indera Sakti and the frigate KD Jebata with 476 officers and sailors aboard.

During their four-day goodwill visit to Shanghai, Wang Dedong, commander of the Shanghai naval base, met with Osman and Abubakar and other senior officers of the Malaysian Navy.

The Malaysian guests visited a missile frigate designed and made by China and toured some scenic spots in Shanghai. KD Sri Indera Sakti, with a tonnage of 4,500 tons, has served the Navy for ten years.

This is the second visit to Shanghai by a Malaysian naval fleet following a tour in August 2002. — MNA/Inphoo

US soldier dies of wounds in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 10 July — A US soldier died of wounds sustained when guerrillas attacked his patrol in Baghdad, a US military spokesman said on Friday.

The soldiers came under attack at 11:30 pm (1930 GMT) on Thursday. US forces detained five suspected guerrillas during the patrol.

The death brought to at least 652 the number of US soldiers killed in Iraq since the start of last year’s invasion. — MNA/Reuters

A runner is chased by a fighting bull during a San Fermin bullrun in Pamplona, Spain, on Friday, 9 July, 2004. — INTERNET

Cars flee from the scene of an attack believed to be against a US convoy on a highway between Baghdad and the city of Samarra. A hostage drama snared Iraq, with a Filipino threatened with beheading and two Bulgarians reportedly snatched, as clerics attacked the government for colluding with its former US-led occupiers. — INTERNET
Water supply tasks carried out for rural development

An artesian well at Kyundaw Village in Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Division. — PBANRDA

A tubewell sinking truck in action in Pyibin Village, Chaik Township, Magway Division, to supply potable water to rural people. — PBANRDA

Rural people living in Yone Village in Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Division, are fetching potable water from a tubewell. — PBANRDA

Underground water tapping project is being implemented in Thazi Village, Gyobinkauk Township, Bago Division. — PBANRDA

A tubewell is being sunk to supply water to the people living in Myitkyin Model Village in Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Division. — PBANRDA

Water is being supplied to the villagers from the tubewell in Nyaungbinkan Village, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Division. — PBANRDA

An artesian well at Kyundaw Village in Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Division. — PBANRDA

Underground water tapping project is being implemented in Thazi Village, Gyobinkauk Township, Bago Division. — PBANRDA

A tubewell sinking truck in action in Pyibin Village, Chaik Township, Magway Division, to supply potable water to rural people. — PBANRDA

Water is being supplied to the villagers from the tubewell in Nyaungbinkan Village, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Division. — PBANRDA
Prime Minister inspects construction...

(From page 1)

construction of the three-storey main lecture hall, three- storey hostels, mess, staff quarter and residence for the principal and lecture halls.

Principal of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon) U Sein Huy reported on strength of service personnel, organizational setup, subjects conducted, number of students in academic years, degrees and diplomas conferred and arrangements for opening of courses at the college now under construction.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt fulfilled the requirements and gave instructions on systematic construction of the college magnificently in accord with the set standard. Next, the Prime Minister inspected the scale model of the college and the site.

New building for BEPS, hospital...

(From page 1)

Next, the General and party attended the ceremony to open BEPS No 7 on Ward 168. The commander, Minister for Education U Than Aung and Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein formally opened the new school building of the school. At the ceremony, Director General Col Aung Win of DHSHD reported that the 16-bed hospital was built in accord with the instruction to build a hospital to be able to provide health care to local people given by the Chairman of the National Health Committee at the opening ceremony of the new building of BEPS No 6 on 20 July 2003.

In addition, the two-storey building of BEPS No 7 was built with a view to upgrading it into BEMS in the future. 2004-2005 academic year, DHSHD built buildings of 20 schools.

Adviser to the department Col Tin Tun handed over documents related to the hospital to Acting Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung of Health Department and documents related to the school building to Director-General U Aye Kya of No 3 Basic Education Department.

Next, the General presented 1,510 dozens of exercise books and 755 dozens of pencils for BEPS Nos 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 to respective school heads and students. The commander accepted K 5.19 million for the hospital from wellwishers. Similarly, the Minister for Education accepted K 2.158 million for the school from wellwishers. 

Afterwards, Dr Ye Myint Lay of the hospital and Headmistress Daw Myint Myint Khaung expressed gratitude. On behalf of the MEC Prime Minister, Minister for Education U Than Aung delivered an address, saying that good foundations have emerged simultaneously for promotion U Than Aung delivered an address, saying that good foundations have emerged simultaneously for public education and for the school.

The school is 260 feet by 30 feet two-storey RC building comprising 14 classrooms. — MNA

The government, on its part, has been making relentless efforts to develop rural and urban regions for 14-15 years. In this regard, it builds good foundations in education and health sectors without fail. 

The Head of State and officials went right down to grass-roots level including far-flung border regions and rural areas and fulfilled various requirements of local people. Development tasks are being undertaken in the entire nation for ensuring emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

He said local people of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township can now enjoy fruitful results of health care service and promotion of education standard. Later, the minister expressed gratitude for emergence of health and education buildings in the township.

At the briefing hall, Minister Col Thein Nyunt reported on the tree planting ceremony at Thantuma Sports grounds in South Okkalapa Township and contributing to children for their education status. The government, on its part, has been making relentless efforts to develop rural and urban regions for 14-15 years. In this regard, it builds good foundations in education and health sectors without fail. 

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The commander and the mayor saw over sanitation tasks in Yangon City.

Yangon, 10 July — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected sanitation tasks being carried by Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar Police Force, workers of YCDC and local people to keep Yangon City clean and pleasant.

The commander and the mayor saw over sanitation at roads, buildings and hospitals and dredging of drains in Latha, Kyimyindine, Kamayut, Mayangon, South Okkalapa and Thinganyun townships.

They attended the tree planting ceremony at Thantuma Sports grounds in South Okkalapa Township and contributed to local people in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and contributing to children for their education status. The government, on its part, has been making relentless efforts to develop rural and urban regions for 14-15 years. In this regard, it builds good foundations in education and health sectors without fail. 

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After the ceremony, the Prime Minister instructed them to upgrade schools to BEHS and BEMSs and to build 16-bed hospitals in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) and (East) Townships. Next, he inspected the new school building and classrooms.

The school is 260 feet by 30 feet two-storey RC building comprising 14 classrooms. — MNA

Commander, Mayor inspect sanitation tasks in Yangon City.
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours Myaung Gyi Township in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 10 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials, left Yangon on 8 July morning, met with officers and other ranks and their families at the hall of local battalion in Myaung Gyi Township.

He gave instructions on tasks to be supervised by officials concerning education, health, social welfare and livestock breeding on a manageable scale and made cash donations for the Maternal and Child Welfare Association of the battalion.

During his visit to the battalion in the evening, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the vegetable plantations of the battalion. At Myanmar Township PDC office, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met departmental officials and discussed regional development work. Township Chairman U Kyaw Then reported on facts about the township, education, health, economy and social affairs, targeted cultivation of monsoon paddy for 2004-2005 and already-cultivated acreage. Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than co-ordinated matters in respective sectors. And he said Myanmar Township is famous for its rice export, on which the State has to rely. The township is also seen progressing.

Departmental officials are to guide shade trees and windbreaks and teak trees. In Ayeyawady Division, it is set to cultivate 3.5 million acres of monsoon paddy and to grow other crops this year, he said. In addition, officials are responsible for organizing people to raise local chickens on a manageable scale. The State is endeavouring for ensuring balanced development all over the country by designating the 24 development regions and the five rural development tasks. So, officials at different levels are to make efforts for development of their respective regions, he added. In Myanmar Township, 43309 acres have been put under monsoon paddy against 114,359 acres targeted. Besides, 1000 acres of paddy have been extended, he said.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the 400-acre paddy field in Ywathit Village where he greeted the farmers who were there to attend the direct seeding demonstration. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged the farmers to strive for producing 100 baskets per acre. They then drove along Pathein-Monywa Road and arrived at the local battalion in Kwinkauk, Ingapu Township. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met officers and other ranks and their families there and instructed officials to supervise regional development works and made cash donations for the Maternal and Child Welfare Association of the battalion. Next, he inspected the livestock breeding zone and vegetable patches.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Laymyathna Township PDC office where they met service personnel and discussed development undertakings. The township PDC chairman reported on matters related to the township and cultivation of paddy. Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than next attended to the needs. Speaking on the occasion, he said they arrived there to witness the development of the township and fulfill the requirements. Ayeyawady Division has targeted to cultivate 3.5 million acres of monsoon paddy and 1.6 acres of summer paddy for 2004-2005 fiscal. So, it is necessary for respective regions of the division to strive for exceeding the targets, he said. Only then will the economy of their regions improve. The State has opened universities and hospitals in Pathein, Hinthada and Maban in the division. Further, the five rural development tasks are being carried out. And as is known to all that the National Convention is being held to build a modern developed democratic nation. That is why service personnel are needed to discharge duties in their respective sectors for the welfare of the State. After the meeting, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing donated 100 dozens of exercise books for the students in the township and the chairman of township PDC and township education officer accepted the donations.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at township public hospital and inspected it. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented the donation of K 150,000 for the operation theatre of the hospital, and township health officer Dr Soe Nyein and party accepted it. He also greeted the patients. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party cordially greeted the patients. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party cordially greeted the patients. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party cordially greeted the patients. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party cordially greeted the patients.

After the hospital visit, the party proceeded to the hall of local battalion in Myaung Gyi Township and township health officer Dr Soe Nyein and party accepted it. He also comforted the patients. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party cordially greeted the patients. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party cordially greeted the patients. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party cordially greeted the patients.

In the evening, the party proceeded to Myaung Gyi Township Peace and Development Council Office and township health officer Dr Soe Nyein and party accepted it. He also comforted the patients. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party cordially greeted the patients. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party cordially greeted the patients. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party cordially greeted the patients.

After the meeting, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing welcomed the party and thanked the officials and the allies. After greeting the officials, the party left there at 9.45 am.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party left there at 9.45 am. MNA

Health Minister leaves for Bangkok

YANGON, 10 July — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint left here by air this morning to attend the Second AIDS Elimination Ministerial Meeting for Asia and Pacific Countries and the 15th International AIDS Conference to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 11 to 16 July.

The minister was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Thet Htwa, directors-general and officials of departments under the Ministry of Health, WHO Representative Dr Agostina Borra and relatives.

The minister was accompanied by Director Dr Pe Thet Tun of Foreign Relations Division and AIDS Elimination Project Manager Deputy Director Dr Min Thwe of the Health Department. — MNA

Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Smooth and Secure Transport meets

YANGON, 10 July — The Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport held its work co-ordination meeting at the meeting hall of All Bus Lines Control Committee (Yangon Division) on Layaungkan Road in Tamway Township, Yangon Division at 5 pm today, with an address by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were station commanders, military region commanders, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi and members, the supervisory committee members, local authorities, registrars of universities and colleges in Yangon and officials, the Chairman of the Bus Lines running in Yangon Division and guests.

In his address, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe said that the supervisory committee was formed with the aim of enabling the people who are commuting downtown Yangon and from Yangon to other states and divisions daily to enjoy smooth and secure transport and of ensuring speedy flow of commodities. Therefore, the committee members are striving for successful realization of their sector-wise tasks.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe. — MNA

Don’t smoke
A milestone leading the nation to a new age — 1

Aung Moe San

Commander, Minister attends ceremonies to hand over new school buildings

YANGON, 10 July—A ceremony to hand over a new school building to the Ministry of Education was held at No 2 BEHS in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division yesterday morning. It was attended by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint and Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun.

Director-General of No 2 Basic Education Department Lt-Col Win Hein and Donor U Ohn Hlaing (Moe Hein Co) formally opened the school building and the Commander and the Minister looked round the new building.

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The donor presented a certificate of honour.

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Delegation calls on UMFFCCI officials

YANGON, 10 July—A six member delegation from Centre for International Trade Studies (CITS) of Thailand led by Associate Dean of Graduate School Dr Pussadee Polsaram of University of Thai Chamber of Commerce called on UMFFCCI General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing.

CITS Members and executives at the UMFFCCI head office on Merchant Street, here yesterday morning. They discussed matters on trade and investment promotion and bilateral cooperation.

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

Traditional Boxing Tournament between Japanese and Myanmar boxers was held at National Indoor Stadium in Thawunna, Yangon, on Saturday. Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents the golden belt to Nine One Lay (Myanmar) who won in 63.5 kilo division. — NLM
Air transport plays greater …

(from page 16)

The newly opened Kyaukhtu Airport in Saw Township, Gangaw District, Magway Division. — MNA

Li-Gen Ye Myint delivers an address at the opening ceremony of Kyaukhtu Airport. — MNA

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swu formally unveiled the signboard. Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the stone inscription of the airport and sprinkled scented water on it.

Next, Li-Gen Ye Myint and party together with delegates to the National Convention posed for documentary photos at the archway.

The runway of the airport is of 26 inches thickness concrete one. The runway can withstand 873,000 lb load. It has the 300 feet by 300 feet apron. Thanks to opening of the 6,500 feet long and 100 feet long runway, Fokker 27 flights and F-28 jets can land and take off the runway. — MNA

Next, the commander gave a speech. He said that new Magway Airport and Kyaukhtu Airport have been built during the period of the State Peace and Development Council. In addition, Pakokku Airport, the third of Magway Division, will be opened soon. Similary, the chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council gave a speech. Next, a local people expressed gratitude for opening the airport.

Li-Gen Ye Myint presented gifts to Project-in-charge Maj Aung Khaing of the Directorate of Military Engineers. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander, the ministers, the deputy ministers and senior military officers took designated places.

Afterwards, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Director of Military Engineers Maj-Gen Tin Tun and Magway Division PDC Chairman Col Zaw Min formally opened the archway of the airport. Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swu formally unveiled the signboard. Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the stone inscription of the airport and sprinkled scented water on it.

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Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swu delivered an address, saying that Kyaukhtu Airport is located in Saw Township, Magway Division. In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and arrangements made by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, new Kyaukhtu Airport was built for ensuring better transport of the people in Matupi, Mindat and Kanpetlet townships in Chin State and Saw Township and enhancing living standard of the local people.

He said the government is implementing projects systematically with the participation of the people. Now the entire people can enjoy fruitful results of all-Gangaw District, Magway Division. In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and arrangements made by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, new Kyaukhtu Airport was built for ensuring better transport of the people in Matupi, Mindat and Kanpetlet townships in Chin State and Saw Township and enhancing living standard of the local people.

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Thundersstorm hits S-W Germany

Braun, 9 July—A heavy thundersstorm raided parts of southwest Germany on Wednesday evening and Thursday morning, uprooting trees and causing havoc on streets and motorways.

The city of Freiburg witnessed torrential rain, with streets flooded and water up to 60 centimetres high.

Police in Wiesbaden reported hail as big as tennis balls and lightning severing telephone lines at the main police station. Meteorologists are warning of further stormy weather, particularly in east Germany.

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Jiang Zemin meets US national security adviser


Rice, who just arrived in Beijing Thursday noon as guest of Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, said she is happy to meet Jiang again and she brought the greetings from US President George W. Bush to Jiang.

She said at present, US-China relations are in good shape, expressing the hope that the two sides make joint efforts to further promote the bilateral relations.

The meeting is still going on at Press time.

It is reported that China is the second leg of Rice’s three-nation Asian tour, which includes Japan and South Korea as well. On Wednesday, she held talks with Japanese Prime Minster Koizumi Junichiro and Foreign Minister Kawaguchi Yoriko. They discussed regional security issues.

Rice is expected to leave Beijing for Seoul Friday noon and then confer with South Korean leaders.


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Chinese official stresses cooperation with Africa

BEIJING, 9 July—China will strengthen cooperation with Africa in agriculture and other areas in a bid to improve its overall relations with Africa, Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan said here Thursday.

Tang told a score of African diplomats, mostly from French-speaking nations, that China will step up cooperation with African countries in agricultural development, infrastructure construction, human resources training and resources development.

The group of African diplomats came from the Republic of Congo, Togo, Benin, Djibouti, the Comoros, Niger, Rwanda, Central Africa, Morocco, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania and Mauritius.

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Russia, Germany agree on huge gas pipeline project

MOSCOW, 9 July—Russian President Vladimir Putin and visiting German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder on Thursday announced that the two countries will jointly launch a gas pipeline project aimed at extracting and selling Russian natural gas in Europe.

Russia’s Gazprom and Germany’s E.ON will build a joint-venture to extract natural gas, construct a gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea, develop an infrastructure to supply Russian gas to Germany, sell the entire Europe, and launch joint projects for electric power stations on the European market, according to Interfax news agency.

Gazprom, the largest gas producer in the world, plans to build the pipeline across the Baltic Sea from Yyborg to Germany and Britain, the report said.

Construction of branch routes will supply gas to Finland and Sweden. The whole project is expected to increase gas supplies from Russia to Scandinavian countries and ensure reliable shipments to Western Europe as well as northwestern parts of Russia.

Hailing the programme between Gazprom and E.ON, a leading company in the German energy field, Putin and Schroeder said in a joint statement Thursday that the gas pipeline project is a giant step toward the development of gas resources in Russia and the expansion of the gas infrastructure are of key significance in covering additional demands on the natural gas market and for the security of Germany’s and Europe’s gas supply.

Germany is Russia’s main foreign trading partner, accounting for some 10 per cent of Russia’s foreign trade and about 18 per cent of the capital invested in Russia.

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Thailand to halve current birth rate in 10 years

BANGKOK, 9 July—Thailand’s birth rate is expected to be halved within the next 10 years so as to promote prosperity, the Thai News Agency reported Thursday.

Thailand has already successfully controlled its population growth, a Thai population expert Dr. Vichai Thianthavorn, was quoted as saying. The national birth rate has been reduced from 3 per cent to less than one per cent over the past decade.

“In the past 5-10 years, the number of babies born per year was reduced by 20 per cent from one million to some 800,000. And recent studies by leading university experts on population growth predict that Thailand could further reduce its current birth rate to 0.5 per cent in 2015 and to 0.4 per cent in 2025,” he said.

Dr. Vichai said Thailand needed to control its population growth in order to maintain the balance between demand and supply of social and medical services.

Thai men live to an average age of 70 and women 75, he said. — MNA/Xinhua
Lifestyle blamed for rise in myopia in East Asia

LONDON, 9 July—A rise in myopia, or nearsightedness, in East Asia is due to lifestyle changes and not genetics, a science magazine said on Wednesday.

A study, based on three large populations, found that children in East Asia spend less time outdoors reading or in front of a computer or television.

"Children now spend much of their time focusing on close objects, such as books or computers," New Scientist magazine said. "To compensate, the eyeball is thought to grow longer. That way less effort is needed to focus up close, but the elongated eye can no longer focus on distant objects."

People with myopia have difficulty seeing objects at a distance, or reading signs but can do close-up tasks and read.

The magazine said the rate of myopia in India is about 10 per cent but that 70 per cent of 18-year-old men of Indian origin in Singapore have myopia.

Morgan and Kathryn Rose, of the University of Sydney, also cited a study in Israel which found that 80 per cent of teenage boys studying religious schools that emphasized reading texts had myopia, compared to 30 per cent in state schools.

"As kids spend more time indoors, on computers or watching telly, we are going to become just as myopic," said Morgan.

CD-ROM aims to educate about UN family through "Fun"

GENEVA, 9 July—The second of two CD-ROMs with interactive games to help people, especially children, learn about the United Nations has been released by the UN, a UN official said here Wednesday.

The CD-ROM, named "Discover the UN Family and Have Fun!", is the second in its series, with the first released last year, Patrick Steiben, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), said.

The game, with images of freighters and airplanes loaded with emergency cargo, teaches players that the World Food Programme (WFP) provides food for victims of war and natural disasters.


Four US companies recall 150 million pieces of toy jewellery

WASHINGTON, 9 July — Four US companies have voluntarily recalled 150 million pieces of toy jewellery over concerns that some of it could pose a risk of lead poisoning, it was announced here Thursday.

The recall was announced by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and is one of the largest recalls in the US history. The recalled Indian-made toy jewellery involves various styles of rings, necklaces and bracelets sold in vending machines nationwide from January 2002 through June 2004.

The CPSC said in a statement that about half of the 150 million pieces of toy jewellery actually contain lead. But as it is difficult to distinguish the lead jewellery from the non-lead jewellry, the industry decided to recall all of them.


Mexico, Brazil seek new Latam "architecture"

BRASILIA (Brazil), 9 July—Mexico wants to build a partnership with Brazil through South America’s MERCOSUR Customs bloc to create a new "Latin American architecture" in trade, Mexican President Vicente Fox said on Wednesday.

As Latin America’s two largest economies and the two most populous nations, Mexico and Brazil must move closer if the region is to reach the wealth levels it wants, Fox said on a visit to Brazil’s capital.

"Brazilians and Mexicans have the obligation to form a partnership so all of Latin America’s possibilities can grow," Fox said, flanked by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. "These ideas are creating a Latin American architecture we all want to see," he added.

Long separated by language, geography and their relationship with the United States, Spanish-speaking Mexico and Portuguese-speaking Brazil are coming together over Fox’s bid to join the MERCOSUR trade bloc — made up of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Mexico first proposed joining MERCOSUR earlier this year. The nation will launch free-trade talks with MERCOSUR at a meeting of the bloc in Argentina, on Thursday, mark its first step to become an associate member. The status — which Chile, Peru and Bolivia already have — grants trade preferences with MERCOSUR states but allows a nation to maintain its own external tariff policies.

Mexico is after closer ties with South America after its top trade partner, the United States, has signed multiple free-trade deals with other countries.

Lula, Brazil’s first working-class president, wants to boost Latin American integration to counter US and European power and gain better terms in global free trade deals. "Together, we’re going to be a lot stronger and a lot more respected," said Lula, adding Brazil would try to speed Mexico’s entrance into MERCOSUR.

Mexico’s bid to join MERCOSUR, the world’s third-largest trade bloc, comes as the group tries to build an agency to resolve continual conflicts between top members Argentina and Brazil. The spat often blow up with currency shifts in Brazil that make its products more competitive.

Spain chides Britain for nuke sub’s Gibraltar stop

MADEIRA, 9 July—Spain has protested to Britain about the return to Gibraltar of a nuclear submarine that was stranded there for a year in one of the worst episodes of tension between Madrid and London in recent years.

The Spanish Foreign Ministry has sum-
moned Britain’s ambassador this week to complain about the arrival of HMS Tireless in the British colony on Spain’s southern coast, the ministry said on Wednesday.

Spain expressed its “displeasure and deep discomfort... at Britain’s lack of sensitivity towards Spanish public opinion, which clearly rejected the presence of the Tireless in Gibraltar during its previous visit,” the ministry statement said.

"This new visit... will mark a negative point in the good relations between both governments,” the Tireless will arrive off Gibraltar on Thursday for a short visit as part of a routine operational programme, the British Embassy said in a statement. The original controversy was triggered when the Tireless turned up in Gibraltar in May 2000 after developing a small crack in the cooling system of its reactor while on duty in the Mediterranean and leak-

ing a small amount of contaminated water into the sea.—INTERNET

Heavy rains flood parts of Bangladesh port city

CHITTAGONG (Bangladesh), 9 July—Heavy rains flooded homes and shops in large parts of Chittagong port city of Chittagong on Thursday, and officials said the situation could worsen as more rain was expected in next few days.

Road links to the city of four million people had partially snarled and hundreds of people were stranded at railway stations as trains were delayed because of poor visibility, officials said.

“We recorded nearly some five inches of rain in 12 hours to Thursday morning,” one meteorologist said, as the monsoon that runs from mid-June to mid-September peaked.

Water gushing down from nearby hills had flooded the city’s main Chittagong Port, with about 20 foreign vessels unable to load or unload cargo, port officials said.

MNA/Reuters

Dolphins swim at the newly-established aquarium dubbed ‘dolphin fantasy’ at the Hakkeijima Sea Paradise in Yokohama.—INTERNET

HP aims to recycle $1.86b of electronic waste by 2007

LOS ANGELES, 9 July—HP, a world-leading computer maker, said Wednesday that it is accelerating its product recycling programme by setting a goal to recycle one billion pounds (1.86 billion US dollars) of electronic products and printing supplies globally by 2007.

The company said it recycled more than 100 million pounds (185.6 million US dollars) of electronic products and printing supplies in 2003, through its Planet Partners recycling programme, raising the total to 500 million pounds (927.8 million US dollars) recycled since it began in 1998.

"The computer maker noted that the one-billion-pound goal is specific to recycling and does not include any of the millions of products the company and its partners refurbish, re-use, donate or resell.

"As we face growing concerns regarding electronic waste, HP’s objective is to offer customers around the globe a convenient and environmentally sound return and recycling service for HP products," said Debra Dunn, a senior vice-president of HP. "We will continue to develop innovative recycling solutions in an effort to meet our aggressive recycling goal for the future. — MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

The magazine said the rate of myopia in India is about 10 per cent but that 70 per cent of 18-year-old men of Indian origin in Singapore have myopia.

Morgan and Kathryn Rose, of the University of Sydney, also cited a study in Israel which found that 80 per cent of teenage boys studying religious schools that emphasized reading texts had myopia, compared to 30 per cent in state schools.

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The game, with images of freighters and airplanes loaded with emergency cargo, teaches players that the World Food Programme (WFP) provides food for victims of war and natural disasters.
Leeds defender Harte to sign for newly promoted Levante

MADRID, 9 July — Leeds United defender Ian Harte will travel to Spain to sign for recently promoted Levante, the Primera Liga side said on Thursday.

The club said that the Ireland international, who had been given permission by Leeds to talk to the Spanish side, would arrive in Valencia at 1:30 GMT on Thursday, undergo a medical on Friday morning and then be presented to the media at 10:00 GMT.

Harte is the latest of a string of players to leave debt-laden Leeds following their relegation from the Premier League last season.

Scotland defender Dominic Matteo signed a three-year deal with Blackburn Rovers on a free transfer on Wednesday.

England striker Alan Smith was sold to Manchester United for just over seven million pounds (13.5 million US dollars), goalkeeper Paul Robinson joined Tottenham Hotspur in a two-million-pound deal and teenage midfielder James Milner was offloaded to Newcastle United.

MNA/Reuters

Olympic Torch starts trip through Cyprus

NICOSIA, 9 July — Hundreds of tourists gathered at the castle of the western coastal town of Paphos to watch the welcoming ceremony of the Olympic Torch, before it started its relay in Cyprus.

In his address Paphos Mayor Fidias Sarakis said the city with its 2,300-year-old history is an ideal venue to welcome the Flame to comprehend the message and the ideals of the Olympic Games.

"I am deeply touched and feel very proud to be present here to witness this auspicious ceremony welcoming the Olympic Flame, the ultimate symbol of noble competition and peaceful coexistence, " he said.

He said the flame came with it the universal message of the Olympic ideals, a message of brotherhood of peoples, free-dom and equality.

He thanked all those who have made it possible for the flame to be welcomed in Paphos.

First torchbearer and football player Andreas Stylianou ran for a short distance before handing over to the next torch bearer.

The Olympic relay starting in Paphos will follow a route covering nearly all government controlled areas of Cyprus, through many communities and past many of the island’s great landmarks and locations, before arriving at its final destination in central Nicosia.

The first day will end in Nicosia with a major public celebration, free for all, in the D’Avila moat in the old town of the divided capital, which will include the lighting of a cauldron by the final torchbearer Anninos Markouktis.

The ceremony will be followed by a concert of Cypriot composer Marios Tokas, who will be accompanied by well-known Greek singers, and choirs from all over Cyprus.

On July 9, the Olympic torch will continue its journey through Paralimni, in Famagusta District, on the east of the island.

The journey ends at Larnaca Airport where the Olympic flame will depart for Crete, first stop of the Greek relay. — MNA/Xinhu

Crystal Palace snap up Cahill from Millwall

LONDON, 9 July — Crystal Palace have agreed to sign Millwall midfielder Tim Cahill for two million pounds (3.70 million US dollars), the club’s website said on Thursday.

The move will go through providing personal terms are agreed and Cahill passes a medical, Palace said.

Crystal Palace, promoted via the playoffs in May after six years in the second tier of English football, described the 24-year-old Australian as one of the most exciting goalscoring midfielders in the country.

Cahill has won four caps and scored six goals for Australia and last season propellised Millwall to the FA Cup final by scoring the only goal in the team’s semifinal win against Sunderland.

The Londoners lost the final 3-0 to Manchester United.

MNA/Reuters

Late penalty gives Paraguay win over Costa Rica

ANAPA (Peru), 9 July — Substitute Julio dos Santos scored an 85th minute penalty to give Paraguay a 1-0 victory over Costa Rica in their Copa America Group C opener on Thursday.

Paraguay gradually found their way after a dismal first half performance against a well organised Costa Rican side, who were playing their first game under new coach Jorge Luis Pinto.

Colombian Pinto replaced US coach Steve Sampson, who resigned after the Ticos needed away goals to scrape past Cuba in their preliminary round World Cup qualifier last month.

Fielding their Under-23 team in preparation for the Athens Olympics Games, Paraguay struggled to string any moves together for much of the game.

By contrast, Costa Rica surprised Paraguay with their brisk passing and the attacking duo of Andy Herron and Ronaldo Gomez posed a constant threat.

Gomez came close to breaking the deadlock in the 22nd minute when his fierce left-footed volley was parried at the second attempt by Paraguay goalkeeper Deigo Barreto.

Barreto was in action again four minutes later when he saved a close range shot from the same player.

At the other end, Ernesto Cristaldo squandered two free kicks by shooting high and wide from good positions.

As the first half degenerated into a midfield dogfight, neither side seemed able to producing the free-scoring entertainment seen in the opening games in Groups A and B.

But the arrival of substitute dos Santos provided attacking penetration down the right flank, and Paraguay created a string of attacking opportunities.

The best chance fell to Carlos Paredes, but the Reggina player—one of only two regular internationals in the Indian team alongside defender Carlos Gamarra — fired a close ranged header over the bar.

MNA/Reuters

Members of Colombia’s National soccer team celebrate after scoring a goal against Bolivia during their Copa America match in Lima, on Friday, 9 July, 2004. — Internet

Battle hotting up for France’s coaching job

PARIS, 9 July — The French football federation has received 38 applications for the job of France’s national coach but the shortlist is down to four or five names, an FFF spokesman said on Thursday.

No names were given and FFF chairman Claude Simonet has postponed the appointment of Jacques Santini’s successor from Friday to Monday.

The chairman wants to give himself more time for thought. He also wants to consult all branches of French soccer," the FFF spokesman said.

The new coach was to be named after a regular meeting of the FFF’s board in Clermont-Ferrand, in the centre of France.

It now seems that discussion will take place during the board meeting and the FFF general assembly on Saturday. The names on the shortlist are easy to identify from Simonet’s schedule over the last days.

He had discussions with former French internationals Laurent Blanc and Jean Tigana during Euro 2004.

He met former England manager Glenn Hoddle and France Under-21 coach Raonmond Domenech on Wednesday and also had a telephone conversation with former Senegal coach Bruno Metsu. Blanc and Tigana are regarded as the favourites but each of the five main contenders have their pros and cons.

The 38-year-old Blanc became a hero of French soccer after captaining France to victory at the 1998 World Cup and the 2000 European Championship.

He is said to have the support of his former teammates including Zinedine Zidane who said his international future depended on the choice of the new coach.

A stumbling block could be that he has no coaching experience, having ended his playing career at Manchester United little more than a year ago. Tigana won his career in French soccer’s hall of fame as a leading member of the 1984 European champions. — MNA/Reuters

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1 Eats flesh of own species Down
1 Utter impregnations
7 Depart 2 About marriage
8 Propagates 3 Golf club
9 Young wolf 4 Entertained
10 Long, narrative poem 5 Comedy of buffoonery
11 Compose 6 Outdoor team game
14 Unfiled 7 Merciful
15 Suffocated 8 Hurlful
17 Engineless plane 9 A nut
18 Croquet arch 10 Very forcible
19 Strong rod 11 Place of worship
22 Top floor of bus, e.g. (5,4) 12 Abrupt in manner
23 Alias William II 13 A nut
24 Liquor bottle 14 Place of worship
21 Ground space 15 Abrupt in manner
20 Strong rod 16 Place of worship
18 Croquet arch 17 Engineless plane
17 Abrupt in manner 16 Place of worship
19 Card game 17 Engineless plane
18 Croquet arch 15 A nut
17 Engineless plane 16 Place of worship
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22 Top floor of bus, e.g. (5,4) 19 Card game
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17 Engineless plane 19 Card game
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22 Top floor of bus, e.g. (5,4) 23 Alias William II
24 Liquor bottle 24 Liquor bottle

DOWN
1 Utter impregnations 2 About marriage
3 Golf club 4 Entertained
5 Comedy of buffoonery 6 Outdoor team game
7 Merciful 8 Hurlful
9 A nut 10 Very forcible
11 Place of worship 12 Abrupt in manner
13 A nut 14 Place of worship
15 A nut 16 Place of worship
16 Place of worship 17 Abrupt in manner
17 Abrupt in manner 18 Croquet arch
18 Croquet arch 19 Card game
19 Card game 20 Strong rod
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23 Alias William II 24 Liquor bottle

Paraguay's Jose Devaca, right, heads the ball against Argentina's Ariel Bielma during their Copa America Group D match in Arequipa, southern Peru, on Thursday, 8 July, 2004. — Internet
Rainfall on 10-7-2004

- 0.83 inch at Yangon Airport,
- 0.55 inch at Kaba-Aye and
- 1.02 inches at central Yangon.

Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 53.23 inches at Yangon Airport and 48.70 inches at Kaba-Aye and 49.25 inches at central Yangon.

WEATHER

Saturday, 10 July, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been scattered in Lower Sagain, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Rakhine State, isolated heavy falls in Magway Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Maungtaw (3.50) inches, An (3.07) inches, Thandwe (2.99) inches, Kyaukpyu (2.84) inches, Kyauktaw (2.44) inches, Sittway and Hikma (2.32) inches, Aunglan (2.05) inches, Pyapon (1.77) inches and Zalun (1.69) inches.

Maximum temperature on 9-7-2004 was 30.5°C (87°F). Minimum temperature on 10-7-2004 was 20.1°C (68°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 10-7-2004 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 9-7-2004 was 3.4 hours. Rainfall on 10-7-2004 was (0.83) inch at Yangon Airport, (0.55) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.02) inches at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1352 mm (53.23 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1237 mm (48.70 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1251 mm (49.25 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from Southwest at 16:05 hours MST on 9-7-2004.

Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 11-7-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine States, upper Sagain, Ayeayarwady, Bago and Yangon Divisions, scattered in Shan, Kayin, Kayah, and Mon States, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Kachin State and upper Sagain Division. Degree of certainty is (80%) in Kachin and upper Sagain State. Degree of certainty is (60%) in the remaining areas.

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent days: Moderate monsoon conditions.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 11-7-2004: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 11-7-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Flood Warning

(Issued at 11:00hr MST on 10-7-2004)

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin river at Homalin is (2778) cm. It may reach its danger level of (2900) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeayarwady river at Myitkyina is (1082) cm. It may reach its danger level of (1200) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.
YANGON, 10 July—Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received a scholars group representing the Myanmar Youth Association, the Teachers Across Borders USA, People to People Group and Myanmar Women (New York) of America who are here for cooperation in Myanmar education sector at the Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmynintha here at 4 pm today.

Also present on the occasion together with the Prime Minister were Ministry for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Ministry for Education U Tha Aung, Ministry for Labour U Tin Win, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, senior military officers, Director-General of the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of Protocol Department.—MNA

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Also present on the occasion together with the Prime Minister were Ministry for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Ministry for Education U Tha Aung, Ministry for Labour U Tin Win, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, senior military officers, Director-General of the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of Protocol Department.—MNA

Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially meets delegates prior to their departure for home at adjournment of National Convention

YANGON, 10 July — Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, together with Chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lu Mauk and management committee members, went to hostels of delegates to the National Convention at Nyaungpauk Camp in Hmau Township this morning and met the delegates prior to their departure for home at the adjournment of the National Convention. Next, Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspected shops selling various kinds of goods to the delegates and cordially conversed with them at the shops.

At 9.25 am, Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party arrived at the hostel and met the delegates who would leave for home at the adjournment of the National Convention.

Next, Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party inspected Government Employee Cooperative (GEC) Shop and Win Thuza Shop of Ministry of Industry-1 which were selling various kinds of products to the delegates at reasonable price and met the delegates at the shops.

Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party also inspected the Myanma Spectacles Shop of retired opticians and the communication station of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications. At the office of the reception sub-committee at Nyaungpauk Camp, Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially conversed with the delegates preparing to leave for home.

Next, Lt-Gen Thein Sein expressed gratitude to (See page 9)

Air transport plays greater role at time of changes and developments

Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends opening of Kyaukhtu Airport in Magway Division

YANGON, 10 July—A ceremony to open Kyaukhtu Airport in Kyaukhtu, Saw Township, Gangaw District, Magway Division, which was built by Directorate of Military Engineers of the Ministry of Defence was held at the pandal near the airport at 8:10 am today with an address by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Sagu Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kya, Deputy Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Brig-Gen Than Tun, Vice-Quartermaster-General Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tun, Director of Military Engineers Maj-Gen Tin Tun, senior military officers, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

Newly-opened runway seen at Kyaukhtu Airport built by Directorate of Military Engineers in Saw Township. MNA