Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing see off Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe on their departure for PRC

YANGON, 11 July — At the invitation of Mr Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt of the Union of Myanmar, accompanied by wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, left for Beijing, the People’s Republic of China, by air at 7.30 am today to pay an official visit.

The Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, members of the State Peace and Development Council and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, senior military officers, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Singapore Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz and heads of foreign missions in Yangon, the UN Resident Coordinator, Charge d’Affairs ai of the Chinese Embassy Mr Yu Boren and officials and departmental heads.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was accompanied by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Myint, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and wife Daw San Yone, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and departmental heads.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe being seen off at the airport by diplomats and the UN resident coordinator.— MNA
Participate in efforts for emergence of a modern, developed nation

The Tatmadaw Government is striving for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing modern and developed democratic nation. Tatmadawmen are born of the people. Thus, the Tatmadaw is an institution formed with persons who have joined the Tatmadaw on their own volition and are prepared to sacrifice their lives for the perpetuation of the nation. Nowadays, they are taking part in the national development tasks in addition to discharging national defence duties.

On 6 July, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence met with officials at township-level, members of social organizations and local national races at the Hall of Moemeik and discussed matters relating to regional development tasks.

On the occasion, General Thura Shwe Mann said that efforts made by the Government hand in hand with the people to ensure equitable development across the country through the establishment of development zones have resulted in the emergence of roads and bridges, irrigation facilities, schools, hospitals and dispensaries and universities, colleges and technological schools for human resources development in all states and divisions.

The Government is implementing 12 political, economic and social objectives which are the bases in building a modern, developed democratic nation. The Government has been working with goodwill in accord with one of the four political objectives — Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order — and as a result 17 armed groups have returned to the legal fold and are working together with the Government for regional and national development.

In line with one of the economic objectives — Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well — the Government is trying to promote the agriculture sector, building dams to increase the yield of agricultural produce. As a result, the nation’s rice production in 2003-2004 has reached 1.107 million baskets, up nearly twice fold from about 630 million baskets in 2003.

To be able to increase agricultural output, departmental staff are to provide farmers with required agricultural methods and quality strains in cooperation with other departments concerned.

Tatmadaw, departmental vehicles checked on Dry Day

YANGON, 11 July— Members of Dry Day Supervisory Committee Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Vice-Adjudant-General Brig-Gen Hla Shwe, Col Tin Shwe of the Office of Quartermaster-General, Police Adjudant-General Police Brig-Gen Soe Myint Tun, No 3 Provost Company Commandant Maj Ye Myint Tun, Directors-General U Thaik Tun and U Khin Maung, Director-General (Attached) U Win Aung, Director U Myo Nyunt, Secretary of the Committee Deputy Director-General U Sein Hla of the Government Office and Joint-Secretary Commander of Yangon Division Wireless and Traffic Police Force Lt-Col Aung Naing, supervised dry day inspection teams which were checking vehicles of Tatmadaw and departments concerned this morning and evening.

The dry day inspection teams checked disciplines of the dry day such as dry day pass of Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles, driver’s license, wheel tax bill and wearing of departmental uniforms and breaking of road and traffic rules. — MNA

Meeting of ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services continues

YANGON, 11 July — The 37th Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services hosted by the Union of Myanmar continued for the second day at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this morning. Representatives of ASEAN countries— Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — negotiated liberalisation on limitation of trade in services such as business, construction, healthcare, maritime, telecom, tourism and education services among ASEAN countries in the sectoral working group meetings. The meeting continues till 13 July. — MNA
Gas pipeline in Iraq damaged by explosion

KIRKUK, 10 July—Saboteurs on Saturday attacked a natural gas pipeline that feeds into a northern power station, an official with the North Oil Company (search) said.

Attackers planted a bomb near the gas pipeline in the Safira (search) area, about 55 miles west of Kirkuk. The pipeline runs from the oil-rich northern city of Kirkuk to a power station in Beiji, said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The attack is likely to affect power supplies in the northern region of Iraq, but it was not immediately clear by how much.

The attack comes just days after a key export pipeline in the southern part of the country was brought back on line after being damaged by saboteurs or smugglers last Saturday. That attack forced oil officials to cut exports from the south to about 960,000 barrels a day, roughly half the current export capacity from that region.

Guerrillas often target the country's crude oil (search) and natural gas infrastructure. Revenue from crude oil exports is pivotal in Iraq's postwar reconstruction efforts.

Kerry says US needs to 'wipe slate clean' on Iraq

RALEIGH (North Carolina), 10 July—Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry said on Saturday the United States needed to start with a clean slate on Iraq and his new running mate John Edwards portrayed America's allies as "hungry" for better ties with Washington.

In a joint interview aboard their campaign plane, Kerry acknowledged that he and his vice-presidential pick — a former Greensboro (North Carolina) lawyer — shared "some differences".

Kerry and Edwards were seeking to cast their relationship as an "energetic" one that would bring results.

"I think there's a lot to be done," Kerry told reporters. "I mean, look, we are dealing with an administration that has said it is in the process of setting an overall policy.

"They didn't make a commitment to pull all the troops out immediately. And they said that the president is not going to do any brinkmanship. They want to listen, they want to hear.

"And I think it's fair to say that we both believe that it's a national security priority to extract the United States from the war in Iraq, and to refuse to accept a failed policy that we don't think is in the best interest of the United States or the world."

Edwards, a former state senator, also praised the Bush administration for its handling of the war, which has led to the deaths of more than 3,000 US military personnel.

"I think the president has been fair, listening and open to criticism," Edwards said.

Kerry and Edwards were seeking to portray the Bush administration as a "politicized" one that was "out of touch" with the American public.

Kerry has previously accused Bush of "misleading America" by falsely telling the public about the "actual situation on the ground in Iraq."

"We were misleading the American people about the risk to those who were in harm's way," Kerry said during a televised town hall meeting.

Kerry has called for a "comprehensive policy" that would include a "true international coalition" to oust Saddam Hussein.

Key Bush military service files destroyed

WASHINGTON, 10 July—Microfilm records related to President George W Bush's service in the Air National Guard three decades ago were accidentally destroyed when the military tried to improve its files, the Pentagon said on Friday.

Payroll records of large numbers of service members, including Bush, were ruined in 1996 and 1997 in a project to save large, brittle rolls of microfilm, Defence Finance and Accounting Service spokesman Bryan Hubbard told Reuters.

Bush's whereabouts during his service as a pilot in the Texas Air National Guard in the United States during the Vietnam War have become an election-year issue, with some Democrats accusing him of shirking his duty.

The destroyed files kept in Denver on deteriorating 2,000-foot rolls of microfilm covered three months of a period in 1972 and 1973 when Bush's claims of service with the guard in Alabama are in question.

"It (the film) just crumpled. We were attempting to improve the preservation," Hubbard told Reuters. He said he did not know why the destruction had not been previously announced.

The White House said it has already been shown that Bush performed his duties in the National Guard.

Washington Post (North Carolina), 10 July—White House released hundreds of pages of Bush's military records. Those records did not provide new evidence to place Bush in Alabama during the latter part of 1972, when some Democrats say he was basically absent without leave.

There was no indication at that time that the pay records had been destroyed.

Kuwait seizes three Iranian fishing boats

TIBRAN, 10 July—Kuwait has seized three Iranian fishing boats after they strayed into its waters in the latest in a string of similar incidents involving Iran and its Gulf neighbours, Iranian state television said on Friday.

The boats' seizure, which appears to reflect stricter enforcement of territorial boundaries by Iran and its Gulf neighbours in recent weeks, came just two weeks after Iran captured and held three British bours in recent weeks, came just two weeks after Iran captured and held three British bours in recent weeks.

"The Kuwaiti coast guard was in contact with its Iranian counterparts" and the three Iranian vessels were "sent back to Iran," the state television said.

The latest spat with Kuwait comes after an Iranian fishing boat was captured in the northern region of Iraq, coming just two weeks after Iran captured and held three British bours in recent weeks.
South Korea says militant group threatens to attack Iraqi-bound ships

SEOUL, 10 July—An armed militant group has threatened to attack ships from countries including South Korea delivering US military supplies to Iraq, Seoul's spy agency says.

“A message threatening terrorism is on ships carrying military supplies to Iraq has been posted on an Arabic website,” a spokesman of the National Intelligence Service (NIS) said.

“We have alerted related agencies including maritime authorities and police to this information and called for stepped up vigilance,” he told AFP.

The Cheong daily quoted a NIS official as saying that the mysterious group on July 3 posted an article on an Islamic Internet site, threatening to attack ships from the United States, Hong Kong, the Netherlands and South Korea.

“Shipping companies which carry military supplies to Americans that are used to attack Islamic warriors will be our target,” the group was quoted as saying in the brief message.

The group identified itself as the Supreme Headquarters of Armed Islamic Warriors in Iraq, the newspaper said.

An official of South Korea's leading shipping company, Hanjin Shipping Co, said that as far as he was aware, no South Korean ships were involved in transporting military supplies to US troops in Iraq.

He said the company and other South Korean shipping firms have stepped up security in line with new international security code for ships and ports that took effect on 1 July amid mounting concerns over terrorism.

“But we have not taken any additional measures because of the warning from the National Intelligence Agency,” he said.

The threat came as South Korea prepares to send more than 3,000 troops early next month on a rehabilitation mission in Iraq in addition to the 5,000 medics and engineers already stationed there.

Kim Sun-II, a 33-year-old interpreter for a South Korean firm which supplies the US military in Iraq, was captured and beheaded by militants in Iraq last month after Seoul rejected an ultimatum to scrap the troop dispatch.

Audit faults US accounting for Iraqi oil funds

WASHINGTON, 10 July—US officials who ran Iraq until last month used a system open to fraud and error to track about 20 billion US dollars in Iraqi funds spent during the occupation, accounting firm KPMG said in a report made public Friday.

The US-led Coalition Provisional Authority's underlying record-keeping “greatly diminishes the transparency of the expenditures made”, the interim study said.

It also left the Development Fund for Iraq, a United Nations-established fund to shepherd Iraq oil revenues during the US occupation, “open to fraudulent acts”, the report said.

KPMG said it had been unable to get information about Halliburton and other firms that received non-competitive contracts from President George W. Bush’s administration funded by Iraqi oil proceeds.

Halliburton, the Texas oil services firm headed by Dick Cheney from 1995 to 2000 before he became vice-president, has been awarded about 1.5 billion US dollars from the development fund, the single largest payout to date, according to the US Army Corps of Engineers.

“To date, KPMG has not been given access to special audit reports by the CPA that have been undertaken on these contracts,” said the report released by Representatives Henry Waxman, a California Democrat seeking to subpoena records of what he calls possible US mismanagement of the fund.

The audit was carried out at the request of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board, a UN-mandated watchdog.

One reason for delays in handing over information, the US Defence Department said in reply, was confidential contractor financial information, including pricing data, the government is barred from releasing without permission of the companies involved.

“And to date, the companies have declined to permit release,” said Marine Lieutenant-Colonel Rose Ann Lynch, a Pentagon spokeswoman. Halliburton did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Although the Coalition Provisional Authority disbanded last month, the US Government was making sure auditors had access to its records, she added.

Indonesia extends rice import ban

JAKARTA, 10 July—Indonesia plans to extend the seven-month-old rice import ban due to adequate stock at home, a report said Friday.

The Ministry of Agriculture has asked the Ministry of Industry and Trade to extend the ban on rice imports until August as rice stocks are currently sufficient to meet national demand, reported The Jakarta Post newspaper.

“Rice stocks are now at an adequate level in all provinces, thanks to good harvests,” Director-General of Food Production Supervision at the Ministry of Agriculture M. Iqbal Nasir was quoted as saying.

He said national rice stocks totalled 6 million tons to 7 million tons, including 1.9 million tons to 2 million tons held by the State Logistics Agency (Balog) and 4 million tons to 5 million tons held by traders and farmers.

With national consumption of 2.5 million tons per month, stocks were adequate for a few months’ consumption, he said.

Furthermore, quoting a prediction by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), Iqbal said national unhusked rice output was expected to increase to 53.67 million tons this year from 52.8 million tons last year, thanks to good harvests. The Ministry of Industry and Trade first imposed a ban on rice imports in January, effective until 1 June, in order to protect farmers and help improve their welfare.

China’s NPC vice-chairman meets Turkish guest

BEIJING, 10 July—Cheng Siwei, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People’s Congress (NPC), met here Friday with Bulent Tanla, vice-chairman of the Netherlands-based party, Turkey.

The two sides exchanged views on bilateral friendly relations, agreeing to further the relations on the basis of Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

Cheng said China appreciates that Turkey adheres to one-China policy and opposes the “Eastern Turkistan” terrorist organizations China identified last December. Tanla said that the two sides should both engage in battle against terrorism and this will not only benefit the two countries, but also the whole world.

Cheng, also a statecounsellor, briefed the guest about China's economic situation, the social development strategy and the concept of scientific development put forward in the Third Plenary Session of the 16th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China held last October.

World's largest ship lock starts operation on Yangtze River

YICHANG, 10 July—The giant ship lock of the Three Gorges Water Control Project on the Yangtze River opened officially for navigation on Thursday following a one-year successful trial operation.

Construction of the two-way five-step lock, the largest in the world, took nine years as from April 17, at a cost of 6.2 billion yuan (746.99 million US dollars).

The ship lock, which features a two-way lifting facility for the 113-metredepth between the upstream and downstream separated by the gigantic dam, went into trial operation after the Three Gorges Reservoir began to store water in June 2003.

The lock, which was built entirely by Chinese engineers after solving a number of unprecedented technical difficulties, enables ships to pass through the dam in about two and a half hours via the 6.44-kilometre-long dock on the northern bank of the Yangtze River.

Chinese, US hospitals team up in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 11 July—Chinese patients may receive treatment in the United States, according to a new agreement between a leading hospital in China's largest city Shanghai and a Boston-based hospital.

Shanghai Huashan Hospital affiliated to the prestigious Fudan University forged sisterly ties with Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston Thursday in a deal that aims to help the Chinese hospital reach international standards in medical services and technological development, said Xu Jianguang, president of Huashan Hospital. Xu and his US counterpart, Dr Peter L. Slavin, have agreed to collaborate in medical research and training of doctors.

While most exchanges would be carried out on a common information technology platform for distance training and consultation, Xu said some Chinese patients may be sent to the United States for diagnosis and treatment, if their cases were complicated and they could afford the trip. Huashan Hospital was opened in 1907 as the first medical institution to be sponsored by the Red Cross Society of China in Shanghai. It received 1.57 million patients in 2003. Massachusetts General Hospital, founded in 1811, is a leading general hospital in the United States and performs more than 32,000 operations each year.


AsiaSat 1 satellite passes through the dam in about two years. — MNA/Xinhua

Audience at a hospital in Shanghai. It received 1.57 million patients in 2003. Massachusetts General Hospital, founded in 1811, is a leading general hospital in the United States and performs more than 32,000 operations each year. — MNA/Xinhua

An audience at a hospital in Shanghai. It received 1.57 million patients in 2003. Massachusetts General Hospital, founded in 1811, is a leading general hospital in the United States and performs more than 32,000 operations each year. — MNA/Xinhua

Medical staff member of China's NPC vice-chairman meets Turkish guest.
US embargo against Cuba is immoral, unjust and illegal

HAVANA, 11 July — A group of Americans openly challenged the Bush Administration’s tough new restrictions on Cuba Saturday by travelling to the Communist-run island to donate 126 tons of aid gathered in the United States.

Wearing T-shirts that said “Regime change in the US, not in Cuba,” the 120 members of the Pastors for Peace humanitar- ian organization arrived in Havana from Mexico before a ship- ment that includes school buses, medicines, medical equipment, computer hardware.

“We have one purpose: to challenge our government’s blockade of Cuba,” said the group’s leader, Baptist Rever- end Lucius Walker.

Walker said, “US authorities threatened to fine members for travelling to Cuba without a licence on their return to the United States for travelling to Cuba without a licence. That only strengthened our resolve,” he added.

Pastor for Peace is an arm of the Interreligious Founda- tion for Community Organization, an ecumenical organiza- tion based in Harlem. Since 1992, the group has delivered 2,350 tons of aid to Cuba without requesting a US Govern- ment licence, Cuban officials said.

“The blockade against Cuba is immoral, unjust and illogical,” Walker said.

He said a growing number of Americans wanted to reverse hostile US policies toward Cuba that date from Castro’s 1959 revolution in the midst of the Cold War.

US President George W Bush tightened restrictions on family remittances and travel to Cuba last month to put pressure on Castro, while his administration has stepped up enforcement of a travel ban with fines of up to 7,500 US dollars for unauthorized visits to Americans.

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“The blockade against Cuba is immoral, unjust and illogical,” Walker said.

He said a growing number of Americans wanted to reverse hostile US policies toward Cuba that date from Castro’s 1959 revolution in the midst of the Cold War.

US, Britain made “fundamental error” in pre-Iraq war intelligence

LEOREN, 11 July — US and British intelligence serv- ices made “fundamental error” on the intelligence behind their governments’ decision to launch the war against Iraq, former British foreign secretary Robin Cook said in an interview with the BBC radio Saturday.

“It was a fundamental error that went wrong on both sides of the Atlantic,” said Cook, one day after the US Senate investigation concluded that the principal claims justifying the Iraq war were fundamentally wrong.

The United States and Britain launched the war against Iraq in March 2003 on the grounds that former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein had biological and chemical weapons and was developing nuclear weapons.

The two governments had “made up their minds they were going to war,” Cook said, noting “the intelligence agencies were then left in the position of finding intelli- gence to support the conclusion.”

“Nobody except Washington and London thought that Saddam was such a threat that we had immediately to go to war,” he added. — MNA/Reuters

Russian PM meets senior Chinese miliary officer

MOSCOW, 10 July — Rus- sian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov and vice-chairman of China’s Central Military Com- mission Guo Boxiong met here Thursday to enhance de- velopment of bilateral rela- tions.

“Russia is satisfied with the high-level relationship with China and attaches great im- portance to the development of bilateral ties, the Russian Prime Minister said.

Japan to use teleworking in central government

TOYKO, 10 July — Japan has decided to introduce teleworking for national public servants as early as fiscal 2005 that starts next April, and begin testing this fiscal year the new system of using information technology to enable them to work at home or at satellite offices nearby.

Government ministries and agencies are now select- ing jobs for teleworking un- der the guidelines of the Na- tional Personnel Authority and the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommu- nications, the ministry said in a preliminary report released Thursday.

The scheme is in line with the government’s e-Japan initiative that aims at boost- ing the proportion of teleworkers in Japan to 10 per cent of all working peo- ple by 2005 from some 6 per cent in 2002, the ministry said.

The government defines a teleworker as someone us- ing telecommunications for more than 8 hours a week while working without time or office constraints.

The guidelines call for managerial officials to un- derstand the operations and working hours of tele-work- ers, issue business instruc- tions to them and ensure in- formation security.

Teleworking at home or satellite offices by utilizing computers and telecommu- nications equipment is ex- pected to allow workers to save time and energy in com- muting, and allow them to spend more time with their families and relatives.

South Korean protesters hold signs during an anti-war rally in Seoul on 10 July, 2004. — INTERNET

Wen Jiabao outlines strategy on AIDS prevention and control

BEIJING, 10 July — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao promised Friday that China, as a big and responsible developing country, will make its contribution to the regional and global fight against AIDS.

In an article issued prior to the 15th International AIDS Conference to be held in Bangkok next week, Wen called on the whole Chinese society to prevent and con- trol the disease, saying AIDS is a major public health and social issue facing the inter- national community.

With the technical help of United Nations institu- tions, including the World Health Organization, the Chinese Ministry of Health found in a survey last year that there were about 840,000 HIV carriers in China, including 80,000 AIDS patients, mainly in ru- ral areas.

The Premier said China is in a key period of time for AIDS prevention and control since the disease is spreading from high-risk groups to ordinary people in some areas, and the impact of the spread on social and economic development in some areas has begun to emerge.

“Governments at all levels and the whole soci- ety should attach great im- portance to AIDS prevention and control,” he said adding the government should mobilize the whole community to curb the spread of the dis- ease through down-to-earth prevention and control work.

The Prime Minister said China has established a major public health and social issue facing the inter-

Kuwaiti PM calls for strengthening oil cooperation with China

SHANGHAI, 10 July — Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah called for strength- ening economic cooperation, especially oil cooperation, with Shanghai and other areas in China here Thursday.

Sabah, who started an eight-day official visit to China on July 5, said the Kuwaiti side hopes to seek an investment method and part- ner in oil cooperation with China.

Sabah expressed the hope that his China tour will pro- mot the economic and trade ties between Kuwait and China and provide a sound basis for the two countries’ economic growth in the future.

Kuwait and Shanghai have enjoyed close ties on economy and trade in recent years, with investment covering such in- dustries as textiles, machinery and electrical equipment and railway vehicles.

Sabah, as a guest of Chi- nese Premier Wen Jiabao, ar- rived here Wednesday morning from Beijing, where Chinese President Hu Jintao, Chair- man of the Standing Com- mittee of the National People’s Congress Wu Bangguo and
Images of Iraq


Latif Hamadi, 51, is comforted by his son at a hospital in Samarra, Iraq on Friday, 9 July, 2004, a day after a bomb struck his home during fighting between guerillas and American troops.

An Iraqi and his father survey the damage to their house after it was hit by a mortar the night before in the Iraqi capital Baghdad on 10 July, 2004.

An Iraqi youth lies in a hospital bed after being injured during heavy fighting in the city of Sammarra, 120 kms (65 miles) north of Baghdad on 9 July, 2004.
Endeavours to uplift the education standard of the entire nation

In the pre-1988 period there were only 32 universities, degree colleges and colleges whereas today there are 156 institutes altogether.

In the capitals of states and divisions, in the cities of certain development zones there is either a university, a degree college or college.

In the period before 1988 there were only 59 pre-graduate and post-graduate courses. Now there are 157 courses in the regular curricular and nearly 160 provided by the Centres for Human Resource Development.
Construction of Meiktila-Mandalay highway, Mandalay Zaygyo Shopping & Condominium inspected

YANGON, 11 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, senior military officers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at the combined office of Meiktila Station on 8 July morning.

They were welcomed there by Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Meiktila Station, Commander of Flying Training Base Brig-Gen Khin Maung Tin and senior military officers. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint cordially conversed with officers, other ranks and families.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected completion of Meiktila-Mandalay Road. At mile post 350 near Toll Gate, Mandalay-Meiktila six-lane Road Project Manager U Kyi Soe of Hong Pang Construction Co Ltd reported on progress of works. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

Hong Pang Construction Co Ltd is building the Mandalay-Meiktila section from mile posts 338 to 442. The earth work except bypass was completed. The bypass will be nine miles and three furlongs long and 200 feet wide. Next, an official of Yuzana Highway Co Ltd reported on construction of Meiktila Bypass. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected construction of the road section and Tar Plant at Magyi Nyinaung Plant at Magyi Nyinaung.

They then inspected building of culverts and bridges along the road section.

In Singaing, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard a report on construction of Pinchar Bridge presented by Senior Engineer U Maung Maung Lwin of Public Works. The bridge is located at mile post 409/5 of Meiktila-Mandalay section crossing Zawgyi River. It will be 224 feet long and will have 28 feet wide motorway and three feet wide pedestrian lanes on either sides. The bridge can withstand 60-ton loads.

On arrival at the construction site of Myitnge Bridge, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on construction tasks and gave instructions on efforts to be made for completion of the bridge earlier than scheduled. The bridge will be 840 feet long. It will have 72 feet wide motorway and four feet wide pedestrian ways on either side. The bridge can withstand 75-ton loads.

They proceeded to Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) Construction Project site on Mandalay Bank. They were welcomed there by Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Nay Win and officials. Deputy Superintending Engineer U Soe Min, in-charge of the project on Mandalay Bank and Deputy Superintending Engineer U San Win, that of Sagaing Bank, reported on installation of frames on Mandalay Bank and completion of the piers. Steel frames have been installed at the first span of the bridge on Mandalay Bank. A total of 20 bored piles have been built at the RP-6 on Sagaing Bank.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected progress of the project.

At Mandalay Zaygyo Shopping & Condominium in Mandalay, Lt-Gen Ye Myint heard reports on construction matters presented by Chairman U Than Win of Myanmar-Mandalay Co Ltd. Mandalay Zaygyo Shopping & Condominium is jointly being built by Mandalay City Development Committee and Myanmar-Mandalay Co Ltd. There will be car park, power, water and communication systems alongside 120 shops in the basement. There will also be 210 shops on the ground floor and another 120 shops on the first floor. The hall, company offices, super-market, swimming pool, tennis court and car park will be included in from second to sixth floors. On remaining 19 floors, 152 housing apartments will be built.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected construction tasks and left there. They arrived back here on 9 July.

MNA
Most of infrastructures needed for ... (from page 16)

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 presented school uniforms to the teachers of basic education schools of Nawngkho, a computer each to multimedia teaching centres, exercise books to the schools and cash medical equipment to the township hospital of the township’s hospital through the officials. The Secretary-1 and party arrived at Namlan Station Hospital. After that, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at Namlan Station Hospital and inspected medical ward, operation theatre, X-ray unit and medical ward for members of the Sangha. Next, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at Namlan Basic Education High School (Branch) where they were welcomed by Headmaster U Aye Ko, teachers and students.

At 1.30 pm, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at Namtu where they were welcomed by Headmistress Daw Aye Nyunt, teachers and students. At the hall of the school, they met departmental officials, townselders, local national races and families of the Tatmadawmen.

Later, they inspected Nampung Station Hospital.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 greeted those present on the occasion. Next, the Secretary-1 and party proceeded to Namtu Basic Education High School where they inspected multimedia classrooms and greeted students. They inspected the progress of Wetwun-Taungkham Road Project. The commander conducted tours right down to the respective regions including border areas and are needs for regional development. Departmental personnel reported on education and health sectors of the region, and regional development tasks. Departmental heads gave supplementary reports. The Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements and elaborated on simultaneous and speedy development of the entire nation including Shan State. He called on the entire national people to join hands with the State in implementing the State’s future plans. The Secretary-1 presented a gift to local national race leader U Kyaw Win. The Secretary-1 also presented uniforms to the teachers, computers to the multimedia teaching classrooms, exercise books to basic education schools in the township, and cash and medical equipment to Township People’s Hospital.

On 3 July morning, the Secretary-1 met officers and other ranks and their families of Kyaukme Station at the meeting hall of the station. The Secretary-1 and party left Kyaukme at 8 am and arrived at Namlan in Hsipaw Township where they were welcomed by Commander of local battalion Lt-Col Khan Zaw, departmental officials, local national race leaders and others.

After that, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at Namlan Station Hospital and inspected medical ward, operation theatre, X-ray unit and medical ward for members of the Sangha. Next, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at Namlan Basic Education High School (Branch) where they were welcomed by Headmaster U Aye Ko, teachers and students.

At the meeting hall of the school, officials reported on matters related to Namlan region, education, health, transport and requirements to be fulfilled; Headmaster U Aye Ko, on requirement of a school building for the school; Dr Shwe Nyan of Namlan Station Hospital, on matters related to medical treatment and requirements. The Secretary-1 attended to the needs. Next, the Secretary-1 made a speech. He said that they were there to fulfill the requirements of the region, and regional development tasks.

At the briefing hall, Managing Director U Saw Lwin of No1 Mining Enterprise of Mines. At the briefing hall, Managing Director U Saw Lwin of No1 Mining Enterprise reported on the salient points of Nambwedwin Mines and its production process to the Secretary-1 who fulfilled the requirements.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 attended to the needs for harmonious development across the nation. Progress has been made in the respective regions due to the right leadership of the government, the combined efforts of service personnel, the people and members of social organizations. All are to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts for further development of Union.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 attended to the needs for construction of a new school building for the school and presented uniforms for teachers, learning and teaching aids and exercise books to the headmaster. Next, the Secretary-1 presented cash donated and medical ward, operation theatre, X-ray unit and medical ward for members of the Sangha. Next, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at Namlan in Hsipaw Township where they were welcomed by Deputy Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Hla Myint, officials and national race leaders. At the Town Hall, the Secretary-1 met departmental officials, members of social organizations and Union Solidarity and Development Association, townelders and local people. Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council U Myo Aung reported on national races residing in the township, education, health, economic, transport and requirements. The commander gave a supplementary report. The Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements for national development as well as development of education and health sectors. Next, the Secretary-1 presented cash to the guests related to national development and presented gifts to national race leader U Sai Naung. Afterwards, the Secretary-1 presented uniforms for teachers, computer, learning and teaching aids, exercise books and medical equipment to officials concerned. After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party arrived on the occasion.

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Li-Gen Ye Myint attends opening ceremony of multi-media teaching rooms in Kyaukhtu BEHS

YANGON, 11 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsuan, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, 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 Yin Tin and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, yesterday morning, went to Kyaukhtu Airport in Kyaukhtu, Gangaw District and attended the opening ceremony of Kyaukhtu Airport.

They were welcomed there by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min, members of social organizations and local people.

Next, they proceeded to Kyaukhtu Basic Education High School and attended the opening ceremony of multi-media teaching rooms of the school.

At the ceremony, Li-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the signboard of the rooms. Next, they viewed round the computer aided instruction room, computer skill room, audio room and learning of the students in the rooms.

They also viewed round the audio visual language lab, printed media room and domestic science room. At the musical and arts room, students entertained them. Li-Gen Ye Myint presented cash awards to the students.

Moreover, it is also situated on Seikphyu-Saw Htilin-Gangaw Road in the western part of Magway Division. So, Kyaukhtu is a strategic region, he noted.

He also urged the local people to make efforts for the development of the region and to use the newly opened multimedia rooms effectively and maintain them.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party posed for a documentary photo together with members of the School Board of Trustees.

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 11 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 of the Development Affairs Department (Tel: 01-54520 & 2538088), the Deputy Director-General of the Development Affairs Department (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Sagaying Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Magway Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-54657).

37th Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services (37th CCS)

Yangon, Union of Myanmar (10 — 13 July, 2004)

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MNA

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37th Meeting of the ASEAN Coordinating Committee on Services (37th CCS)

Yangon, Union of Myanmar (10 — 13 July, 2004)
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than tours townships in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 11 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and officials, inspected arrival of frames and construction materials at Ngawun River Bridge (Pathein) in Pathein on 9 July. Project in-charge Deputy Superintending Engineer U Khin Maung Win and Senior Engineer U Kyaw Shein reported on facts about the project, completion of tasks and construction of approach road on Kanni Bank. The commander gave a supplementary report.

The bridge is located on Pathein-Shwemynin-Wayachung Road to link Mayanchaung Village on eastern bank of Ngawun River and Kanni Village on western one. It will be 2,140 feet long and 28 feet wide iron frame suspension bridge. Now, 60 per cent construction of the bridge was completed. On completion, the bridge will contribute towards better transport of Ngputaw and Thabaung townships including Ngwe Hsuaung Beach and Chauintha Beach. In addition, the bridge can contribute to smooth transportation of commodities.

At 400-acre model farmland in Knyawgayi East Village in Kyaunggon Township, they met 634 farmers who attended the direct paddy seeding demonstration. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged them to make efforts for cultivation of paddy to be able to produce 100 baskets per acre. In Kyaunggon Township, 59,520 acres of monsoon paddy have been cultivated against the target of 142,857 acres.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attended the opening ceremony of multimedia teaching centre at Kyaunggon Basic Education High School No.2. He unveiled the signboard of the centre.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 12 July, 2004

YANGON, 10 July — A press briefing on convening of the 22nd Conference of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (CAFEO-22) of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (AFEO) which will be held in Myanmar and organized by Myanmar Engineering Society (MES) was held at Traders Hotel, here, this afternoon.

Chairman of AFEO and chairman of MES Professor Dr Sein Myint delivered an address. General secretary U Than Myint of MES reported on the history of mutual relation between AFEO and MES as well as holding the 22nd conference of AFEO. Next, 22nd conference convening central executive committee members gave a supplementary report on the preparatory tasks for organizing the conference and matters concerning MES Web Site and CAFEO-22 Web Site.

The 22nd CAFEO-22 will be held at Sedona Hotel, here, on 18 and 19 December, 2004. — MNA
Laos opium production drops sharply in 2004

Vienna, 10 July — Opium production in Laos fell by nearly two-thirds in 2004, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said on Friday, continuing a downward trend in Southeast Asia’s Golden Triangle drugs production.

Opium production in Laos fell 64 per cent to 43 metric tons this year, according to UNODC’s annual opium survey. Cultivation in Laostian poppy farms dropped 45 per cent to 6,400 hectares (16,300 acres) from 12,000 hectares in 2003, the survey found.

“Together with the parallel decline in cultivation in Myanmar, this historical achievement, if sustained, will end more than a century of opium production in the Golden Triangle,” UNODC chief Antonio Maria Costa said.

Laos’ annual survey did not explain what caused the decline in poppy cultivation but it cited the government’s efforts to eradicate poppy farming. Laos’ government has said it aims to eliminate poppy cultivation by 2005.

The area covered by poppy crops in Laos has fallen 75 percent since 1998, the UNODC said.

But production could still bounce back. Laos’ declining harvest has restored opium supply and driven up prices, which the UNODC said could encourage farmers to resume growing poppies.

The average price that farmers in Laos received for their illicit crop rose 27 percent to 218 US dollars per kilo (100 US dollars per pound) in 2004, the agency said in a statement.

“The price increase could present an incentive for farmers to cultivate opium next year,” the statement said.

Costa called for international assistance so that Laostian farmers who have sacrificed income from growing poppies can find other ways of earning a living.

The number of households in Laos cultivating opium fell by 43 percent in 2004, the UNODC survey found.

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Cambodia sends large delegation to attend HIV/AIDS meeting

Pnom Penh, 10 July — Cambodia sent a 173-member delegation to attend the international AIDS meeting to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, on July 11 to 16, health officials said here Friday.

“We sent a lot of officials because AIDS problems in Cambodia are very serious and that we need to learn more about how to prevent it from other countries,” Tia Phalla, Cambodia’s National AIDS Authority’s Director, told Xinhua.

“The meeting will focus on Access for All, including medicines to cure HIV/AIDS and techniques to prevent the disease,” added Tia Phalla.

The Cambodian delegation is headed by Minister of Health Houn Sunh Boon, its members including Secretaries of State from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs.

The meeting is held in every two years, and 32 countries from Asia-Pacific will attend the meeting.

The meeting will also focus on policy and legis- lative preparation, resource mobilization and community engagement.

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NEW YORK, 10 July — The number of public-school students identified as poor in New York State has jumped 33 per cent over the past decade, local media reported on Thursday.

According to the state Department of Education analysis, 82 per cent of students in kindergarten through 12th grade in New York City and other urban districts were eligible for free or reduced-price school meals in 2002, up from 62 per cent a decade ago.

State officials said the trend will continue. State Deputy Education Commissioner James Kadamous said that more students entering kindergarten in 2004 are eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch.

Officials also noted that poorer students come to school with more health problems that can be barriers to learning. “Asthma is a chronic illness that has increased over the past two decades. Obesity among children is a pressing concern. Health-insurance coverage is significantly lower for the Black and Hispanic populations,” said a study by the state’s department of Education.

The New York City public school system is grappling with a growing proportion of immigrant students whose primary language is not English. About 15 per cent of city students are learning English.

Meanwhile, economically troubled upstate cities like Buffalo suffer from plummeting populations, and the young families that remain are poorer. Some poor students enter kindergarten without even knowing the alphabet, the study said — MNA/Xinhua

WHO urges prompt action on avian influenza outbreaks

MANILA, 10 July — The World Health Organization (WHO) has urged the authorities in Asian countries newly affected by outbreaks of avian influenza to make viral isolates available so that they can be analysed by international reference laboratories.

The new cases of outbreaks of avian influenza have been confirmed in poultry in China, Thailand and Vietnam. Solar, tens of thousands of chickens and ducks have been slaughtered to halt the spread of the infection. There are no confirmed human infections so far in these countries.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare announced Friday it will have medical institutions using Positive Emission Tomography (PET) scanning equipment offer PET scanning for free or reduced-price to public safety agencies offering PET scanning due to concern that radioactivity may be used as a test agent.

The procedure involves administering fluorodeoxyglucose—a sugar molecule labelled with a small amount of radioactivity — into a vein, waiting for it to circulate throughout the body, and then taking images to check whether the agent is accumulating in any particular organ or place.

Cancers are known to use more sugar than other tissues in the body, so doctors can determine where tumours are by looking for accumulations of the radioactive sugar.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan to take safety steps on popular test for cancer

TOKYO, 10 July — Japanese Government has decided to take safety measures on an increasingly popular method of detecting even minute cancers in the body using small amounts of radioactive material.

The move is in response to calls for public safety rules for medical facilities offering PET scanning due to concern that radioactivity may be used as a test agent.

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MNA/Xinhua

HK to launch digital terrestrial TV in 2007

HONG KONG, 11 July — Hong Kong viewers will enjoy high definition television (HDTV) programmes via digital terrestrial television (DTT) broadcasting in 2007, Hong Kong’s Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology John Tsang said here Friday.

According to Tsang, the Chief Executive in Council has approved the policy of implementing DTT broadcasting.

The two incumbent terrestrial television broadcasters, namely Asia Television Limited (ATV) and Television Broadcasts Limited (TVB), will start simulcasting both analogue and digital terrestrial television services within 2007 at the latest, Tsang said.

MNA/Xinhua

James Joyce’s love letter smashes sale record

LONDON, 10 July — A love letter sent by Irish writer James Joyce to his wife Nora Barnacle was sold in London on Thursday for 240,800 pounds (446,200 US dollars), the highest price ever reached for a 20th century autographed letter, Sotheby’s said.

The erotic letter was written in the winter of 1909 after Joyce’s return to Dublin without Nora for the first time since their elopement from Dublin to Trieste, Italy five years earlier. The letter, which was found by chance hidden at the back of an old book, is said to be remarkable because of Joyce’s hatred of obscene jokes and swearing.

The Sotheby’s said the final price, offered by an anonymous bidder, was four times its top pre-sale estimate. “The sale was extraordinarily well-attended by all the major collectors,” said Peter Selley, Sotheby’s English literature specialist.

“The high price achieved for the erotic letter from Joyce to Nora Barnacle fully reflects the importance of the couple’s relationship,” he said. It was their relationship that was the source of so much of Joyce’s creativity and this is clearly evident throughout Joyce’s work, especially in his novel Ulysses, he said.

A book viewed by many as the most important novel in 20th Century English literature, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

China initiates massive education project on AIDS prevention

BEIJING, 11 July— Some 1,300 volunteers from China’s medical universities will head to the country’s rural areas, teaching villagers how to prevent AIDS during their summer vacation.

The activity is part of a massive education project initiated Saturday by 12 government departments, ministries and organizations in a bid to sharpen public awareness of AIDS, especially among rural residents, youths and women.

The volunteers would go to the country’s 127 pilot zones for AIDS prevention, where AIDS epidemic is relatively serious and the government’s policies including free anti-retroviral drugs and free counseling are being practised.

Vice-Health Minister Wang Longde said at the start-up ceremony of the project.

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The move comes in response to calls for public safety rules for medical facilities offering PET scanning due to concern that radioactivity may be used as a test agent.

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Cancers are known to use more sugar than other tissues in the body, so doctors can determine where tumours are by looking for accumulations of the radioactive sugar.

MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabweans urged to move to other eco sectors from farming

HARARE, 11 July— Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe said on Friday the government would soon embark on a programme to encourage the indigenous people to move to other economic sectors.

Addressing delegates to the Fourth Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front Youth League Congress being held at the University of Zimbabwe, he said while some would be involved in agriculture, some should be involved in developing industrial capacity to add value to products.

Mugabe added that the country could not develop unless it developed the capacity to add value to primary products.

In his speech, President Mugabe said the process of repossessing land from former White commercial farmers was not the end of the revolution but an instrument for creating opportunities to develop the country.

He said the areas such as mining, manufacturing, tourism and the financial sectors could be opened up to Black people for them to prosper.

The government would be looking at these to see how they could be organized to accommodate indigenous people, he said.

Many Zimbabweans were already involved in the mining sector through illegal gold mining activities to earn a living, he noted.

The government wanted all mining activities done in an orderly manner and not haphazardly as was happening at present, he said.

All those involved in illegal gold panning would be organized, taught proper methods of mining and would be assisted to acquire appropriate machinery and equipment, he said. He said it was through allowing locals to acquire stakes in the various sectors, that the government could assume control over the country’s resources, which are presently controlled by multi-nationals.

MNA/Xinhua
Soccer

Spurs agree fee for Fulham midfielder

London, 10 July — Tottenham Hotspur have agreed terms with Fulham for midfielder Sean Davis, the Premier League clubs said on Friday. The move will be Spurs’ second signing under new manager Jacques Santini, and will go through providing personal terms are agreed and 24-year-old Davis passes a medical. Spurs said on its web site. Fulham said both clubs had agreed that the transfer terms would not be disclosed.

“This is a very important signing for the club and he will have a crucial role to play at the centre of our midfield,” Spurs Sporting Director Frank Arnesen told the club’s web site.

Santini, the former coach of France, recently completed his new look Spurs coaching team with the addition of highly rated French coach Dominique Cuperly. On Saturday Spurs announced that 18 year-old Brazilian Rodrigo Defendi had joined the club.

It was also announced on Friday that 6 feet 8 inches striker Peter Crouch had moved from Aston Villa to Premiership rivals Southampton for 2.0 million pounds (37.1 million US dollars).

Arteta returns home to Sociedad

Madrid, 10 July — Real Sociedad have agreed to deal a Spanish midfielder Mikel Arteta from Glasgow Rangers for 4 million euros (49.6 million US dollars), the Primera Liga said on Friday.

Sociedad said the 22-year-old, who has been at Rangers for the last two seasons, will sign a four-year deal with the club with a option to extend the deal for a further two years.

Arteta was born in the Basque city of San Sebastian where Sociedad are based, but began his career in the youth ranks at Barcelona before being loaned out to Paris St Germain in 2000. Two years later Rangers paid an estimated 10 million US dollars to sign him from Barcelona.

He played a key role in helping the club win the Scottish title in 2003 when he scored a last-minute penalty in their 6-1 rout of Dunfermline Athletic in their final league game of the season as they pipped arch-rivals Celtic to Celtic on goal difference.

The young midfielder said that after spending much of his career away from Spain he had jumped at the chance to return home to play for Sociedad.

“I didn’t think twice when I knew Sociedad wanted to sign me,” Arteta told the Sociedad web site.

Olympic flame returns to Greece

Heraklion (Greece), 10 July — The glob-trotting Olympic flame returned to Greece on Friday for the second leg of its domestic torch relay leading up to the Athens Olympics.

After its five-continent voyage, the flame touched down at the airport of Heraklion, Crete, on a chartered Boeing 747 dubed Zeus at 18:20 local time.

Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, president of the Athens Olympics Organizing Committee (ATHOC), walked off the plane first, holding a small lamp containing the holy fire.

Panayiotis Yiannakis, who was instrumental in Greece’s winning the European basketball championship in 1987, was the first torchbearer.

“It’s a magical moment, despite the fact that I had participated at the Barcelona torch relay. This torch relay is a completely new experience, it has united the world. We’ve exchanged ideas, our diversity — it’s a life connection,” said Yiannakis, who coaches the country’s Olympic basketball team.

The torch relay passed by the port, the Venetian fortress, the city walls and ended up at Eleftherias Square, where the last bearer, long jumper Stella Pitani, lit the cauldron, followed by a celebration gala show.

Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, a native of Crete, delivered a welcome speech at the square.

“Today, at this moment, I feel great joy and emotion that we are all here in Iraklio (Heraklion), in my own homeland, with my family, friends and associates, at the Olympic flame’s first stop in Greece and at the starting point of the final course before the flame lights the Olympic Stadium on the evening of August 13th,” said the ATHOC chief.

Angelopoulos-Daskalaki also extended her sincere thanks to all Greeks for support to the world’s largest sporting event.

“For four years, we have all worked very hard together. Each Greek contributed in his or her own way to this major affair. In some cases we may have expressed different opinions, there might even have been disagreements, but we always shared the same goal and purpose. We all worked together and stayed focused on the results of this long course — the great and clear success for Greece,” she said.

For the next 35 days the flame, ignited in Olympia on March 25, will travel on Greek soil. Stopovers are planned in 29 cities and six important archaeological sites, including the Acropolis when it returns to Athens in August. The flame’s 46,800-mile global journey began on June 4. It passed through Africa and South America for the first time.

Middlesbrough sign Hasselbaink

Heroworth (England), 10 July — Middehrough signed former Chelsea striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink on Friday, the Premier League club’s third major recruit in four days.

The 32-year-old Dutchman, whose move did not involve a fee, was released from the final year of his Chelsea contract less than a fortnight ago, ending a four-year spell in which he scored 87 goals in 177 games.

Hasselbaink joins on a two-year deal 24 hours after Boro unveiled his future strike partner, former Leeds United forward Mark Viduka, and three days after the presentation of another Dutch signing, defender Michael Reiziger.

Hasselbaink, who unlike Reiziger failed to make the Dutch squad for Euro 2004, was among the victims of a player clearout following the arrival of new Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho. His 15-million-pound (27.6 million US-dollar) move to Stamford Bridge from Atletico Madrid in 2000 had equalled the then Premier League record.

Hasselbaink spent his early career in Portugal, playing for Camponaore and Boavista from 1992-97, before a two-year spell at Leeds prior to Viduka’s arrival, and a year in Madrid.

Desailly denies move to Celtic

London, 10 July — Marcel Desailly has denied a report from a Scottish newspaper that he wants to move to Celtic after ending his six-year contract with Premier League club Chelsea.

According to Thursday’s Daily Record report, Desailly said he had been watching Celtic over the past two years and believed that a move to Parkhead would be “ideal”.

However, the statements were hotly denied by the 35-year-old defender on his personal web site, with Desailly insisting he had given no interviews and was still considering his future.

“Chelsea have been fantastic with me, freeing me from the last year of my contract,” the club’s former captain said. “Since then, I’ve given myself about 10 days to decide my future.”

Desailly, a 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000 winner with France, won a record 116 caps for his country before retiring from international football last week.

Middlesbrough sign Hasselbaink

Carrying her son, Persian Indian woman watches the Costa Rican national soccer team during a training session at the Miguel Grau Stadium in Arequipa, Peru, on 9 July, 2004. Costa Rica will face Brazil on 11 July in their second match in the 2004 Copa America tournament. —INTERNET

Desailly denies move to Celtic

Middlesbrough sign Hasselbaink

Olympic flame returns to Greece
Rainfall on 11-7-2004
- 1.10 inches at Yangon Airport,
- 2.24 inches at Kaba-Aye and
- 1.14 inches at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1380 mm (54.33 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1294 mm (50.94 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1280 mm (50.39 inches) at central Yangon.

WEATHER

Sundays, 11 July, 2004
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hrs MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Magway Division and rain or thunderstorms will be widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Rakhae State, isolated heavyfalls in upper Sagaing, Yangon Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Co Co Island (9.96) inches, Hkaatmi (7.68) inches, Maungdaw (5.63) inches, Sittway (3.94) inches, Gwa (3.86) inches, Thandwe (3.15) inches, and Kyaukpyu (3.07) inches.

Maximum temperature on 10-7-2004 was 29.5°C (85°F). Minimum temperature on 11-7-2004 was 19.9°C (67°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 11-7-2004 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 10-7-2004 was 0.5 hour approx. Rainfall on 11-7-2004 was (1.10) inches at Yangon Airport, (2.24) inches at Kaba-Aye and (1.14) inches at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1380 mm (54.33 inches) at Yangon Airport, 1294 mm (50.94 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1280 mm (50.39 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 15 mph from Northwest at 13:30 hrs MST on 10-7-2004.

Bay influence: Monsoon is generally moderate in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 12-7-2004: Rain or thunderstorms will be widespread in Kachin, Rakhae, Mon, Kayin States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and scattered in the remaining areas with likelihood isolated heavyfalls in Kachin, Rakhae States, upper Sagaing Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 12-7-2004: One or two rain which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (100%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 12-7-2004: Isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Flood Bulletin
Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 11-7-2004
According to the 06:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Hkaatmi (1484) cm. It may remain above its danger level of (1360) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.

New Rainfall Record
Issued at 12:00 hrs MST on 11-7-2004
The amount of rainfall 253 mm (9.96 inches) observed at 09:30 hrs MST on 11 July 2004 at Co Co Island is the (24) hrs new maximum rainfall record of the station for the Month of July during last (51) years. The former record was 216 mm (8.50 inches) on the 25th July 1991.
Most of infrastructures needed for development have been built all parts of the nation in short time

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win tours Shan State (North)

Yangon, 11 July — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Soe, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe and departmental heads, left here by air and arrived at Mandalay International Airport on 2 July afternoon.

Next, they helicoptored to Nawngkho in Shan State (North), where they were welcomed by Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Chairman North East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and officials.

The Secretary-1 and party held a meeting with departmental personnel, members of USDA and social organizations and townsmen in Nawngkho Township. Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Ko Ko Lwin reported on sown acreage of the region, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy and other crops, local rice sufficiency, education and health sectors, and requirements. The Secretary-1 asked the officials for facts about health and education fields of the township and regional development. Those responsible replied to the query. The commander gave a supplementary report.

The Secretary-1 attended to the needs, saying that the purpose of their tour was to fulfill the requirements of the regions in Shan State (North) and firstly they made a tour of Nawngkho. He said that Nawngkho has enjoyed better transport. On completion of Nawngkho-Taungshe-Taungkha Road Project, it will serve as a new route linking Shan State (South) and (North). Nawngkho is blessed with favourable conditions in agriculture and it helps ensure food sufficiency. However, the region is to extend growing of perennial crops for greater development.

The Government has been implementing projects for equitable development of all regions of States and Divisions including Nawngkho Township. All have witnessed that all regions are making progress thanks to the cooperation of service personnel, members of social organizations and local people in implementing the projects. Most of economic, social and transport infrastructures needed for development have been built all parts of the nation in a short time. It is important to accelerate the development momentum for ensuring regional and national development through effective utilization of these foundations. Now, the National Convention is being held as the first stage of the State’s seven-point policy programme. In this regard, it is incumbent upon service personnel and the people to cooperate with the government in implementing the State’s political programmes phase by phase including accomplishment of the National Convention, he said.

MNA

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

Yangon, 11 July — Chairman of National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, together with Vice-Chairman of NCCWC Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Secretary U Thaung Nyunt and work committee members, NCCMC Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Vice-Chairman Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Chairman of invitation and accommodation sub-committee Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials, met the National Convention delegates prior to their departure for home at the adjournment of the National Convention.

At 3.45 am, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party arrived at Nyaunghnapin Camp and cordially met the National Convention delegates prior to their departure for home at the adjournment of the National Convention.

Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party waved to the delegates who were leaving Nyaunghnapin Camp by convoy as the last group.

In his meeting, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein wished the delegates, who would be leaving for home because of the adjournment of the National Convention, health and happiness, also wishing them to be able to attend the National Convention in good health till its successful completion.

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