Government will put forward nation-building tasks in accord with national aims in the interest of nation and people

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win meets officials in Lashio

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win holds a meeting with officers and other ranks of Kutkai Station and their families in Kutkai. — MNA

Established 1914

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Kyaukhtu airport for regional development

As the development of a region or a nation mainly depends on its transport, the Government, in its bid for the all-round development of the Union, has been taking steps to ensure easy and smooth transport.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on one occasion said that good transport can lead to economic development of each and every region and increase contacts among the national people, thus strengthening friendship among them. Therefore, priority should be given to construction of motor roads, railroads and bridges and improvement of transport service, he added. In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, measures are being taken for improving transport across the Union.

Not only are the roads running from north to south in the country being extended and upgraded but the new ones running from east to west all over the Union are also being built. Moreover, river-crossing bridges and new airports are being constructed and the old ones upgraded.

Kyaukhtu Airport in Kyaukhtu, Gangaw District, Magway Division was inaugurated on 10 July and the opening ceremony was attended by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

The old runway of the airport measuring 100ft by 3850ft was built in 1953 and only Dakotas and Twin Otters could land there. But the new concrete runway which is 6500 feet long and 100 feet wide can handle F-27 and F-28 planes and it was built by military engineers.

Kyaukhtu is at a strategic point as it is located where the Pakokku-Mindat road and the Seikphyu-Saw-Heilyn-Gangaw road meet. This being so, steps are being taken for the development of its education, health, agriculture, economic and social sectors.

Now, the new Kyaukhtu airport has been opened in Gangaw District, Magway Division, and it is believed that it will contribute towards regional development and uplift of socio-economic lives of the residential people of Magway Division as well as Chin State.

Chess Tournament opens

YANGON, 13 July — The opening ceremony of the Commander-in-Chief (Air)’s Shield Chess Tournament was held at the regional battalion in Toungoo yesterday morning with an address by Brig-Gen Kyaw Aung of Toungoo Station. Altogether seven teams are taking part in the tournament which will continue till 16 July. — MNA

People’s Desire

- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation

Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet gives talks. — MNA

Talks on MWAF held at Ministry of Energy

YANGON, 13 July — Talks on Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation were given at a ceremony held at the Yadana Hall of the Ministry of Energy on Pyay Road here this morning. MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet gave talks. Also present on the occasion were Patron Daw Khin Phet Huy of Yangon Division Organization for Women’s Affairs, Energy Minister Brig-Gen Lan Tha Myint of the Ministry of Energy.

Talks on salient points of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation held

YANGON, 13 July — Talks on salient points of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, conducted by the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development took place at the meeting hall of National Archives Department this morning. Present on the occasion were Vice-Presidents of MWAF Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, CEC members, wife of the Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Adviser to Finance and Administration Group of MWAF Daw Kyu Kyu Win, wives of the directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry, staff and their families.

Officials leave for Singapore

YANGON, 13 July — To attend Asia Health Care 2004 “Buyers Sellers Meeting on Pharmaceutical and Natural Products” in Singapore, Myanmar Medicine and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association Joint Secretary Dr Thin Nwe Win and Executive Dr Saw Mya Aung left here by air. They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by officials and relatives. — MNA

37th Meeting of ASEAN Coordination Committee on Services concludes

YANGON, 13 July — The 37th Meeting of the ASEAN Coordination Committee on Services hosted by the Union of Myanmar continued for the fourth and final day at Traders Hotel here this morning.

Traders Hotel here this morning.

Dr Khaine Phansourcing from the Lao People's Democratic Republic presided over today's session. During the meeting, representatives of ASEAN countries namely Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam negotiated liberalisation of limitations of trade in services such as business, construction, health, maritime, communication, tourism and education among ASEAN countries in sectorial working group meeting.

The meeting successfully came to a close with concluding remarks by the meeting chairman.

In the afternoon, the representatives of ASEAN countries toured Bago and visited Kyaukmon Pagoda, Shwethalyaung Pagoda and Shwemawdaw Pagoda.

The 37th Meeting of ASEAN Coordination Committee on Services in progress. — MNA

Dr Thin Nwe Win and Dr Saw Mya Aung being seen off at the Yangon International Airport. — mna

MWAF National Race Group Adviser Daw Khin Mar Aye, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Aung Khine, wife Daw Soe Wut Yi, officials and employees numbering over 500.

After the talks, Adviser Daw Khin Mar Aye presented K300,000 for MWAF to Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet. — MNA
Iraqi militiamen impose new
deadline for Philippine Govt

MANSIA, 12 July— The Philippine Government was given a new deadline to pledge to pull out its troops in Iraq before July 20 for the release of a kidnapped Filipino overseas worker, a local TV reported Monday.

The ABS-CNBD news channel said that the extension may reach 24 to 48 hours, which allows a stay of execution of Angelou de la Cruz, a 46-year-old trunk driver working in Iraq for a Saudi-based company.

Citing a news report from al-Arabiya TV, the ABS-CNBD said that the Iraqi militiamen intend to treat de la Cruz as a prisoner of war.

The Arabic television station, al-Jazeera, broadcast earlier last Thursday a footage showing that three masked gunmen claimed to have seized a Filipino, who was identified as de la Cruz.

The group, calling itself the “Khaled Ibn Al-Walid Brigade” linked to the “Islamic Army in Iraq,” threatened to kill the hostage if the Philippine Government will not pull out its troops in Iraq in 72 hours.

Despite mounting calls from the public to withdraw the 51-man Filipino contingent early to spare the life of de la Cruz, the government vowed to stay its troops in Iraq until their scheduled return next month.

“This is the lesson we are teaching to the Iraqi people that they can’t be provoked by any act of terrorism from the dissidents who are operating in Iraq,” President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo earlier on Sunday said in the opening of the first-phase of the Army’s 1st Infantry Division’s actual deployment in the southern Iraqi city of Samawah, as well as troops and supplies for the US-led multinational force.

Tomas is accompanying the hostage’s wife and a brother to the war-torn Midd- le East country “to be closer to developments on the ground.”

“We are extending our utmost support to the (De la Cruz) family during this very critical time,” Albett said in a statement.

“We continue to seek the understanding and full cooperation of the media in reporting this live hostage situation,” he added.

MNAXinmun

Gulf war veterans have worse health
than others in British Army

LONDON, 12 July— An official study showed that British soldiers who served in the 1991 Gulf war have worse health than those who did not, the British Sunday Times newspaper reported on Sunday, day ahead of an independent probe into the Gulf War syndrome.

The study, commissioned and funded by the British Ministry of Defence (MoD), found that Gulf veterans largely suffered from mood swings and memory loss. Many also complained of muscle ache and fatigue, according to the report.

The paper quoted researchers as saying that more than one in 20 British servicemen who served in the Gulf war believed they had Gulf war syndrome. The British Government has never acknowledged the existence of Gulf War syndrome and has not attempted to help those suffering from it.

The findings were based on questionnaires sent to all British Armed Forces personnel who had been deployed to the Gulf some time between August 1990 and March 1991. More than 24,000 gave responses, which were compared with those of 18,439 male service personnel who had not served in the Gulf.

The MoD has maintained that the illness is so varied that there can be no distinct syndrome or a specific cause.

The study, the largest of its kind, found that Gulf war veterans reported significantly more symptoms than other veterans, but there was no consistent explanation for this discrepancy, according to the paper.

The survey findings came on the eve of a privately funded independent public inquiry into the more than 6,000 reported cases of Gulf war-related illnesses.

Lord Lloyd of Berwick, who as a former Law Lord once sat in Britain’s highest court, was expected to start the inquiry on Monday, which will focus on the vaccinations and tablets given to soldiers in the run-up to the war and on claims that they may have been exposed to Iraqi chemical and biological weapons.

Thousands of British veterans, suffering from unex- plained ailments including kidney pains, memory loss, chronic fatigue and mood swings, have blamed the cock- 
ail of tablets and vaccinations they were given to protect them from nerve agents, anthrax and botulism.—MNAXinmun

A US soldier on patrol in central Baghdad. A US-led coalition soldier was among three people killed when a military convoy was hit by a roadside bomb south of Iraq main northern city of Mosul on 11 July, 2004. — Internet

Putin says Russia to enhance
its role in the CIS

MOSCOW, 13 July— Russia should strengthen its leadership in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) by taking effective policy, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday at a gathering of Russian diplomats.

Russia should also try to enhance ties with Asian and Pacific countries, especially relations with the United States, China and India, Putin told some 130 ambassadors gathered in Moscow.

The country’s diplomatic missions abroad must help accomplish national goals, and “improving Russia’s economic competitiveness, radically boosting GDP and integrating with the world economic system” were among these goals, Putin said, according to Russian news agencies.

He said that the priorities in Russia’s foreign policy were “topprotectional economic interests, improve Russia’s investment appeal and prevent discrimination on foreign markets.”

Putin also told the ambassadors that he wanted them to push for Russia’s accession to the World Trade Organization.

Speaking of relations with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Putin warned that Russia does not have the right to claim the leader’s role in the CIS countries, the former Soviet republics.

“It is an absolutely erroneous, complacent and misleading approach. The role of a leader should be permanently backed by effective policies,” Putin said.

The lack of an effective Russian policy in the CIS, or even an unreasonable pause in it, will inevitably encourage other, more active states, to fill this political space energetically,” Putin said. — MNAXinmun

Gathered shells: An Iraqi youth holds empty bullet shells collected in the street following an attack targeting an alcohol store in Baghdad’s Karada neighbourhood on 11 July, 2004. — Internet

Strikes on Iraqi oil, electricity seen as inside job

BAGHDAD, 12 July— Saboteurs attacking Iraq’s oil and electricity infrastructure appear to be employees working in the industry or others acting on inside information, reconstruction officials said yesterday.

A Western diplomat in Baghdad said the “precise” tar- geting of especially vulnerable or valuable portions of the oil and electricity systems — and even a sewage treat- ment plant — has increased the damage to critical infra- structure beyond what would be expected from random attacks. The diplomat declined to reveal the sections that had been sabotaged.

Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi has blamed such at- tacks for a nationwide loss of power for more than four hours a day. Iraq’s pipelines transport crude oil for export and other energy-generating equipment that provide domestic electricity.

Mr Allawi said saboteurs have attacked vital oil pipe- lines 130 times in the past seven months, causing hun- dreds of millions of dollars of damage and lost revenues, hindering Iraq’s efforts to rebuild and adding to the hard- ships of average Iraqis.

The Western diplomat said insurgents were suspected of using blackmail and threats to coerce Iraqi workers to launch attacks or to provide information on vulnerable locations in the country’s oil pipelines and electric power lines.

Funding and information for the sabotage also may be flowing into Iraq from other countries, the diplomat said.

Oil Minister Thamer al-Ghadban told Dow Jones Newswires yesterday that his ministry would extend for “a few months” a contract with South African security contractor Erinys International that was set to expire in less than a month.

Mr al-Ghadban said he would also expand the 14,000- member Iraqi force created to protect the infrastructure.

Steve Wright, a spokesman for the US Army Corps of Engineers, said sabotage of key infrastructure appears to have been planned last year by members of Saddam Hussein’s government before the US-led invasion. In some cases, Iraqi oil wells were wired to be set on fire. — Internet

876 US troops killed since
beginning of military
operations in Iraq last year

BAGHDAD, 12 July— As of Monday, 12 July, 876 US service members have died since the beginning of mili- tary operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 651 died as a result of hostile action and 225 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 59 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; France, three; Thailand, two; South Korea, two; and India, one. Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 738 US soldiers have died 542 as a result of hostile action and 196 of non-hostile causes. — Internet
**Bulgaria asks for mercy for hostages in Iraq**

**Baghdad, 12 July** — Senior Bulgarian diplomats arrived in Baghdad on Sunday and pleaded for the release of two of their compatriots believed held by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the most wanted man in Iraq.

Bulgaria says the two — poor trade unionists who went to Iraq for the money — are still alive although a Muslim group led by Zarqawi threatened on Thursday to kill them within 24 hours unless the United States released jailed Iraqis.

“We plead with the kidnappers to free these men. They are apolitical, from one of the most impoverished regions of Bulgaria. They took this job because they want to live,” one Bulgarian official said.

“Islam calls for mercy on the poor. The kidnappers must know that Bulgaria has opened its doors for Iraqis for decades, including through the UN sanctions,” he said.

The two hostages, Georgi Lazov, 30, and Ivailo Kepov, 32, were transporting cars from Bulgaria to Mosul in northern Iraq for an Iraqi car dealer when they disappeared on June 27.

Lazov has a diabetic child and Kepov is on medication since suffering a stroke a few years ago, the diplomat said. The two are from the southern Blagoevgrad region, which suffered economically after the fall of Communism.

“Muslims and Christians live in harmony in Blagoevgrad. We as Bulgarians and as a government have nothing against Arabs or Muslims,” he said.

The circumstances of the kidnapping are unknown. The two were last seen delivering their shipment to a used car dealership in a busy street of Mosul.

Al Jazeera satellite television has shown a video of the two men in front of masked captors identified as members of Zarqawi’s Tawhid wal-Jihad group.

The intelligence official said Zarqawi mostly operated in central Iraq and that the kidnapping in a region further north might show an expansion of his network.

**Iraqi police examine a car which was destroyed when a roadside bomb detonated as a convoy of oil security guards drove past in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on 6 July, 2004. One passer-by was killed and two others were wounded.  — Internet**

**Chavez accuses US of funding oppsn groups**

**Caracas, 12 July** — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday accused a US Government-funded non-profit organization of providing 300,000 US dollars to opposition groups seeking to remove him from office.

Chavez pointed out in a live radio and television show that what he said was a document proving that the National Endowment for Democracy gave the money to several opposition groups.

The National Endowment for Democracy was created in 1983 to strengthen democratic institutions around the world through non-governmental efforts.

The money was used to draft a government and economic plan entitled Country Consensus, which was released by the opposition alliance Democratic Coordinator on Friday as a blueprint on whether to recall the President’s supporters three-stone, bottles and firecrackers at opposition back-ers visiting a local mayor detained at the security police headquarters.

It was the first violent incident since the two sides started their campaigns ahead of the August referendum on whether to recall Chavez.

On June 8, the National Election Council of Venezuela announced that the opposition had collected 2.5 million signatures against Chavez, more than the required 2.4 million to call a recall vote.  — MNA/Xinhua

**Colombian Navy conducts anti-drug sweep**

**Bogota, 12 July** — The Colombian Navy announced on Sunday it conducted an anti-drug sweep on the San Andres Island, confiscating 1.5 tons of cocaine and capturing two drug traffickers.

A spokesman for the Colombian Navy said the drug-trafficking group intended to transport the cocaine from the northwestern Colombian province of Cordoba to the San Andres Island.

The destination of the cocaine is the United States.

The Colombian Navy smashed the plot on Satur-day afternoon.

Colombia is the world’s top cocaine producer, churning out 90 per cent of the world production, most of which ends up in the United States and Europe.

**Kuwait unveils industrial strategy to achieve overall development**

**KUWAIT CITY, 12 July** — Kuwait attaches great importance to strategic industries in order to achieve an overall production growth and create more jobs, the Kuwait News Agency reported Sunday.

The agency quoted an industrial report by the Kuwait Public Authority for Industry (PAI) as saying that this strategy will re-arrange priorities in the industrial sector and provide encouragement needed.

With an aim at restructuring and clas-sifying the industrial sector, the strategy will give priority to strategic industries, such as security, food and medications.

The strategy will also attach importance to natural resources—dependent industries like petrochemicals, construction and high-tech.

**Iraqi driver killed in Iraq road bomb**

**Baghdad, 12 July** — A Turkish driver was killed on Monday when a roadside bomb destroyed his truck as he travelled with a US military convoy north of Baghdad, an Iraqi police officer said.

Lieutenant Colonel Namis Saeed said an Iraqi civilian was also killed and his wife injured when US soldiers in the convoy opened fire after the explosion near Baiji, about 70 km (46 miles) north of Baghdad.

The US military could not immediately be reached for comment.

Roadside bombs are one of the most common methods used by insurgents to attack US-led forces and other foreign-ers working with the US military.

The bombs often consist of explosives concealed inside soft drink cans or plastic bags, which are detonated remotely as vehicles pass.  — Internet

**Iraq hopes to establish balanced relations with neighbours**

**DAMASCUS, 12 July** — Visiting Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih said here Sunday that Iraq hopes to establish neighbouring countries.

Chavez made the remark after meeting with Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad.

He said the Iraqi Government has a clear statement on the issue of the neighbour-our states dispatching troops into Iraq, adding that any military dispatched from the neighbours will only make the situation more complicated.

However, Neither Salih nor Bashar touched upon the questions on whether Syria would dispatch troops to Iraq and the huge sum of money the former Iraqi government had reportedly put in Syria.

According to Salih, Bashar had promised him that these questions would not influence relations between the two countries.

On Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi’s upcoming Middle East tour, which will include Syria, Salih said Allawi hopes to visit Damascus soon and the two governments has reached agreement on it.

According to the state-run SANA news agency, Salih presented a letter from Allawi to Bashar during the meet-ing and the Syrian President reaffirmed his country’s support to Iraq to keep its territorial integrity and restore all its sovereignty. Salih arrived in Damascus Saturday afternoon for a two-day visit.  — MNA/Xinhua

**Turkish driver killed in road bomb**

**Baghdad, 12 July** — A Turkish driver was killed on Monday when a roadside bomb destroyed his truck as he travelled with a US military convoy north of Baghdad, an Iraqi police officer said.

Lieutenant Colonel Namis Saeed said an Iraqi civilian was also killed and his wife injured when US soldiers in the convoy opened fire after the explosion near Baiji, about 70 km (46 miles) north of Baghdad.

The US military could not immediately be reached for comment.

Roadside bombs are one of the most common methods used by insurgents to attack US-led forces and other foreign-ers working with the US military.

The bombs often consist of explosives concealed inside soft drink cans or plastic bags, which are detonated remotely as vehicles pass. — Internet
Philippines to withdraw troops from Iraq

Manila, 13 July — The Philippine military has confirmed that the Philippine troops in Iraq will be pulled out gradually in view of the development of the hostage crisis.

There will be a gradual pullout of Philippine troops in Iraq when the Philippines President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo orders such a withdrawal, Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Lucero, the military spokesman, told Xinhua on Tuesday by phone.

“At the moment there is no such order but the order will be given and we should be prepared for a phased and gradual pullout,” he added.

However, Lucero did not give the specific date of the pullout.

Angelo de la Cruz, a Philippine truck driver, was abducted last week as he drove into Iraq from Saudi Arabia by the group calling itself “Khaled Ibn al-Walid Brigade”.

Late Monday, Philippine Deputy Foreign Minister Rafael Seguis said on the pan-Arab television station al-Jazeera that his country would withdraw its forces from Iraq “as soon as possible” to save the life of the Filipino hostage.

“In response to your request, the Philippines...will withdraw its humanitarian forces as soon as possible,” said Seguis, who was in Baghdad working to get de la Cruz freed.

Seguis gave no date for the withdrawal, and Foreign Ministry officials in Manila were reportedly holding an emergency meeting.

“I hope the statement that I read will touch the heart of this group,” said Seguis adding that “we know that Islam is the religion of peace and mercy.”

The official began his appeal with the words “in the name of Allah”.

“I appeal to you and to your kind hearts as Muslims to please release Angelo de la Cruz so that he can return to his family and children,” the official said.

The wife and brother of de la Cruz arrived in Jordan on Monday to appeal for his release.

To save the life de la Cruz, the kidnappers have demanded the Philippines move forward by one month the planned pullout of its 51-member peacekeeping force in Iraq.

Play time: Tiger Lesia (L) plays with one of her cubs at the Zoo Hellabrunn in Munich. — internet

Uganda’s high population growth causes eco problems

KAMPALA, 13 July — Ugandan Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development Gerald Ssenduula said on Sunday that high population growth will have an impact on the country’s resources and cause economic problems.

The minister made the remarks in his statement to mark the World Population Day which falls on July 11.

Ssenduula said that “we need to plan for our rapidly increasing population, currently at a growth rate of 3.4 per cent per annum with a fertility rate of 6.9 children per woman.”

“This population growth rate is the highest in the region. If this trend continues unchecked, our population will double in just 20 years from now,” the minister warned.

He reminded his countrymen that “results of the 1991 census showed that Uganda had a total population of 16.7 million people,” adding that “this rapidly rose to 24.7 million in 2002 census. Today, Ugandan population stands at 26.6 million people.”

“This means that there has been an increase of 10 million people in a space of only 13 years. This rapid increase has serious and disastrous implications for the provision of services and infrastructure especially in the fields of health, education, land for food production, among others,” the minister said.

He stressed that “our ability to maintain or even improve such services and infrastructure is going to be that much more difficult and is likely to strain our national poverty eradication efforts”.

This year’s World Population Day marks the mid-point of the 20-year Cairo Programme of Action. Some 11,000 participants from over 180 states and various agencies and organizations attended the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo.

The ICPD passed a 20-year action plan on issues of population and development, with three major thematic goals: reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality; provision of universal access to education particularly for girls; and provision of universal access to a full range of reproductive health care and family planning services.

Vietnam-China trade to beat $5b this year

HANOI, 13 July — The two-way trade volume between Vietnam and China is forecast to exceed five billion US dollars this year, Vietnam News Agency on Monday quoted Vietnam’s Commercial Counsellor in China Dao Nguen Chuan as saying.

The forecast is based on the growing two-way trade turnover between the two sides, which stood at 2.5 billion dollars in the first five months of this year, he said.

The volume stood at only $2.2 billion in 1991 when the two countries resumed official trade relations.

China now ranks the first among exporters of goods to Vietnam and the third among importers of the country.

China mainly exports petroleum products, machinery and medicines for agricultural and apparel production to Vietnam, and imports crude oil, rubber, fruits, vegetables, seafood and materials for medicine production from the country.

Bulgaria confirms its hostages in Iraq alive

SOFIA, 13 July — Bulgaria confirmed on Sunday that two Bulgarian truck drivers taken hostage in Iraq were still alive after a Friday execution deadline expired.

Foreign Minister Solomon Pasdy told reporters he could finally confirm information the two men held hostage by a militant group had not been killed.

“Now I can confirm the information which has been received three hours ago (0900 GMT), that our compatriots are alive,” he said.

On Thursday, a militant group which has already said it beheaded two foreigners in Iraq threatened to kill the Bulgarians within 24 hours unless the United States released imprisoned Iraqis.

Government officials would not say how they had received the confirmation but sources said it was through intelligence channels.

The hostages, Georgi Lazov, 30 and Ivailo Kepov, 32, were transporting cars from Bulgaria to Mosul for an Iraqi client when they disappeared on June 27, the last

Cambodia celebrates World Population Day

PHNOM PENH, 13 July — Cambodia, along with other 178 signatory countries around the world celebrated World Population Day and the 10th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development on Sunday, aiming to promote reproductive health access for women.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) said Sunday Cambodia has reduced its maternal mortality rate from 473 deaths in 1994 to 437 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2000, thanks to the initiation of the reproductive health training programme to train new midwives and develop cooperation with traditional birth attendants in both urban and rural areas.

However, Cambodia has still one of the highest ratios of maternal mortality rate in Asia.

Prime Minister Hun Sen was quoted as saying by UNFPA’s Press release that health and sanitary conditions of a significant share of the population are still a matter of concern.

Cambodia’s Ministry of Health has committed to reduce the rate of maternal mortality from 437 to 305 deaths per 100,000 live births by 2007, UNFPA said.

UNFPA praised Cambodia’s efforts to continue making further commitments and actions to reduce maternal mortality and put high priority on the agenda of the 10th International Conference on Population and Development.

Fire destroys Jordan ambassador’s Dutch residence

AMSTERDAM, 13 July — A fire destroyed the house of the Jordanian ambassador to the Netherlands, Mazen Armouti, on Sunday but none of the four people in the building was hurt, the fire brigade said.

The fire broke out in the thatched roof of the residence in the leafy Wassenaar suburb of The Hague and was only put out after two hours, when most of the building had collapsed.

The cause of the fire was unknown.

MNA/Reuters

The new light of myanmar Wednesday, 14 July, 2004 5

INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

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ANILA

ANILA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR   Wednesday, 14 July, 2004

INTERNET
A car was destroyed after an explosion in Baghdad’s southern neighbourhood of al-Dora, on 8 July, 2004.

Family members look over Mu’ayed Abdulwahid, 50, a civilian who was injured when a mortar struck his house in Baghdad, Iraq, on 7 July, 2004.

Images of Iraq


An Iraqi woman grieves as her injured brother lies unconscious in a hospital following a mortar attack in Baghdad, Iraq, on 7 July, 2004.

Iraqi policemen inspect the site of an attack targeting four alcohol stores in the city of Baquba, 60 kms northeast of Baghdad on 11 July, 2004.

Air strike aftermath: A crying Iraqi boy is comforted by a man wearing blood-stained trousers following a US military airstrike on a suspected safe house that killed 12 people in Fallujah on 10 July, 2004.

An Iraqi man is treated at a hospital after being injured when a roadside bomb detonated as a convoy of oil security guards drove past in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on 6 July, 2004.

Iraqi man is treated at a hospital after being injured when a roadside bomb detonated as a convoy of oil security guards drove past in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on 6 July, 2004.
For better transportation in border and rural areas

The inauguration of Mongseik-Kaunghsai section of Shwetyaung-Namhsan Rail Road in Shan State (South). — MNA

The government is building new roads, renovating the old ones for better transport. The above photo shows Muse ring road in Shan State (North). — MNA

Panmon Creek Bridge on Kalay-Gangaw Road near Nanchaung Village in Kalay Township, Sagaing Division. — MNA.

In the past, people living in Takawet region, Shan State (North) had to rely on ferries to cross the Thanlwin River. To overcome the natural barrier, the government has built Thanlwin Bridge (Takawet) and now, people can cross the river easily using the bridge. — KYEMON

Transportation plays a key role in national development. Therefore, the government is building infrastructures needed for better transportation throughout the country.

As a result, people living in both urban and rural areas are now enjoying the fruitful results achieved in the transportation sector.
Government will put forward...

(from page 1)

He said there are many reported trials on economic, social and educational conditions to build a modern developed nation. He stressed the importance of building a nation into developed one, utilizing the already-achieved prospects and better conditions fully.

He urged all national races to build future State in unity under the correct leadership of the government.

He said the Secretary-1 presented teaching aids for Kutkai BEHS, school uniforms for teachers and exercise books for basic education schools to Headmaster U Khin Maung Nyo and head of school board of trustees Daw Yin May. He also presented cash for the fund and medicines for the hospital to Head of Township Health Department Dr Than Lwin. Next, the Secretary-1 and party cordially greeted those present.

They went to Tarmoyne where they were welcomed by officials and local people.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected Tarmoyne Station Hospital. In meeting with departmental officials and local people, Township Officer U Htin Kyaw reported on regional development, Headmaster U Tun Myint of BEHS on academic matters and national race leader U Myint Lwin on development and requirements.

The Secretary-1 then fulfilled the requirements and called for cooperation. He presented teaching aids and exercise books for Tarmoyne BEHS and school uniforms for teachers to Headmaster U Tun Myint.

He also presented cash for the fund and medicines for the hospital and related documents of a fire engine for Tarmoyne region to national race leader U Myint Lwin.

The Secretary-1 and the national race leader exchanged gifts. The Secretary-1 cordially greeted local national race leader and people.

They arrived in Namhkam at 3.15 pm. The Secretary-1 met departmental officials, members of USDA, social organizations and local people at Kyaukbyu Hall.

Chairman of Namhkam Township Peace and Development Council Maj Aung Zaw Latt reported on agriculture, education, health conditions and requirements. Chairman of Muse District Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win gave a supplementary report.

Township Education Officer U Shwe Hmon and Head of District Health Department U Thein Tun reported on education and health matters.

The Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements, saying that he has witnessed the regions in Shan State (North) have enjoyed cumulative progress with prevalence of stability and peace and so has Namhkam. They have further attended to the needs of Namhkam Township in education, health and communication areas.

In conclusion, he called on those responsible to strive for speeding up the development momentum of the region possessing a bright future.

Next, the Secretary-1 presented pedagogical aids to the high school, school uniforms to the teachers, exercise books to the township and cash donations to the township people’s hospital through the officials.

On arrival back at Muse Township, the Secretary-1 and party looked into the Hsinshwe high-yield paddy field in Paimkyuang village and left necessary instructions to the officials.

They held a meeting with local authorities and departmental officials at Shwe-Yadana Yeiktha in Muse. Muse District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Soe Win and officials reported on progress in the district’s economic, education and health spheres. The Secretary-1 gave instructions to responsible persons.

The Secretary-1 and party arrived back Kutkai in the evening.

Accompanied by the commander, Brig-Gen Soe Oo of Hsenwi Station and officials, they went to Hsenwi on 6 July morning and inspected Hsenwi Township People’s Hospital. The physicians conducted the Secretary-1 and party round the facility. The Secretary-1 gave instructions.

On arrival at Hsenwi BEHS, the Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by departmental officials and the schoolmistress, teachers and students.

They met local authorities, service personnel, members of USDA and social organizations and local senior citizens. The chairman of Township PDC reported on economic, education, health and transport fields of the region.

The Secretary-1 said that after inspecting the township people’s hospital, they attended to the requirements of the township people’s hospital and station hospital. The Secretary-1 pledged to fulfill the requirements of the region including installation of telephone lines. He elaborated on the State’s future political programmes.

The Secretary-1 presented exercise books to the basic education schools, teaching and learning aids to the high school through township education officer Dr Thin Thin Hlaing. The Secretary-1 cordially greeted those present.

The Secretary-1 and party looked into progress in building of Sanlaung Station Hospital in Hsenwi.

They headed for the poppy-substitute crops cultivating and bees keeping project being undertaken by the North-East Command at Bommon in Lashio Township.

The commander reported on the project and Staff Officer Grade I (Quartermaster) Lt-Col Ne Lin Aung on implementation of the project and the benefits.

The Secretary-1 instructed the officials and inspected the project site.

Later in the morning, they met members of Shan State (North) PDC, departmental heads, local authorities, service personnel, members of USDA and social organizations, townswomen and guests. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing reported on development conditions of the regions in Shan State (North). The Secretary-1 said that starting from 2 July, they made inspection tour of Nawngkhio, Kyunkme, Hsipaw, Nanmu, Mongyai, Tanyang, Kunlon, Namhkam, Muse, Kutkai and Hsenwi townships. During their trip, they attended to the needs of the people.

The regions in the nation will enjoy equitable development through fulfilling the requirements and upgrading the facilities.

The government’s correct leadership, efforts of those in charge and respective departmental officials and active participation of the people and social organizations resulted in all-round development of the nation.

The development is due to restoration of peace and tranquillity across the nation. After assumption of the State’s duties, the government gave the top priority to community peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order as well as to national reconsolidation.

After peace and stability had been restored and national solidarity built, it placed on development projects, resulting in fruitful results of development the length and breadth of the nation. So, it can be said that in a short time the government has built firm economic, social and transport foundations necessary for the country, he said.

The government will put forward nation-building tasks in accord with the national aims in the interest of the nation and the people.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 presented study aids to Lashio BEHS No 5 and Lashio BEHS No 2 that stood first and second in the pass rate in the 2003 academic year matriculation exam in Shan State level through respective principals. The Secretary-1 also presented exercise books to the basic education schools, school uniforms to the teachers, medical equipment and cash donations to Shan State People’s Hospital.

After the meeting, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted those present. — MNA
Minister Brig-Gen Pyai Sone and wife Daw Aye Pyai Wai Khin presented K 300,000; Asia World Co Ltd K 10 million; Border Trade Merchants Association K 3 million; Directorate of Border Trade (Muse Branch) and Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading K 300,000; Shan State (North) Union Solidarity and Development K 500,000 and U Michael Kyi Aung K 500,000 through the commander and the deputy ministers.

Presiding Sayadaw of the Manusupayagi Monastery Agga Maha Gandhavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Kondanha delivered a sermon and wellwishers shared the merits gained.

Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint and Managing Director of Asia World Co Ltd U Tun Myint Naing reported to the Secretary-1 on financial statements, construction tasks and progress of work. After hearing the reports, Li-Gen Soe Win gave necessary instructions.

Next, Lt-Gen Soe Win and party planted the Bo tree and Gangaw trees. The Secretary-1 and party inspected the construction work. — MNA

Commander inspects agricultural undertakings, regional development tasks in Yangon South District

YANGON, 13 July — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by local authorities and departmental officials, inspected agricultural undertakings, regional development tasks and progress of work in Yangon South District this morning.

At the briefing hall of the greening project near Thetkala Village, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Sve heard reports on renovation and maintenance of irrigation canals, and increase the sown acreage of summer paddy in the two townships. Engineers also reported on conditions of roads and bridges in the district and measures taken for repair and maintenance. In response to the reports, Maj-Gen Myint Sve gave instructions for greening the 30-mile radius of Yangon International Airport and cultivating monsoon and summer paddy, beans & pulses, oil crops and vegetables. He said that the government is pouring a large sum of money into the tasks of supply of irrigation water for agricultural undertakings. Moreover, the government is also constructing sluice gates and canals to increase the sown acreage of summer paddy in the two townships, he said. He called for concerted efforts to maintain and repair roads and bridges in the district and strive for regional development. Next, he inspected ditches and fields on either sides of the road. Later, the commander met with township-level members of Local Intelligence Unit and Loilim Police Station.

Monsoon paddy nurseries of local farmers in the zone.

The commander and party next inspected the construction of Pagantaung Bridge on Kayan-Thongwa road. Later, the commander met with township-level departmental officials and members of social organizations at the meeting hall of the Thogwa Township Peace and Development Council Office. He urged all to make concerted efforts for surplus paddy, sufficient edible oil, and increased production of export quality beans and pulses as well as industrial crops. The commander also went to Thongwa 50-bed People’s Hospital and inspected delivery room, patient wards, operation theatre, medicine store and X-ray room.

 Announcement for Internet users

YANGON, 13 July — The Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications today announced that the Proxy Server Address (203.81.65.23) being used by Internet users will be changed to Ynycache.mp.net.mm starting from 15-7-2004. — MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers an address at the closing ceremony. — MNA

Opium, stimulant tablets seized in Muse

YANGON, 13 July — A combined team comprising members of Local Intelligence Unit and Loilim Police Station, acting on information, on 24 April 2004, intercepted ten-wheel Nissan Truck (1Kh4/4228) driven by Myint Thein, which was on its way from Panglong to Taunggyi, at the Loilim Bus Terminal and seized 120 packets of opium weighing 186.16 kilos concealed under maize and charcoal bags and opium weighing 0.016 kilo hidden at the front seat totaling 186.18 kilos.

Action was taken against Myint Thein, son of U Win Sein, of Phayayu Ward, Taunggyi, under Section 15(19) (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Loilim Police Station.

Likewise, a combined team comprising members of Local Intelligence Unit and Muse Police Station, acting on information, on 14 April 2004, searched a vehicle (3Kh4/4438) driven by Aik Way, which was on its way from 105 miles to Muse. At Asia World gate at the entrance to Muse and arrested Ah Hon and Ah Chint with 16,780 stimulant tablets in plastic bags. Action was taken against Aik Way, son of U Law San, of Monsi Village, Kutkai Township, Ah Hon, son of U Kyin Kyaung, of the same village and Ah Chint, son of U Hlyan Pya, of Naung Win Village, Kutkai Township under Section 15/19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Muse Police Station. — MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers an address at the closing ceremony. — mna

Film Projecting Course concludes

YANGON, 13 July — The Film Projecting Course (1/2004), conducted by Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise under the Ministry of Information, concluded at the Feature Film Office (Branch) of MMPE in Bahan township this morning with an address by Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers for Information U Thein Sein and Brig-Gen Aung Thein, departmental heads of enterprises and departments under the ministry, head of office of the ministry and directors of MMPE, officials and film experts.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan spoke on the occasion.

Next, the minister presented prizes to the trainees who stood first, second and third.

Later, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein presented completion certificates to the leader of trainees. Deputy Minister U Thein Sein gave away souvenirs to Acadamy U Myint Khaing and the ceremony ended.

It took five weeks to bring the course to an end and 25 trainees attended it. — MNA

Cash donation presentation ceremony for building of Yantaingaung Pagoda ...

(from page 16)

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers an address at the closing ceremony. — MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers an address at the closing ceremony. — MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan delivers an address at the closing ceremony. — MNA
Healthy eating and lifestyle

Choose a diet low in fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol. Foods high in fat, especially saturated fat, and cholesterol increase the risk of cardiovascular disease and can contribute to obesity and, therefore, heart disease, diabetes, and some forms of cancer. In addition, large amounts of saturated fats also increase the risk of heart disease by raising blood cholesterol levels. People should avoid consumption of too much fat, especially saturated fat and cholesterol. Saturated fats are found in high concentration in animal fat (cheese, butter, lard, red meat, ice cream etc) and palm oil. Unsaturated fats are found in vegetable fats. Between polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats, although both lower the blood cholesterol level by lowering LDL cholesterol (bad cholesterol), monounsaturated is better as it does not lower HDL cholesterol (good cholesterol). The good fats — found in foods like fish, olive oil, avocados and walnuts — actually improve cholesterol levels in blood and significantly reduce the risk of ischemic heart disease. As for the bad fats, there are two villains — saturated fats and trans fats — found primarily in processed foods, such as margarines, oil used for repeated cooking and many commercially baked or fried foods and in whole milk. Good fats should be substituted for bad fats. For all their benefits, foods containing good fats are high-calorie foods because of the oils they contain. Thus even good fats should be taken more only within the calorie requirement of a person.

• Lean meats, fish, poultry, and legumes (various beans and peas) can be substituted for fatty meats
• Fat meats should be trimmed
• Skin on poultry should not be taken
• Fat-free milk can be substituted for whole milk
• Whenever possible, water-packed instead of oil-packed canned foods should be used
• Foods should be baked, broiled, or boiled rather than fried
• Eggs, organ meats, butter, margarine, and cream can be used in moderation
• Avoid, using oil for more than two times for cooking, the habit of which content of trans fats

The following is the saturated fat percent of various fats we are taking:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Type of Oil</th>
<th>% saturated fat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Coconut oil</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Butterfat</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Beef fat</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Palm oil</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Lard</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chicken fat</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Peanut oil</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Soybean oil</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Olive oil</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sunflower oil</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Canola oil</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Among the aforementioned fats, those which have low percent of saturated fats should be taken in appropriate quantity, while those which have high percent of saturated fats should be as less as possible.

Choose a diet moderate in sugar

Sugars serve as a preservative and thickener in jellies and jams and adds colour and flavour to numerous foods. However, foods in which it is commonly found, such as desserts and candies, tend to have few other nutrients except for fats. Thus, if one eats sugar-rich foods in place of other foods, total nutrient intake will be inadequate but the kilocalorie content will be high. In addition, sugar causes tooth decay.

Foods rich in sugar and in salt and sodium

Excessive amounts of sodium contribute to hypertension (Blood pressure 140/90 and above) which is known to increase the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke. It is recommended that little, if any, salt be added during cooking or at the table.

Foods high in sugar, vegetables, meats, and unprocessed grains are generally low in sodium. Most convenient foods contain added sodium compounds, and “fast foods” are often high in sodium. Consumption of salted potato chips, nuts, pickled foods and cured meats and cold cuts contain high salt content and intake of them should be limited.

Choose foods, which are fresh and safe

Foods that are fresh usually do not contain much nutrient. Besides, foods that are not fresh tend to contain bacteria and their toxins.

To avoid foods that are:
• artificially highly coloured
• foods that are not cooked properly or place in meat-safe
• foods rested by flies
• contaminated foods
• unpasteurized milk
• unboiled water from well, lake and tap
• unhygienic Myanmar salads, and
• cooked foods stored in room temperature for a long time.

If you drink alcohol beverages, do so in moderation

Alcoholic beverages tend to be high in kilocalories and low in nutrients. Heavy drinkers can lose their appetite, suffer from cirrhosis of liver, brain damage, and increase the risk of cancer of throat and neck. The use of alcohol by pregnant women can cause birth defects. One drink a day for woman and two for a man is considered moderate drinking.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

For better health, people of all ages should include a minimum of 30 minutes of physical activity of moderate intensity (such as brisk walking) for 4-5 days a week. It is sufficient for cardiovascular/metabolic health and will reduce the risk for above mentioned chronic diseases. If obesity is a central health goal, the recommendation of 60 minutes a day of moderate-intensity activity is considered appropriate. This activity should be supplemented with strength-developing exercises at least twice a week for adults in order to improve musculoskeletal health, maintain independence in performing the activities of daily life and reduce the risk of falling.

Daily activity can be accomplished in several short bouts. These recommendations apply to people who are otherwise sedentary. Some occupational activities involving physical activity equivalent to 3 to 3 1/2 miles walking and household activities involving physical activity equivalent to half to one hour walking constitute sufficient daily physical exercise and no extra physical activity is recommended for these sectors of population.

Recommendations for Healthy eating and lifestyle:

• Restricting the intake of sugar-sweetened soft drinks
• Instructing mothers to accept their child’s ability to regulate energy intake rather than until the plate is empty (children must have body weight appropriate for their age and height)
• Promoting the intake of fruits and vegetables
• Restricting the intake of energy-dense, micronutrient poor foods (eg. Packaged snacks)
• Higher intake of low energy, high fibre foods (vegetables & fruits)
• A lower consumption of energy-dense (high-fat, high-sugars and high-starch) foods and energy dense (high free sugars) drinks
• A lower consumption of saturated fats, butter, cheese, dairy products, meat fat, skin fat, coconut and coconut oil
• To avoid taking of oil used for repeated cooking, canned foods and driveway of hydrogenated fats
• To use appropriate edible vegetables in small amounts, and to ensure regular intake of fish (one to two times per week)
• To restrict the intake to less than 5 grams per day
• To consume fermented salted fish only in moderation
• To minimize exposure to aflatoxin in foods (dried fruits, nuts, milk products)
• To give preferences to food preparation practices that employ non-frying method
• Promoting an active lifestyle
• Limiting television and video viewing, computer game playing, and other sedentary lifestyles
• Encouraging physical activity of half to one hour per day of moderate-intensity activity on most if not all of the days, particularly for people with sedentary lifestyle
• Prevention/treatment of overweight and obesity
• Maintaining optimal body weight
• Not to consume alcohol beverages more than 2 units per day

As prevention is better than cure, the author would like to encourage Myanmar people to practice healthy eating and lifestyle with appropriate physical activity to us so to prevent from chronic diseases like obesity, hypertension, diabetes, cancer and most of all to live long healthily and free from disease.

(Concluded)
Mugabe calls for protection of country from aggression

HARARE, 13 July — Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe on Sunday called on all members of the uniformed forces to protect the country from any acts of aggression.

He made the appeal while officiating at a prize giving ceremony for the 2004 President’s Medallion Shooting Competition held at the Cleveland Shooting Range in Harare.

If circumstances should arise for the defence and protection of our sovereignty, it is the responsibility of all members of the uniformed forces to ensure that the nation is protected from any acts of aggression,” he said.

Mugabe said events such as the Shooting Competition afforded members of the uniformed forces an opportunity to sharpen their skills in weapon handling.

He said Zimbabwe’s foreign policy is aimed at achieving world peace and stability and in all flash points across the globe.

He said that his country is capable of protecting its national independence and sovereignty at a time when the unipolar world is failing to respect international laws and conventions.

“Zimbabwe is a sovereign state, which should continuously enjoy peace and stability,” he said.

Mugabe said the members of the uniformed forces have a responsibility to prevent the abuse of weapons.

The illegal movement of firearms, which usually found their way into hands of seasoned criminals, is of major concern to peace loving citizens and undermined efforts to create a conducive business environment in the southern African region, he said.

The recent ratification of the Southern African Development Community Protocol on Firearms, Ammunition and other related materials by Parliament should come as a major setback to those unscrupulous elements peddling firearms in the region in general and the country at large, he said.

The competition began on June 24 and saw a large number of participants fall by the way side, leaving 24 finalists. — MNA/Xinhua

Poll shows New Zealand economic outlook rosier

WELLINGTON, 13 July — New Zealanders believe the economic outlook is getting rosier, according to the latest One News-Colmar Brunton poll.

The poll, of 1,000 voters, was released here on Monday. It showed 39 per cent were optimistic about the economic outlook, up 5 percentage points from last month.

Numbers of those pessimistic about the outlook fell considerably, from 35 per cent last month to 28 per cent.

Approval of the government’s performance also increased, up 2 percentage points to 47 per cent. Those who disapproved were also up, by one point to 39 per cent. — MNA/Xinhua

UAE bank gains big profit in first half of 2004

ABU DHABI, 13 July — First Gulf Bank (FGB) in the United Arab Emirates reported net profits of 27.81 million US dollars for the first half of 2004, 80 per cent higher than last year, the Gulf/Daily newspaper daily reported on Sunday.

According to figures released by the FGB, assets grew to 2.26 billion dollars, up 15 per cent from last December.

The bank has set aggressive strategies and budgets for 2004 and the financial performance results are as per plan.

“The market is still full of opportunities and we will ensure that we maximize our returns in this booming economy,” Abdul Hamid Saeed, chief executive of the bank was quoted as saying.

The equity of the bank’s shareholders rocketed to 437 million US dollars, growing 129 per cent compared with the same period last year.

Furthermore, customer deposits increased by 28 per cent to 1.74 billion dollars. Total loans and advances reached 1.66 billion US dollars, 46 per cent higher than last June.

Additionally, investments reached 382 million US dollars, tantamount to an increase of 32 per cent. — MNA/Xinhua

YUKOS offers Govt $7.5b

MOSCOW, 13 July — Embattled Russian oil firm YUKOS has offered 7.5 billion US dollars to settle its tax arrears bill on Sunday.

According to reports, the YUKOS offer is much above the 750 million US dollars demand by the country’s tax collectors.

The YUKOS offer Govt $7.5b

Zambia gets $254m grant to fight “AIDS”

LUSAKA, 13 July — The Global Fund against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has approved a grant of 254 million US dollars to Zambia to help the southern African country fight AIDS, local newspaper The Post reported Monday. Richard Feachem, executive director of the Global Fund, said distribution of the fund will start as soon as the agreement is signed.

The Global Fund has also approved a 43 million dollars grant to fight malaria control in Zambia. Feachem praised Zambia as a “star performer” in terms of administration of Global Fund resources. The country has so far got five grants from the Global Fund.

With a population of about 11 million, Zambia has seen its HIV/AIDS infection rate dropping remarkably from 26 per cent to 16 per cent over recent years. Feachem said the new grant will be a major boost for Zambia in its fight against HIV/AIDS.

He also disclosed that Global Fund has a shortfall of about 100 million dollars to cater for its operations in various countries in 2005.

MNA/Xinhua
China’s elk population rises to 706

Chinese news wires have reported that the world’s largest elk population has risen to 706 from the 39 reported in 1986, according to sources attending an international symposium on the protection of global natural resources. Of the 706 elk, about 30 per cent of the world’s total, 41 are living in the wild, according to Ding Yuhua, a researcher with the national nature reserve for elk in Dafeng County, eastern Jiangsu Province.

“Today they’re all doing very well and very healthy — sturdier than their peers bred in captivity at the reserve,” Ding told the symposium, which was held in Lanzhou, capital of the northwestern Gansu Province, last week. “They enter estrus regularly and have given live births.”

CLAMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (356)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR Voy No (356) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-7-2004 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8am to 11am and 12noon to 4pm until claims day, which is now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S EAGLE CORPORATION

Phone: 256908/378316/376797
The pack and the sunflowers: Cyclist ride past a field of sunflowers during the sixth stage of the 91st Tour de France cycling race between Bonneval and Angers. — Reuters

HIV/AIDS impact on labour force has macroeconomic effect

GENEVA, 13 July — HIV/AIDS has huge impact on the labour force and the impact is measurable in macroeconomic and social terms, says the International Labour Organization in a report published on Sunday.

As to macroeconomy, in countries where the impact was measurable between 1992-2002, the rate of growth of the gross domestic product (GDP) was lower by 0.2 per cent per year and the rate of growth of GDP per capita was lower by 0.1 per cent per year, says the report, the first global analysis of HIV/AIDS impact on the world of work.

The report also notes that HIV/AIDS will have a multiple impact on women in the countries most affected by the epidemic, since their work time will be displaced by the fact that they are primary caregivers whether they work productively inside or outside the home.

In addition, young women are now showing the largest increases in HIV prevalence rates, says the report. What is more, where women are responsible for subsistence farming (across most of Africa), the burden and 30 per cent of its carbon, and it plays a vital role in regulating global climate.

Experts say that once peatland is lost, its carbon reserve will be lost in the form of carbon dioxide, damaging its effectiveness in regulating global climate. Environmentalists say that this would escalate the greenhouse effect and, in the worse cases, cause major habitat for many endangered animal and plant species, peatland stores 20 per cent of the world’s fresh water.

Scientists call for better management of global peatland

LANZhou, 13 July — Worldwide scientists should work together to set up an effective management system for the protection and reclamation of peatland, environmental scientists say.

Over 100 officials and wetland scientists from nine countries — including China, Russia, Britain and Holland — attended an international symposium on the protection of peatland last week in LanZhou City, capital of the northern Gansu Province.

The experts agreed that to protect the valuable peatland resources, there be any international issue, but demands full participation by the entire world. “It’s essential to map out plans and policies at national level and eventually build up an effective management system for the protection of global peatland,” said LiFang, a scientist with the Global Environmental Centre.

Peatland — a unique wetland resource that boasts biodiversity but takes 10 years to form a layer just one centimetre thick — covers about 5-8 per cent of the Earth’s surface, or 500 million hectares. About five million hectares are used as sources of fuel and gardening materials while 30 million hectares serve the forestry and agriculture sectors. A major habitat for many endangered animal and plant species, peatland stores 20 per cent of the world’s fresh water.

Thai doctors urge to leave drugs out of US trade pact

BANGKOK, 13 July — Medicines should be left out of a planned US-Thai free trade pact, or the prices of patented drugs will get fodder to the roof and threaten the lives of HIV/AIDS sufferers, Thai doctors said on Monday.

Generic first-line anti-retroviral drugs produced in Thailand are now both widely available and affordable to many Thais. But when patients develop resistance to them, many will no longer be able to afford second- or higher-tier drugs because their patents would be extended for five years or more under the pact, doctors and activists said.

“Manufacturers with drugs that cost their patient in the world now monopolize the market and prices are 10 times more expensive than generics,” Limpanont, associate professor of pharmacetical sciences at the Chulalongkorn University, told AFP/Reuters.

IDG to invest $520m in Vietnam

HANOI, 13 July — The International Data Group (IDG), a global information technology giant, will pour venture investment of $520 million US dollars into the country in the near future.

Of the amount, 30 per cent will go to telecommunication services, 25 per cent to software development, 20 per cent to e-commerce, 15 per cent to biotechnology, and the rest to production of new materials and electronic products, IDG Vietnam told Xinhua on Monday.

MNA/Xinhua

Zoellick says many issues to resolve for trade deal

PARIS, 13 July — US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said on Sunday that US trade accord will move towards an end by July deadline for an outline accord on global trade although many problems remained.

“There is some convergence on various points, at the same time I would caution that there is still a considerable way to go,” he told a news conference after two days of talks in Paris.

“There are many issues to resolve but not much time to do so,” he added.

Top trade officials from the United States, European Union, Brazil, India and Australia had met over the weekend to try and drive the negotiations forward.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has set the end of July as a deadline to agree the outlines of a trade deal, aimed at being half way to the road to a full accord on liberalizing global commerce in agriculture, services and industrial goods.

MNA/Reuters

Flooding forces millions from homes in India

GEWAHATI, 13 July — The worst monsoon flooding in years has forced more than two million people from their homes in northeastern India, officials said on Monday.

Monday’s flash floods have swept away thousands of bamboo and straw homes, as well as power lines and roads, leaving more than two dozen small dams.

“We are experiencing the worst ever flooding this time in recent years,” Tarun Gogoi, Assam State Minister told Reuters.

At least six Air Force helicopters have been deployed to rescue marooned people, most of them women and children stranded on rooftops. Landslides caused by the heavy rains in mountainous Arunachal Pradesh State have blocked roads and washed away bridges.

The local weather office says heavy rains are expected to continue in the northeast for at least another day.

MNA/Reuters

India’s population to overtake China’s by 2035

NEW DELHI, 13 July — India’s population stands at over one billion and by 2035 it will overtake China as the world’s most populous nation if present trends continue, the government announced.

The final count released to mark World Population Day on Sunday said India’s population stood at 1.029 billion on 1 March, 2001.

India added 182 million people between 1991 to 2001 which is more than the estimated population of Brazil, officials said on the basis of a final tally of the cen sus. By 2035, the population will touch 1.46 billion outstripping China, local media quoted government official JK Bambha as saying.

The population of the northern state of Uttar Pradesh was 166 million, more than the population of Pakistan, he said — MNA/Reuters

Georgian President vows to repel aggression

MOSCOW, 13 July — Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili said in Georgian capital of Tbilisi on Saturday that Georgia will repel any “aggression” that might threaten his country.

Saakashvili was addressing military graduates amid fresh clashes in South Ossetia, a region that broke away from Georgia at the end of the Soviet era. Four Georgian soldiers and one Ossetian were injured in the recent conflict.

If there be any aggression in the strand, we will meet it with aggression,” Saakashvili told the graduates.

Saakashvili said Georgians would fight for peace and do everything possible so that not a single drop of blood will be spilled.

He said Moscow was being drawn toward a conflict that would pit Georgia directly against Russia. He called for better relations and sought conflict resolution.

Russia, accused by Georgia of abetting the separatists, urged Saakashvili’s Administration and the region’s leaders to halt all armed incidents and hold new round of talks.

MNA/Xinhua

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 14 July, 2004 13

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Schumacher holds off raikkonen for 80th win

SILVERSTONE (England), 12 July—Michael Schumacher held off a late challenge from McLaren's resurgent Kimi Raikkonen to win the British Grand Prix for Ferrari on Sunday and celebrate his 10th victory in 13 races.

It was the 80th win of the German's career. But he had a late scare when the defending champion safety car crossed the line 13 laps from the end, after Italian Jarno Trulli's Renault piled into the tyre wall at speed. Offered the young Finn a glimmer of hope.

The six-times world champion, smooth and controlled as ever, quickly snuffed out the threat to take the chequered flag as Raikkonen finished 2.1 seconds behind. It was Schumacher's third success at Silverstone, the circuit where he broke his leg in 1999, as well as dominant Ferrar's third in a row.

Raikkonen was second to revive McLaren with their first podium finish of the season, while Schumacher's Brazilian teammate Rubens Barichello held off BAR's British hopeful Jenson Button for third place.

Schumacher has 100 points to Barichello's 74. Button has 53. Ferrari lead the constructors' championship with 174 points to Renault's 79 with BAR on 67.

Barichello, second in the championship and last year's British winner, remained the only driver to have scored points in every race this season.

Colombian Juan Pablo Montoya was fifth for Williams, disappointing again in their home race, while Italian Giancarlo Fisichella was a strong sixth for Sauber.

Briton David Coulthard was seventh for McLaren with Australian Mark Webber taking the final point for Jaguar.

Trulli's crash was the spectacular moment of the race, the Italian walking away seemingly unhurt after his car was reduced to a smoking wreck.

Schumacher was in confident mood in his home race at Silverstone as he captured his 80th Grand Prix win, of 13 races, and his third straight victory.

He also said that he had solved the club's financial problems and would turn the Bernabeu into the best stadium in the world. He made no promises about which new players he might sign, but has admitted that he has been negotiating with European champions Porto to bring in defender Ricardo Carvalho and midfielder Costinha. — MNA/Reuters

"I would be very surprised if I lost," he told sports daily Marca. "I'm in confident mood. We're delighted. Davids' qualities as a player are well known, but I'd like to underline what he managed to achieve at Barce- lona in a few months," Inter president Giacchino Facchetti was quoted as saying on Inter's web site.

"He demonstrated that he had the drive and enthusiasm to drag a team up the table to a second-place finish that seemed impossible," Perez said earlier.

Barcelona were in the bottom half of the Primera Liga when Davids joined them in January on a six-month loan after failing to reach agreement on a new contract with Juventus. His previous clubs also include Dutch side Ajax and AC Milan.

Perez is eyeing for the future coaching role in Sweden

BASTAD (Sweden), 12 July—England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson has expressed interest in coaching his native Sweden in the future, the Swedish daily Aftonbladet reported on Sunday.

Speaking at a leadership seminar in Bastad in the south of Sweden, Eriksson was asked if he would like to coach Sweden.

"Yes I would," he replied. "But before that I'd like to go back to club football.

"I am enjoying myself in England and Tommy Soderberg just quit (as Sweden coach), so they probably won't change coach for a while," Alftonbladet quoted Eriksson as saying.


The Swede took charge in February 2001, since when England have lost only three competitive matches — a 2-1 quarterfinal defeat by Brazil at the 2002 World Cup, a 2-1 Euro 2004 Group B loss to France and a penalty shootout defeat by Portugal in the Euro 2004 quarterfinals.

"Now I'm looking forward to the World Cup qualifiers and our making it to the (2006) World Cup," said Eriksson."Then we shall win the final there (in Germany)."

Levet's storming finish earns Scottish Open title

LOCHELLOM (Scotland), 12 July—Frenchman Thomas Levet fired a closing 63 to come from seven strokes behind to win the Scottish Open by a shot on Sunday.

Levet, the third French winner in the last four European Tour events, finished on 14 under-par 269 to pip New Zealand's Michael Campbell.

World number two Ernie Els, who beat Levet in a sudden-death shootout for the 2002 British Open title, made a brave de- fence of his Loch Lomond crown.

The South African, who closed with a 68, finished tied third with Briton David Howell, two strokes behind the winner.

Levet's eight-under round, one off the course record, also sealed a British Open spot next week at Royal Troon.

An exhilarating back nine, which he covered in six-under-par 29 by running in an eagle and four birdies, helped Levet better the European Tour catch-up record for the season by a stroke as he went past struggling overnight joint leaders Marcus Fraser of Russian Federation.

It was the second victory of the season for Levet, who tied for 10th, took the Briton to the brink of a Ryder Cup place.

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Rainfall on 13-7-2004

- (1.11 inches) at Yangon Airport,
- (1.37 inches) at Kaba-Aye and
- (2.17 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1417.59 inches at Yangon Airport and 1359.53 inches at Kaba-Aye and 1354.33 inches at central Yangon.

**Wednesday, July 14**

**Tune in today:**

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11.00 pm  B.  Wears

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YANGON, 13 July — Wellwishers donated cash for the fourth time to build Yantaingaung Pagoda on Wizaya Bhumi Mahayana Hill in Lashio in Shan State (North) and Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win accepted cash at the donation ceremony held at the Dhammazayon near the pagoda on 4 July.

Also present on the occasion were Sayadow of Mahabawdhanay Monastery Bhaddanta Nandaza and members of the Sangha, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of the North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and his wife, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Live-stock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Then, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint and senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental officials and wellwishers.

First, the congregation received the Nine-Precepts from Sayadow Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vicita. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party presented offerings.

Afterwards, the fourth cash donation ceremony followed. Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and wife Daw Aye Pyi Wai Khin presented K 300,000; four wellwishers in Lashio K 7 million; 10 wellwishers in Muse K 10.6 million, U Sai Aye K 6 million; U Kyaw Myint K 4 million; Shan State (North) Myanmar Police Force Unit K 250,000; Lashio Station K 180,000; departmental personnel K 5.9 million and Vice President Sayadow of Township Sangha Nayaka Panosk Sayadow K 100,000. The Secretary-1 and the ministers accepted the donations. Next, the first cash donation ceremony for construction of two storey building in the compound of Manssupayagi Monastery was also held.

NCC Management Committee Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung presents cash assistance to a NC delegate wounded at No 2 Military Hospital. — MNA

**Cash donation presentation ceremony for building of Yantaingaung Pagoda in Lashio**

**Anyakatin Bridge opened in Saw Township, Magway Division**

YANGON, 13 July — A ceremony to open Anyakatin Bridge on Kyauktu-Saw-Seikphyu Road was held at the pandal near the bridge in Saw Township, Magway Division, yesterday. It was attended by Sayadow Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Magway Division PDC Chairman Col Zaw Min Chin, State PDC Vice-Chairman Col San Aung, the chairman of Gangaw District PDC and members, the chairman of Saw Township PDC and members, departmental officials and local people.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun said he was pleased to see that the construction of Anyakatin Bridge was completed in five months. Before 1988, there were 503 miles of tarred roads, 95 miles of gravel roads, 543 miles of macadam roads and 167 miles of earth roads totalling over 1300 miles in Magway Division. But now there have emerged 915.5 miles of macadam ones and 168 miles of earth ones totalling over 1,695 miles.

With the extension of roads, the required number of bridges has also been constructed, he said. In Magway Division there are 180 and above long bridges which have been built from 1988 to date. Before the construction of concrete bridge, wooden bridges such as Kyi Creek Bridge, Tapyin Bridge, Goneb Creek Bridge, Chyi Creek Bridge, Kyauktu Bridge and Anyakatin Bridge which was opened today had been built, he added.

The 240 feet long Anyakatin Bridge was constructed at a cost of K 30 million, and its clearance is 50 feet wide and 4 feet high. It can withstand 13 tons of loads.

With the emergence of the bridge, people can travel from Mindat to Palawa in Chin State (South) and Mindat-Matupi-Falam-Tiddim-Tonzang-Kyikha as well. And flow of local products will be smooth and speedy, he said. As a result, the education, economy, health and social conditions of local people from Gangaw District in Magway Division and Mindat District in Chin State will improve.

Arrangements are being made to upgrade 120-mile Mindat-Matupi Road into tarred one in the open season.

Therefore, local people, realising the goodwill of the State that is striving for equitable development of the country by spending a huge amount of money, are required to maintain the bridge and use it in accordance with traffic rules and regulations, he noted.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye delivered a speech, saying that the bridge opened today is among the three over 180 feet long bridges along Kyauktu-Saw Road in Gangaw District. For durability of the bridge, not only staff of Public Works but also local people are to take responsibility for its maintenance, he said.

He next expressed thanks to the construction minister and engineers of Bridge Special Group-13 and local authorities for building the bridge.

Later, the commander, the minister and officials formally opened the bridge and had a documentary photo taken together with local people. — MNA

**Anyakatin Bridge on Kyauktu-Saw-Seikphyu Road in Saw Township, Magway Division. — MNA**

**NCCMC Chairman Maj-Gen Lun Maung visits delegates receiving medical treatment**

YANGON, 13 July — Chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, accompanied by Vice-Chairmen of the Management Committee Director of Supply and Transport of the Ministry of Defence Maj-Gen Than Hlaing and Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyi and officials of the Management Committee visited delegates to the National Convention receiving medical treatment at No 2 Military Hospital (500-bed) in Dagon Township and Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed) in Mingaladon Township this evening. Maj-Gen Lun Maung and party asked after health of the delegates and provided cash assistance to them.

At No 2 Military Hospital (500-bed) at 3 pm, Maj-Gen Lun Maung and party were welcomed by Secretary of the Health Sub-Committee of NCCMC Deputy Director of Medical Services Col Myi May Maung, Commandant of the hospital Brig-Gen Min Naing and officials. Next, Maj-Gen Lun Maung and party asked after health of delegate U Saw Thauung of national races delegate group and U Mahn Tin Maung of political parties undergoing medical treatment at Defence Services General Hospital (Bed-1,000) and provided cash assistance to them. — MNA

Next, Maj-Gen Lun Maung and party asked after delegates U Mon Paul, Dr Tin Way, U Than Heik and U Maung Maung Oo of national races delegate group and U Mahn Tin Maung of political parties delegate group and provided cash assistance to them. Afterwards, Maj-Gen Lun Maung and party proceeded to Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed) where they were welcomed by Commandant of the hospital Brig-Gen Thau Tin U and officials.

Maj-Gen Lun Maung presented K 500,000 donated by NCCC for the Health Sub-Committee to Secretary of the Health Sub-Committee Col Myint Maung.

The Anyakatin Bridge on Kyauktu-Saw-Seikphyu Road in Saw Township, Magway Division.