Secretary-1 tours Kehsi, Mongkai, Namhsan, Hsihseng, Taunggyi, Nyaungshwe in Shan State (South)

Yangon, 14 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, and departmental heads, flew to Wamhaing region of Kehsi Township, Shan State (South), from Lashio, at 1 pm on 6 July.

The Secretary-1 and party were welcomed there by Col Thaung Aye of Mongnaung Station, Tactical Operations Commander Col Han Myint and local national race leaders. At Sao Hsay Nwam Hall in Wamhaing, the Secretary-1 and party met the local national race leaders and heard reports on requirements of regional development presented by in-charge of the regional development U Kaung Taing and U Sai Hsu.

After hearing the reports, the Secretary-1 attended to their needs and presented a TV to Affiliated Basic Education Middle School of the region. Next, the Secretary-1 and Wamhaing region national race leader Sao Pan Hpa exchanged souvenirs. Next, they posed for documentary photos.

On arrival at Kehsi, the Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by Deputy Commander of Eastern Command Col Win Myint and officials. They proceeded to Kehsi Township Hospital and gave necessary instructions to Dr Moe Tun and officials. At Kehsi BEHS, they met departmental officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations, teachers and students. Chairman of Kehsi Township Peace and Development Council U Ko Ko Oo and officials submitted reports on agriculture, education, health and transport sectors and requirements. The Secretary-1 fulfilled requirements of health, education and telecommunications of the township. Next, the Secretary-1 explained the purpose of his inspection tour to Shan State (South) from Shan State (North).

Next, the Secretary-1 and party presented teaching aids for Kehsi BEHS and exercise books for basic education schools to Headmistress Daw San Yu May and medical equipment to Dr Moe Tun. The Secretary-1 cordially greeted departmental personnel and local people. Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the multimedia teaching centre of the school and conversed with the students.

They went to Satuditha Mahi Wihaya 2-mile Watpaung Monastery in Kehsi and paid homage to the remains of Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Javana, aged 101 and 81 vasa.

The Secretary-1 and party paid homage and presented food to Nathwam Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Devinda and members of the Sangha.

On 7 July morning, the Secretary-1 and party flew to Mongkaing where they were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and officials.

The Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 and party went to Mongkaing BEHS and attended the opening ceremony of new school building. The commander, Director-General Lt-Col Win Htein of Basic Education Department (Upper Myanmar) and well-wisher Olympic Co Chairman Asia Wealth Bank Ltd Vice-Chairman U Aik Tun formally opened the school building. The Secretary-1 and party inspected the computer aided instruction room and audio visual room of the new school building. Next, they conversed with the students.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party attended (See page 8).
Myanmar actively participating in work programmes on population

July 11, 2004, is the World Population Day and this year’s motto for the day is “Statistical Girl”. The first conference on population and development was held in 1994. One of the objectives of the future work programme of the conference is literacy for all, especially for girls to be able to pursue vocational and technological education. All the nations across the globe have been trying for girls as well as boys to be able to pursue primary education but, according to statistics, there are still 65 million girls who cannot.

The World Population Day 2004 was held at the International Business Centre in Yangon on 11 July. Secretary-General of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win attended the ceremony and Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa delivered an address on the occasion.

The population of Myanmar stands at about 53 million and the population density is only 204 people per square mile. There is still a vast area of arable land in the nation, there is a lot of potential for increased agricultural produce. Therefore, Myanmar can not only meet its domestic consumption for food but also fulfill the regional and international need for food.

There is a favourable environment not only in the economic sector but also in the education sector. The literacy rate of the nation is 92.2 per cent for those above 15. More over, due to the government’s campaign for school enrolment, 95 per cent of school-age children go to school. In the higher education sector, there were only 32 universities and colleges in 1988 but now the number has increased up to 156. Regarding education, women enjoy equal right as men. In the health sector, special attention is being given to maternal and child welfare as it is an important part of the national centre. Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation has been formed at the national level for all-round development of women and for them to be able to stand as one of the national forces.

We would like to say that Myanmar is actively taking part in the work programmes on population, adhering to the policies and work programmes laid down by the international conference on population and development.

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 15 July, 2004

Heroin and stimulant tablets seized

YANGON, 14 July — A combined team comprising members of Local Battalion, Local Intelligence Unit and Bhamo Special Anti-Drug Squad, while lying in wait beside the road to Kaung Aung Village near People’s Hospital in Lweye, acting on information, stopped and searched a motorcycle ridden by Mar Aung and Ma Khun Ja on 27 April. 2004 and arrested them with 1.3 kilos of raw opium kept in a Jeeb bag in the fork of the motorbike. Action was taken against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Lweye Police Station. Similarly, a combined team comprising members of Local Intelligence Unit and Muse Special Anti-Drug Squad, while waiting in front of Ngwesi Construction Office, acting on information, searched the polyethylene bag held by Ma Art Chide (a) Ma Luak Myint and Ma Saik Lyan and seized them with 20 heroin blocks weighing 7 kilos kept in the carton. Further information led to the search of the house of M Lusan (a) Mar La and seizure of 29,000 WY brand stimulant tablets kept in a bag under his bed.

Action is taken against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

Talks on MWAF held at Auditor-General’s Office

YANGON, 14 July — Talks on Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation were given at a ceremony held at the meeting hall of the Office of the Auditor-General here at 1 pm today. Present on the occasion were MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Khin Win, MWAF Secretariat mem-

ber Dr Daw Khin Maiek, MWAF Finance & Admin-

istration Working Group Adviser Deputy Auditor-Gen-

eral Daw Thinn Thinn, officials and employees number-


ing over 500.

First, Deputy Auditor-General Daw Thinn Thinn extended greetings and MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Khin Win gave talks on the MWAF. After the talks, MWAF Adviser Daw Thinn Thinn presented a souvenir to MWAF Vice-President Daw Khin Khin Win. — MNA

Artists who entertained

NC delegates honoured

Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon Chairman U Sein Tin made a speech and Myanmar Athan Modern Music Troupe, the troupe of the Ministry of Culture, Bogale Tin Aung, Academy Gitalina Maung Ko Ko and Pianist Chat Sae were presented cash awards. On behalf of the artists, film artiste U Nyanin Win expressed thanks. — 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
**880 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq**

Baghdad, 13 July—As of Tuesday, 13 July, 880 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 651 died as a result of hostile action and 229 died of non-hostile causes.

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

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 742 US soldiers have died—542 as a result of hostile action and 200 of non-hostile causes.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 5,394 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defense Department's weekly tally.

**Philippines begins Iraq pullout**

Manila, 13 July — The Philippines said Wednesday it was “coordinating the pullout” of its forces in Iraq and had reduced numbers from 51 to 43 following militant threats to execute Angelo de la Cruz.

“The Foreign Ministry is coordinating the pullout of the humanitarian contingent with the ministry of defence,” Foreign Affairs Secretary Delta Albert said in a statement released by the presidential palace.

“As of today, our head count is down from 51 to 43,” she added without elaborating.

Islamic militants kidnapped de la Cruz, 46, last week and threatened to behead him unless President Arroyo advanced the scheduled pullout of the contingent by one month to 20 July. —Internet

**US disappointed with Philippine move to withdraw troops from Iraq**

Washington, 13 July — The United States said it was disappointed with moves by the Philippines to pull out its troops from Iraq after a Filipino was taken hostage in the war-torn nation.

Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis on Monday appealed for the life of the hostage over Arabic television station Al-Jazeera and pledged the small contingent of about 50 Filipino servicemen in Iraq to pull out its troops from Iraq after a Filipino was taken hostage in Baghdad as soon as possible.

“We certainly noted the remarks and are disappointed to see remarks like this at a time when Iraq is fighting for stability and peace,” said State Department spokesman Richard Boucher. The statements, he said, “detract from some questions” and “we’re awaiting clarification on exactly what that announcement might mean in terms of Philippine withdrawal.”

Philippine Foreign Secretary Gloria Arroyo, who has repeatedly insisted that her government would not cave in to terrorism, US Ambassador to Manila Francis Ricciardone had already met Arroyo, Boucher said, adding that discussions would continue.

Poland, which is in command of the Iraqi military region in which the 51 soldiers from the Philippines are deployed, had warned that Manila would be making a mistake if it yielded to the threats of the kidnappers. —Internet

**CPC official calls for more exchanges with CPV**

Beijing, 13 July — Wang Jianli, head of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, Monday called for further exchanges between the CPC and the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV).

Wang made the remarks in a meeting with a Vietnamese delegation led by Hoang Xuan Cu, a member of the CPV Central Committee. Wang spoke highly of the China-Vietnam bilateral ties as well as the relationship between the two parties. He said the two parties should maintain the frequent exchanges on the theories and experiences of socialist construction.

The Chinese side is willing to improve communication with the Communist Party of Vietnam to further expand and enrich the content of inter-party exchanges, Wang said.

Hoang, also director of the national security research committee under the political bureau of the CPC Central Committee, briefed Wang on the recent progress and major tasks of the Vietnamese legal and law enforcement work. —MNA/Xinhua

**Ohio soldier killed in mortar attack in Iraq**

Baghdad, 13 July — An Ohio soldier and four members of his unit were killed July 8 in Baghdad during a mortar attack by insurgents on Iraqi National Guard headquarters, the Department of Defence said Tuesday.

Army Spc Joseph M Garmback Jr, 24, of Cleveland, and the other servicemen were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division at Schweinfurt, Germany. Garmback’s relatives could not immediately be reached for comment Tuesday night. —Internet

**Heavy sandstorm hits N-W China**

Lanzhou, 13 July — A heavy sandstorm hit Jiuquan and Jiayu Pass areas in northwest China’s Gansu Province Monday night, with the visibility in the affected areas declining to 200 metres.

The sandstorm with strong wind suddenly hit the aforementioned areas at 9:20 pm Monday. According to the meteorological station of Jiuquan City, the sandstorm formed in the Alxa League in North China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region at 5 pm Monday and moved southwest since then. The sandstorm swept over an area of about 180,000 square kilometres, covering Jiuquan and Jiayu Pass areas, within about four hours.

Yu Dianxiang, affairs official with the Jiuquan Meteorological Station, said that sandstorm is rarely seen in the current season and he attributed the sandstorm to dry weather and high temperature over the past two weeks.

—MNA/Xinhua

**India, Italy sign cultural cooperation agreement**

New Delhi, 13 July — India and Italy signed Monday a new agreement on cultural cooperation between the two nations.

A new Indo-Italian Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between the governments of India and Italy has been signed by Neena Ranjan, Secretary, four Culture and Amonio Armellini, Italian Ambassador, here, the Press Information Bureau (PIB) of India reported.

The agreement was signed in the presence of S Jaipal Reddy, Minister of Information & Broadcasting and Culture and Margherita Boniver, Italian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

“First Indo-Italian agreement was signed in 1976 and signing of a new cultural agreement in this century will further strengthen our bilateral relations in the field of culture,” Reddy said at the signing ceremony.

“Italy and India will work hand in hand for closer cooperation in the field of culture,” Boniver said.

The agreement provides for broad framework to develop activities of mutual cooperation and cultural relation between the two nations.

For this purpose both the nations will support and promote bilateral projects. They will exchange knowledge of their education system and the knowledge of other nation’s arts, literature and culture.

—MNA/Xinhua

**Technical hitch delays “Ariane” rocket launch**

Kourou, French Guiana, 13 July — A technical problem aboard an Ariane rocket has delayed the scheduled launch of a Canadian communications satellite hours before its planned lift off from French Guiana, space officials said.

The Ariane-5 rocket had been scheduled to launch at 9:43 pm on Monday (0043 GMT Tuesday) from the European Space Agency’s launch site in Kourou, French Guiana, on the northeast coast of South America.

Officials of the Ariane space rocket launch company said a problem had been detected in the rocket’s electrical system during pre-launch checks and would require at least 48 hours to fix before another try to launch the rocket could be attempted. —MNA/Reuters
Lawmakers begin sit-in protest against troop dispatch to Iraq

SEOUL, 13 July — Some 20 lawmakers from ruling and opposition parties who additional troop dispatch to Iraq on Tuesday began a sit-in at the National Assembly.

They urged National Assembly Speaker Kim Won-ki to independently bring the bill to the plenary session tomorrow.

The bill, though introduced late last month, has been shelved by the Assembly’s Defence Committee without being referred to the plenary session.

The legislators also called on President Roh Moo-hyun to meet them in a bid to press the head of state to drop the envisioned plan to send an additional 3,600-strong contingent to the Middle Eastern country early next month.

The anti-dispatch move came after the United States Senate Intelligence Committee reported that incorrect information was provided to the Bush administration in the run-up to the Iraq war. In response, some South Korean lawmakers called on the US to stop the war and apologize for it.

“The US Senate Intelligence Committee’s report, which was passed with unanimous approval, suggests that we should reconsider deploying ROK forces to Iraq,” a lawmaker of the Grand National Party said.

“The ROK-US Alliance is not supposed to be unilateralized by the US!”

The lawmakers are also considering visiting US Ambassador to Seoul Thomas Hubbard to deliver a statement criticizing the US for having invaded Iraq.

To draw more attention to the troop dispatch issue, the lawmakers held a discussion about ways to prevent the planned troop dispatch throughout the night.

New Zealand sees business confidence up in second quarter

WELLINGTON, 14 July — Business confidence improved across most sectors in New Zealand in the second quarter of 2004 as firms took heart from a surprisingly robust recent gross domestic product (GDP) figure, a latest survey has found.

The New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) Quarterly Survey of Business Opinion, issued Tuesday, showed 29 percent of firms surveyed expected general business conditions to deteriorate over the next six months.

In the first quarter, 29 percent of respondents expected a deterioration.

NZIER said the 2.3 percent GDP growth rate in the first quarter had suggested “reasonably strong growth for the June 2004 quarter, and firms expect this to continue into the September quarter”.

The improvement in confidence was seen across all sectors except building, the survey said.

However, “a stark difference between the higher confidence among building construction firms and the lower confidence among suppliers of building materials “may suggest we are in the early stages of an upturn in building activity”, NZIER said.

Meanwhile, NZIER said 41 percent of firms surveyed expected capital spending in the second quarter compared to 35 percent last quarter.

Air Force sees rare Iraqi combat death

WASHINGTON, 13 July — Military deaths reported by the Pentagon on Tuesday included the first Air Force member to be killed in action in Iraq since March and only the fifth since the invasion a year earlier.

Staff Sgt Dustin W Peters, 25, of El Dorado, Kan., was killed July 11 near a US base dubbed Summerall, near the town of Bayji, which is about 155 miles north of the Iraqi capital.

A brief Pentagon announcement gave no other details except to say he was killed by “enemy action.” Peters was assigned to the 314th Logistics Readiness Squadron, based at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

The Air Force has had nine deaths in Iraq — four in combat and five from non-combat causes. That is fewer than any of the other services. As of Monday, the Army had 662, the Marines had 185, and Navy had 19 and the Coast Guard had one. Two Pentagon civilians also have been killed.

The Pentagon on Tuesday also announced the identifications of two more soldiers and four Marines killed in Iraq in recent days.

Spc Jeremiah W Schmunk, 21, of Richland, Wash., was killed July 8 in Baghdad when his vehicle came under attack; he was a member of the Washington National Guard.

Also, Spc. Shawn M Davies, 22, of Alispappa, Pa., died July 1 in Baghdad of an unspecified non-combat related illness. He was a member of the 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Honda, Yamaha seek to boost sales in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 14 July — Motorcycle-makers Honda and Yamaha are struggling to achieve much higher sale volume in Indonesia this year in line with improving market.

PT Yamaha Kencana Motor Indonesia (YKMI), the local unit of Japan-based Yamaha Motor Co., has targeted to boost sales to 870,000 units by the end of this year, or a 52.6-percent rise compared with that of last year, according to its president.

Meanwhile, Japanese daily Bisan Indonesia reported Tuesday.

“Given the improving (market) condition, we hope the sale of Yamaha will be able to reach the 1 million level next year,” YKMI vice-president Toshiyuki Takahashi was quoted as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

China to host first expo for SMEs

BEIJING, 14 July — China’s first national exhibition catering to small- and medium-sized firms is scheduled from October 18 to 22 in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong Province.

Organizers of the exhibition said that starting this year, the non-profit exhibition is expected to be held every two years to boost the growth of those enterprises in China, according to the latest edition of China Economic Herald.

A total of 2,700 booths will be made available in the exhibition hall covering 40,000 square metres, and major department stores, retailers, and purchasing firms in China and abroad will be invited to the exposition, according to the report.

The products to be displayed and traded are mostly handicraft, textile, home appliance, metals, and food. Most of China’s small and medium industrial enterprises are producers of those products. Forums and conferences concerning technology transfer, financing, and international purchasing will be arranged during the exposition. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraq reconstruction money slow to arrive

WASHINGTON, 13 July — Nations that pledged last October to help Iraq’s reconstruction have been slow to make good on their promises.

Countries other than the United States pledged $13 billion in grants and loans at a high-profile conference last October in Madrid, but only about $1 billion of that has been deposited in World Bank and IMF accounts.

The United States pledged $18.4 billion, of which about $6 billion has been set aside for reconstruction of Iraq.

The slow pace of making good on pledges is not unusual. Iraq’s lack of a recognized government may have contributed to the lethargic follow-through.

A number of countries will likely contribute toître they were waiting for the establishment of an Iraqi government. Edward S Walker, president of the Middle East Institute, a private research center, said Tuesday.

An interim government took control in Baghdad two weeks ago, but Walker said he did not know if donors were waiting until Iraq held national elections in January.

“Some Arab leaders have told me they are waiting for a legitimate Iraqi government, without explaining what it meant,” the former US ambassador to Egypt and Israel said in an interview. “These pledges are easier to make than to collect.”

The United Nations and the World Bank set up funds last year to channel the donations. The World Bank has $360 million deposited by nine countries and the European Commission and expects to reach $400 million by the end of the year, according to a World Bank official. There is approximately $600 million in the UN Fund.

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Meanwhile, NZIER said 41 percent of firms surveyed expected capital spending in the second quarter compared to 35 percent last quarter.

The tight labour market and a spike in oil prices in the second quarter were likely to have been major contributors to these increases.

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Iraq’s FM presses EU for help
“not just words”

BRUSSELS, 13 July — Iraq needs more than verbal support from the European Union to rebuild its economy and establish a political system, Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said on Monday as he arrived for talks in Brussels.

“We expect concrete aid from the EU and from countries individually,” Zebari told reporters before going in to a meeting with counterparts from the bloc’s 25 member states.

His visit was scheduled at the last minute after Prime Minister Iyad Allawi decided against joining EU foreign ministers at their monthly meeting because of deteriorating security at home.

Zebari, who said he had brought a series of proposals for EU support, was due to hold a new conference at 3 pm (1300 GMT).

“Concrete support, not just words ... we expect the EU to support us during the reconstruction phase and in the political process and also with the organization of the next elections,” he said, speaking in Arabic.

EU countries were deeply split over the US-led invasion last year, which Britain, Italy, Spain and others backed.

But after Prime Minister Iyad Allawi decided on Monday to hold early elections, Zebari told reporters before going in to a meeting with EU leaders that the EU delegation was keen to offer “substantial help.”

“We will discuss together with him what is needed at this moment and he is the best placed to tell us where help is required,” he told reporters.

He said the EU wanted to send a senior delegation to meet the interim Iraqi government, most likely on the margins of the United Nations’ General Assembly in New York in September.

The EU’s Executive Commission last month approved a medium-term strategy for its relations with Iraq, designed to lead to an EU-Iraq agreement covering trade, aid and political and cultural dialogue after 2006.

Zebari was expected to meet NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer on Tuesday, an alliance official said, to discuss how NATO can help the embattled Iraqi armed forces.

— MNA/Reuters

US corn production to hit new record this year
WASHINGTON, 13 July — US corn production could reach a record of 10.6 billion bushels this year, the Agriculture Department predicted Monday.

The department forecast production of 10.6 billion bushels, up 210 million bushels from last month and 521 million bushels from last year. The previous record was 10.1 billion bushels in 2003.

Weather has been mostly good for production of the crop, the department said.

Exports of the crop, however, are expected to drop 90 million bushels. The department said Argentina has been giving the United States increased competition and some US sales had been cancelled.

Meanwhile, the department lowered its soybean harvest forecast by 25 million bushels from last month, to 2.9 billion bushels, based on a drop in the number of harvested acres and yield.

Soybean exports are projected at around one billion bushels, down about 15 million bushels from the last forecast, partly due to increased competition from South America and reduced imports by China.

The department also forecast overall wheat production at 2 billion bushels, down slightly from last month and down 277 million bushels from last year.

— MNA/Xinhua

Mysterious graves found in Arctic region
OTTAWA, 13 July — Three unmarked graves, their age and inhabitants unknown, were found by a group of Inuit hunters near Baker Lake in Canada’s northern region of Nunavut, it is reported Monday.

Buried carefully under a weathered wooden chest sealed with a rusty padlock, its contents just as mysterious.

A team of Canadian archeologists has decided to solve the mystery this summer.

“We really do not know what is in this box,” said Doug Stenton, Nunavut’s head archaeologist who will lead the expedition.

The site was discovered last summer by a group of Inuit hunters who were fishing and hunting by the north channel of Baker Lake.

When nasty weather forced the group to hunker down for a few days, one of the men found the grave and the buried chest amidst evidence of an old campsite.

In the 1700s, the inlet was explored as a possible route to China. During the next century, it was sailed by whalers. There are no records of expeditions being lost in the area, said Stenton, but that does not mean the site is not the remains of one.

Stenton suggests the site dates to sometime during the last few hundred years, since European contact and exploration.

— MNA/Xinhua

Putin for expanding ties with India for development of Siberia
MOSCOW, 13 July — Russian President Vladimir Putin has called for expanding Russia’s ties with India and other nations of the growing Asia-Pacific region for the development of Siberia and the Far Eastern parts of the country.

“We should tie our policy of broadening relations with Asian and Pacific countries to the solution of our domestic problems and the development of the potential of Russia’s Siberia and Far Eastern regions,” Putin said in a keynote address at a conference of Russian ambassadors to 130 countries here yesterday.

Putin said today Asia and the Pacific region are evolving into the most dynamic centre of the world economic development and underscored that Russia’s foreign policy should be aimed at satisfying the everyday needs of common man.

“It is important to have foreign political activities promote comprehensive development and modernisation in the country and to make diplomacy closer to the everyday needs and interests of the people,” Putin told the gathering.

Such conferences of ambassadors were held at regular intervals in the erstwhile USSR and were mostly tied to the congresses of the ruling Communist Party, held once in every five years.

Putin described Russia’s current international relations as ‘heterogeneous’ and at a ‘complicated phase of formalisation’.

— PTI

Annan picks Pakistan’s ambassador to US as envoy for Iraq
UNITED NATIONS, 13 July — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has named Pakistan Ambassador to Washington Ashraf Jehangir Qazi as his new special representative for Iraq, but it remains unknown when UN staff will return to Iraq, a UN spokesman said Monday.

Annan informed the Security Council of the appointment in a letter earlier in the day, associate spokesperson Marie Okabe told reporters.

Qazi, who has had “a distinguished career” in Pakistan’s foreign services, was selected from a short-list of three highly qualified persons, she said.

The other two contenders for the Iraq post were former Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Bahaeer and former Thai Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan. All the three candidates were Muslims.

Qazi, 62, has been ambassador to the United States since September 2002 and previously served as Pakistan’s top envoy to Syria, East Germany, the Soviet Union, Russia, China and India.

Okabe said Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has agreed to release Qazi from his current post in some two weeks and then Qazi will come to New York to take the new job.

— MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan to strengthen cooperation with Afghanistan
KABUL, 14 July — Pakistan will continue to work with Afghanistan on anti-terrorism war, Pakistani Interior Minister Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat reaffirmed Afghan officials in a meeting in Kabul on Monday.

“Pakistan has a very clear policy it will not allow any group, any individual to conduct any activity vicious to the interests of any other country,” he said on a joint Press conference.

“Our recent operation in the border areas between Pakistan and Afghanistan is part of our commitment towards eradicating of the pockets of terrorist organizations in the region,” he stressed while referring to the Pakistani military operation in the southern tribal areas along the border with Afghanistan.

Hayat, who arrived in Kabul on a two-day visit Monday signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Afghan Government and exchanged views with his Afghan counterpart Ali Ahamad Jalali on matters pertaining mutual interests particularly war on terr, drug trafficking, and organized crimes.

Afghan Interior Minister Jalali appreciated Pakistan’s efforts saying “Afghanistan and Pakistan are front-line countries in war on terrorism. They naturally ally in war on terrorism. A stable Pakistan and a stable Afghanistan are in the interest of both the countries.”

Hayat also offered to help Afghanistan train its police and support the upcoming general elections rescheduled for October 9 and next April respectively.

“Afghanistan is our neighbour. A strong Afghanistan is in the interest of Pakistan and we wish to see the government of Hamid Karzai strengthening by the day,” the Pakistani minister noted.

— MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan High Commissioner Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, who was named as the UN’s most senior officer in Iraq, is a skilful negotiator and good communicator who could handle any crisis, a colleague said. — Irfanjq
US woman soldier involved in abuse scandal appears in court

WASHINGTON, 13 July — A US woman soldier accused of abusing Iraqi detainees at the Abu Ghraib Prison appeared in court on Monday and a hearing was set for 3 August to decide whether she should face trial.

Army Reserve Private Lynndie England, 21, was read her rights in court at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. England, one of seven US soldiers accused of abusing Iraqi prisoners, was in the prison near Baghdad, faces 12 charges, including assaulting detainees, conspiring to mistreat them, committing indecent acts and disobeying orders.

She faces a dishonourable discharge and up to 38 years in prison if convicted on all charges against her.

A military judge, investigating officer Colonel Denise Attanasio, approved a request by England’s lawyers for a delay of the hearing, so that Captain Jonathan Crisp, an Army lawyer from Fort Jackson, South Carolina, can join the defence team.

OPEC oil prices rose higher last week

VIENNA, 13 July — The crude oil prices of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) jumped to 36.97 US dollars per barrel last week, 2.09 US dollars higher than a week earlier.

The crude oil prices averaged 34.88 dollars per barrel in the five trading days last week, reaching 36.05 dollars on the last trading day, the highest in the past month, according to data released by the Vienna-based OPEC Secretariat on Monday.

The rise came after an attack on oil pipelines on the Fao Peninsula in southern Iraq on July 3 and US Homeland Security Secretary Thomas Ridge’s warning that al-Qaeda is planning to carry out a large-scale attack in the United States in an effort to disrupt the elections.

Oil ministers of OPEC have not had further production policy for the next stage. According to another report, OPEC president Purnomo Yusgiantoro said on Monday when a roadside bomb destroyed his truck on 13 July near a fortified checkpoint on the highway joining the flashpoint towns of Ramadi and Fallujah to Baghdad in Abu Ghraib on 13 July. — INNERTS

Loud blast in central Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 13 July — A loud blast echoed across central Baghdad on Monday near a fortified compound housing the Iraqi Government and the US Embassy, Reuters witnesses said.

A plume of smoke could be seen rising from the Green Zone area on the west bank of the Tigris River, and three US helicopters hovered overhead.

The US military had no immediate information on the blast.

Guerrillas have regularly attacked the Green Zone with mortars and rockets since US forces invaded last year. Several car bombs have also exploded at entrances to the compound.

A South Korean protester holds a banner during an anti-war rally near the US Embassy in Seoul, on 13 July, 2004 — INNERTS

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Iraq, France restore diplomatic relations

BAGHDAD, 13 July — Iraq and France restored their diplomatic relations on Monday after 13 years of severance since Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait, a senior official in Iraq’s Foreign Ministry said.

“The Iraqi flag is fluttering now in the French capital of Paris as we announce the restoration of the diplomatic relations between the two countries,” a Deputy Foreign Minister told reporters in a news conference.

Since 1991, Iraq had severed its diplomatic relations with France after it participated in the international military efforts, led by the United States, to eject Saddam Hussein’s troops from Kuwait. France has rejected US requests for military help in quelling violence in Iraq. But it has said it is willing to help train Iraqi security forces and supports limited forgiveness of Iraqi debt to help Baghdad.

France has also clarified it wants its firms to take part in the international efforts to rebuild Iraq and share its potentially lucrative reconstruction contracts.

A South Korean protester holds a banner during an anti-war rally near the US Embassy in Seoul, on 13 July, 2004 — INNERTS

137 kilos of heroin confiscated in eastern Iran

TEHRAN, 13 July — Iranian anti-drug police seized over 137 kilos of heroin while conducting inspection on a truck in the province of Khorasan on Monday, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Two suspected drug smugglers were arrested in the operation, the report said.

Iran serves as the linking crossroad between drug producing Afghanistan and Pakistan and markets in the Persian Gulf states, Central Asia, western Europe and other regions.
Endeavours for agricultural development throughout the country

Tea plantation of local national race farmers in Silu region, Shan State (East). — MNA

Kandawyan diversion weir built by the State in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State, benefits 12,000 acres of farmland in the region. — MNA

To supply water for agricultural purpose, a river water pumping station was built in Tayokehla Model Village, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State. — MNA

Thriving oil palm plantation in Longlon Township, Taninthayi Division. — KYEMON
Secretary-1 tours Kehsi, Mongkai, Namhsan,...

(from page 1)

The ceremony to open new building of 25-bed Mongkai Township Hospital built by Olympic Co. First, the Secretary-1 unveiled the signboard of the hospital. Next, the commander, Acting Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung of Health Department and wellwisher U Aik Tun formally opened the building. The Secretary-1 and party viewed round the new building. Later, they together with local people had documentary photos taken in front of the hospital.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the incubator and poultry farms. The Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions. After the meeting, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the township police station and met family members.

At the town hall, the Secretary-1 met local authorities, departmental personnel, members of USDA and social organizations and local people. The Chairman of Township PDC reported on matters related to the township. The commander gave a supplementary report.

The Secretary-1 fulfilled requirements of education, health, transport and telecommunication for the township. He then explained endeavours of the government and cooperation of the local people with the government.

Chairman of Olympic Co Vice-Chairman of Asia Wealth Bank Ltd U Aik Tun reported on his donations for regional development. Next, the Secretary-1 presented a computer set to Mongkai BEHS to Headmaster U Chit Swe, exercise books to Township Education Officer Daw Baby Soe and exercise books for the township to TEO Daw Nan Aung Ba.

Secretary of the Township, the Secretary-1 heard reports on preparations for the ceremony to open new building of Mongkai Township Hospital at which Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Acting Director-General Dr Tin Win Maung of Health Department and wellwisher U Aik Tun formally open the building. — MNA

The Secretary-1 and party paid obeisance to Buddha images at Shwemyinhtin Pagoda in the historic Shwemyinhtin Pagoda. They donated provisions to North Mwe Daw Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Revata and members of the Sangha. Officials reported on emergence of Pawdawmu Buddha Image at the historic Shwemyinhtin Pagoda, renovation tasks and construction of Gandakuti.

The Secretary-1 and party paid homage to the Buddha Image. Next, the Secretary-1 and party flew to the construction site of Kholan-Wamhsin-Mongnaung-Mongshu Road in Namhsan Township by helicopter. Tactical Operations Commander Co Tha Aung and Superintending Engineer U Soe Tint of Shan State (South) reported on progress of works.

Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein gave a supplementary report.

Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Kyaw Thaung reported on power supply for the plant. The Secretary-1 and party inspected the incubator and poultry farms.

Secretary-1 and party gave necessary instructions. The Secretary-1 and party gave necessary instructions. The Secretary-1 and party inspected the township hospital and attended to the needs.

At the town hall, they met departmental authorities, departmental officials and local people in the township hall. The Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements and presented a computer for the Hsihseng BEHS and exercise books for the township to TEO Daw Nan Aung Ba.

On arrival at Ayethaya Industrial Zone in Taunggyi Township, the Secretary-1 heard reports on preparations for building the Foundry and Press Plant by Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee Secretary U Myint Thein. Shan State Engineer of Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise U Kyaw Thaung reported on power supply for the plant. The Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected installation of machinery at Tomato Product Factory Project of Myanmar Foodstuff Industries. They also saw progress of building Government Technological College (Ayethaya).

On 8 July, the Secretary-1 and party went to Nanthida Camp-2 of Eastern Command in Nyaungshwe Township. Camp in-charge Maj Aung Win reported on poultry farming tasks. Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein reported on assistance to be provided for extension of livestock breeding. Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected the incubator and poultry farms.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party arrived back here later in the morning. — MNA

MEC Vice-Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win attends opening ceremony of new building of Mongkai BEHS and Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, BED (Upper Myanmar) Director-General Lt Col Win Hein and donor U Aik Tun formally open the school building. — MNA

Secretary-1 Li-Gen Soe Win pays homage to Buddha images at Shwemyinhtin Pagoda in Mongkai. — MNA
Waso robes offered to monks

YANGON, 14 July—Waso robes were offered to member Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee at Kanmyint Monastery in Sangyoung Township, Yangon West District, at 5.30 am today, attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay.

The ceremony was graced by the presence of Vice-Chairman of the SSMNC Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Aungmyebons Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panthindibhivamsa and member Sayadaws. Also present on the occasion were No 3 Military Region Commander Col Tint Hsan, local authorities, wellwishers, lay disciples and guests.

The commander and wife, officials, wellwishers and laity offered “soon” to members of the Sangha. Vice-Chairman of the SSMNC Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Thayet Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara administered the Five Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife and officials offered Waso robes and alms to the Sayadaws. Joint-Secretary of the SSMNC Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Mandalay Wiriyayon Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vicarindabhivamsa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained.

MNA

ISD basketball tourney ends

YANGON, 14 July—Final matches of men’s and women’s events of the 35th Inter-State/Division Basketball Tournament (2004) took place in conjunction with prize-presentation ceremony at Aung San Gymnasium this afternoon, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

Among the spectators were officials of the ministry, members of the leading panel of patrons of Women’s Sports Federation, President of Myanmar Basketball Federation Professor Dr Sein Myint, General Secretary U Maung Maung Myint and executives and guests.

After the final matches, officials presented individual prizes to the winners. The federation president presented fair play awards to Yangon Division women’s team and Sagaing Division men’s team.

Next, the minister presented championship shields to Sagaing Division women’s team and Shan State (South) men’s team. — MNA

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells in rural areas

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.

Wellwishers are invited to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects in rural areas. — MNA
The Rights of the Child that every mother should know

Moe Lay

Myanmar became a member of the CRC Convention on the Rights of the Child on 15 August 1991. The government of Myanmar promulgated a Law on 14 July 1993, regarding the Rights of the Child in accordance with the Rights of the Child as stated by the CRC. So that parents and the public will be aware of it.

Being a predominantly Buddhist nation, its society is based on the teachings of Theravada Buddhism. Traditionally from the time of pregnancy the unborn child’s physical, mental development are nurtured by the parents, grandparents and relatives. At the time of birth the baby’s valuables are valued and looked after as a valuable gem. So from that, we have a saying that “Children are like Gems”.

These precious gems are the nation’s future, and as such their development is important to the nation. It is important to be aware of the conditions in the World Declaration and Plan of action from the World Summit for Children. “The best should be done for the Child’s Welfare.”

For example legal adoption is permitted. According to the Law, the child that has been adopted has the right to inheritance. Most of the parents, in order to avoid inheritance do not register the adoption at the court. So the child who have been adopted loose their rights to inheritance. This is not in conformation with the rights of the child in the adoption law promulgated by the government.

Concerning the rights of the child, four categories namely Survival, Protection, Development, and Participation should be discussed. In the article 8 of the Child Law, the State recognizes that every child has the right to survival, development, protection and care and to achieve active participation within the community. First of all Survival of the Child should be discussed. The child should have medical benefits from time of birth and later.

In article 9 of the Child Law, (a) Every child has the inherent right to life. (b) The parents or guardian shall register the birth of the child in accordance with law.

For the survival of the child the government cooperates with the government departments concerned and non-governmental organizations. In Public Health projects and National Health projects immunization of children, nutrition, proper sanitation, fly-proof latrines, and projects for better health are conducted down systematically, down to the rural area. These are the rights of the child, and as such the parents and the public should be aware of it and it is necessary for the cooperation. At the same time there is a law promulgated for the Protection and Survival of the Child. In Myanmar there is a standing law regarding abortion, killing the child after birth, and the penalty is up to ten years imprisonment.

In conclusion, not only parents, all those concerned to village tract levels, including children from indigenous groups and relatives. At the time of birth the baby’s valuables are valued and looked after as a valuable gem.

Lastly, to touch upon the last category of participation concerning the child, he or she must be given the right to make their own decision. In this the parents must guide them from outside instigation and influence which can cloud their judgement.

In conclusion, not only parents, all those concerned with the development of our future generation should understand and be aware of the need to systematically nurture their needs.

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 appeased

* Do not be softened whenever appeased

缅甸成为《儿童权利公约》的成员国，于1991年8月15日在《联合国儿童权利公约》的指导下，政府于1993年7月14日通过了《儿童权利法》，该法律在缅甸是关于儿童权利的法律。因此，父母和社会应当关注这一法律。

作为主要是佛教国家，其社会基于南传佛教的教义。传统上，从怀孕到出生，孩子在父母、祖父母和亲属的关心下成长。出生时，孩子的宝贵之物被视作珍贵的宝石。所以，我们说“儿童如宝石”。

这些珍贵的宝石是国家的未来，因此，他们的健康发展对国家非常重要。因此，了解世界宣言和世界儿童委员会的行动计划非常重要。

根据《儿童权利法》第8条，国家承认每个孩子都有生存权、发展权、保护权和参与权。首先，应讨论“生存权”。孩子应享有医疗保障，从出生开始。

在第9条中，《儿童权利法》规定了每个孩子都有生存权，（a）每个孩子都有生命权。 （b）父母或监护人应登记孩子的出生，符合法律。

为了孩子的生存，政府与相关部门和非政府组织合作。在公共卫生项目和国家卫生项目中，对儿童的免疫接种、营养、适当卫生设施、防蝇厕所及项目的推行均在有组织的进行，达到农村地区。这些是孩子的权利，父母和公众应了解并必要时应予以合作。同时，应制定法律来保护和保障儿童的生存权。

在《儿童权利法》中，（a）每个孩子都有生存权。 （b）父母或监护人应登记孩子的出生，符合法律。

出于上述考虑，不仅父母，所有相关人士都应关注到地方和家庭层面，包括来自土著社区的儿童和亲属。

最后，要触及参与的最后一个类别，即孩子的参与权。孩子必须有权利自己做出决定。在这方面，父母应引导他们远离外来的诱导和影响，这些可能模糊他们的判断。

综上所述，了解我们未来一代的需求和发展的重要性，所有相关人士应理解和关注，以系统地养育他们的需要。

有效的用电

- 使用自然光作为主要照明
- 使用最少的电力，除非没有自然光
- 使用最少的电力，除非在生产和服务企业中
- 防止浪费的电力，对用户和他人有益

在仰光，约有50万家庭使用电力。因此，每天使用四只荧光灯，每个家庭可以节省电力，相当于一个20兆瓦的发电站的能力。

有效的用油

- 节省一加仑的汽油，每月可以节省国家一美元
- 因此，455,822辆汽车在缅甸可以节省550万美元
- 这笔钱，550万美元，可以建造一座跨越伊洛瓦底江的大桥

需要知道

- 不要在受到威胁时被吓倒
- 不要在受到夸奖时被激励
- 不要在受到恳求时被软化

* 在受到恳求时被软化
Developing rural areas of prospering Myanmar

Thura Soe Aung

The work of the development affairs committees is to lay down development plans for the respective regions in accord with the situation and implement them on self-reliant basis. They are the organizations directly or indirectly concerned with the work of easing the people’s food, clothing and shelter needs, and promoting trade and economy of the people of the towns and villages of the regions they are assigned to. The main duties of the committees are to ensure cleanliness and pleasantness of towns and villages. They have to narrow down the development gap between the urban and rural areas, develop transport and communications, ensure work site safety in production businesses, and to enable people to conduct trade systematically and recreate with peace of mind.

According to the section 9 of the Development Affairs Committees Law, enacted by the State Law and Restoration Council, on 1 April 1993, the development affairs committees have 31 different duties. The para (b) of the section covers water supply works; and the para (q) of the section, road building and maintenance works.

The annual meetings of the development affairs committees have been held since 1990 in Yangon for the effectiveness and facilitation of their functions. The leaders of the State have given instructions at the meeting and the meeting this year is the 15th one. The meetings have reviewed the weaknesses and advantages and drawn future programmes.

On 29 June 2004, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the annual meeting of the development affairs committees held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Yangon, and gave policy guidelines for their work.

At the meeting, he said, “I wish to say at the outset, that the holding of such coordination meetings of development officials carrying out their assigned tasks in the rural and urban areas countrywide is indeed most fortunate. For I believe that only then can feasible programmes be drawn up which will bear fruitful results for the development of the nation as a whole. Consequently I would like you to look upon your present development tasks at the grassroots level in the rural and urban areas, as being part of laying firm foundations for the restructuring of Myanmar as a developed and modern state in accordance with the fervent desire of the people. And their work contributes to the success of the plans and projects of the 24 special development zones and to the success of the five tasks for rural development. It is important therefore not to lose sight of the fact that your work is interrelated and is an integral part of overall development.”

The development affairs committees are currently concentrating on establishing smooth roads and communications and providing adequate supply of clean water for rural consumption.

The 30-year plan covering the period of the fiscal years from 2001-2002 to 2030-2031 for the improvement of rural roads and communications, is now in the process of implementation. In the past fiscal year of 2003-2004, the development affairs committees spent a total of K 1,002.45 million for the rural roads project and K 100.95 million for building bridges in the rural areas, and that over 1,240 miles of rural roads and 206 bridges have now been built.

A Ten-Year Plan was drawn up and is now being implemented beginning from the fiscal year 2000-2001. In the previous year the Development Affairs Department spent K 691.94 million of its budget allotment to provide potable drinking water to 964 villages in three divisions of the Central Dry Zone and 875 villages of the remaining states and divisions, making a total of 1,839 villages that were supplied with drinking water.

From the start of the fiscal year, water supply project to this date, altogether 15,715 projects were implemented to supply drinking water to a total of 10,602 villagers spending government funds, Development Affairs Department providing drinking water donors at home and abroad, and with the participation of international organizations and non-governmental organizations including the Union Solidarity and Development Association and Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

At the coordination meeting, the Prime Minister said that, “So, in conclusion I would like to call upon you to — Faithfully carry out your duties whatever they may be and wherever you have been assigned in order to contribute towards the successful achievement of the development plans and programmes being implemented by the State so that Myanmar as an independent and sovereign nation can take her place with pride among the nations of the world and so that her people may enjoy long-term benefits. — Faithfully carry out your duties for the development of urban and rural areas but bearing in mind that the ultimate goal is the strengthening national unity and propagating the Union Spirit by contributing towards the continuous development of the Union of Myanmar. — And last but not least, dedicate yourself to raising the momentum of your tasks in development as a National Duty and thereby close the development gap between town and village help to strengthen national unity.”

Next, the Prime Minister presented the prizes for outstanding performance in rural development tasks, the prizes for outstanding performance in beautifying tasks, and the model township prizes to the winning townships. It is firmly believed that the nation will develop with a greater momentum through competition on the implementation of the projects for development of urban and rural areas.

The responsible officials upheld the Prime Minister’s instructions as work guidelines. In the afternoon, the annual meeting of the development affairs committees continued at the Development Affairs Department in Botataung Township.

On the occasion, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and National Development Affairs Col. Thein Nyunt instructed executive officers from respective States, Divisions and Townships to take lessons from weaknesses and emulate the strengths regarding the work done by the development affairs committees in 2003-2004 fiscal year and to accelerate the implementation of the tasks for greater development of rural and urban areas.

On the occasion, Director-General of the Development Affairs Department Col. Myo Munt read the report of tasks carried by the development affairs committees in 2003-2004 financial year. The directors of State/Division Development Affairs Committees reviewed the report categorizing it into five sectors — formation of the development affairs committees, management functions, financial functions, urban engineering functions, rural engineering functions, and law, tax and inspection functions.

Deputy superintendent engineers from State/Division Development Affairs Committees read papers on engineering research for mordernization of the development affairs functions. They are the paper on fully collecting civil affairs data which play an important role in drawing up engineering projects, the paper on measures to be able to avert road and traffic accidents after systematically drawing designs with the use of modern computer software, the paper on seeking ways and means for installation of machinery with the use of electric power for supply of water from rivers and creeks to the towns, the paper on research of conditions on underground water in arid zones, the paper on providing supervision in constructing high-rise buildings in cities, and the paper on replacing manpower with machines in carrying out development affairs tasks.

Distinguished guests Professor U Tun Hla Aung (Retd), Professor Daw Yin May (Retd) and Professor Dr. Daw Mi Kyi assessed the papers and gave suggestions.

The director-general laid down the future plans, to which the development affairs committees are to give priority in 2004-2005 fiscal year.

Next, the minister elaborated on regular maintenance of the facilities in implementing the rural and urban development affairs tasks, upgrading of the facilities in accord with the passage of time, acceleration of water supply tasks in the three arid zones, and effective implementation of rural housing project in the interest of rural people.

A total of 285 township development affairs committees and 57 town development affairs committees under the Development Affairs Department have been carrying out urban and rural regions development tasks or municipal and district council tasks across the nation including border and far-flung areas.

The water supply projects cover the entire country. Although situated near sea, some villages in the Ayeawady Delta, Rakhine coastal region and Tanintharyi coastal region find it hard to get fresh water. The development affairs committees have been taking measures for supply of water in such villages. For example, the committees sank 78 test tube-wells in Kayan, Thongwa and Kyauktan townships in the previous year. 26 tube-wells produce water from freshwater and 16 sea water. So, success has been achieved in implementing the water supply projects.

In a nutshell, the instructions of the Prime Minister at the annual meeting of the development affairs committees, discussions of development affairs committees, and findings on strengths and weakness and research papers are of paramount importance.

Therefore, it is sure that urban and rural areas will enjoy rapid development thanks to the invaluable benefit gained from the annual meeting.

(Translation: TMT + MS)
Air Zimbabwe to acquire aircraft from China

KAMPALA, 13 July — The Zimbabwean national carrier, Air Zimbabwe, will acquire a long haul aircraft from China shortly, according to the official news agency New Ziana on Monday.

Air Zimbabwe was quoted as saying that the aircraft would be used on Air Zimbabwe’s new routes to China and other Asian nations. The airline has announced plans to introduce flights to Beijing and other destinations in Asia, and was looking for a long haul jet to use on the routes.

China and Zimbabwe signed a preferential tourist agreement last year, which is expected to lead to an increased inflow of Chinese tourists to the country.

WFP provides $7m for Uganda’s school-feeding programme

KAMPALA, 13 July — The World Food Programme (WFP) said Monday that it has approved seven million US dollars for the school-feeding programme to continue for another year in Uganda.

WFP deputy director in Uganda, Edward Kalilow, made the remarks when he was received by Ugandan Minister of State for Regional Cooperation Ndu- mye Sebuturo, according to a Press release issued here by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Kalilow informed the Minister of the progress of the various programmes currently run by the WFP in northern Uganda.

He said that the programme, which had been facing funding challenges, had been facing funding challenges and had been facing funding challenges.

Nigeria seeks cooperation with Australia in agriculture

ABUJA, 13 July — Nigeria will explore the possibility of cooperating and collaborating with Australia in the field of agriculture, Nigerian Commerce Minister Idris Waziri said here Monday.

Meeting with Australian Ambassador to Nigeria Iain Harker, Waziri said that Nigeria had a comparative advantage in agriculture and solicited the country’s support and assistance particularly in the technical development of agriculture in Nigeria.

As Commonwealth members as well as members of the G-20, he said, both Nigeria and Australia should cooperate with each other.

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TIN OHN MAR TUN
B.A. (LAW), LL.B, LL.M (U.K)
P.O Box 109, Pk 24108/720043
For: Dommer Suyong & Boonna, Attorneys at Law, Thailand
Dated: 15 July 2004

HK Culturecom, IBM help promote Mainland “IT” infrastructure

HONG KONG, 13 July — The Hong Kong Culturecom has announced here Monday a cooperation agreement with IBM has been signed to help foster the development of Information and Technology (IT) infrastructure in Mainland China.

IBM, the world’s largest IT company, and Culturecom will jointly market for the potentially huge computing and intelligence appliance markets in Mainland.

They will focus and collaborate on the e-Town and e-Education projects to foster the development of IT infrastructure in government bodies and the education sector.

HK govt invites name for now-famous crocodile

HONG KONG, 13 July — An open competition is now underway to name the now-famous Yuen Long croc- dille, an Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Depart- ment (ARFD) spokes- man said here Monday.

The competition, co-organised with local radio station, comprises three cat- egories including primary school children, secondary school students and the gen- eral public. Entries in Chi- nese and English could be submitted through e-mail or Short Message Service (SMS) before July 30. There will be a total of six winners, each to be awarded a 1,000 Hong Kong Dollar book cou- pon. — MNA/Xinhua
Researchers say AIDS vaccine still years away

BANGKOK, 13 July — An AIDS vaccine is still years away even under the most optimistic scenario and scientists may have to go back to the drawing-board if the current batch of candidates, all focused on one approach, fails.

Seth Berkley, president and chief scientific officer of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), said on Monday the number of potential vaccines in clinical trials had doubled since 2000, but the research effort remained inadequate. “The world is inching toward a vaccine, when we should be making strides,” he told reporters at the 15th International AIDS Conference.

“Only a vaccine can end the epidemic.”

IAVI’s biennial report on the state of research — which called for a doubling of AIDS vaccine funding to $1.3 billion US dollars a year — listed more than 30 candidates now in clinical trials in 19 countries.

But only one has reached final Phase III testing and many scientists are doubtful about the product, which combines Aventis’s Alvac with VaxGen’s Aidsvax, following the failure of separate Aidsvax trials last year.

Merkel, meanwhile, is expected to start a new director in due course,” he told reporters at the 15th International AIDS Conference in Bangkok.

White House narrows search for new CIA director

WASHINGTON, 14 July — The White House search for a new CIA director is narrowing after several high-profile candidates dropped out, people close to the process said on Monday.

US President George W. Bush is expected to make his selection as early as later this week. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage is one of several contenders, and some say he may have the best chance of swift Senate confirmation.

Former Democratic Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia said a spokesperson on Monday that he is not interested.

It may be the most difficult and important job search of Bush’s tenure, and people close to the process said Vice-President Dick Cheney is playing a key role.

“The President will name a permanent CIA director in due course,” White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

“It really will be the President’s decision, they are clearly putting together a lot of people,” one government source said.

The new director would take over the spy agency at a time of harsh criticism that prewar intelligence reports exaggerated information that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

Increasing the sense of urgency are government warnings that al-Qaeda might be plotting another major attack against the United States before the November presidential election.

The White House was initially wary of appointing a permanent replacement to George Tenet, who officially stepped down as CIA director on Sunday, but lawmakers said the job needed to be filled quickly rather than after the presidential election.

House Intelligence Committee Chairman Porter Goss, a Florida Republican, once considered a front-runner for the job, met opposition from lawmakers who say the nominee should be outside of politics.

Administration officials on Monday played down the prospects of either Goss or John Lehman, a former Navy secretary now serving on a commission investigating the September 11, 2001, attacks.

AIDS summit elephant blamed for killing drunk

BANGKOK, 13 July — An elephant working as a tourist attraction at a global AIDS conference in Thailand has been blamed for killing a drunk, homeless man, police said on Monday.

The body of the 55-year-old Thai, bearing all the hallmarks of being squashed by a large animal with tusks, was found on Monday morning in marshland next to the Elephant Village at the venue for the 15th International AIDS Conference.

“Our initial assumption is one of the elephants in the Elephant Village might have killed him,” Police Colonel Kamrop Panyakaw told reporters.

“We are probing if the drunken man hurled the elephant first, or vice versa.”

A troop of 27 elephants from Thailand’s ancient capital Ayutthaya has been brought to Bangkok to the 15,000 delegates at the six-day AIDS meeting on the outskirts of the capital.

Uganda to test migrant workers for HIV/AIDS

KAMPALA, 14 July — The Ugandan Government is to put in place a mechanism to screen for HIV/AIDS on those workers who intend to go abroad, the New Vision newspaper reported on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Health Mike Mukula was quoted as saying that this would regulate the outflow of Uganda’s labour market in terms of quality.

Speaking at a migration and recruitment awareness conference for nurses organized by Con-nect Nursing Lt of Britain and the Uganda State House, Mukula said the type of work abroad was too rigorous for people living with HIV/AIDS to handle.

US newspaper says economic recovery slowing down

WASHINGTON, 14 July — Less than three years since the US economy emerged from a recession, a patchwork of unexpectedly soft economic reports is raising doubts about the vigour of the recovery, The New York Times reported on Monday.

The paper said that US retail sales slowed and auto purchases declined in June. Several technology companies warned about weak software and hardware spending at the end of last quarter.

Stock prices in the country also have faltered after the end of June as corporate earning have disappointed investors, the papers said. Meanwhile, bond prices have risen as evidence of economic fragility has allayed fears that inflation will accelerate.

It said that the recent sluggish economic indicators have inspired a note of caution in forecasts which until now had been unabashedly bullish.

China strikes deal with Glaxo on cheaper HIV drugs

BANGKOK, 13 July — China has signed a deal with pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline to buy the antiretroviral drug lamivudine (3TC) at a reduced price, a step toward HIV/AIDS treatment affordable to more Chinese patients.

They agreed to sell the drug at a lower price last Thursday,” said Qi Xiaoqiu, director-general of the Department of Disease Control at China’s Ministry of Health.

“In return, we would waive all import taxes on the medicine we buy,” he told Reuters in an interview on Monday at the 15th International AIDS Conference in Bangkok.

Foreign pharmaceutical companies control the patents on a cocktail of antiretroviral drugs which counter the HIV virus. In China, experts say they will be needed for as many as 10 million cases by 2010 if the problem is not tackled seriously.

Officials say the country has 8,000,000 HIV/AIDS cases but disease experts estimate the number at 1.1-1.5 million.

Activists and doctors in China have cited lamivudine’s hefty price tag as the main reason why treatment is out of reach of most Chinese patients.

GlaxoSmithKline spokesmen confirmed the deal and said it would run for three years, but declined to give other details.

Qi said GlaxoSmithKline would also provide free supplies of the drug needed to treat 15,000 patients each year under the deal.

Humanitarian groups say AIDS treatment is extremely expensive in China, which does not produce modern first-line generic antiretrovirals.

Qi said China now produces five types of generic antiretrovirals.

“Because of side effects we need new drugs like lamivudine. Its side effects are fewer,” Qi said.
Greek relief as Rehhagel turns down Germany

ATHENS, 13 July—Greek soccer breathed a sigh of relief on Monday following national coach Otto Rehhagel's decision to turn down Germany and stay in charge until 2006.

The 65-year-old had been touted as a replacement for Rudi Voeller in his native Germany, but has decided to guide his newly-reformed European champions through to the next World Cup.

Rehhagel, dubbed "King Otto" in Greece, became a national hero by masterminding his team's stunning Euro 2004 victory in Portugal—one of the biggest upsets in football history.

"I was a loyalty to the European championships was saluted by the Greek players."

"It's extremely important that our coach has decided to stay, it gives the national team the stability it needs," said inspirational central defender Traianos Dellas.

Midfielder Costas Katsouranis said: "We feel that we are continuing as a family," while Bolton Wanderers winger Stelios Giannakopoulos added: "He's our guy and he showed that he loves and believes in this team."

Franz Beckenbauer, who heads a commission at the German Football Association (DFB), said with replacing Voeller, admitted on Saturday that he had failed to convince Rehhagel to take charge of the national team.

"I was surprised. I was expecting to discuss the details of the contract. I think emotional reasons prevailed for Rehhagel," said Beckenbauer on Sunday.

The Greek FA announced on Friday that Rehhagel had agreed to honour his contract and speculation remained that the coach would be tempted by the German offer.

Greece begin their qualification campaign for the 2006 World Cup away to Albania on September 4. —MNA/Reuters

New France coach says Anelka has international future

PARIS, 13 July—Out-of-favour striker Nicolas Anelka still has an international future, new France coach Raymond Domenech said on Monday.

"Why should I sideline talented players? "Nicou' has the qualities to play for France. He will have to prove in his club games that he deserves selection but yes, he will be eligi—" Domenech told journalists.

"The Manchester City striker won the last of his 28 caps in April 2002."

"This has been a great week. Like I said before the match and also wasted a match point on Monday."

"It was a flattering situation to be in so much demand but also quite confusing," said Gronkjaer.

"You don't want to be left behind."

"I've got a contact in Napoli and we've considered the move."

"It was a flattering situation to be in so much demand but also quite confusing," said Gronkjaer.

Gronkjaer's former Chelsea teammate Mario Melchiot. Julian Gray also arrived from newly-promoted Crystal Palace.

"I have been really impressed by Steve Bruce and his new structure at Birmingham and I am really looking forward to featuring in his plans," Gronkjaer said.

BIRMINGHAM, 13 July—Blackburn Rovers' youth academy, the English Premier League club said Monday.

Carlton Cole is widely regarded as one of the brightest young prospects in the country and it's fair to say there was a lot of interest in him this summer."

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Rainfall on 14-7-2004

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(0.27 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1422mm (55.99 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1364mm (53.70 inches) at Kabah-Aye and 1361mm (53.58 inches) at central Yangon.

Weather Wednesday, 14 July, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hrs MST:

During the past 24 hours, rain has been isolated in Kayah State, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thandwe (6.38 inches), Kyankphyu (3.86 inches), Maw (2.91 inches), Hmaw (2.87 inches) and Hmolin (2.64 inches).

The maximum temperature on 13-7-2004 was 27.3°C (81.1°F). Minimum temperature on 14-7-2004 was 19.3°C (66.7°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 14-7-2004 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 14-7-2004 was 5 hours approx. Rainfall on 14-7-2004 was (0.20 inch) at Yangon Airport, (0.20 inch) at Kabah-Aye and (0.27 inch) at central Yangon.

Rainfall since rainfall since 1-1-2004 is 1422mm (55.99 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1364mm (53.70 inches) at Kabah-Aye and 1361mm (53.58 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 15 mph from South at 00:30 hrs MST on 14-7-2004.

Bay interference: According to the observations at 06:30hrs MST today, a low pressure area has formed over the West Central Bay. Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and vigorous elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 15-7-2004: Rain will be scattered in Kayah, southern Shan States, Mandalay, Magway, lower Sagyadivisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine and Mon States, Ayeyawady Division. Degree of certainty is (100%). State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough seas are likely off and along Myanmar Coast.

Overview for subsequent two days: Strong Monsoon. Forecast for Yangon and neighboring area for 15-7-2004: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-7-2004: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mawlamyine: 9.45 pm

Tidal Information

Tuesday, July 15

Tide in today:
8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music: Jenny
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music: Giddy up
8.50 am National news
9.00 am Music: What’s up
9.05 am International news
Music: Give it up
1.30 pm News/Slogan
19th century
9.00 am Aspects of Myanmar - Ayeyawady Division
9.10 am Article
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10.00 pm P.E.}
Minister inspects Kanbawzathadi Palace

Yangon, 14 July — Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung inspected Kanbawzathadi Palace of King Bayinnaung in Bago. First, the minister inspected the lake and the garden in the compound of the palace. He gave instructions to grow flowery plants in the palace compound in the rainy season.

Next, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung inspected Bamayathana Hall, Bago Archaeological Museum and the royal audience hall. The minister instructed officials to keep buildings of the palace clean and pleasant and to ensure its durability. — MNA

Minister inspects training schools

Yangon, 14 July — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, arrived at Social Welfare Training School on Kyakwaing Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township this morning.

The minister inspected counselling conducted by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and on-job training courses of Social Welfare Department.

Next, the ministers inspected training courses of Adult Training School for the Disabled and attended to the needs of At Kyakwaing Youth Training Centre, the minister and party inspected classrooms and hostels of children and gave necessary instructions to officials. — MNA

Cash donated for building monasteries in India

Yangon, 14 July — The cash donation for building Thawuthti Myanmar Monastery, Bodhgaya Myanmar Monastery and Kolkatta Alodawpyay Myanmar Monastery was held at the Ministry of Religious Affairs on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this afternoon, attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Thayet Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kesara and member Sayadaws, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Aung Maung, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of the Religious Affairs Department, Director-General U Sann Lwin of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, departmental officials and wellwishers.

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Vietnamese delegation arrives

Yangon, 14 July — A Vietnamese delegation led by Chairperson of the Social Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of Vietnam Mrs Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu arrived on a working visit here by air this evening. The delegation was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, officials, Ambassador Mr Pham Quang Khan and staff of the Vietnamese Embassy in Myanmar. — MNA

Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa welcomes Vietnamese delegation led by Chairperson of Social Affairs Committee of National Assembly of SRV Mrs Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu. — SWD

Secretary-1 Li Gen Soe Win poses for group photo with health staff and local people in front of Mongaung Township Hospital. (News page1) — MNA

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 (ygncache.mpt.net.mm) with effect from 15-7-2004. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win being welcomed by French Ambassador Jean-Michel Lacombe at the reception to mark National Day of France Wednesday evening. — MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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