Secretary-1 inspects Hlaingthaya Industrial Zone

YANGON, 17 July—Chairman of the Industrial Development Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win inspected factories in Hlaingthaya Industrial Zone here yesterday afternoon.

Together with Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Secretary-1 arrived at Shwe Tun Street in Hlaingthaya Industrial Zone 4 at 3 pm. Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Kyaw Hla reported on production of power-tillers, and establishment of industries for production of import-substitute items. The Secretary-1 and party proceeded to Khine Industries Co Ltd on Pyinny Minthagy Street in the Industrial Zone 1, where they were welcomed and conducted production process of various brands of slippers by Chairman U Maung Maung Thaung and officials. The Secretary-1 gave instructions on extended establishment of power-tillers and vehicles, and requirements. The mayor and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Win gave supplementary reports on production of vehicles. The Secretary-1 gave instructions on extended production of power-tillers and establishment of industries for production of import-substitute items. The Secretary-1 and party proceeded to Khine Industries Co Ltd. The Secretary-1 and party proceeded to Khine Industries Co Ltd on Kyaw Kyaw Thaung Street and arrived at Byanhlwar Rubber & Eva Manufacturing Factory (Reva Co Ltd) in the Industrial Zone 1. The Secretary-1 and party proceeded to Khine Industries Co Ltd on Kyaw Kyaw Thaung Street and arrived at Byanhlwar Rubber & Eva Manufacturing Factory (Reva Co Ltd) in the Industrial Zone 1. They were welcomed by Vice-Chairman of MWVO Central Organizing Committee Vice-Admiral Kyi Min (Retd) and members, factory manager and officials.

The Secretary-1 inspected display of production process of Byanhlwar Dry Cell Factory invested cent per cent by MWVO on Kinnwunningyi Road in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone in Insein Township.

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Better lives through better transportation

In its drive for the nation to be a peaceful, modern and developed one, the Government has given priority to development of economic infrastructure. At the same time, emphasis is placed on better transportation which plays a pivotal role in national development. On one occasion, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe said that roads and bridges were built in a short period of time for better transportation throughout the country and that with better transportation, development of economic and social standard of the entire people would be promoted.

In accord with the guidance, plans have been laid down and are being implemented for better transportation. According to the needs of the divisions, new roads are being built, the old ones, upgraded and bridges are also being built on these roads.

A ceremony to open Anyakatin Bridge on Kyauktahu-Saw-Seikphyu Road was held at the pendant near the bridge in Saw Township, Magway Division, on 12 July. Sawung Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Magway Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Zaw Min formally opened the facility.

The 240 feet long bailey-type 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-ton loads.

With the emergence of the bridge, traveling along Kyauktahu-Saw-Seikphyu Road would be easier and people can travel from Mindat to Paletwa in Chin State (South) and to Mindat-Matupi-Falam-Tiddim-Tonzang-Kyiaka as well. Arrangements are being made to upgrade 120-mile Mindat-Matupi Road to a tarred one in the open season. Many roads and bridges were built in Magway Division for better transportation and as a result, there have emerged a total of 1,695 miles of gravelled, macadam and earth roads including over 915 miles of tarred ones.

The Anyakatin Bridge is one of the three over 180 feet long bridges along Kyauktahu-Saw Road in Gangaw District and it is an important one. With the emergence of new roads and bridges throughout the country, one region has an easy access to the other. We firmly believe that a network of roads and bridges throughout the country will surely help elevate the social and economic standard of respective regions.

Course on safety of tourists ends

YANGON, 16 July — The training course No 8 on safety of tourists concluded with ceremony at the Ministry of Home Affairs here this morning. Deputy Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasaun U Sanll Win, deputy director-general of DPPS and Religious Affairs Department, directors and heads of state/division/district religious affairs departments participated.

Vice-Chairman of SSMNC Thayet Aungmingala Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhanna Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kesara presided over the meeting. Joint-Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhanna Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kesara formally opened the facility.

MWAF Vice-President meets Vietnamese delegation

YANGON, 17 July — Vice-President of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Prof Dr Daw May May Yi met the delegation led by Chairperson of Social Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of SRV Mrs Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu at the hall of MWAF at 132, Thanlwin Road in Bahan Township this morning.

Also present were Vice- Presidents of MWAF Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win. General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win, Vietnamese Ambassador Mr Pham Quang Khon and officials.

They cordially discussed women’s affairs of the two countries. — MNA

Minister for PBAKRDA attends closing ceremony of training courses

YANGON, 16 July — The Basic Engineering Course No 6, the Advanced Tailoring Course No 6 and the Training Courses Nos 31 and 32 for clerical staff concluded with ceremony held at the central Training School of the Education and Training Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in ward 51, Dagon Myothit (North) Township here at 8 am today.

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt delivered the closing address and presented prizes to outstanding trainees.


Lower divisional clerks Daw Ei Ei Nyein and Daw Cho The Kyi won the best cadet awards in the Training Courses Nos 31 and 32 for clerical staff. — MNA

Chess Tournament concludes

YANGON, 17 July — The prize-distribution ceremony of the 2004 Chess Tournament for the Trophy of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) was held at the regional battalion hall of Toungoo Station yesterday morning. Toungoo Station Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Aung presented the Championship Shield to the Mingaladon Air base team. — MNA

National Basketball C’ship continues

YANGON, 17 July — The 2004 National Basketball Championship sponsored by the Myanmar Basketball Federation and Mikko Co continued at Aung San Gymnasium here at 9 am today. In the women’s event, the Agriculture & Irrigation team beat the KKS team 79-35 points. The Championship continues tomorrow. — MNA

Plenary Meeting of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee ends

YANGON, 17 July — The second day session of the 11th 47-member Plenary Meeting of the Fifth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was held at the Wizaya Mingalar Dhammabathan in Kaba Aye Hill here this morning.

Present on the occasion were member Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thaza Aung Ko, Adviser U Amin Muang, Director-General of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasaun U Sanll Win, deputy director-general of DPPS and Religious Affairs Department, directors and heads of state/division/district religious affairs departments.

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

Baghdad, 16 July—As of Friday, 16 July, 886 U.S. service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March, 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 654 died as a result of hostile action and 232 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, 748 U.S. soldiers have died — 545 as a result of hostile action and 203 of non-hostile causes.—INTERNET

US senators may question Bremer on prison abuses

WASHINGTON, 16 July — Senators may ask Paul Bremer next week about his concerns over treatment of Iraqi prisoners while he led the US occupation, but a committee will put off questioning others while the Pentagon wraps up its own probes, the panel’s chairman said on Thursday.

In a move that would push hearings into September or after the November elections, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Warner said his committee would hold hearings as seven Pentagon reviews of US abuse of detainees in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere are finished.

“As soon as the reports are completed, I will address the reports, hopefully in open hearing. And I can’t predict when they’ll be completed,” Warner said.

He said he would hold hearings as individual reports are available instead of waiting for all.

Warner, a Virginia Republican, said he was trying to arrange an open hearing for next week with Bremer, the former US administrator in Iraq who stepped down was trying to arrange an open hearing for the panel’s chairman said on Thursday.

He announced that Italy would continue to encourage investment of Italian companies in Russia. Frattini praised Russia’s political and economic reform plan, and said that Italy would continue to encourage investment of Italian companies in Russia.

The White House scolded the Philippines on Thursday for deciding to pull its forces from Iraq ahead of schedule to save the life of a Filipino hostage.

Thailand has also started withdrawing its troops from Iraq and the pullout is to be completed by September 23 as planned, the Defence Minister said on Friday.

Filipino and Thai troops start pulling out of Iraq

MANILA, 16 July—Filipino and Thai troops have started pulling out of Iraq, putting behind all US requests to delay their stay to ensure law and order in the country.

Ten Filipinos soldiers lost their base starting a troop pullout demanded by militants threatening to behead a Filipino truck driver, Anglolo de la Cruz, the government said.

“The 10 members of the humanitarian contingent began their journey out of Iraq today and will be met by the Philippine embassy officials in Kuwait, from where they will take their commercial flight for Manila,” Foreign Secretary Delia Albert

Bad weather delays “Ariane-5” rocket launch

PARIS, 16 July—Bad weather delayed the launch of an Ariane-5 rocket for at least 24 hours, the second launch delay after the first due to a technical problem, the Arianespace said. The blast-off of the rocket was scheduled for 0043 GMT Friday from the South American base in Kourou, French Guiana. The new date was now set at 0044 GMT Saturday.

A problem detected in the rocket’s electrical system on Monday, hours before scheduled launch, caused the first delay.

Aboard the rocket, the six-ton Anik F2 satellite is the world’s largest satellite ever built and launched so far. It was built by Boeing Satellite Systems for the Canadian telecommunications operator Telesat.

The satellite to be placed in orbit above the Equator will transmit digital signals to North America for a 15-year period. — MNA/Xinhua

Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi will hold a summit meeting with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Moscow in November.

A group of elephants stroll in Kaziranga National Park in the northeastern state of Assam, on 16 July, 2004. Nearly 80 percent of the 430 square kilometers national park is filled with floodwaters. The park, a World Heritage Site, is the world's largest refuge to the great Indian one-horned rhinoceros. There are around 1700 rhinoceros in the park. —INTERNET

Italian foreign minister who shocked world

Rome, 16 July — Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini declared Thursday that Italy supported the plan presented by Russian President Vladimir Putin to hold an international meeting on the Iraqi issue.

Frattini made the comments after meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, who is visiting Italy and met with senior Vatican officials and Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi earlier in the day. At a joint Press conference, Frattini said that the meeting, aimed to coordinate different views of all sides involved, is a key way to solve the Iraq problem.

He stressed that Italy will continue its efforts in solving the Iraq problem. Besides, both ministers declared that a global fight against terrorism must be carried out in full respect of international law.

They also said that the two countries should coordinate their efforts in the reformation process of the UN Security Council.

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Abdullah says Malaysia unlikely to send troops to Iraq

The New Light of Myanmar, Sunday, 18 July, 2004

Abdullah says Malaysia unlikely to send troops to Iraq

Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Muslim countries near Iraq should consider sending security forces now that the United States has handed power to the interim government of Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi.

“Yes, power has been handed over, but peace is not fully secured,” Datuk Seri Abdullah said in an interview on Thursday.

“We feel very strongly that Muslim countries in the region are better placed to send their troops because it is near, it is more economical,” the comments came the same day that Mr Allawi issued a plea for help from neighbours and brethren in the Islamic world to close ranks to fight terrorism, amid a spate of bloody violence and hostage beheadings that have prompted the Philippines to pull its small contingent out of Iraq, putting pressure on the US-led coalition forces.

Datuk Seri Abdullah had said previously that Malaysia would consider sending troops once Iraqis were running their own country — but only as part of a United Nations-mandated peacekeeping force.

Malaysia, a country with a majority Muslim population and the current chairman of the 57-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference, had often contributed to UN peacekeeping forces in the past.

But Datuk Seri Abdullah said his country was now likely only to send medical teams to Iraq, and those would not go until “the situation is a little more stable.” He left yesterday for his first official trip as Premier to Washington, London and Paris.

Bulgaria hopes sages fading for hostage in Iraq

SOFIA, 16 July — Bulgaria awaited evidence that a headless corpse found in the Tigris River was one of two Bulgarian hostages in Iraq and said hopes that the second man would be found alive were fading.

“The information is unfavourable but we are still awaiting confirmation,” Bulgarian Prime Minister Simeon Saxe-Coeburg told reporters when asked about the fate of the second hostage.

Bulgaria has asked for testing of fingerprints and DNA samples to identify the body pulled from the river on Thursday in an orange jumpsuit often worn by foreign hostages in video tapes taken by their captors.

The two Bulgarian truck drivers George Lazov, 30, and Iliavs Kegov, 32, were killed while transporting cars to Iraq’s northern city of Mosul.

Last week kidnappers led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a suspected ally of al-Qaeda, said they would be killed unless US-led forces released Iraqi prisoners.

Qatar-based Al Jazeera television said on Tuesday it had video of the beheading of one of the hostages but it was too gruesome to air.

The militants then threatened to execute the second Bulgarian at 2000 GMT on Wednesday. There has been no news since that deadline expired.

Cheney insists he will run with Bush

WASHINGTON, 16 July — Vice-President Dick Cheney on Wednesday sought to dispel any suggestion that he might not run for re-election with President George W. Bush in November, saying, “He’s made his decision. I’ve made mine.”

With the presidential race neck-and-neck, there has been speculation, even among some Republicans that Cheney, a hard-line conservative who has become a lightning rod for Democratic criticism, may decide to step aside.

When asked in an interview with C-Span whether he could envision any circumstance in which he would step aside, Cheney responded; “Well, no, I can’t.”

“If I thought that were appropriate, I certainly would. But (Bush has) made it very clear that he wants me to run again,” he said.

“The way I got here in the first place was that he persuaded me four years ago that I was the man he wanted in that post, not just as a candidate, but as somebody to be part of the governing team. He’s been pretty clear he doesn’t want (to) break up the team,” Cheney said.

Cheney has been a leading architect of the war in Iraq and has stood by disputed assertions about Iraq’s weapons programmes and its ties with al-Qaeda.

Cheney’s business ties to energy giant Halliburton, which won uncontested reconstruction contracts in Iraq, and the oil industry have inspired conspiracy theories about the motivations for war.

C-Span made available extracts from the interview, which was conducted on Wednesday and will air on Sunday.

Australia to upgrade warships’ missile system

CANBERRA, 17 July — The Australian Government on Thursday announced to spend $550 million Australian dollars (about $385 million US dollars) to upgrade air defence missile system in the country’s warships.

Four of the navy’s Adelaide Class Guided Missiles Frigates, namely Darwin, Melbourne, Newcastle and Sydney, will be capable of firing the SM-2 missile in the upgrade by early 2009, said Defence Minister Robert Hill in a statement.

The upgrade would “significantly improve the air warfare capabilities of the Royal Australian Navy”, he said.

Mubarak hopes for stronger Sino-Egyptian ties

CAIRO, 16 July — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Thursday voiced hope that ties between Egypt and China would get stronger in the years to come, a Chinese Embassy source told Xinhua.

Mubarak made the remarks in a telephone call with visiting Vice-Chairman of China’s Central Military Commission Guo Boxiong.

Under new circumstances, the growth of strategic relations of cooperation between Egypt and China is in the basic interest of the two countries, and will bring about tangible benefits to the two peoples and help maintain regional and world peace and stability, Mubarak said.

The two countries enjoyed a time-honoured friendship and cooperation, which stood the test of time and the changing international situation, the president noted. Egypt and China have supported each other and engaged in fruitful cooperation in a variety of areas since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1956, he said.

Mubarak said that China had a large population and great strength, while Egypt was a country of 80 million people.

The two countries should continue to expand cooperation and create a bright future for their common development, the Egypti
Iraqi southern oil pipeline attacked

The attack on the line took place at al-Ashari District, 20 kilometres southwest of Basrah, the channel said. It was not immediately clear if oil exports affected as the damaged pipeline runs crude to offshore export terminals on the Gulf. Some exports to the country’s major oil export terminals, with exports amounting to some 1.7 million barrels per day despite frequent disruption by sabotage attacks.

The damage to the pipeline on Thursday comes a little more than a week after exports were cut in half by damage to a header of the two key export pipelines.

The attacks on the country’s pipelines reduced the southern exports to just 960,000 barrels a day. Iraq’s interim prime minister, Iyad Allawi, has said the attacks over the past few weeks have cost the country about one billion US dollars in lost revenue.

Police say suspected car bomb kills 3 in Iraqi town

A suspected car bomb killed three Iraqi police and wounded nine other people on Thursday when it exploded near the main police building in an Iraqi town northwest of the capital, a police official said.

Police Lieutenant Mohamed Ghanem said the nine wounded in the blast in Haditha, 125 miles northwest of Baghdad, were also mainly police.

He said the blast also damaged a municipal building and a bank, as well as some surrounding shops.

Guerrillas often target Iraqi police for working with US forces in the country.

Police said officers in Iraq were continuing to pull troops out, and the two C-130 aircraft were now conducting missions in the south of the country. “Nothing yet... In fact, the two aircraft that were supposed to be on standby for Iraq are now conducting missions in Mindanao,” he told Reuters.

Police Major Honorio Agnila from the department in charge of the police deployment said officers in Iraq were continuing to go about their normal duties.

“There is no word yet, they are still there... They are working at the police academy as trainers. They are teaching the local police, who are former Iraqi militiaman,” he said.

“They have not been given any orders (to leave) yet. As a component of the armed forces peacekeeping centre, we just follow their orders.”

Philippines troop assault Afghanistan

Manila, 17 July — The Philippines awaited news on Thursday of the fates of a Filipino civilian hostage in Iraq, a day after the government said it would give in to his kidnappers demands and withdraw its troops from the country.

But confusion remained over whether the troops actually were being pulled out as the Air Force stood down two C-130 transport planes on standby for the evacuation.

Air Force spokesman Major Restituto Padilla said no order had yet been received to pull troops out, and the two C-130 aircraft were now conducting missions in the south of the country. “Nothing yet... In fact, the two aircraft that were supposed to be on standby for Iraq are now conducting missions in Mindanao,” he told Reuters.

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Militants in Iraq have threatened to kill hostage Angelo de la Cruz unless Manila withdraws its 51 troops — consisting of 43 soldiers and eight police officers — by 20 July, a month ahead of schedule.

Filipino diplomats in Manila have said they believe de la Cruz is alive and well, but a news blackout imposed on important developments by the presidential Palace to limit speculation meant little new information was available. The kidnappers’ demand has left President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, starting a fresh term in office, walking a tightrope between demands at home to save de la Cruz’s life or braving international criticism and disappointing key ally Washington.

The United States expressed grave concern on Wednesday at a statement by Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia Albert saying she was working with the military to bring troops home.

Australia vows to do everything to confront terrorism

Canberra, 16 July — The Australian Government said on Thursday it is ready to confront the terrorist threat, vowing to do everything in its power to prevent possible terrorist attacks.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer on Thursday announced the launch of Australia’s first White Paper on terrorism, underlining that Australia is facing a serious threat from international terrorism.

“Contemporary terrorism differs from any threat previously faced by Australia. This scourge compromises our way of life, and we cannot ignore or hide from it,” Downer said in a statement.

The launch of the White Paper reflects the high priority the Australian Government places on dealing with this difficult issue and on keeping the public fully informed of the extent of the threat to Australi-a’s interests, he said.

The White Paper details the nature and international dimensions of the evolving threat to Australia, highlighting its manifestations globally and how Australia’s interests at home and abroad are endangered.

The White Paper also underscores Australia’s previous and ongoing efforts to diminish the threat, strengthening Australia’s strong commitment to greater cooperation with regional partners, traditional allies and other members of the global community, according to the statement — MNA/Xinhua

OPEC to increase output next month

Vienna, 16 July — The Organization of the Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) decided to cancel a ministerial meeting scheduled for next Wednesday in Vienna, but an output increase on August 1 will go ahead as planned, OPEC said in a statement Thursday.

The oil group “has decided that there is... no call for the conference to meet on 21st July 2004, as originally foresseen,” the statement said.

It would continue with a plan to raise the output ceiling by 500,000 barrels per day (BPD) because a previous production increase had not altered the oil market’s supply-demand equation, the statement noted.

OPEC members would “continue to closely monitor market developments” to do what is necessary “to maintain market stabil-ity and keep prices at acceptable levels to both producers and consumers,” the statement added.

The statement gave no further reason why the ministerial meeting was cancelled, but senior officials from OPEC members said that since all member countries have already supported the plan to increase quotas from August 1, there is no need for OPEC to hold the meeting. OPEC agreed last month to raise its output ceiling by 2.5 million barrels a day in two steps. The group decided first to raise its ceiling by two million barrels on July 1, and agreed to follow up with a second increase of 500,000 barrels on August 1, bringing the production of the 10 OPEC states in the quota system — Iraq is not included — to a total of 26 million bpd.

MNA/Xinhua
An Iraqi man is treated for injuries received when a suspected car bomb exploded in central Baghdad, on 14 July, 2004.


An Iraqi youth surveys the damage to his father’s alcohol shop after it came under attack in Baghdad in this picture taken on 14 July, 2004.

Irrigation facilities that benefit rural areas and the entire nation

Thaphanseik Dam in Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Division, benefits 400,000 acres of monsoon paddy, 45,000 acres of cotton, 172,500 acres of summer paddy and 26,300 acres of sesame.—MYANMA ALIN

With water storage capacity of 228,000 acre feet, Swa Chaung Dam benefits people living in Yedashe Township, Toungoo District, Bago Division. —MYANMA ALIN

Saddan Dam in Myothit Township, Magway Division, benefits over 10,000 acres of farmland and thanks to the dam, the farmers are now able to conduct triple cropping. —MYANMA ALIN

Humon Dam built to supply water for agricultural purpose in Lashio Township, Shan State (North)—THANT ZIN TUN (KYEMON)

Khawa Dam built by Construction-2 of the Irrigation Department near Chinywagyi, Paduaung Township, Bago Division, benefits 2,000 acres of farmland.—MYANMA ALIN
Secretary-2 inspects ... (from page 1)

Lt-Gen Ye Myint presents a computer for Mingin BEHS to an official.— MNA

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects production process of Sunflower Polyethylene Factory in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone.— MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint tours Mingin, Kani ... (from page 16)

Measures for ensuring smooth and secure transportation coordinated

YANGON, 17 July — The Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport held the coordination meeting at Yangon Command Headquarters yesterday evening, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were military region commanders, station commanders, divisional and district authorities, members of the supervisory committee, rectors, pro-rectors and registrars of universities and colleges in Yangon City, chairman of bus lines and guests.

First, the commander explained that members of the supervisory committee are to perform tasks daily for ensuring smooth transport of passengers from Yangon City to various regions of the country and in downtown Yangon.

Member of the Supervisory Committee, the rector's, pro-rectors and registrars, the chairman of bus lines took part in the discussions. Later, the commander gave the concluding remarks.

MNA

Secretary-2 inspects...

Lt-Gen Ye Myint accepted K 20 million donated by U Kyaw Thaung and family of Mandalay; K 2 million by U Than Myint-Daw San Khita, K 100,000 each by U Khin Maung Nyo-Daw Myint Mar (Shwemaw Cafè: U Kyaw Min Aung-Daw Htaly Hsian) and U Than Htwe-Daw Mary.

The commander presented exercise books for Thakuttaniari Affiliated BEHS to Headmaster U Kyi Win. Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo thanked for the donations.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that he expressed gratitude for donations of the wellwishers. Today, the government is enhancing health care service.

In this regard, five rural development tasks are being carried out for narrowing development gap between rural and urban regions. In so doing, local people in rural regions should participate in regional development as much as possible.

They proceeded to Thakuttanei Village on other side of Kani, by boat. Local people welcomed them. Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged them to participate in carrying out regional development.

Next, they went to Budalin through Kana-Myawha-Mon-O-Thakuttaniari rural road. At Thakuttaniari Village in Budalin Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended the ceremony to donate cash for building the Station Hospital. Lt-Gen Ye Myint accepted K 20 million donated by U Kyaw Thaung and family of Mandalay; K 2 million by U Than Htwe-Daw Win Kyi (Retired Headmistress) of Yangon; K 300,000 by U Hla Myint-Daw San Khita, K 100,000 each by U Khin Maung Nyo-Daw Myint Mar (Shwemaw Cafè: U Kyaw Min Aung-Daw Nelly Hsian) and U Than Htwe-Daw Mary.

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Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo together with Dr Tin Min of Health Department inspected Kalewa Township Hospital and fulfilled the requirements. Similarly, Deputy Director-General U Thaung Khaling of No 2 Basic Education Department (Upper Myanmar) attended to requirements of basic education high schools in Kalewa.

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Swe.
Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence formally unveils the stone inscription of the Ayemyawady school building of Monywa BEHS No 1. — MNA

YANGON, 17 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence inspected the lay-out plan of extension of Monywa General Hospital in Monywa on 15 July and attended the ceremonies to open Resource Centre for Ancient Myanmar Manuscript and New Century Resource Centre of the Higher Education Department and new school building of Monywa Basic Education High School No 1. Accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein and officials, Lt-Gen Ye Myint arrived at Monywa General Hospital. Medical Superintendent Dr Myint Thein reported on the lay-out plan for units of the hospital. Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave supplementary reports.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the site for construction of the extended buildings at the hospital.

Next, they attended the opening ceremony of Resource Centre for Ancient Myanmar Manuscript and New Century Resource Centre. Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Rector of Monywa University Dr Maung Htoo formally opened the RCAMM. Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the signboard of the centre. Next, they viewed round the centre.

Similarly, the New Century Resource Centre was opened in Monywa and the commander and the rector formally opened the centre. Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the signboard and sprinkled scented water on it.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and the commander, the deputy ministers and departmental heads inspected computer training centre, computer aided language lab (1), lab (2) and lab (3), e-Education learning centre, hardware training centre, software training centre, ED, reference books & reading centre and e-Education resource centre and left necessary instructions.

Next, they looked into construction of Union Highway from Monywa Home for the Aged to Kywe Ye Junction. The commander and officials reported on the project. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions to the officials. They also inspected earth work from Pyidaungsu Junction to Kyaukka Thalan.

At the briefing hall, Lt-Col Win Myint in charge of the project made clarifications on the project. Lt-Gen Ye Myint instructed and fulfilled the requirements.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party headed for BEHS No 1 in Monywa and attended the opening of Ayemyawady building. Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the stone inscription of the building. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint handed over related documents of the school to Deputy Director-General of No 2 Basic Education Department U Thaung Khaing.

The newly built Ayemyawady two-storey building of No 1 BEHS, Monywa is 148 feet long, 30 feet wide and 25 feet high. It was built at a cost of K 39.95 million. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the rooms and language labs (Chemistry), (Physics) and (Biology). They also inspected learning of the students at the practical rooms (Chemistry), (Physics) and (Biology). They watched the entertainment programmes of the students at the arts room and presented cash awards to the presenters.

The second session of the ceremony followed at the meeting hall. Entrepreneur from Monywa in Sagaing Division U Tin Maung (Honda-Myanmar Co) explained the purpose of the donation and presented K 100 million for Sagaing Division U Tin Maung Scholarship to Lt-Gen Ye Myint.

In his address, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said No 1 Basic Education High School in Monywa was opened in 1921. Over 80 years of its existence, the school produced intellectuals and intelligentsia. In international circle, science and technology are changing and developing rapidly and every nation is trying to apply them in the interest of nation and its people. He said the State Peace and Development Council is endeavouring for the emergence of a modern developed nation. Only highly-qualified human resources can build a modern nation, he said.

The Ayemyawady school building of Monywa Basic Education High School No 1. — MNA

National education promotion special four-year plan (2000-2001) has been implemented successfully and 30-year long term plan is being implemented. As a result, educational gap between urban and rural areas has become narrower. Progress has been made in education sector with the cooperation of the government and the people. He added. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint cordially greeted members of the school board of trustees, donors, members of social organizations and townsenders.

The newly built Ayemyawady two-storey building of No 1 BEHS, Monywa is 148 feet long, 30 feet wide and 25 feet high. It was built at a cost of K 39.95 million. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party spent the night in Monywa.

On 16 July, they attended the opening of gymnasiums in Mandalay and Kyaukse. They arrived back here this morning. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo inspected People’s Hospital in Kyaukse, Central Women’s Hospital in Mandalay and construction of Medical Technological University. — MNA
YANGON, 17 July — Chairman of Myanma Industrial Development Bank Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, accompanied by officials, arrived at Myanmar Industrial Development Bank (Mandalay Branch) in Chanayethazan Township on 15 July afternoon.

The minister gave instructions on systematic keeping of money and opening of a branch bank in Monywa in a short time for disbursement of 3,000 acres of monsoon paddy in Aungmyeothan region, and tasks being carried out.

Afterwards, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin gave instructions in the meeting of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettement Committee of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mrs Nguyen Thi Hoai Thu at his office this morning.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thaung, Ambassador of the SRY Mr Phum Quang Khon, Director-General of Social Welfare Department U Sit Myaing, Director-General of Fire Services Department U Myint Tun, Director-General of Relief and Resettement U Than Oo, Head of Office U Maung Pi and officials.

They discussed social welfare. The guests visited Women Development Centre of Social Welfare Department. Director-General of Social Welfare Department U Sit Myaing reported on functions of the department and works of Women Development Centre.

They also visited salesrooms of weaving factory and handicraft factory. — MNA
A historical milestone leading the nation to a new age – 3

Aung Moe San

The Tatmadaw Government that is in the process of building a modern and developed democratic nation has implemented the seven-point policy programme of the State. The duty of all the national forces including political parties is to reinforce the work of the Tatmadaw Government to implement the task. In other words, it is the system of check and balance to build a democratic nation. But if one is too desirous of grabbing power, one will lack the spirit to promote democracy and that will be the cause of the situation.

Some of the developing countries of the world are facing conflicts leading to blood baths, disintegration and sufferings as they have offered political freedom before the governments, that is why they are lacking the provisions. At the same time, others are taking lessons from them to be free from making such terrible mistakes. Thus, those countries are trying to set up democracy after laying down firm economic foundations. It may be recalled that today’s powers of the west launched the democracy revolution only after the development of the capitalist production industries in their societies. But those countries have now forgotten their history, and are making demands that are contrary to the objective conditions. They are pressing other democratic countries to make changes in the superstructure, instead of advising them to develop their economic infrastructures. In a nation which lacks industrial capitalist class must first set up one before building a democratic nation. The ruling elite usually initiates the task of setting up a capitalist class and a democratic nation. Because the capitalists are not mature enough to launch a democratic revolution. Thus, such a revolution is called the revolution from above. For example, at one time in Asia the countries that launched the revolution from above were: Japan, the Republic of Korea, ASEAN countries and the People’s Republic of China. “In the developing countries, as trade and production of the private sector were not strong enough, the ruling elite had to usually take the initiative for the revolution that would build a new society.” In countries where the Armed Forces do not take part in the national political leadership role, the powerful presidential system is being applied in Myanmar.

Myanmar, that is on the path of capitalist democratic revolution, should be viewed correctly. International assistance is required. The acts to create obstacles in Myanmar will hinder the advancement of Myanmar society and disturb her democratization process. At his meeting with the then US President Clinton in 1994, former Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohammad said that he opposed American pressures against the PRC with the excuse that the action that the US was taking was to improve human rights there. He also told Clinton that instead of interfering, America should point out which was right and which wrong to win the trust of China. The US should not apply pressure on China, nor on any other countries, he added. Dr Mahathir is one of the founders of the ASEAN.

Based on his experiences in setting up a democratic nation, Mahathir cautioned that all should not be misled by the way democracy was defined by the West; that excessive practice of democracy could lead to political instability, economic decline, anarchy, and poverty; that under such circumstances, the West would threaten and press us; and that if democracy offered unlimited freedom, there would emerge problems involving same sex, degradation of morality, acts of bribery and corruption, and families with single parent. Because of the excessive practice of democracy in America, it faced a terrible terrorist attack on 11 September 2001. Now America is clamping restrictions and rules. It is a lesson for all. I will now present some of the submissions of Ms Mariam Marshall Segal, head of the MMAI group, to the hearing committee of the US Congress. She said that the Tatmadaw was accusing the US of violating commitments for many times; that the process was the same in other European and Asian countries; and that solving of border problems, decentralization of the system, and forging unity of all forces took time.

She then said that anarchy would break out if democracy was installed without proper preparation in a country like Myanmar with a diversity of languages and cultures, regional prejudices and various religions; that democracy was not an export item; and that it was just a tree of a native species with strong roots and fine branches.

Ms Segal said that sanctions and isolation efforts would not help a country like Myanmar in its march to democracy; that it would be further keep her away from democracy if the country was forced to accept the individual interest and US norms; that first and foremost US should try to understand Myanmar’s history; that US would be able to render effective assistance for Myanmar only if the US understood her history; and that the US should make efforts to enable professors, entrepreneurs, tourists and observers to visit Myanmar and to help Myanmar people read more books and periodicals.

Ms Segal also said that the most important thing was to accord an Ambassador to Myanmar without any delay; and that the US could not hear information from Myanmar without having an Ambassador there.

Ms Segal is an American citizen. She has been to Myanmar for 18 years. She is a descendant of a Jewish family, who had experienced Nazi holocaust. Her father was killed in the struggle to establish the state of Israel. For 18 years, she lived as a stable person 38 and understands the taste of independence and the sufferings of torture more than others.

Myanmar’s political, economic and social situations have developed many times than that in 1994 when she presented to the congress. The seven-point future policy programme of the State has already been laid down, and the National Convention, that is the first step of the programme is in progress. Thus, I would like to present the fact that the seven-point future policy programme is a milestone leading the nation to enter a new age.

(Myanma Alin; Kyemon: 10-7-2004)

The best time to plant a tree

The second best time is now.

Minister tours Mandalay, Nawnghkio, Kyaukme, Hsipaw, Lashio

YANGON, 17 July

Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing inspected Mandalay Division and Nawnghkio, Kyaukme, Hsipaw and Lashio Townships in Shan State (North) on 12 and 13 July and met officers, staff and families of departments.

On 12 July, the minister met the commandant of Myanmar Police Force Central Training School, the Deputy Police Battalions Control Commander, the Division Police Force Commander, the commissioner of Mandalay Division General Administration Department and district level officials at the Mandalay Division General Administration Department and gave necessary instructions.

He gave instructions on efforts to be made for the orderly implementation of future programme of the State joining hands with the people, prevalence of security, law and order, measures for peace and stability and administration. He directed Mandalay division officials and officers to disarm consistently for winning the trust of the people, eradication of corruption and achieving beneficiary coverage of participation in elimination of drugs and trafficking in human and welfare tasks.

On 13 July, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing met officials of departments concerned at Union Solidarity and Development Association Office in Nawnghkio Township and Myanmar Police Force Yekha in Lashio and gave necessary instructions.

Minister Col Tin Hlaing heard reports on matters related to 1,000 acres of coffee in Nawnghkio Township by officials and attended to their needs. In addition, the minister together with Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing inspected Shan State (North) Police Refresher Training School in Lashio and gave necessary instructions.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 18 July, 2004

Efficient use of electricity

- Use daylight as the main source of light
- Use the least possible amount of electric light 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 softened whenever appeased
- Do not be frighted whenever intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever appeared

MINISTERS OF STATE FOR HOME AFFAIRS
China, Ethiopia stress parliamentary relations in Beijing

Bangkok, 16 July— The National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislative body, and the Council of People's Representatives (CPR) of Ethiopia vowed to promote parliamentary relations in Beijing Wednesday. Wu Bangguo, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, met with a CPR delegation headed by CPR Speaker Ato DAWT Yohannes, and they expressed the hope to strengthen exchanges and cooperation between the two legislative bodies so as to promote the development of relations between the two countries and their peoples.

Wu said China and Ethiopia boast traditional friendship and they have always supported each other, shared common views on many major international and regional issues, and maintained sound consultations and cooperation in international affairs.

He said the development of friendship and cooperation between China and African countries including Ethiopia has always been an important part of China's independent foreign policy of peace. The Chinese side will work with African countries to build a new Sino-African lasting and steady friendship and cooperation in an equal and reciprocal footing, said Wu.

TRADE MARK CAUTION
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Fraudulent institution or unauthorized use of the above Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

Wen Mu 'Tin
M.A. H.G.P.D. 31
Novartis AG
E.O. Bees 69, Yangon
Dated: 18 July, 2004

Growth of Chinese farmers’ income reaches seven-year high

Bangkok, 17 July — The average cash income of China’s rural residents reached 1,345 yuan (166.2 US dollars) in the first half of 2004, up 16.1 per cent, or 9.9 per cent accounting for inflation, over the same period of last year. The growth rate was 8.4 percentage points higher than last year, the fastest growth since 1997, said Zhong Junyi, chairman of the National Bureau of Statistics, at a Press conference Friday.

Indonesian carrier to buy 20 new planes

Jakarta, 16 July — Indonesia's state-owned airline company PT Merpati Nusantara Airlines plans to purchase 20 new airplanes within the next two years to cope with growing competition in the domestic airline industry.

Merpati president Noty Nani said the company planned to allocate around 600 billion rupiah (68 million US dollars) to purchase new planes, half of which would be jets and the remainder propeller planes.

"We aim to increase the size of our fleet from 40 to 60 planes, in order to boost our flight frequency," Hotasi quoted MNA/Xinhua.

Over 3,000 chickens destroyed in avian flu outbreak in Thailand

BANGKOK, 16 July— Agricultural officials in Thailand's northern province of Sukhothai and the eastern province of Khon Kaen Wednesday destroyed about 3,600 chickens in an attempt to halt the latest outbreak of the avian flu virus.

In Sukhothai, nearly 3,000 chickens in Klong Yang, Pa-Kum Ko, and Dong Khu sub-disticts were buried Wednesday.

Farmers across the province also carried out mass culling of their poultry stock.

In Khon Kaen, 600 chickens from a farm in Ta Khr Serm sub-district were culled after over 10 per cent of the chickens in the farm died which were suspected to have contracted avian flu, reported the Thai News Agency Thursday.

Provincial livestock officials met on Wednesday to co-ordinate a common approach to dealing with the fresh outbreak of bird flu.

The government will allocate a 600-million-baht (1.5 million US dollars) subvention for all the operations in this aspect over the next two years.

Philippine Govt appeals for more time and trust

MANILA, 16 July— Philippine Government Wednesday appealed the nationals for more time and trust in dealing with the hostage crisis as it is still continuing seeking the safety of the kidnapped Filipinos in Iraq. They agreed the immediate destruction of all chickens in any farm where some 10 per cent of the fowls have died suspiciously.

Director-General of the Department of Livestock Development, Dr. Niel Limlambang was quoted as saying.

"Blood tests of poultry will be conducted in every farm across the country from the end of July. Any fowls found to have avian flu will be immediately culled," Yukol said.

The government will allocate a 600-million-baht (1.5 million US dollars) subvention for all the operations in this aspect over the next two years.

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Specialists seek extra training for heart implants

WASHINGTON, 16 July—Cardiologists should get additional training before implanting heart devices in patients, a professional group for doctors specializing in the implants recommended on Thursday.

The Heart Rhythm Society recommended the changes as the industry pursues a huge acceleration in the number of people who get implantable defibrillators and other implants that patients are signed to treat heart failure.

The group worries that more doctors are implanting the devices without sufficient training.

“We people who get defibrillators have a lot of heart damage... They’re pretty sick patients, so they’re at a higher risk anyway,” said Dr Stephen Hammill, president of The Heart Rhythm Society.

Hammill said he has heard of patients who have been harmed and some who have died because their cardiologist did not have proper training in the devices.

He also acknowledged that doctors have a financial incentive to do the implants. Based on current Medicare payments, a doctor earns at most $900 US dollars for implanting an ICD, which takes about two hours, he said.

The group’s guidelines include a recommendation that implanting physicians do a minimum of 15 implants a year and 100 implants over the course of three years.

An implantable cardioverter defibrillator, or ICD, is a stop-watch size device implanted into the chest that detects a dangerous rapidly beating and delivers tiny shocks to slow the heart to a normal rate.

Recent studies have found that many more patients can benefit from ICDs than previously thought.

Hammill, who is also a professor at the University of Chicago, said cardiologists need more training in implanting and testing devices, and follow-up on patients who have them.

He added that cardiologists without an extra year of training in electrophysiology often cannot properly evaluate whether a patient is best treated with a device, or a procedure that catheterizes heart tissue that causes an irregular beat. — MNA/Reuters

NAPA joins six-nation pact to make AIDS drugs

BANGKOK, 16 July—Thailand has joined a Brazil-initiated six-nation pact to make generic drugs and other prevention products in the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic, Health Minister Surapong Thepmongkolsap said on Thursday.

“We would like to see further price reduction of drugs, possibly through compulsory licensing,” she told the Bangkok Post. “Ultimately, this pact will bring exchange of raw materials among member nations and production techniques of the necessary drugs,” she said.

Other Thai health officials said Thailand, which imports raw materials from India for its three-one generic vaccine, still hoped to bring the pact and would seek a bilateral pact with China on generic raw materials for other AIDS drugs.

“The government will research and develop new generic drugs and prevention products, including condoms and microbicides,” said senior ministry official Pakdee Potthirat, who signed the pact on the sidelines of the 15th global AIDS conference.

The six members—China, Russia, Ukraine and Nigeria are the other members—would hold their first meeting in October in Russia to map out an action plan, officials said.

— MNA/Reuters

US report says red wine compound may extend life

WASHINGTON, 16 July—The compound that makes red wine a healthful drink may also help to extend the life of heart disease scientists on Wednesday.

They found that Resveratrol acted on fruit flies and worms in the same way as a method known to extend the life of animals including monkeys—sharply restricting how much they ate.

The finding opens the possibility that people could take a pill to achieve the same benefits as those who live longer, healthier lives, said David Sinclair of Harvard Medical School in Boston.

“We found this chemical that can extend the life span of every organism we give it to,” Sinclair said in a telephone interview. “We hope we can soon see molecules that treat diseases of aging, like diabetes for example... We really can have our cake and eat it, too.”

Writing in the journal Nature, Sinclair and colleagues at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, Massachusetts and the University in Rhode Island said they were looking for some compound that would affect a key enzyme in calorie restriction.

Writing in the journal Cancer Research, Dr Keith Black and colleagues at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre in Los Angeles and a team at the National Cancer Institute said they found the antigens in the most common and aggressive type of malignant brain tumour, glioblastoma multiforme.

‘This is the first time that a specific response to brain tumour antigens has been demonstrated as the result of an immune therapy strategy,” said Dr John Yu, who helped lead the study.

Their trial was designed only to show the vaccines were safe, but they apparently helped the patients survive longer.

Immune cells called T lymphocytes can attack cancer cells but usually do not because the cancer cells also carry the signature of normal, healthy cells.

Researchers working on a cancer vaccine are looking for antigens that are made only by cancer cells, so the body can be trained to recognize and destroy them.

They took cells from the patient’s own brain tumours and grew them in the lab alongside immune cells that had been primed to recognize each of the three antigens. The resulting “trained” immune cells were then injected back into the patients.

In another study, a team at Harvard Medical School used a slightly different approach to shrink tumours in two breast cancer patients.

Writing in the journal Clinical Cancer Research, Dr. Donald Kufe and colleagues at Harvard’s Dana-Farber Cancer Institute said they fused tumour cells from the patients with T-cells. — MNA/Reuters

Study says customized vaccines help delay cancer death

WASHINGTON, 16 July—An anti-cancer vaccine made with a patient’s own brain tumour has helped several sufferers live much longer than expected, US researchers reported on Thursday.

They found three specific targets called antigens in brain tumour cells, and customized a vaccine that, apparently, stalled the growth of the deadly brain cancers.

While the 14 patients were not cured, they lived an average of about two and a half years compared to seven and a half months for similar patients who did not get the vaccine, the researchers reported.

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UNEP to develop investment principles

NAIROBI, 16 July—The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will develop key principles to guide global investors to better integrate short-term capital markets with long-term sustainable development cause, it was announced here Thursday.

While launching a so-called "responsible investment initiative,” the Nairobi-based UNEP said it will work with major institutional investors to develop a set of globally recognized principles for responsible investment by September 2005.

The group will also launch a "day one" model of the initiative that will be a follow-up to the meeting of more than 40 investors and fund managers held last month in Paris. At the meeting, the participants proposed a global alliance of investors to guide responsibilities.

The time is now right to develop principles to guide best practice in responsible investment decisions worldwide,” said Klaus Toepfer, UNEP’s Executive Director.

He said he believed the investment community was ready for the principles to assist with the complex process of responsible investment decisions, but investors expect guidelines from UNEP. — MNA/Xinhua

NASA to launch spacecraft to Mercury after 30-year break

WASHINGTON, 16 July—NASA is set to launch a spacecraft to Mercury in August for the first time in 30 years, with a probe meant to orbit the heavy-metal planet. While it maps its surface and looks for frozen water in shady polar craters.

The Messenger space craft is set for launch August 7 on a seven-year journey that will loop around Earth, Venus and Mercury, getting a gravity assist to get to the planet. The last time these three planets would line up to guide it to a Mercury orbit was in a one-year mission, the project’s scientific director said on Thursday.

Messenger will not make the first Mercury fly-by until 2008 and will not begin its main mission until 2011, after flying past the three planets three times.

Some 4.9 billion miles, the scientists said at a briefing the roundabout route is geared to saving the cost and weight of the extra fuel required for a quicker trip. The last time the three planets lined up was in 1974-75 when Mariner 10 probe made three close passes, returning detailed data on less than half of Mercu ry’s surface.

By contrast, Messenger will carry seven scientific instruments, including cameras, spectrometers and a magnetometer to learn more about Mercury’s magnetic field and an anemometer to measure its atmospheric pressure.

Dr Sean Solomon of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, the principal science investigator, characterized Mercury as unusual among the inner rocky planets, which include Earth.

It is so dense that scientists believe at least two thirds of its mass is made up of iron. This high density is due to the heavy metals Mercury’s core is made of.

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Crespo joins AC Milan on loan from Chelsea

Milan, 16 July — Chelsea’s Argentine striker Hernan Crespo has joined AC Milan on a season-long loan, the Italian champions said on their web site Thursday.

Crespo, who returns to Serie A after spells with Inter Milan, Lazio and Parma, has signed a deal until June 30, 2005.

Crespo, 29, will be back under the orders of his former coach at Parma, Carlo Ancelotti, who signed him from River Plate in 1996 and stood by him during a turbulent first season in Italy.

The Argentine, who struggled to settle at Chelsea, faces tough competition for a place up front for Milan, who have Ukrainian Andriy Shevchenko, Denmark’s Jon Dahl Tomasson and Italian international Filippo Inzaghi.

“I know very well it won’t be easy to win a place. I take that into account but I am not going to place limits on myself,” Crespo told reporters after arriving in Milan on Wednesday evening.

Hampered by injuries and trips to World Cup qualifiers in South America, Crespo never really established himself at Chelsea last season, despite scoring 10 Premier League goals and two more in the team’s run to the Champions League semifinals.

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Shelves
2 Saloon
3 Envy
4 Queue
5 Stretch
6 Upton
7 Stretch
8 Gibe
9 Queue
10 Unsophisticated
11 Stretch
12 Ignited
13 Image
15 Lazy
17 Tibetan ox
19 Learning
21 Blamed
23 Treble
26 Combine
27 Lees
28 Scanty

DOWN
1 Hidden
2 Distracted
3 Completely
4 Light sledge
5 Vagrant
6 Benson
7 Upton
13 Alcoholic solution of drug
16 Sailing
17 Shot
19 Stuffing material
20 Stick
22 Indian coin
24 Go by

On the same night that Costa Rica managed a shock 2-1 win over Chile, Paraguay upset the odds by defeating a Brazil team that had already made travel arrangements on the assumption that they would remain top in the group.

Julio Gonzalez headed Paraguay into a first-half lead only for Luis Fabiano to equalize seven minutes later.

Fredy Bareiro stunned Brazil with the winning goal on 71 minutes.

Three minutes later, Paraguay’s Emilio Martinez was sent off for an off the ball foul on Brazil’s Gustavo Nery, showing his frustration after the referee had ignored penalty appeals for an apparent foul on Bareiro.

Brazil face Group B winners Mexico in Puara, while Paraguay have earned the right to stay in the south for a meeting with Uruguay, third in Group B, in Tacna in Sunday’s quarterfinals.

With Maicon replacing Mancini at right back and Felipe in for Alex in midfield, Brazil played with greater fluency and dominated the play for long periods.

Paraguay defended well and counter-attacked dangerously. The underdogs also exposed a Brazilian vulnerability to high crosses with the sequence that led to the first goal.

Brazil goalkeeper Julio Cesar saved from point blank range when a mix-up between the central defensive pairing of Luisao and Cris allowed Edgar Barreto to ghost in and connect inside the six-yard box.

From the resulting corner, Gonzalez escaped his markers to power Paraguay into the lead.

“We know that Paraguay are very effective with the high ball and once again this has worked for them. We paid dearly for failing to defend ourselves against something that we knew was coming,” Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said.

“Losing is never nice but at least we could afford to lose this one.”

Luis Fabiano scored a fine equalizer on 35 minutes, chesting down a cross from midfield Kleberson and shooting high into the net from a tight angle.

On their web site on Thursday, AC Milan announced the arrival of striker Hernan Crespo.

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“I know very well it won’t be easy to win a place. I take that into account but I am not going to place limits on myself,” Crespo told reporters after arriving in Milan.

Hampered by injuries and trips to World Cup qualifiers in South America, Crespo never really established himself at Chelsea last season, despite scoring 10 Premier League goals and two more in the team’s run to the Champions League semifinals.

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“The task of the laboratory will be to analyze the chemical or biological material entering the environment in the event of a chemical or biological attack,” it added. The laboratory, which is to be manned by nine experts, is a key part of Hungary’s contribution to NATO’s Response Force (NRF), a cutting-edge rapid reaction force the alliance decided to set up last year.

The Appeals Body partially upheld the Appeals Body’s decision to clear the Stade Rennes striker, asking for a five-game ban as an extra punishment for his initial denial.

Having seen the new evidence, UEFA then appealed against its own disciplinary body’s decision to clear the Stade Rennes striker, asking for a five-game ban as an extra punishment for his initial denial.

The Appeals Body upheld the appeal on Thursday, Freys’s 25th birthday, banning him for three games but including the missed France match among them.

Paraguay upset Brazil 2-1 in the Copa America on Thursday and forced the world champions into second place in Group C and a 2,000-kilometre trip north to face Mexico in the quarterfinals.

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Four injured Saudis sent home before Asian Cup

Chengdu (China), 16 July — Saudi Arabia have sent three injured players home from China just three days before they begin their quest to win a record fourth Asian Cup, team officials said on Thursday.

After arriving at their base in Chengdu, midfield trio Mohammed Noor, Mohammed Ameen and Abdulla Al-Wakid, along with defender Osama Al-Harbi were promptly ordered to return home.

The Saudis, runners-up to Japan in Lebanon four years ago, were already without veteran goalkeeper Mohammed Al-Dayera, who has an injured knee.

Saudi Arabia, who are coached by Dutchman Gerard van der Lem, won the Asian Cup in 1984, 1988 and 1996.

They play their opening game against Turkmenistan on Sunday. Iraq and Uzbekistan are the other teams in Group C.

The 16-team tournament begins on Saturday and runs until August 7.
11:00 am
1. Martial song
2. Musical programme
3. Round-up of the week’s International news
11:40 am
4. မသောင်မလှောင်မှု (မြေပြင်) [Environment]
12:10 pm
5. မိုးရိုးမှု (မိုးလွှမ်း) [Weather]
12:25 pm
6. Myanmar Movie: ကြက်ကလေး (The Chicken)
2:45 pm
9. International news
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm
3. English For Everyday Use
4:45 pm
5. အမျိုးအစားများ (စာအုပ်) [Books]
19. The next day’s programme
5:00 pm
1. Dance of national races
5:15 pm
6. ပြောစီးမှု (ပြောစီး) [Speech]
7. ပြုစုမှု (ပြုစု) [Performance]
4:45 pm
8. Agricultural Source Country’s Development
5:55 pm
9. Sing and Enjoy
6:30 pm
10. Evening news
7:00 pm
11. Weather report
7:05 pm
12. ကမ္ဘာလုံး (ကမ္ဘာလုံး) [Global]
7:35 pm
13. Musical programme
7:45 pm
14. စာအုပ်များ (စာအုပ်) [Books]
8:45 pm
15. News
16. International news
17. Weather report
18. မိုးရိုးမှု (မိုးလွှမ်း) [Weather]
19. The next day’s programme
21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
21:36 Export Prawn
21:40 Headline News
21:42 Waso Chintone Festival
21:45 National News
21:50 Myanmar Movie Impact
22:00 National News
22:05 Popa Flat-topped Hill (Taung Ka Lat)
22:10 Song “Aristocratic Beauty”
22:12 Art in Glass Bottles
22:15 National News
22:20 Soup Factory
22:25 Myanmar Modern Song “You From Next Door”
22:30 National News
22:35 Pickled Featherback
22:40 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-II)
22:45 National News
22:50 Myanmar Modern Song “The Towering Flowers”
23:00 National News
23:05 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-III)
23:10 Non-Thaï Model Plantation (Inlay Lake)
23:15 National News
23:20 Red Panda
23:25 Myanmar Modern Song Beauty & Scenic Sights “Come and See Myanmar”
23:30 National News
23:35 Ornamental Jewellery of Outstanding Designs
23:45 National News
23:50 Myanmar Movie Impact
24:00 National News
24:05 Myanmar Artistic Works at Shwedagon Pagoda Archways
24:10 Song “Treasure Land”
24:15 National News
24:20 Fabulous Bagan (IV)
24:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
24:30 National News
24:35 Ornamental Jewellery of Outstanding Designs
24:45 National News
24:50 Myanmar Modern Song “The Towering Flowers”
25:00 National News
25:05 Myanmar Artistic Works at Shwedagon Pagoda Archways
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25:45 National News
25:50 Myanmar Modern Song “The Towering Flowers”
26:00 National News
26:05 Myanmar Artistic Works at Shwedagon Pagoda Archways
26:10 Song “Treasure Land”
26:15 National News
26:20 Fabulous Bagan (IV)
26:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights “Mingalabar”
26:30 National News
26:35 Ornamental Jewellery of Outstanding Designs

**WEATHER**

Rainfall on 17-7-2004
- 0.16 inch at Yangon Airport,
- 0.39 inch at Kubu-Aye and
- 0.47 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1447 mm (56.97 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1397 mm (55.00 inches) at Kubu-Aye and 1389 mm (54.68 inches) at central Yangon.

**Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**

Saturday, 17 July, 2004
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, lower Sagaing Division and rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin, Shan, Chin, Kayin, Mon States and Tanintharyi Division, scattered in upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded was Maungdaw (50.44 mm).

Maximum temperature on 16-7-2004 was 32.5°C (90.5° F). Minimum temperature on 17-7-2004 was 20.6°C (69°F). Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs MST on 17-7-2004 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 16-7-2004 was (4.9) hours approx. Rainfall on 17-7-2004 was 0.16 inch at Yangon Airport, 0.39 inch at Kubu-Aye and 0.47 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1447 mm (56.97 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1397 mm (55.00 inches) at Kubu-Aye and 1389 mm (54.68 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kubu-Aye) was 6 mph from Southwest at 16:45 hrs MST on 16-7-2004.

Bay influence: Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 18-7-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in upper Sagaing, Yangon, Bayo Divisions, Kachin and Rakhine States, scattered in lower Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions, Chin and Shan States and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%). State of the sea: Seas will be moderate off and along Rakhine Coast and slight elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-7-2004: Sunny period with one or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**Warm Warning**
Issued at 11.00 hrs MST on 17-7-2004

The Ayeyawady River water level at Chauk may rise 100 cm (about 3feet) and reach the danger level (1450 cm) within the next 48 hrs commencing noon today.

The Thinthwin River water at Hpy-an may rise 40 cm (about 1.5 feet) and reach danger level (750 cm) within the next 72 hrs commencing noon today.
Visiting Chief of Army of Malaysia General Dato’ Seri Mohd azmi bin Mohamed concludes visit

Yangon, 17 July — Visiting Chief of Army of Malaysian Armed Forces General Dato’ Seri Mohd Azmi bin Mohamed and party left here by air at 10.05 am today. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and wife Daw Marlar Tint, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, Maj-Gen Mya Win and Brig-Gen Kyaw Han of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, Defence Adviser Col Hj Abbas bin Hj Mat and wife and officials of the Malaysian Embassy.

Prior to their departure, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than presented documentary photo album and video tapes as gifts to the Malaysian Chief of Army at the Lounge of the airport.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and wife Daw Marlar Tint and party saw off the Malaysian goodwill delegation.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint tours Mingin, Kani townships in Sagaing Division

Yangon, 17 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Kalay Station and departmental officials, arrived at the site of Myittha Bridge (Kalewa) Project on 14 July morning.

At the briefing hall, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met departmental officials and social organization members of Kalewa and Mawlaik townships and gave instructions on regional development.

Chairman of Mawlaik District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Win Naung and Chairman of Kalay District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Moe Myint reported on matters related to their districts. In-Charge of Kalewa-Mawlaik Road Construction project Maj Aung Htay reported on progress of road construction and arrangements for building bridges and conduits on the road and U Myint Aung of Kalewa Township Development Affairs Department on development tasks. The commander and officials gave supplementary reports. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

Next, they inspected Myittha Bridge (Kalewa), Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa Road and 220 feet long Lapin Bridge.

On arrival at 360 feet long Tein Bridge, they inspected durability of the bridge and gave instructions on prevention of bank erosion.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected Tein Bridge on Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa Motor Road — MNA

Commander tours Hmawby, Taikkyi townships

Yangon, 17 July — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife patron of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khan Thet Htay, accompanied by officials, inspected agricultural matters in Hmawby and Taikkyi townships this morning. They inspected demonstration of agricultural technology and pilot plantations in Kalagon Village of Hmawby Township.

In Phalon Buta Village in Taikkyi Township, the commander and party attended the ceremony to mark fifth national level malaria control week organized by Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for MCWA at Phalon Buta Basic Education Middle School (Branch). The commander gave speeches.