Puja ca pujaneyyanam, to honour those worthy of honour; this is the way to auspiciousness.

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing welcome back Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe

YANGON, 18 July — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt of the Union of Myanmar, accompanied by wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, arrived back here by flight of Myanmar Airways International at 4 pm today, after paying an official visit to the People’s Republic of China at the invitation of Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China Mr Wen Jiabao.

The Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council and wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Yangon Command Commander, Minister for Information, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, senior military officers, Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam HE Pehin Dato Haji Hussain bin Haji Sulaiman and heads of foreign missions in Yangon, the UN Resident Coordinator, the chargé d’affaires ai of Embassy of the People’s Republic of China Mr Yu Boren and officials and departmental heads.

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

MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Monday, 19 July, 2004**

**Uplift national prestige and integrity**

Throughout history, Myanmar has been living under its own monarchs with pride, and international community acknowledge Myanmar’s presentation of culture.

As Myanmar people are civilized and polite ones, they are to value own land, race and culture above all. The people are to guard against the penetration and influence of alien cultures, and it is incumbent upon all the national people to preserve own national culture.

Taking advantage of today’s globalization process, some big powers are trying to overwhelm developing countries politically and they are trying to influence the youth of the developing countries by introducing their culture, music, lifestyle and thoughts.

At such a time, the Government is making all-out efforts to uplift the national culture at the Nation Theatre on Myoma Kyauk Street in Dagon Township on 16 July with an address by Chairman of the Leading Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Committee Chairman of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

On the occasion, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Chairman Maj-Gen Myint Swe urged those from the leading committee, the committees and sub-committees and maestros to make suggestions for holding the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions this year on a grand scale.

Panel of Patrons of the Organizing the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, the Leading Committee and the sub-committees are to try their best for successful holding of the competitions.

At a time when the Government is paying serious attention to uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character, all the national people are urged to actively participate in the Government’s endeavours.

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**F&R Minister tours Sagaing Division**

YANGON, 18 July — Minister for Finance & Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, together with Myanmar Economic Bank Managing Director Col Hsun Tun, Internal Revenue Department Director-General U Win Naing and officials, left Yangon by 16 July morning and arrived in Sagaing. He met with employees of the ministry in Sагаing District at the Sagaing District Peace and Development Council Office. Sагаing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and division and district level departmental personnel were also present at the meeting.

In the afternoon, the minister went to Myinn and inspected Town and Township Myanmar Small Loan Enterprise. The minister and party proceeded to ChaungU and inspected the newly built Township Bank Branch. In the evening, the minister met with staff of the ministry at Myaathall Hall of the Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Office in Monywa. Sагаing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and division and district level departmental personnel were also present at the meeting. The commander and the minister gave necessary instructions.

On 17 July, the minister also inspected the ministry, the minister and party left Monywa and inspected MEB branches in Budalun and Dibayin townships. They also inspected the construction site of MEB branches in YeU and KhinU townships. They next met with staff of the ministry in Shwebo District at Yangsuyaung Hall in Shwebo.Later, the minister inspected the construction of Shwebo District MEB branch.

On 18 July, the minister met with staff of the ministry at the Divisional Internal Revenue Department Office in Mandalay and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

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**K 2.95m donated for tree planting at Shwedagon**

YANGON, 18 July — Under the arrangements of the Shwedagon Pagoda All-round Renovation Work Committee, shady trees and flowering plants are growing in the environs of Shin Upagupta Arakan Pagoda and the Theingikotka Gardens of the Pagoda. Wellwishers U Then Win, Daw Ni and family of Shwe Thanlwin Co today donated K 2.95 million for growing trees and plants. The renovation centre is kept open at the northern entrance of the pagoda from 7 am to 6 pm daily till 31 August. — MNA

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**Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells**

YANGON, 18 July — The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce.

One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000. — MNA

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**Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyant on 16 July attended the closing ceremony of the Basic Engineering Course No 5, the Advanced Tailoring Course No 6 and the Training Course Nos 31 and 32 for clerical staff 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, Yangon. (News reported) Minister Col Thein Nyant, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Tun and directors-general inspect the training of mosaic for enabling domestic science trainees from Chin State to conduct multiplier courses.**

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**Myanmar delegation attends World AIDS Conference**

YANGON, 18 July — The 46-member Myanmar delegation attended the 15th World AIDS Conference at Impact Convention Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, from 11 to 16 July. AIDS/STD Control Project manager Dr Min Thwe of the Health Department, Dr Ht Mon Mar Si of UNAIDS, youth representatives Ma Thaw Yin Aye and representatives of FXB submitted three papers to the conference. In addition, the poster of U Maung Hla Tun and directors-general inspect the training of mosaic for enabling domestic scientists from Chin State to conduct multiplier courses. — PHAANDA

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**People's Desire**

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

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Suicide bombs kill six in Iraq, minister survives blast

Baghdad, 17 July — Two suicide car bombs in Iraq killed six people and injured 36, but Iraq’s 83-year-old justice minister, target of one of the blasts, escaped injury.

Also Saturday, a US soldier was killed and another injured by a roadside blast, and a second street bomb injured three policemen and five people were wounded in an attack on a police station. In Iraq’s serial hostage drama, there was fresh hope for an Egyptian whose abductors telephoned his Saudi employer to say he would be released on Sunday, but there was no word on the fate of a Filipino and a Bulgarian, both threatened with beheading.

The car bomb that targeted Justice Minister Malek Dohan al-Hassan’s motorcade was claimed by al-Qaeda-linked militant Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi. Hassan emerged from the attack unscathed, three of his bodyguards, including a nephew, were killed along with two civilians, officials said.

Eight people were also wounded in the blast which hit Hassan’s motorcade as it was taking him to work from his home in the west of the capital.

A driver in a white Toyota approached the minister’s convoy and blew himself up, said interior ministry spokesman Colonel Adnan Abdul Rahman.

Three policemen were wounded less than an hour later when a bomb planted on the side of the road exploded close to their vehicle. Hassan, a seasoned lawyer and politician, assumed a high profile earlier this month with the unveiling of a new national security law giving the government emergency powers in its battle against the 15-month-old insurgency.

He is also one of the key players in the process of trying deposed dictator Saddam Hussein and 11 of his lieutenants, after their first appearance in the dock on 1 July.

Roadside bomb blast kills US soldier in Iraq

Baghdad, 17 July — Guerrillas killed a US soldier and wounded another in a roadside bomb blast in northern Iraq on Saturday, the US army said.

In a statement, the army said the attack was near Baiji, 110 miles north of Baghdad, at 7 am (2300 EDT Friday) on Saturday morning.

The death brought to 655 the number of US soldiers killed in action in Iraq since the invasion last year. — Internet

India’s “IT” enabled services BPO sector grows by 54%

New Delhi, 17 July — India’s IT enabled services-Business Process Outsourcing (ITES-BPO) sector has emerged as a key driver of growth for the Indian software and services industry during 2003-04, according to an official report on Friday.

The ITES-BPO industry is estimated to have grown by about 54 per cent with export revenue of 3.6 billion US dollars during 2003-04, indicating that the sector is showing upward spiral growth on service lines like customer care, finance, administration, billing and pay-out services, the Press Information Bureau of India reported.

According to an annual report of the Department of Information Technology (DIT) for the year 2003-04, the Indian IT software and services industry is expected to account for about 2.6 per cent of India’s gross domestic product (GDP) and 21.3 per cent of exports during 2003-04 and is projected to grow to 7 per cent of nation’s GDP and 35 per cent of exports by 2008.

The software and services industry continued to be the dominating factor in the overall growth of country’s IT industry during 2003-04, the report said.

The total value of software and services exports is estimated at 12.2 billion US dollars, showing an increase of about 20 per cent in rupee terms and 28 per cent in dollar terms.

India’s IT software and services industry has been projected to reach an export potential of 57-65 billion US dollars for the software and services sector by 2008.

This implies a share of 6 per cent of the relevant global market. The ITES-BPO sector exports are likely to reach 21-24 billion US dollars by 2008.

The annual report indicates that India has become one of the most preferred destinations for sourcing software and IT-enabled services.

The number of professionals employed in the country by IT and ITES sectors is estimated at 813,500 by March 2004, of which 260,000 were in the IT software and services export industry, nearly 245,500 in ITES-BPO sector. 28,000 in the domestic software market and over 280,000 in user organizations.

In recent times, various nations are increasingly recognizing India’s achievements in the IT sector.

Singapore’s non-oil exports rise in June

Singapore, 17 July — Singapore’s non-oil domestic exports (NODX) grew by 20.9 per cent to $11 billion Singapore dollars (about 6.5 billion US dollars) in June this year, according to figures released by the International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore) on Friday.

Total exports rose 30.3 per cent to $25.91 billion Singapore dollars (about 15.2 billion US dollars) in June while imports rose 23.6 per cent to $22.94 billion Singapore dollars (about 13.4 billion US dollars). — MNA/Xinhua

India calls off campaign against gunmen

Baghdad, 17 July — Iraq’s Justice Minister Hazem al-Shaalan has reportedly ended a planned military campaign against gunmen controlling Samarra.

The Iraqi al-Sabah newspaper quoted the minister as saying the military operation has been delayed upon the recommendation of the prime ministry in order to give time for the gunmen to peacefully surrender their weapons.

Two weeks ago, about 200 armed men, identified as belonging to various religious extremist groups, took control of Samarra, 60 miles (100 kilometres) north of Baghdad after destroying a number of government buildings.

Al-Shaalan told the newspaper the suspension of the planned military campaign came in “respect to the holy shrines in the city,” adding intensive efforts were being carried out to end the siege peacefully.

Part of the convoy of the Iraqi Justice Minister Malik Dohan al-Hassan burns after a car bomb attack in Baghdad, Iraq on 17 July, 2004. — Internet

Chinese govt to send more staff to poverty relief missions

Beijing, 17 July — China’s central authorities will continue to send staff to aid poverty relief efforts in designated areas, Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu said here Thursday.

Hui made the remarks at a meeting for summing up experience in such efforts, which was attended by representatives of 272 departments of the central government.

Under this project, which started in 1986, functionaries dispatched to backward areas are asked to adopt various measures to help lift local people out of poverty and usually take temporary positions in local governments.

Measures they take include helping those regions to raise funds and attract investment, organizing the construction of roads, schools, hospitals and other infrastructure facilities, helping those areas to form strong and effective leadership teams and helping those areas to formulate scientific development strategies.

Hui said direct involvement of the central authorities constitutes an important component of the Chinese-style poverty-relief work. This arrangement will not only facilitate the implementation of policies of the Communist Party of China and the state at the grass-roots level, but also help the cadres to gain first-hand understanding of the real situation of the state and improve their capability.

Hui urged departments of the central authorities to attach greater importance to poverty-relief work in their designated areas and make further efforts to address the basic needs of the poor population, improve living and production conditions and the comprehensive quality of poor population in those areas.

Hui said poverty-relief work in designated areas participated in by central authorities has made great achievements. Effective experience and practices in those areas should be summed up and carried forward. Hui said poverty relief is an important job that must be done well. It has bearings on China’s goal of building a well-off society in all-round way, pursuing the scientific viewpoint of development, and solving the problems of farmers, agriculture and rural areas.

He said China has made great progress in poverty relief since it started reform and opening to the outside world. Poor population in rural areas has dropped dramatically, the poverty rate has dropped significantly and the living and production facilities in poverty-stricken areas have been improved remarkably.

However, there are still tremendous tasks ahead. Greater efforts are needed to push poverty-relief work to a new height, said Hui. — MNA/Xinhua

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A US Army soldier arrives at the scene of a roadside bomb explosion in southern Baghdad, on 16 July, 2004. An improvised explosive device went off on the airport highway as a US Army convoy was driving past, injuring one soldier according to officers on the ground. — Internet
Tory leader regrets supporting Blair on Iraq

Baghdad, 18 July—The leader of Britain's major opposition party says he would not have supported the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, in a parliamentary vote in favour of war in Iraq had he known about flaws in British intelligence.

"If I knew then what I know now, that would have caused a difficulty. I couldn't have voted for that resolution," said Howard, the leader of the Conservative Party, said in an interview with The Sunday Times newspaper.

However, Howard said he could have voted for military action if the resolution had not been based on British claims that Saddam Hussein had stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons ready to use.

An official inquiry led by Lord Butler reported on Wednesday that Iraq had no such weapons, but Howard's panel said the Government had deliberately exaggerated the threat of its intelligence dossiers.

Butler's report criticised the Government for not reining back the offensiveness of its intelligence, and for not making it clear that a claim that Iraq could use chemical and biological weapons on 45 minutes notice - which later proved false - referred only to battlefield weapons.

Howard was not leader of the Conservative Party at the time the House of Commons authorised Blair to join in the US-led invasion. The leader at the time, Iain Duncan Smith, and most of the Conservatives in Parliament, supported the war.

"If you look at the terms of the actual resolution put to the House of Commons on March 18, it placed a very heavy emphasis on the presence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq," Howard was quoted as saying.

"So I think it is difficult for someone, knowing everything we know now, to have voted for that particular resolution."

Howard said a British envoy had finished an embarrassing third in two special elections to the House of Commons on Thursday. The Liberal Democrats, the only major British party to oppose the war, won one of the seats, previously held by Blair's Labour Party. Labour won the other.

Mali is China's friend

Wu Bangguo stresses parliamentarian exchanges and cooperation

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress (NPC), made the remark at a meeting with visiting Malian President Amadou Toumany Toure, who arrived here Thursday on a five-day state visit to China at the invitation of President Hu Jintao.

Wu pointed to the sound relationship between the NPC and the Malian Parliament, saying that exchanges and cooperation between legislative bodies of the two countries constitute an important part of the bilateral relationship.

The tie promotes the understanding and friendship between the two peoples of the two countries, Mali is China's friend and, since the two countries established diplomatic ties over four decades ago, they have witnessed smooth growth of bilateral relations, Wu noted. They have enhanced mutual trust, increased cooperation in various fields and cooperated in international organizations.

Wu expressed his appreciation for the Malian Government's one-China policy. He said China and Mali shared common experiences and faced the common task for development. Continuously strengthening the sino-Malian relations is in the common interest of both sides.

The Chinese side treasures friendship with Mali and will make joint efforts with Mali to expand cooperation, promote bilateral relations and safeguard the rights and interests of developing countries in the international affairs.

Toure said his visit is bound to push forward the all-round development of Chinese-Malian cooperation. Malian parliamentarians hope to enhance exchanges with the NPC to learn from China's experience, he noted.

This is Toure's first China tour since he assumed presidency in 2002.

Besides Beijing, Toure and his colleagues, including some ministers from Malian Cabinet in charge of foreign affairs, agriculture, commerce, education and investment, will visit Shanghai municipality in east China and Guangdong Province in south China.

The trade volume between China and Mali reached 63.59 million US dollars in 2003.

Over 100 million e-mails in circulation per day in China

Beijing, 17 July—China is ready to cooperate with Mali in legislation — leading the way for future friendship and cooperation between the two countries, said China's top legislator Wu Bangguo here Friday.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress (NPC), made the remark at a meeting with visiting Malian President Amadou Toumany Toure, who arrived here Thursday on a five-day state visit to China at the invitation of President Hu Jintao.

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Over 100 million e-mails in circulation per day in China

Shanghai, 17 July—China's Internet users send 46 million e-mails and receive 67 million each day, according to the latest figures provided by CCID Consulting, a think tank for the Ministry of Information Industry, respectively from the previous year of 22 and 35 million.

China, the world's most populous nation, reported 79.5 million netizens and 30.9 million computers connected to the Internet by the end of 2003.

Both figures are rising steadily, according to statistics provided by China Internet Network Information Centre, or CNNIC.

By the end of last year, China's netizens had subscribed 111 million mailboxes, 15 million of which charged service fees ranging from a few US dollars to about 20 US dollars a year, according to CCID.

CCID statistics also indicate that global netizens were sending 35 billion e-mails a day at the end of last year.

An Iraqi police officer lifts a piece of a Volkswagen Beetle after a bomb exploded in a Baghdad neighborhood, injuring four civilians in Iraq, 16 July, 2004. —INTERNET

China to inaugurate scientific research station in Arctic

Shanghai, 17 July—A team of 12 Chinese scientists will head for the North Pole next week to carry out research in the Arctic region and inaugurate the country's first scientific research station there.

The team will leave Beijing for Svalbard Island, Norway on Monday. Another two teams of government officials and journalists will follow in a week, said Wei Wenliang, an official for polar expedition affairs with the National Bureau of Oceanography.

Wei did not disclose the name of China's Arctic station, which had already been decided but was still subject to approval.

Yang Huigen, deputy head of China Polar Research Centre based in Shanghai, has been appointed first chief of the station, according to Wei.

US soldiers, Iraqis targeted on deadly day in Iraq

Baghdad, 17 July—Gunmen have killed an Iraqi police chief as he drove to work today south of Baghdad. It’s the latest in a series of attacks against Iraqis seen as collaborat-

ing with US forces.

Also today, an American soldier was killed by a roadside bomb in northern Iraq. Another soldier was hurt.

Earlier, a suicide car bomber hit the Iraqi justice minis-

ter’s convoy as he left the complex. He escaped unharmed — but five of his bodyguards were killed.

In a second suicide bombing, attackers hit an Iraqi Na-

tional Guard headquarters south of Baghdad, killing two people and wounding 47.

The attacks were the latest in a series that have targeted high-level government officials. They could be an effort by insurgents to mark the anniversary of the coup that brought Saddam Hussein’s political party to power in 1968.

The attacks could disrupt marine food chains and alter ocean bio-geochemistry in ways that are not yet understood or predictable, according to the report. It said that by the middle of this century, the accumulating burden of carbon dioxide entering the ocean will lead tochanges in acidity of the upper layers that are three times greater in magnitude and 100 times faster than today.

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Relatedhtml.php?mode=detail&catid=11&tid=32029
Blair facing further Iraq pressure

BAGHDAD, 18 July — There have been fresh calls from senior Tories for Tony Blair to resign and to explain why he was not told about the withdrawal of key intelligence on Iraq.

Former Foreign Secretary Sir Malcolm Rifkind said Blair should resign because he had taken the UK to war based on false intelligence.

Lord King of Bridgwater wanted to know why Mr Blair was not told intelligence had been discredited in July 2003.

Downing Street said the PM did not find out until last week’s Butler report. Two reports on alleged chemical and biological weapons production were withdrawn by MI6 because the source was no longer considered reliable.

The move, weeks before the Hutton inquiry, was made known to the Foreign Office and Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC).

But Mr Blair had not been informed of the time he gave evidence to Lord Hutton in August, Downing Street said.

The prime minister’s official spokesman said the intelligence in question was “only one issue” and “not relevant” to the Hutton inquiry, which focused on the evidence of Dr David Kelly and the separate claim that Iraq could launch WMD within 45 minutes. —Internet

Iraqi higher council of oil and gas formed

BAGHDAD, 18 July — Iraqi higher council of oil and gas has been formed and Prime Minister Ayad Allawi would head the council, Al Sabah newspaper reported Saturday.

“Iraqi Minister of Oil, especially the medium-term and long-term plans and the following of their implementation, would also look into the investments and big projects and method of financing them, in addition to the contracts and agreements signed with the foreign sides and drawing marketing policies for the crude oil, he added.

He pointed out that the council would set the tariff of the main local consumption oil products and the share of the Finance Ministry. — MNA/Xinhua

China, Thailand join forces on Lancang-Mekong River projects

KUNMING, 17 July— China and Thailand have announced a joint venture to build and operate two power stations on the Lancang-Mekong River. China will hold 75 per cent of the stake.

According to sources with the Yunnan provincial power department, China Huaneng Group and GMS Co. of Thailand will pool construction costs to build the Nuozhadu Power Station, with a designed installed capacity of 3.5 million kilowatts, which connects China by water to five other Asian countries.

The Nuozhadu Power Station, with a designed installed capacity of 3.5 million kilowatts, will be the fifth of eight power stations planned along the Lancang River in the province.

The sixth, Jinhong Power Station, will be located in the northern suburbs of Jinhong in Yunnan Province with an installed capacity of 1.5 million kilowatts. Kun Wei, general manager of the Huaneng Group, said construction on Jinhong Power Station will start this year while that on Nuozhadu is scheduled to begin next year. The project is expected to cost nine billion yuan (1.093 billion US dollars).

Upon completion, the two power stations will deliver electricity to energy-short Guangdong Province and to Thailand in accordance with practical needs.

Originating in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in western China, the Lancang-Mekong River is called the Mekong River among the people of Southeast Asia, the Lancang River among the people of western China, the Lancang-Mekong River is called the Mekong River in the Chinese territory and runs through Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam before entering the South China Sea. It is the only river in Asia that flows through six nations.

The section of Lancang River in Yunnan Province, totalling 1,240 kilometres in length, has exploitable water sources of 22.59 million kilowatts. The total installed capacity of the eight planned stations is expected to be 16.05 million kilowatts.

Currently, the province has power stations at Manwan and Dachaoshan, with construction underway on another at Xixiawan.

China hopes Austria to further push forward bilateral ties

BEIJING, 17 July— China hopes that the Parliament of Austria will continue efforts to push forwarding Sino-Austrian ties and better understand China's stance on Tibet and Taiwan, a senior official said here Friday.

Jia Qinglin, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), told Barbara Parammer, second president of the National Council of Austrian Parliament, that China appreciates Austria's adherence to one-China policy.

“It would also look into the strategic issues sent to it by the head of the council or by the Prime Minister of Oil, especially the medium-term and long-term plans and the following of their implementation,” he said.

A ministry spokesman said the blast occurred in front of the National Guard building in Mahmudiya, about 25 miles south of Baghdad. He said the two dead and most of the wounded were National Guardsmen.

There has been a spate of car bombings and assassination attempts in Iraq in the past few days, following nearly two weeks of relative calm. — MNA/Reuters

Two killed in car bomb blast south of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 18 July — A car bomb exploded outside an Iraqi National Guard barracks south of Baghdad on Saturday, killing two people and wounding 25, the Health Ministry said.

A ministry spokesman said the blast occurred in front of the National Guard building in Mahmudiya, about 25 miles south of Baghdad. He said the two dead and most of the wounded were National Guardsmen.

There has been a spate of car bombings and assassination attempts in Iraq in the past few days, following nearly two weeks of relative calm. — MNA/Reuters

Chirac urges Russia to ratify Kyoto pact

PARIS, 17 July — French President Jacques Chirac urged Russia on Friday to ratify the Kyoto Protocol on climate change as soon as possible, Chirac’s spokesman said after he met Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

The state of the 1997 UN pact aimed at curbing global warming hinges on Russia after a US pullout in 2001. Russian President Vladimir Putin said in May that Moscow would move to ratify the Kyoto pact after an agreement with the European Union on entry to the World Trade Organization.

“President welcomed President Putin’s decision to accelerate the ratification process, hoping this can take place as soon as possible,” Chirac’s spokesman Catherine Colonno told reporters after the meeting with Lavrov.

The protocol seeks to rein in emissions of gases such as carbon dioxide from fossil fuels burnt in factories and cars that are blamed for blanketing the planet and driving up temperatures, raising sea levels and causing natural disasters. MNA/Reuters

Man beaten by Los Angeles police seeking compensation

LOS ANGELES, July 17 — A US car thief suspect videotaped being beaten by Los Angeles policemen has filed a claim with the city to seek 25 million US dollars in compensation, local media reported Friday.

Stanley Miller alleged in the claim that his brain was damaged during the June 23 beating, which also caused “spinal injuries, trunk-torsion injuries, internal injuries, emotional distress, and bruises and contusions.”

If the city rejects the claim, Miller said he could seek damages through a lawsuit.

Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) spokesman Mary Grady said the department would not comment on “pending litigation.”

LAPD Chief William Bratton told the City Council two weeks ago Miller’s injuries appeared to be minor scrapes and bruises. But Miller’s attorney claimed that a neurologist determined that Miller suffered brain damage, causing ongoing dizziness, blurred vision, vertigo, the onset of sleeplessness, nausea and depression.

Miller led LAPD officers on a 30-minute chase in South Los Angeles on June 23 when he refused to stop in a reportedly stolen car.

South Korean youths cover themselves with mud during the first day of the mud festival at Daecheon swimming beach recently. —krt

Two killed in car bomb blast south of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 18 July — A car bomb exploded outside an Iraqi National Guard barracks south of Baghdad on Saturday, killing two people and wounding 25, the Health Ministry said.

A ministry spokesman said the blast occurred in front of the National Guard building in Mahmudiya, about 25 miles south of Baghdad. He said the two dead and most of the wounded were National Guardsmen.

There has been a spate of car bombings and assassination attempts in Iraq in the past few days, following nearly two weeks of relative calm. — MNA/Reuters

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South Korean youths cover themselves with mud during the first day of the mud festival at Daecheon swimming beach recently. —krt
Saudi firm says it has quit Iraq to save hostage

DUBAI, 17 July — A Saudi transport company said it had pulled out of Iraq to save the life of an Egyptian truck driver taken hostage by kidnappers who demanded the firm leave the country, Al-Jazeera satellite television reported on Friday.

“We no longer have vehicles in Iraq. All our vehicles were pulled out of Iraq on Wednesday, July 14, to ensure the safety of the vehicles in Iraq,” a company representative said in a statement sent to the channel.

The Faisal al-Neheit Transport Company had promised on Wednesday it would pull out to meet the demands of kidnappers who threatened on Tuesday to kill Egyptian truck driver Mohammad Gharabawi within 72 hours.

Al-Jazeera reported on Thursday that a new statement by the kidnappers had given the firm another deadline, “to be sure before carrying out the just verdict.”

The group, calling itself “the 1920 Battalions, the military wing of the National Islamic Resistance,” also said that after that time it would not deal tightly with those who did business with “infidel occupiers” and fell into its hands, Jazeera said.

The Saudi firm has offered the kidnappers 15,000 US dollars for Gharabawi’s release but said it was unable to pay a million US dollars ransom initially demanded by the kidnappers.

Gharabawi, who has worked for the firm for eight years, was seized while transporting Saudi fuel to Iraq about two weeks ago. The company is one of about 50 subcontractors operating with 1,400 trucks from Saudi Arabia to Iraq.

Iraq has relied on fuel imports from neighbouring countries since US-led forces toppled Saddam Hussein last year in a war that destroyed much of the country’s infrastructure.

Several militant groups have kidnapped foreigners in Iraq and have either released or killed hostages in recent months.

Iraqi police found a headless corpse in the Tigris River on Thursday suspected of being that of a Bulgarian truck driver taken hostage.

The Tawhid and Jihad Group of suspected al-Qaeda villain Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has killed the Bulgarian, an American and a South Korean hostage.

Malaysian FM defends Philippine troops pullout decision

MANILA, 17 July — Visiting Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar Friday defended the Philippines’ pullout of the troops from Iraq as a “sovereign decision.”

During the 5th Philippine-Malaysia Joint Consultative Meeting, Albar said that the Philippine Government has “taken into account what they need to take into account” since the pullout is a sovereign decision.

Malaysia has refused to be part of the US-led coalition during the Iraq war.

The Malaysian Foreign Minister also reiterated in a statement his government’s appeal to the kidnappers to resolve the matter in a “human” way.

“We are saddened by the hostage taking and holding of the hostage truck driver. Malaysia has always taken the view of question of humanity, on human life,” Albar said.

“On this basis of humanitarian consideration and in the name of our religion Islam that we have appealed to the parties concerned so that it can be resolved in the most humane and bring happiness to all,” he added.

Explosion targeting US convoy rocks central Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 17 July — An explosion targeting a US military convoy rocked central Baghdad on Friday, police sources and witnesses said.

A police officer said that at least four Iraqi civilians were injured in the blast, which has been taken to a nearby hospital. The blast occurred at about 1.05 pm (0955 GMT) at a residential neighbourhood in central Baghdad, said the witnesses, without giving more details.

On Thursday, at least three Iraqi policemen and seven civilians were killed and some 40 others wounded when a suspected car bomb exploded near the main police building in Haditha northwest of Baghdad.

The blast damaged a municipal building, a bank and some shops surrounding the area.

Guerrillas in Iraq have launched one after another bomb attacks on US forces as well as Iraqi police and civilians who are being accused of collaborating with the occupation of the country. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese leader on China-ASEAN free trade area

BEIJING, 17 July — A senior Chinese leader said here Friday that the formation of a free trade area between China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) offers an important channel for both sides to enhance cooperation, promote development and create a win-win situation.

Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), an advisory body, said the plan to set up the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area is a major decision made by the Chinese and ASEAN governments from a long-term and strategic viewpoint.

Addressing representatives who attended the ongoing third forum of the Chinese people around the world, Jia said that the setup of the Free Trade Area (FTA) will provide great opportunities for overseas Chinese in ASEAN nations and elsewhere in the world.

Jia described the 20 million overseas Chinese living in ASEAN nations as an important bridge between China and those countries for economic cooperation and friendly exchanges.

He called on the overseas Chinese to push forward the cooperative relations, complement and help China and their countries of residence, and create a free and fair trade environment.

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Apart from the hostage crisis, the Philippines and Malaysia also vowed to pursue the peace talks between the Philippine administration and the rebel group Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Albar said that the peace talks would proceed once the terms of reference for the deployment of an international peace monitoring team to the southern islands of Mindanao, where the MILF’s base lies, is finalized.

“Malaysia fully supports the initiatives of the Philippine Government and the MILF to create a conducive environment for peace talks to be held between the two sides,” Albar said.

On the other hand, the Philippine counterpart, Delia Albert, thanked the Malaysian Government for providing assistance to the Philippines by serving as facilitator of peace talks with the MILF.

Malaysian FM defends Philippine troops pullout decision

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30 persons feared drowned as boat capsizes in east India

NEW DELHI, 17 July — At least 30 people were feared drowned Thursday when their boat capsized on Sitamari-Muzaffarpur Road in flood-hit Muzaffarpur District of Bihar State in East India.

The boat carrying about 50 persons capsized due to overcrowding in the Bagmati River on way to Sitamari, the Press Trust of India quoted local official sources as saying.

While around 20 persons either swam to safety or were rescued by the locals, 30 were feared to have met their watery grave.

UNSC urges moves to improve security in Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS, 17 July — The UN Security Council has called on Afghanistan’s authorities to make decisive moves to secure the country for the scheduled presidential poll on October 9 and parliamentary elections next April.

In a presidential statement issued Thursday after an open meeting, Council president Mhneeta Motoc said the Council urged Afghanistan to accelerate the disarmament of combatants, strengthen the country’s Army and police and do more to cut opium production.

Describing the elections as “a new milestone in the process of constructing a democratic, stable and prosperous Afghanistan”, the Council said the remaining time before the polls must be used to ensure they are free and fair.

A US soldier looks on while another washes a humvee stained with blood in camp Saint Michael after it was hit by a roadside bomb in Mahmudiyah, some 60kms south of Baghdad recently. — INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua
Communication facilities serving the interests of the people

To disseminate knowledge to the rural public, TV retransmission station was built in Konggyan region of Shan State (North). — MYANMA ALIN

A post office built in Alon Station of Monywa District for the convenience of local people. — MYANMA ALIN

Microwave Station in Loikaw serves the people for their convenience in communication. — MDA

For the convenience of rural people, the government is making all-out efforts to improve the communication system. Photo shows the telephone exchange built in Swa, Yedasse Township, Bago Division. — IPRD

TV retransmission station in Kyaunggon, Ayeyawady Division helps raise the knowledge of local people. KHYIM MOUN WIN (KYEMON)
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe arrive in Beijing on official visit to China

YANGON, 18 July — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, accompanied by members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo and wife Daw Khin Lay Myint and members on 11 July left Yangon International Airport on an official visit to the People’s Republic of China at the invitation of Premier Wen Jiabao of the State Council of the PRC. The Prime Minister and party arrived at Kunming International Airport in Yunnan Province at 11 am local time.

The Prime Minister and wife and members of the delegation were welcomed by Governor of Yunnan Province Mr Xu Rong Kai, Vice-Governor Mr Shao Qiwei, departmental officials, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thein Lwin, Military Attaché Col Sein George, Consul-General in Kunming U Thein Zaw and wife and families.

The Prime Minister and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe stopped over at the airport lounge and cordially met Governor Mr Xu Rong Kai.

The Prime Minister and party left Kunming and arrived at the Capital International Airport in Beijing at 3.15 pm local time. They were welcomed at the airport by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the PRC Mr Wang Yi, members of welcoming party led by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and wife, staff of Myanmar Embassy and the office of military attaché. The Prime Minister and party went to Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing where they would be staying. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe being welcomed by Chinese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Wang Yi and officials at Beijing International Airport. — MNA

Staff of Myanmar Embassy welcome Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe at Beijing International Airport. — MNA

A boy of Myanmar Embassy presents a bouquet to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at Beijing International Airport. — MNA

A girl of Myanmar Embassy presents a bouquet to Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe at Beijing International Airport. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe being welcomed by Yunnan Province Governor Mr Xu Rong Kai and officials at Kunming International Airport. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe cordially converse with Yunnan Province Governor Mr Xu Rong Kai and officials at Kunming International Airport. — MNA

A boy presents a bouquet to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at Kunming International Airport. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party being welcomed by the Myanmar Ambassador, staff and families at Kunming International Airport. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party arrived in Beijing on official visit to China

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe arrive in Beijing on official visit to China
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe pay official visit to the People’s Republic of China

Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao greets Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe at the welcoming ceremony.— MNA

Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao presents Chinese officials to Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.— MNA

Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents his entourage to Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao.— MNA

Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe being welcomed by Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao at the dinner.— MNA

Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao hosts dinner in honour of Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao inspect the Guard of Honour.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao meet at the Great Hall of the People.— MNA
Deputy Minister for Finance & Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and Chairman and President of Export-Import Bank of China Mr Yang Zilin sign Agreement on Financing Plan for No 4 Urea Fertilizer Factory at Taikkyi.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and President of the Ministry of Finance & Revenue of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, ministers, deputy ministers, the Myanmar Ambassador to China and heads of department. Premier of the PRC Mr Wen Jiabao, ministers, deputy ministers, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar and high-ranking officials.

First, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and Vice Minister of Commerce Mr Yu Guangshou signed the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation, Exchange of Notes on Master Plan for Hydropower Projects in Myanmar, Exchange of Notes on Project of International Convention Centre, Exchange of Notes on Hydropower Projects in Myanmar, and Exchange of Notes for provision and shipment of rails for the Myanmar Government and exchanged the documents.

Next, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Minister of Information Industry of the People’s Republic of China signed the Agreement on Information Industry Study Agreement between No 3 Mining Enterprise and ZTE Corporation and exchanged the notes.

PRC Premier Mr Wen Jiabao welcomes ...

China wants the two countries to further maintain efforts to deepen friendship through exchange of visits by both leaders of the two countries; that China will provide all kinds of help to the best of her ability for economic development in Myanmar; and that the two countries will take measures to promote exchange in every sector under bilateral coordination.

A ceremony to sign Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding and Exchange of Notes were held after discussions between the two Prime Ministers at He Bei Hall of the Great Hall of the People.

Present on the occasion were Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, ministers, deputy ministers, the Myanmar Ambassador to China and heads of department. Premier of the PRC Mr Wen Jiabao, ministers, deputy ministers, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar and high-ranking officials.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of China Mr Yang Zilin signed the Agreement on the Financing Plan for No 4 Urea Fertilizer Factory at Taikkyi between the Export-Import Bank of China and the Ministry of Finance & Revenue of the Union of Myanmar and exchanged the documents.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and President of China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation Mr Tang Ruoxin signed the Debt Rescheduling Agreement in the presence of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao.

Deputy Minister for F & R Col Hla Thein Swe and Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Mr Yu Guangshou signed the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation, Exchange of Notes on Project of International Convention Centre, Exchange of Notes on Hydropower Projects in Myanmar, Exchange of Notes on Master Plan for Thanlyin-Kyauktan Industrial Zone and Exchange of Notes on the provision and shipment of rails.

Deputy Minister for Finance & Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and Chairman and President of Export-Import Bank of China Mr Yang Zilin signed the MoU between Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs of Myanmar and Ministry of Information Industry of China in the field of Information and Communications.

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General Manager U Tha Oo of Myanmar Posts and Telegraphs and Chairman of ZTE Corporation Mr Hou Weigui signed the Supply Contract for Myanmar National Telecommunication Network Construction Project between Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and ZTE Corporation and exchanged the notes.

Managing Director U Khin Oo of Myanmar Gems Enterprise and President of China Non-ferrous Metal Mining & Construction Co Ltd Mr Zhang Jian signed the Tagaung Taung Nickle Mineral Exploration and Feasibility Study Agreement between No 3 Mining Enterprise and China Non-ferrous Metal Mining & Construction Co Ltd and exchanged the notes.

Director-General U Kyaw Myint of Directorate of Industries and Chairman of China Metallurgical Construction (Group) Corporation Mr Yang Changheng signed the MoU between the Ministry of Industry-1 of the Union of Myanmar and China Metallurgical Construction (Group) Corporation for Extension of 200 TPD Pulp Plant (Thabhaung) and Proposed 500 TPD Plant (Rakhine) and exchanged the notes.

PRC Premier Mr Wen Jiabao hosted a dinner in honour of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and delegation members at the western hall of the Great Hall of the People in Beijing at 7:30 pm.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo and wife, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the Myanmar Ambassador to PRC and heads of department. Premier of the PRC Mr Wen Jiabao, ministers, deputy ministers, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar and high-ranking officials.

After the dinner, the Myanmar delegation arrived back at Diaoyutai State Guest House.
Foundation laid for construction of Mt Popa Tower in Kandawgyi Gardens

YANGON, 18 July — The foundation-laying ceremony for construction of Mt Popa Tower was held in the Central Forest Zone (Elephant Hill) in Kandawgyi Gardens this morning. Chairman of the Work Committee for All-round Upgrading of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens Min Kyaw Maung, Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin attended it and laid the foundation.

Also present on the occasion were YCDC Vice-Chairman Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Secretary Col Myint Aung and committee members, military region commanders, Yangon East District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein and officials. Situated on a 130-foot Elephant Hill in the Central Forest Zone in Kandawgyi Gardens, Mt Popa Tower will be 99 feet in height. The tower with five decks will be equipped with two elevators and spiral staircase. The tower is being built by the Engineering Department of YCDC.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Monday, 19 July, 2004  11

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 of a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint attends the 15th World AIDS Conference. — MNA

Health Minister arrives back from World AIDS Conference

YANGON, 18 July — Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint arrived in Bangkok on 10 July to attend the second Health Ministers’ Meeting of Asia and the Pacific Region countries and the 15th World AIDS Conference.

The opening ceremony of the second Health Ministers’ Meeting of Asia and the Pacific Region countries was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand on 12 July. The Thai Prime Minister and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan delivered opening speeches.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint explained anti-AIDS activities in Myanmar, implementation of the tasks in cooperation with the people and non-governmental organizations, cares for AIDS patients, use of condom, preventive measures, wide education among the people and the government’s combating against AIDS as a national task.

The ministers approved the resolutions of the meeting.

On 11 July, the opening of the 15th World AIDS Conference was held at Impact Arena at 7 pm. Minister Dr Kyaw Myint attended it.

On 12 July, the minister attended the paper submitting session and observed blood-checking devices and medicines at the booths of UN Agencies and NGOs. He also observed discussions on cooperation with religious organizations in the fight against AIDS on 13 July.

On 14 July, the minister observed posters of international organizations, anti-AIDS tasks in Ghana, Indonesia and Swaziland by UN Agencies and NGOs. STD Project Manager Dr Min Thwe of Health Department of Myanmar took part in the discussions.

On 15 July, the minister visited small booths of ASEAN countries. He met Mr Tom Hurley of AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculous Control Fund and Resident Representative of UNDP Mr Charles Petri and discussed matters of accepting fund for combating tasks on AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis through UNDP and implementation of them.

In the evening, the minister met with Mr Jean-Marc of Francois Ragnaud Xavier (FBX) and discussed matters on raising the momentum in AIDS control activities.

The closing ceremony of the 15th World AIDS Conference was held on 16 July evening. The Myanmar delegation headed by Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint arrived back here on 17 July evening. The minister and party were welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung. Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, officials and WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borra.
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US utility loses track of spent nuclear fuel

LO S ANGELES , 1 7 July— Pacific Gas Electric said on Friday that it has lost track of three pieces of spent nuclear fuel it last used in the late 1960s, although the utility said there was no threat to public safety.

The San Francisco-based utility, a unit of PGE’s corp, said the nuclear fuel was from the now closed Humboldt Bay nuclear plant near Eureka in northern California.

Pacific Gas Electric said there was a discrepancy in its records related to the movement of the used nuclear fuel more than 34 years ago.

The used nuclear fuel consisted of three, half-inch-diameter by 18-inch-long segments, weighing a total of about four pounds, which were cut from a single, seven-foot fuel rod in 1968.

You could use that kind of material for a dirty bomb but it was probably lost long before 9/11 and they are just now accounting for it,” said David Lochbaum, nuclear safety engineer for the Union of Concerned Scientists, an environmental advocacy group.

“It is likely it was mistaken for something else and shipped off-site. It is not likely that someone took it off-site either maliciously or inadvertently,” he added, noting it may have been removed during a site clean-up some years ago.

None of the 13 women students were hurt in the crash, a statement by the Israeli Foreign Ministry said. The students were from New York City’s Hunter College.

“Two weeks ago, 1,400 tons of food supplies were provided to Darfur’s eastern region, according to Redmond. No humanitarian corridor has been established by the Sudanese Government to lift restrictions on humanitarian aid into Darfur, according to Redmond. At a briefing.

Fighting between Sudanese rebels and government forces in Darfur has left at least 5,000 people injured and 100 dead in the last five days with the deluge.

Visits between Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen and Chairman of Chinese National People’s Congress Standing Committee Wu Bangguo laid a solid foundation for the future cooperation with the Chinese side,” said Li.

Chinese Communist Party (CCP) officials met with their Danish counterparts on Friday in Beijing.

Senior Chinese party official meets Danish guest

BEIJING , 1 7 July— China is committed to furthering China-Denmark ties, vowed a senior Chinese party official here Friday.

Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remark when a standing meeting of the Danish Social Democratic Party delegation headed by the party’s chairman Mogens Lykketoft.

Li said China values its relationship with Denmark and hopes that ties could be further improved in a spirit of mutual respect and seeking common ground in differences.

Li pledged that the CPC is willing to strengthen communication and cooperation and promote mutual understanding and friendship with various Danish parties, including the Social Democratic Party.

Lykketoft expressed agreement with Li’s views on the current bilateral ties between the two nations and two parties.

He said that Denmark is one of the first countries to recognize the People’s Republic of China and the two nations have remained in close contact since a long time ago.

Danish Social Democratic Party is willing to expand exchanges and communication with the CPC, Lykketoft said.

Meeting held to promote sales of CPC-published newspapers

SHANGHAI, 1 7 July— An on-the-spot meeting was held Friday in Shanghai by the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Post Bureau, aiming to promote sales of CPC-published newspapers.

According to the meeting, a series of newspapers published by the CPC’s departments, such as People’s Daily, have been put on ordinary newsstands nationwide since June in an effort to intensify Party newspapers’ influence in society and to further spread advanced culture. Previously, CPC-published newspapers were only available within the Party and the state-owned units.

The meeting required the CPC publicity departments at all levels and postal bureaus at different places to do their best to promote the sales of Party-published newspapers.

Participants to the meeting held that joining market competition will help journalists and editors better understand ordinary Chinese people’s opinions and requirements for Party-published newspapers and force journalists to further go down to the grassroots life and write articles close to ordinary people’s lives.

Flamingos pictured in Fuente de Piedra, Spain. More than 10,000 flamingoes have died at Tanzania’s Lake Manyara National Park and rangers are not sure why. —INTERNET

Chopper crash adds misery to South Asia flood chaos

PATNA (India), 17 July— A helicopter carrying more than a dozen Indian medical students crashes-landed on Friday in a submerged field after taking off from a flooded hostel.

None of the 13 women students were hurt in the crash, a statement by the Israeli Foreign Ministry said. The students were from New York City’s Hunter College.
Hong Kong braces as storm rushes near China coast

Hong Kong, 17 July — Millions of people in Hong Kong rushed home on Friday, schools shut and most offices closed as tropical storm Kompasu swept towards the South China coast.

Phone lines were jammed as worried parents tried to arrange transport for their children and stores were filled with people stocking up on food and water.

By midday, the centre of the storm was about 37 miles southeast of Hong Kong moving northwest or west-northwest at about 20 kilometres per hour. Maximum wind speeds near the centre were estimated at 75 kph.

The Hong Kong Observatory issued signal No 8 — the city’s third-highest storm warning — indicating that winds of 39-73 mph were expected and prompting the closure of schools, financial markets and most businesses.

Kompasu, which means ‘compass’ in Japanese, will be very close to Hong Kong in the afternoon and bring gale force winds, the Observatory said.

Cathay Pacific Airways, Hong Kong’s largest carrier, said services across the region were disrupted as of midday but most ferry services in the port city were expected to stop in the afternoon. — MNA/Reuters

First juvenile science technology exposition in China

Beijing, 17 July — Chinese youngsters received free access to the country’s first juvenile science and technology exposition which opens Friday in Beijing.

The 2004 Beijing Juvenile Science and Technology Future, designed to enrich young-sters’ life during summer break and raise their interests in modern science and technology, will feature a theme “Youth; Science and Technology and Future”, is designed to enrich young-sters’ life during summer break and raise their interests in modern science and technology. — MNA/Xinhua

Art curiosities produced to commemorate 100th birthday of Deng

Shanghai, 17 July — To mark the 100th birthday of Deng Xiaoping, a set of art curiosities, consisting of a gold book, silver chopsticks, bronze mirror and a flat jade piece, made its debut in Shanghai on Friday.

These art curiosities are carved with inscriptions highlighting Deng’s outstanding achievements, thought and the air of a great master.

August 22 this year marks the 100th birthday of Deng, who launched China’s reform and opening-up drive in the late 1970s. Only 500 sets of the art curiosities will be produced.

Also on Friday, a golden sheet titled “Great man Deng Xiaoping” made its debut in Shanghai. Only 5,000 such golden sheets will be produced.

Forest fires threaten Canadian Gold Rush town

Calgary (Alberta), 17 July — Forest fires have nearly surrounded Dawson City, Yukon, hub of Canada’s Klondike Gold Rush more than a century ago, prompting officials to go on an evacuation plan, a government spokesman said on Friday.

The blazes, ranging in size from 23 to 330 square miles, are still a safe distance from the historic town, but dense smoke is believed to be the only thing slowing their advance, Yukon public information officer Michael Hale said.

“We’ve been working on an evacuation plan but the fire doesn’t present imminent risk to Dawson at the moment. It’s just doing the necessary work at this point,” Hale said.

The closest blaze was about 9 miles from town, but the smoke, which has blanketed the area for the past two days amid hot, dry weather, was hampering efforts to gauge the size and movement of the fires.

“We haven’t been able to get any planes off the ground and we’re only two helicopters off the ground each day out of a total of nine,” he said.

Dawson City, 334 miles northwest of the territorial capital Whitehorse, is home to about 2,000 people. — MNA/Reuters

Study finds American diet too heavy on meat

Washington, 17 July — Despite warnings from the government, health groups and doctors, more than 70 per cent of Americans still eat too much meat and fat and too few vegetables, cancer researchers said on Thursday.

They published a study showing 72 per cent of Americans still centered their meals around animal fats, leaving little room for the vegetables that prevent not only cancer but heart disease and perhaps a range of other diseases, too.

“Every time we sit down to a meal we are presented with a fresh opportunity to eat our ‘vegetarian’ defences,” said Melanie Polk of the American Institute for Cancer Research.

“Today, the overwhelm-

Global sales of personal computers grew at a stronger-than-expected pace of 13 per cent to 15 per cent in the second quarter, two market research firms said. — Reuters

US nuclear lab temporarily halts classified work

San Francisco, 17 July — The Los Alamos National Laboratory, a key US centre for nuclear weapons research, has temporarily closed all classified areas after vital data was reported missing last week from a research area, lab officials said on Thursday.

Such a precaution at Los Alamos, the New Mexico birthplace of the first atomic bomb during World War II, has not occurred in recent memory, lab officials said, highlighting the seriousness of the breach.

The lab said it learned of missing data storage discs on July 7 during an inventory check. At a news conference, the lab director and other officials declined to detail the nature of the data, citing national security concerns.

“Until such time as we are confident that we are address-

Global trade talks making progress

Kuala Lumpur, 17 July — Nations are moving closer to a global trade deal although divisive issues remain to be resolved, Malaysian Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz said on Friday.

“Things have moved for-

Santana Lopes sworn in as Portugal PM

Lisbon, 18 July — Conservative Pedro Santana Lopes was sworn in as Portugal’s Prime Minister on Saturday and vowed to pursue a voter- friendly economic course aimed at reducing government debt and attracting foreign investment.

“Rigour is the only possible course. We know that the task we face is going to be difficult,” said Santana Lopes, head of the ruling Social Democratic Party (PSD). — MNA/Reuters
Levante rule out Zagorakis signing

MADRID, 17 July — Newly promoted Spanish side Levante have called off talks to sign Greek captain Theodoros Zagorakis and blamed the failure of the negotiations on the player's agents.

"The talks to sign Zagorakis have broken down because of a lack of seriousness and professionalism on the part of the player's representatives," the Primera Liga club said on its website on Thursday.

Zagorakis, named player of the tournament at Euro 2004 after leading his country to a shock victory over Portugal in the final, was released from his contract with debt-laden AEK Athens on Wednesday.

The 32-year-old former Leicester City midfielder had also been linked with a move to Italian club Bologna.

Levante, comfortable winners of the second division title, have recruited Ireland left back Ian Harte from Leeds United and Swedish defender Johan Mjallby from Celtic as they prepare for their first season in the Primera Liga for 39 years.

MNA/Reuters

Spain to face France in friendly

GLASGOW, 17 July — Scotland have arranged an away friendly against Spain less than a week before their opening 2006 World Cup qualifier with Slovenia in September.

The match has been provisionally scheduled for September 3 at the home of newly-promoted Spanish First Division side Levante in Valencia, the Scottish FA said on Friday.

The Scots — who have not qualified for a major tournament since the 1998 World Cup finals in France — last faced Spain 16 years ago when they drew 0-0 in a friendly in Madrid.

Berti Vogts' side also have a home friendly against Hungary on August 18 before they host Slovenia at Glasgow's Hampden Park on September 8.

Scotland's other rivals in qualifying Group Five include Italy, Norway, Belarus and Moldova.

MNA/Reuters

Ex-world chess champion Fischer detained in Japan

Tokyo, 17 July — Former world chess champion Bobby Fischer, the only US citizen to ever hold the title, has been detained in Japan by immigration authorities, officials said on Friday.

A brilliant but volatile player, Fischer became world champion in 1972 after beating Boris Spasky of the then-Soviet Union in a match considered something of a Cold War propaganda victory for the United States.

Fischer, 61, was taken into custody on Wednesday on suspicion of holding an invalid passport when he tried to leave from Tokyo's Narita Airport for the Philippines, Kyodo News agency said, quoting Japanese chess officials.

It said immigration officials were investigating how Fischer entered Japan and planned to deport him soon. A spokesman for the Immigration Department said he would give details.

Fischer's victory over Spasky in what was billed as the "Match of the Century", held in Reykjavik, Iceland, in 1972 brought chess tremendously in the United States and made him an instant celebrity.

A number of the games were even broadcast on television, with his win regarded as a propaganda victory because chess had been dominated by the Soviets since World War Two.

In 1975 he resigned his title after demanding a number of strict conditions for a match against Anatoly Karpov, also of the then-Soviet Union. Chess officials refused to accept Fischer's demands, and Karpov became champion by default.

Fischer then disappeared from sight until 1992, when he played in a match in Yugoslavia, a move that brought him into conflict with US authorities since economic sanctions against Yugoslavia were in force.

He again dropped out of sight, although Kyodo said he was discovered living in Japan in 2001 by a Japanese chess player.

Migration Department at Narita confirmed Fischer had been detained but declined to give details.

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MNA/Reuters

Spanish fan owes Beckham a favour for penalty miss

MADRID, 17 July — The Spanish football fan who claimed the ball that David Beckham launched into the stands during England's Euro 2004 penalty shootout was still seeking repayment of a favour.

"His error is going to help me realize some of the dreams that I've had for many years," Pablo Carral told Spanish sports daily AS on Friday.

"I thought he'd score for sure and couldn't believe it when the ball came towards me. Was I to know he was going to take the penalty like a rugby conversion?"

"I don't know why people criticize him so much because he seems like a good bloke to me. If I get to meet him in a bar I'll certainly pay for the round."

Carral, a 25-year-old Deporvivo Coruna fan, has put the ball up for sale on the Spanish site of Internet auctioneers eBay (www.es.ebay.com), where it has attracted a top bid of close to 24,000 euros (29,640 US dollars).

At one stage the ball, which Carral caught while sitting in Row Q of the Luz stadium in Lisbon, had reached the astronomical price of 10 million euros but the bid was found to be fake after security checks.

"For a while I believed it," said Carral. "I saw myself buying beers for all my friends and then travelling around the world, but I'm not going to complain as I now have an offer of 24,000 euros. I've still got until July 22 for that sum to triple and I'm not going to come out of it too badly." — MNA/Reuters

China's striker dropped before Asian Cup

BEIJING, 17 July — China coach Arie Haan has dropped bad-boy striker Zhang Yuning on the eve of the Asian Cup, accusing him of having a poor attitude.

Hosts China take on Bahrain in the opening match in Beijing on Saturday with Li Yi new likely to start alongside Hao Haidong in attack.

"In four or five weeks Zhang has done three or four days training," Haan said on Friday.

"His attitude in training has become bad. He does not work for the team — only for himself. I don't want players like that."

While a crowd favourite in China, Zhanghai Shenhua forward Zhang has earned a reputation for squabbling with coaches.

Haan, who reached two World Cup finals with the Netherlands in the 1970s, insisted he had no room for prima donnas.

"Zhang acts like a star, but he has not trained enough to play in this squad."

Haan vowed, however, that China were still capable of lifting the Asian Cup for the first time.

"This is a very hardworking team and we are ready," said the Dutchman. "We will do everything possible to go as far as possible.

We have to believe that we can win."

But Haan acknowledged there was enormous pressure on the Chinese team playing in front of an expectant public.

"We are at home so of course there is a lot of pressure. It is better we don't talk about it." he said. "I hope the Chinese fans can be the 12th man for us. But I ask that they be a little patient. All that you want, most of the time you don't get it — so be careful."

Qatar and Indonesia, also drawn alongside China and Bahrain in Group A, play on Sunday.

The tournament runs until August 7.

MNA/Reuters

Tommy Haas, of Germany, returns a ball at the Mercedes-Benz Cup at the Los Angeles Tennis Center in Los Angeles on Thursday, 15 July, 2004. Haas defeated Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark, 6-2, 6-4. — infrared

Cole aims to repay debt to Mourinho

WEST DRAYTON (England), 17 July — Chelsea midfielder Joe Cole says he is determined to repay the trust Jose Mourinho has shown in him by helping his side to trophy success next season.

Cole, whose ball skills have been admired since he was a teenager, believes Mourinho already has more faith in him than either his Chelsea predecessor Claudio Ranieri or England boss Sven-Goran Eriksson.

"I can and impress the manager.

"It's always nice to have a manager who trusts you. I just want to repay him with some good performances and help the team to be successful.

"Mourinho's act of faith was made in Manchester last month when the two men met during England's warm-up matches for Euro 2004.

"I was told my position was secure, while sitting in Row Q of the Luz stadium in Lisbon, had reached the astronomical price of 10 million euros but the bid was found to be fake after security checks.

"For a while I believed it," said Carral. "I saw myself buying beers for all my friends and then travelling around the world, but I'm not going to complain as I now have an offer of 24,000 euros. I've still got until July 22 for that sum to triple and I'm not going to come out of it too badly."

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MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters
Monday, July 19

Tune in today:

8:30 am  Radio Myanmar Modern Music Trope
6:05 pm  National Spirit
6:15 pm  Discovery
11:30 pm  Jagatjajalitta

Programme:

8:45 am  Songs of Myanmar
  9. Let’s go
  4:00 pm  1. Martyr song
  4:15 pm  2. Songs to uphold
  National Spirit
  4:30 pm  3. Practice in reading
  4:45 pm  4. Musical programme
  5:00 pm  5. လက်ခံနှင့် ကျင်းပ- (အုတ်)
  5:15 pm  6. Dance variety
  5:30 pm  7. ပြုလုပ်မှုများ (ကျင်းပ)
  5:45 pm  8. Song and dance of
  national races
  5:50 pm  9. Musical programme (The
  Radio Myanmar Modern
  Music Trope)
  6:05 pm  10. Discovery
  6:15 pm  National Spirit
  6:30 pm  12. Evening news
  7:00 pm  13. Weather report
  7:05 pm  14. Industrial achievement
  7:15 pm  15. Musical programme
  7:30 pm  16. ကျင်းပများ
  8:00 pm  17. News
  8:15 pm  18. International news
  8:20 pm  19. Weather report
  8:25 pm  20. နိုင်ငံကြီး
  8:30 pm  21. The next day’s
  programme
  9.10 am  Recitation of Parittas by
  Missionary Sayadaw U
  Ottamathara
  7:25 am  2. To be healthy exercise
  7:30 am  Morning news
  7:40 am  4. Nice and sweet song
  7:55 am  5. Songs of national races
  8:10 am  6. Cute little dancers
  8:20 am  7. မြို့နှင့်ခြောက် (၇)
  8:30 am  8. International news

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WEATHER

Sunday, 18 July, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST; During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions and Kayah State. Rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Manda- lay Division, Shan and Chin States scattered to widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were 260 mm (10.2 inches) and Kyauktaw (189 inches).

Maximum temperature on 17-7-2004 was 23°C (73°F). Minimum temperature on 17-7-2004 was 21°C (70°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18-7-2004 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 17-7-2004 was 3 hours approx. Rain- fall on 18-7-2004 was (0.08 inch) at Yangon Airport, (0.12 inch) at Kaba-Aye and (0.67 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1449 mm (57.05 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1400 mm (55.12 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1400 mm (55.35 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from West at 6:30 hours MST on 17-7-2004.

Bay influence: Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 19-7-2004: Rain or thunder showers will be widespread in upper Sagaing Division, Kachin, Chin, Shan and Rakhine States, scattered in Kayah and Mon States, Mandalay, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain in Southern Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-7-2004: One or two rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (100%). Forcast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19- 7-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Flood Warning

( Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 18-7-2004)

The Ayeyawady River water level at Myitkyina, Bharo and Katha may rise 80 cm (2.5 ft), 100 cm (3.0 ft) and 30 cm (1.0 ft) and reach their respective danger levels 1200 cm, 1150 cm and 1040 cm within the next 48 hrs commencing noon today.

Flood Bulletin

( Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 18-7-2004)

The Ayeyawady River water level at Mandalay and Sagaing may remain above their respective danger levels of Mandalay 1200 cm and Sagaing 1150 cm during the next 48 hrs commencing noon today. The Chindwin River water level at Moyna may remain above its danger level of 1000 cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  Monday, July 19, 2004  15
PRC Premier Mr Wen Jiabao welcomes Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe
Two Prime Ministers discuss mutual interest matters

YANGON, 18 July — A ceremony to welcome Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe by Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China Mr Wen Jiabao was held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing at 5 pm on 12 July.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe arrived at the Great Hall of the People from Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing in a motorcade to attend the welcoming ceremony. They were welcomed there by Premier of the People’s Republic of China Mr Wen Jiabao.

Next, the Chinese Premier presented ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. Similarly, General Khin Nyunt presented Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt.-Gen Maung Bo and other Myanmar delegation members to the Chinese Premier.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao took the salute of the Guard of Honour. At that time, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was accorded a 19-gun salute. Next, the State Band played national anthems of the two countries.

After inspecting the Guard of Honour, General Khin Nyunt and the Chinese Premier took the places on the dais. Next, the two Prime Ministers took the salute of the Guard of Honour.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met PRC Premier Mr Wen Jiabao at the Great Hall of the People. Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt.-Gen Maung Bo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and Myanmar Ambassador to PRC U Thein Lwin. The Chinese Premier was accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Li Zhaoxiong, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Wang Yi and high-ranking officials.

At 6 pm, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and PRC Premier Mr Wen Jiabao held a discussion at the eastern hall of the Great Hall of the People.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt.-Gen Maung Bo, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj.-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Mines Brig.-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Transport Maj.-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig.-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig.-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Electric Power Maj.-Gen Tin Hlut, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj.-Gen Aung Min, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj.-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Li-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Myanmar Ambassador U Thein Lwin, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Fe Nyein, Director-General U Soe Tun of the Prime Minister’s Office and departmental heads.

Present on the occasion together with Premier Mr Wen Jiabao were Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Li Zhaoxiong, Minister of Communications Mr Zhang Chunxiang, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Wang Yi, Vice-Minister of Commerce Mr Yu Guangzhou and high-ranking officials.

In his discussion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and China is encouraging; that efforts have been made for further strengthening friendship and economic cooperation between the two countries and cooperation in all sectors; that Myanmar wants to cooperate with China on a mutually beneficial basis in energy, mining, hydel power, agriculture, communication, industrial and trade investment sectors for boosting economic cooperation between the two countries; that there are many fields to invest in agriculture, industrial, oil, natural gas, mining and forestry sectors of Myanmar; that he thanked China for providing assistance for economic development; that Myanmar and China have been cooperating in international affairs; that Myanmar has pledged to adopt One China Policy in the international sphere; that there have been no problems although the two nations share a long border; that the two nations are cooperating in the fight against drugs and in preventing and exposing crimes in border areas; and that Myanmar donated two jade Buddha images to be kept at the Tooth Relic Pagoda; and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt invited the Premier of China to pay a visit to Myanmar.

In his response, Premier Mr Wen Jiabao said that he expressed his thanks for the invitation to Myanmar; that he would pay a visit to Myanmar at opportune time; that the People’s Republic of China will pay attention to Myanmar in dealing with neighbouring countries; that he thanked Myanmar for her support to One China Policy; that China wants to promote cooperation in energy, mineral, communication, agriculture and forestry sectors; that China has been providing assistance for economic plans in Myanmar; that it is important to make cooperation in border regions between the two countries. (See page 10)