Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Belgium

YANGON, 21 July—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty King Albert II of Belgium, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Belgium, which falls on 21 July 2004.—MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Hubei Province Governor discuss economic cooperation prospects between Myanmar and Hubei Province, especially in hydel power projects based on mutual interest

PM General Khin Nyunt visits world famous Three Gorges Dam

YANGON, 20 July—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and Myanmar goodwill delegation left Beijing by special flight for Yichang in Hubei Province on 13 July evening. They were accompanied by Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and wife, officials of the PRC Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador of Myanmar to China U Thein Lwin and wife and Military Attaché Col Sein George and wife. On arrival at the Yichang International Airport at 8 pm, they were welcomed by Yichang Mayor Mr Guo Youming, high level officials of Yichang and Hubei Province and the welcoming party. They took a rest at Taohualing Hotel, where they would temporary stay. Accompanied by Yichang Mayor Mr Guo Youming, they left the hotel for Three Gorges Dam Exhibition Centre in Hubei Province at 9 am on 14 July by car. They were welcomed by General Manager Mr Li Yongan of China Yangtze Three Gorges Project Development Corporation and officials. General Manager Mr Li Yongan reported to the Prime Minister and party on drawing of the design of the Three Gorges Dam Project with advanced techniques by local technicians. The Three Gorges Dam project is the largest dam in the world and will supply electricity to Yichang and Hubei Province and the welcoming party. They took a rest at Taohualing Hotel, where they would temporary stay. Accompanied by...
Towards bilateral cooperation between China and Myanmar

The People’s Republic of China and the Union of Myanmar established diplomatic ties on 5 June, 1950. The two countries share a 2210-kilometre-long common border and the governments and the peoples of the two nations enjoy a long history of friendship, adhering to the policy of mutual respect, equality and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other. Moreover, the two countries have been cooperating in political and cultural fields, especially in economy and trade.

At the invitation of Premier Mr Wen Jiabao of the People’s Republic of China, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe paid an official visit to the People’s Republic of China from 11 to 18 July. During his visit, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt paid a courtesy call on Mr Hu Jintao at the Fujian Hall of the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 13 July.

At the meeting, President Mr Hu Jintao expressed his thanks for Myanmar’s constant support to one-China policy and stressed that the People’s Republic of China would provide assistance for economic progress of Myanmar as much as possible, raise the momentum of bilateral cooperation in every sector. The President also added that China would never interfere in Myanmar’s internal affairs and expressed his pleasure at the Sinu-Myanmar relations which, based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, remained unchanged.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt also called on Mr Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing and they discussed the matters on strengthening Paukphaw friendship between the two nations, enhancing the bilateral cooperation and mutual respect.

Moreover, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met Mr Lou Gan, Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau, at the Hong Kong Hall of the Great Hall of the People and they cordially discussed matters on strengthening mutual friendship and bilateral cooperation, eliminating narcotic drugs and development of border region management system of both nations.

We strongly believe that, as the People’s Republic of China has been providing necessary assistance for economic development of Myanmar, the two nations will enhance mutual understanding and promote bilateral cooperation in various fields.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL C’SHIP CONTINUES

YANGON, 20 July — The 2004 National Basketball Championship sponsored by the Myanmar Basketball Federation and Mikko Co continued at Aung San Gymnasium at 9 am today.

In the men’s junior event, the Bahan BESH-3 team beat the Baho Youth team 33-20 points. In the men’s senior event, the Gar Gar (A) team beat the Industry-1 (A) team 87-39 points. The Navy team beat KKS team 37-34 points.

The Championship continues tomorrow. — MNA

People’s Desire

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

Those who assisted on Myanmar Women’s Day honoured

YANGON, 20 July — A ceremony to honour participants who gave assistance in observing Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July 2004 was held at International Business Centre on Pyay Road here this morning. Present on the occasion were President of Leading Committee for observing Myanmar Women’s Day President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Prof Dr Daw May Myi Dr Daw Khin Lay Thet. Daw Than Than Nwe, Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Prof Dr Daw May Myi, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Than Nwe, Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Prof Dr Daw May Myi and Daw Khin Lay, wife of the minister for Home Affairs, Daw Khin Htay Myint, wife of the minister for Forestry, Daw Khin Htay Myint, wife of the minister for Culture, Daw Aye Aye, wife of the minister for Home Affairs, Daw Khin Htay Myint, wife of the minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Director General of Information and Public Relations Department U Chi Naing and Patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Daw Khin Thein Thet Htay. Afterwards, Vice-President Prof Dr Daw May Myi presented certificates of honour to Piano Thet Htay, Minister for Culture, Daw Aye Aye, wife of the minister for Sports, Daw Khin Aye, wife of the minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Director General of Information and Public Relations Department U Chi Naing and Patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Daw Khin Thein Thet Htay.

CASH DONATION CEREMONY TO BE HELD

YANGON, 20 July — A ceremony to present cash donation for building Myanmar monasteries in Paris, France, presided by French Sayadaw Kyunnathan Ashin Nanda Siri, will be held at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin, Kaba Aye Hill at 10 am on 25 July.

Those wishing to donate may contact Tel:665360 of Deputy Director Daw Aung Kyi of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasa. — MNA

NAVIGATIONAL CAUTION RELEASED

YANGON, 20 July — Water vessels are alerted to the possibility of the danger as incessant rain in this rainy season has caused mountain streams to swell, triggering raging torrents in Kalatan, Chindwin, Ayeyawady and Thanlwin rivers, according to a navigational caution released by the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems. Double-deckers in particular are to make sure their engine’s power and loading capacity are in balance, and to avoid overloading.

They should also avoid going in pair when passing under river-crossing bridges. Moreover, they are to choose the right approach route to the bridge from the safe distance after gauging properly the rate of current and wind speed. — MNA

DONATE BLOOD

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second best time is now.
Death threats haunt Iraq’s outspoken academics

Baghdad, 19 July — Ripping open an envelope containing a small, hard object, Sadoun al-Dalalı discovered the unwanted gift Iraq’s academics have learned to dread: “They sent me a bullet,” he said, describing the letter he received last month. “They said in Arabic: ‘You cost us just one bullet, no more, so shut your mouth.’”

Death threats and assassinations are teaching Iraqi academics to watch what they say. Iraq’s new interim government says 31 university lecturers have been murdered since last year’s US-led invasion and many more have received warnings to keep quiet.

While the motives for the killings vary, academics argue that the climate of fear they create risks stifling voices of moderation needed to help Iraq establish democracy.

“The extremists have very evil plans to control the Iraqi mind,” said Dalalı, a sociologist who returned to Iraq from 17 years of exile after Saddam Hussein was overthrown.

“We don’t need single-minded personalities; we need flexible minds to deal with the situation in Iraq,” he said.

Dalalı believes the threat was sent by militants angered by criticisms he made on the Arabic television channel Al Jazeera of Islamic extremism in the city of Fallujah.

Other groups have also been blamed for intimidation.

Early this year, the head of political studies at Baghdad’s Mustansiriya University, Abdul Lati al-Masih, criticized Saddam loyalists in a television interview.

He was shot dead outside his house the next morning. Colleagues hired extra security. A hulking 22-year-old body builder now stands guard outside the office of one senior academic, a hand-gun hidden discreetly under his shirt. — Internet

Filipino troops complete Iraq pullout

Manila, 19 July — The pullout meets deadline set by captors of a Filipino truck driver. Philippine troops started arriving home from Iraq Monday after the government withdrew the contingent to try to save the life of a Filipino hostage.

The head of the contingent, Brigadier-General Justino Palparan, arrived early on Monday morning on a commercial flight in advance of the remaining 30 troops who are due to return this week.

The withdrawal meets a deadline of 20 July set by captors of Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz. They threatened to kill him unless Manila withdrew from Iraq.

“I am happy to be back,” Palparan told reporters at Manila’s international airport.

An air force official said 10 soldiers who left Iraq Friday had not boarded their scheduled flight from Kuwait to Manila on Monday, but would be home within days.

The remaining 40 troops were due to leave for Kuwait on Monday as announced by the Foreign Ministry on Sunday.

Indian, Pakistani diplomats hold peace talks

Islamabad, 19 July — Top diplomats from Pakistan and India will hold talks on the sidelines of a regional conference to help sustain a tentative peace process between the nuclear-throw. Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan told reporters.

The diplomats are expected to meet on Monday, after a conference of foreign ministers of seven South Asian nations begins on Tuesday to take stock of efforts to launch a free trade area in one of the world’s poorest regions, home to about 1.4 billion people.

Leaders of the South Asia Association for Regional Coopera-
tion (SAARC) agreed in January to launch a free trade area from 2006 to boost regional commerce, which accounts for less than 5 per cent of member states’ global trade.

SAARC’s charter does not cover political issues, but the forum brought together Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and then Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in January for a landmark meeting at which they agreed to revive peace talks. — MNA/Reuters

Container transport route of Japan-China-Vietnam launched

Hanoi, 19 July — The container transport route of Japan-China-Vietnam was launched on Sunday, helping develop trade among the three countries, according to Vietnam News Agency on Sunday.

Under a contract signed by Japanese shipping company NYK and the Quang Ninh Port Authority in northern Vietnam, which manages Cai Lan deepwater port, the first container ship docked at Cai Lan early Sunday after passing through many seaports in the three countries.

Now, three operational quays of Cai Lan are able to receive 40,000-ton ships all day and night. One of the quays houses container-loading equipment which is the largest and the most modern in Vietnam.

The Cai Lan deepwater port, whose annual loading capacity will stand at 17 million tons of cargoes in 2010, is also expected to facilitate transport of goods between Vietnam’s northern economic zone comprising Hanoi capital, Hai Phong city and Quang Ninh Province, other northern localities, Laos’ northern region, and China’s Yunnan Province.

890 US soldiers killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq last year

Baghdad, 19 July — As of Monday, 19 July, 890 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 658 died as a result of hostile action and 232 died of non-hostile causes.

British military helicopter crashes in Iraq, one airman dead

Baghdad, 19 July — The British military said one of its helicopters crashed in a suspected accident in Basra, southern Iraq, on Monday killing one airman and injuring two others.

“A helicopter crashed inside the airstrip in Basra,” said British Major David Steel. Flight Lieutenant Mike Cannon and aircrew member British Major David Steel were injured.

Britain leads a multinational contingent in southern Iraq, which is relatively calmer than the rest of the country.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and US President George Bush participated in a video conference of foreign ministers of seven South Asian nations Friday had not boarded their scheduled flight from Kuwait to Manila on Monday, but would be home within days.

The remaining 40 troops were due to leave for Kuwait on Monday as announced by the Foreign Ministry on Sunday.

Beijing hosts international biology symposium

Beijing, 20 July — About 350 leading global scientists are meeting to discuss academic frontiers in life sciences and biotechnology at the 10th International Symposium of the Society of Chinese Biologists in America (SCBA), which began in Beijing on Monday morning.

The five-day symposium, hosted by the SCBA, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), the Natural Science Foundation of China, the Chinese Academy of Engineering, Beijing University and the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, will focus on genome research, gene therapy, immunity identification, neural system research and new drug development.

Five Nobel laureates, among them David Baltimore, are attending the symposium, which is also joined by dozens of academicians from the CAS or the US National Academy of Sciences. Two Nobel laureates and other well-known biologists are scheduled to deliver speeches at plenary sessions, workshops or roundtable meetings.

A biotechnology exhibition on the latest technologies and products is also organized during the symposium.

Lu Yongxiang, president of the CAS, said at the symposium’s opening that science and technology are among the most powerful engines pushing forward economic development and social advancement.

Scientists achieved great progress in science and technology in the 20th century, he said. New academic frontiers might lead to breakthroughs in the 21st century.

Although rich in biological resources, China’s ecological system has seen continuous deterioration, he said. “We need more biological solutions for bettering our life,” said Lu, who himself is a CAS academician.
Blast kills at least nine in Iraq

Baghdad, 19 July—A suicide bomber has blown up a fuel truck near a Baghdad police station, killing at least nine people, wounding 62 and destroying cars and buildings.

The Baghdad attack was the latest of at least five suicide bombings over the past week aimed at Iraqi police, National Guard or senior members of Iraq’s new government which have killed more than 35 Iraqis in a seemingly accelerated campaign. The Iraq Health Ministry said it had so far recorded nine dead and 62 wounded, but expected its death toll to rise. It said bodies were still being brought to hospitals and boxes of remains had yet to be sifted through.

At the scene of the blast, US Army Lieutenant Colonel Bill Salter said between 10 and 15 people had been killed in an attack he said was probably carried out by a suicide bomber. “We believe it was possi-

bly a fuel-truck type vehicle,” Salter told reporters. Witnesses said they saw a fuel tanker racing towards the police station moments before the explosion. Reuters Television pictures showed flames still lick-

ing the wreckage of burnt-out cars an hour after the blast, and smoke rising from smoul-

dering buildings. Bystanders gathered up the body parts of

death, filling several boxes with remains. In the latest assassina-
tion of senior bureaucrats, Defence Ministry official Issam Jassem Qassem was shot dead outside his home by three gunmen late on Sunday, a ministry spokesman said. A day after a failed attempt on the life of Iraq’s justice minister which killed five bodyguards. — Internet

Egyptian trucker freed in Iraq

Baghdad, 19 July—An Egyptian truck driver, kidnapped in Iraq almost two weeks ago, has been freed, the pan-Arab television station Al-Jazeera reported tonight.

Alsayeid Mohammed Alsayeid, of demands on his Saudi company, including asking for a million dollars ransom and insisting it stop doing business in Iraq.

The company refused the ransom, but agreed to end its business in Iraq. The trucker was taken to the Egyptian Em-
bassy in Baghdad, witnesses said. — Internet

Malian President calls for further cooperation with China

Guangzhou, 19 July—Visiting Malian President Amadou Toure said here Sunday that cotton textile enterprises in south China’s Guangdong Province are welcome to run business in his country.

Toure, who arrived here Sunday afternoon to continue his state visit to China, made the re-
marks in a meeting with Guangdong Provincial Governor Huang Huahua.

Toure expressed his hope that enterprises from Mali and China will enhance cooperation, and that cotton can be directly

exported from Mali to China. The two sides should seek new methods to further promote the economic and trade exchanges, he said.

Huang Huahua briefed the guests on Guangdong’s economic and social situation, noting that Guangdong and Mali have witnessed a rapid development in economic and trade cooperation in recent years, with trade volume between the two sides reaching 16 million US dollars in the first five months of this year, up 220 per cent year-on-year. Guangdong and Mali complement each other in economy, Huang said, add-
ing that Mali’s cotton, cow skin and natural resources are needed by Guangdong, and Guangdong’s motorcycle, electric appliance, and textile goods satisfy Malian consumers’ demand.

Toure’s visit will inject new vitality into the eco-
nomic cooperation between the two sides, Huang said. Guangzhou is the third leg of Toure’s China visit at the invitation of Chinese President Hu Jintao, following Beijing and Shanghai. Toure is scheduled to leave here for home on 20 July. — MNA/Xinhua

Two dead as floods batter western Japan

Tokyo, 19 July—Heavy rains battered part of western Japan on Sunday, sending rivers surging over their banks, causing two deaths and forcing the evacuation of thousands.

Nearly 40,000 households in Fukui Prefecture were urged to evacuate after the area was hit by torrential rains accompanied by thunderstorms and strong winds.

Two people had died in Fukui and one was missing, police said. The number of people dead after torrential rains last week in the northern prefecture of Niigata rose to 15.

Some 284mm (11 inches) of rain fell in parts of Fukui from Saturday evening to Sunday morning, with 120mm (4.7 inches) predicted to fall by midnight, the Meteorological Agency said. — MNA/Reuters

Duty on raw materials affects Bangladesh’s ceramic export

Dhaka, 20 July—Ceramic export from Bangladesh which fetches 28 million US dollars a year, is faced with tough competition following sudden increase of tariff in this year’s national budget.

Major problems of this sector include high rates of bank interest and rising gas and electricity tariffs. The New Nation newspaper reported Monday.

Ceramic exporters would face new difficulties due to the increase of import duty on raw materials in the current fiscal year. Import duty on raw materials has been increased to 15 per cent in the current fiscal from 7.5 per cent during the last fiscal.

Urging the government to declare ce-

eramic a thrust sector, the exporters called for reducing import duty on raw materials. — MNA/Xinhua

An American soldier takes cover behind a concrete barrier as fire belfows from a fuel tanker hit by an air strike in Lutefia, 40 kms south of Baghdad, Iraq, on 18 July, 2004. The multinational force asked Prime Minister Allawi for permission to launch strikes on some specific places. — Internet

Sri Lankan Prime Minister on visit to India

New Delhi, 19 July—Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse is on a three-day visit to India aimed at boosting economic cooperation between the South Asian neighbours, the Indian Government said in a statement on Sunday.

Rajapakse, who arrived in New Delhi late on Saturday, met Indian Finance Minis-

ter Palaniappan Chidambaram during a visit that will include talks on sectors such as energy, agriculture, fisheries and rural infra-

structure.

Economic ties between the two coun-

tries, part of the seven-member South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, have strengthened in recent years.

Relations between India and Sri Lanka are characterized by close political under-

standing, economic relations and expansion and consolidation in other areas of cooperation,” the Indian statement said.

Last year, state-run energy firm Indian

Oil Corp bought 100 petrol stations and a share of storage and pipeline facilities from state-owned Ceylon Petroleum Corp for 75 million US dollars.

The state-owned telecoms carriers of both countries are increasing contacts and reviving microwave links to cut the costs of inter-

national calls.

The statement said India remains com-

mitted to the unity of Sri Lanka and peace between its government and Tamil rebels. India, which has had a long and complex involvement in Sri Lanka, has been a strong supporter of peace efforts to end the coun-

dy’s 21-year-old civil war. — India Today

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visit at the invitation of Chinese President Hu Jintao, following Beijing and Shanghai. Toure is scheduled to leave here for home on 20 July. — MNA/Xinhua

An American soldier and Iraqi police stop traffic as a US military convoy passes through a busy intersection in Baghdad, Iraq, on 13 July, 2004. — Reuters

MNA/Reuters

Iraq senior defence official shot dead in Baghdad

Baghdad, 19 July—A senior official in Iraq’s Defence Ministry was shot dead late yesterday in Baghdad. Agence France-Prese reported, citing a ministry spokesman.

The official was identified as Issam Jassem Kadhem, a director general in the Defence Ministry. AFP reported. He was killed last night at about 10 pm local time by unknown attackers who opened fire on him in the Saydia neighbour-

hood where he lives, spokesman Radhi Bad al-TAFP. The killing took place in the same area where a truck bomb outside a police station killed nine people today. — Internet

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MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters
British Army sanctions hooding Iraqi prisoners

London, 19 July — The routine hooding of Iraqi prisoners was sanctioned by British ministers despite repeated warnings that the practice broke human rights laws, The Independent newspaper reported on Sunday.

According to the paper, British ministers have also admitted for the first time that hooding was banned only because they used to play a direct part in the death of an Iraqi hotel receptionist, who was allegedly killed by British troops last September.

Baha Mousa, son of an Iraqi colonel, was allegedly tortured and beaten along with seven other men who had been arrested at a hotel in the southern Iraqi city of Basra by British troops, the report said.

Five of the men have allegedly been placed two or three hoods over their heads while they were beaten and abused in cells before they were interrogated by an officer who threatened them with further violence if they failed to give him information about an Iraqi fugitive. It also revealed that British Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram admitted last Thursday that Mousa’s death had forced British military commanders in Iraq to issue new orders banning the use of hoods.

British ministers have repeatedly denied that the Army used hooding during interrogation. However, the report said, British officials, intelligence officers and Army commanders were warned on at least three occasions that hooding during questioning was illegal under international law, and also posed a serious risk to detainees’ health.

Polish forces in Iraq to be reduced significantly

Kuwait City, 19 July — Visiting Polish Prime Minister Marek Belka announced in Kuwait on Sunday that the Polish forces serving in Iraq would be significantly reduced starting next year, the Kuwait News Agency reported.

In remarks upon his arrival for a two-day visit to Kuwait, Belka announced that “our decision is to reduce our presence in Iraq significantly as of the beginning of next year”.

“The political process in Iraq is going forward swiftly and decisively and we think the situation will allow us to reduce the size of our contingent as the Iraqis take their business into their own hands,” he added.

The official said that the mandate of the Polish soldiers is to stabilize the situation in Iraq, and part of this task was to train the Iraqi police and the self-defence forces and most importantly the Army.

While in Iraq, Belka met with Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi and renewed his country’s commitment to support the government and people of Iraq.

During his visit in Iraq, he attended also a ceremony to change the commandership of the formerly Polish-led multinational forces in Iraq.

The ceremony was held in the Hilla City, where the Polish forces are based. There are about 2,500 Polish soldiers in Iraq.

Canada plans to issue high-tech passports

Ottawa, 19 July — Canada plans to issue high-tech passports with digital photographs next year, Canadian media said on Sunday.

Dan Kingsbury, a spokesman for the federal Passport Office, said the e-Passport will be distributed on a trial basis to Canadian diplomats sometime in the first half of 2005.

“If the initial implementation goes well, we’ll begin issuing the e-Passport to the general public afterwards,” Kingsbury said.

The project is the latest government initiative to track and control the flow of people across borders more closely following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States.

The government is pushing ahead with the plan despite objections from privacy and information specialists who argue it is unduly intrusive and unlikely to enhance national security.

Peru airlines boost flights for stranded tourists

Lima (Peru), 19 July — Airlines in Peru said on Sunday they would increase their domestic flights to aid thousands of passengers stranded after the government grounded the country’s biggest airline over an insurance dispute.

“Conscious of the emergency situation in the airline industry in Peru: Aerocondor, Atsa, LanPeru, LC Busre, Magenta, Star Up, Taca Peru and Tans have united ... so that those who would use the suspended airline can reach their destinations,” the companies said in a statement.

British Army troops and an Iraqi man view a massive crater left after a suspected car bomb blew up outside a police station in southwest western Baghdad on 19 July, 2004. The bomb killed at least nine people, wounded dozens and left tangled wreckage of burned out cars and destroyed buildings.

MNA/Xinhua

US Army and Iraqi security forces inspect the site of a suicide car bomb attack near a police station in southern Baghdad. The truck bomb blast near a Baghdad police station killed nine people, while the last Philippine soldier left Iraq to save a hostage threatened with beheading and whose fate remains a mystery.

INTERNET
Secretary-1 addresses coord meeting ...

(from page16)

Technicians of the Ministry of Commerce have produced small rice mills that can also be used in the fields, meeting the standard of international level. Therefore, the industrial zones, according to the samples, are to continue producing the devices.

Likewise, priority is to be given to producing small hydel power turbines and small bio-gas powered generators that can generate electricity on a wider scale, which contribute to power supply in rural areas and efforts are to be made for establishing crude palm oil plant and palm oil refinery at home based on extended cultivation of oil palm.

With such great efforts, the industrial sector will make progress beginning 2004-2005 realizing the goals of the State. Afterwards, Secretary of the Committee Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung made a speech. He said that industrial development is a prerequisite for the emergence of a new modern and developed nation. Emphasis is to be placed on agro-based industrial development for ensuring all-round industrial development.

The wider use of machinery in the agricultural sector will contribute to boosting the living standard of farmers saving the cost of agriculture. The industrial zones are required to widely produce farm equipment and equipment for industrial use. In the process, the government has been providing necessary assistance to Mandalay Industrial Zone, Monywa Industrial Zone and Taunggyi (Ayehtaya) Industrial Zone for the emergence of foundries and arrangements have been made for disbursing loans to the industrial zones. The Committee, the Work Committee and reported on requirements for Pakokku industrial zone, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint on Kalay industrial zone and Minister for Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein on Myeik industrial zone. Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khan Maung Kyaw reported on import of parts for iron foundry and forging factories and the arrival of equipment. Minister U Aung Thaung reported on points to be observed in assembling the vehicles in industrial zones in accord with the set rules.

Next, the Secretary-1 gave instructions. He said the Head of State practically gave encouragement to development of industrial sector. The Head of State gave guidance on five points — workmanship, precision, modernization and improvement in quality of production.

By following the guidance of the Head of State the industrial zones will be able to manufacture finished products of higher quality that can penetrate into new markets. It is sure that the industrial sector will develop, he said. He called for efforts for continued progress of the industrial sector. After the meeting, the Secretary-1 and party and rice millers observed foreign-made modern small rice mill, modern small rice mill innovated by Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading and their uses, rice, broken rice, bran, puddles and spare parts. The Secretary-1 presented cash awards to experts of MAPT. — MNA

Letyetsan village in Thanlyin Township gets new school building

YANGON, 20 July — A newly-completed school building was opened this morning at a basic education primary school in Letyetsan village, Thanlyin Township, Yangon South District. The ceremony was attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and Yangon Command/Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yuji Miyamoto, Member of the House of Representatives of Japan wellwisher Mr Toshiaki ENDo and other wellwisher members, Commander of Thanlyin Station Col Maung Oo Lwin, Commander of No 1 Military Region Col Tun Kyi, departmental officials, local authorities, members of NGO social organizations, students, band troupe, pompon troupe and local people.

The ceremony started with the song ‘Myanmar School’ sung in chorus by students. On the occasion, U Than Aung, Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Mr Toshiaki ENDo cut the ribbon to mark the opening of the school. Next, Maj-Gen Myint Swe pressed the button to unveil the bronze inscription of the newly-opened school building.

Maj-Gen Myint Sve together with wellwishers sprinkled the bronze inscription with scented water. The commander, the minister, the mayor, officials and wellwishers viewed the school building.

Mr Toshiaki ENDo explained the purpose of donating the new school building and handed over documents related to the school to Col Aung Myo Min, who presented certificates of honour to seven wellwisher members of the House of Representatives of Japan, U Than Aung, on behalf of the Ministry of Education as well as teachers, students, parents and local populace, expressed his gratitude to the seven wellwisher members of the House of Repre- sentatives of Japan for their donation of the school building. He also said that the school will further forge the friendship between Myanmar and Japan, adding that it will also contribute to the drive to bring about well-educated students who will help shape a modern and developed nation through education. The donation of the school by Japanese wellwishers coincides with the time when education promotion campaigns are being conducted. He continued that the number of basic education schools have now stood at 40,505, and that of universities at 156. The Japanese wellwishers also gave pencils, erasers, exercise books and raincoats to students as presents. Managing Director of ACE Co U Tun Hsan also donated 300 dozens of exercise books. Later, the commander, the minister, the mayor, officials, the wellwishers, teachers and students posed for a group photo in front of the new school, which was built at a cost of US$ 60,000. — MNA
A historical milestone leading the nation to a new age – 4

Aung Moe San

Today, some elements from inside and outside the nation are applying pressure on Myanmar demanding her to speedily strive for national re-consolidation and democracy. But it is a method to remedy only the effects, but not the cause. For example, instead of curing the side effects resulting from malaria infection, we must cure the main disease — the malaria itself.

Some of the representatives-elect and some students left the country, and are trying to install democracy through the hard way. Some are trying to install it, while relying on aliens. The forces which want to install democracy through peaceful means continue to practise the policy of fighting instead of building national re-consolidation. Their common policy is not to negotiate with the Tatmadaw. All the national forces including the Tatmadaw have the same aim of building democracy. But why do they (some of the forces from inside and outside the nation) choose the policy of no negotiations? Why do they choose the policy although they have witnessed the seven-point future policy programme or the road map to democracy? We will have to consider the problem from its root cause.

The ones that led the mass movement and were in favour of the Tatmadaw from the start, Myanmar would be speedier than the ASEAN and the Republic of Korea in setting up democracy. Sadly, the dreams of those parties have become an obstacle to national re-consolidation and democracy.

In accordance with the law of social science — Ordinary people are nearer to the truth than the parties, organizations, and forces accepting the beliefs accepted without consideration. The ordinary people are nearer to the truth than those adhering to old prejudices.

The two factors required for national re-consolidation and flourishing of democracy in Myanmar are:

1. The parties, organizations and forces accepting democracy in the dreams will have to make changes through self-criticism, while upholding a law of social science — the best way towards acquiring knowledge is to overcome the bitter experiences learning from their own mistakes. There is no other way towards building a democratic nation except from striving to develop and modernize the production forces and to develop the capitalists and workers. The entire national people will have to collectively strive to implement the seven-point future policy programme for the successful accomplishment of the two factors or in other words, the two national tasks. Because the seven-point future policy programme is a milestone leading the nation to a new age.

(Myanma Alin + Kyemon; 17-7-2004)

(Translation: TMT)

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 elec-tricity required in produc-tion 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

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and wife being welcomed by Ambassador of Egypt to Myanmar Mr Mohamed Mohamed Minessy and wife at the reception to mark the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt held on 20 July. — MNA
PM General Khin Nyunt and Hubei Province Governor... (from page 1)
northern and eastern regions of the People’s Republic of China, he said, explaining the development endeavours covering the economic and social sectors of the region where the dam is located, land reclamation project inclusive in the Three Gorges Dam Project, construction of related buildings of the project, rock and sand production, concrete mixing system, diversion work, building of a temporary waterway, building of permanent waterway, erection of a concrete dam, installation of hydroelectric power station, and the benefits of the project.

The project officials showed the documentary of the project with audio-visual aids. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and General Manager Mr Li Yongan exchanged gifts. The Prime Minister then signed in the distinguished visitors’ book.

At the project, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party observed the erection of a concrete dam on Yangtze River, facilities including five sectors of the waterway and the current of the Yangtze. General Manager Mr Li Yongan and Chinese technicians explained the salient points of the project. The Prime Minister and party posed for photos together with Chinese technicians. At the main concrete dam erection project, the Prime Minister and party were briefed on implementation of the project. Chinese technicians answered the questions raised by the Prime Minister, ministers, and departmental heads. At the hydroelectric power generation station, the Prime Minister and party observed the completed six 700-megawatt turbines, installation of more turbines, and functions of the control centre. The concrete dam of the Yangtze is 594 feet high and 7,575 feet long. Twenty-six 700-megawatt turbines will be installed to generate 84,700 million kilowatt hours of electricity per year.

Hubei Province, especially in the hydel power projects based on mutual interest, and further strengthening of friendly relations between Myanmar and China.

Governor of Hubei Province Mr Luo Qingquan hosted a luncheon in honour of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and members of the delegation at Taohualing Hotel in Yichang.

After the dinner, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and members went to World Peace Park in Yichang and planted a tree and had photos taken.

At noon, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met with Governor of Hubei Province Mr Luo Qingquan in the Spring of Peach Blossom Hill Room of Taohualing Hotel. Also present were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, ministers, deputy ministers, the Myanmar Ambassador to PRC, the director-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the director-general of the Prime Minister’s Office and departmental heads, the Yichang Mayor, the PRC Ambassador to Myanmar and senior officials. The cordial discussions were centred on economic cooperation prospects between Myanmar and Hubei Province, especially in the hydel power projects based on mutual interest, and further strengthening of friendly relations between Myanmar and China.

Governor of Hubei Province Mr Luo Qingquan hosted a luncheon in honour of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and members of the delegation at Taohualing Hotel in Yichang.

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Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and members arrived at Yichang Airport. They were seen off at the airport by Mayor of Yichang Mr Guo Youming and officials.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and members arrived in Shanghai by special aircraft of China Airlines at 5 pm local time.

They were welcomed by Vice-Mayor of Shanghai Mr Tang Deng Jie and officials. They proceeded to Jin Jiang Tower Hotel in Shanghai.

(See page 9)
In the evening, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and members watched demonstration of acrobatics, magician’s shows and other skill demonstration at Shanghai Centre Theatre.

On 12 July, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Daw Khin Lay Myint, wife of member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, gifts to him. On 13 July, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party went to All China Women’s Federation in Beijing where they were welcomed by officials.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe met Vice-Chairperson of All China Women’s Federation Ms Chen Xiurong. Present on the occasion were Daw Khin Lay Myint, wife of member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Daw San Yon, wife of Minister of Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Daw Nwe Nwe Han, wife of Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thein Lwin, Daw Kyi Kyi Oo, Counsellor Daw Than Than Htay, Vice-Chairperson Ms Chen Xiurong was accompanied by members of the Secretariat. They discussed women affairs of both countries, implementation of the tasks and work to be done. Next, they exchanged gifts and had photos taken.

On 11 July, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung met President Mr Ma Yanli and members of China Metallurgical Construction Corporation, President Ms Luo Yang and members of China CAMC Engineering Co Ltd. Mr Shou Jinping and members of Scivic Engineering Corporation Ltd met President Mr Ma Yanli and members of China Metallurgical Construction Corporation (MCC) and President Mr Lin Gang and members of China Machinery Complete Equipment Engineering Group (MCC), economic organizations of China, at the State Guest House. They discussed mutual cooperation in industrial sector. Also present at the call were Director-General of Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tin and Director-General of Directorate of Industries U Kyaw Myint. Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party observed the booth on history of the Chinese People for one and half hour. Next, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party posed for souvenir photo together with officials of the museum.

Deputy Director Guo Ping presented a book about the museum. Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe also presented gifts to him.

Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin met President Mr Ma Yanli and members of Shandon Weichi Import and Export Corporation. They discussed investment in agriculture and irrigation sector.

Also present were Director-General of Irrigation Department U Kyaw San Win. Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Department U Aung Thaung met President Mr Ma Yanli and members of Shandon Boshan Pumps Co Ltd, President Mr Tang Rouxin of China Export and Credit Insurance Corporation (Sinosure), Vice-President Mr Cao and members of China National Machinery Equipment Import and Export Corporation (CMEC) and Managing Director Mr Wong Fengyi and members of Scivic Engineering Corporation Ltd met President Mr Ma Yanli and members of China Metallurgical Construction Corporation (MCC) and President Mr Lin Gang and members of China Machinery Complete Equipment Engineering Group (MCC), economic organizations of China, at the State Guest House. They discussed mutual cooperation in industrial sector. Also present at the call were Director-General of Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tin and Director-General of Directorate of Industries U Kyaw Myint. Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party observed the booth on history of the Chinese People for one and half hour. Next, Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party posed for souvenir photo together with officials of the museum. Deputy Director Guo Ping presented a book about the museum. Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe also presented gifts to him.

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Building Material Equipment Corporation (CBMEC) Ms Feng Feng and party, President of China National Technical Import & Export Corporation (CNTIC) Mr Jiang Xin Sheng and party, Vice President of China Textile Machinery and Technology Import & Export Corporation Mr Cheng Jinfeng and party, Vice President of China National Pharmaceutical Foreign Trade Corporation Mr Li Zhixin and party. Director of Beijing Bridge Machinery & Electric Co Ltd Mr Joseph Zhao and party, President of Yinshan Ceramics Co Ltd (Boshan Shandong) Mr Zhao Qian Li and party, President of Chenda Engineering Corporation of China Mr Cao Guang and party, Vice President of China National Machinery & Equipment Import & Export Corporation (CMEC) Mr Zhou Li and party, President of China Huanhai Jiaoyi Machinery Import & Export Co Ltd Mr Zhang Sheng and party. President of Hongga International Trading Co Ltd Mr Bai Wei Hua and party at the State Guest House in Beijing. The meeting focused on industrial cooperation between the two countries. Also present at the call together with Minister U Aung Thaung were Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Li Col Pe Nyein and Director-General of Industries U Kyaw Myint.

Member of the Myanmar delegation Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint met President of China Nonferrous Metal Mining & Construction Co Ltd (CNMC) Mr Zhang Jian and party, President of China Wanbao Engineering Corporation Mr Li De and party at 10.30 am, the minister met President of Sichuan Machinery & Equipment Import & Export Co Ltd (SCMEC) of the PRC Mr Yao Yuning and party at 9.30 am at the same venue. Similarly, Minister for Rail Transportation Brig-Gen Aung Min met Executive Director of NORINCO Co Ltd Mr Zhen Xin and party at the State Guest House in Beijing. The meeting focused on industrial cooperation in the mining sector. Also present at the call together with Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint were Director-General of Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint and Myanmar Gems Enterprise Managing Director U Khin Oo.

Mr Sheng Jianbo and party, Vice President of China Petrochemical Corporation (SINOPEC) Mr Zhang Youacang and party, President of China Petroleum Technology & Development Corporation (CPTDC) Mr Hanliang Zhang and party at the State Guest House in Beijing on 12 July morning and afternoon. They discussed matters pertaining to energy sector of the two nations. Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut met President of Sichuan Machinery & Equipment Import & Export Co Ltd (YMEC) Mr Feng Ke and party at the State Guest House in Beijing at 8.30 am on 12 July. They discussed matters relating to Paunglaung Hydel Power Project and Shweli Hydel Power Project. The minister met President of Sichuan Machinery & Equipment Import & Export Co Ltd (YMEC) Mr Feng Ke and party at the State Guest House in Beijing at 8.30 am on 12 July. They discussed matters pertaining to energy sector of the two nations. Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut met President of Sichuan Machinery & Equipment Import & Export Co Ltd (YMEC) Mr Feng Ke and party at the State Guest House in Beijing at 8.30 am on 12 July. They discussed matters pertaining to energy sector of the two nations. Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut met President of Sichuan Machinery & Equipment Import & Export Co Ltd (SCMEC) of the PRC Mr Yao Yuning and party at 9.30 am at the same venue. They discussed matters on Shweli-Mandalay 230 KV Power Line Project and Shweli Hydropower Project. At 10.30 am, the minister met President of China National Electric Equipment Corporation (CNEEC) of the PRC Mr Jia Ding and party. They discussed matters on Ye Nwe Hydropower Project and Yeyswe Hydel Power Project. (See page 15)
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe pay official visit to People’s Republic of China

China thanks Myanmar for constant support to One China Policy. China will provide assistance for economic progress of Myanmar as much as possible and raise the momentum of bilateral cooperation in every sector. China will never interfere in Myanmar’s internal affairs. Sino-Myanmar relations based on Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence remains unchanged. The relations have strengthened understanding and cooperation.

PRC President Mr Hu Jintao

Friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and China is encouraging. Myanmar wants to cooperate with China on a mutually beneficial basis in energy, mining, hydel power, agriculture, communication, industrial and trade investment sectors. Myanmar and China have been cooperating in international affairs. Myanmar has pledged to adopt One China Policy in the international arena.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt

China will pay special attention to Myanmar in dealing with neighbouring countries. China thanks Myanmar for her support to One China Policy. China wants the two countries to further maintain efforts in deepening friendship through exchange of visits by leaders of the two countries. China will provide aids to the best of her ability for economic development in Myanmar.

PRC Premier Mr Wen Jiabao
UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMAR RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Myanmar Railways, for supply of the following Rollers Bearing with Sleeve which will be purchased in Myanmar kyats:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No.</th>
<th>Tender No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>12(T)14/MR(ML)</td>
<td>Roller Bearing with Sleeve (SKF 23222 CCK) (C 3-W 33)</td>
<td>700 - Sets</td>
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2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51 Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 21.7.2004 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext-602, 605, 612

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Botataung, Yangon

China, Britain found mainland's largest diabetes hospital

Brunei, 19 July — China and Britain jointly formed the Beijing Changyang Diabetes Hospital, the largest of its kind in the Chinese Mainland, on Sunday.

"It is a significant step for the two countries to work together in the field of diabetes research," said Wang Zhih, the president of the newly established hospital.

The hospital, which occupies nearly 10,000 square metres, adopts the same diagnostic and therapeutic standards as the Royal College of Physicians in Britain.

Statistics show some 3.2 million people worldwide die of diabetes every year and the figure is still on rise.

Zambia to provide ARV drugs to 10,000 AIDS patients

LUSAKA, 19 July — The Zambian Government is planning to provide antiretroviral (ARV) drugs to at least 10,000 AIDS patients this year, the official Zambia News Agency reported Saturday.

A total of 8,181 AIDS patients are already receiving ARVs and the government is targeting to supply ARV drugs to 100,000 AIDS patients by the end of 2005.

Zambia has seen a remarkable drop of its HIV/AIDS infection rate over recent years from 26 per cent to 16 per cent. —MNA/Xinhua

Zambia to draw law against AIDS stigma

LUSAKA, 19 July — The Zambian Government is working on the enactment of a law to punish workers who stigmatize workmates living with HIV/AIDS, local newspaper Sunday Mail reported.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Security would "soon put in place an act which will compel people to get treatment HIV/AIDS" and would present the matter to Parliament for final decision, deputy minister Chile Ng'uni was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

"The penalty for those found guilty of stigmatizing the infected will either be a fine or imprisonment," he said, adding that it was sad that many workers suffering from HIV/AIDS were being stigmatized because there was no law to protect them. —MNA/Xinhua

Four killed in plane crash in S Africa

Johannesburg, 19 July — Four men were killed when a small aircraft crashed into a bus depot in Germiston, east of South Africa's Johannesburg on Sunday.

Police spokeswoman Sergeant Zithini Dlamini said the single-engine Cessna Centurion crashed at the Marcelo Pana depot near the Rand Airport around 12.20 (1020 GMT).

Pilot Robert Guy Fletcher, John Mckenzie and Richard Willus, all 55, and Nicholas Paumgarten, 23, were killed in the crash.

The men and a dog died instantly. —MNA/Xinhua


**Floods threaten the Roof of the World**

Beijing, 19 July — Floods are threatening wide tracts of the remote Tibetan plateau after rainfall in some areas hit record highs, China's Xinhua news agency said Sunday.

More than 31,000 people in 34 counties in Tibet had been affected by flooding, the official agency said. Tibet's rainy season came earlier than usual this year and, in some places, rainfall in the May-June period was double the amount normally recorded, it quoted meteorologists as saying.

Recent storms have caused at least three deaths normally recorded, it quoted meteorologists as saying.

Two teenage Tibetans were washed away by a flash flood in the county of Xaotongmoin in July, Xinhua said.


**Study says drug delays but does not prevent Alzheimer’s**

Philadelphia, 19 July — A popular Alzheimer’s drug appears to delay the onset of the disease among patients with memory loss although does not prevent it, researchers announced on Sunday.

Aricept reduced the risk of developing Alzheimer’s among patients diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment, a memory disorder that is often precursors to the brain disease, according to research released at the 9th International Conference on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders.

But the risk reduction lasted for only 18 months of a three-year trial, said Dr. Ronald Petersen of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, who led the study of 769 people.

“Fahrenheit 9/11” breaks records before opening in Australia

Canberra, 20 July — The controversial documentary feature “Fahrenheit 9/11” has broken box office records in Australia almost two weeks before its opening in the country in July 29.

The gross of sneak previews hit 760,000 Australian dollars (about $474,000 US dollars) in Australian cinemas over the weekend, compared with the previous record of 405,000 US dollars made by “The Real Cancun”, the Australian Associated Press reported Monday.

Sneak previews of the documentary, which criticizes the administration of US President George W Bush’s response to the September 11 attacks on the United States in 2001, are limited to only two sessions daily each Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Australia before its opening.

The film, released in the United States on June 25, took in a whopping 21.8 million US dollars in its first three days, becoming the first documentary to debut at Hollywood's top weekend film.

The film’s Australian distributor Troy Lum has apologized to people who went to cinemas but missed out on seeing the feature over the weekend, saying the situation was above his expectations.


**Ministers seek EU-wide approach to flood prevention**

Maastricht (The Netherlands), 20 July — Reducing the risk of devastating floods such as those that hit Prague and Dresden two years ago demands more cooperation across Europe, European Union ministers said on Sunday.

Environment ministers, meeting in the Netherlands, which recently assumed the rotating EU presidency, gave their backing to an EU executive Commission proposal that calls for member states to collaborate on flood prevention.

"After seeing all of these catastrophes in the different European countries, we can’t keep putting this off," Melanie Schultz van Haegem, Dutch state secretary for water management, told a news conference in the southern city of Maastricht.

“We received broad support for the Commission proposal to have a European approach," she said. “The sea and rivers don’t take any notice of national borders.”

In a proposal released last week, the Commission called for EU states to collaborate on flood prevention planning by focusing on rivers at their sources so that problems are not on the way to downstream areas.

It also proposed creating "flood risk maps", which would pinpoint traditionally high-risk flooding areas and be used in flood contingency planning.

The Commission will assemble a flood action plan for further consideration later this year.

More than 100 major floods hit Europe between 1998 and 2002, the Commission said. About 700 people died as a result of those floods and about 500,000 were displaced.

The Commission said falling forests and rerouting rivers has increased flood risks. It added that rising sea levels and greater rainfall intensity — both symptoms of climate change — would continue to raise the risk in the coming decades.


**WHO urges bird flu protections for humans**

Washington, 19 July — Outbreaks of a deadly bird flu in Asia require tough precautions against the emergence of a new virus strain that could sweep through the human population, the World Health Organization said.

Thailand, the world’s fourth largest chicken exporter last year, has seen avian flu hit 15 of 76 provinces over the last two weeks. Since late last year, China, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam, Cambodia and Indone sia also have reported cases.

“While these outbreaks, thus far, remain restricted to poultry populations, they nevertheless increase the chances of virus transmission and human infection,” WHO said in a statement issued late Friday.

The international health agency also warned of the possible emergence of a new virus strain that could spark a “global pandemic”.

Among the precautions WHO recommends is protective clothing for workers who might be exposed to the bird flu, which is easily transmitt ed, and vaccines for those workers.

WHO also urged countries with infected flocks to increase surveillance by local and national health officials and to set up procedures for quick sharing of virus samples.

“Without such virus samples, WHO will not be in a position to provide proper vaccine prototype strains and related guidance for vaccine producers,” the agency warned.


**Mexican police seize over two tons of cocaine**

Mexico City, 19 July — Mexican police seized 2.26 tons of cocaine and arrested two people in connection with the case, the Federal Investigation Agency said on Saturday.

The agency found the drug inside a container in Manzanillo Port, the western Mexican state of Colima, on Friday.

The drug had been brought into the country by ship from Ecuador. Its final destination might be the United States.

The seizure is the largest in the past three years in Mexico.


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Among the precautions WHO recommends is protective clothing for workers who might be exposed to the bird flu, which is easily transmitt ed, and vaccines for those workers.

WHO also urged countries with infected flocks to increase surveillance by local and national health officials and to set up procedures for quick sharing of virus samples.

“Without such virus samples, WHO will not be in a position to provide proper vaccine prototype strains and related guidance for vaccine producers,” the agency warned.
Goalker Roigero scores twice in Sao Paulo win
RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 July— Sao Paulo goalker Roigero Ceni scored twice as his team beat Figuereiro 2-1 in the Brazilian championship at the weekend despite finishing with nine men.
Figuereiro opened the scoring by converting a 12-minute penalty after a foul on striker Diego Tardelli. He put them further ahead midway through the second half by scoring one of his trademark free kicks, the 33rd goal of his career.
Figuereiro pulled one back when Sergio Manoel converted a penalty with six minutes to go. They were deprived of an injury-time equalizer when Roigero completed his afternoon’s work by making an outstanding save to deny Romualdo.
Sao Paulo, without striker Luis Fabiano who is playing for Brazil at the Copa America, moved up to third place in the table.
They held on despite having Graffe sent off midway through the second half and Fabio Santos dismissed in injury time, both for second bookable offences.—MNA/Reuters

Silva double sends 10-man Uruguay into semifinal
TAOCA (Peru), 19 July— Striker Dario Silva scored two second-half goals as 10-man Uruguay came from behind to beat Paraguay 3-1 in their Copa America final on Sunday.
Silva put Uruguay 2-1 ahead with his first international goal since November 2001 two minutes after Gustavo Varela had become the third Uruguayan to be shown a red card in the tournament. He then made it 3-1 with one minute to play.
Adriano, who are using the tournament as a warm-up for next month’s Olympic soccer tournament and are fielding virtually the same squad as the World Cup side, were upended Adriano.
Carlos Bueno levelled for Uruguay with a penalty just before halftime. Adriano, a constant tormentor of the Uruguayan defence, came back from a shock first round win over Brazil, made a lively start and German-based striker Nelson Haedo was close to giving them the lead with a shot on the turn which went just wide.
They deservedly went ahead when defender Gamarra rose to head a Carlos Paredes free kick into the net. Uruguay equalized six minutes before halftime when Bueno won and converted a penalty.
The Penarol player was upended as he tried to meet Diego Forlan’s cross from the left and sent Justo Villar the wrong way to collect his third goal of the tournament.
Uruguay, who lost their previous four matches against Paraguay, appeared to be in trouble as Varela was dismissed for a late, sliding tackle from behind on Freedy Bareiro. Instead, the Uruguayans went ahead when Silva scored two minutes later. He received a Cristian Rodriguez cross with his back to goal and, although his first touch was not good, he managed to get to the ball first and scored with a shot on the turn which took a deflection off a defender.
Silva, who refused to play for Uruguay after the 2002 World Cup in a dispute over bonuses, last scored in the World Cup qualifier against Australia nearly three years ago.
Uruguayan goalker Sebastián Viérea kept his team ahead with some fine goalking before Silva finished off a counter-attack in the 89th minute.—MNA/Reuters

Controversial penalty sets up 4-0 win for Brazil
PURU (Peru), 19 July— Brazil cruised to a 4-0 win over Mexico in their Copa America final on Sunday after being set on their way with a hugely controversial penalty.
Alex scored from the spot amid furious Mexican protests in the 28th minute after goalker Oswaldo Sanchez was judged to have upended Adriano.
Adriano, a constant tormentor of the Mexican defence, added two more himself in the second half to make him the tournament’s top scorer with five goals. Substitute Ricardo Oliveira added the fourth. The match had been evenly-balanced until the penalty incident.
Adriano broke clear and shot. Sanchez saved, the two chased after the rebound and the Brazilian’s circus began.
Television replays showed that Sanchez did not touch Adriano but referee Oscar Ruiz pointed straight to the spot and Alex converted a deceptively generous penalty from the Peruvian crowd.
Coincidentally, it was Ruiz who awarded three penalties to Brazil in last month’s World Cup qualifier against Argentina. All were given for fouls on Ronaldo, who converted all the penalties himself.
Adriano gave the Mexican defence a torrid time throughout the first half.
He had a header pushed over the crossbar by Sanchez in the third minute and was close again 15 minutes later when he headed over at the far post from Kleberson’s cross.
The goal sparked Mexico into life and they twice came close to equalising. Hector Alturamino had their best effort when he rifled in a 30-metre free kick which Julis Cesar parried to Octavio Valdez, who fired the rebound over.
—MNA/Reuters

Solid par start for Woods at blustery Troon
TROON (Scotland), 19 July— World number one Tiger Woods parred the first three holes as he launched his bid for a ninth major title in the British Open final round on Sunday.
The 28-year-old American, winner at St Andrews in 2000, began a blustery day at Royal Troon four strokes off compatriot Todd Hamilton’s lead and stayed at four under par with 15 holes to play.
One group ahead, Britain’s Colin Montgomerie reeled off rock-solid pars at the first three holes before holing a six-foot birdie putt at the par-five fourth to move to four under.
American Mark Calcavecchia, Troon champion in 1989, made the most significant move of the later starters. After bogeysing the par-four first, he picked up shots at the second, third, fourth and sixth to get to two under for the tournament.
The final round was poised for a thrilling climax, with some of the game’s biggest names in contention.
American journeyman Hamilton held a one-shot lead going into the last day, but world number two Ernie Els lurked in second place with US Masters champion Phil Mickelson and US Open winner Retief Goosen a further stroke back in a tie for third.
Mickelson narrowly missed a birdie putt from 12 feet at the first but his playing partner Goosen bogeyed the hole after three-putting, slipping back to five under.
Among the early starters, Japan’s Shigeki Maruyama carded a level-par 71 to hold the clubhouse lead at four over 288 with 2001 US PGA champion David Tomos, who re- turned a 72. Most of the players, however, struggling as they had to negotiate tough pin positions in gusting winds.
—MNA/Reuters

China beats Italy to win women’s World GP HK leg
HONG KONG, 19 July— Defending champion China came back from one set down to beat Italy 3-1 here on Sunday to win the Hong Kong leg of the 2004 World Grand Prix women’s volleyball tournament with three straight wins. Coming off a five-set thrilling victory over the United States on Saturday, China looked a little tired in the first set.
They went out of fire after a 10-10 draw, seeing Italy pull away with a 12-3 run to take the opener at 25-17. They held on despite Grafite’s sending off midway through the second set and Fabio Santos dismissed in injury time, both for second bookable offences.
Meanwhile, Frenchman Philippe Trousseau’s reign as the number one coach of Qatar ended out a sour note after the Gulf side were upset 2-1 by Indonesia. Trousseau said on Saturday that he would step down after the tournament.
Qatani scored with a looping header after seven minutes after it looked as if Saud Arabia had survived against the former Soviet republic.
But in stoppage time, Kulyev curled a free kick into the bottom corner to secure a point for Turkmenistan on their Asian Cup debut.
A furry coach Gerard van der Lem blamed his team’s failure to hold on for the win.
Uzbekistan seized the initiative in Group C with a 1-0 victory over Iraq in a pulsating game decided by a superb free kick from captain Minjidal Kasimov in the 22nd minute.
Iraq, whose German coach Bernd Stange quit two weeks ago claiming he feared for his life amid the escalating violence in the country, chased the equalizer but could not find a way past Uzbek goalker Evgene Safanov.
Indonesia, meanwhile, went top of Group A on three points thanks to goals from Budi Sudirsoano and Ponaryo Astaman in a game played at a virtually empty stadium.
Hosts China were held 2-2 in Bahrain in the opening match of the tournament on Saturday. AFC general secretary Peter Veluppani complained bitterly about the swarms of empty seats during that match.
Kawiti’s Maused Al Enzi (R) outjumps United Arab Emir- rates’ Mohamed Rashid during their AFC Asian Cup China 2004 match in Jinan, in Shandong Province, on 19 July, 2004. Kuwait won 3-1. The Asian Cup soccer tournament is the continent’s equivalent of the Copa America and Euro Championships.— IAN photo

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PM General Khin Nyunt and …  
(from page 10)  
At 12:45 pm, the minister met President of China International Trust & Investment Corporation (CITIC) Mr Sun Xiaowen and party. They discussed matters on Mong Hydropower Project and Yeywa Hydropower Project. At 1.30 pm, the minister and Vice President of Sinoshyde Corporation of the PRC Mr Ju Quian and party discussed matters on Thaphaneseik, Mone and Paunglaung Hydropower Projects.

Rail Transportation Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min meets presidents of Chinese economic organizations. — MNA

Rainfall on 20-7-2004  
(0.35 inch) at Yangon Airport,  
(0.31 inch) at Kaba-Aye and  
(0.55 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1484 mm (58.42 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1438 mm (56.61 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1439 mm (56.65 inches) at central Yangon.

WEATHER

Tuesday, 20 July, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State, isolated heavyfalls in Mon State and upper Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Ye (11.14 inches), Maungdaw (5.67 inches), Hkamti (3.98 inches), Kyankwut (3.66 inches) and Dawei (2.76 inches). Maximum temperature on 19-7-2004 was 32.5°C (90°F). Minimum temperature on 20-7-2004 was 20.5°C (69°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 20-7-2004 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 19-7-2004 was (3.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 20-7-2004 was (0.35 inch) at Yangon Airport, (0.31 inch) at Kaba-Aye and (0.55 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1484 mm (58.42 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1438 mm (56.61 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1439 mm (56.65 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southwest at 13:30 hours MST on 19-7-2004.

Bay inference: Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and moderate in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 21-7-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah and southern Shan States, scattered in Kayin, northern and eastern Shan States, Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Kachin and Rakhine States and upper Sagaing Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with moderate to rough sea area likely off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-7-2004: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-7-2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

New Rainfall Record

(Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 20 July, 2004)  
The amount of rainfall 283 mm (11.14 inches) was observed (09-30 hrs MST on 20 July 2004 at Ye is the (24) hrs new maximum rainfall record of the station for the Month of July during last (41) years. The former record was 233 mm (9.25 inches) on 4 July 1970.)
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives members of the House of Representatives of Japan. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Japanese delegation

YANGON, 20 July— Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received members of the House of Representatives of Japan Mr Ikuzo Sakurai, Mr Toshiaki Endo, Mr Hiromichi Watanabe, Mr Ichiyo Kameshita, Mr Mineichi Iwanaga, Mr Hiroshi Imai and Mr Koki Hagino at Zeyathiri Beikman at 4 pm today. Present on the occasion together with Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Education U Than Aung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General U Soe Tint of the Prime Minister’s Office and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department. MNA

Foundries, forging shops to be established in Mandalay, Monywa, Ayethaya Industrial Zones with State assistance

Secretary-1 addresses coord meeting on industrial development

YANGON, 20 July — The coordination meeting (No 3/2004) on industrial development was held at 2 pm today in the training hall of the Ministry of Industry-1, with an address by Industrial Development Committee Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win.

Present at the meeting were members of the Industrial Development Committee ministers, the Yangon mayor, work committee members deputy ministers, subcommittees members the vice-mayor, officials of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, chairmen and members of Industrial Zone Supervisory Committees and Industrial Zone Management Committees, officials of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, rice millers and guests.

Addressing the meeting, the Secretary-1 said with the assistance of the State, foundries and forging shops will be established in Mandalay, Monywa and Ayethaya Industrial Zones. So, quality iron products will be manufactured. At present, private iron foundries of industrial zones are manufacturing their products through conventional methods, he said. Without meeting the set standards of raw materials, without making full use of catalysts and without systematic quality control, the products have not been in good demand and they have to be used only in local market, he noted.

Cooperative efforts required

Therefore, cooperative efforts should be made to improve the standard of iron smelting industry. And arrangements are to be made to complete the project of modern foundries in the three industrial zones. In connection with the modern foundries, a modern mould workshop will also be established. So, iron products can be manufactured not only for local market but also for export, he added. All in all, the Secretary-1 said, with the products with the firm local and foreign market, Myanmar industry will develop significantly. Based on modern foundries, measures are to be taken for manufacturing of farm machinery, he said. At present, the Government and private industries have been able to produce only some 20,000 units of power tillers needed in agricultural sector per year and there is still more to produce.

(See page 6)