Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends opening of school buildings at BEPSs in Thingangyun Township

YANGON, 24 July — Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt this morning attended the ceremonies to open school buildings at Thingangyun Basic Education Primary School No 33, BEPS No 15 and BEPS No 5 built by Shwedaung International Co Ltd and Tosta Construction under the supervision of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development. Also present on the occasions were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt, Chairman of Shwedaung International Co Ltd U Aik Tun and Tosta Construction Managing Director U Ohn Myint.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt formally opened the building of BEPS No 33. Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected the new school building. It is 208 feet by 30 feet RC three-storey building which has fourteen 24-foot-by-30-foot classrooms.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to the opening ceremony of BEPS No 15 at Malikha Housing Estate Project in Thingangyun Township. At the ceremony, the Commander, the Deputy Minister for Construction, the Deputy Minister for Education and the Chairman of Shwedaung International Co Ltd formally cut the ribbon.

The three-storey school building of Thingangyun BEPS-33 is 208 feet long and 30 feet wide and it has fourteen 24-foot-by-30-foot classrooms. The two-storey school building of Thingangyun BEPS-15 is 170 feet long and 30 feet wide and it has ten classrooms. The three-storey school building of Thingangyun BEPS-5 is 204 feet long and 30 feet wide and it has fifteen 24-foot-by-30-foot classrooms.
PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 25 July, 2004

Promoting economic and border area development cooperation between Myanmar and PRC

The Government is making every effort to raise the living standard of the entire national population and for ensuring equitable development of the regions of the Union of Myanmar which is made up of numerous national races. Myanmar and the People’s Republic of China share a long border of over 2,000 kilometres and throughout the long history they have dealt with each other in a spirit of good neighbourliness.

Although Myanmar and the PRC established diplomatic ties on 8 June 1960, relations between the two countries date back to years countable by the thousands.

There have been many changes in the world political order, but the two countries could maintain good relations based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

Leaders of the two countries in the successive eras tried their best to promote and strengthen friendship between the two countries. Reciprocal visits of the leaders of the two nations including Chinese leaders' visit to Myanmar and the visits of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, Vice-Chairman Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt to the PRC, have deepened and strengthened the friendship.

In his address delivered at a coordination meeting on implementation of agreements between the Union of Myanmar and the People’s Republic of China on Border Areas Management and Cooperation held at the Zeyathiri Beikman on Koomyniththa on 23 July, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that the Myanmar-China border has always been kept as a peaceful one contributing much towards bilateral economic developments and uplift of socio-economic lives of the local peoples at the border.

Myanmar and China have agreed to promote efficiency and improve management at entry gates at the border, to repair border posts, to ensure the rule of law and order and preva- lence of peace and tranquillity, to control arms smuggling and drug trafficking in the border area, to carry out transgression management at the border, to carry out management of territorial affairs and to set linking system between authorities of both sides at the border.

As matters on promoting cooperation in ensuring prevalence of law and order in border areas of the two nations and border area development and in the fight against drugs were discussed during the Prime Minister’s recent visit to the PRC, we firmly believe that emphasis will be placed on cooperation in endeavours for economic development of the two countries and raising the living standard of peoples living in border areas of both sides.

Waso robes offering ceremonies held

YANGON, 24 July — The seventh Waso robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Industry-1 was held at the training hall of the ministry here at 9.30 am today. Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thanu, wife Daw Khin Khin Yi, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tin, officials, staff and families offered Waso robes to 85 members of the Sangha.

Likewise, the Waso robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Industry-2 was held at the Aungban Monastery on 18th lane here at 10 am today. Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin and wife, Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and officials, staff and families offered Waso robes to members of the Sangha.

The sixth Waso robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Labour was held at the ministry's Dhammayon on Old Yedashae Road in Bahan Township here at 9.30 am today. Minister for Labour U Tin Winn, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Sein, officials, staff and families offered Waso robes to members of the Sangha.

Similarly, the 24th Waso robes offering ceremony of the Internal Revenue Department was held at the department's Dhammayon near the northern stairways of Shwedagon Pagoda here at 9 am today. Director General of the Internal Revenue Department U Win Naing and wife, Pyay Suda and of the Ministry of the Sangha.

Development works inspected

YANGON, 24 July — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, accompanied by officials, toured Pantanaw and Nayangon towns this morning and inspected development works. At the Nayangon Township Development Affairs Committee, the minister met executive officers and engineers in-charge of Maubin, Nayangon and Danbya towns and USDA secretaries and discussed matters on rural development works.

Similarly, the minister met local authorities, the Township executive officer, engineer in-charge, USDA secretaries and executives at the Pantanaw Township Development Affairs Committee. Later the minister and party inspected the progress of rural housing projects at Theingon village, Kyaunggalay village-tract in Pantanaw Township. — MNA

Tourism seminar held

YANGON, 24 July — The seminar on Tourism, Globalisation and Sufficiency Economy Theory in Myanmar, jointly sponsored by UMFCCI and Thai Founda- tion for International Hu- man Resource Development, concluded at the Sedona here at 5 pm yesterday. Mr Warin Photoom- but and Ms Valapa Bursa- sapat of Foundation for Inter- national Human Resource Development of Thailand Association Chairman U Khin Zaw and officials presented gifts of honour to those who gave lectures at the seminar. — MNA

People’s Desire

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

Basketball C'ship ends

YANGON, 24 July — Prizes were presented to winners in the National Basket- ball Championship 2004, co-sponsored by Myanmar Basketball Federation and Mikko Coffee Mix at Aung Sun Gymnasium this after- noon.

Before the prize presen- tation ceremony, the final matches were held. Industry-1 (A) team secured the championship trophy after winning over LSK team 58- 44 points in the men’s jun- ior event. Agriculture & Irrigation team emerged champion beating Industry- 1 (A) team 62-46 points in the women’s event. Like- wise, Industry-1 (A) team defeated Ga Ga (A) team 82-60 points and bagged the championship in the men’s senior event.

After the matches, Vice- President of MBF Daw Nu Nu Yi, General Secretary U Maung Maung Myint and executives presented prizes to the winners.

Next, President Dr Sein Myint presented a cer- tificate of honour to Manag- ing Director U Nyi Nyi Aung of Mikko Coffee Mix who contributed to organ- izing of the championship.

Later, the President awarded championship trophies to the prize-winning teams. — MNA

UMFCCI General Secre- tary U Sein Win Hlaing presents certificate to a participant. — umfcci

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UMFCCI General Secre- tary U Sein Win Hlaing presents certificate to a participant. — umfcci
**Egyptian diplomat kidnapped in Iraq**

**CAIRO, 23 July**— Al Jazeera television broadcast a videotape Friday from militants who claim to have kidnapped an Egyptian diplomat in Iraq.

The diplomat, identified as Mohammed Mammad Qubt, was seen seated in front of six masked kidnappers. They were clad in black hoods and robes, with white headbands. One was holding an assault rifle and another had a pistol on his hip.

The group, which called itself the Lions of Allah Brigade, said it had abducted him because the Egyptian government said it was prepared to deploy security experts to help the interim government in Iraq.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials confirmed they have a diplomat in their Baghdad mission by the name of Mammad Qubt, but not Qubt. The officials said they were checking the Al-Jazeera report.

The Al-Jazeera newscaster read a report of what is on the videotape. The militans made no specific threat against the diplomat.—Internet

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**Afghan car bomb wounds four US soldiers**

**KANDAHAR, 23 July**— A powerful car bomb exploded near Kandahar city, a US military convoy was passing, seriously wounding four American soldiers.

The attack was one of several reported across southern Afghanistan on Friday and late on Thursday.

More than 600 people, including soldiers, international workers and civilians, have died in violence in Afghanistan this year.

“When our forces reached the scene of the explosion, they saw four American soldiers lying on the road covered in blood. They were seriously wounded,” said General Salim Khan, deputy police chief of Kandahar Province. “I do not know if any of them died.”

A policeman at the scene, Tor Jan, and several witnesses also said they saw four injured American soldiers on the road. Tor Jan said two of the soldiers had died, although Khan would not confirm that account.

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**US deports 89 Filipino immigrants**

**MANNILA, 23 July**— The United States deported Thursday 89 Filipino immigrants “for various reasons,” reported local media Friday.

The Today and the Manila Standard newscapers quoted Customs officials as saying that the deportees were flown into the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport aboard an American TransAir flight from Ontario, California.

The deportation coincided with arrival home of Filipino truck driver Angelo dela Cruz, released by Iraqi militants after President Arroyo ordered the pullout of Filipino humanitarian contingent from Iraq.

The reports said that the deportees were neither involved in hostilities during part of the flight “because some of them had been charged with crimes such as assault, car theft and drug-related activities.”

The handcuffs were removed by US immigration agents upon entering Philippine air space. Another group of Filipino immigrants deported by US authorities were due to arrive Friday morning, said the reports.

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**Small UN contingent to return to Iraq in August**

**UNITED NATIONS, 23 July**— The new UN chief envoy for Iraq will go to Baghdad next month along with a small team to reestablish a permanent UN presence, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Thursday.

A State Department effort to redirect billions of dollars in US reconstruction funds for Iraq into smaller, faster projects that yield jobs may come too late to stem violence there, senators said on Thursday.

Only about 500 US dollars approved by Congress for reconstruction funds for Iraq this year has been spent and the State Department, which now oversees the funds, is considering ways to get the money out more quickly.

Ronald Schlicher, the State Department’s coordinator for Iraqi affairs told a meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that initial work on the review would be done by the end of the month.

A US Khowa military helicopter flies over a soldier in a Bradley armoured vehicle during a raid in central Baghdad, on 22 July, 2004.—Internet

**US Senators demand speed-up of aid to Iraq**

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A US Khowa military helicopter flies over a soldier in a Bradley armoured vehicle during a raid in central Baghdad, on 22 July, 2004.—Internet

**Diplomats battle to free six hostages in Iraq**

**BAGHDAD, 23 July**— Diplomats in Baghdad battled on Thursday to win the release of three captured Indians, two Kenyans and an Egyptian after their kidnappers threatened to behead them one by one unless their employer pulled out of Iraq.

The capture of the six contract workers, who were shown on Wednesday in video footage sent to Arabic satellite channel Al-Arabiya as masked gunmen read out their demands, sparked a new hostage crisis just a day after guerrillas released a Filipino driver following Manila’s capitulation to their demands.

Another Indian Foreign Minister Eshaq Ahmad had been doing everything it could to get the Indians freed.

“India has taken a stand of not sending troops to Iraq. We will only be extending humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people,” Ahmad told Reuters. He said he expected the captors to be sympathetic since they knew of India’s position.

The Indian embassies in Baghdad and Kuwait were trying to obtain details of the men who had been taken hostage, he said.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the bombing occurred at 6:30 pm Thursday south of Samarra, a hotbed of violence 60 miles north of Baghdad.

Earlier this week, US forces and militants engaged in running gunfights in Samarra. Four Iraqis were killed and five were wounded, said Ahmed Jado, a hospital official. The latest deaths as counted by The Associated Press took the US death toll in Iraq since the beginning of the war to 902. According to the Defence Department, 897 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq as of Thursday, 22 July. Of those, 663 died as a result of hostile action and 234 died of non-hostile causes.

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**Two US soldiers killed in Iraq attack**

**BAGHDAD, 23 July**— A roadside bomb in the northern city of Samarra killed two American soldiers and wounded another, the US military said Friday.

A US military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the bombing occurred at 6:30 pm Thursday south of Samarra, a hotbed of violence 60 miles north of Baghdad.

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A US Khowa military helicopter flies over a soldier in a Bradley armoured vehicle during a raid in central Baghdad, on 22 July, 2004.—Internet
US anti-war group pushing to stage huge demonstration

**NEW YORK, 22 July —** An anti-war group that had been pushing to stage a huge demonstration in Central Park during the Republican National Convention has agreed to accept an alternative location suggested by the New York City authorities, the group announced Wednesday.

Bill Deeb, spokesman for the United for Peace and Justice, said the group felt “forced” by police officials to go along with the city’s plan because of time restraints.

Under the compromise plan, demonstrators will march up Seventh Avenue, across 34th Street past Madison Square Garden, the convention site, and then continue down the West Side Highway. The march is set for August 29, the day before the convention opens.

The United for Peace and Justice, which applied for a permit over a year ago, has been engaged in a public struggle with the city for months.

The Parks Department denied the original request to march past One World Trade Center on the 23rd anniversary of the September 11 attacks and applied the compromise site.

The compromise plan, the group said, allows the march to continue through the city’s garment district and contains the “least amount of potential costs.”

Two British dogs to be tried

**LONDON, 22 July —** Two Britons guilty of canine cocaine smuggling bid have been allowed to protest in Central Park.

Kaye Chapman, 20, plotted with her former labrador Frispa to smuggle 1.3 kilos of cocaine by surgically implanting packets of the drug inside two Labrador dogs.

Gregory Graham, 27, and his former labrador Rex were convicted at Norwich Crown Court of conspiracy to smuggle 1.3 kilos of cocaine by surgically implanting packets of the drug inside two Labrador dogs.

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Both sides at times have accused the other of stalling negotiations. The anti-war group has staged protests at City Hall, and on one occasion sent some of its members to meet Mayor Bloomberg as he arrived for work in the morning.

Meanwhile, the city is appealing against a court ruling restricting police tactics for controlling protesters during the convention. A federal judge ruled Monday that police may not search demonstrators’ bags unless they can show a specific threat to public safety.

Officers will be allowed to conduct less intrusive searches, such as those using metal detecting wands. The decision also requires that protesters be allowed to move freely in and out of the grass.

**Two Britons guilty of canine cocaine smuggling bid**

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Gregory Graham, 27, and his former labrador Rex were convicted at Norwich Crown Court of conspiracy to smuggle 1.3 kilos of cocaine by surgically implanting packets of the drug inside two Labrador dogs.

The anti-war group said it was prepared to send troops only if Iraq’s government was engaged in a “serious and above all lasting effort to fight terrorism.”

Iraq has expressed its willingness to send troops only if it is assured that they will be used to fight terrorism. The group said it would accept an alternative site if it is assured that it will be used to fight terrorism.

**Russia says has no plans to send troops to Iraq**

**MOSCOW, 22 July —** Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov said Wednesday that no Russian troops would be sent to Iraq to enhance Russia’s prospects for winning economic reconstruction contracts in that country.

“These are absolutely different issues which are being tackled in different contexts,” he was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying.

“Each country has the right to decide whether or not to join these forces,” Fedotov said. “Russia is not considering this possibility.”

**Four Iraqis killed in clashes with US forces**

**BAGHDAD, 22 July —** At least four people were killed and 14 others wounded in clashes with the US forces in west Baghdad Wednesday, Qatari-based al Jazeera TV channel reported.

A US military spokesman confirmed that American soldiers were battling guerrillas in the Sunni bastion of Ramadi, a restive city some 100 kilometers west of Baghdad.

The clashes erupted when soldiers attacked a building used by US snipers east of the city with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns, the channel said.

The US forces sent more troops to the area as US snipers spread on the roofs of the buildings, it added.

**Iraq prepares to return to WTO**

**BAGHDAD, 22 July —** Iraq is preparing to return to the World Trade Organization (WTO) after a 14-year absence.

Al Masrakh newspaper reported Tuesday.

The “Iraqi Government intends to rejoin the World Trade Organization and enjoy the privileges of being a member in it,” Trade Minister Mohammed al-Jabouri was quoted as saying.

“Such a step represents the new Iraqi approach of open economy and opening doors as wide as possible for foreign investments,” the minister added.

**US housing construction in June falls to lowest level**

**WASHINGTON, 22 July —** US housing construction dropped 8.5 percent in June to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.8 million units, the lowest level since May 2003, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

Although the June figure was weaker than the 1.99 million units economists expected and below the 1.97 million units in the previous month, it still represented a respectable level of activity, analysts believe.

**Two killed, five injured in rocket attack on Baghdad hospital**

**BAGHDAD, 22 July —** At least two people were killed and five others injured on Wednesday in a rocket attack on a hospital in the middle of a Baghdad health complex, local health officials said.

“Three rockets launched from the other side of the river (Tigris River) and struck the main health complex in Baghdad at about 3:30 p.m. (11:30 GMT),” said Abdul-Amir al-Mukhtar, director of the main city hospital said.

The attack resulted in killing “two persons and wounding five others”, al-Mukhtar said.

The health complex located at the bank of the east side of Tigris river.

But other sources gave the death toll to three, saying three people were killed and five injured.

An Iraqi woman surveys the damage in the seventh floor of the Adnan Khawtharrah hospital in Baghdad on 21 July, 2004.—Reuters

Few have volunteered to guard UN staff in Iraq

**UNITED NATIONS, 22 July —** The United Nations lacks troops to guard its staff in Iraq, despite international insistence the world body play a key role in Baghdad’s future, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Wednesday.

“Without security, we cannot really deploy in any sizeable number,” Annan told a news conference.

He said three or four countries had “indicated interest” but had not said how many troops they would send for a special unit the UN Security Council authorized to guard UN staff, who will be led by the new UN chief envoy to Iraq, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi.

Pakistan’s ambassador to the United Nations.

But Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf is prepared to send troops only if Iraq’s interim government requested it — and only if other Islamic nations did the same, Annan said.

“They would not want to be the only

*Note: The text above is a summary of the news articles published on 22 July, 2004, by Reuters and Interfax news agencies.*
Arroyo says no apology for troop pullout from Iraq

MANILA, 23 July— Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Friday took on a defiant tone defending her decision to pull out the Philippine military personnel from Iraq to save the life of kidnapped truck driver Angelo de la Cruz.

In a speech addressing diplomats at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Arroyo said that she owes no apology (to the United States) over her decision she made over the past two weeks during the construction crisis.

A television grab shows Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo speaking to released Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz on a mobile phone during a meeting at the presidential palace in Manila July 20, 2004. Arroyo said the Filipino hostage freed by Iraqi militants on Tuesday was in high health after talking to him by telephone from Baghdad.

"And as Angelo comes home, I am not about to bore a bleeding heart to defend myself. What I have said to you, it won't take three lines to summarize: one, I take sole responsibility; two, I make no apology; three, I stuck to my oath," said Arroyo.

She thanked the Philippine diplomats for doing a good job in saving the life of de la Cruz and bringing him home alive.

Filipino drivers barred from Iraq crossing

BAGHDAD, 23 July—Filipino truck drivers working in the Middle East are now banned from entering Iraq to prevent another kidnapping by terrorists in that country.

President Arroyo ordered the Department of Foreign Affairs Friday to ensure that Filipino truck drivers working in countries near Iraq are stopped at the border should they attempt to enter that country.

Some 4,000 Filipino workers are currently deployed in Iraq. They were hired directly by the US and British companies that won contracts for rebuilding the war-torn country.

“The secretary of foreign affairs has issued directives to all our missions bordering Iraq to request their respective host governments not to allow Filipino truck drivers to cross into Iraq from their borders,” President Arroyo said in her speech at the 106th Foundation Day Programme of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The Philippines has already successfully negotiated for the release of two Filipino truck drivers in Iraq, the most celebrated of which was de la Cruz’s case.

Halliburton suffers a loss despite booming Iraq revenue

HOUSTON, 23 July—Oil services giant Halliburton posted a second-quarter loss despite a boom in revenue inflated by US government contracts in Iraq.

Halliburton, led from 1995 to 2000 by now Vice-President Dick Cheney, said it was pushed into the red by asbestos liabilities and a wayward deepwater oil project off Brazil named Barracuda Caratinga.

It lost 663 million dollars, or 1.13 dollars a share, in the three months to June 30, compared to a year-earlier net profit of 26 million dollars, or six cents a share. Revenue, however, soared 37.7 percent to 4.96 billion dollars.

The KBR engineering unit, carrying out Pentagon contracts in the Middle East, including Iraq, said revenue shot up 68 percent to 3.1 billion dollars — equal to 62.5 percent of the entire group’s revenue.

"The improvement was due to government contract activities, primarily in the Middle East," it said.

Halliburton’s Iraq-related work alone contributed 1.7 billion dollars in revenues — more than one-third of the group total — and 23 million dollars in operating profit.

KBR reported an operating loss of 277 million dollars, compared to a 148 million dollar loss a year earlier, because of a 310 million dollar loss on the Barracuda-Caratina project.

Kenyan families plead for release of captives held in Iraq

NAIROBI, 23 July—The families of three Kenyan captives held hostage in Iraq have sent passionate pleas to their captors to set them free, as the government urged all Kenyans working in Iraq to leave immediately, as the government urged all Kenyans working in Iraq to leave immediately, as demanded by their captors.

The three Kenyan civilians, Jalal Mohammed Awadh, aged 42, Ibrahim Khamis, 50 and Fahad Khamis Salim, 39, were among seven other truck drivers seized on Wednesday, July 22, 2004, as they drove from Kuwait to Baghdad.

Kenya’s Foreign Affairs Minister Hon Chilau Ali Mwakwere said that the Iraqi employer of the Kenyan drivers had established contact with the drivers, and was working to secure their release.

"We appeal to the kidnappers to accept that Kenya has not taken sides in the Iraqi war, and set our citizens free," pleaded the Minister during a Press briefing on Thursday.

A video footage released on Thursday and broadcast on Kenyan television channels showed the three among seven captured men stating their names and nationalities.

Of the four other captives, one, Mr Mohammed Ali Sanad, is from Egypt, and three are from India—Mr Antaryami, Mr Tulik Raj and Sukdev Singh.

Filipino hostage back home after two-week ordeal

MANILA, 23 July—Freed hostage Angelo de la Cruz arrived home to a hero’s welcome on Thursday.

Two days after he was released in Baghdad, the 46-year-old was greeted at Manila International Airport by his father and eight children before meeting President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

He flew back with his wife Arsenia and youngest brother Jesse after being reunited with them on Wednesday night in Abu Dhabi, where he had a medical check-up.

An unknown truck driver, until his abduction two weeks ago, de la Cruz has become a high-profile symbol of the eight-million Filipinos working overseas to support their families back home.

“We have prepared a welcome party for Angelo de la Cruz,” said Mark Lapil, governor of the driver’s home province of Pampanga, north of the capital. “He will be given a hero’s welcome not only in his village but by the country.”

By bowing to the militants’ demands, Arroyo appears to have calculated that he would lose more from a popular backlash against de la Cruz’ execution than from a deterioration in ties with the United States.

The move has broad support at home, with one survey showing 74 per cent of respondents in the capital said she “made the right decision” to withdraw the 51 troops a month early.

Only 19 per cent disagreed with the withdrawal.

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone was due to fly home on Thursday for what he described as “strategic consultations” with superiors in Washington.

US State Department officials have joined other allies in criticizing Arroyo’s decision, saying it was a capitulation to terrorism that would likely encourage more hostage-takings.

A new hostage crisis erupted in Iraq on Wednesday, with guerrillas saying they had seized three Indonesian and two Kenyans and an Egyptian and threatening to kill them one by one unless the Kuwaiti company they worked for pulled out of Iraq.

Annan criticizes US for withholding population funding

UNITED NATIONS, 23 July—United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan criticized on Wednesday the US Administration for its decision to continue withholding 34 million US dollars of funding Congress approved for the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).

At a Press conference, Annan said the UN agency is doing "every essential work in reproductive health" and one of its major tasks is to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which is "producing so many orphans".

"This (fighting AIDS) is an area where UNFPA is doing very good work with mothers, with communities and so on, and really needs help," he said. "I hope governments will support UNFPA and not cut it when it fund its activities to other agencies," he added.

The US State of Department and the last week’s decision to withhold the funding from UNFPA for the third consecutive year on the grounds that the American aid to the UNFPA supports "coercive abortions" in China. UNFPA denied the charges as “baseless”, citing an earlier conclusion made by a State of Department team after a visit to China.

According to UNFPA, the United States is the only country trying to deny funding to the UN body for non-budgetary reasons.

Report says Australian intelligence failed over Iraq

CASSINO, 23 July— Australian intelligence relied on thin and ambiguous information for its assessment of the threat of weapons of mass destruction in pre-war Iraq, an independent report found on Thursday.

"There has been a failure of intelligence on Iraq WMD. Intelligence was thin, ambiguous and incomplete," former intelligence chief Phil Flood said in a report which mirrors similar intelligence inquiries in the United States and Britain.

The report also found that Australi- an intelligence agencies should have known more about the "terrorist capabil- ities and intentions" of Aslan Islami militant group passphrase (JI) prior to the 2002 Bali bombings which killed 202 people, 88 of them Australian.

"The secretary of foreign affairs has issued directives to all our missions bordering Iraq to request their respective host governments not to allow Filipino truck drivers to cross into Iraq from their borders," President Arroyo said in her speech at the 106th Foundation Day Programme of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

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She thanked the Philippine diplomats for doing a good job in saving the life of de la Cruz and bringing him home alive.
Panhsaung, developing town in northwest

Panhsaung that was just a big village in the past had been upgraded into a town on 15 October 2002 in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. In the past, the town had only one middle school. Now it has one high school, 18 primary schools, one 16-bed hospital, three rural health care centres and six sub-rural health care centres. Health education activities are being continuously launched in the town.

Panhsaung region is a sparsely populated area, with less agricultural activities and poor transport. Thanks to the goodwill endeavours of the Government, the region is now enjoying fruits of development in various sectors. Mountain streams with strong torrents in the area are suitable to generate hydel power.
Panhsaung village becomes a town

Panhsaung in Nanyun Township, Hkamti District, Sagaing Division, became a town on 15 October 2002. It is like a shining star in the north-west region of the Union of Myanmar.

Panhsaung is located on the road linking Ledo in India and Kunming in the People’s Republic of China via Myanmar. Famous as the Ledo Road, it was built during the World War II. The town lies near Hukaung valley or Pangsaup pass. The Ledo Road passes through towns and villages in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division. Towns including Tanai and Kamaing in Myanmar are located on the road. The land surface of Hukaung valley is flat, with a lot of natural watercourses flowing through it. The land is covered with thick forests. The torrents of mountain streams are strong in the rainy season. Thus, they change their courses several times. The area of Panhsaung region is 257,262.10 acres. Lying between north latitudes 27 degree and 28 degree and east longitudes 96 degree and 97 degree, the region is situated at 3,520 feet above sea level on Pankkio mountain range. Lying in the east of Nanyun, the region is bordering India in the west and touching Putao Township in the north.

It rains in Panhsaung the whole year and the annual rainfall of the town is between 120 inches and 150 inches. As it is included in the northern temperate zone, its lowest temperature is 8° Celsius; and the highest, 32° Celsius.

Its population is 10,089 which is larger than that of the Pannandin. Ninety-five per cent of the population are people of the Naga national race. There are also Bamar, Kachin and Lihsu races. Most of the people are of the Christian faith. There are also Buddhists and animists. Agriculture is the main business of the region.

Like Pannandin, Panhsaung is also a beautiful town surrounded by bluish mountains, with its sky decorated with clouds, whose shape, colour and situation change in accord with the weather. With bluish mountains in the background, the Naungyan Lake lies quietly by the town like a large flat-surface emerald.

Panhsaung has three wards — Ahiet Ward, Ale Ward and Auk Ward — nine village-tracts and 18 villages. There are 702 members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, 33 members of the Red Cross Brigade, 23 members of the Auxiliary Fire Brigade, 21 members of the Maternal and Child Welfare Association and 23 members of the Organization for Women’s Affairs.

In the past, Panhsaung region was a sparsely populated area, with less agricultural activities and poor transport. Thanks to the goodwill endeavours of the Government, the region is now enjoying fruits of development in various sectors. Mountain streams, with strong torrents, in the area are suitable to generate hydel power.

The total land area of the town and its surrounding places are 257,262.10 acres. The net sown acreage is 5,767 acres. Paddy is cultivated on 2,980 acres; and other crops, on 2,675 acres. One-hundred-twelve acres are garden lands. Forests cover 149,147 acres of the land. There are 2,229 acres of vacant and virgin lands and 100,127 acres of unused land.

Panhsaung is 228 miles from Myitkyina. A border market selling foodstuff and other goods was opened on 2 June 1999. Panhsaung that was just a big village in the past had been upgraded into a town on 15 October 2002 in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. In the past, the town had only one middle school. Now it has one high school, 18 primary schools, one 16-bed hospital, three rural health care centres and six sub-rural health care centres. Health educative activities are being continuously launched in the town.

A 32-mile road is linking Panhsaung and Nanyun. The road has one steel bridge, one bailey bridge, three suspension bridges and 20 wooden bridges. Nanyun is 32 miles from Shinbweyan; Shinbweyan is 44 miles from Tanai; and Tanai is 120 miles from Myitkyina. A telephone carrier board in the town has 20 lines. The Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise is supplying power to the town with a 30KVA generator. A new concrete building was built for the high school to install equipment relating to e-Education. A new hospital measuring 72 feet long, 30 feet wide and 10 feet high is under construction. The General Administration Department, a building to house offices of various departments and staff quarters have been built. Erection of the treasury has been completed up to 70 per cent. Ninety per cent of a 30-bed hostel and a six-unit staff quarters of Myanmar Police Force station have been completed. Thanks to the re-transmission station, the Myanmar TV is beaming its programmes to the town beginning 1 June 2004. Construction of quarters for the staff of Myanmar Radio and TV, Settlements and Land Records, Office of the Subcommittee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and teachers are in progress.

An 18-foot high pagoda was built at a cost of K 1.8 million donated by the State. The ceremony to hoist the Htidaw of the pagoda was held on 17 March 2004. Thanks to the goodwill of the State, efforts of the local national races and cooperation of the departments, Panhsaung, at present, is enjoying progress in various sectors.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanmar Alin. Kyemon 24-7-2004

* * *
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended opening …

(From page 1)
ribbon to open the new school building. Next, the
Prime Minister and party
inspected the building.
It is 170 feet long and 30
feet wide two-storey RC
building consisting of 10
classrooms.
At BEPS No 5 at Malikha
Housing Estate Project, Prime
Minister General Khin
Nyunt unveiled the plaque
of the building and sprin-
kled scented water on it after
opening the school building.
It is 204 feet by 30 feet three-
storey RC building. It has
fifteen 24-foot-by-30-foot
classrooms.
Next, the General
water supply.
Shwedaung International
Co Ltd Chairman U Aik Tun
explained the purpose of the
donation. Adviser to
DHSHD Col Tin Tun handed
over documents related to
the buildings to No 3 De-
thanks to the donors.
Next, the Prime Minister
delivered a speech. He ex-
pressed thanks for donation
of computers, exercise books
and cash by the Embassy of
the People’s Republic of
China and diplomats of em-
bassies of the Republic of
the Philippines and Cambo-
dia for attending the cer-
emony.
He said among the three
schools, two were renovated
and one was newly built.
Schools were renovated to
have the characteristics of
the school under the arrange-
ment of the government.
A great number of well-
furnished schools has
emerged with the contribution of the wellwishers.
DHSHD implemented the hut-to-apartment scheme accordance with
the guidance of the Head of State in 1994. Shwedaung International Co
Ltd and Tosta Construction built BEPS No 33 at Thumingala Housing
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BEPS-5 at Malikha Housing Estate Project.
Stakes driven for building station hospital in Budalin

YANGON, 24 July—Stakes were driven for building of a station hospital in Thakhatpin Village, Budalin Township, at a ceremony held at the village yesterday morning.

Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe graced the ceremony with their presence. They drove stakes for launching the construction project, and sprinkled scented water on them. Next, they performed rituals of golden and silver showers to mark successful completion of the ceremony. An official reported on measures for the project with the use of charts. The commander and the minister fulfilled the requirements.

The commander and the minister proceeded to Affiliated Basic Education High School in Nyaungkan Model Village in the township later in the morning. The principal reported on extended construction of buildings for opening of multimedia classrooms. The commander and the minister attended to the requirements.

A computer and 100 corrugated zinc sheets donated by Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and wife Daw San San Myint were presented to the principal. Managing Director U Kyaw Moe Naing presented a computer donated by Myanmar Moe Naing Co. The commander also donated exercise books to the school.

In the afternoon, they held a meeting with industrialists and entrepreneurs from Monywa Industrial Zone at City Hall of Monywa. Chairman of Monywa Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee Lt-Col Kyi Sein reported work progress. Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe in charge of Monywa Industrial Zone said that industrialists and entrepreneurs in the industrial zone are to be united and to participate actively in the tasks for manufacturing import-substitute ironwares and establishment of iron smelting factory. On completion of the factory, all can enjoy proportionate profits and benefits. Those present also made suggestions. The commander and the minister delivered concluding remarks. — MNA

Measures for ensuring smooth & secure transport co-ordinated

YANGON, 24 July—The Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport held its work co-ordination meeting at the All Private Bus Lines Control Committee on Layaushtikan Road in Tamway Township yesterday evening with an address by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were military region commanders, station commanders, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Li-Col Myint Kyi and members, members of the Supervisory Committee, the Chairmen of District Peace and Development Councils, registrars of universities and colleges in Yangon and officials, the Chairmen of Bus Lines running in Yangon Division and guests.

Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Maj-Gen Myint Swe explained measures to be taken by the Supervisory Committee for the convenience of the people who are commuting downtown Yangon and from Yangon to other states and divisions.

Next, members of the Supervisory Committee reported on measures being taken sector-wise for the convenience of the commuters; registrars and officials, on assistance to be provided for smooth and secure transport of teachers and students and the Chairmen of Bus Lines, on supervision for enabling drivers and conductors to follow traffic rules and regulations.

He added that some drivers impudently violated traffic rules although there were signals, signboards and zebra crossing; that there have been accidents due to reckless driving and overtaking; and officials at different levels are to take deterrent action against those who violate traffic rules. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Maj-Gen Myint Swe. — MNA

Delegation arrives back

YANGON, 24 July—The Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo arrived back here by air after attending the 9th WHO (Southeast Asia) Meeting of Health Secretaries and the 41st Senior Officials’ Meeting on Management of Health Projects held in New Delhi, India. The delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, directors-general and officials of departments under the Ministry of Health and WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borra.

Members of the delegation Acting Director-General of Health Department Dr Tin Win Maung and Deputy Director-Dr Than Zaw Myint of Medical Science Department also arrived back.—MNA

Minister presents trophy to ward football team

YANGON, 24 July — The final of the first Inter-Ward/Village Football Tournament of the Ministry of Energy was held in Kungyangon Township yesterday.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and sport fans watched the match. Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented 20 balls donated by the Ministry of Sports for the township to Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Kyaw Shwe.

Kangyimagyi Ward football team. Officials gave away awards to the best players of the tournament. — MNA

Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivers an address at the work co-ordination meeting. — MNA

Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe who is in charge of Monywa Industrial Zone meets with industrialists and entrepreneurs in Monywa. — TRANSPORT

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe who is in charge of Monywa Industrial Zone meets with industrialists and entrepreneurs in Monywa. — TRANSPORT

Kangyimagyi Ward football team. Officials gave away awards to the best players of the tournament. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party take Five Precepts from State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Abhidaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidaja Ayya Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Panminadhabivamsa at the Wazo-robets offering ceremony of Bangladesh Monastery. (News on page 16) — MNA
Plans for “International Space Station” cut back

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 24 July — NASA and its space partners on Friday approved a scaled-down International Space Station with fewer astronauts and less science than the United States can meet a 2010 deadline for ending shuttle flights, a top NASA official said.

Space agencies in Russia, Europe, Canada and Japan gave an unanimous approval to a NASA plan that means the orbiting platform, now about half completed, will never become the beehive of scientific and commercial research envisaged.

In exchange, NASA will continue with plans to launch research modules owned by its partners, some of them already built.

The agreement means the station will never support long duration crews of seven astronauts, as intended, but will be able to house at least four astronauts starting in 2009, said NASA’s deputy leader, Fred Gregory. He was speaking to reporters by teleconference from Nordwijk, the Netherlands, where space agency heads met this week.

“This action reflects a year of painstaking work, a lot of hard work,” Gregory said.

Publicly, NASA’s international partners have expressed support for a space station initiative of US President George W Bush, which calls for ending the US shuttle programme and curtailing involvement in the space station in favour of plans to explore the moon and Mars.

Privately, they have voiced the opinion that the United States is not living up to its commitments.

The first segment of the space-station, a multimillion dollar, 6-nation effort, was led by the United States and Russia, was put into orbit in 1998 and the first astronauts took up residence in 2000.

Long before the February, 2004, loss of the Columbia shuttle, which stopped all assembly work on the station, NASA had backed away from commitments to build a habitation module and emergency rescue ship.

Shuttle flights were suspended after the Columbia disintegrated over Texas as it returned from space last year, killing all seven astronauts on board, but NASA has said it expects to start shuttle Discovery back in flight in March 2005.

MNA/Reuters

Study finds movies really can put you in the mood

WASHINGTON, 24 July — Watching a movie can boost hormone levels, making men and women feel more romantic or more aggressive, US researchers said on Thursday.

Several films such as “The Bridges of Madison County” caused levels of the hormone progesterone to rise by more than 10 per cent in both men and women, the team at the University of Michigan found.

Women’s testosterone levels were unchanged during and after the Clint Eastwood movie about a love affair, while men’s testosterone levels fell.

“The Godfather Part II” aroused a different sort of passion, with crime and action film, men with the highest levels of testosterone had seen them soar by as much as 30 per cent more.

But men and women watching a documentary about the Amazon rainforest were unaffected, the study found.

“When you’re watching movies, your hormones are responding, not just your mind,” said Oliver Schutzbeiss, a psychology professor who led the study.

“If you want to learn about someone’s personality, look at their video collection,” added Schutz-beiss, who published his study in the journal Hormones and Behaviour.

MNA/Reuters

China grants emergency aid to flood-stricken areas

BRUNO, 24 July — China’s central government Friday allocated 33 million yuan (6 million US dollars) in emergency funds and 3,600 tents to flood-stricken areas in south and central parts of the country.

Officials with the Ministry of Civil Affairs said the money was for the provinces of Hunan and Hubei in central China and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, south China. Of the 3,600 tents, 2,300 went to central China’s Henan Province and 400 to Hubei Province.

Serious flooding was reported in those areas as well as other regions of the country, the said, the officials said.

According to the latest figures released Friday by the ministry, 95 people were killed by floods and 63 remain missing in flooded areas. Forty million people were affected by floods.

MNA/Reuters

Vehicle emission control effective in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 24 July — Progress has been made in Hong Kong to reduce motor vehicle emissions, said an Environment Secretary of Environment, Transport and Works Sarah Liang Phoris.

She said that nearly all diesel taxis have been replaced by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) ones and about 80 per cent of publicly registered light vehicles has also dropped by more than 70 per cent during the period.

“The installation of emission reduction devices on pre-Euro vehicles has never been a statutory requirement,” said Liao. She said that the same will apply to pre-Euro heavy diesel vehicles after the current catalyst retrofit for those vehicles has been completed in 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

EU resumes zero-tariff for sugar from Serbia-Montenegro

BRUSSELS, 24 July — The European Commission on Thursday decided on Thursday to restore tariff-free treatment of sugar imported from Serbia and Montenegro, putting an end to a 15-month suspension of the preferential arrangements.

The decision was taken after the former Yugoslav federal state had adopted measures which would ensure that the necessary cooperation for verifying proofs of origin.

“Now that adequate measures have been put in place by the authorities, we are pleased that the preferential tariffs for sugar imports from Serbia and Montenegro can be restored,” said Customs Commissioner Frits Bolkestein.

The EU’s executive arm will continue to monitor the situation in the country very closely as Serbia and Montenegro to clear certificates of origin for sugar, the commission said in a statement.

The preferential treatment was initially suspended in May 2003 for a period of three months and was extended twice for additional period of six months. The suspension will expire on August 7, 2004.

The decision on the suspension was taken on the basis of findings by the EU’s anti-fraud office that the system in place in Serbia and Montenegro was totally inadequate to verify whether the sugar exported to the EU under preferential arrangements indeed originated from the country.

MNA/Xinhua

Seven arrested over people smuggling into Britain

LONDON, 24 July — Seven men on suspicion of smuggling Indian illegal immigrants into Britain were arrested by British and Belgian police in coordinated raids on Thursday, police here said.

British police arrested five men at a house in Slough, west of London, while Belgian police held two Asian-origin Britons at the port of Ostend, close to the French border, after the two had loaded seven Indian illegal immigrants into a British-bound lorry.

“We believe that the illegal immigrants had paid up to 6,000 pounds (11,000 US dollars) each for the service but we are not sure of exact details as what route was used,” a spokeswoman for Britain’s immigration police said.

The British police also found a sawn-off shotgun, a revolver, an amount of ammunition and 10,000 pounds (about 18,500 US dollars) in cash at the house where the five men were arrested, she said.

MNA/Xinhua

Fiat adds 1,251 jobs in Italy

ITALY, 24 July — Fiat plans to create 1,251 jobs in three Italian car plants as part of a restructuring plan with the government meeting about 12 per cent of the 1.25 billion euros (186 million US dollars) in direct economic aid to the auto sector.

The announcement was made by the new CEO of Fiat, with 1,600 people in Italy over the next four years, 1,000 in 2004, 400 in 2005, and 200 in 2006. Another 7.9 billion euros (12 billion US dollars) in direct economic aid to the auto sector.

MNA/Xinhua

Swinburne University of Technology’s center for micro-photonics have constructed a model of the Sydney Opera House, seen in this undated photo, that is about half the diameter of a human hair. With dimensions of 64 x 38 x 41 micrometers, or more than a million times smaller than the real Sydney structure, the model was built from a hybrid material of glass and polymer by firing intense laser light into the matter in a liquid state to create what to the human eye appears as an almost imperceptible dot, but under an electron microscope it contains the detail and the beauty of the iconic Sydney harbour side structure. — Reuters

Ugandan, Canada sign agreement to promote trade

KAMPALA, 24 July — Uganda and Canada Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding aiming at enhancing bilateral economic ties through reduction of trade barriers thereby enabling the Ugandan business community access the Canadian markets.

Ugandan Minister of Tourism, Trade and Industry Edward Rugumayo and the Canadian High Commissioner to Uganda Jim Wall signed the memorandum in Kampala on behalf of their respective governments.

According to the memorandum, the Ugandan business community dealing in textile and apparel goods will access Canadian markets with zero tariffs.

Rugumayo recommended the Canadian Government for the intervention, saying that it would enhance cooperation between the two countries and improve bilateral trade links.

MNA/Xinhua

Study finds movies really can put you in the mood

WASHINGTON, 24 July — Watching a movie can boost hormone levels, making men and women feel more romantic or more aggressive, US researchers said on Thursday.

Several films such as “The Bridges of Madison County” caused levels of the hormone progesterone to rise by more than 10 per cent in both men and women, the team at the University of Michigan found.

Women’s testosterone levels were unchanged during and after the Cl...
Rice intensification system boosts output

YANGON, 24 July—The Agricultural Development Training School in Naungkhma Village, Hshseng Township, Shan State (South), has introduced the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in cultivation of paddy and now it is meeting success.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture Brig-Gen Khin Maung, departmental officials and members of Shan State Agricultural Supervisory Committee inspected the fields of paddy cultivated with the use of the system there on 22 July morning.

Agricultural course instructors briefed the Deputy Minister and party on the system and conducted them round the paddy fields of 24-day old.

According to last year’s agricultural experiment, two small baskets (two pyis) of paddy is enough for broadcasting of a one-acre field. One single paddy plant can multiply itself up to over 50, resulting in an increase in paddy output by half or 100 per cent.

The Deputy Minister and party looked into the paddy transplanting method, pests control system and thriving summer paddy fields in Haakkaung Village. The Rice Intensification System helps boost paddy production remarkably. — MNA

One of conjoined twins dies in Central China

WUHAN, 24 July — One of conjoined twins, who survived after an operation to separate her from her sister, died Friday morning in Wuhan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province. “She died of multi-organ prostration resulted from kidney failure this morning,” said Tang Shaoqiao, a surgeon with Union Hospital in Wuhan who performed the operation.

Her sister died of respiratory failure two days ago, shortly after the twins were separated. Doctors carried out an emergency operation Wednesday to separate the sisters at chest and abdomen. The operation lasted nearly five and a half hours from 12:30 a.m. to 6.05 pm. The twins shared one liver and small intestine, but had separate hearts, lungs, stomachs and spleens, noted Tang.

Tang said both babies were in stable condition when the operation ended.

“But in just 20 minutes, the girl with the lung infection developed breathing problems and her blood pressure started to fluctuate,” according to the hospital. The baby girl died at 6:45 p.m., 46 minutes after the operation.

The twins were born on July 12 in the city of Tianmen and were sent to Union Hospital for a checkup. China has reported 27 sets of conjoined twins born 1949; 15 pairs have undergone separation operations. — MNA/Xinhua

Hoarders warned as South Asia flood misery worsens

GUWAHATI (India), 24 July — Authorities in India warned traders on Friday against hoarding as sweeping river waters disrupted food supplies in parts of South Asia where floods have killed over 550 people in the past three weeks.

The floods are the worst in 15 years in Bangladesh. Across the densely populated region, some 25 million people were homeless or stranded in their homes as annual monsoon rains caused rivers to flow into large swathes of low-lying land.

In the northeastern Indian state of Assam, police said they would cancel business licences or impose fines on traders who stocked up on food items needed by millions of people cut off by raging rivers since the start of July.

“We are sending out a strict warning to all traders not to hoard food items and take advantage of the flood situation,” Hiren Nath, a senior police officer in Guwahati, the state’s main city, told Reuters.

Hundreds of kilometres of roads and rail track have been submerged, slashing the supply of commodities and pushing up prices. There have been widespread reports of hoarding by traders and shopkeepers in the state.

Across the region, thousands of people leave their homes everyday to grab food packets handed out by officials in boats and dropped by helicopters.

Residents are finding it tough to cope.

“Prices of food items have gone up at least three times and housewives like me are finding it just impossible to manage our monthly budget,” said Zuri Mech.

Waso robes offered

YANGON, 24 July — The fifth Waso robes offering ceremony of the Ministry of Commerce was held at Aung Mingala monastery in Kayinseik village, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division, on 19 July morning. MWEA Adviser retired Prof Daw Yi Yi Myint, Vice-Chairperson Daw Thet Yi, Secretary Dha Hla Wady and wellwishers presented Waso robes and offerings to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. Wellwishers who went on friendship tour to Japan under the aegis of MWEA also donated K 2.5 million for building a dispensary at the village. The Waso robes offering ceremony in progress. — MNA

WASO ROBES OFFERED: The seventh Waso robe offering ceremony of the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association (MWEA) was held at Aung Mingala monastery in Kayinseik village, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division, on 19 July morning. MWEA Adviser retired Prof Daw Yi Yi Myint, Vice-Chairperson Daw Thet Yi, Secretary Dha Hla Wady and wellwishers presented Waso robes and offerings to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. Wellwishers who went on friendship tour to Japan under the aegis of MWEA also donated K 2.5 million for building a dispensary at the village. The Waso robes offering ceremony in progress. — MNA

Romania mulls adoptions abroad for ill babies

BUCHAREST, 24 July— Romania is considering allowing foreigners to adopt children with serious medical problems, Prime Minister Adrian Nastase said on Thursday.

Last month Romania passed a law banning foreign adoption in a move that quelled EU concerns over corrupt bidding for babies but angered the United States and other Western countries.

Nastase’s statement, broadcast by a private Romanian TV station, was made at a news conference in Washington after he met President George Bush during a visit to the United States.

“I assured the President that for such special situations we will draft bills for each case that will go to Parliament for approval,” Nastase said, adding that there were children with serious medical problems whose treatment was very expensive.

“I told him (President Bush) at the same time about the new regulations... and I’m sure that together with our partners in Brussels and in Washington we will find solutions for certain cases if needed,” he added.

The new law says children can be adopted abroad only by their grandparents and only after attempts to keep them in their families or place them with another Romanian family fail. It cements a moratorium placed on foreign adoptions in 2001 after pressure from the EU which Romania hopes to join in 2007.

Romania passed the moratorium 15 years after the collapse of Communism in the Balkan state sent foreigners rushing to adopt from delapidated orphanages crammed with some 100,000 children.

The European Parliament rapporteur for Romania and children’s rights campaigner Emma Nicholson has lobbied to stop foreign adoptions in Romania over fears that babies were ending up in the human organ trade or in the hands of paedophiles. — MNA/Reuters

Prices of food items have gone up at least three times and housewives like me are finding it just impossible to manage our monthly budget,” said Zuri Mech.
Japan set up task force on UN reforms

Tokyo, 23 July—The Japanese Foreign Ministry plans to set up a task force to discuss how to reform the United Nations, including the possibility of Japan's becoming a permanent member of its Security Council.

The task force will also take up Japan's call to remove a clause from the UN Charter that describes Japan as a “former enemy” nearly six decades after the end of World War II. But the ministry has yet to decide exactly when to launch the task force and who will be its members.

The ministry also hopes the launch of the task force would help Japan’s bid to become a permanent UN Security Council member and that support for it by other member states would gather steam. According to the report, Kawaguchi plans to newly appoint an ambassador-in-charge of reinforcement of the United Nations and has proposed that leaders of the UN member states gather in 2005 to discuss UN reforms.—MNA/Xinhua

China recruits biomedical scientists

BEIJING, 23 July—China has begun global recruitment for major posts at the newly established Institute of Biomedical Sciences (IBS) at Fudan University, a prestigious university in east China’s Shanghai Municipality.

Speaking at a news conference Thursday, IBS director He Fuchu said the IBS would cover fundamental and applied research in the interdisciplinary areas of biology and medicine. The IBS aims to achieve breakthroughs on biomedicine within five years. He said thus improving its academic status and competitiveness in this field.—MNA/Xinhua

Afghans start work on first industrial park

KABUL, 23 July—Afghanistan broke ground on its first industrial park on Wednesday on the South Korean Minister of Culture and Tourism Chang Dong-chae signed a document to this effect at a meeting in Tokyo, said the minister. Japan’s Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Minister Nobuteru Ishihara and South Korean Minister of Culture and Tourism Chang Dong-chae signed a document to this effect at a meeting in Tokyo, said the minister.

Afghanistan’s first industrial park will be its members. The launching of the task force will be helpful to the UN’s bid to become a permanent UN Security Council member and that support for it by other member states would gather steam. According to the report, Kawaguchi plans to newly appoint an ambassador-in-charge of reinforcement of the United Nations and has proposed that leaders of the UN member states gather in 2005 to discuss UN reforms.—MNA/Xinhua

Chinese medicine may help soothe SARS sequence

Speaking at a Press briefing, director of HKBU’s Institute for the Advancement of Chinese Medicine Professor Kelvin Chan said a pilot clinical study was conducted to assess the efficacy of Chinese medicine on 15 post-SARS patients with avascular necrosis (AVN) and patients with bone pain.

Results show the treatment using natural herbs improved the daily life of patients by relieving symp- toms such as pain in the joints, lack of vitality, poor quality of sleep or insomnia, aversion to coldness, depression, and frequent urination.

Chan said the research results are encouraging, and said more studies will be conducted to further investigate the effects of Chinese medicine in treating AVN patients and mechanisms of action.

The clinical trial lasted for six months. Dosages of the Chinese medicine were applied in the patients via two suppositories daily in the first three months, then one suppository daily for the following three months.

Hong Kong experienced SARS outbreak in April last year. According to a survey done by the Association of Hong Kong Nursing Staff in April 2004, over 80 percent of 116 nurses and staff who had contracted SARS suffered from symp- toms such as tiredness, arthalgia and bad memory due to SARS.—MNA/Xinhua

Thousands of books are waiting to give you knowledge free of charge
China’s Gansu establishes friendly ties with Egypt

CAIRO, 23 July — China’s northwestern Gansu Province and Egypt’s Giza Governorate signed on Wednesday an agreement to establish friendly ties.

Under the agreement, the two sides are expected to engage in cooperation in the areas of economy, trade, culture and personnel exchanges.

Gansu Governor Lu Hao said at the signing ceremony that trade volume between Gansu and Egypt exceeded three million US dollars in the first five months of this year, and the signing of such an agreement will help promote economic and trade exchanges between the two provinces.

Lu and his delegation arrived here on 17 July for a five-day visit to Egypt.

“It’s one case where knowledge can actually decrease memory accuracy,” said Vladimir Sloutsky, Director of the Centre for Cognitive Science at Ohio State University, who led the study.

For their study, researchers showed 27 young children in category induction of various pictures — not too much to see if the animal looked similar to the original cat.

Adults, however, used category-based induction — once they determined whether the animal pictured was a cat, they gave more attention. So when they were tested later, the adults did not recognize the pictures as well as the children.

“The adults did not care about a specific cat — all they wanted to know was whether the animal was a cat or not,” Sloutsky said. And when taught to use category-based induction like adults, the children’s ability to remember dropped to the level of adults.

People look at Apple Computer’s new digital music player iPod mini at an Apple store in Tokyo as it made its debut in Japan on 24 July, 2004. Some 1,000 people lined up outside the store, it sells for 28,140 yen ($256) and has the capacity of about 1,000 digital songs...[REUTERS]

Vienna aims higher export growth

VIENNA, 24 July — Vienna has targeted to obtain export turnovers of 23.6 billion US dollars in 2004 and 27 billion dollars in 2005, year-on-year increases of 19.2 per cent and 14.4 per cent, respectively.

To fulfil the targets, the country will focus on promoting trade in major markets, including the United States, China, Japan, the European Union (EU) and Asia.

Nations (ASEAN), and intensifying export of key items such as textiles, garments, footwear, seafood and woodwork, according to the Ministry of Trade on Friday.

In the 2004-2005 period, the country plans to annually reach average export growth rates of 12 per cent to markets of Asia, Europe and Oceania, and 15-17 per cent to North America, Latin America and Africa.

Pakistan, India agree to enhance parliament cooperation

ISLAMABAD, 24 July — Pakistani Senate Chairman Muhammad Soomro and Indian Minister for External Affairs Natwar Singh have agreed to enhance cooperation between the parliaments of Pakistan and India through frequent exchange of visits by parliamentarians.

Natwar Singh, who is currently visiting Pakistan, disclosed this on Thursday while responding to questions after meeting with Soomro at his residence, the local news agency News Network International reported.

“We have agreed to form a group of young parliamentarians of both the countries especially those who are in the age group of 25 to 35 years aimed at strengthening bilateral ties between the two parliaments,” Natwar Singh said.

He said the programme on the Parliamentarians’ visit would be worked out between the secretariats of the two countries.

Talking about his discussion with Soomro during the meeting, he said they discussed matters relating to parliaments, friendship and diplomacy but not politics in the meeting.

Regarding relations between Pakistan and India after his visit, Natwar Singh said, “I hope bilateral relations between the two countries will be improved.” He said he also extended invitation to Soomro to visit India.

Talking to reporters after the meeting, Soomro said, “I have accepted invitation to visit India and dates will be worked out between the two foreign offices of Pakistan and India.”

Regarding the meeting with Natwar Singh, he said, “I think it was a friendly meeting and we discussed matters relating to both the parliaments.”

Researchers say small kids have better memories than parents

WASHINGTON, 23 July — Next time, maybe you will believe your kid. Small children apparently have better memories than their parents, researchers reported on Thursday.

They found a five-year-old could beat most adults on a recognition memory test, at least under specific conditions. And the reason is that adults know much more about the stimulus items.

People engage in cooperation in the economic and cultural fields between Pakistan and India aiming at strengthening bilateral ties between the two sides are expected to be discussed during the meeting.

Soomro said, “I believe we will face a challenge going forward as we look at combinations of targeted therapies and hospitalization.”

“But if you’ve got solid data then it is possible to demonstrate to a healthcare system the contribution that a drug makes,” Sloutsky said.

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Flamini joins Arsenal from Marseille

**London, 23 July—** French under-21 international Mathieu Flamini has joined Arsenal from Olympique Marseille, the English champions said on Thursday.

"The 26-year-old, whose original deal with Juv was due to expire at the end of next season, had threatened to leave in protest over his salary but a deal has now been struck to bring his earnings in line with the club's top earners," Flamini general manager Arsene Wenger said.

"He is very powerful and plays with great creativity, both as a defensive and attacking midfielder, and will be a tremendous addition to our squad," Marseille coach Jose Anigo said he had tried everything to keep the 20-year-old.

"He may be young but already he has a good level of top-flight experience," Arsene Wenger said.

A bird's eye view of the match next to Flamini's name.

Milan's Inzaghi ruled out for six weeks

**Milan, 23 July—** AC Milan striker Filippo Inzaghi could miss the start of the Serie A season after a test on his troubled ankle injury revealed complications.

Inzaghi missed out on Milan's title-winning run-in and Italy's Euro 2004 campaign after picking up the injury which he has struggled to recover from.

"We were lucky to win the Euro 2004 campaign after picking up the injury which he has struggled to recover from," the club said on Thursday.

Milan coach Fabio Capello is expected to use Trezeguet and Alessandro Del Piero as his first-choice pairing, although the club continue to be linked with Parma's Alberto Gilardino.

Rivaldo signs two-year deal with Greece's Olympiakos

**Athens, 23 July—** Former World Player of the Year Rivaldo has signed a two-year contract with Greece's Olympiakos, the Piraeus club said on Thursday.

The 32-year-old Brazil forward's arrival is seen as another boost to soccer in Greece after their national team shocked the world by winning Euro 2004 earlier this month.

The club have not released the financial details of the contract, which includes an option for a third year, but according to local media reports, Rivaldo could earn up to 1.8 million euros ($2.21 million US dollars) per season.

"Olympiakos would like to announce the transfer of Brazil's international player Rivaldo for two-plus-one years," the club said in a statement.

The former Barcelona player was pictured wearing an Olympiakos shirt on Thursday and told reporters that the Greek club's fans are "very important part in my decision," Rivaldo said.

"Who thought Greece would win the European Cup, so why would we not manage with Olympiakos?"
Sat., 24 July, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Magway Division, scattered in Kayin, Rakhine and Kayah States, Lower Sagain, Mandalay and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Bago (3.78 inches), Pyapon (3.27 inches), Yangon (Mingaladon) (2.42 inches), Kelawa (1.97 inches) and Mawlamyine (1.85 inches).

Maximum temperature on 23-7-2004 was 31.5°C (89°F). Minimum temperature on 24-7-2004 was 19.0°C (66°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 24-7-2004 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 23-7-2004 was (4.3) hours approx. Rainfall on 24-7-2004 was (2.24) inches at Yangon Airport, (1.26 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (0.98 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1612 mm (63.46 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1542 mm (60.71 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1523 mm (59.96 inches) at central Yangon.

Bay inference: According to the observations at 06:30 hrs MST today, a low pressure area has formed over the North Bay and adjoining West Central Bay. Monsoon is strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 25-7-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah States and Magway Division, scattered in Shan State, Mandalay and Lower Sagain Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine, Mon States and Tanintharyi Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-7-2004: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-7-2004: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends seventh Waso robes offering ceremony of Bangladesh Monastery

YANGON, 24 July — The seventh Waso robes offering ceremony of Bangladesh Monastery in Natchaung Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon East District, was held at the three-storey Maha Jaya Mingal Theindawgyi of the monastery this afternoon. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended it and offered Waso robes and alms to monks.

Present on the occasion were State Sangha Maha Nayaka Piru, Vice-Chairman Abhidhaja Maha Rathaguru Abhajhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bahan Township Aungmyebonsan Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pattinadabhihamsa, SSMNC member Sayadaws, Bangladesh Rev. Ministers, Maha Sayadaw, Maha Mandalay Sayadaw, Maha Jotika Dhaja Pyay Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundala, Maha Jotika Dhaja Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundala, Maha Jotika Dhaja Aungmyebonsan Monastery Sayadaw, and wellwishers also donated Waso robes and offertories to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

The commander, the ministers, the mayor, lay persons and wellwishers welcomed the Prime Minister, followed by sharing of merits gained. The commander offered Waso robes to the Aungmyebonsan Monastery Sayadaw.

First, the ceremony was welcomed with the three-time recitation of Namo Tassa. Next, the Aungmyebonsan Monastery Sayadaw invested the congregation with the Five Precepts. The Sayadaws and members of the Sangha received paras.

The Prime Minister offered a set of Waso robes and provisions to the Aungmyebonsan Monastery Sayadaw. The commander, the ministers, the mayor, lay persons and wellwishers also donated Waso robes and offertories to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

SSMNC Vice-Chairman Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Jotika Dhaja Pyay Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundala delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained. Later, the ceremony concluded with the three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Cāiram Tathātā. — MNA

Exam results to be broadcast for remote areas

YANGON, 25 July — The Radio Myanmar will broadcast results of the matriculation examination held in March 2004 for the respective exam centres of the respective states’ divisions and townships at 6 am today.

In addition, the results from states and divisions apart from Yangon Division are posted at Insein Basic Education High School No 1, Yankin BEHS No 1, Kamayut BEHS No 3, Lanmadaw BEHS No 1, Dagon BEHS No 2 and Thingangyun BEHS No 3. — MNA

Sanitation tasks inspected

YANGON, 24 July — The seventh Waso robes offering ceremony of Parami Overpass Construction Project being undertaken by Myanmar Railways of the Ministry of Rail Transportation this afternoon.

At 3 pm, the Prime Minister arrived at the construction site where Min Aung Min, Deputy Minister U Pe Than and officials of the Yangon City welcomed him.

Next, the commander and the mayor inspected laying of concrete floor of the overpass and other construction tasks. The minister and officials conducted the Prime Minister round the construction site. After giving instructions to officials, the Prime Minister pass through the Overpass. Construction of the overpass was completed 80 per cent. And, the approach road to the main overpass, pedestrian lanes and tarred road are under construction. — MNA

Next, the commander inspected laying of concrete floor of the overpass and other construction tasks. The commander, and the mayor inspected the construction site. After giving instructions to officials, the Prime Minister inspected laying of the concrete floor of the overpass and other construction tasks.

Exam results announced

YANGON, 25 July — The Radio Myanmar will broadcast results of the matriculation examination held in March 2004 for the respective exam centres of the respective states’ divisions and townships at 6 am today.

The schedule to broadcast the examination results for the regions are Tanai, Maubin, Pathein-Myawady, Phakant, Sumparabum and Chwinwet of Kachin State, Papun, Kyain-Seikkyi and Kamahun in Kayin State, Kangolet, Matupi, Mindat and Paletwa of Chin State, Gwa, Kyeintali, An, Mauanu and Saya-tokin of Rakhine State, Momeik, Namhsan (North), Monghsat, Mongkaing, Kunlong, Mongtong, Mogprai, Maubin, Mo, Kahtkaung, Ku Maung, Kunhing, Hopang, Mongkhain, Mongpeng, Mongpyaw, Mahaung, Monhsu and Manthong of Shan State, Palaw, Bokpyin and Pala of Taninthayi Division, Pauk, Hitlin, Saw, Laungshe, Kyauktu, Sedoktara and Ngaphe of Magway Division, Nanyin, Leshi and Lahe of Sagaing Division and Dike Islands of Yangon Division. — MNA

Sanitation tasks inspected

YANGON, 24 July — Chairman of the Yangon City Development Committee, the Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of the Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of the Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of the Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of the Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of the Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of the Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of the Yangon Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Min, Deputy Minister U Pe Than and officials of the Yangon City welcomed the Prime Minister.

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