General Khin Nyunt receives officials of Fritz Werner Industries (Germany)

YANGON, 26 July — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt received Mr PD Christ, Sale Director, Fritz Werner Industries (Germany) and Mr B Bieger, Representative, Fritz Werner Industries (Yangon Branch) at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinttha here this evening.

Also present at the call together with the Prime Minister were Ministry for Foreign affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Ministry U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Ministry for Industry-2 Lt-Gen Khin Maung Kyaw, Director-General of the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet. — MNA

Union of Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Mr PD Christ, Sale Director, Fritz Werner Industries (Germany) at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinttha. — MNA

At a time when friendship and cooperation between Myanmar and the People’s Republic of China are in the process of rapid development, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt’s visit to the PRC had been able to promote the existing Paupkhaw friendship to fraternal relations.

During the Prime Minister’s recent visit to the PRC, prospects for enhancing cooperation in energy, hydroelectric power, mining, industrial, transport, communications and agricultural sectors were sought.

PM calls for constant contact, coordination between Myanmar and PRC officials for speedy implementation of agreements

YANGON, 26 July — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt attended a coordination meeting on implementation of agreements between the Union of Myanmar and the People’s Republic of China at Konmyinttha here at 4 pm today and made a speech on the occasion.

Also present on the occasion were the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department and others. In his address, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that he paid a goodwill visit to the People’s Republic of China in July 2004; that although the trip is a goodwill one, matters related to economic cooperation were coordinated during the trip. As friendship and cooperation between the two nations is making progress with added momentum, his goodwill visit to the PRC has been able to promote Paupkhaw friendship already put in place to fraternal relations, he said.

During his visit to the PRC, he met President Mr Hu Jintao, Premier Mr Wen Jiabao, Chairman of the National People’s Congress of China Mr Wu Bangguo and member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau Mr Luo Gan, and discussed matters related to friendship and cooperation between the two nations, he disclosed. He added that he met Premier Mr Wen Jiabao two times, one private meeting and other working meeting, discussed matters related to boosting bilateral cooperation in all spheres. The meetings have been able to pave the way for further enhancing cooperation in energy, hydroelectric power, mining, industrial, transport, communications and agricultural sectors, he said.

(See page 9)

Constant efforts are to be made for successful realization of agreements and MoUs on cooperation between Myanmar and PRC.

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Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Towards speedy emergence of special industrial park

The State Peace and Development Council has been putting its energies into the task of building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Fully aware of the fact that industrial development plays a pivotal role in building a modern and developed nation, the Tatmadaw Government, since its assumption of the State responsibilities, has been setting up industrial zones the length and breadth of the nation. So far, there has been a total of 19 industrial zones, including Shwepyitha, Hlinethaya, South Dagon, Shwepaukkan and Yangon industrial zones in satellite towns around Yangon.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party, during their recent goodwill visit to the People’s Republic of China, paid special attention to the study of flourishing industrial zones there. The Prime Minister and ministers accompanying him had had opportunities of discussing ways and means for Myanmar’s industrial development with Chinese leaders, state-level officials and personnel in charge of industrial zones.

A coordination meeting on the construction of the Special Industrial Park (Thanlyin-Kyauktan) being implemented by the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development was held at the Thanlyin-Kyauktan Industrial Zone Management Office on Yangon-Thanlyin-Kyauktan Road on 25 July and it was attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that, as Thanlyin-Kyauktan was a region where a seaport can be built, the Thanlyin-Kyauktan Industrial Zone Project was being implemented to establish an industrial zone with foreign investment and transport electricity and water supply needed for the emergence of an international-standard industrial zone had been fulfilled. And he added that the systematic flourishing of industrial zones was very important for the economy of the State as rapid economic progress would be possible only with industrial development.

There is a favourable environment for development of industries of international standard in the Thanlyin-Kyauktan Industrial Park. Therefore, measures are being taken for the emergence of a special industrial park through a master plan.

We would like to urge all those responsible to work in concert with one another for speedy emergence of a special industrial park in Thanlyin-Kyauktan region.

9th ISD Karatedo Tournament commences

YANGON, 26 July — The 9th Inter-State/Division Karatedo Tournament 2004 commenced today at Aung San Stadium. It was attended by Myanmar Olympic Committee General Secretary Sports and Physical Education Department Director General U Thaung Htaik, officials, Myanmar Karatedo Federation President Dr Ye Naing Win and executives, members of the panel of leading patrons of the Myanmar Women Sports Federation, and others.

Donations were also made on the occasion. Kyawzeya Telecommunications Services Co Ltd Managing Director Dr Naing Win and Han Myanmar Electronic Managing Director Dr San Naing and Han Myanmar Electronic Managing Director Dr San Naing donated K 3 million each to MKF, and Metropolitan Industry Co Ltd Managing Director U Khin Htwe and Soe Moe Kyaw Lottery Shop owner U Myo Than, K 500,000 and K 400,000 respectively. Dr Ye Naing Win accepted the donations. Dr Ye Naing Win also presented awards to Myanmar team, which secured second prize in the sixth Asia Karatedo Tournament held in China in February.

A total of 165 athletes from 13 states and divisions are taking part in the 9th karatedo tournament.

Myanmar Golf Tour 2004 to be held

YANGON, 26 July — A press conference on organizing Myanmar Golf Tour 2004 was held at Sedona Hotel here this afternoon.

First, President of MPGA and MGF U Win Hlaing presented the schedule of this year’s tour and expressed thanks to sponsors and companies. Next, on behalf of Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar Pte Ltd, was held at Sedona Hotel here this afternoon.

Managing Director Mr Arend Ng gave a speech explaining their objective in supporting the tour and mentioning the venues of the tour event. Next, General Manager of Myanmar PGA U Chan Han explained launching of the tour.

After U Win Hlaing, U Chan Han and officials answered the queries raised by those present and the press briefing came to an end. It was also attended by General Secretary U Aung Kyi and executives of MGF, Managing Director Col Soe Win of NPE, local and foreign journalists, officials from sponsor companies and guests. The tour will be launched at venues in Mandalay, Monywa, Bagan, Taunggyi, Myeik and Bago. Handsome prizes are to be presented.

The Co-sponsors are Air Mandalay, Tiger Beer, Alpine Drinking Water, Htoo Trading, K.M Golf Centre, Maruman, Tour Stage, Spixon, Wilson, Grand-slam (Musing wear), Accel International Co Ltd, Sedona Hotel (Mandalay), Sunfar Travels Tour and Han Event Management.

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

Kachin State USDA Secretary U Rawam Jon presents K 7 million donated by USDA Headquarters to Talawgyi Village-tract PDC Chairman U San Tun and party. (News on page 11) — MNA

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein accepts K 7,536,000 for flood victims donated by officials of Kachin State MCWA. (News on page 16) — MNA

MNA
Iran rebels say US-led coalition has granted them protected status in Iraq

PARIS, 25 July — Iran’s main armed opposition group said that the US-led coalition had granted its militants in Iraq protected status, despite its listing as a terrorist organization by both Washington and its key allies.

The National Council of Resistance of Iran said it had received notification from coalition commanders that People’s Mujahedeen fighters who have been confined to camp in Iraq since last year’s US-led invasion had been accorded recognition as protected non-battalions under the fourth Geneva Convention.

“The council has been informed by coalition commanders that the People’s Mujahedeen have been granted protected status,” the National Council of Resistance of Iran said in a statement.

None of the coalition’s spokesmen immediately confirmed the report.

Foreign Office spokesman said. “We will not parlay and negotiate with terrorists and I believe the overwhelming majority of the Australian public will agree with us,” said Howard, who sent 2,000 troops to the US-led war on Iraq.

A statement posted on the Internet earlier this month in the name of the Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades — which claims links to al Qaeda — has warned of a “bloodbath like that in Sidon” if Berlusconi remained in power.

Berlusconi, a close US ally, backed last year’s invasion to overthrow Saddam Hussein and Italy has around 2,700 troops in Iraq.

The Philippines withdrew troops from Iraq this month to save the life of a Filipino hostage. It joined Spain, the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Honduras which earlier quit what was once a 34-nation US-led coalition.

Iraq hostages crisis spirals; clashes north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 25 July — Two Pakistanis working for a Kuwait-based company were feared kidnapped on Sunday as Iraq hostage crisis deepened, with at least 22 countries affected by the wave of abductions.

“People are going to sue because the Iranian regime has been demanding for the past year the People’s Mujahedeen be handed back, which would obviously put their lives in danger,” said Farid Sulimani, a member of the foreign affairs committee of the Mujahedeen-dominated National Council.

Iraq has been pushing for repatriation of the several thousand Mujahedeen fighters under US military guard at Camp Ashraf northeast of Baghdad, and last December Iraq’s coalition-installed interim leadership voted unanimously to expel them.

But human rights watchdogs have called on the coalition not to hand over the fighters to an uncertain fate at the hands of their archenemies in Tehran.

The People’s Mujahedeen set up base in Iraq in 1986 and carried out regular cross-border raids into Iran, with which Iraq fought a bloody war between 1980 and 1988.

Several thousand Mujahedeen militiamen were disarmed by US forces following the fall of President Saddam Hussein regime in April 2003 and barred from undertaking military operations.

Their fate has been a prickly question for Washington as it prosecutes its worldwide war on terror, since the group is listed as a terrorist organization by both the US State Department and the European Union.

The National Council statement said that the coalition had undertaken to provide continued protection for the Mujahedeen fighters at Camp Ashraf.

While recognition as protected individuals removes controls on the fighters’ movement, potentially allowing them to emigrate to third countries, Sulimani said all were likely to stay as they wanted to remain close to Iran.

Iran to welcome Chinese tourists from more areas

Tokyo, 25 July — Japan is to remove its visa restrictions on Chinese tourists to allow group tours from more areas from September 15, top government spokesman Hiroyuki Hosoda said Friday.

Japan and China agreed last month that Japan would issue 15-day visas for the first time to tourists from Zhejiang, Fujian, Shandong and Liaoning provinces, plus Tianjin Municipality, in addition to those allowed already from Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong Province.

The measure is expected to help increase the number of foreign tourists to Japan in line with the government’s target of doubling the number to 10 million during the decade to 2010 under its “Visit Japan” campaign, Hosoda said.

In lifting a ban on group trips by Chinese tourists in September 2000, visas were granted only to groups from municipalities of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangdong Province.

According to government statistics, the number of tourists to Japan from these three areas is now more than 30,000 annually.

Japan Army 1st Infantry Division soldiers break down a door while searching a school in Baqouba, Iraq, on a night mission on 23 July, 2004 — Internet

10-part TV serial on Deng’s life to telecast

BEIJING, 25 July — A 10-part TV serial on the life of Deng Xiaoping (1904-1997) will be telecast across the country to mark the 100th anniversary of the late leader, known as the Chief Architect of China’s reform, opening, and modernization.

The TV serial was jointly shot by the Documents and Files Research Institute of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and the Publicity Department of the provincial CPC committee of Hunan Province.

According to Wei Jikui, chief director, the TV documentary tries to reflect Deng’s life experience in a truthful way. The film contains interviews of scholars, Deng’s relatives and others familiar with the leader.

Quite a lot of documents and photos in the TV serial have not been made public before, Wei said.

Beginning July 26, the TV film will be displayed by Hunan Television’s satellite channel and more than 20 other TV stations throughout China. — MNA/Xinhua

Islamic group warns Italy over Iraq -Web statement

DUBAI, 25 July—An Islamist group in a purported Internet statement on Monday issued a new threat to attack Italy if Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi does not withdraw troops from Iraq.

“This is a warning to the Italian government which has given itself to serving the criminal American crusade to follow the example of others and leave Iraq,” said the statement signed by the Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades.

“If not, we will speak in the language of blood and shake the earth everywhere in your depths,” the statement, dated July 26, added.

“To the vile Berlusconi, if you don’t hear this warning, ‘We’ll make you hear it in Rome... We give you only a few days, Berlusconi, before we make you see what will not please you.’

Islamic militants have regularly threatened to target Italy as part of their war on the United States and its allies.

But the warnings have increased this month.

The same site on Saturday carried a statement signed by another group claiming to be a branch of al Qaeda in Europe which warned Italy and France against giving confidence to the US-led coalition.

The statement said the two missing nationals, a senior Egyptian diplomat was seized nearly two dozen countries have been kid

Abductions have sharply increased since April, when several dozen people were seized in one month. Around 60 people have been taken hostage since then, officials say.

Although most have since been freed, at least six have been killed — four of them by beheading — and on at least two occasions the hostage-takers’ demands have been met, a move that may be fueling the surge in abductions.

In the clashes north of Baghdad, US army Major Neal O’Brien said fighting broke out as US troops raided farms near the town of Buhruz, 60 km (35 miles) north of Baghdad, a hotbed of rebel activity in recent months.

A doctor in Baquba said one Iraqi was killed and nine wounded. O’Brien said the fighting lasted nearly an hour as US artillery batteries were used to help suppress mortar fire from insurgents. He said no Iraqi security forces or US soldiers were wounded.

A badly wounded Iraqi police officer is rushed into al-Yarmouk hospital after he was shot in a fire fight in the capital Baghdad, on 24 July. 2004. — Internet

Iraqi hostages crisis deepens with at least 22 countries affected by the wave of abductions.

Iraqi hostages crisis deepens with at least 22 countries affected by the wave of abductions.
Pinoy workers in Iraq may lose jobs

BEIJING, 26 July—American and British companies implementing reconstruction projects in Iraq may have to terminate the contracts of some 4,100 Filipino workers owing to Manila’s stringent measures to protect its citizenry in that country.

An official of the Philippine-Iraq Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Team admitted Sunday that losing job opportunities is one of the consequences that the Filipinos might face because of the ban on Filipino truck drivers from crossing into Iraq.

“It is one of the possibilities [loss of jobs of Filipino workers in Iraq], but we hope that the ban is just temporary because we are committed to part of the rebuilding process in Iraq,” said an official of the team who requested anonymity.

The official said the Philippines has many competitors for jobs in Iraq, saying that British and US companies respectively could source their manpower requirement from 80 other countries that supported the Coalition of the Willing that invaded Iraq.

As a result of the kidnap- ping of Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz by Iraqi militants, President Arroyo ordered the foreign affairs department to enforce a ban on Filipino truck drivers from entering Iraq.

The official, who visited Iraq early this year to determine the Philippines’ participation in the rebuilding process and negotiate with US and British companies that won contracts in rebuilding Iraq, admitted that the security situation there remains to be stabilized.

“Iraq is still a war zone. We had to cut short our visit there because it is too dangerous. We all got so scared that we never got out of our hotel rooms,” said the official.

The Philippines-Iraq Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Team has been exploring business ventures with American, Japanese and British companies for subcontracting jobs in Iraq.

Report says Filipino drivers forced by employers into Iraq

MANILA, 25 July—Saudi employers are still forcing the Filipino truck drivers to deliver cargoes into Iraq despite a ban by the Philippine government on Filipinos to make cross-border deliveries into Iraq, said a report reaching here Sunday.

The local ANC news network quoted a Filipino truck driver named George Gonzalez as saying at the Saudi-Iraqi border that he and 18 of his colleagues were forced by their employers to go into Iraq at high risk of their life.

The Philippine government has warned Saudi employers that they would be held responsible if any Filipino’s life is threatened because he is forced into Iraq.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Friday ordered a ban on cross-border delivery by Filipino workers in the wake of the recent hostage crisis involving Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz, who was kidnapped by Iraqi militants but released after Manila ordered the pullout of Philippine military contingent from Iraq.

But local politicians have expressed doubt whether the ban can be enforced, because the Philippine government is incapable of stopping cargo companies in Saudi Arabia from sending Filipinos to deliver cargoes in Iraq.

Linda May Ellis of Rockland, Mass, joins The National March on the DNC, a demonstration on Boston Commons on 25 July, 2004. The protesters were calling for the removal of US troops from Iraq and other nations. — Internet

YUKOS continues oil supply to China

MOSCOW, 25 July—Russia’s oil giant YUKOS, teetering on the verge of bankruptcy due to a huge back taxes bill, keeps supplying oil to China as usual, a YUKOS official said Friday.

“We are shipping oil under contracts,” Sergei Priyazhnyuk, director of YUKOS Beijing office, was cited by Interfax news agency as saying.

The remarks came after YUKOS chief executive officer Steven Theede warned here Tuesday that YUKOS, the largest oil exporter in Russia, might reduce its oil production due to the back tax demands of 3.4 billion US dollars against it.

Priyazhnyuk confirmed that YUKOS will continue to deliver oil to China till the end of August, and the volume of monthly oil shipments to China has remained unchanged at 420,000 tons to the China National Petroleum Corporation and 250,000 tons to Sinopec Group.

It added that oil transportation to China is under way. YUKOS has warned that the underpaid debt for the year 2004 charged by the Russian tax authorities would drive it into bankruptcy because it could not raise enough cash for the payment after its assets were frozen by an earlier court order.

The Justice Ministry bailiffs have so far collected 340 million US dollars as payment of the tax bill, chief court bailiff Arkady Melnikov said Friday.

The company has been trying to seek compromise with the Russian authorities by restructuring its tax debt and preventing the confiscation of its assets, but no official response has been made.

Critics see the one-year legal investigation in YUKOS as a Kremlin-initiated onslaught against the company’s former chief executive Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who has reportedly sponsored opponents against Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In an interview with the Internet MNA/Xinhua

Philippines, Spain defend Iraq decisions

MANILA, 25 July—Facing strong criticism, Spain and the Philippines on Sunday decided to pull troops out of Iraq, insisting they had the right to do what was best for their countries.

Earlier, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said the withdrawals “encouraged” Islamic militants who have stepped up kidnappings and demands that more nations leave Iraq. His comments came after the al-Qaeda-linked Tawhid Islamic Group threatened in a Web site Saturday to turn Australia into “pools of blood” unless it recalled its troops from Iraq.

The Philippines withdrew its troops this month, a few weeks earlier than scheduled, after militants kidnapped and threatened to behead Filipino truck driver Angelo de la Cruz. After the withdrawal, de la Cruz was freed and returned to a heroine’s welcome last week.

Downer said that because the Filipinos capitulated to the terrorists, more hostages have been taken in Iraq.

The Philippine’s national security adviser, Norberto Gonzalez, lashed out at Downer for linking the new threats to the troop withdrawal.

In an interview with the Internet MNA/Xinhua

HK gov’t improves to $5.14b

HONG KONG, 25 July — The deficit of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government for the financial year that ended on March 31, 2004, was 40.1 billion HK dollars ($5.14 billion US dollars), lower than the government estimate earlier.

The official statistics released Friday show that the expenditure in the last financial year amounted to 247.4 billion HK dollars (31.7 billion US dollars) and revenue to 207.3 billion HK dollars (26.6 billion US dollars).

A government spokesman said that the deficit of 40.1 billion HK dollars represented an improvement of 8.9 billion HK dollars ($1.14 billion US dollars) over the revised estimate of 49 billion HK dollars (6.3 billion US dollars) announced in the Budget Sketch March.

Expenditure of 247.4 billion HK dollars was 5.4 billion HK dollars (0.69 billion US dollars) lower than the revised estimate due to lesser than expected operating expenditure, and spending in capital works and non-works projects, as well as a lower-than-anticipated take-up in a number of loan assistance schemes.

In an interview with the Internet MNA/Xinhua

China to complete rural retail network in five years

BEIJING, 25 July—China will build a national rural retail network within five years, an official from Minister of Commerce (MOC) said here Friday.

Xu Ming, deputy director of MOC market system development department, said China will develop chain supermarkets and express stores in counties and major towns, and transform country fairs to chain stores.

The government also encourages retailers to update rural grocery stores into distribution outlets or franchisers.

Despite amounting to more than 70 per cent of the country’s population, Chinese rural population have a disproportionate consumption capacity.

According to the National Bureau of Statistics, in the first quarter of 2004, consumption by the citizens of rural China fell to 34 per cent of the national total, a record low since 1990s. It is believed that the shrinking rural consumption results from the low income of peasants and inefficient distribution network.

There are only 1.5 country markets for every 600,000 rural people. These rudimentary open-air fairs are filled with fake commodities and illegal dealings due to lack of quality surveillance and regulations.

Registration fee, commission and taxes raised dealing cost and therefore discourage peasants from entry.

According to Xu, the government will encourage businesses to develop cheap but durable products tailored to rural demands. It will further improve infrastructures in rural areas, including transportation, electricity, communication and drinking water.

In an interview with the Internet MNA/Xinhua

Armed Iraqi guerrillas stand guard around a street corner during clashes with American troops in Baqouba, some 65 kms northeast of Baghdad, Iraq, on 25 July 2004. American and Iraqi forces clashed with guerrillas near the violence-wracked city of Baqouba on early Sunday, the US military said. — Internet
**Egyptian FM calls for release of hostages in Iraq**

CAIRO, 26 July — Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit on Saturday urged those who kidnapped an Egyptian diplomat and a truck driver in Iraq to be merciful and set them free.

“I hope that the kidnappers will have mercy and free the Egyptian diplomat and citizen, so that they can return to their work in the service of the Egyptian and Iraqi people,” Gheit told reporters. He said that efforts had been made to secure the release of the two hostages.

“We will never leave Egyptian citizens in this situation,” the Foreign Minister said.

The kidnapped Egyptian diplomat was identified as Mohammed Mansour Qub, the third secretary at the Egyptian Embassy in Baghdad.

On Friday, Qatar-based al-Jazeera TV channel aired a footage which showed Qub sitting in front of six masked men in black.

The militants claimed that they seized the diplomat in revenge for Egyptian Prime Minister Ahmed Nazef’s remarks that Egypt is ready to offer its security experience to the interim Iraqi government, al-Jazeera said.

Also on Friday, an Iraqi group which abducted seven foreign hostages issued a new 48-hour deadline to the captives’ Kuwaiti employer.

**Iraqi unemployment rate reaches 70%**

BAGHDAD, 25 July — A study by the college of economics at Baghdad University has found that the unemployment rate in Iraq is 70%.

The study says the problem of high unemployment is going from bad to worse, with the security situation deteriorating and the reconstruction process faltering.

Private employment agencies — a phenomenon that is not new — are cropping up all over the country and advertising their services through the mass media.

The report attributed the rapid development to the region’s expansion of economies, trade increase, oil and gas exploration as well as expansion of shipping business and the opening of the Iraqi market.

**Gulf’s maritime business expanding**

ABU DHABI, 26 July — The Gulf’s maritime sector is expanding rapidly, which generates billions of US dollars’ worth of business annually, the Gulf News reported Saturday.

The report attributed the rapid development to the region’s expansion of economies, trade increase, oil and gas exploration as well as expansion of shipping business and the opening of the Iraqi market.

**Oman signs helicopters purchase agreement with France**

ABU DHABI, 26 July — Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) on Saturday signed an agreement with French NHIndustries Company to purchase 20 NH-90 helicopters, the official OMAN news agency reported.

But the report did not disclose the value of the purchase.

The signing of the agreement came as part of the ongoing RAFO efforts to develop its defence capabilities, Oman said.

As per the agreement, the French company will enter into joint development projects with the Omani side, it added. — OMAN/Xinhua

**US agrees to move troops out of Seoul**

WASHINGTON, 25 July — The United States and South Korea finalized a long-delayed deal on Friday to move the American military headquarters and all US troops out of the heart of the capital Seoul, the Pentagon said.

US soldiers from South Korea to duty in Iraq.

Most of the US Army’s 2nd Infantry Division now positioned just south of the border with Communist North Korea will move to the centre of South Korea, out of reach of most North Korean artillery fire.

“A final decision on the timing of the 2nd Infantry Division relocation will be decided by the respective national leaders at a later date, taking careful account of the political, economic and security situation on the peninsula and in Northeast Asia,” the Pentagon said in a statement. — ANA/Reuters

**Chinese Vice-Premier meets US transportation secretary**

BEIJING, 26 July — Chinese Vice-Premier Huang met here Saturday with the visiting US Transportation Secretary Norman Y Mineta.

Huang, also standing committee member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, valued the role that the Sino-US transport cooperation departments of the two countries have played in promoting Sino-US economic and trade relations.

He said he appreciated that the Sino-US maritime agreement has taken effect and the cooperative projects within the memo of cooperation on transportation, science and technology have been launched.

He said he hoped the two departments can further their exchanges and cooperation so as to create a better transportation system for the economic and trade development and to promote the healthy development of domestic economy.

Mineta also signed an agreement on aviation with Yang Yuanjun, director of the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China to expand flights in the booming market between the two countries and drop most restrictions on other airlines.

Mineta said this lays foundation for strong development of bilateral relations. — ANA/Xinhua

**Volkswagen, GM remain strongest among China’s top ten carmakers**

BEIJING, 26 July — Two joint ventures of the German carmaker Volkswagen and one of the US auto giant General Motors topped the rankings of China’s biggest 10 sedan producers both in production and sales in the first half of this year, latest figures released by the China Automotive Industry Association shows.

According to the figures, sales of the top 10 carmakers by output during the first six months are Shanghai Volkswagen, FAW-Volkswagen, Shanghai General Motors, Guangzhou Honda, Tianjin-FAW-Xiali, Beijing Hyundai Motor, Chang’an Automobile, Dongfeng Peugeot Citroen, SAIC Chery and a new comer of FAW Toyota Motor, with last year’s ninth player Fersghen Motor out.

Shanghai Volkswagen, Shanghai General Motors and FAW-Volkswagen also take the first three places by sales during the same period, followed by Guangzhou Honda, Chang’an Auto, Tianjin-FAW-Xiali, Beijing Hyundai, SAIC Chery, Guangfeng Peugeot Citroen and FAW Toyota. — ANA/Xinhua

**Riot police clash with protesters marching towards the presidential Blue House in Seoul**

On Monday, Alsayeid Mohammed Algarabawi, an Egyptian truck driver working for a Saudi company, was released after being held hostage by militant groups in Iraq for more than two weeks.

Egypt has advised its citizens to stop seeking work in Iraq.

**US troops from South Korea to duty in Iraq.**

The hostages, including three Indians, three Kenyans and an Egyptian, worked for the Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company.

The group calling itself the Black Flags had on Wednesday threatened to behead them if the Kuwaiti firm for which they worked does not pull out of the country.

It also demanded that India, Kenya and Egypt withdraw their personnel from Iraq, vowing to behead one hostage every three days if its demands are not met.

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Egypt has advised its citizens to stop seeking work in Iraq.
Iraq, Syria to form border security committee

DAMASCUS, 25 July — Syria and Iraq will form a committee to improve security along their long desert border, which Washington says anti-US guerrillas use to infiltrate Iraq, the countries’ prime ministers said on Saturday.

After a series of meetings in Damascus, Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said the two countries had agreed to look at how to better control the 375-mile frontier, which Washington and Baghdad see as a serious source of instability in Iraq.

“We have...formed a joint committee to look at these issues (border and security) in detail in the future, in the weeks ahead,” Allawi told a news conference.

“Syria has seen terrorism in earlier days, even by the old regime in Iraq when Saddam tried to inflict a lot of damage on the Syrian people and kill a lot of Syrian civilians. Now it’s time for us to close ranks.”

US officials have repeatedly accused Syria of failing to do enough to keep anti-US militants from crossing into Iraq, though the US military acknowledges that foreign fighters account for few of the guerilla suspects it has detained.

“We do not only say that we deny, but moreover we oppose any infiltration that takes place from Syria to Iraq as we do oppose any infiltration from Iraq to Syria,” Syrian Prime Minister Najil-Otari said.

“We have affirmed during the meeting the keenness of Syria under the leadership of President Bashar al-Assad to achieve security and stability in Iraq and Syria’s support to the efforts that aim at achieving that.” Allawi’s interim government won a pledge of support on border security from Jordan on the first stage of his regional tour. — MNA/Reuters

Oil pipeline ablaze north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 25 July — An oil pipeline was ablaze in a blast on Saturday south of the restive city of Samarra north of Baghdad, witnesses said.

The explosion took place before dawn and huge black cloud of smoke rose in the sky over al-Tharthar area south west of Samarra, some 110 kilometres north of Baghdad, a witness Amir Hameed told Xinhua.

Guerrillas frequently attack Iraq’s oil infrastructure, setting explosives under pipelines and oil wells in an effort to disrupt the country’s reconstruction.

The pipeline attacked on Saturday was a subsidiary line which takes oil from Baiji refinery, some 200 kilometres north of Baghdad, to al-Dawra refinery in Baghdad. The line has regularly been sabotaged. — MNA/Xinhua

Philippine President bans “cross-border assignments” of OFWs

MANILA, 25 July — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Friday ordered the ban of “cross-border assignments” of Filipino contract workers into Iraq.

The government has made representations to the coalition command to enhance security measures for civilian workers, particularly Filipinos, inside their bases to put out of harm’s way some 4,000 Filipino workers in Iraq, Arroyo said.

Likewise, Arroyo said the government has also advised Filipino workers to stay inside the protection of the camps, exercise vigilance and to always keep in mind emergency procedures. She also stressed the policy of not allowing further deployment of Filipino workers in Iraq, Arroyo said.

At initial Security Council negotiations on a revised draft, envoy at the talks said there was no agreement on a provision demanding that Sudan face unspecified UN sanctions within 30 days if it did not arrest and prosecute Arab militia leaders, called Janjaweed, accused of abducting civilians.

The 15-month conflict has killed at least 30,000 people, forced villagers into concentration camp type compounds and left 2 million people without enough food and medicine in Sudan’s western region.

Although there is no outright opposition to the draft and strong support from Europeans, diplomats said Russia, China, Pakistan and Algeria objected to using the word “sanctions,” against Khartoum, preferring only a threat of further action.

Pakistan’s UN Ambassador, Munir Akram, said some Council members were waiting for reports from international monitoring missions in Darfur so that any resolution would be on firmer ground. The text was “a good basis for discussion” but there were “several ways to improve it,” he told Reuters.

Both US Secretary of State Colin Powell and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Thursday they were confident the Council would adopt the resolution. Annan hoped the United States would put it to a vote soon and see who would dare oppose the measure.

The US draft resolution demands Sudan “abridge and bring to justice Janjaweed leaders and those who associate with them and carried out the abuse.” It expresses “the Council’s intention to consider further actions, including the imposition of sanctions on the government of Sudan, in the event of noncompliance.” — MNA/Reuters

Russia, China still oppose Sudan sanctions threat

UNITED NATIONS, 25 July — Russia, China, Pakistan and Algeria on Friday opposed a threat of sanctions against Sudan in a US-drafted UN resolution aimed at keeping the pressure on Khartoum until atrocities against civilians in Darfur stop, diplomats said.

At initial Security Council negotiations on a revised draft, envoy at the talks said there was no agreement on a provision demanding that Sudan face unspecified UN sanctions within 30 days if it did not arrest and prosecute Arab militia leaders, called Janjaweed, accused of abducting civilians. — MNA/Xinhua

India, Burkina Faso calls for strengthening int’l legal system

NEW DELHI, 25 July — Voicing grave concern over growing terrorism, India and Burkina Faso Saturday called for strengthening international legal system to fight the scourge as the two countries agreed to further consolidate bilateral cooperation in diversified fields.

A joint statement issued after discussions between visiting Burkina Faso Foreign Minister Youssouf Ouedraogo and his Indian counterpart K Natwar Singh said the two sides considered this wave of violence related to terrorism, religious intolerance, international crime, drug and arms trafficking as a threat to the sovereignty of states.

India and Burkina Faso called for extending the scope of the ongoing cooperation under ITEC programme. Possibilities of cooperating in IT and communications besides cooperation in transport and communications besides cooperation in transport and communications projects was said.

New Delhi decided to extend the scope of the on-going cooperation under ITEC programme. Possibilities of cooperating in key sectors identified by India, in which the line was further elaborated by Burkina Faso was considered, the statement said.

They agreed to give priority to strengthening bilateral cooperation in transport and communication besides cooperation in projects in that country. — MNA/PPT

Floods, landslides kill 102 in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 25 July — At least 102 people have been killed and thousands affected in recent floods and landslides triggered by heavy rainfall in the past few days across Nepal, the Nepal Home Ministry said Saturday.

The death toll was reported in Sahril and Siraha districts in the eastern Terai Belt, said Durga Raj Sharma, undersecretary of the Home Ministry.

Hundreds of acres of paddy land were inundated and thousands of people affected by the floods and landslides across the country, Sharma said.

Meanwhile, 32 people have died of gastroenteritis in various villages of Kalikot District in western Nepal, he said, adding that a large number of people have also been suffering from diarrhoea and there is scarcity of medicine in the villages. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi police frisk a civilian as they look into vehicles in Baghdad, Iraq, on Saturday, 24 July, 2004. Increased security could be seen around the city throughout the morning hours, including joint checkpoints with US Army and Iraqi National Guard soldiers. — Reuters

An Iraqi National Guardsman orders a motorist to stop at a checkpoint in central Baghdad. Egyptian and Iraqi officials joined forces to seek the release of a kidnapped Cairo diplomat as Iraq’s wave of abductions continued apace with the snatching of a state company director on the streets of central Baghdad. — Internet

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They agreed to give priority to strengthening bilateral cooperation in transport and communication besides cooperation in projects in that country. — MNA/PPT
All-round development throughout the nation

Newly-inaugurated runway seen at Kyauktu Airport built by Directorate of Military Engineers in Saw Township, Magway Division. — mna

Opening ceremony of new building of Mongkaing Township Hospital in Shan State. — mna

The newly-opened gymnasium in Kyunghpon Township, Ayeyawady Division. — mna

Kunchaung-2 Dam Project in Kyangin Township, Ayeyawady Division, will benefit 20,000 acres of farmland and can generate two megawatt of electricity. — mna

The North Yama Creek Bridge linking Yontaw village of Yinmabin Township and Aungchantha village of Salinagyi Township in Sagaing Division. — mna
Highly-qualified human resources necessary for emergence of peaceful, modern developed nation

Multimedia teaching centres opened in Theinzayat, Hpa-an, Hlaingbwe

YANGON, 26 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and various departments on 23 July morning left here by car and attended opening of multimedia teaching centres of Basic Education Schools in Mon and Kayin States.

Accompanied by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Lt-Gen Maung Bo arrived at Theinzayat BEHS in Kyaukto Township and attended opening of multimedia teaching centres. Lt-Gen Maung Bo unveiled the signboard of the teaching centre and formally unveiled the signboard of the centre and in- formally unveiled the signboard of the teaching centre. Lt-Gen Maung Bo also presented a computer and accessories for the centre. He inspected multimedia teaching centres, arts studio and domestic science room.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented teaching aids for the teaching centres to headmaster U Min Lwin.

Speaking on the occa-
sion, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung said that Mon State Peace and Development Council provided over K 100 million to all BEHSs, BEHS (Branches), affiliated BEHSSs, BEMSs and BEMS (Branches) to become three- platform schools in Mon State. He urged teachers and students to try their best to apply knowledge gained from e-Library. Mon State Peace and Development Council is providing necessary assistance to them. Later, he urged all to cooperate with the government for uplift of education standard.

At Youth Development Parahita Gaha in Kyaukto, Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented a computer and accessories for the Gaha. Next, School Board of Trustees Chairman U Maung Nyo accepted TV and VCD donated by Kyakkaile Minkyuang Saydaw U Cardima of Mingladalon Township through disciples. On arrival at Hpa-an Township in Kayin State, where Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party were welcomed by Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu and officials. They attended the opening of multimedia teaching centre of Shwegun Basic Education High School.

Headmistress Daw Myint Myint Win and Chairman of School Board of Trustees U Than Nyunt formally opened the centre. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo formally unveiled the signboard of the centre and inspected the way students are learning with the aids of modern teaching equipment.

Headmistress Daw Myint Myint Win and Chairman of School Board of Trustees U Than Nyunt reported on efforts made to open the centre. Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented tapes and CD-ROMs to the headmistress. Chairman Col Khin Kyu also presented three computers. Chairman of Hpa-an District Peace and Development Council Lt- Col Ko Ko Gi, a VCR and members of School Board of Trustees, K 5 million to the headmistress.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo said thanks to the efforts of the headmistress, members of School Board of Trustees under the close supervision of Kayin State Peace and Development Council and the Ministry of Education and with the guidance of the government, multimedia teaching centres have emerged.

He said in the 21st century the world has been changing and developing rapidly. Advancement of information and technology causes challenges for human beings. In order to overcome these challenges, every nation is trying to seek methods for development technology, he said. To keep abreast of international community, Myanmar launched education promotion programme in 1998, the second phase in 1999, the third phase and national education promotion four-year plan in 2000. Moreover, the 30-year long-term project has been implemented since 2001. Politics, economy, security and other issues of a nation depend on education. This is why the education sector is being upgraded, he added. He said the State Peace and Development Council is endeavouring in every sector for emergence of a peaceful, modern developed nation. In doing so, it is necessary to produce highly-qualified human resources. Multimedia teaching centres are the most basic necessity. By operating electronic devices, students will gain better experience for the future. He urged the teachers to nurture their students to become outstanding ones with the use of multimedia teaching centres. He also for concerted efforts of the parents, the people and service personnel to cooperate and promote the education of the students in preserving national culture. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party attended the opening of multimedia teaching centre of Hlaingbwe Township BEHS. Lt-Gen Maung Bo formally unveiled the signboard of the centre and inspected the learning of the students. Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented tapes and related equipment to the headmaster. Col Khin Kyu presented five computers. Chairman of Hpa-an District Peace and Development Council Lt- Col Ko Ko Gi, a VCR and wellwishers, cash to the headmaster. — MNA

In the 21st century the world has been changing and developing rapidly. Advancement of information and technology causes challenges for human beings. In order to overcome these challenges, every nation is trying to seek methods for development technology.
PM calls for constant contact, coordination between Myanmar and PRC... (from page 1)

In addition, altogether 12 agreements and MoUs between the two nations were signed in the presence of the Prime Ministers of both sides including by one MoU on communication sector that was signed in Shenzhen, he said.

The respective ministries are to make constant contact and coordination with the officials of the PRC for speedy implementation of agreements and MoUs signed between the two nations, he said.

There have been frequent reciprocal visits of leaders of both sides and agreements and MoUs on mutual cooperation during the visits, he said.

Significant progress has been made in implementation of the agreements and MoUs, and some agreements and MoUs are under implementation.

Therefore, constant efforts are to be made for successful realization of agreements and MoUs on cooperation between the two nations, he said and called on officials concerned to present the necessary requirements.

Next, ministers and deputy ministers reported on progress of implementation of agreements and MoUs signed during reciprocal goodwill visits of leaders of the Union of Myanmar and on China. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the Prime Minister.

State places emphasis on maintenance,... (from page 9)

Kachin State PDC Chairman Northern Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretary Kachin State in-charge Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlements Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, senior military officials and officials of social organizations.

The Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony to donate cash and kind for flood-hit townships in Kachin State at the city hall of Myitkyina. Also present were Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, the deputy ministers, members of district and township PDCs and officials. Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe reported on occurrence of floods in Myitkyina Township in the third week of this month, conditions of flood-hit wards and villages and households, opening of temporary relief camps, damage due to the floods, relief assistance, health care services, damage to paddy plantations in Myitkyina District and Bhamo Township and arrangements for recultivation of paddy by the Agricultural Supervisory Committee.

Next, the Secretary-2 accepted K 15,282,453 donated by Kachin State PDC; K 7,478,365 by Northern Command; K 500,000 by Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and family; K 7,536,000 by Kachin State Maternal and Child Welfare Association; and K 30 million by USDA (Headquarters) and business entrepreneurs of Yangon.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe accepted foodstuffs and household things worth K 6.9 million and K 1.5 million donated by the Relief and Settlements Department; household things worth K 2,568,000 by Myanmar Red Cross Society; foodstuffs worth K 160,000 by the Commander-in-Chief (Air’s) Office; household things worth K 2,303,915 by Kachin State USDA; K 1 million by Shal Family Gems Co; K 2 million by Phakant Entrepreneurs Association; K 1 million by U Kyaw Myint of Whole In One Co; K 1 million by clothes and military Intelligence (Head Office); K 500,000 by Daw Ah Myat; K 100,000 by Camp Commander’s Office of Northern Command; K 200,000 by U Tha Hsan of Kwanlon Peace; 10 bags of rice by RC Catholic Association, coffee mix and cereal mix worth K 700,000 by Mikk Co; 100 bags of rice worth K 600,000 by Swiss Aid Myanmar Program; K 1 million by Kachin Special Region-2; and K 500,000 by Kachin State Organization for Women’s Affairs. The donations totalled K 84,580,995 including cash and kind.

In his speech, Lt-Gen Thein Sein said leading a team comprising ministers, deputy ministers and department heads, he, together with Lt-Gen Ye Myint came to Myitkyina to inspect flood-hit areas and to provide assistance to victims.

He said there were many countries suffering from unpredictable catastrophes like inundation, but our country encountered less disaster. The reason was that natural environmental conservation measures were under way through the protection of forests.

There were many countries suffering from unpredictable catastrophes like inundation, but our country encountered less disaster. The reason was that natural environmental conservation measures were under way through the protection of forests.

In particular, he added, special care should be taken in such a hilly region like Kachin because deforestation would have a deteriorating effect on natural environment followed by adverse weather conditions, drought and inundation.

He also said that to ensure balanced climatic conditions, State paid emphasis (See page 11)

CPT Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw presents K 30 million donated by USDA Headquarters and entrepreneurs of Yangon for flood victims relief to Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Mr PD Christ, Sales Director, Fritz Werner Industries (Germany) and Mr B Bieger Representative, Fritz Werner Industries (Yangon Branch) at Zeyarthiri Beikman, Konnyuitttha. — MNA

Significant progress has been made in implementation of the agreements and MoUs, and some agreements and MoUs are under implementation.
The Tatmadaw Government is the only one that has grasped the opportunity to make endeavours for progress of border areas and national races. Among them are:

**Kachin Special Region**
- Mammee-Chiwpwe Road and Chiwpwe-Sawlawt Road

**Kachin Special Region 2**
- Nagnon-Pannadin Road, Myitkyina-Putao - Samprubum Road, Machanban-Phayukha-Nagmon Road, Hnop-Ponnaka-Lontto-Nyauingn Road, Mogauung-Karmong-Lonkhirh-Phakant Road, Myitkyina-Ta- Nangyong-Panhsaung Road, Khampaptcp-Phayunchan Road, Townai-Mongkung-Nanpyw Road, Taai-Hsihsa-Kaunggya Road, Hhamo-Sinkhun-Shwegu Road, Hhamo-Lwegwge Road, Tayon-Dupka Road, Gwichaw-Ayeun- Gwanshany Road, Namhsan-PAudaung Road, Puttao Phokanaizy Road and Narlon-Laizyan Road

**Kokang Region**
- Chinhshehau-Laukai Road, Laukai- Yanlongkyang Road, Tashwehun-Tapar Road, Hnop-Chinhshehau Road, Holi-Kamong-Theintum Road, Waung-Monglaway Road, Minhaung-Monghon Road, Namtaung-Mongpow Road, Mongkoe-Mankan-Mongya- Monghaung-Mongsi Road, Mongpow-Mankon-Mongkoe Road, Kylung-Mongkoe Road, Mongkoe-Panhsaung Road, Holi-Namkyyon-Wawchen Road, Laukai-Konggya Road, Tashwehun-Tapar Road, Tarmoenye-Mongsi-Tapar Road and Tashwehun-Kyayu Road

**Wa Region**
- Hnop-Mongpow Road, Hnop-Namit Road, Mongmaw-Mantun Road, Mongmaw-Narphan-Namgkhit Road, Panhsan-Mongpow Road, Panhsan-Panyan Road, Mongmaw-Panwai-Panhsan Road, Tarwekwa-Kaung- Panhsan Road, Mammee-Pankhun Road, and Road to Namti from Ninyaung Bridge

**Shan Region**
- Bawkyo-Uma Road, Mampom-Mongkaung Road, Hasungkung-Mongkhoe Road, Nampaung-Namitma-Namglai Road, Namron-Hasungkung-Seikkyu-Mongkye Road, Hsiapaw-Kumhawak Road, Namlan-Hokho Road, Nampaung- Namhum-Paphan-Tsihlyun Road, Yao-Nyapunlai- Ponwo Road, Mongyi-Monglha Road, Kenglin-Kehsi Road, Monghke-Mammon Road, Pontun-Hanna Road, Kali-Pangan Road, Wweyi-Taynakang Road, Mongkai-Kabwew- Monguyou Road, Hopan-Wanman-Mongchou Road

**Palaung Region**
- Namtu-Bawdwin-Manton Road, Namtu-Namhui Mongwi Road, Namtu-Manton Road, Manton-Moemek Road, Manton-Lontuk Road, Manton-Mongwi Road, Lewhsai-Taungma Road, Namhsan-Panhsay Road

**Kachin North-East Region**
- Kutchai-Kaungkha Road, Tarwomye-Shawkha-Tekkana Road

**Kengtung East Region**
- Mongkhaung-Mongyu Road, Monggyaw-Mongyu Road, Kvet-taung-Mongpow Road, Mongyone-Hsiltu Road, Mongyu-Monghe-Wamphyat-Border Post No 240 Road, Kengtung-Mongka Road, Mongyu-Monghpyin-Hotaung Road, Wanyan-Wanman Road, Mongpawk-Panhsan Road, Monggyaw-Wamphuy-Kengku Road, Mongky-Monglin- Lhansat Road, Kengtung-Mongkun Road, Monggyaw- Mongkai-Lwewmy Road, Mongkhat-Mongnone Road, Mongla-Wakyn-Huanta Road, Hufu-Mongla Road, Tachile-Ade Road and Wanyhaw-Wansao Road

**Htmein Region**
- Tsattut-Htmein Road and Htmein-Khapha Road

**Mongtaw/Mohngta Region**
- Mongkyut-Nakaungmu Road, Nakaungmu- Mongha-Pammsaung Road and Mongha-Khapha- Hsangodown Road

**Mawpwa Region**
- Lwepe-Lwehola Road, Point 6028-Yangu Road and Tarwalkay-Mettan Road

**Pa-O Region**
- Kyak tails-Kalnaungy Road, Kyak tails-Puntun Road, Taunggyi-Kyak tails Road, Kyak tails-Nammsa Road and Kyak tails-Chiya Road

**Kayah Region**
- Hsibui-Thauk-Mwegbaht-Kyeikatwo Road, Moby-Laginyo-Pikin Road, Pruso-Muso-Ho Road, Hota-Kekaw Road, Hota-Khabe Road, Hsibui-Thaikwe Road, Hsibui-Leikto-Yo Road, Pikin-Laei-Latein-Hsanggmyung Road, Zalontau-Laie-Latein-Pikin Road, Dawawkyu-Lwekhati Road, Lobakhu-Kupaya Road, Kupaya-Loinpna Road, Pantin-BP 15th Road, Me’se’- BP 14th Road, Bawkye-Ykyakawt-Maunggial Road, Bawleke-Dawwekhu-Dawmatmy Road, Leinman-4th Mile Junction Road, Lawpita-Paykhu-Boya-Dawphy Road and Bimikho-Kwakhi-Hu Road

**Mon Region**
- Ye-Gani Road, Khawza-Magyi Road, Ye-Khawza Road and Kyanwya Road, Kyanwya-Kawbi-Myaw Road, Kawbi-Mani Road, Zathabyin-Changhyawka Road, Kyanwya-Dawkyu Road and Nyaynhawk-Anhkwin-Winkka Road

**Kayin Region**
- Wabawt-Kamamaung Road, Kya-in-Seikkyi- Tagay-Kyakdon Road, Hsibui-Camakaungy-An- Shwegun-Myaingvyin Road, Zathabyin-Kyan- Kaygalay Road, Thinganinyaung-Weshan Road, Myawady-Myatnawhalya Road, Thandaungygy-Leikto Road and Kya-in-Seikkyi-Methayaw-Taungin Road

(See page 11)
State places emphasis on maintenance...

(from page 9)

to maintenance and preservation of forests, the State placed emphasis on maintenance and preservation of forests. He also spoke of the need to cooperate with the government in those measures. Later, he thanked departments, social organizations and wellwishers for their contributions to relief pro-grammes.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-2 and party inspected inundated areas in Mansein Ward and Sitapu Ward. They also looked into measures being taken for prevention of erosion at Wangmaw Port Area. Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, U Ohn Myint, U Pe Than and officials conducted the Secretary-2 and party round the port area.

In the afternoon, the Secretary-2 and party arrived at Talawgyi village in Myanmar Township by air and went to a rescue centre opened at Talawgyi Station Hospital on the occasion, the Secretary-2 cordially greeted the flood victims. Lt-Gen Tin Shin, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Brig-Gen Thien Zaw and officials handed over K 10.2 million, foodstuff and clothes, donated by social organizations, ministries and departments, to local authori-ties.

After greeting local people, the Secretary-2 and party left the village. They proceeded to Hsinbyin in Myikyina, where they met with township-level departmental officials, members of the local battalion and their families, and social organizations and gave instructions on harmonious and active participation of the local people in cooperation with departments concerned for regional development.

After greeting local people the Secretary-2 and party left there and arrived back at Myikyina in the evening.

First Session of Myanmar-Bangladesh (from page 10)

Minister's Office U Myo Win and officials. — MNA

Minister’s Office U Myo Win and officials. — MNA

Manjoor Rahim and official officials.

The two ministers spoke on the occasion, followed by discussions on commercial matters.

Before the meeting, the Bangladesh minister and party called on Brig-Gen Pyi Sone at Hall-3 of the hotel at 9 am the same day. Present at the call were heads of departments under the Ministry of Commerce, the Bangladesh ambassador and officials. In the evening, in his address to the Meeting of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races held on 29 March, 2004, Senior General Than Shwe said that to ensure development of border areas, measures for economic development in the region and better transport are undertaken to contribute to personnel importance for development of a region.

Now border areas have enjoyed fruitful results of smooth transport, but there are a lot of measures to be taken, he said. Although better transport has now been brought about in border areas, there is still much to be done and continued efforts are to be made for emergence of roads serviceable in all weathers and tarred roads for better transport, he pointed out.

The emergence of mushrooming roads and bridges has helped achieve more-than-expected success in building socio-economy infrastructure covering respective border areas and ensure the development of border cities to be on a par with that of interior cities.

Thus, border areas development projects strengthen friendship and relationship among the national brethren as well as mutual trust and understanding and unity.

It is sure that the transport facilities that have emerged together with restoration of peace and stability will lead the entire national people to a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Poem:

Want Mother to see

* While Mother was living
  The uneven ground bumps and ditches
  Made up road to our village
  Don’t ask if it was rough
Nono
  Village road is level
  Flowers by roadside
  It’s so pretty, Mother.
* While Mother was living
  A single drop of water
  Let alone a full drink
  Only if you went quite far
  Villager got a drumble.
Nono
  There are many donors
  Water gushing out
  In merriment, they carry clear water away.

* Mother and I while we lived happily together,
  With silvery sheet under the shining moon
  The floor itself bereft of pride
  There was no walling.
Nono
  Nowadays, Mother,
  Rural homes, it’s called
  With walls of planks,
  Roof of corrugated iron
  Floor of hardworking paduk,
  Beams of Thitay.
Nono
  With posts of hardwood
  Pretty, world renown
  Dainty, invites to live in
  In these houses, Mother
  The main room for parents
  How this son would like to do honour
  O, how I miss you Mother.

Maung Seikta (Education) (Trs)
Three arrested in Turkish train accident

ANKARA, 26 July — The crew chief and two others were arrested by a Turkish court after a high-speed train crash that killed 36 people and injured 81, CNN Turk television reported on Saturday.

Crew chief Koksal Coskun and two engineers, Fikret Karabulut and Recep Sonmez, were accused of “causing the death of more than one person through negligence and carelessness”.

The express train derailed on Thursday near the northwestern town of Pamukkale while on its way from Turkey’s commercial hub Istanbul to capital Ankara.

The lawyer for the three, Ismail Gurses, said his clients should not be made scapegoats for the accident, adding responsibility for the accident belonged to the state railway company TCDD.

Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan angrily rejected calls on Friday to sack his Transport Minister and other senior officials despite mounting pressure on the government, and said he would await a report from an investigation.

Airbus ahead in race for $5b Virgin deal

LONDON, 25 July — European aerospace giant Airbus is “marginally ahead” of US rival Boeing in a battle to win a 5-billion-US-dollars aircraft order from Virgin Atlantic [VRG.U], a British newspaper reported on Sunday.

“We are on the verge of pulling in a very big order,” The Sunday Telegraph quoted Virgin Atlantic Chairman Richard Branson as saying.

“Things will come to a head in the next seven to 13 days. Airbus is marginally ahead. That is a 5-billion-US-dollar order.”

Andrew Good, a former investor in the airline, said that Branson had secured the financial backing of Greenbriar Equity Group, a US investment firm, for Virgin America, his new US discount airline.

Citing government sources in Washington, the newspaper said that Greenbriar had agreed to head a consortium of US investors that will take a 51-per-cent stake in the airline.

The United States currently restricts foreign ownership of US airlines, allowing a maximum 25-per-cent voting stake and 49-per-cent total equity.

Greenbriar is headed by Gerald Greenwald, a former head of United Airlines, the world’s second-largest carrier.

Prodi vows to defend EU interests in world trade talks

BRUSSELS, 25 July — The European Commission President, Romano Prodi, has reassured France that European negotiators will try to reach an agreement on negotiating framework which protects the interests of the European Union in World Trade Organization talks next week.

Replying to French Government concerns in a letter which was sent late Thursday to French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin, Prodi said that the draft text including a proposal to end agricultural export subsidies would be discussed at the talks in Geneva on 27 and 28 July.

Prodi also noted that the European Union would agree to end farm subsidies only on condition that export support measures by other main farm exporting countries were also abolished.

He forecast that “the next days are certainly going to be hard” but said EU officials would “fight to draw up a negotiating framework which protects the interests of the European Union while meeting the hopes of developing countries”.

Government support for farmers in rich countries has been blamed for depressing world prices and preventing farmers in developing countries from competing on world markets, and is seen as one of the major obstacles to completing the Doha round global trade negotiations by the end of this year.

French President Jacques Chirac said on Saturday, semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

Turkish State Railways (TCDD) Sixth Area Chief Executive Director Yasar Tatlisu was quoted as saying that there were no casualties in the train derailment.

The freight train derailed while it was approaching the Pozantı Station at about 1600 local time (1300 GMT), Tatlisu said, adding that the freight engine along with four cars derailed while it was pulling 25 cars.

An investigation into the cause of the accident had been launched, he added.

On Thursday night, a high-speed train derailed near Pamukova Town of northwest Turkey, killing 37 people and injuring 81 others.

The train, travelling from Istanbul to Ankara, was carrying 263 passengers and 234 passengers.

The worst train accident in Turkey occurred in 1957 when two passenger trains collided head-on, killing 95 people and injuring 150 others.
NZ researchers find chemical that generates new brain cells

WELLINGTON, 26 July — Researchers have opened the way to a “smart pill” by finding a chemical that generates new brain cells, New Zealand Herald reported Saturday.

A New Zealand-American team led by Auckland University's Professor Mark Davis has made “super-smart” rats by injecting them with a gene that makes the chemical.

He believes similar techniques may soon help children with Down syndrome, older people who are losing their memory and students trying to learn a foreign language or swotting for exams.

His study also found that rats which were given extra mental exercises generated more new brain cells than other rats, showing that environment as well as genes help to shape intelligence. “No longer can you say there is only nature or nurture,” said Dr During, who spends 80 per cent of his working days as Director of Neurological Surgery Research at New York’s Cornell University and rest as a professor at Auckland University.

“It’s nurturing drive nature, nurture driving the genes. The environment is switching on these genes and working through a genetic mechanism. They work together.”

Another group was put in a stimulating environment with toys, a maze, a running wheel, nesting material and food treats. A third group was kept under standard laboratory conditions. All rats were killed after the experiment and the scientists examined their hippocampus, the part of the brain that controls memory.

The researchers found that the only chemical that increased in the hippocampus of both the first two groups was a vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), one of more than 100 molecules called growth factors in the body. This one was already known to promote the growth of new blood vessels.

Scientists still believed that people could learn new things with their existing brain cells.

But circumstantial evidence suggested that injecting extra VEGF- expressing genes might generate new brain cells and boost intelligence in humans. — MNA/Xinhua

US partially suspends research work at nuke weapons facilities

LOS ANGELES, 26 July — The US Energy Department has effectively shut down part of the nation’s nuclear weapons complex, fearful that security lapses discovered at Los Alamos National Laboratory had occurred elsewhere, the Los Angeles Times reported Saturday.

Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham ordered two dozen national laboratories and several other nuclear weapons facilities to stop using classified information stored on computer disks, portable hard drives and tapes that employees can easily remove from work, the report said.

The biggest effect will be on the Energy Department’s nuclear facilities in California, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. Such a shutdown has already been in effect for nine days at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. The action was taken after the Los Alamos nuclear lab reported it could not locate two computer disks that contained classified information.

Forfar they have decided to say what is on the disks, though members of Congress have suggested the loss represents a serious security breach. Officials said they had no idea how long the order would continue or how many employees would have their work disrupted. Some labs and weapons plants said that hundreds and potentially thousands of their employees would be affected by the order, which takes effect Monday.

Abraham’s unprecedented order would curtail operations across the Energy Department’s chain of laboratories, computing centres, accelerators and factories that employ more than 100,000 workers, the report said. — MNA/Xinhua

US FDA OKs Merck-Schering-Plough cholesterol drug

WASHINGTON, 26 July — Merck & Co Inc and Schering-Plough Corp won US approval recently to sell a two-in-one cholesterol pill called Vytorin that is expected to generate billions of dollars in yearly sales.

Vytorin combines two currently available drugs that lower levels of LDL, or so-called bad cholesterol in different ways, Merck’s Zocor and jointly developed Zetia.

The Food and Drug Administration approved Vytorin late on Friday, an agency spokesman said.

The companies said the new drug will cost wholesalers $2.34 US dollars per pill at all doses and will begin shipping to customers as soon as possible and no later than early September.

“We believe that Vytorin can successfully compete as a first line agent with all statins for all patients requiring cholesterol lowering medications,” said Adam Schaeffer, vice president for the Merck-Schering-Plough joint venture.

Shaojing Tong, an analyst with Mehta Partners, expects the medicinal group’s eventual annual sales of three billion US dollars.

Other sales forecasts vary as high as eight billion US dollars, based on Vytorin’s ability in clinical trials to slash LDL levels by up to 60 per cent at higher doses. — MNA/Reuters

Anti-AIDS Dragonfly Project launched in Sichuan province

CHENGDU, 26 July — Anti-AIDS Dragonfly Project volunteers have been working in Chengdu, capital of China’s populous Sichuan Province, to educate residents as soon as possible and no later than the west.

Their major task is to inform the staff and their companions of AIDS prevention, since they are most likely to be infected with HIV.

The project was launched by Sichuan Provincial Disease Control Centre and Sino-British Anti-AIDS Project.

“Epidemiological survey in the central region. The city wall was just built along the inner west, and 360 to 370 metres long from the north to the south,” said Dr During, who spends 80 per cent of his working days as Director of Neurological Surgery Research at New York’s Cornell University and rest as a professor at Auckland University.

The project was launched by Sichuan Provincial Disease Control Centre and Sino-British Anti-AIDS Project.

Late quarter sales figures expected this week for France’s Euro Disney theme park, seen here, are expected to reveal slower growth in visitor spending and add to its woes as it struggles to restructure its 2.9 billion US dollar debt, analysts predict. — MNA/Reuters

Spanish bullfighter Cesar Jimenez fights a bull during a bullfight in Valencia, southeastern Spain. — INTERNET
**S P O R T S**

FINA gives warning to Danish swimmer for taking banned drugs

**Geneva, 26 July—** Female Danish swimmer Mette Jacobsen has been given a warning and reprimand as she failed to declare the use of banned drugs when a doping control test during the European swimming championships in May in Madrid, the International Amateur Swimming Federation (FINA) announced in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Friday.

On a doping test on May 16, Jacobson did not declare the use of Glicocorticosteroids (Prednisone and Prednisolone) in accordance with the International Standard for TUE (Therapeutic Use Exemption), FINA said in a Press release.

The FINA Doping Panel conducted a hearing on July 20, 2004 and decided to punish the Danish swimmer, in accordance with FINA Doping Control Rules.

The European governing body LEN will thereby consider that automatic disqualification of individual results shall follow any anti-doping violation in connection with an in-competition test.

MNA/Xinhua

**South Korean coach lays down law**

**Jeon (China); 26 July—** Four games into the job, South Korea coach Jo Bonfere has left his players in no doubt who is in charge.

The Dutchman dropped several top players for Friday’s Asian Cup clash with the United Arab Emirates after being held to a disappointing 0-0 draw by Jordan in their opening game.

Bonfere left 2002 World Cup heroes Ahn Jung-jun and Park Ji-sung on the bench but they made an immediate impact after coming on to help South Korea to a 2-0 win.

“Some players just didn’t really perform to expectations in the previous game so I left them out,” said the former Nigeria coach.

“We started well in first half, we controlled the game and created some good chances. We deserved our lead after we scored from the free kick.”

The 1-0 halftime lead, however, flattened South Korea. The 2002 World Cup semi-finalists were under pressure for much of the game and were twice rescued by goalkeeper Lee Woon-jae.

South Koreagressed after the break and continued to sweep forward, missing several clear cut chances before poaching the lead 2-1.

Argentina regrouped after the break and continued to sweep forward, missing several clear cut chances before poaching the lead 2-1.

However, Italy ran off six of the last eight points to secure the victory. “Italy destroyed our receiving with high quality services and they did very well in defence,” said Chinese head coach Zhong Sheng.

“Are our players being injured and our players became impatient late in the match,” he added. “It’s a matter of respect that we played with such a good team.”

But Brazil equalized out of the blue in the first-half stoppage time when Luisao glanced in a free kick taken by midfielder Alex, who barely touched the ball in the half.

Argentina regrouped after the break and continued to sweep forward, missing several good chances. The best ended with Mauro Rosales’ shot being blocked after Carlos Tevez, excellent throughout the match, brilliantly worked an opening.

FIFA to consider artificial pitches for 2006 qualifiers

**Los, 26 July—** FIFA are to consider allowing artificial pitches to be used for 2006 World Cup qualifiers, president Sepp Blatter said on Saturday.

Speaking at the Copa America, Blatter said that the matter would be studied at the next meeting of the International Board, the committee which decides on changes in the rules of the game, in October.

He said that all matches at the 2006 finals in Germany would be held on natural pitches.

“This is not a revolution, it’s just part of the normal evolution of football,” he told reporters.

“CONCAAF has been playing games on artificial pitches with a lot of success and without problems.

“Nowadays, artificial turf has practically the same structure as the natural variety.” —MNA/Reuters

The game came alive in the 87th minute when Delgado scored from a rebound after the Brazil defence had failed to clear a cross.

But in the third minute of injury time, Adriano completed his hat trick to send the game straight to penalties, as extra time is not played at the Copa America.

MNA/Reuters

**Brazil win extraordinary final on penalties**

**Los, 26 July—** Brazil scored an equalizer with the last kick of the game to draw 2-2 and then beat arch-rivals Argentina on penalties to win an astonished Copa America final on Sunday.

Argentina were set to win the competition when substitute Cesar Delgado put them 2-1 ahead in the 87th minute only for Adriano to equalize in the third minute of injury-time with his seventh goal of the competition.

The world champions had pulled the same trick in the first half when Luisao scored with the last touch of the half to wipe out Cristian Gonzalez’ 20th minute penalty.

The second equalizer sparked a brawl as Brazil’s players celebrated in front of the Argentine bench.

Argentina responded by squaring water at their opponents and referee Carlos Delgado.

Amarilla summoned riot-police to stop the trouble while Adriano was booked for removing his shirt.

Argentina seemed more unsettled by the incident and missed their first two penalties as Andres D’Alessandro fired his effort at goalkeeper Julio Cesar and Gabriel Henrie floundered over the bar.

Brazil converted all their penalties — just as they did in their semifinal win over Uruguay on Wednesday.

However, Brazil had won just three of the last five Copa America finals with the most recent coming in 1999.

The Copa, the oldest of the world’s continental tournaments for national teams, features the 10 South American teams, two teams from outside the region which have taken part by invitation since 1993.

Argentina’s victory over Brazil, winners of four of the last five Copa America finals, leaves them level on four points with Brazil and South Korea and will mean they need only a point in their final game against Peru to qualify for Germany 2006.

Argentina were level with Jordan on four points, with South Korea and will play Peru on Tuesday.

On Saturday afternoon for its third straight win in the tournament. —INTERNET

China win world women’s volleyball GP

**Hefei (Central China), 26 July—** China won the Hefei leg of the 2004 World Grand Prix women’s volleyball tournament despite a final round 3-1 loss to Italy here on Saturday.

The Italians came from one set down to beat China 16-25, 25-19, 25-21 and 25-20.

China, all finished the four-team round-robin competition with two wins against one loss and the former two teams were also tied at sets won-loss ratio.

Argentina, defending World Grand Prix winners, finally won the top place over the European champion with better points won-loss ratio.

Italy settled for the third place after Dominican Republic, who lost to Poland 3-1 Saturday afternoon for its third straight defeat in Hefei.

China also cruised into the six-team World Grand Prix Final to be held in Reggio Calabria, Italy next week as the third placers in the three-round preliminaries while Italy automatically qualified as the host.

“We began badly in the first set, then we improved our play to win the next three sets,” said Italian head coach Marco Bonitata.

“We did a good job in blocking and defence in the last three sets”.

Down by two sets and trading 16-13 in the fourth, China managed to pull within 19-18. However, Italy ran off six of the last eight points to secure the victory. “Italy destroyed our receiving with high quality services and they did very well in defence,” said Chinese head coach Zhong Sheng.

“Are our players being injured and our players became impatient late in the match,” he added. “It’s a matter of respect that we played with such a good team.”

But Brazil equalized out of the blue in the first-half stoppage time when Luisao glanced in a free kick taken by midfielder Alex, who barely touched the ball in the half.

Argentina regrouped after the break and continued to sweep forward, missing several good chances. The best ended with Mauro Rosales’ shot being blocked after Carlos Tevez, excellent throughout the match, brilliantly worked an opening.

The game came alive in the 87th minute when Delgado scored from a rebound after the Brazil defence had failed to clear a cross.

But in the third minute of injury time, Adriano completed his hat trick to send the game straight to penalties, as extra time is not played at the Copa America.

MNA/Reuters
Rainfall on 26-7-2004

- (0.55 inch) at Yangon Airport,
- (0.75 inch) at Kabar Aye and
- (1.18 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1635mm (64.37 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1578 mm (62.13 inches) at Kabar Aye and 1581 mm (62.24 inches) at central Yangon.

**Daw Khin Khin Sein**

Age (55) years
No. 171, 50th Street, Pazundaung Township, Yangon, Daw Khin Khin Sein, aged 55, daughter of (U Tahan Maung) Daw Khin Mau Gyi, wife of (U Tin Latt) (Officer, Pharmaceutical Chemist, Food & Drug Administration), mother of Ko Myo Myint Htwe (Ma Mo) Thazar and Maung Kyaw Thet Latt, passed away at 2:30 am on 24-7-2004.

Funeral service will be held at the Yaw Way Mortuary for Yaw Way Cemetery at 3 pm on 28-7-2004 (Wednesday) for cremation. Cars will leave the above residence at 2 pm.

**Revered Family**

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**Weather**

Monday, 26 July, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in lower Sagaing division, rain has been scattered in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Tanintharyi Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukme (0.54 inches) and Dawei (2.60 inches).

Maximum temperature on 25-7-2004 was 29.5°C (85°F). Minimum temperature on 26-7-2004 was 20.2°C (68°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 26-7-2004 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 25-7-2004 was (0.6) hour approx. Rainfall on 26-7-2004 was (0.55 inch) at Yangon Airport, (0.75 inch) at Kabar Aye and (1.18 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1635mm (64.37 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1578 mm (62.13 inches) at Kabar Aye and 1581 mm (62.24 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kabar Aye) was 5 mph from South at 08:30 hours MST on 26-7-2004.

Bay influence: According to the observations at 09 hrs MST today, the low pressure area over the North Bay inflows and West Central Bay basin persists. Monsoon is generally strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 27-7-2004: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon State and Tanintharyi Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough sea are likely off and along Delta, Gulf of Martaba and Mon-Tanintharyi 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: Increase of rain in lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-7-2004: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Flood Warning**

(issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 26-7-2004) The water level of Ayeyawady River at Aunglan is (2533) cm and Pyay is (2876) cm. The water levels may reach their respective danger levels of (2550) cm and (2900) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing today.

**Flood Bulletin**

(Issued at 13:00hrs MST on 26-7-2004) The water levels of Ayeyawady River is above the danger level about 2.5 ft at Bhamo. It may fall below the danger level during the next (3) days commencing today.

The water level of Ayeyawady River is above the danger level about 3 ft at Katha, 3.5 ft at Mandalay and Sagaing, 3ft at Mingaladon and 2ft at Magway. The water levels may remain above the danger levels during the next (4) days commencing today.

The water level of Dokhka River is above the danger level about 4.5 ft at Myingyi. It may remain above the danger level during the next (4) days commencing today.

**Earthquake Report**

(Issued at 06:30 hrs) An earthquake of strong intensity (7.2) Richter Scale was reported in the center of Kachin state, about southeast of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (21) hrs (09) min (16 sec) MST on 25th July, 2004.
State places emphasis on maintenance, preservation of forests to ensure balanced climate

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends cash and kind donation ceremony for flood-hit townships in Kachin State

YANGON, 26 July — Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, accompanied by SPDC members Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint, Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than, Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, senior military officers, officials of the SPDC office and department heads left here on 24 July morning and arrived in Myitkyina, Kachin State. The Secretary-2 and party were welcomed at Myitkyina Airport by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Malaysian Health Minister Datuk Dr Chua Sai Lek.

Special care should be taken in such a hilly region like Kachin State because deforestation would have a deteriorating effect on natural environment followed by adverse weather conditions, drought and inundation.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Malaysian Health Minister Datuk Dr Chua Sai Lek hold discussions for enhancing cooperation in health sector. — MNA

Myanmar, Malaysia enhancing cooperation in health sector

YANGON, 26 July — A coordination meeting on enhancing cooperation in health sector took place at the meeting hall of National Health Committee, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Dagon Township this afternoon, attended by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint. During the meeting, Malaysian Minister of Health Datuk Dr Chua Soi Lek and members, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and director-general of departments under the Ministry of Health took part in the discussions.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint extended greetings and introduced the Malaysian Minister to those present. Next, the Myanmar and Malaysian ministers held discussions on sending doctors and specialists needed in to Malaysia and on cooperation in the development of traditional medicine. Afterwards, the ministers of the two countries and those present posed for documentary photo. — MNA

First Session of Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint Commission on Trade held

YANGON, 26 July — The first Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint Commission on Trade took place at the Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel here this morning, attended by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone. Bangladeshi Minister of Commerce Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Mr Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and members, departmental heads, Bangladesh Ambas-ador to Myanmar Mr Ali

(See page 9)

Agreement on joint exploration of copper and other minerals signed

YANGON, 26 July — Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration Department and China Huitian Machine Import & Export Co Ltd signed an agreement on joint exploration of copper and other minerals and conducting of feasibility survey in Hsinbo-Nanlihsan Block in Bhamo Township, Kachin State, Monywa Block-1 in Kani Township, Sagaing Division, and Monywa Block-2 in Salinigyi Township at the Traders Hotel this morning. Present at the agreement-signing ceremony were Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, member of Myanmar Investment Commission Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Tha, Attorney General U Aye Maung and departmental officials, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China Mr Li Jinjun and embassy officials and Chairman of the company Mr Zhang Sheng Can and members. GSME Director-General U Win Ti and Mr Zhang Sheng Can signed the agreement and exchanged the documents. Minister Brig-Gen Lun Tha and Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint presented the investment permit of MIE and the permit for exploration of copper and other minerals to Mr Zhang Sheng Can. — MNA

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

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