Prime Minister receives former-Secretary-General of ASEAN

YANGON, 27 July — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received former-Secretary-General of ASEAN Mr Rodolfo C Severino at Zeyathiri Beikman here this afternoon.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of Protocol Department under the Foreign Affairs Ministry as well as Ambassador of the Republic of Philippines to Myanmar Mme Phoebe A Gomez.

MNA

PM receives Bangladeshi Commerce Minister

YANGON, 27 July — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received the delegation led by Minister of Commerce of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Altaf Hossain Choudhury at Zeyathiri Beikman here this evening. Also present at the call were Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint, Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of Protocol Department under the Foreign Affairs Ministry as well as Ambassador of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh to Myanmar Mr AB Manjoor Rahim.

MNA

Secretary-2 meets departmental officials in Kachin State

Flood-hit areas inspected and victims’ requirements fulfilled

YANGON, 27 July — Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein met officers, other ranks and their families of Myitkyina Station at Station Hall of Northern Command, Myitkyina yesterday morning.

Present at the meeting were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, deputy ministers, senior military officers, officers and other ranks and their families of Myitkyina Station.

During the meeting, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein made a speech, saying that for the time being, the country is being built for emergence of a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation. He said it is necessary for Tatmadawmen and their families to join hands with departmental personnel and local people in nation building tasks.

He gave instructions on measures to be taken for agriculture and livestock breeding on a manageable scale to increase family income.

After the meeting, Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially greeted those present. He met with departmental officials at state, district and township levels, members of social organizations and officials at the town hall and explained regional developments.

Present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council member Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, officials and members of social organizations.

(See page 16)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Committee Chairman Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an opening ceremony at the FIBA-ASIA and Myanma Basketball Federation event. The event was opened with a symbolic act to demonstrate the systematic cultivation of rice. The ceremony was held at Shwe Thwun monastery in Thingangyun Township. Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and his wife Daw Myint Myint Ko, Deputy Minister Tin Swe and his wife Daw Mya Than, officials and families offered Waso robes to members of the Sangha. The ceremony was held in the presence of the Ministry of Health, Yangon Region, and the Department of Health. The event was attended by representatives from various departments and organizations.

FIBA-ASIA Referee’s Clinic 2004 opened

YANGON, 27 July — FIBA-ASIA Referee’s Clinic 2004, jointly conducted by Ministry of Sports, FIBA-ASIA and Myanmar Basketball Federation, was opened in the training hall of the Youth Training Camp (Thwunna) this morning. Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an opening speech. The training course is being attended by 17 persons of various ministries, nine from states and divisions and seven from MBF.

Rubber export business clarified

YANGON, 27 July — A ceremony to meet with rubber exporters and farmers was held at the hall of the Ministry of Commerce this morning. Chairman of the Supervisory Committee for Exports and Imports and Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe attended the ceremony and delivered an address. Also present on the occasion were SCEE Vice-Chairman and Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Director-General of Directorate of Trade U Nyein Aye, Director-General of the Border Trade Department U Nyein Win, departmental officials and others.

In his speech, Maj-Gen Thein Swe said it would be more appropriate for rubber entrepreneurs if they themselves engaged in the business of rubber exporting. Assistance would also be provided to them in the framework of rules and regulations. Next, rubber exporters and farmers reported on rubber export industries and their business transactions.

On the occasion, Brig-Gen Pyi Sone explained the essentials of rubber, export of surplus rubber, sales of rubber by themselves and the establishment of a rubber growers association. The ceremony came to an end with concluding remarks given by Maj-Gen Thein Swe.

Minister for Rail Transportation leaves for India

YANGON, 27 July — The delegation led by Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min left for India last night by flight to study rail services there. The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Ministers for Rail Transportation U Thaung Lwin and U Pe Than, Indian Embassy Counsellor Mr Rahul Kulshreshth, Directors-General and Managing Directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Rail Transportation, officials and families.

The delegation comprised Managing Director of Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank of Ministry of Finance and Revenue U Than Yi, General Manager of Myanmar Railways (Mechanical/Electrical) U Soe Win and General Manager (Civil) U Thi Han, Director of Political Department U Ye Myint of MOFA and Assistant General Manager (Communication) U Ba Ye Myint of MR.

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

Waso robes offered to member of Sangha

YANGON, 27 July — Zaygabar Co Ltd offered Waso robes and well-wishers, cash donations to Presiding Sayadaw of Kyahkuhtaw Suandumshin Phayagyi Monastery in Zokhohk Model Village, Bilin Township, Thaton District, and Ms. Aung Thaw, wife and daughter of the monastery head, invested the Waso robes offered to members of the Sangha. The ceremony was conducted with the presence of the Nine Precepts. In memory of late Lt-Gen Sein Aung, Thiri Thudhamma Dhamma Khin Thein and family donated K 9,000,000, and Captain Toe Naing Mann-Ma Zin Latt and family, K 10 million to the Kyahkuhtaw Suandumshin. Next, Waso robes and alms were offered to the Sayadaw. The Kyahkuhtaw Suandumshin delivered a sermon to the lay persons, followed by sharing of meritorious gains.

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Under the aegis of parents of both sides, well-wishers Capt Toe Naing Mann, wife Ma Zay Zin Latt and daughter Ma Zay Thitir Mann donate K 10 million to Kyahkuhtaw Sayadaw Bhaddanta Punnadipa.
Iraq militants kill senior official, seize two Jordanians

BAGHDAD, 26 July—Guerrillas killed eight people in Iraq on Monday including a senior Interior Ministry official gunned down near his home, and two Jordanian drivers became the latest foreigners seized in a spiralling hostage crisis.

But an Egyptian diplomat abducted last week said his captors had freed him and he was safe at Egypt’s Embassy in Baghdad.

A surge in attacks, including two car bombings, marked a fresh security challenge to Iraq’s new interim government before a major political gathering expected this week. The US military said a suicide car bomb exploded outside an American base near the northern city of Mosul, killing an Iraqi woman, her child and an Iraqi guard.

In Baghdad, gunmen shot Mussab al-Awadi, a top official in charge of tribal affairs, as he left his house, an Interior Ministry source said. Two bodyguards were also killed.

Gunmen also opened fire on five women cleaners for US firm Bechtel in the southern city of Basra, killing two, one of the survivors said.

The women were waiting for a bus to take them to work when they were attacked. “I pretended to be dead so they didn’t shoot me. I was covered in the blood of my friends,” said an emotional Montaha Khalil, who was unhurt.

Guerrillas have stepped up suicide car bombings, assassinations and kidnappings since a brief lull when the interim government took over from US-led occupiers on 28 June.

Militants kidnapped two Jordanian drivers and were threatening them with execution, a source close to the company they work for said on Monday.

The source said the militants had given the company 72 hours to stop working with the US military in Iraq. The two were seized when they left a US base near Quraim, close to the Iraqi-Syrian border.

A video tape obtained by Associated Press Television News showed the two Jordanians sitting on a floor, while six armed, masked militants stood behind them. One carried a sword.

Crisis Management Group meets, KGL continues negotiations

NEW DELHI, 26 July—With the extended deadline set by the abductors for the three Indians in Iraq expiring Monday, the Indian Government’s Crisis Management Group met Sunday to take stock of the developments even as the hostages’ Kuwaiti employers continued negotiations with the captors.

The Group, headed by Junior Minister for External Affairs E Ahmed, discussed the latest situation in the light of stepped-up efforts to secure the safe and early release of Tikal Raj, Sukhdev Singh and Antaryami, Ahmed told PTI that he had been informed by the Indian mission in Kuwait that negotiations were underway by the transport company—Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company (KGL)—with the kidnappers.

“I hope the outcome (of the negotiations) will be positive,” Ahmed said.

An obscure group “Holders of the Black Banner” had kidnapped the Indians along with three Egyptians and one Kenyan on 28 June.

“Its threat is that if you don’t release our hostages within 48 hours with fresh demands which included release of Iraqi prisoners from Kuwaiti and US jails. The Indian embassies in Baghdad and Kuwait are in constant touch with KGL, which has issued a fresh statement, the second in two days, saying it was willing to do whatever possible to secure safe and early release of the hostages, informed sources said.

The sources said Indian missions in Nairob and Cairo have been advised to be in touch with governments whose nationals also have been abducted.

Reports reaching here indicated that KGL has discontinued its transport operations in Iraq following a demand of the captors to pull out of that country. There was no immediate confirmation of this.

The sources said leading Islamic clerics in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have been approached by New Delhi to send out an appeal to the abductors to free the hostages.

British police hold five after gun found at airport

LONDON, 26 July — British police were questioning five people on Monday after a gun was found in a car during checks at a central England airport.

Police arrested the driver of the car shortly after he had dropped off the other four for a flight to Italy. “As a result of a routine security check yesterday afternoon, a man was arrested at Coventry Airport after a firearm was found in his car,” a spokesman for Warwickshire police said on Monday.

“He had dropped four passengers off at the airport who intended to catch a flight on to Venice,” he added. “Those four passengers were detained also by the police.”

The flight was postponed while passengers on the flight were disembarked and put through security checks and baggage was removed and searched, he said. The airport is now running normally.

Britain remains in a state of heightened security, fearing terrorist retribution for its backing of the US-led “war on terror.” —MNA/Reuters

Italy warned to withdraw forces in Iraq

CAIRO, 26 July—A statement purportedly from Islamic militants linked to Al-Qaeda terror organization has warned Italy to withdraw its forces in Iraq or it would “shake the earth” everywhere in Italy.

The statement, dated Monday and attributed to the Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades, is the second such threat in two weeks against the government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi regarding Italian forces in Iraq. It was posted on an Internet site known for carrying Islamic extremist content.

This is a warning and a threat to the Italian government, which devoted itself to serving the criminal American crusade, to follow suit with those who preceded you and leave the land of Iraq,” the statement said. “Otherwise, we will change our correspondence into words of blood and shake the earth everywhere in your (lands).”

“To the despicable Italian Prime Minister: If you have not heard this threat, then we will make you hear it in Rome, in every place and under the feet of your people, with Al- lah’s will. We give you, Berlusconi, a few days only, then you will see things that displease you,” it said.

Clintons vow to make Kerry next President

BOSTON, 26 July—Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton vowed Monday night to make John Kerry the next President while a parade of party elders at the Democratic National Convention accused Bush of botching the economy and the war on terror.

“We Democrats will bring the American people a positive campaign, arguing not who’s good and who’s bad, but what is the best way to build the safe, prosperous world our children deserve,” said the former president in remarks prepared for delivery. His wife, a first-term New York senator, drew loud cheers from the crowded convention floor when she appeared on a video screen and promised to work hard for Kerry’s election.

The party’s 44th national convention opened under extraordinarily tight security as Kerry campaigned in Florida. In a battleground state he has visited more than a half-dozen times this year, he urged Republicans and independents to “stop and think” before casting their votes in November.

Al Gore, who won the popular vote in 2000 but lost the White House, urged Democrats to “fully and completely” channel their anger of the bitter recount and send Kerry to the White House.

“When policies are clearly not working, we can change them. If our leaders make mistakes, we can hold them accountable—even if they never admit their mistakes,” said Gore.

Former President Carter, elected to the White House in 1976, accused Bush of squandering the international good will that flowed to the United States in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

“Unilateral acts and demands have isolated the United States from the very nations we need to join us in combating terrorism,” Carter said.

Internet
Spain reprimands Australia over Iraq

Madras, 26 July—Spain summoned the Australian ambassador in Madrid to protest against her country’s view that the pullout of Spanish troops from Iraq has given al-Qaida the upper hand.

Australian FM Alexander Downer had Sunday criticised Spain for pulling its troops from Iraq, saying it encouraged “terrorists” to continue their agenda.

His comments came soon after a group claiming to be the European wing of al-Qaida threatened attacks on Australia and Italy if they did not withdraw their soldiers from Iraq.

Spain’s under-secretary for foreign affairs, Luis Calvo Merino, delivered the “firm rejection of the Spanish government” to ambassador Susan Tannor on Monday.

The Spanish government issued a statement saying that Madrid “has established the struggle against terrorism as a clear foreign policy priority.” It added Downer’s comments were therefore “inadmissible,” “all the more so as they come from a friendly country such as Australia.”

Spain’s Socialist government, which took power in April, quickly made good on a campaign pledge to withdraw Spanish soldiers from Iraq. The last troops of a contingent that once numbered 1400 left on 21 May.

Kidnappers release Egyptian diplomat

Baghdad, 26 July—Kidnappers released an Egyptian diplomat, in a dramatic twist to Iraq hostage crisis, as two Jordanians were snatched and two Pakistanis threatened with death, and attacks claimed 10 lives.

The envoy, Mohamed Mamdouh Koob, the first diplomat seized in the frenzied abduction-taking that has dogged Iraq for months, was released because of his character and religious faith, the father of three was told by his captors.

“I am free and already at the Egyptian interests section in Baghdad,” Koob, the third ranking diplomat at the Egyptian mission, told AFP by telephone.

Just minutes before, the Arab news channel Al-Jazeera broadcast a video apparently showing him being freed and even hugging one of his kidnappers.

Al-Jazeera quoted one of the armed militants as saying the envoy was freed “because of the religious faith and the moral qualities he possesses.” —Internet

India confident of Iraq hostage release

NEW DELHI, 26 July — An Indian government minister expressed confidence Monday about the early release of three Indians taken hostage by an Iraqi group.

Negotiations are going on and we are in a good position, of a influential Union organisation held a press conference in Baghdad, calling on the abductors to release the hostages immediately”, official sources said.

They said the leaders underlined that India had always stood by the people of Iraq, a point made by Ahamed in the statement. The sources said Ahamed’s appeal was distributed at the press conference and also aired on all television channels in the MiddleEast. — Internet

China launches second space study probe

BEIJING, 26 July—China successfully launched a probe on Sunday as part of a Sino-European partnership aimed at improved monitoring of magnetic storms and other space hazards, state media said.

State television said the “Probe-2 satellite — the second in the ‘Double Star Programme’” — was launched at 10.05 pm (0705 GMT) from the centre in Taiyuan in China’s northern province of Shanxi.

The probe, launched aboard a Long March 2C rocket, successfully gained orbit about 30 minutes, it said.

The official Xinhua news agency said it would coordinate with an earlier probe on a mission to improve space mission safety, and also with European Space Agency satellites in joint research.

The satellite was jointly designed by the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation and research bodies linked to the European Space Agency, state media have said.

The programme’s first satellite blasted off at the end of December and was expected to remain in orbit for 18 months. The second probe should remain aloft for a year, state media said.

China has sent a handful of research satellites into orbit and last October became only the third nation to successfully send a man into space.

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Car bomb in Iraq’s Mosul kills driver

MOSUL, Iraq, 27 July — A car bomb exploded near an entrance to a US base at an airfield close to the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Monday, probably killing the driver but causing no other casualties, the US military said.

Colonel Josef Peik, citing a preliminary report, said the car seemed to have been stopped before it exploded at about 9 a.m. (0500 GMT) as it approached the gate of the airfield south of Mosul.

In the southern Iraqi city of Basra, hospital officials said two Iraqi women were killed and two other women wounded when gunmen forced their car to stop when they were heading to work at Basra Airport on Monday morning.

They said the gunmen then sprayed the car with bullets.

The motive for the attack was not immediately clear, but militants have often targeted Iraqi officials who they accuse of collaborating with US forces. — MNA/Reuters

China, India can surpass US, Europe as investment destination

WASHINGTON, 26 July — Asian giants India and China, who are recording growth rates higher than US and Europe, could soon surpass them as leading foreign investment destinations, according to analysts here.

David Rothkopf, who was Undersecretary of Commerce for International Trade Policy during the Clinton administration, warned the US Government against ignoring the threat posed by the emerging economies of Asia.

Citing figures released by Organization for European Cooperation and Development (OECD) which showed that China supplanted the US as the No 1 destination for FDI worldwide during last year, he said private investors are losing confidence in the US economy.

“We have been asleep at the economic switch,” he said, adding private investors are losing confidence in the US economy.

Instead, foreign governments, which bought only 47 percent of US Government securities in 2003, bought 86 percent in the first quarter of the same period this year.

Almost all the government buyers were Asians. “America’s growing dependence on such investors,” he says, “is an ominous turn of events.”

Stating that Asia is only beginning a long cycle of opportunity, James K Glassman, resident fellow of the American Enterprise Institute, said he was advised by Glassman said both China and India have an educated population willing to work very hard for modest wages.

A US-based money manager with Asian expertise, Guinness Atkinson, who runs Asia Focus, said “since 1978, China today is eight times as large as when reforms were intro-

duced. India is growing like crazy, though the results of the recent national election cast doubt about the future.”

Europe’s population is ageing, the economy is mature. People are living the good life ahead of working hard, Glassman said in an article.

The US, he said, has grown soft. No politician can propose anything that involves sacrifice. US manufactured products are uncompetitive and the country does not provide the necessary incentives to expand the knowledge-based incentives where it can have an advantage.

The increasing cost of health care and retirement benefits will be a drag on US profitability and discourage investment, he claimed. — MNA/PTI

US air raid goes astray, hurts eight Afghan soldiers

KABUL, 26 July — Eight Afghan soldiers have been wounded in an erroneous aerial bombardment by US forces in central Afghanistan, a Defence Ministry spokesman said on Sunday.

Four of the soldiers, all from the newly US-trained Afghan National Army, have returned to duty, said Zahir Azimi.

The others were taken to hospital, he said, but gave no word of their condition.

The bombing occurred Tuesday in Deh Rawud District of Uruzgan Province, scene of a joint operation by Afghan and US-led troops against guerrillas from the ousted Taliban regime.

The US military had ear-

lier said that 10 Taliban fighters were killed in the attack and four Afghans soldiers wounded in the gunbattle with the Taleban. It had no imme-
diate comment on the De-
fence Ministry report.

US-led forces have been involved in a series of so-called “friendly fire” incidents since they invaded Afghanistan in late 2001 in an opera-
tion that led to the Taleban’s overthrow.

In the worst recent one, last December, American raiders in southeastern Afghan-

ian killed 15 children, draw-
ing stern protests from the Afghans and the United Na-
tions.

Separately, four Afghan police were hurt on Saturday when a bomb placed in a pres-
sure cooker went off outside a Norwegian aid agency in Maimana, the provincial capi-
tal of Faryab Province, west-
ern sources said.

The police were injured while they were checking a first explosion that had damaged the gate of the agency. — MNA/Reuters

Democratic delegates say US should not have gone to war in Iraq

NEW YORK, 27 July — Nine out of ten Democratic delegates gathering in Boston this week for the party convention think the United States should not have gone to war in Iraq and say the gains from the war were not worth the loss of American lives, a New York Times/CBS News poll shows.

The delegates are much less supportive of the war than the public is or than Demo-
crat voters are, generally and that is reflected in the more nuanced positions of Senators John Kerry and John Edwards, whom they will nominate this week for president and vice-president. Nearly 90 per cent of delegates described themselves as supporting Kerry enthusiastically, with the rest split about evenly between those who were supporting him with reserva-
tions or only because he is the likely party nominee.

The war, Iraq and terrorism are not seen by the delegates as the most important issues in their states, the poll shows. Only one in six cited them as most important.

Kerry, as politically moderate. On issues like abortion, the death penalty and gay marriage, the delegates are not only much more liberal than voters in general but sub-
stantially more liberal than typical Demo-
crat voters. — MNA/PTI

Venezuela to propose raising OPEC price range

CARACAS, 26 July — Venezuela will propose an in-
crease in the oil price range set by the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) at the organi-

zation’s next meeting in September in Vienna, Venezue-

lan Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said Sunday.

Venezuela has asked for a technical evaluation of the price range and will urge discussion on the possibility of raising the current range of between 22 and 28 US dollars per barrel, Ramirez said during a meeting between Venezuelan and Argentine business executives on the Margarita Island.

Venezuelan officials however have not suggested a new price range, Ramirez said. Venezuela, the world’s fifth largest oil exporter, produces more than three million barrels of oil a day, according to the government.

OPEC decided in June to raise production by two million barrels a day in July, and by an additional 500,000 barrels a day in August to lower oil prices that have been over 40 dollars a barrel this year. — MNA/Xinhua

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NEW YORK, 27 July — Nine out of ten Democratic delegates gathering in Boston this week for the party convention think the United States should not have gone to war in Iraq and say the gains from the war were not worth the loss of American lives, a New York Times/CBS News poll shows.

The delegates are much less supportive of the war than the public is or than Demo-
crat voters are, generally and that is reflected in the more nuanced positions of Senators John Kerry and John Edwards, whom they will nominate this week for president and vice-president. Nearly 90 per cent of delegates described themselves as supporting Kerry enthusiastically, with the rest split about evenly between those who were supporting him with reserva-
tions or only because he is the likely party nominee.

The war, Iraq and terrorism are not seen by the delegates as the most important issues in their states, the poll shows. Only one in six cited them as most important.

Kerry, as politically moderate. On issues like abortion, the death penalty and gay marriage, the delegates are not only much more liberal than voters in general but sub-
stantially more liberal than typical Demo-
crat voters. — MNA/PTI

Dutch chemical barge explodes on canal in Germany

BERLIN, 26 July — A Dutch-registered chemical tanker barge exploded on a canal in Germany early on Sunday, killing one, believed to be the ship’s captain, and injuring six, including his wife and two children, po-
lice said. The blast came af-
ter the barge had discharged its load of naptha in Eisein in northwestern Germany, and had moored for the night in the Rhein-Herne Canal, a spokesman for Essen police said. — MNA/Reuters

The site of a car bomb explosion outside the US military base in Mosul, 390 km north of Baghdad, on 26 July, 2004. The US military said a suicide car bomb exploded outside an American base near the northern city of Mosul, killing an Iraqi woman, her child and an Iraqi guard. — Reuters

US Army soldiers investigate the area where a mortar landed in eastern Baghdad, on 26 July, 2004. Several mortars landed in various neighbourhoods in the Iraqi capital on Monday, witnesses said. — Reuters
Images of Iraq

A view of the destruction left after a suicide car bomb exploded near a police station in southern Baghdad seen on 19 July, 2004.

An Iraqi woman weeps as she sits on the pavement close to the site of a suicide car bomb attack near a police station in southern Baghdad on 19 July, 2004.

Iraqi men survey the shattered ceiling of their house which was damaged in an overnight air strike in the northern city of Samarra on 21 July, 2004.

Iraqi men walk down the stairs of their house which was destroyed in an overnight air strike in the northern city of Samarra, on 21 July, 2004.

An Iraqi man survey the damage to his house which was destroyed in an overnight air strike in the northern city of Samarra, on 21 July, 2004.

An Iraqi man injured during clashes between American and Iraqi forces with guerrillas is taken in to a hospital ward in Baqouba, some 55 kms (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, Iraq, on 25 July, 2004.
To uplift health and education standard of the entire nation

The main building of Panglong University in Southern Shan State. — MNA

People’s Hospital built by Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. — MNA

Thanks to the government’s efforts, Mongkaing Basic Education High School in Shan State gets a new school building. — MNA

The 200-bed General Hospital (Myeik) in Taninthayi Division. — MNA

City Hospital in Mandalay, Mandalay Division. — MNA
The border areas and national races development plan, the 24 development zones and the rural development plan are now being implemented to ensure equitable progress throughout the Union, without leaving any regions unattended. For rural areas, home to the overwhelming majority of the country’s population, rural development tasks such as education, health, safe drinking water, irrigation water, better transport and rural economic infrastructure should be top priority.

Secretary-2 Adjudant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets with Tatmadaw officers, other ranks and families at Station hall of Northern Command. — MNA

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein views the current of Ayeyawady River from Bala Minhtin Bridge. — MNA

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets departmental officials, members of …

(from page 16)

The third largest state in Myanmar, Kachin State is over 22 million acres in area, with just over 1.3 million of population. Taking into consideration the proportion of the area and the population, there still remains land aplenty usable for agricultural purpose. A glance at the present condition will reveal that the region has 113 percent of local food sufficiency, an amount more than enough for itself. However, it is necessary not to be content with the present status, instead efforts should be made to produce more.

It has been urged to grow another 600,000 acres of paddy as the region has plenty of cultivable land. It is therefore necessary to draw plans to be able to put the targeted sown acreage under paddy cultivation.

For agricultural undertakings and other economies, Kachin State is blessed with favourable conditions provided by Nature. It is therefore necessary to work hard for economic growth of the whole region with the effective use of production resources. National races such as Bamar, Jainphaw, Shan, Rawan, Mashu, Lashee, etc. have been living in unison in the region since time immemorial. Therefore, the region in fact is a small union with a diversity of national races. This being the case, steps are to be taken to develop the region in all sectors with the united strength of national races residing in the region.

For the same reason, harmonious and concerted efforts are needed for the perpetuation and modernization of the Union that is made up of seven states and seven divisions.

The border areas and national races development plan, the 24 development zones and the rural development plan are now being implemented to ensure equal progress throughout the Union, without leaving any regions unattended. For rural areas, home to the overwhelming majority of the country’s population, rural development tasks such as education, health, safe drinking water, irrigation water, better transport and rural economic infrastructure should be top priority.

Keeping in view the bright future and the everlasting existence of the country as a sovereign state, the Government is carrying out nation-building tasks. In this process, the National Convention is now being held so as to exercise a genuine and discipline-flourishing democratic system in consistence with the seven-point future policy programme that dovetails with the condition of our country.

However, destructive elements within and without the country are making attempts to disturb the success of the ongoing National Convention. No matter whatever it is, the Government, in the belief that ‘the strength of the nation lies within’, is now holding the National Convention by relying on the strength of the national people after laying down the seven-point future policy programme. Later, Lt-Gen Thein Sein called upon the entire national people — intellectuals, technocrats, entrepreneurs, national races, including those residing in remote border areas — to do their every bit enthusiastically in the drive to successfully realize the seven-point future policy programme.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-2 cordially greeted those present on the occasion. Next, the Secretary-2 and party proceeded to the People’s Hospital in Myitkyina, where he met with hospital staff and gave instructions on health education campaigns, preventive measures against the outbreak of diseases, and kind treatment to patients.

Later, the Secretary-2 and party left Myitkyina and arrived back here in the afternoon. — MNA

Talks on MWAF held

YANGON, 27 July — Vice-President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Prof Dr Daw May May Yi gave talks on salient points on the federation at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue on Industry-1 road here this afternoon.

She explained how the federation came into existence, its history and formation, its seven objectives, responsibilities and tasks being carried out by its 16 work groups, and called for participation of the entire womenfolk in implementation of the federation’s lofty aims. Secretariat member Daw Hoo Yaw explained matters on the submitting of application forms for membership. Next, adviser to finance and management work group of MWAF Daw Khin Than Win, wife of the F&R minister, presented K 300,000 donated by the Ministry of F&R to Dr Daw May May Yi. Also present on the occasion were by Prof Daw Khin Mar Tun, wife of the deputy minister for F&R, departmental heads and their wives as well as employees under the ministry of F&R. — MNA

Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspects the No 1 Defence Services Hospital (300-bed) in Myitkyina. — MNA

Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein views the current of Ayeyawady River from Bala Minhtin Bridge. — MNA
Lt-Gen Maung Bo pays homage to abbots of all ganas in Bilin

YANGON, 27 July — A ceremony to pay homage to abbots of all ganas in Bilin Township and offer provisions to members of the Sangha was held at Kyaikhtiyo Pagoda. Brig-Gen Myint Soe of the Ministry of Defence, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departments, military officers, local authorities, wellwishers, disciples and local people.

The congregation received the Nine Precepts from Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee (Shadhamma) Sayadaw Bhaddanta Camobassa. Members of the Sangha recited parittas. State Ovadacariya Muthin Wyaakayunnggyi Sayadaw Bhaddanta Patinda and Chairman of Mon State Sangha Nayaka Committee Bhaddanta Vinsa delivered Ovadacaturas.

In his supplication, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said Kyaiakhihsaung Sayadaw renovated 45 pagodas such as Kyaiakhiyo, Zinkyak and Kelatha Pagodas and mountain roads and presented provisions to the missionary centres.

He said he was pleased to see the efforts for propagation of the Sasana. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Aung also reported on the ceremony to pay homage to abbots of all ganas.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented offerings to Painhnekyunkyaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Sdbhita, Kyaiakhihsaung Sayadaw Abhidaja Agga Maha Saddhamajothika Bhaddanta Patadipa.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Aung presented offerings to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. Next, wellwishers of Station presented offerings to nuns. Kyaiakhihsaung Sayadaw Bhaddanta Patadipa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, officials and wellwishers presented offerings to the Sangha and monks. — MNA

Minister receives guests

YANGON, 27 July — Minister for Industry-U Aung Naing Thaung received manager Ns Yang Ya Ping of China Yunnan Corporation (for International Techno-Economic Cooperation) at 1 pm and Group Chief Executive Officer Datuk David S C Yeat and delegation of INS Holdings Bhd, Malaysia, at 2.30 pm today at his office. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Thaung and officials were also present at the calls. — MNA

Delegation calls on Minister

YANGON, 27 July — A delegation led by representative of Gyeong Sow Co of the republic of Korea Mr Kim Deok Su called on Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint at the Ministry of Mines at 10 am today. Similarly, Executive Vice-President Mr Tojiro Tasaki and party of Myanmar Tasaki Co Ltd called on the Minister at 1 pm today at his office. Deputy Minister U Myint Thein and officials were present on the occasions. — MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 28 July, 2004
Those who daren't show their face — 55

**Pauk Sa**

The VOA at 6 am on 4 July 2004, aired a news report that the Myanmar Government sentenced seven years' imprisonment to Ko Thet Lwin, a staff of Ivanhoe Company, a mining company doing business in Myanmar. In the report, the VOA quoted the AAPP, a so-called organization concerned with Daw Aung San Su Kyi; that the authorities arrested Ko Thet Lwin, a Myanmar national, a staff of the Ivanhoe Company, in December 2003 for visiting Daw Aung San San Kyi; that together with Ko Thet Lwin, a foreign official of the company met with Daw Aung San Su Kyi; that the authorities arrested the two; that although the foreigner was released later, Ko Thet Lwin was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment in February 2004; that the family of Ko Thet Lwin informed the Yangon Office of the International Committee of Red Cross about the matter; and that the family was trying to get contact with Ko Thet Lwin. In reality, the VOA is broadcasting fabrications in accord with its tradition.

The VOA made an interview with Teik Naing, the so-called secretary of the AAPP, to make the matter worse. In my belief, the VOA, a media of the US government, distributing news world-wide, would apply advanced techniques in its business. But it is broadcasting lies and slanderous news reports about Myanmar, by the use of its advanced techniques, without analyzing whether the original source of information is reliable or not. It has never failed to air fabrications slandering Myanmar. Thus, it has become a rumour mongering news agency among the international media. Do the VOA staff know this? It is food for thought.

The information about Ko Thet Lwin was sent to the radio station with wicked intention, while omitting the true part, and yet the VOA, aired it. Moreover, it aired an interview with Ko Thet Lwin, asking whether he had no wish nor reason to visit her, and ordered Ko Thet Lwin to stop the car and turn it back towards the office. But Ko Thet Lwin persistently drove on the car, and tried to pass through the restricted area on the University Avenue. Thus, the authorities concerned had to stop the car. The VOA was airing fabrication saying that he was arrested for meeting with a certain person. The AAPP was the organization that issued the fabricated announcement. And the political outcasts inside the nation had sent the fabricated information to the AAPP. In conclusion, I would like to say that from now on the VOA should not show their face in public.

(Translation: TMT)


**Efficient use of electricity**

- Use daylight as the main source of light
- Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

**Efficient use of fuel**

- Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US$ 5.5 million in a year

- The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

**All this needs to be known**

- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever appealed

**NGOs say Big powers bullying poor to get trade deal**

**Geneva, 27 July — International aid and development groups on Monday accused the United States, the European Union and Japan of using bullying and threats to get poorer countries to agree to an unfair world trade pact.**

World Trade Organization (WTO) Director General Supachai Panitchpakdi says if there is no trade deal this week, it could be years before talks resume.

“Bullying and arm-twisting is being widely used by the major powers to try to get developing countries to accept an agreement that is against their interests,” said Alexandra Strickner of the US Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP).

British-based Action Aid International said poorer countries were facing “threats by the EU of losing their trade preferences, by the US of being excluded from bilateral trade agreements, and by Japan of losing aid programmes.”

At the focus of this week’s talks — the last stage of the troubled Doha Round negotiations launched in 2001 — is a blueprint drafted by WTO mediators that sets outlines, including on the central issue of farm trade, for a final accord.

But developing countries insist the draft ignores many of their basic concerns, while some richer nations — including Japan and Switzerland — say its provisions for lowering tariff barriers would hit farmers vital to their economies.

“The developing countries are sick and tired of having their interests sidelined in favour of the interests of rich countries and their corporate lobbies,” Action Aid activist from Senegal Moussa Fayel told a news conference.

And a new grouping, Agriculture Trade Initiative from the South (ATIS), said the trade majors were driving to split the developing countries by offering “incentives” to some to accept the general thrust of the current blueprint.

Many governments in the so-called South say the 1996-93 Uruguay Round, hailed by big powers as a boost to the global economy, has brought more poverty for their farmers and workers forced to compete with subsidized goods from the North.

First, Deputy Director-General of MRTV U Thu Aung extended greetings at Studio-A and explained about the salient points on MRTV with audio-visual aid.

Next, the trainees studied radio drama recording at Studio-C, song recording at Studio-D and shooting and producing TV show at Studio-A. — MNA
**Minister arrives back from Thailand**

YANGON, 27 July — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun made a study tour of Thailand on 21 July at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Chavalit Yongchaiyudh and Thai Contractors Association Under His Majesty’s Patronage.

The minister and party toured downtown Bangkok on 21 July and attended a dinner hosted by Minister of Transport of Thailand Mr Suriva Jungrun Greang Kit at Imperial Queen’s Park Hotel.

The minister and party on 22 July arrived at Geotextile Factory in Chonburi Province where they viewed the production process of needle punched nonwoven textile of Confelt Co Ltd. They also studied construction of Suvarnabhumi International Airport.

In the evening, the minister and party attended a dinner hosted by the Thai Deputy Prime Minister at Sorento Restaurant. On 23 July, the minister observed repaving of roads with the use of recycling method in Lamlukka Province. In the afternoon, the minister attended a seminar on segment erection precast box girder covering Bangkok Expressway at CH Karnchang Co Ltd. In the evening, the minister held discussions with officials of Kanchanapuri-Tavoy Development at Sofital Plaza on work being carried out.

The minister and party arrived back here on 24 July evening. — MNA

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**PBANRDA Minister attends Waso robes offering ceremony**

**YANGON, 27 July** — The fifth Waso robes offering ceremony of township associations in Ayeyawady Division, organized by Ayeyawady Division Dhammazayana Trustee Board, was held at Ayeyawady Division Dhammazayana on Gyawtwa Road in Bahan Township on 25 July.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bahan Aungmyebonsan Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Pathinndabhivamsa plus- eight Sayadaws, Vice-Presi- dent of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Khin Ma Aye and those wishing to participate in it are to contact Myanma Gems Enterprise to have Nine Precepts. Next, members of the Sangha recited Parittas. Afterwards, Daw Khin Lay Thet and those present donated Waso robes and provisions to the Sayadaws. Joint-Secretary of the Sangha Maj-Gen Hsan Hsint, Maj-Gen Tin Soe and Maj-Gen Mya Win of the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Com- mander of Yangon Command Col Wai Lwin and wellwishers. The Vice-Chairman of the Sayadaw administered the

**Malaysian Health Minister visits Traditional Medicine Hospital**

**YANGON, 27 July** — A delegation led by Malaysian Minister of Health Datin Sri Dr Chua Soi Lek, visited Traditional Medicine Hospital here today. The delegation arrived here to promote health cooperation between Myanmar and Malaysia.

Director-General of Traditional Medicine Department Dr Thein Swe briefed the Malaysian guests on the history of the department and traditional medicine health care services; Rector of Mandalay University of Traditional Medicine Dr Myat Moe, on academic matters; and Medical Superintendent of the hospital Dr Thein Kyaw, on health care services and educational activities. They also replied to questions raised by the guests.

The Malaysian minister and party visited the wards, the herbal garden, and studied health care services. The delegation also visited the Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) in the evening, and heard reports on salient points of the body presented by officials concerned. — MNA

**Mid-year Gem Emporium to be held**

**YANGON, 27 July** — The Mid-year Gem Emporium will be held in 2004 October and those wishing to participate in it are to contact Myanma Gems Enterprise to have their gems tested and their gems prices fixed between 1 August and 30 September.  Myanma Gems Enterprise is making arrangements in cooperation with other enterprises and departments in selling and exporting gems of national entrepreneurs in accordance with GTC system in the interest of the nation and the entrepreneurs.

**Energy staff families offer ‘soon’ to monks**

**YANGON, 27 July** — Staff families of the Ministry of Energy offered ‘soon’ to the rector of State Pariyatti Sasana University and members of the Sangha at Mogok Refectory on Kaba Aye Hill at 10 am today.

Rector Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Bhivamsa invested the congregation with the Five Precepts. Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Luu Thu and wife Daw Khin Ma Aye offered provisions to the Sayadaw and presented K 200,000 for the day meal for the monks. Later, ‘soon’ was offered to the monks. MNA
Danish tanker engineer admits US oil leak charges

Savannah, 26 July — A Danish engineer pleaded guilty to charges of hiding and destroying documents recording tanker discharge charges from his tanker during a Coast Guard inspection, the US Department of Justice said recently.

Johnnie Nielsen, 35, of Copenhagen, admitted removing a log book that recorded levels of oil, waste oil and sludge on his vessel, which was operated by Danish oil and shipping group A.P. Moller-Maersk, the US Attorney’s office for northern California said. He later threw away key pages from that log.

The US Coast Guard was making the inspection in May this year after finding waste oil coming from piping of the tanker. Nielsen will be sentenced in October and could face up to 20 years in prison and a fine of 250,000 US dollars. — MNA/Reuters

TRADE MARK CAUTION
SKODA AUTO a.s., a company incorporated in Czech Republic of Tr. Vaclava Klementa 869 CZ-293 60 MLADA BOLESLY AV, Czech Republic, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:

Reg. No. 5220/1995 in respect of “passenger automobiles and hereof derived modifications, spare parts and components hereof, accessories and outfit hereof, in particular suspension equipment, spoilers, wheel cast disks, tilting roofs, roof luggage carriers and combustion engines for passenger motor cars”

With intent to prevent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Myo Tin
M.A. H.G.P. D.B.L.
for SKODA AUTO a.s.
F.O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 28 July, 2004

Ship sinking monster waves widespread than thought

Parn, 26 July — Rogue waves that rise as high as 10-storey buildings and can sink large ships are more common than previously thought, imagery from European Space Agency (ESA) satellites has shown.

As part of a scientific project initiated by the European Union in December 2000, two ESA satellites monitored the world’s oceans to test the frequency of monster waves that were once dismissed as a nautical myth.

Three weeks of data from the early months of 2001 showed more than ten individual giant waves around the globe of over 25 metres in height. Previously, ESA said, such large waves occurred only once every 10,000 years.

“Having proved they exist in higher numbers than anyone expected, the next step is to analyse if they can be forecasted,” said Wolfgang Rosenthal, a scientist at the GKSS research centre in Geesthacht, Germany. ESA said that severe weather had sunk several tanker vessels and that such large waves were believed to be a major cause of such accidents. — MNA/Reuters
**US study says caffeine interferes with diabetes control**

**WASHINGTON, June 26 —** Caffeine could interfere with the body’s ability to handle blood sugar, thus worsening Type 2 diabetes, US researchers said on Monday.

The team at Duke University Medical Centre in North Carolina found a strong correlation between caffeine intake at mealtime and increased glucose and insulin levels among people with Type 2 diabetes.

The American Diabetes Association says that 90 per cent of the 17 million Americans diagnosed with diabetes have Type 2, in which the body either does not produce enough insulin or cells ignore the insulin, which the body needs to convert food into energy.

The findings are significant enough that the researchers recommend people with diabetes consider reducing or eliminating caffeine from their diets.

“In a healthy person, glucose is metabolized within several hours, so after eating a meal, blood glucose levels rise and then fall quickly,” said James Lane, a psychiatry professor who led the study.

“It appears that diabetics who consume caffeine are more likely to have a harder time regulating their insulin and glucose levels than those who do not take caffeine,” he added.

Writing in the journal Diabetes Care, Lane and colleagues said they studied 14 habitual coffee drinkers with Type 2 diabetes.

The researchers put the volunteers on a controlled diet. They took their medication and then were given caffeine capsules. More blood was taken then, and after giving the volunteers a liquid meal supplement.

Caffeine had little effect on the ‘green’ group but in the volunteers fasted, the researchers found.

But after the liquid meal, those who were given caffeine had a 21-per cent increase in their glucose level and insulin rose 48 per cent.

“The goal of clinical treatment for diabetes is to keep the person’s blood glucose down,” Lane said in a statement.

“It seems that caffeine, by further impairing the metabolism of sugars, is something diabetics ought to consider avoiding. Some people already watch their diet and exercise regularly. Avoiding caffeine might be another way to better manage their disease. In fact, it’s possible that staying away from caffeine could provide bigger benefits altogether.”

MNA/Reuters

**Trade group lodges protest over beating of businesswoman in US**

**NEW YORK, June 26 —** A Chinese-American trade group Saturday lodged a strong protest with the US authorities over the recent brutal beating by US law enforcers of a Chinese businesswoman, it was learned Sunday.

The group, which calls itself Preparatory Committee of the Chinese for the Pro-motion of US-China Free Trade, said in a statement the US Government bears unshirkable responsibility for the serious motion of US-China Free Trade, said in a statement the US Government bears.

The group said in a statement the US Government bears.

The US Department of Homeland Security in New York has started an investigation into the beating of the woman who was denied a visa, the statement noted, after being sub-jected to the strictest security checks when US authorities imposed the most rigid regula-tion on non-immigration visa since the Sep-tember 11, 2001, terror attack.

So who could have summoned such a disaster in the US territory, the statement asked. On Friday, Zhao told a Press confer-ence that she and two friends were passing a row of rows when a uniformed officer waved to them to come in. But she barely had time to react in the room when one of the officers pounded on her head and sprayed her with pepper spray. The officer then struck her head on the ground while holding her hair and kicked her on the head when she was forced to kneel on the ground.

MNA/Xinhua

**Study shows Great Lakes too cold for Asian grass carp**

**OTTAWA, July 27 —** A new scientific study suggests Canada may be just too cold for Asian grass carp to invade the Great Lakes, according to a report published on Sunday.

“Historical patterns of invasion suggest this species is at the northern limit of its ability to invade and is unlikely to become very abundant,” says a draft version of a report prepared for Canada’s Fisheries Department.

“From this analysis it appears that it is unlikely for grass carp to set up self-sus-taining populations based on the environment of the Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence River,” the report said.

Fish ecologists have been warning for years that four related species of Asian grass carp, bighead, silver and black— all threats to invade Can-adian waters, driving out native species by destroying or altering sensitive habitats.

Canadian waters on the United States in the 1960s from their original Eastern Asian homeland to be raised as food stock. But many es-capees were then introduced into lakes and rivers, where they now flourish in at least 45 states.

MNA/Xinhua

**Hundreds of onlookers watch from below as French climber Alain Robert, a rock climber who has become famous for climbing known buildings worldwide, climbs the 120-metre-high (394 feet) Indostal Building in Jakarta, on 25 July, 2004. — interninet**

**UN special AIDS envoy starts visit to Uganda**

**KAMPALA, 26 July —** United Nations special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa Stephen Lewis arrived in Uganda on Sunday to start a week-long visit to the East African country.

During his stay in Uganda, Lewis will officiate at the introduction of anti-retroviral therapy for people living with HIV in northern Uganda’s Arua District, at the invitation of Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF or Doctors Without Bor-ders), according to a statement issued here by the United Nations Children’s Funds.

MNA/Xinhua

**Heat wave causes serious forest fires in Portugal**

**LISBON, 26 July —** A heat wave sent temperatures soaring above 40 degrees Celsius across large parts of Portugal on Sunday, causing forest fires and prompting the evacuation of the residents in some regions.

The Portuguese National Health Department warned on July 23 that the scorching weather would last a few days, and the department raised the heat alert to “yellow” on Sun-day. In May, the department introduced a four-level heat alert system, namely “blue”, “yellow”, “orange” and “red”.

While “blue” represents normal and “yellow” means that some health measures should be taken because of the high temperature, “or-ange” stands for a heat wave and “red” a serious heat wave.

The National Health De-partment announced Sunday that the temperatures in four regions, including Portoalegre, in central Portugal and Evora, Beja and Faro in the south, exceeded 40 degrees Celsius and their heat alert was raised to “orange”.

In Faro even rose to 45 de-grees Celsius.

Meanwhile, the alert in Lisbon and 11 other regions was raised to “yellow”. Only three regions and two islands had the alert blue.

The heat wave resulted in the spread of forest fires, which have destroyed 27,000 hect-ares of woodland this year, 5,000 hectares more than the previous year.

MNA/Xinhua

**Study shows rising risk of dementia in Canadian drivers**

**OTTAWA, 27 July —** A new study by the Canadian Psychiatric Association shows that the risk of dementia in drivers is rising with Canada’s aged population increases rapidly, it is reported here Sunday.

The study estimates that there will be nearly 100,000 drivers with dementia in the province of Ontario alone by 2028, and the Ministry of Transportation driving tests do not effectively screen for dementia.

The study cites crash reports that suggest drivers with dementia are two to five times more likely to be involved in a collision.

The most common deficits seen in dementia are impairments in memory, concentration and judgment. The impact of such deficits on everyday activities can be devastating.

The study calls for improvements to the screening procedure for drivers, with “efficient” evaluations to examine people’s ability to drive.

MNA/Xinhua

**Nigerian Customs seizes smuggled goods**

**LAGOS, 26 July —** The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) has made 512 seizures of contraband worth $453.7 million naira (about 3.49 million US dollars) since April, the New Agency of Nigeria reported Sunday.

NCS Controller Alhaji Umar Daura was quoted as saying that 17 suspected smugglers were arrested with the seizures.

The seized contraband included assorted textile materials, cigarettes, spaghetti, shoes, rice and petroleum products.

According to Daura, some of the seized items were smuggled into the country to avoid the payment of import duties to the federal govern-ment, while others came in contravention of the ban pro-hibiting such items from be-ing imported.

He warned that “the fact that any contraband has been successfully smuggled into the country does not exempt it from being seized.”

“Should any party be interested to transport any passengers using luxury bus operators, to get familiar with all items on the prohibited list and avoid using their vehicles to transport them anywhere in Nigeria,” he added.

MNA/Xinhua

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The study estimates that there will be nearly 100,000 drivers with dementia in the province of Ontario alone by 2028, and the Ministry of Transportation driving tests do not effectively screen for dementia.

The study cites crash reports that suggest drivers with dementia are two to five times more likely to be involved in a collision.

The most common deficits seen in dementia are impairments in memory, concentration and judgment. The impact of such deficits on everyday activities can be devastating.

The study calls for improvements to the screening procedure for drivers, with “efficient” evaluations to examine people’s ability to drive.

MNA/Xinhua
**SPORTS**

**Oakley wins Senior British Open by a shot**

**LONDON**, 26 July—American qualifier Pete Oakley held off the last-day challenge of compatriot Tom Kite and Argentina’s Eduardo Romero to win the Senior British Open by a stroke on Sunday.

Oakley, who began the final round one shot clear, fired a two-under-par 70 to finish on four-under 284 at Royal Portrush Golf Club in Northern Ireland.

Kite, the 1992 US Open champion, closed with a 69 to share second place with Romero, who was playing in his first senior event, birdied three of the last four holes for a 67.

Briton Mark James, European Ryder Cup captain in 1999, shot a 70 to finish a further stroke back in a tie for fourth with Ireland’s Mark McNulty, after a 72.

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**China cruise into Asian Cup quarterfinals**

**BEIJING**, 26 July—Hosts China cruised into the Asian Cup quarterfinals with a comfortable 1-0 victory over Qatar on Sunday.

Defender Xu Yulong headed home from close range in the 78th minute to deservedly seal the points for China in front of 62,000 spectators in Beijing.

China, who have never won the Asian Cup, finished atop Group A with seven points, two more than Bahrain, who also advanced after beating Indonesia 3-1.

“We made it a little bit difficult for ourselves today but we go forwards,” said Chinese coach Arie Haan. “I won the semifinal in two sets so that I wasn’t playing for too long (in the final).”

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**Blatter says jammed schedule could trigger doping**

**LIMA, 26 July—**In his campaign against fixture congestion, FIFA’s president Sepp Blatter claimed on Saturday that the problem could tempt players into doping.

Aimed at pushing for the international calendar to be fully implemented, Blatter reiterated that he wanted less club football and said teams were wrong to withhold players or protest if they were picked for next month’s Olympic Games soccer tournament.

“The international calendar is something which can be solved, for good, if there is less club football in the domestic leagues and national cups,” Blatter told a news conference on the eve of the Copa America final between Brazil and Argentina.

He said he would have 45 dates set aside per year for domestic football, 15 for international club competitions and 10 to 12 for international matches.

“But how can we do this if there are professional leagues which have 20 teams, which use 38 dates and which then use other dates for the cups?”

“For example, there’s the Copa del Rey (Spain) and Italian Cup, where they play home and away, and in France they also play a League Cup, so they use from 50 to 55 dates.

“We should continue to respect national teams and this will be possible if everyone respects everyone’s dates.

He added: “If there is too much football, it affects the players and we shouldn’t forget that the players who put on the show and we should protect their health.

“If they have to play five games in two weeks, when can they recover or when will they have time to train?”

“The result is they get tired, the performer worse and there is a possibility of temptation for the devil which is doping.”

Several teams have rested their top players for the Copa America while the Olympic football tournament in Athens next month—featuring Under-23 teams with three over-age players permitted per team—is promising to be the latest round in the club-versus-country battle.

“Olympic Games are played outside FIFA’s international calendar but there’s a moral principle at issue,” Blatter said.

“It’s a great honour to play at the Olympic Games for each player, man or woman, and it’s a question of solidarity on the part of the clubs to allow selected players to go and play.

“The players want to go to the Olympic Games. This is a special event and, for a younger player who can take part once and possibly win a medal, it’s one of the best,” he added.

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**Chile’s Massu wins Generali Open**

**Krainzheim, Austria, 26 July—**Chile’s Nicolas Massu overpowered French Open champion Gaston Gaudio of Argentina 7-6, 6-4 to win the Generali Open ATP tournament on Sunday.

Third-seeded Massu, who had beaten top seed Rainer Schuettler of Germany hours earlier in the rain-delayed semifinal, was more consistent than his Argentine opponent, the tournament’s second seed.

“I played really well,” said Massu, the world number 13. “But it was important that I won the semifinal in two sets so that I wasn’t playing for too long (in the final).”

Massu, 24, swept aside Schuettler 6-3, 6-3 in the morning to set up the first title by a Chilean player in the 399,750-euro (980,600-U.S-dollar) event.

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**Lance Armstrong of Austin, Texas, rides in the pack on Concorde Square on his way to a sixth straight Tour de France cycling race victory, after the final stage between Montpellier and Paris on Sunday, 25 July, 2004.—INTERNET**
Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspect Bala Min Htin Bridge, prevention of erosion of river banks in Kachin State

YANGON, 27 July — Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, together with Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of the Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, the deputy ministers and senior military officers, on 25 July morning arrived at Wuntho Monastery in Myitkyina. They paid homage to Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhama Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Silavamsa and presented robes and almsbowls.

Afterwards, they proceeded to Bala Min Htin Bridge linking Myitkyina and Waingmaw across Ayeyawady River. Next, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspected the bridge and gave instructions to officials concerned on prevention of erosion of the banks of the river near the bridge. Later, they went to the battalions and regiments of the Northern Command and inspected quarters, cultivation and welfare shops. He gave instructions on sale of goods and food stocks of the welfare shops.

In the afternoon, Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein inspected No 1 Military Hospital (300-bed). Commandant of the hospital Lt-Col Myint Win reported on organizational set up of the hospital, treatments and needs to be fulfilled.

After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended to the needs. He spoke at length on implementation of the State’s seven-point policy programme step by step after holding the National Convention. He also gave instructions on health education, prevention of disease and treatment. Next, Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented cash assistance for the staff to Commandant Lt-Col Myint Win. Next, Lt-Gen Thein Sein comforted the patients in the hospital. — MNA

National races such as Bamar, Jainphaw, Shan, Rawan, Mashu, Lashee, etc. have been living in unison in Kachin State. The region, in fact, is a small union with a diversity of national races. Hence, steps are to be taken to develop the region in all sectors with united strength of national races residing in the region.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects progress of educational, agricultural sectors in Mon State

Utilization of high-yield paddy strains & fertilizers stressed for boosting output

YANGON, 27 July — State Peace and Development Council Member Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Mon State Peace and Development Council Chairman South-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials, arrived at Basic Education High School in Paung Township from Hpa-an on 24 July morning. Headmistress Daw Tin Ohn and Chairman of School Board of Trustees Dr Yu Wai formally unveiled the signboard and inspected classrooms. He gave instructions for turning out highly-qualified students who can keep themselves abreast of other nations. (See page 11)