Senior General Than Shwe sends message of sympathy to Nepal

YANGON, 28 July — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has sent a message of sympathy to His Majesty King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, King of Nepal on the loss of life and property caused by the recent floods and landslides in the eastern part of Nepal. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt to attend BIMST-EC Summit in Thailand

YANGON, 29 July — At the invitation of His Excellency Mr Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, His Excellency General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar will attend the First BIMST-EC Summit scheduled to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, in the near future. — MNA

PM meets judges, law officers, attorneys

PM meets judges, law officers, attorneys

The main goal of judiciary is to search for and find the truth and thereby help to alleviate any harm that people may have suffered

YANGON, 28 July — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt met with judges from the Supreme Court and those from states, divisions and districts, and law officers from the Attorney-General’s Office and those from states, divisions and districts, at the Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township, this morning.

On the occasion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt clarified judicial matters.

Present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Ministers, the Chief Justice, the attorney-general, the chairman of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, the vice mayor, the deputy chief justices, the deputy attorneys-general, senior military officers, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office, and officials of the judiciary-related departments.

Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said:

As you all know, the government is at present working assiduously for putting in place the proper political, economic and social foundations in all their aspects with the goal of reconstituting the Union of Myanmar as a peaceful, modern, developed and fully disciplined democratic state.

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But for the realization

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt clarifies judicial matters to judges, law officers and attorneys. — MNA

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

Thursday, 29 July, 2004

Work in concert for realization of seven-point policy programme

Myanmar is a Union made up of seven states and seven divisions and so it is necessary for the entire national people living in all regions to work in concert with the Government for the economic development of the Union. With this end in view, the Government is implementing the development plan for border areas and national races and the 24-region development plan.

Kachin State may be called a small union where various national races have been living in unity for ages. Therefore, all those living in the state are required to work unitedly for its all-round development.

Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, on his visit to Kachin State, met state-, district- and township-level departmental personnel and members of social organizations at the town hall in Myitkyina on 26 July and discussed matters related to the region's development.

In his address at the meeting, the Secretary-2 said that the Government is building the nation in such a way as to ensure the bright and happy tomorrow of the nation, our eternal status as an independent and sovereign nation. The National Convention being held in accordance with the seven-point policy programme is for the emergence of a genuine and discipline-flourishing democracy according to the demand of the historical background of our nation.

Kachin State, with an area of 22 million acres, is the third largest state in Myanmar. However, as its population is only 1.3 million, there is a vast area of vacant and arable land and its rice output is 113 percent. As there still remains vast area of arable land, it has been planned to put another 600,000 acres of land under paddy. Kachin State has favourable conditions not only for agriculture but also for other industries as there are abundant natural resources for manufacturing industries. If these resources are used in a most beneficial way, the economy of Kachin State will remarkably improve.

The Government believes in the fact that the strength of the nation lies within. In accord with this belief, it is holding the National Convention, enlisting the forces of the national races living in the Union. And we would like to call on the entire people including intellectuals and intelligentsia and entrepreneurs and national races living in the border areas to work in concert for the realization of the seven-point policy programme.

Lecture on national policy

YANGON, 28 July — Union Solidarity and Development Association Central Executive Committee member Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein gave lecture on the National Policy and seven-point policy programme at the Basic Organizational course No 14 of the Hlaingtaw Township USDA in Yangon Division from noon to 4 pm today. — MNA

Measure co-ordinated for organizing Paper Reading Session

YANGON, 28 July — A coordination meeting for organizing paper reading session, jointly-organized by ASEAN-CCOI of Myanmar and Aus Heritage of Australia, took place at the hall of National Museum on Pyay Road this afternoon, with an address by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung and officials of the Ministry of Culture and guests.

Just after Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung had made a speech on the occasion, Secretary of Paper Reading Session Organizing Committee Director of Department of Cultural Institute Daw Nanda Hmoon presided over the paper reading session and approval of organizing the paper reading session.

Those present at the meeting gave suggestions on sector-wise and the meeting ended with concluding remarks by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung. — MNA

People’s Desire

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

People’s Desire

Vice-President of MWAf Daw Khin Lay Thet delivers an address at the ceremony. — MNA

Cash assistance for needy students

Daw Kyi Kyi Win, wife of Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, presents a souvenir to MWAf- Vice-President Daw Than Than Nwe. — MNA

YANGON, 28 July — A ceremony to donate cash assistance to needy students was organized by Education Working Group of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation at the hall of Myanma Gems Enterprise in Yangon yesterday, with an address by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein, Deputy Minister for Education U Maung Aung, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Maung Aung and officials of the Ministry of Culture and guests.

After Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan had extended greetings, he presented K 100,000 donated by the ministry to MWAf through Daw Than Than Nwe, Vice-President of MWAf. Next, she explained how the federation came into existence, its history and formation, its seven objectives, responsibilities and tasks being carried out by its 16 working groups and called for participation of the entire womenfolk in implementation of the federation’s lofty aims. Daw Kyi Kyi Win, wife of the Information Minister, presented souvenir to the members of MWAf.

Malaysian Health Minister visits Traditional Medicine Factory

YANGON, 28 July — With a view to enhancing cooperation in health sector between Myanmar and Malaysia, visiting Malaysian Health Minister Datuk Dr Chau Soi Lek and delegation, accompanied by Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dato Cheah Sam Kip and Director-General of Traditional Medicine Department Dr Thein Htoo visited Fame Traditional Medicine Factory at the corner of Mingyi Maha Mingaung Street and Nawaday Street, No 3 Industrial Zone, Hlnehtaya this morning.

At the reception hall, project general manager of the factory Dr Daw Su Su Tin briefed the guests on history of the factory, strength of staff, production of the medicine, cooperation between Myanmar and International, international awards and production of medicines at GMP level. Next, factory general manager U Than Maung Aye conducted them round the factory. The visiting minister and party signed in the visitors’ book.

In the afternoon they visited Myanma Gems Emporium where adviser U Ohn Myint conducted them round the museum.
Iraq abductions stun embassies across Baghdad

Baghdad, 27 July — A new wave of kidnappings has sent shockwaves through the diplomatic community in Baghdad, virtually shutting down most embassies and thwarting Prime Minister Ayad Allawi’s efforts to drum up international support for his fledgling government.

Insurgents Monday kidnapped two Jordanian drivers, the latest in a string of kidnappings, the most brazen of which was the daylight seizure of a heavily guarded Egyptian diplomat Friday. He was released unharmed Monday.

The latest hostage-takers, an Islamic militant group calling itself the Mujahedeen Corps, repeated now-familiar conditions for the release of the Jordanians: Their employers must cease work in Iraq or the men will be killed.

The kidnapping epidemic underscores the inability of Iraq and US security forces to rein in an increasingly sophisticated insurgency that has turned to hostage-taking as a high-profile way of spreading its militant views and derailing political and reconstruction progress in Iraq.

Allawi has beseched nations not to bow to kidnappers’ demands and was furious with the Philippines for its decision last week to withdraw its tiny peacekeeping force from Iraq to spare the life of a Filipino captive.

Citizens from at least 20 nations have fallen prey to kidnappers in recent months. Nearly 70 people have been seized, and at least four were beheaded.

Kennedy says Bush hurt US reputation with Iraq war

Washington, 27 July — Massachusetts Senator Edward M. Kennedy joined in Democratic criticism of President George W Bush, telling the party’s convention that Bush has weakened the US by misleading the nation and the world on the war in Iraq.

A night after former President Bill Clinton said Bush’s foreign policy was unilateralist and damaging to the US, Kennedy said Bush has fallen short of the ideals set out at the birth of the nation.

The administration has alienated long-time allies — instead of making America more secure, they have made us less so,” Kennedy, 72, told delegates gathered in Boston’s Fleet Centre convention hall. “They have made it harder to win the real war on terrorism, the war against al Qaeda. None of this had to happen.

The country must choose a new President who can “bind up the nation’s wounds,” Kennedy said.

Iraq to spare the life of a Filipino captive.

The kidnappings and the Japanese sea border guard story on Monday, the news agency said, during which they were to discuss the details of the manover.

In the exercises that are to be held in the Amur bay near Vladivostok, Coast Guards of the two countries will conduct operations to rescue a ship and detain a trespassing vessel.

Indian Govt puts additional duty on finished PC imports

New Delhi, 27 July — The Indian Government on Monday announced additional duty on finished computers to neutralize the impact of 16 per cent excise duty on components and peripherals, thereby correcting the “anomaly” created in the budget wherein excise duty removed while that of components remained at 16 per cent.

The government in a notification on Monday announced the introduction of an additional duty under the Customs Tariff Act, as a result of which a duty, equivalent to that paid on the inputs and peripherals by a local PC manufacturer — Indian or MNCs — will now be levied on import of finished computers.

The rate is 7 per cent for a full system (CPU-box, monitor, keyboard and mouse) and 6 per cent for a CPU box alone.

China to boost development of non-public economic sector

Qingdao, 27 July — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao urged taking a series of measures to boost the development of the non-public sector of the economy in written instructions to a recent symposium.

The symposium was convened in Qingdao of East China’s Shandong Province by the State Council, the central Chinese Government, to discuss ways to boost the development of the non-public sector of the economy.

In the instructions, Wen urged quickening work in the following areas:

— speeding up the formulation of policies and measures to encourage, support and guide the development of the non-public sector of the economy; removing provisions in laws, regulations and policies that restrict the growth of the sector and institutional barriers; strictly protecting private property rights; and granting enterprises in the non-public economic sector with the same kind of preferential treatment accorded to other types of enterprises so as to realize fair competition.

Wen said the non-public economic sector, including individual economy and private economy, is a vital component part of China’s socialist market economy and an important propeller of social productive forces. It is playing a crucial role in economic growth, expanding employment, invigorating the market and increasing fiscal revenue.

906 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq last year

Baghdad, 27 July — As of Tuesday, 27 July, 906 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 671 died as a result of hostile action and 235 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 60 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 704 US soldiers have died - 562 as a result of hostile action and 206 of non-hostile causes.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 5,804 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s weekly tally.

The latest identifications reported by the Defence Department:

Marine Lance Cpl Vincent M. Sullivan, 23, Chatham, NJ; killed Friday in fighting in Anbar province, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division; II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, NC.
Australia stokes row with Spain over Iraq withdrawal

SYDNEY, 28 July—Australia aggravated a diplomatic row with Spain yesterday by accusing the socialist government of encouraging terrorists.

Brushing aside the fum- nus response to earlier com- ments pointing the finger at Madrid, Alexander Downer, the foreign minister, said he would not apologize.

He said that Spain and the Philippines needed “to face up to the truth” that by withdrawing their contingent from Iraq they had al- lowed themselves to be ex- ploited by terrorists.

“There is no point in try- ing to scurry away from the truth,” Mr Downer said. “I am sensitive about the fact that terrorists use the exam- ples of Spain and the Philip- pines to put pressure on Aus- tralia.

“If you accede to the de- mands of terrorists, they will exploit the acceding to their demand. We are not going to apologize. We shall let bygones be bygones.”

The comments caused great offence in Madrid. Aus- tralia’s ambassador there was summoned to be told that the comments were “unaccept- able”. Spain withdrew its 1,300 contingent af- ter the March general elec- tion, which was held days after Islamist terrorists at- tacked Madrid commuter trains, killing 190 people.

The new government was widely accused by United States and British commen- tators of a surrender to ter- rorism, although the govern- ments in London and Wash- ington stayed silent. The Philippines withdrew its small contingent this month to save the life of a hostage.

The rift began last week- end when the Islamic Tawhid group, which claimed to be the European wing of al- Qa’eda, threatened Australia with attacks unless it pulled out of Iraq. — Internet

Malaysia, Singapore to step up straits security

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 July — Neighbours Malaysia and Singapore pledged on Tuesday to step up military cooperation in an effort to protect the world’s busiest sea- lane, the Malacca Straits, from piracy and terror attacks.

In another sign of improving relations, senior ministers from Malaysia and Singapore announced after talks in Kuala Lumpur that they should go further than coordinated maritime patrols, which began last week.

“We both agree that positive steps have been taken but we also agree there should be new ways to further improve maritime security, particularly in terms of the safety and security of the Straits of Malacca,” Malaysian Defence Minister Najib Razak told a joint news conference with Singapore’s Coordinating Minister for Security and Defence, Tony Tan.

Najib said the three littoral states — Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia — were not yet ready to launch joint patrols, where the three South-East Asian nations police the straits in multi-national groups, but Singapore and Malaysia will look at extending intelligence sharing.

“We have agreed that the two armed forces should discuss this matter,” Najib said. Tan said safety of the strait was vital for regional and world security.

“These coordinated patrols are a very good start,” Tan said.

The narrow straits between Malaysia and Indonesia, with Singapore at its southern entrance, carries more than a quarter of world trade and almost all oil imports to Japan and China. — Internet

Iraqi hospital deputy director killed

BAGHDAD, 27 July—A senior hospital official at Mahnudiya hospital south of Baghdad has been assassi- nated, an Iraqi Health Ministry spokesman has said.

The spokesman said Qasim Muhammad al-Ubadi, assistant director of the hospital, died in a “terrorist act” late on Monday but did not give details of how he was killed.

Fighters who oppose the US installed interim Iraqi gov- ernment have killed several senior officials in recent months by shooting or bombs, accusing them of collaborating with US occupation forces.

On Monday a senior Interior Ministry official was gunned down near his home in Baghdad.

Iraqi fighters had destroyed an Iraqi truck carrying ce- ment barricades for the US army.

A US patrol arrived at the scene to find itself face to face with a human bomb drivingacartowards it and blowing itself up on impact with the US military hardware killingone soldier and wounding others, according to the US army. — Internet

Jordanian firm pulls workers from Iraq

BAGHDAD, 27 July—A Jordanian company working for the US military decided Tuesday to withdraw from Iraq, complying with demands of kidnappers threatening to kill two employees, even as a senior Egyptian diplomat returned to work a day after being released by militants.

In new violence, a Baghdad mortar bar- rage killed an Iraqi garbage collector and injured 14 coalition soldiers. Gunmen also killed a hospital official south of the capital.

Militants have launched an increasingly audacious wave of kidnappings in Iraq aimed at driving the United States’ allies out of the country and causing chaos.

Besides the two Jordanian employees, snatched Monday—another group abducted two Pakistanis, and third group said it would launch attacks to cut off the highway be- tween Jordan and Baghdad, a key supply route for the US military.

The Amman-based firm Daoud and Partners, which provided construction and ca- tering services for the military, said it would comply with the demands of the kidnap- pers, who threatened to kill the two employ- ees, Fayez Saad al-Udeyan and Ahmed Salama al-Manaya’a, by Thursday unless the company leaves Iraq.

“I am ceasing operations and pulling out from the company’s premises in Iraq for humanitarian reasons, and out of my concern for the safety and the lives of my two employ- ees who were kidnapped in Iraq,” the compa- ny’s director Rami al-Oweiss told The Associated Press.

Earlier Tuesday, a group of male rela- tives of the two hostages gathered outside the company’s offices in the Jordanian capital and threatened to behead al-Oweiss and kill all the staff unless the kidnappers’ demands were met. — Internet

India, US to cooperate in seasonal forecast

MANGALURU, 27 July — With the monsoon appearing to be bleak against the predicted “absolutely normal” rains, top scientists from India and the US on Monday agreed that there was a need to improve the current models of prediction and decided to cooperate in this direction.

“We need better models, data and observations,” Dr Harshad Akolekar, Senior Cli- mate Negotiator and Special Representative from the US, said at a Indo-US Climate Change Science Symposium here in the northern Indian state of Haryana. The two sides, gath- ered here to identify areas of cooperation in the climate science, would cooperate in sea- sonal forecast related to monsoon, he said.

Among other areas identified for cooperation were aerosol radiation, oceanic observa- tions and better measurements of Green House Gases.

Indian Meteorological Department Director General Dr SK Srivastava said rainfall deficiency for North West Region for July was likely to be about 50 per cent, while the country as a whole was likely to be deficient by about 15 to 20 per cent. From the beginning of the season till July, the deficiency for the country was likely to be around 12-14 per cent.

Scientists from the De- partment of Science and Technology said models, In- dian as well as international, were not working well in terms of monsoon prediction.

There was a need to analyze each factor and take into consideration new fac- tors like aerosol emissions and radiation levels. While predictions had failed in 2002 when the country faced a se- vere drought, the rainfall in many areas this year so far also had been deficient, which could not be explained by any model, scientists said. — MNA/PTI

Filipino demonstrators chant anti-Australia slogans outside the Australian Embassy in Manila, on 27 July, 2004. Australia refused on Tuesday to apologize to Spain and the Philippines after blaming them for encouraging militants to issue threats by withdrawing their troops in Iraq. — Internet
Castro slams Bush "lies and slanders"

SANTA CLARA, 27 July — Cuban leader Fidel Castro questioned US President George W. Bush’s mental fitness on Monday and rejected as “lies and slanders” recent charges by the American that Cuba encourages sex tourism.

Addressing the nation on the anniversary of his initial guerilla uprising 51 years ago, Castro portrayed Bush as a dangerous religious fundamentalist bent on destroying Cuban socialism. He accused Bush of exhibiting “strange behaviour and bellicosity”.

“Let’s hope, in Cuba’s case, God does not instruct Mr Bush to attack our country,” Castro said.

In a speech in Tampa on July 16, Bush had accused Castro of welcoming sex tourism, as he courted Cuban-American voters in a pivotal state in November’s elections.

Havana strongly denies tolerating sex tourism.

Castro said the accusations were aimed at justifying steps by the Bush administration last month to restrict visits and cash remittances from Cubans in the United States.

“Mr Bush’s lies and slanders and those of his closest advisors were fabricated in a hurry to justify the savage measures taken against Cuban-born people living in the United States who have close family ties in Cuba,” Castro said.

Castro quoted extensively from a recent book Bush on the Couch. Inside the Mind of the President, by Dr Justin Frank, a Washington psychoanalyst and a Democrat.

The book labels Bush as a “dry-drunk” whose abstinence and strict Christian beliefs make him a rigid leader with paranoid tendencies and a simplistic worldview.

Bush, who gave up drinking in 1986, has acknowledged that he “used to drink too much” but said he did not believe he was addicted.

Castro also quoted from other recent books critical of Bush, including Michael Moore’s Stupid White Men and Against All Enemies, by former counterterrorism official Richard Clarke.

The references “help to explain the strange behaviour and bellicosity of the US President,” Castro said.

Castro, who will be 78 on August 13, looked cheerful in his trademark olive-green military fatigues as he handed out awards for revolutionary excellence before his speech at a university theatre in Santa Clara, 176 miles east of Havana.

China to open agri wholesale, retail sectors to foreign firms

BEIJING, 28 July — China will open its large agriculture wholesale and retail markets to foreign firms to strengthen the weak distribution system as well as to honour the Communist giant’s commitment to the World Trade Organization (WTO), the state media reported Monday.

Foreign firms will get wider access to China’s agricultural wholesale and retail sectors, according to a decision taken by the State Council, China’s Cabinet.

“There will be no limits on the location, shareholding and capital requirements for foreign companies opening wholesale markets and farm produce retail outlets,” a Ministry of Commerce official was quoted as saying by China Daily.

Under the current rules, foreign firms can only have a maximum 65 per cent stake in joint venture firms in the sector.

The State Council decision calls for the standardisation of the current wholesale and retail markets and the drafting of a set of national standards to cover the sector.

Foreign investors would be encouraged to establish and restructure agricultural wholesale and retail markets, the deputy director of the Department of Market System Security under the Ministry of Commerce, Xu Ming said.

Although agricultural produce distribution is a massive market in China, it remains very underdeveloped, he noted.

Around 2,000 of the current 4,150 wholesale markets are expected to meet the new requirements in the three years.

China will also develop supermarkets and convenience stores in counties and major rural towns, transforming rural fair and rural grocery stores into chain stores within five years, he said.

The country’s huge rural population has a disproportionately consumption capacity, despite accounting for 70 per cent of the country’s population.

Consumption in rural China fell to 34 per cent of the national total in the first quarter of 2004, a record low since the 1990s, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

Farmers’ low incomes and an inefficient distribution network are believed to be the major factors for shrinking rural consumption. There is only an average of 1.6 rural markets for every 60,000 farmers, the official noted.

Indian PM expresses “open mind” on gasline from Iran through Pakistan

NEW DELHI, 27 July — Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Monday said he has an “open mind” on Iran’s proposal to have a pipeline to supply natural gas to the country through Pakistan to meet energy needs.

This view was conveyed by Singh to visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi who called on him here.

Underlining the importance of cooperation between New Delhi and Tehran, the Prime Minister said he has an “open mind” on the pipeline proposal and expressed the view that it would be studied in detail covering all aspects of the project, a Prime Minister Office release said.

The two sides also discussed the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan. Substantial discussions on regional and political development figured during Singh-Kharrazi talks.

China, India hold third round talks on border issue

NEW DELHI, 27 July — Carrying forward the new momentum in their bilateral relations, India and China on Monday held third round of crucial talks aimed at speeding up resolution of the border question, the first since the United Progressive Alliance Government came to power in India.

National Security Adviser and India’s Special Representative J N Dixit warmly received his Chinese counterpart and Executive Vice-Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo at his South Block office before the two sides commenced the parleys. There was no official word on what transpired during Monday’s deliberations. A Press statement may be issued at the conclusion of the two-day talks on Tuesday.
Iraqi civilian shooting claims go to British court

LONDON, 27 July — Lawyers for six Iraqi families who allege their relatives were killed by British troops in post-war Iraq take their case to the High Court this week to argue that human rights laws were breached.

The cases involve five Iraqi civilians who were killed in shootings while going about their daily lives after the official end of the US-led war on Iraq in May 2003. One further case involves the death of Baha Mousa, an Iraqi former hotel receptionist who died in British custody after suffering what his lawyers claim were “severe beatings”.

Mousa, 26, died in September 2003 after soldiers arrested him and seven other young Iraqis in the southern city of Basra. His body was returned to his family four days later battered and caked with blood.

Mousa’s nose and wrist were broken and bruised, covering his body, his father Dawood told Reuters in October. Dawood said he believed Mousa, a father of two, had been tortured to death.

Phil Shiner of Public Interest Lawyers, who is representing the families, said his clients needed to be informed of and involved in all investigations into their relatives’ deaths. “None of my clients has been told that those responsible for the deaths of their relatives are being held accountable,” he said in a statement.

“Nor have they been told of, or involved in, any investigations. Such failure falls far short of the government’s obligations under the Human Rights Act.” A spokesman for Britain’s Ministry of Defence (MoD) said it would be “robustly” defending the case.

“We have every confidence in the existing legal framework in which our Armed Forces are operating,” he told Reuters. “The MoD will defend this position robustly.”

In a preliminary hearing at the High Court in May, the Iraqi families won the right to challenge the government’s refusal to open independent inquiries into the death. At this week’s hearings, due to begin on Wednesday, lawyers will argue that because the Iraq war was officially over when the victims died, and because Britain was an occupying power, the European Convention on Human Rights should apply.

Britain joined the US war on Iraq in March last year and President George W. Bush declared the war was over on May 1, 2003.

“This case involves issues which are not only important to the victims and their families but is also extremely significant in having the capacity to ensure that future conflicts, occupations and peacekeeping operations are subject to human rights law,” Shiner said.

Road accidents kill over 13,000 Russians in first half of 2004

MOSCOW, 27 July — More than 13,000 Russians were killed in traffic accidents and almost 101,000 were injured in the first six months of this year, Russian traffic police said Monday.

In January to June, over 83,800 road accidents were reported across the country, a 5 per cent higher than that in the same period of last year, the traffic police’s Press service said, according to TASS news agency.

One of the four road accidents occurred due to faults of drivers who grossly violate the traffic regulations, the Press service said, noting that among the most frequent violations are high speed, running onto the other lane and no order observance at crossings.

US admits imprisoning adolescents in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 27 July — The US Army admits for the first time to having detained adolescents in its prisons in Iraq, according to a German Press report.

The TV magazine Report Mainz, to be broadcast Monday evening on the ORF network, quoted Lieutenant-Colonel Barry Johnson, a spokesman for the US troops in Iraq, as saying that they still imprisoned 58 Iraqis in the age of from 14 and 17.

The Iraqi adolescents are held in the prisons of Abu Ghraib and “Camp Bucca” and the length of their average imprisonment is half a year, Johnson said. Johnson also said that those adolescents were tortured and promised that US authorities would look into accusation of mishandling if it arose.

Johnson said that those imprisoned were: “We, the older generation, have to explain to our children’s children how the fighting was carried out and the experiences, the French Government said Monday at the TV magazine Report Mainz.

“We did investigations with the Pakistanis and issued a firm evidence against them,” said a statement from the group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq, which was read out on the channel.

The video showed identity cards with pictures and footage of the two and an Iraqi captured with them. The three were speaking but their words could not be made out from the broadcast.

One of the identity cards clearly displayed the name “Sajad Na’em”. The video also showed a souvenir photographt of both Pakistanis with Brigadier-General Mark Kimmitt, former deputy director of operations for the US military in Iraq.

Pakistan had said it believed two of its nationals missing in Iraq since Friday had been kidnapped, identifying them at the weekend as Raza Azad Khan and Sajad Na’em.

The statement warned the men’s employers, the Pakistanis believed the Islamic group would be “robustly” defending the case.

Indian hostages safe, talks for release proceeding well

NEW DELHI, 27 July — Negotiations for the release of the three Indians held hostage in Iraq are “proceeding well” and they are safe and unharmed, the Kuwaiti company, which employed them, informed the Indian Government on Monday.

“We would seek the media’s cooperation. It is a very delicate matter involving the lives of innocent people,” he said. The employee of a Kuwaiti company or others, Sarna said.

It later extended the deadline by another 48 hours with fresh demands which included release of Iraqi prisoners from Kuwaiti and US jails.

Asked whether the negotiations were being conducted by the Kuwaiti company or others, Sarna said.

“we are in touch with various people and I would like to keep my comments to the minimum.”

Media reports here said Arab satellite television stations aired video footage Tuesday of kidnapped extending a deadline for their demands to be met for the release of seven hostages including three Indians. The kidnappers have warned the Indian Government not to attack, but to protect Islamic religious leaders.

France approves cooperation agreement with Colombia

BOGOTA, 27 July — The French Government approved an agreement of cooperation with Colombia on Monday in the combat against terrorism, international crime, drug trafficking, arms smuggling and money laundering.

The cooperation will allow improving the general level of personnel formation and facilitate the exchange of information and experiences, the French Government said Monday at the end of a Council of Ministers meeting.”

Doctors treat a wounded Iraqi woman after she was shot by gunmen in Iraq’s southern city of Basra on 26 July, 2004.”

‘I am speaking of the older generation...’
The efficiency of Myanmar womenfolk

It is incumbent upon the mass of Myanmar women to make active and united efforts hand in hand with Myanmar men under the leadership of the State by keeping to the fine traditions of successive eras. In consistency with these fine historical traditions also in the future time. Therefore, at a time when nation-building tasks are being implemented, it is incumbent upon the mass of Myanmar women to make active and united efforts hand in hand with Myanmar men under the leadership of the State by keeping to the fine traditions of successive eras. At such a time when much-needed endeavours are to be made for national concern through the establishment of consolidated forces, it is necessary for the mass of Myanmar women to work hard harmoniously for national development and to stand firm as a united national force under the flag of the MWAF. The MNCWA founded in 1996 formed 11 groups — the Health Group, the Education Group, the Economic Group, the Group to Prevent Violence Against Women, the Environmental Conservation Group, the Information and Communication Group, the Cultural Preservation Group, the International Relations Group, the Legal Consultant Group, the Young Women’s All-Round Development Group, and the Group for Eradication of Poverty and Prevention Against Human Trafficking — for all-round development and provision of protection for womenfolk. During the period from 1996 to 2003, the Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs extended itself from the central level to state/division levels, the township levels and ward/village levels to widen its activities. With a view to enabling present young Myanmar women to emulate the characters and morale of Myanmar women of past generations and to preserve Myanmar cultural heritage, Taw Win romantic dance and musical play was conducted at the National Theatre in Yangon in 1999. In 2001, a concert of classical songs was organized for national concern through the establishment of consolidated forces, it is necessary for the mass of Myanmar women to work hard harmoniously for national development and to stand firm as a united national force under the flag of the MWAF. The third 2001, a concert of classical songs was organized for national concern through the establishment of consolidated forces, it is necessary for the mass of Myanmar women to work hard harmoniously for national development and to stand firm as a united national force under the flag of the MWAF. The third...
PM meets judges ...  
(from page 1)

of this goal of a fully discipline-flourishing democratic state, peace and the prevalence of law within the country are essential. This means that all citizens should respect and abide by the laws of the nation.

It requires that they should live in harmony with each other within the law and that they shall be able to live in peace and security under the full protection of the law as well.

The government has tirelessly worked towards the fulfillment of these conditions, and as a result the country is now stable and at peace with a judicial system that complements and supports the principles of democracy. However, for the people to fully enjoy the benefits of a stable and peaceful nation in which law and order prevail, what is most imperative is a judiciary system that is a pillar of strength — a pillar that cannot be battered or bent under any circumstances; and the people with the greatest responsibility for its care and protection are the officials of the entire judiciary system.

If those who are responsible for the strength and fidelity of the judiciary system should themselves deviate from the laws and rules and procedures, then what hope would there be for the people to benefit from the security and protection provided by the legal and judiciary system? It is therefore imperative that all those associated with and most responsible at all echelons for enhancing the reliability and vitality of the pillar of law — the judges, the law officers, the police officers, detectives, the criminologists, police doctors (medical examiners), the prosecuting and defense attorneys — all they all need to be totally committed, skilled in their profession and be of impeccable honour and integrity.

The standing and authority of the judiciary depends not only on the fairness and impartiality of the presiding judges, but also on the essential cooperation and coordination with the administrative branches, the law officers and the police officers concerned for the proper administration of justice. So, I would like to urge all those concerned to work together in a spirit of genuine cooperation so that justice shall be done.

Moreover, for the correct and speedy administration of justice, I would like to call upon not only the judges but also all those whose tasks are related to the judiciary, such as the prosecuting officers and the regional administrative officers, to carry out their duties faithfully in accordance with the existing rules and regulations and in a spirit of positive cooperation. Only then will there be a fair and impartial administration of justice.

If we should objectively examine the judicial sector today, it must be admitted that although there has been a fair measure of success, there have unfortunately also been errors, blunders and miscalculations. On the other hand, an assessment report on the judiciary system in accordance with the existing rules and procedures, manuals, Supreme Court directives, and regulations in the field of justice shall be done.

The Government has with the assistance and participation of legal experts and scholars established a judicial system that will cohere with a fully discipline-flourishing democratic nation; that is a legal system that will fully protect the welfare of the people and has thus accordingly enacted all the essential laws.

In such a judicial system that was established with the help of legal experts and scholars at the core, those who had been entrusted with this onerous task of administering the judicial system of the nation must of necessity be highly qualified in the law, skilled in the administration of justice and of high moral calibre and integrity.

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Highly qualified in the law, skilled in the administration of justice and of high moral calibre and integrity. Only then would they be equal to the task of implementing and realizing the goals of the judicial system in accordance with the fundamental judicial and legal policies.

To be highly qualified in the law requires that officials of the judicial system be in touch with latest progress and developments made in the legal field; that they continually hone their skills and expertise by keeping up with the laws enacted and customary laws, rules and regulations, procedures, manuals, Supreme Court directives, edicts and rulings.

Similarly, for the judicial system to be just and equitable, cooperation of the officials concerned with other investigative and prosecuting bodies is also indispensable. They must further ensure the proficiency and effectiveness of the laws courts at different echelons by improving their administrative skills.

Most important of all, those who are part of the judicial system shall always endeavour to be persons of high moral principles and integrity, free from all forms of corruption and duplicity, and who value honesty rather than riches; in other words, persons who are absolutely committed to a fair and just judicial system. Thus as responsible officials of the judicial system it is necessary to cultivate the right outlook and to put the interest of the people first; and do one’s best to fulfill the political, economic and social objectives of the nation by contributing towards a strong and worthy pillar of law.

A scrutiny of the workings of some courts of law today will unfortunately show that there are some judges who do not meet these prerequisites on many counts. Likewise, a study of some of the law officers and other related organizations show mismanagement and other failings. There have been cases where the people have suffered and their life ruined because a judge handed down a wrong decision.

To cite a few instances:

There have been cases where a lighter penalty was handed down for narcotic drug abuse charges despite the fact that the Government has declared the eradication of narcotic drugs a national task, and despite the incriminating evidence; then there are incidents where there was inadequate evidence in bringing charges against a accused; where data that was part of the evidence were not systematically recorded or maintained and where insufficient proof was submitted in court. Such flaws that are more or less deliberate and premeditated still occur today. Then there are cases of gambling where little or no action is taken to suppress it even though it adversely affects the economy of the country, and impoverishes not only the wealth but also the morality of the people. There are also instances where a case is tried but the penalty handed down is purely nominal rather than punitive.

Another ruse employed to put a serious case on charge at a lower court, which is not empowered to hand down heavy terms of imprisonment. It does not need much thought to realize why a criminal offense deserving of a punitive and heavy penalty should have been put on trial in a lower court that is not authorized to hand down the heaviest penalty set by a higher court.

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PM meets judges ...

In the case of the law officers who are legal consultants, they should also provide correct legal advice that is in line with the law before a case goes to trial. Crimes that are harsh and serious must be put on trial in a court that has the authority to make a ruling that is sufficiently punitive to fit the crime. Moreover, whenever a case comes to court, there are always two sides, that of the prosecution and the defence. It is therefore necessary for the presiding judge to weigh the evidence carefully and give a decision without fear or favor and be completely impartial. Officials responsible must see to it that there is no bribery or corruption involved, that no favour is shown to one side so much so that sometimes the defendant becomes the accused. They must see to it that a case is not prolonged and dragged on, or that a higher court is not obliged to reverse the ruling of a lower court because of a legal error in the proceedings or judgement. These things happen because of the wrongdoing of some of the judges, the attorneys and police officers. It is up to responsible officials at all levels to see that such misconduct is prevented and punished. When a ruling has been made and a verdict handed down in court, it is also necessary to check whether it is in accordance with existing laws, whether the verdict is just or unjust and whether or not the punishment fits the crime or whether the verdict is sufficiently punitive. All these factors must always be examined and improved upon by providing suitable guidelines for keeping the pillar of justice straight and strong.

As far as the lawyers such as the advocates, pleaders and other attorneys-at-law are concerned, they also have a role to play in keeping the pillar of law truly straight and strong with their knowledge of the law. However, some have failed to abide by the code of conduct for lawyers. Within the period of January to June 2004, the Lawyers’ Council (Bar Council) received 110 letters of complaint and the Council was obliged to take necessary action against 15 lawyers.

I would like to remind all lawyers and others of the legal profession that only if they respect the law and value and adhere to the code of conduct for lawyers, they then be able to contribute towards the rule of law and the proper administration of justice.

It is hence necessary not only for lawyers, but also for all who are at work in the judiciary system to be of impeccable honour and integrity for they need to win the respect and confidence of the people.

The ultimate goal of the judiciary is to search for and find the truth and thereby help to alleviate in accordance with existing laws, any harm that the people may have suffered. Courts of law have been set up within the framework of prevailing laws, rules, procedures, manuals and instructions for the realization of this goal. So, I would like to call upon you all to work with devotion towards the fulfilment of this goal within the given legal framework.

The main goal of the judicial system is to protect the interests of the people in harmony with the current developments taking place, the anticipated potential situation and judgement. Hence, I would like to ask you who are carrying out their assigned tasks in the judiciary system to do your utmost to promote the world’s faith and confidence of the people.

I would further like you to take note of the fact that with regard to international developments as regards crime prevention, the focus is now on crimes such as the illegal trafficking of women and children, violence against women, the suppression of cross-border or trans-national crimes as well as money laundering. It is thus vital for the judiciary system to keep up with these events and step up measures to deal with both the prevention and ideology aspects in these areas of crime.

A stable, peaceful, prosperous and developed society law and order must prevail with the people living in adherence to the laws of the land, the laws, which in turn protect them. So, in general, I would like to call upon all members of the judicial system as well as affiliated organizations to work in coordination with each other to let the people know and see for themselves that they are under the full protection of the law.

The Government has initiated a seven-stage path towards the establishment of a modern, developed and fully disciplined democratic state, where it is guaranteed that the people may live in peace, happiness and freedom. Part of the first stage in this seven-stage path has now been implemented with the reconvening and conduct of the National Convention.

The delegates attending the National Convention include all members of various classes and strata including judges and law officers, members of the national race groups, and representatives of political parties who have carried out deliberations on the fundamental policies and the detailed principles of the policies for the drawing up of a State Constitution. The delegates also discussed and reached certain decisions on part of the sector on the judiciary. I would therefore like to call upon all the judges and law officials as well as those with responsibilities in connection with the judicial system to make their best efforts to carry out their principal tasks of ensuring the prevalence of law and for the building a straight and strong pillar of the judiciary. At the same time I would like to urge you to carry out to the best of your ability, any task you may have been assigned in whatever capacity for the successful implementation and close of the National Convention.

In conclusion I call upon you all to give of your best towards the firm foundation of a just and lawful judicial system that will contribute to the rule of law and ensure that the people may live in full security and happiness, to contribute, with noble intentions and good will, towards the laying down and implementation of the basic policies for the emergence of a just and lawful judicial system in which the people shall have full faith and confidence and to work willingly and sincerely in cooperation with others in whatever capacity for the successful implementation of the seven-stage policy towards democracy so that there will be a smooth transition to a stable, peaceful and fully disciplined democratic state. Later, the ceremony came to an end. — MNA

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Information Minister makes field trip on media and public welfare in Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions

YANGON, 28 July—Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Central) Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan went on field trip on media and public welfare in Pyinmana, Mandalay Division and in Pale and Salangyi, Sagaing Division from 23 to 28 July.

On his arrival in Pyinmana on 23 July morning, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected Television Retransmission there and instructed officials to fully broadcast TV programme according to transmission hours, to carry out maintenance of the retransmitter daily and preserve it to last longer, to pay attention for security and take appropriate security measures.

Next, the minister went to Information and Public Relations Department in Pyinmana and instructed officials to perform sympathetically for successful realization of the work plan on the implementation of Information and ten objectives and duties for 2004-2005 fiscal year of the Information and Public Relations Department, to open self-reliance libraries in every village, availability of newspapers, journals and TVs in every village.

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Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan being reported on construction of Upper Myanmar Press by factory manager Capt Toe Kyaw. — MNA

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Afterwards, the minister and party proceeded to the worksite of Government Press Construction Project of Printing and Publishing Enterprise (Upper Myanmar) being built in Mandalay on 28 July evening and inspected it, where he heard reports on formation of strength of staff, appointment of staff, conducting of training, planting of precious and shade trees and flowery plants in the compound of the press presented by factory manager Capt Toe Kyaw.

Later, U Than Myint and engineers of Aye Yar Min Thein Construction Company reported to the minister on design of the buildings and its foundation.

He gave instructions on conducting of training courses for printing skills, availability of electricity round the clock, growing of shade trees and flowery plants, preventive and preparedness measures against the danger of fire and inspection of the construction of main building of the press to meet the set standards.

After that, the minister inspected buildings of the press and staff quarters and instructed the staff to try their best to improve printing skills.—MNA
Community welfare activities carried out in Sagaing Division

Yangon, 28 July — Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Central) Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan attended the ceremony to hand over a two-storey building of Basic Education High School Branch in Lettaunggyi Village in Pale Township and met local people on 25 July morning.

Over 1,400 villagers from 12 villages attended the ceremony. The commander and the minister formally opened the building. Next, the commander unveiled the stone inscription and the commander and the minister sprinkled scented water on it. Afterwards, they inspected the new school building. Next, the headmaster handed over documents related to the building to the Assistant Sagaing Division Education Officer (Inspection).

The commander heard reports on rural development tasks by officials and attended to the needs. USDA (Central) Secretariat Member Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan instructed them that the government has fulfilled almost all the basic requirements of agriculture, livestock breeding, transport, education, health and electricity sectors for the nation and the people. As such, the people are to actively participate in rural development tasks so as to extend agriculture and livestock breeding for their economic development. Next, the commander presented a computer to the school. Likewise, the minister presented K 1 million for Pale BEHS, textbooks, exercise books and stationery for Lettaunggyi BEHS branch and other schools in its surrounding area and clothes and blankets for local people to officials. The commander and the minister also attended the ceremony to hand over school building to the Mintaingbin Village BEHS in Pale Township and met local people. Also present were over 2,500 villagers of 26 villages.

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Next, the commander fulfilled the requirements of rural development tasks and gave a speech. The minister then delivered an address, saying that the government, the local people and wellwishers cooperate in efforts for uplift of rural education standard by constructing school buildings. The government, local people and wellwishers cooperate in efforts for uplift of rural education standard by constructing school buildings.

Govt and people should join hands to implement seven-step future policy of the State. As the National Convention resumed, one part of the Convention has been held successfully. Internal and external destructive elements are trying to disturb with various ways implementation of the seven-step future policy.

Ayeawady Division to distribute 2.5 million fingerlings for fish-plus-paddy cultivation

Yangon, 28 July — Various species of fingerlings were put into the fish-plus-paddy fields of the Pathein District Peace and Development Council under the supervision of Ayeawady Division Fisheries Department in Pathein Township yesterday.

Present at the ceremony were Chairman of Ayeawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and wife, Secretary Li-Col Thein Hlaing, senior military officers, officials, Tatmadaw members, local authorities, social organizations and local farmers.

The commander explained the aims and benefits of the fish-plus-paddy cultivation and the endeavours of the Government to boost fish and meat production and develop the rural economy. The division head of the FD also explained technology concerning fish-plus-paddy cultivation and the results of the cultivation, and presented fish species to farmers. The commander and wife and others put 525,000 fingerlings into the fields. The division will distribute 2.5 million fingerlings free of charge for 5,000 acres of fish-plus-paddy cultivation this year. In the previous year it conducted fish-plus-paddy cultivation on 2,800 acres. — MNA
He said the storage capacity of Taunggya Creek Dam is over 3,400 acre feet at full brim. Water can flow into Kyetmauktaung Dam through the diversion tunnel that crosses Meiktila-Kyaukphaung Road. The amount of the annual flow of water will increase and more water will be supplied to irrigated areas. On completion of the Kyauktaga Dam more and more water can be supplied to Kyetmauktaung Dam, he added.

He said Pin Creek Dam built in the south of Kyetmauktaung Dam will supply water to about 5,000 acres of land and irrigated areas in the south of Kyaukphaung will also increase.

He said the government has so far built 41 dams in Mandalay Division since 1988 and irrigated areas are over 333,000 acres. The cost for the dams was over K 9,700 million. Altogether 15 dams in Myingyan District supply water to 38,303 acres of irrigated areas.

In Mandalay, he said, 70 river water pumping projects which can supply water to 53,686 acres of land were implemented. Myingyan District in Mandalay Division is in arid zone. Hoping for the rain, local farmers cultivate their crops. Therefore Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance to implement greening project for arid zone in upper Myanmar. The project has produced better results and it is being implemented with the participation of local people.

Water, land, forest ...

Popa, the main watershed area of the region has been regenerated with vegetation. The basic resources of a nation is water, land, forest and climate. Forest depletion will lead to destruction of the national environment, followed by adverse climate changes. Thus, the regional people will have to collectively conserve the forests and to protect them against indiscriminate felling. The people must foresee that if forest conservation is not carried out properly, the water inflow to the dams will decrease, and crop fields will face water shortages. In his guidance, Chair- man of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe said, “In building the nation, it will develop, only if the Government works with might and main overtime in the interest of the people, the Tatmadaw serves the people’s interest in addition to its national defence duties, and the people take part in the respective sectors.”

In accord with the guidance, farmers and workers are required to work with added momentum. Of the ten main crops, farmers will have to successfully cultivate the crops which grow well in their respective regions. The economy of the entire people will develop, only if there is progress in the agricultural sector. Thus, farmers will have to produce an abundant supply of crops. Mandalay Division is a reliable region of the nation in terms of economy. The division contributed 13 per cent to the gross domestic product of the nation. Thus, the ups and downs in the economy of the division reflect the national economy.

Priority must be given to the production sector, while using the sound foundations created by the Government in Mandalay Division, for the division to firmly stand as a region contributing more to the national economic development, and for the development of economy and living standard of the local people. The Government laid down and is implementing the three projects, — border areas development project, the 24-zone development project, and the five rural development tasks — for harmonious progress of all the states and divisions whether their economies are strong or weak. The fruits can be enjoyed in implementing the projects, thanks to the energetic and collective efforts of the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw. Harmonious efforts will enable the nation to stand tall forever among the world nations and successfully implement the policy to become a genuine democratic nation.

Next, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin delivered an address, saying that promoted water resource utilization is important not only for production of agricultural crops but also for development of environment and socio-economic progress.

So, it can be seen that more progress has been made in construction of dams and river water pumping projects as well as buildings which indicate regional development in the entire nation thanks to guidance of the Head of State. So, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation was delighted for implementation of Taunggya Dam Project with a view to ensuring development of Kyaukphaung region of Mandalay Division located in central area of the country.

In the time of present government, Taunggya Dam on which rural people rely contributes towards improvement of the agricultural sector and it is the 162nd dam of the country. As the agricultural sector could supply 42.7 per cent of GDP in 2003-2004 fiscal year, it relied on the agricultural sector in building the agro-based industrial nation. So, supply of irrigation facilities in Mandalay Di- vision where 10 main crops such as paddy, corn, ground- nut, sesame, sunflower, green bean, green gram, pigeon pea, cotton and sugarcane are thriving can reflect gaining of more successes in the agricultural production of the division.

Next, the commander spoke on the occasion. Afterwards, local people U Aung Zaw Lin thanked for opening of the dam.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the stone inscription. The commander and the minister formally opened the dam. They then posed for documentary photos. Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the dam and the canal.

Taunggya Dam (Kyetmauktaung Supporting Dam) is an earth one. It is 70 feet high and 2,970 feet long. The dam can store 3,430 acre-feet of water at high water level and it has 23 square miles of catchment area. The canal linking Kyetmauktaung Dam and Taunggya Dam is 1.35 miles long. The water tunnel is 420 feet long and four metres diameter. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party heard reports by officials on matters related to the dam. Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin attended to their needs. — MNA
AIDS is a national concern.

Experts appeal for popularizing Esperanto

Byrne, 27 July — About 200 experts from the United States, Europe, Japan and other countries discussed language in international relations at the 98th World Esperanto Conference Sunday. The experts held that it was essential to further popularize Esperanto in order to protect cultural diversification and safeguard world peace.

On the Nitobe Symposium opened here Sunday afternoon, President of the Universal Esperanto Association (UEA) Renato Corsetti said the relationship between culture and language reflects the political and economic relations between nations.

Experts said Esperanto, which was first proposed in 1887 by Polish poet L. Zamenhof, is a universal language with different advantages. Although English is widely used and learned in many countries, Corsetti noted, it is not the universal language, and Esperanto is an international language with different advantages.

The Nitobe Symposium opened here Sunday afternoon, President of the Universal Esperanto Association (UEA) Renato Corsetti said the relationship between culture and language reflects the political and economic relations between nations. He noted that although English is widely used and learned by many countries, Esperanto is an international language with different advantages.

Paper reports Nigerian banks recorded $70m fraud in 2003

Lagos, 27 July — A total of $70m (9.383 billion naira) fraud cases were recorded last year in banks operating in Nigeria, the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Co (NDIC) said in its annual report.

The 2003 figures represented a decrease from $12.9 billion in 1992 ($96 million US dollars) recorded in 2002, the NDIC said in its 2003 Annual Report and Statement of Accounts, cited by Nigeria’s daily This Day on Monday.

Experts said diversification and safeguard world peace.

However, the reported cases of fraud increased significantly from 796 in 2002 to 850 in 2003, said the NDIC.


The NDIC said fraud cases in banks operating in Nigeria were significantly higher than the cases reported by banks in other countries in the region and the world. The report cited the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which said the reported cases of fraud in banks operating in Nigeria were significantly higher than the cases reported by banks in other countries in the region and the world.

MNA/Xinhua

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Chinese dragons might originate from boars besides horses, cattle

HANCHENG, 28 July — After studying the prehistoric Hongshan relics in Chifeng City in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomon Region, archaeologists now say Chinese dragon heads may have been inspired by boars in addition to horses and cattle.

The ancient emperors had the status of gods, and the Chinese people believed that dragons were human creatures who could communicate with gods, and therefore had the ability to control the weather and water. The traditional Chinese dragon worship was developed by primitive people who struggled to survive by fishing and hunting. They thus appreciated and revered important food resources such as pigs, deer, birds and snakes, said Tian Guanglin, an archaeologist with the Liaoning provincial institute of cultural relics and archaeology.

The pig-head-dragon was discovered exclusively in the Hongshan cultural period and remained unchanged until the Han Dynasty, nearly 4,000 years later. The pig-head-dragon was the earliest standard image of dragons discovered in China, said Tian.

The largest and most vivid discovery is a jade pig-head-dragon about 26 centimetres long and bent like the letters “C” and had a pig head, snake body, tight-lipped snout, bulging eyes and a hole dug at the back, said Liu Guoxiang, an archaeologist with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS).

Some 100 million Chinese continue to suffer iodine deficiency

XINING, 27 July — China’s plan to eradicate iodine deficiency disorders by 2000 has been frustrated by chronic shortages of the indispensable element in some areas, health authorities said at a recent meeting.

The Chinese Government launched a programme in 1993 to eliminate iodine deficiency throughout the country by 2000. It has not yet been successful, as four provinces, two autonomous regions and one municipality failed to reach the goal, said Lin Jiayi, an official of disease control with the Ministry of Health.

Lin characterized the seven areas which have yet to stamp out the problem — Tibet, Qinghai, Xinjiang, Sichuan, Gansu, Hainan and Chongqing — as being located in remote sections of the country China has reset its goal, planning to provide enough of the element to everyone in the iodine-deficient areas within five years.

Around 100 million people in China, or some 8 per cent of the population, suffer from a deficiency of iodine. About two million newborn infants in the country face the threat of iodine deficiency every year.

It is generally believed that iodized salt provides the most economic and effective way of distributing iodine. But high shipping costs have hindered the promotion of iodized salt in remote areas, said Lin Jihua, deputy general manager of the Chinese National Salt Industry Corporation. Lin said that iodized salt distribution networks still cannot cover some key iodine-deficient areas.

Web worm spreads, slow online search sites

SAN FRANCISCO, 27 July — A fast-spreading computer worm disrupted the world’s most popular online search sites on Monday, scanning the vast databases of Google Inc and other search engines to find the e-mail addresses of new victims.

The worm’s assault came on the same day that Google disclosed it was seeking as much as $2.3 billion in dollars in its highly anticipated initial public offering, although there was no indication that the two events were related.

In a filing with stock regulators, Google made the prescient acknowledgment that “outages and delays” from viruses and worms could harm its business.

The online attack marked an evolution of a worm called MyDoom that infected hundreds of thousands of computers earlier this year. In the current variant, MyDoom not only scans the hard drives of victims for e-mail addresses, but also turns to online search sites to find additional leads. The worm then sends a copy of itself as an e-mail attachment to those addresses. Users who open attachments, and who are not protected by security software, infect their own computers.

“Those search requests have been overloading the search engines,” said Lloyd Taylor, vice-president of technology for Keynote Systems Inc., which measures web site performance.
Japan to receive extra Asian Cup security

Brazil, 27 July — Japan will have extra security for the rest of the Asian Cup after an incident involving the team bus.

Two Japan players, Shunsuke Nakamura and Yashuho Endo, were left behind following the 4-1 victory over Thailand on Saturday when tournament officials worried the vehicle could be attacked by Chinese fans, hastily ordered the driver to leave the stadium in Chongqing.

A group of Japan fans was also bombarded with objects by Chinese spectators inside the ground. The Japan Football Association (JFA) was furious over security measures and said a letter of complaint would be sent to tournament organizers.

“We received a report from Chongqing saying that about 100 fans had plastic bottles thrown at them,” said Peter Velappan, general secretary of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

“This was very unfortunate and we have asked for security to be increased and to give Japanese fans extra protection.”

There is still lingering resentment in China over Japan’s military invasion and occupation of parts of the country from 1937 to 1945.

MNA/Reuters

South Korea power into Asian Cup quarterfinals

INJIN (China), 28 July — Striker Lee Dong-gook scored twice in the first half as South Korea crushed Kuwait 4-0 to reach the quarterfinals of the Asian Cup on Tuesday.

South Korea, who had failed to impress in their first two games, finished on top of Group B with seven points and will now play the runners-up of Group D, likely to be Iran.

“We are happy to complete the job of qualifying from this group,” said South Korea coach Jo Bonfrere.

“The early goal was important for our confidence. That’s the spark we need to win matches this comfortably — an early goal.”

Lee put South Korea in front in the 25th minute, curling a free kick past Kuwait goalkeeper Shehail Kankone from the edge of the box.

Four minutes before halftime, he doubled their lead from close range after latching on to a cross from Park In-sub to make him the top scorer at the Asian Cup with three goals.

German-based forward Chad Di-rompundum added a third goal in 25 minutes from first-half injury time to put the result beyond doubt against the 1980 champions.

Substitute Ahn Jung-hwan added a fourth in the 76th minute, crashing home a right-foot shot from 30 metres as South Korea gained revenge after losing to Kuwait at the last two Asian Cups.

South Korea, who reached the World Cup semifinals as co-hosts two years ago, have now won the Asian Cup.

“IT was a good game for South Korea to win 4-0,” said Dutchman Bonfrere.

“Our strikers were very sharp and scored goals but we need to keep playing better as we move on to the next round.” — MNA/Reuters

Bahrain coach hails Asian Cup breakthrough

BEIJING, 27 July — Bahrain coach Stekko Juricic hailed his side’s progress to the quarterfinals of the Asian Cup as a major breakthrough for the tiny Gulf nation.

Bahrain, who beat Indonesia 3-1 on Sunday to finish behind hosts China in Group A, failed to win a match in their only previous appearance at the tournament in 1988.

“This is a great achievement for a small country like Bahrain,” said Juricic. “We are among the best eight teams in Asia now.”

The Croatian insisted that Bahrain, with a population of just 670,000, could advance further in the Asian Cup but played down comparisons with shock European champions Greece.

“It doesn’t matter who we will play next. We are capable of beating any team in this tournament,” he said.

“What happened in Europe with Greece was one-off. We know we could also lose to any team.”

Bahrain will now play the winners of Group C in the quarterfinals on Friday. However, they will be without defender Sayed Mohamed, who was sent off for elbowing an opponent in the face.

Juricic insisted he did not see Mohamed flatten Ponaryo Astaman after Indonesia had pulled a goal back in the 76th minute.

“I was quite afraid to walk away.” — MNA/Reuters

King of Jordan boosts Asian Cup challenge

BEIRUT, 27 July — High-flying Jordan will get the royal seal of approval from their biggest fan, King Abdullah, when they face the United Arab Emirates at the Asian Cup on Tuesday.

Jordan, playing in the tournament for the first time, need only a point against the UAE to advance to the quarterfinals as one of the top two in Group B.

King Abdullah, formerly president of the Jordan Football Association before his succession to the throne in 1999, often attends games wearing a number 99 Jordan shirt.

The 42-year-old monarch arrived in China on Monday to watch Jordan’s crucial Group B game in Beijing against a UAE team already eliminated after two straight defeats.

“IT does make a real difference to have him here,” Jordan’s media officer Munem Fakhoury said. “It gives the players more confidence, more drive and more power.”

Jordan have four points from two games and are level on points with 2002 World Cup semifinalists South Korea.

“To be honest, we planned for the quarterfinals but now we are feeling a little more ambitious and we hope to go as far as the semifinals.” — MNA/Reuters

Seven-goal Adriano gives Ronaldo food for thought

BEIJIN, 27 July — Anyone who has to fight with Ronaldo for a place in the team needs to do well when he is given a chance.

“I’m very happy,” he said. “I want to thank God, my family and my teammates. It’s an inexplicable emotion.”

Adriano, raised at Flamengo and now with Inter Milan, was given his first cap by Brazil at the age of 18 in a World Cup qualifier against Colombia in November 2000.

Many were surprised by his selection and it was more than two years before he won another cap in the friendly against Portugal.

Adriano was again called up for the Confederations Cup last year, and, although he scored two goals, it was not a happy experience.

Brazil were knocked out in the first round and Adriano was criticized for his alleged lack of technique.

Strong and powerful with a tremendous left foot shot, Adriano was then overlooked for the next year as Brazil concentrated on qualifying for the 2006 World Cup.

But for the Copa America, Brazil rested their top players because of the timing of the tournament and he was given another chance.

He responded by scoring a hat-trick against Costa Rica, two more against Mexico and the crucial goals against Uruguay in the semi-final — when Brazil again won on penalties after a 1-1 draw — and Argentina.

MNA/Reuters

Jordan reach Asian Cup quarters at first attempt

BEIYING, 27 July — Jordan booked a spot in the Asian Cup quarterfinals with an uninspiring 3-0 draw against the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday.

Jordan’s King Abdullah, sporting a national team shirt, was among a sparse crowd of 11,000 in Beijing and was clearly delighted by their achievement in reaching the last eight on their first appearance at the tournament.

They finished second in Group B behind South Korea on five points to set up a quarterfinal against the winners of Group D, either Japan or Iran.

The Emirates, who had lost both their previous games, shaded the match in terms of possession and should have taken the lead in the 13th minute when Salem Khamsi blazed over from point-blank range.

However, chances were few and far between in the second half and Jordan were happy to hold on for a historic draw. — MNA/Reuters

Klinsmann agrees two-year deal to coach Germany

BERLIN, 27 July — Former captain Jürgen Klinsmann has agreed a two-year contract to coach the German national team until the end of the 2006 World Cup, the German Football Association (DFB) said on Monday.

The 39-year-old has completed financial negotiations with the ruling body and further details are expected to be concluded in the next few days, the DFB said in a statement.

Klinsmann, who has been living in the United States since ending his playing career in 1998, will take over from Rudi Voeller, who resigned as national coach after his side failed to survive the group stage of Euro 2004.

A former Bayern Munich, Inter Milan and Tottenham Hotspur striker, Klinsmann played 108 times for his country and helped them win the 1990 World Cup and 1996 European Championship.

MNA/Reuters

United Arab Emirates’ Bushireh Saeed (L) and Jordan’s Badran Al Shagran jump for the ball during the first round of the Asian Cup tournament in Beijing on 27 July, 2004. The match ended in a scoreless draw, allowing Jordan to move on to the second round. —INTERNET

Roger Federer of Switzerland makes a leaping volley to Hicham Arazi of Morocco during their first round match at the Tennis Masters Series Canada tournament in Toronto on Tuesday, 27 July, 2004. —INTERNET

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MNA/Reuters
Hydel power projects inspected

YANGON, 28 July — Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, accompanied by officials of the Electric Power Department, the Hydel Power Department and the Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise, inspected the Monk Creek Hydropower Project in Sedokkarta, Minbu District, Magway Division, on 24 July.

On 25 July, the minister and party inspected Popa mountain rock face near Nayangan Village. Popa.

On 26 July, they went to Paunglaung Hydropower Project in Pyinma Township, Mandalay Division, and looked into progress of installation of machines, power control room, tank for building spillway, progress in construct-

ing power intake structure, earth work and diversion tun-

nel. On 27 July, they inspected Kun Creek Hydel Power Project in Pyu Township, Bago Division.

In his inspection tour, the minister gave instruc-
tions on timely completion of the projects, systematic use of vehicles and machinery, efforts to be made with added momentum in carrying out tasks in the rainy season, mini-
mizing loss and wastage, installation of machines, coop-

eration and coordination of respective departments, work site safety and health matters, and fulfilled the require-
ments. — MNA

National Civil Aviation Security Committee meets

YANGON, 28 July — A meeting of National Civil Aviation Security Committee 2/2004 was held at the ar-

ival lounge of Yangon International Airport here yester-

day afternoon. It was attended by Minister for Home-

Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Sw, Deputy Minister for Immigration & Popu-

lation U Aung Aung, Deputy Minister for Finance & Revenue Col Hla Thein Sw, Deputy Minister for Trans-

port Col Nyan Tun Aung, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Head of De-

partment Brig-Gen Kyaw Thein of the Office of the Chief of Military Intelligence, heads of Department of Civil Aviation, Immigration and National Registration Depart-

ment, Customs Department, Supreme Court and Office of the Attorney-General and officials. — MNA

Bangladeshi Minister leaves

YANGON, 28 July — Minister of Commerce of Bangladesh Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and delegation left here by air this morning.

The delegation was sent off at Yangon International Air-

port by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, offi-

cials, Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Mr A B Manjoor Rahim and embassy staff.

Yesterday morning, the Bangladesh Minister and delegation, together with the Bangladesh Ambassador, called on UMFCCI President U Win Myint, Vice-Presi-

dents U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin, General Sec-

tary U Sein Win Hlaing. CEC members and executives at the UMFCCI head office here. They discussed promo-

tion of bilateral friendship, trade and economic coopera-

tion, opportunities for contract farming. — MNA

Myanmar Perspectives comes out

YANGON, 28 July — The volume IX-1/2004 of Myanmar Perspectives magazine has been published by Inwa Literary House on Sule Pagoda Road. It fea-
tures inspection tours of the Head of State to developing regions in the Union, salient points on Four-Country Eco-

nomic Summit held in Myanmar and works of its columnists on Myanmar’s culture and beauty. — MNA

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tion of bilateral friendship, trade and economic coopera-
tion, opportunities for contract farming. — MNA

Radio Mannar

Thursday, July 29

Tune in today:

8:30 am  Brief news
8:35 am  Music: How do you feel
8:40 am  Perspectives
8:45 am  Music: Rio
8:50 am  National news
9:00 am  Slogan
9:05 am  International news
9:10 am  Music: Flame
9:15 am  News/Slagam
9:20 am  Lunch time music
9:25 am  Room in your heart
- Miss you like crazy
-Forever
-Islands
9:30 am  Aspects of Myan-

mar
9:35 am  Magazine Divi-

sion
9:40 am  Article
9:45 am  Pourni
9:50 am  Favourite songs
9:55 am  chosen by music

MNA

Weather

Wednesday, 28 July, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain has been isolated in Magway Division, scattered in Shan State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Mon State and Bago Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thaung (3.46) inches, Zaung (3.27) inches, Loikaw (2.76) inches and Mindat (2.40) inches.

Maximum temperature on 27-7-2004 was 31.5°C (89°F). Minimum temperature on 28-7-2004 was 20.2°C (68°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 27-8-2004 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 27-7-2004 was (4.8) hours. Rainfall on 28-7-2004 was (0.51) inch at Yangon Airport, (0.36) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.28) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1653 mm (65.08 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1595 mm (62.80 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1609 mm (63.35 inches) at cen-

tral Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-

Aye) was 10 mph from Northwest at 14:50 hours MST on

27-7-2004.

Bay inference: According to the observation at (06:30) hrs MST today, low pressure area over North Bay and adjoining West Central Bay still persists. Monsoon is moder-
ate in the Andaman Sea and strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 29-7-2004: Rain will be isolated in lower Sagaing. Magway Divisions, scat-
tered in Shan, Kayah States and Mandalay Division and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (100%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Deltaic and Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate to rough in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of rain in Central Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-7-2004: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for

29-7-2004: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Flood Bulletin

Issued at 13:00 hrs MST on 28-7-2004)

The water levels of Ayeyawady River are above the danger levels around 4.5 ft at Nyaung U, and 1.5 ft at Chaung. The water levels may fall below the danger levels during the next (7) days commencing noon today.

The water level of Ayeyawady River at Pyay is about 0.5 ft above the danger level. The water level may remain above the danger level during the next (3) days commencing noon today.

The water level of Thanlawin River at Hpa-an is about 0.5 ft above the danger level. It may continue to fall and reach below the danger level during the next (2) days commencing noon today.
Prime Minister receives Malaysian Health Minister

YANGON, 28 July—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Malaysian Minister of Health Datuk Dr Chua Soi Lek at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyminta at 5.30 pm today. Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myant, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General at the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of the Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet.

The visiting Malaysian Health Minister was accompanied by Malaysian Ambassador Dato’ Cheah Sam Kip.—MNA

Water, land, forest, climate basic resources of a nation

Taungyay Dam in Kyaukpadaung Township inaugurated

YANGON, 28 July—The inauguration of the Taungyay Dam on Taungyay Creek near Tepinte Village, Kyaukpadaung Township, Myintyang District, Mandalay Division, took place at the pandal near the dam this morning, with an address by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence. The facility was built by Construction 7 of the Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. It was also attended by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Commander of local LID Col Tin Oo Lwin, Brig-Gen Khin Maung Aye of Meiktila Station, Brig-Gen Than Tun of Kyaukpadung Station, senior military officers, local authorities, departmental heads, officials, members of social organizations, dance troupes, students, and local people totalling about 13,500.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint delivered an address. He said Taungyay Dam (Kyetmauktaung supporting dam) is situated near Tepinte Village in Kyaukpaduang Township in Mandalay Division and it was built to supply water to Kyetmauktaung Dam built in 1966. The storage capacity of the dam is 73,000 acre feet. However, the annual flow of water is only 36,900 acre feet, half of the total storage capacity of the dam. That was why water could not be supplied to all the irrigated areas. Under the guidance of Senior General Than Shwe, ways and means were sought in order to feed more water to the Kyetmauktaung Dam. According to the feasible study, water can be supplied to the dam by building two supporting dams—one on Taungyay Creek and another on Kyauktaga Creek. Therefore the two dams were built.

(See page 11)