Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on his return from Thailand

YANGON, 31 July — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt arrived back here by air at 4.40 pm today after attending the first BIMST-EC Summit held in Bangkok, Thailand, at the invitation of Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Thaksin Shinawatra. The Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, senior military officers, Dean of Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz, heads of foreign missions in Yangon, the UN Resident Co-ordinator, the Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of Thailand and officials and heads of department.

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and heads of department, who accompanied Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt also arrived back on the same flight — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends dinner hosted by Thai Prime Minister and wife

YANGON, 31 July — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt attended the dinner hosted in honour of Heads of Government of BIMST-EC by Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Thaksin Shinawatra and wife Khunying Potjaman Shinawatra at the Blue Room of Santi Maitri Building of the Government House in Bangkok, Thailand, at 9 pm yesterday. Present at the dinner were Prime Minister of Bangladesh Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonpo Jigmi Yoeser Thinlay, Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh, Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of Nepal Mr Sher Bahadur Deuba, President of Sri Lanka Madame Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung. (See page 8)

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Dutiful citizens — the strength and power of the nation

Patron of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe attended concluding ceremony of Myanmar and International Studies Course No 6 and Special Refresher Course No 7 of USDA held at the Union Hall of USDA training school in Hmaubw Township on 30 July and gave guidance.

In his guidance Senior General Than Shwe said that now, the nation is picking up speed in moving along the correct path of development, and there are also prospects for the nation; that the more united the citizens are, the more the nation will develop, and it needs to restore peace and stability and ensure preva- lence of law and order for the nation to be more prosperous; that what is more important is that the people should not entertain narrow outlook; that if peace and tranquility cannot be restored and law and order is encroached upon, it will adversely affect the endeavours, causing a great hindrance to the nation’s progress; and that it is required to protect and prevent everything which will undermine peace and progress of the nation.

As the national solidarity and peace and stability are the foundation of all the developments, the Government tried to end the armed conflicts which is its initial step towards the national reconciliation.

Thanks to the understanding built between the Government and the 17 armed groups, peace prevails in the respective border regions. As a result, people have been able to participate in nation-building tasks and now fruitful results have been achieved in all sectors.

For instance, 162 dams and 265 waterway installations have been built in the agriculture sector and they now benefit land countable in acres in the million. In the education sector also, over 40,500 basic education schools have emerged and thus there is now equal opportunity for national races of all regions to pursue education. With the emergence of 156 universities and colleges throughout the nation, greater opportunities to learn arts and science, technology and medical science have been created.

Better health care services are being provided to the people by upgrading hospitals in the concerned townships to 200-bed specialist facilities.

A citizen’s participation in person in the task of fulfilling the requirements of the nation amounts to enthusiastic performance of a national task. Dutiful citizens, with high conviction, are the strength and power of the State.

Therefore, the State has been training and nurturing new generation youths to enhance their national conviction, while enabling them to perform the national duties. We would therefore like to urge all the new generation youths to participate in nation-building tasks with firm determination.

CORRIGENDUM

Please read Chinese Military Attaché Senior Col Ma Shoudong instead of Senior Col Xu Shulai in the caption of the photo depicting Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Li-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win. Ma Shoudong instead of Senior Col Xu Shulai in the caption of the photo depicting Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Li-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win. Ma Shoudong being welcomed at the reception to mark the 77th Anniversary of People’s Liberation Army of China on page 16 of the NLM yesterday. — MNA

Waso robes offered to Shwephonepwint Pagoda

YANGON, 31 July — Members of the Shwephonepwint Pagoda Board of Trustees organized the 47th offering of Waso robes to the pagoda in Pazandaw Township this afternoon. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Ovadacariya Sayadaws of the pagoda board of trustees.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of the Central Leading Committee for Third All-round Renovation of the Shwephonepwint Pagoda Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, heads of departments and enterprises under the ministry, officials, members of the Central Leading Committee, mem- bers of the pagoda board of trustees, social organizations and religious associations, wellwishers and visitors.

The chairman of the pagoda board of trustees supplicated on the purpose of the donation. Ovadacariya Sayadaw Sasana Dhaiva Siri Pavara Dhammacariya Bhadanta Vayama administered the Nine Precepts to the con- gregation. Members of the Sangha recited the Esa.

Next, the minister, the deputy ministers, offi- cials and wellwishers offered Waso robes to the Sayadaws. Sayadaw Bhuddanta Vayama deliv- ered a sermon. The congregation shared merits gained.

The minister at- tended the meeting of the Central Leading Committee at the platform of the pa- goda. The minister in his address said that the pagoda has been renovated three times for ensuring more sublime appearance of the religious edifice and for enabling the people to visit it with pleasure and in con- venience. As a result, he said, the pagoda and the re- ligious buildings in the pa- goda precinct can draw greater admiration of the pilgrims.

Now, facilities for the ease of the visitors have been built and continued endeavours will be made for future tasks, he said. Mem- bers of the pagoda board of trustees and those responsi- ble are to constantly main- tain such fine conditions of the pagoda, to take meas- ures for cleanliness and se- curity and to systematize financial matters, he said. Vice-Chairman of the Su- pervisory Committee for Design and Construction Adviser to the Information and Public Relations De- partment U Aung Hsin re- ported on progress of all- round renovation. Those present also dealt with re- spective sectors.

The minister ful- filled the requirements and delivered concluding re- marks. He looked into work progress. Members of the pagoda board of trustees and officials concerned con- ducted him round the pre- cinct. The minister paid rever- ence to the Buddha image in Phayagyi Koosu Prayer Hall and inspected progress in renovating the prayer hall and the Buddha images. He said that it is needed to maintain the pa- goda and buildings for their duration. He gave instruc- tions on inscribing the list of wellwishers. — MNA

Minister inspects maintenance of Nyaungdon Bridge

YANGON, 31 July — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, accompanied by officials of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improve- ment of River Systems, ar- rived at Nyaungdon yester- day morning.

Director-General of the department U Chit Khin reported on preventive measures for Nyaungdon Bridge from erosion. The minister gave instructions on ensuring proper flow of the river in the rainy sea- son, thorough efforts to pre- vent bank erosion, preven- tive measures for the large bridges from erosion, sys- tematic installation of wa- terway signals for safety of the vessels, occasionally is- suing of directives, and advi- sawer supervisory measures to be able to notice whether the vessels follow the directives or not. The minister, who took note of boat and party inspected preventive measures against erosion of Bo Myat Tun Bridge and waterway signals. — MNA

Warning for vessels

YANGON, 31 July — The Direc- torate of Water Resources and Improve- ment of River Systems today announced that currents of Ayeyawady, Chindwin and Thanlwin rivers are now turbulent as continuous downpours have swollen these rivers. Thus, vessels are warned against sailing under the major bridges crossing those rivers from 6 pm to 6 am in order to avert the possible dan- ger. — MNA

Ministry of Health

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

Minister in-charge of Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents Waso robes to a Sayadaw at the Waso-robe offering ceremony. — MNA

World Breastfeeding Week (1st to 7th August 2004)

Exclusive Breastfeeding: the Gold Standard Safe, Sound, Sustainable

Ministry of Health
Two Syrians abducted along with Jordanian truckers in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 30 July — Two Syrian truck drivers were abducted from the same convoy from which four Jordanians were already reported captured this week, one of their colleagues told Jordanian Press on Friday.

“Our convoy was made up of 17 trucks driven by Syrians and Jordanians. It was transporting household appliances from Dubai west of Baghdad”, a Jordanian trucker told a newspaper in Amman.

In addition to the four Jordanians, “the group also abducted two Syrian truck drivers,” he said, without elaborating.

In a videotape aired by Dubai Television, an Islamists group on Thursday said it was holding four Jordanians in Iraq Wednesday pressed for acceptance if its concerns in WTO framework draft are addressed.

With the revised draft on country within 72 hours. Published with death unless their cases are pending. — MNA/Reuters

Polish soldier killed, four wounded in Iraq

WARSAW, 30 July — A Polish soldier was killed and four others wounded in southern Iraq overnight when a remotely detonated mine hit their convoy. The death brings the number of Polish troops killed in Iraq to five. Two Polish journalists and two former soldiers working for a private security company have also been killed in the country.

India presses for improvements in WTO framework draft

NEW DELHI, 30 July — India Wednesday pressed for improvements in the draft of the proposed WTO framework agreement and warned that the text would not be acceptable if its concerns in agriculture were not addressed.

In his interactions with G-20 and NG-5 in Geneva, India’s Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath sought flexibility in domestic policy in agriculture in order to address legitimate concerns in products of developing countries.

The NG-5 meeting was attended by Celso Amorin, Foreign Minister of Brazil; EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy and US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick.

With the revised draft on the anvil for submission at the WTO General Council on 30 July, Nath stressed on flexibility for Special Products in matter of tariff reductions, which were of concern to the Indian farmers.

He said such products should be identified on the basis of self selection, an official release said here.

Two Americans suspected of selling pirate DVDs arrested in China

SHANGHAI, 30 July — Two American nationals were arrested on 1 July in China as leading suspects of a ring for selling pirate DVDs, the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) of China said here Friday.

“The successful cracking of the case is the result of close cooperation between Chinese and American law enforcement departments,” said Gao Feng, deputy director of the Economic Crime Investigation Department of MPS, at a Press conference.

Four other suspects of the case were also arrested with the approval of Shanghai Municipal People’s Procuratorate, he said. The two American suspects are Randolph Holbun Guthrie and Cody Abram Thrush.

More than 210,000 pieces of pirate DVDs, seven computers, three telephones and a large number of mail bags had been confiscated, with 220,000 yuan (26,634 US dollars frozen as illicit money, he said.

Also at the Press conference, Kong Guangming, deputy director of the Shanghai Public Security Bureau, said preliminary investigations showed the two Americans had sold 100,000 pirate DVDs worldwide through their company, with 20,000 sold in the America.

The crackdown shows the Chinese law enforcement department attach great importance to combating against crimes violating intellectual property rights, said Andy Yu, Customs attaché of the Department of Homeland Security of the United States.

Malaysia not sending troops to Iraq

LANGKAWI, 31 July — Malaysia has no intention at present of deploying troops to Iraq despite a foreign news report which indicated that it was among several Muslim nations who were on the verge of forming a “Muslim force” to be sent into the war-torn country.

“That is not true,” said Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar when asked about the report, which indicated Pakistan had met with Saudi Arabia to discuss a possible Muslim force to be sent to Iraq.

Among the countries named in the report to be part of the proposed force were Malaysia, Algeria, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Morocco, Yemen and Bahrain.

“Malaysia is unaware of Muslim forces involved in participating in Iraq. Each Muslim nation can take part in the multi-national force. It is up to them individually. (I am not) aware of efforts by any Muslim nation to form a force for Iraq,” Syed Hamid, who described the report as mischievous, stressed that Malaysia was only committed to sending a medical team to perform humanitarian tasks.

India, Israel agree to enhance cooperation in science

JERUSALEM, 30 July — India and Israel have agreed to enhance cooperation in science and technology by setting up a joint fund for research and development with the aim to promote tech-based trade and collaboration in tapping the global market together.

A four-member Indian delegation, led by V S Ramamurthy, Secretary in the Department of Science and Technology, is in Israel to attend the sixth meeting of the Indo-Israel joint committee on science and technology.

Delegation members said they had identified areas of priority for mutual cooperation between the two countries following extensive talks. Israel also increased by 50 per cent its budgetary allocation for the ongoing joint Indo-Israel research projects.

Welcoming the move Ramamurthy said, “it sends us a strong signal that Israel values cooperation with India.” Emphasizing on the need to convert laboratory knowl- edge into practical applications leading to market benefits, he said, “we have a lot to learn from Israel in this regard”.

“Israel has strength in quality manpower, which may not as much as we have, but more importantly they have converted it into major eco- nomic gains. If we can achieve that, we won’t have to rest at the loss of scientific brains. We shall be able to provide them the right environment at home where they will be able to perform well,” Ramamurthy said. — MNA/PTI
**Ray of hope for Kenyan hostages held in Iraq**

NAIROBI, 31 July—There was hope for Kenyan truck drivers abducted by Iraqi militants yesterday after the kidnappers reportedly postponed the threatened beheading.

The militants had said they would behead a hostage yesterday evening but by the time of going to press, they had lifted the deadline, according to the government.

Government spokesman Alfred Mutua told the East African Standard last night that the militants had delayed the killing "in consideration of the numerous letters and calls of concern from the United Nations, African Union and governments generally that had been made to us." He said they had told him that they would not change their mind if kidnappers were not fetched within 48 hours.

The kidnappers reportedly threatened to behead a hostage if they were not fetched by tomorrow morning.

A spokesman for KGL Transport Company, the firm that owns the vehicles the drivers were transporting, said the firm had dispatched officials to Iraq to negotiate with the kidnappers.

"I have to walk first," Mr Fatah pointed out. The drivers were tracked down on the weekend near Haditha, a farming area north of Fallujah. They were forced to stay by their captors until yesterday, when they were released.

Mr Fatah, delivering his address to the United Nations yesterday, said the international community must step up efforts to combat terrorism and the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

Fatah's sideshow...that won't happen until we have a president who has the credibility to bring our allies to our side and share the burden, reduce the cost to American taxpayers, reduce the risk to American soldiers. That's the right way to get the job done and bring our troops home.

"The fundamental difference with Bush is Kerry's insistence that this has to be much more of a collective effort and not just an American effort," said Ross, who served both under former President George Bush and the current president's father, and former President Bill Clinton.

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**Iraqis oppose Arab force**

BAGHDAD, 30 July—Iraqi Sunni and Shia Muslim religious leaders on Friday preached against the Saudi proposal to send an Arab or Muslim force to Iraq.

In Baghdad, Sheikh Mehdi Sumaydai, a Sunni, denounced the idea backed by the US and interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi. "We don't want (Arab and Muslim) forces to shield the occupier because we don't want to see Muslims killed," he said.

Mospada al-Sadr, the Shia leader, also criticised the move a sermon in the main mosque in Kufa, south of Baghdad. "I tell all countries that want to help Iraq, not to send forces here...If such forces come to Iraq, they will be seen as collaborators of the occupation," he said.

Iraqi Planning Minister Mehdhi al-Haifiz, speaking during a meeting in the United Arab Emirates from Saudi Arabia, told reporters: "(They are) Saudi. They agreed to transfer the money and use it on specific projects."

It was a reprieve for the families of the hostages who had earlier in the day sent an impassioned plea to the abductors to spare the lives of their kin. Yesterday, Mutua was hopeful that the matter would be solved without bloodshed. "It is encouraging and we are optimistic that there will be a breakthrough soon. This is very welcome news," the government spokesman said.

He said that the negotiations for the release of the hostages were being conducted directly by the Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport Company, the employers of the seven captives.

"Kenyans and Iraqis are not going to bring up the matter of the Arabs coming to Iraq again. The issue is set to dominate Ukrainian politics ahead of presidential elections in October."

President Leonid Kuchma has vowed to draw its troops from Iraq, Defence Minister Evhen Marchuk said on Thursday.

"We need a president who has the credibility to bring our allies to our side and share the burden, reduce the cost to American taxpayers, reduce the risk to American soldiers. That's the right way to get the job done and bring our troops home."

"Here is the reality...that won't happen until we have a president who restores America's respect and leadership — so we don't have to go it alone in the world."

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**Sudanese workers stranded in Iraq**

BAGHDAD, 29 July—They both left home years ago in search of a better life, and they were both walking through their scrappy, scarred neighborhood one afternoon in July when a grenade, apparently aimed at a passing car, exploded at their feet.

It blew Atalaman Abd Fatah's legs to bits. A piece of shell punctured Osman Abdullah Dahab's midsection. Reluctantly but with not much choice, nor the means, both men began considering the possibility of going home. Home, once, was Darfur, in western Sudan. "We were planning to go back." Mr Fatah's friend, Abdullah Sadallah, said, standing at his hospital bedside. "Then this happened to Fatah. We're going. We're not staying."

"I have to walk first," Mr Fatah pointed out.

From the dust-poor killing fields of western Sudan, thousands of migrant workers, mostly young men, came here years ago to a relatively prosperous and welcoming country. They took the menial jobs Iraqis would not take: painting houses, repairing cars, fixing air-conditioners. And from the bottom rungs of the social ladder they witnessed Iraq's rise and fall over two decades.

During the good times they sent money home. They went home on vacation every blue moon. They came back and worked some more.

During the bad times those who could left. There was an exodus during the 1991 Persian Gulf war and then another last year when the United States and its allies invaded. The Sudanese Embassy even arranged a bus to the Jordanian border.

Today the Sudanese who remain are those who cannot afford to flee. At the Casino Gezira tea shop in a narrow, stilted alley, they watch American sitcoms, play cards and stare off into space. They walk the streets in search of work.

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**Ukraine in talks on date of Iraqi withdrawal**

Kiev, 30 July—Ukraine has started talks with the United States and Poland on withdrawing its troops from Iraq, Defence Minister Evhen Marchuk said on Thursday.

The ex-Soviet state supported the US-led war on Iraq and sent about 1,600 troops last August. But leftist politicians in Ukraine want the troops to be withdrawn from Iraq after six soldiers were killed.

"With our partners, Poland and the United States, we have started talks to determine a date (for the withdrawal)," Marchuk told reporters. "We cannot be there for a long time without any deadline set."

President Leonid Kuchma has vowed to keep the troops in Iraq "until the end" but the issue is set to dominate Ukrainian politics ahead of presidential elections in October.

By sending troops, Ukraine hoped to repair ties with the United States, strained by reports of illegal arms sales to Baghdad.

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, the leading pro-Kochma contender in October's election, has said he is not happy Ukrainian soldiers are in Iraq.
Two US Marines killed in clashes in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 30 July — Two US Marines were killed in clashes with guerrillas in the western Iraqi province of Anbar, the military said in a statement Thursday. The two Marines died in separate heavy clashes Wednesday in the city of Ramadi, Anbar, the statement said.

On Wednesday, a US military statement said multiple US military camps in Ramadi came under mortar attack and two US helicopters made emergency landings after being attacked by small arms from the ground.

Audit on Iraq contracts finds fraud, other abuses

WASHINGTON, 30 July — US investigators found multiple examples of fraud and abuse in millions of dollars worth of contracts to rebuild Iraq that used US taxpayer and Iraqi funds, according to an audit released on Friday.

The report to Congress by the inspector general’s office of the Coalition Provisional Authority, the US occupying force dissolved in June, said it had been involved in 69 criminal investigations, of which 42 had been closed or referred elsewhere. A further 27 are still open.

In one case, an unnamed senior adviser for the CPA bypassed the bidding process for a $7.2 million security contract. The deal was revoked, a $2.3 million advance taken back from the contractor and the CPA adviser removed.

CPA Inspector General Stuart Bowen said his findings were not unexpected given that the CPA and contractors were working in a volatile, dangerous environment.

“These results are not surprising: the CPA faced a variety of daunting challenges, including extremely hazardous working conditions,” the former White House lawyer said in a letter accompanying the report.

In another case, the Iraqi Ministry of Interior appointed a Defence Department civilian as a coach for an Iraqi amateur sports team.

The civilian received a $40,000 cash advance but gave the funds to his military assistant who went gambling and lost some of it. The money frrettled away was then written off as a legitimate loss. That case is still pending.

The CPA IG’s office also found weaknesses in the monitoring process for oil pipeline repair and found employees were not doing work in the field specified by the contract, the report said.

In yet another instance of abuse, a Defense Department official in the CPA’s contracting office committed “time card fraud” and charged for work he had not done. He also had an unauthorized weapon. The employee was removed from his position and sent back to the United States, the report said.

Malaysia supports dialogue among south countries

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 July — Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi Thursday pledged continued support of the Malaysian Government to internationa
dialogue among the south countries.

“The Malaysian Government remains committed to having this dialogue whenever it is our turn to do so,” Abdullah said at the Heads of State/Government Meeting on the first day of the 7th Langkawi International Dialogue (LID), also known as Global 2004.

The three-day LID will be officially launched on Langkawi Island, northern part of the country, Thursday evening by Abdullah.

Chairing LID for the first time, he said: “When we had the first dialogue in Langkawi (in 2002), I was asked by some people at the closing session what is going to happen after (former prime min-
ister) Dr Mahathir Mohamed retires.”

“At that time, I gave my promise that we'll have LID and today, I am happy that it has become a reality,” he said, taking over as host patron of this year’s partner-
talks with King Mswati III of Swaziland.

He congratulated King Mswati III for having hosted the Global 2003 partnership talks in Swaziland and with whom he had met two months ago in preparation for the sev-
thenth edition of LID.

In thanking leaders and representatives from devel-
oping countries for their pres-
ence in Langkawi, Abdullah said he sought the advice and cooperation of LID partici-
pants in ensuring the success of the event held at the sea-
front Pelangi Beach Resort on the island.

Since LID has been in existence for about 10 years, Abdullah said he expected dialogue participants to of-
fer some suggestions as to what needed to be done for the next 10 years towards enhancing the lot of devel-
opping countries of the South.
Indian PM says BIMST-EC important bridge for cooperation

Bangkok, 31 July — The BIMST-EC group serves as an important bridge for cooperation among South and Southeast Asian countries, said Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

"BIMST-EC is an important bridge between the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)," local newspaper The Nation quoted the Prime Minister as saying on Friday.

BIMST-EC can evolve into a dynamic, exemplary, economic grouping with its member countries realizing the imperative of regional cooperation, Singh said before departing for the BIMST-EC summit meeting in Bangkok.

Formed in 1997, BIMST-EC (Bangladesh-India-Myanmar-Sri Lanka-Thailand-Economic Cooperation) brings together two South-east Asian countries of Thailand and Myanmar and five South Asian countries of India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. The aim of the group is to foster socio-economic cooperation among its members and to work for links in South and Southeast Asia.

Describing Thai-Indian relations as a "vibrant partnership," Singh said the framework of the free trade agreement between Thailand and India was a landmark development in their relations.

All four were detained by French authorities on their return from Guantanamo in Cuba on Tuesday aboard a military plane. The four were captured during the US-led war in Afghanistan and held by American forces on suspicion of having fought for the ousted Taliban government.

President Jacques Chirac said this week the four had been returned to France after lengthy talks with US authorities and pledged they would face French justice.

BIMST-EC is an important bridge for cooperation among South and Southeast Asian countries, said Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Frenchmen say US Guantanamo detention was like hell

Paris, 31 July — Two Frenchmen described as hell on Friday their more than two years of detention in the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay, their lawyer said after meeting them for the first time.

Mourad Benchellali and Nizar Sassi had concerns "about the interrogation techniques and medical experiments" at Guantanamo, Jacques Debray said outside the headquarters of the DST domestic intelligence service where the two men were being questioned.

A letter from Sassi said "bizarre" medicines had been given to inmates at night and that one caused some prisoners to break out in spots, Debray told reporters. He gave no other details.

"Each of (the two men) used the same expression, "We have emerged from hell,"" Debray said.

"This is great for them because it's the first time in two-and-a-half years that they have been able to talk to someone other than a soldier or a police officer, apart from their fellow detainees," Debray said.

He requested a full medical examination for his clients when they were brought before anti-terrorism judges on Saturday.

Under French law, defense attorneys have access to clients only after 72 hours of detention. Lawyers can see case notes once suspects are brought before an examining magistrate.

Two other former Guantanamo detainees, Imad Kangouri and Ibrahim Yadel, are being questioned along with Benchellali and Sassi at DST headquarters.

BIMST-EC is an important bridge for cooperation among South and Southeast Asian countries, said Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Beijing to build int’l food street

Beijing, 31 July — Beijing is planning to build an international food street before the 2008 Olympic Games with restaurants offering dishes from all over the world, according to The Beijing News daily.

"It will serve as both a supporting facility for the Olympics and a tourist attraction," Jiang Huabo, director of the executive committee of the ongoing Second Beijing Western-style Food Cultural Festival being held from July 25 to August 24, was cited as saying.

The plan to build a 50,000-square-metre international food street beside the Olympics Park has won the support from relevant Beijing municipal authorities, Jiang said.

Though it is an international metropolis home to many foreign embassies, Beijing does have enough Western-style food restaurants to meet the demand said Heping, director of the Market Department of the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Commerce.

The development of Western food restaurants in Beijing lags behind some major cities in other parts of China," said Chip Starnes, president of the Beijing Western-style Food Association.

Statistics from the association show that there are 3,600 Western-style food restaurants in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province, and more than 1,600 in east China's Shanghai Municipality, while Beijing has only 600.

Part of the reason is Beijing's traditional habit of eating Chinese food, and another reason is the high cost of eating Western food, Jiang said.

The four were captured during the US-led war in Afghanistan and held by American forces on suspicion of having fought for the ousted Taliban government.

President Jacques Chirac said this week the four had been returned to France after lengthy talks with US authorities and pledged they would face French justice.

BIMST-EC is an important bridge for cooperation among South and Southeast Asian countries, said Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

British lawmakers criticize plans for ID cards

London, 31 July — Britain’s plans for compulsory national identity cards — seen by the government as a key weapon in fighting terrorism — are unclear and poorly thought out, a leading committee of lawmakers said on Friday.

The Home Affairs Committee said it backed introducing ID cards, abolished in Britain more than 50 years ago, but had major reservations about specific details of the scheme.

Prime Minister Tony Blair’s government wants to bring in biometric ID cards containing details like facial dimensions, iris images and fingerprints which could be checked against a national database.

It said the cards would help track terrorists, illegal immigration and organized crime.

Voluntary ID cards would not be introduced until 2007, after the next general election. They are not expected to be made compulsory until 2011, and only if the sitting government and Parliament agree.

"The government has only one chance to get it right. Whether public support continues will depend on how the scheme works in practice, and its impact on everyday life," said John Denham, the committee’s chairman.

The report itself said: "Key elements in the proposal are poorly thought out and the draft bill goes far wider than is necessary to introduce a simple system to establish and demonstrate identity."

The committee queried how the national register would be used in practice and said the plans needed to be more widely scrutinized by technical experts and the public.

"Too many major IT projects have failed in the past and the government must adopt an open procurement process," Denham said.

Home Secretary David Blunkett said the plans were at "an early stage" but insisted ID cards would bring "enormous benefits."

"We need to have the freedom to live without being exploited, to prove quickly and decisively who we are and to travel freely. And we need to ensure the security of our country and make sure that our public services are only used by those who are entitled to them," he said.

BIMST-EC is an important bridge for cooperation among South and Southeast Asian countries, said Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Romania floods kill eight, damage homes, roads

BUCAREST, 31 July — Eight people died and two were missing in floods that have swept across Romania over the past three days, damaging homes and disrupting rail and road traffic, authorities and media said on Friday.

Three people in the northeastern county of Bacau and a man in southwestern county of Gorj drowned after being caught by swollen rivers, Romanian media reports said. Officials said four people also died in the southern county of Danubevita.

Over 1,300 homes and 1,500 gardens were damaged and 1,600 people were isolated in villages across the country, with around 213 bridges damaged by the water, authorities said. The gardens are used for small-scale farming and rearing livestock.

TV images showed water as high as half a metre in gardens and fields in the Balkan country after heavy rain in the past three days.

Media reports said two people had to be rescued by helicopter on Wednesday night in Bacau County after a swollen river overtook their truck.

BIMST-EC is an important bridge for cooperation among South and Southeast Asian countries, said Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

American soldiers inspect the site of a mortar attack in an Iraqi home located near an American base in the Al Uusiyaheen neighbourhood, central Baghdad, on 30 July, 2004. — Reuters

Romania floods kill eight, damage homes, roads

BUCAREST, 31 July — Eight people died and two were missing in floods that have swept across Romania over the past three days, damaging homes and disrupting rail and road traffic, authorities and media said on Friday.

Three people in the northeastern county of Bacau and a man in southwestern county of Gorj drowned after being caught by swollen rivers, Romanian media reports said. Officials said four people also died in the southern county of Danubevita.

Over 1,300 homes and 1,500 gardens were damaged and 1,600 people were isolated in villages across the country, with around 213 bridges damaged by the water, authorities said. The gardens are used for small-scale farming and rearing livestock.

TV images showed water as high as half a metre in gardens and fields in the Balkan country after heavy rain in the past three days.

Media reports said two people had to be rescued by helicopter on Wednesday night in Bacau County after a swollen river overtook their truck. — MNA/Reuters

BIMST-EC is an important bridge for cooperation among South and Southeast Asian countries, said Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

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For Human Resource Development Nationwide

Myingyan Government Technical Institute in Mandalay Division. — MNA.

The Nurses and Midwifery Training School in Bhamo, Kachin State. — MNA.

Government Technological College (Panglong) in Loilem, Shan State. — MNA.
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, heads of government of BIMST-EC member countries call on King of Thailand

YANGON, 31 July — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt and heads of government of BIMST-EC member countries, who were in Thailand to attend the First BIMST-EC Summit, called on King of Thailand His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej at Klai Kangwon Palace in Hua Hin at 5.30 pm yesterday.

Present on the occasion were Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonpo Jigmi Y Thinley, Prime Minister of the Republic of India Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of Nepal Mr Sher Bahadur Deuba, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Madame Chandrika Bandaranaike and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra.

**PM General Khin Nyunt attends...**
(from page 1)

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, ministers, deputy ministers, ambassadors and high-ranking officials of BIMST-EC countries.

First, the Thai Prime Minister and wife cordially greeted heads of government of BIMST-EC member countries at the dinner. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and other heads of governments of BIMST-EC countries signed in the visitors’ book. Afterwards, they posed for documentary photos together with the Thai Prime Minister and wife. Then, they were served with dinner hosted by the Thai Prime Minister and wife.

After delivering an address, the Thai Prime Minister proposed a toast to the heads of government of BIMST-EC countries. During the dinner, Thai traditional dance troupes performed songs and dances to entertain the guests. Next, General Khin Nyunt and other heads of BIMST-EC countries presented bouquets to the dance troupes.

Next, they posed for documentary photos. Afterwards, they cordially greeted among them.

After the dinner, General Khin Nyunt and his counterparts were seen of by the Thai Prime Minister and wife prior to their departure for the hotels. — MNA
PM arrives Bangkok ...
(from page 16)
party were welcomed by Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakosol. Next, Thai Deputy Prime Minister Gen Thammarak Issarangura and party cordially greeted Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Myanmar delegation members. Next, a Myanmar young lady presented the bouquet to the Prime Minister. Afterwards, Myanmar Ambassador U Myo Myint and wife, Military Attaché Col Ko Ko Maung and wife, staff of the Military Attaché’s Office and families welcomed the Prime Minister and party.

At the special lounge, General Khin Nyunt cordially met with Thai Deputy Prime Minister General Thammarak Issarangura. Next, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to Peninsula Hotel in a motorcade. MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt being welcomed back by Dean of Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz at the Yangon International Airport.— MNA

Progress of relationship between Myanmar and Thailand is encouraging and the two countries are cooperating in all sectors, especially cooperation in narcotic drugs control and elimination is most satisfactory. Myanmar would like to express thanks for assistance provided by Thailand in the development projects of Myanmar.

Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Thai Prime Minister Mr Thaksin Shinawatra exchange souvenirs at the latter’s office on 30 July. — MNA

Thailand wishes to cooperate with Myanmar in generating electricity, transportation and constructing deep sea port. Both nations continue to collaborate in ensuring further cementing relations and boosting economy of the two countries.

Thai Prime Minister Mr Thaksin Shinawatra

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt signs in the visitors’ book at the dinner hosted by Thai Prime Minister Mr Thaksin Shinawatra and wife.— MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents a bouquet to Thai traditional cultural troupe at the dinner.— MNA

Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt calls on Thai Prime Minister Mr Thaksin Shinawatra at the latter’s office on 30-7-2004.— MNA
Devotees throng pagodas on Waso Fullmoon Day

YANGON, 31 July — As today is Second Waso Full Moon Day (Dhammacakka Day), the pagodas, stupas and religious buildings in Yangon were teeming with devout Buddhists the whole day, offering Waso robes and Waso flowers to the pagodas, taking precepts, practising meditation or reciting Dhammacakka Pavattana Sutta.

The Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees organized observance of Dhammacakka Day and offering of Waso robes and alms to members of the Sangha at the prayer hall near the southern stairways of the pagoda starting at 9.30 am. Ovacadariya Nyaungdon Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Thissa invested the congregation with the Nine Precepts. Members of the pagoda board of trustees and wellwishers offered Waso robes and alms to members of the Sangha. The Sayadaws delivered sermons, followed by sharing of merits gained.

In the afternoon, the reciting of Dhammacakka followed at the same venue. Pagoda board of trustees and devotees offered Waso flowers, lights, water and joss sticks to the pagoda. The offering of Waso Shwekywa Thingan to the Buddha images was held at the platform of the Shwedagon Pagoda at 7 am today. Religious associations and members of the pagoda board of trustees offered Waso robes to the Buddha images of respective prayer halls.

Members of the Sule Pagoda Board of Trustees held a similar ceremony at the northern stairways at 8 am. In the afternoon, Wat associations recited religious verses at respective prayer halls of the pagoda.

The Botataung Pagoda Board of Trustees conducted the delivery of sermons at Seikkan Lokhpapanpun Dhammayo of the pagoda. Tipakakha Dhamma Bhandagarika Bhaddanta Yamaundama delivered a sermon in the afternoon and Joint-Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Kitti in the evening. "Soon" was offered to members of the Sangha, and students of Botataung BEHS-6 recited Dhammacakka Sutta at the pagoda.

Similarly, Waso Shwekywa Thingans (robes) were offered to the Lawka Chantha Ahaya Labha Muni Buddha Image on Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township at the Gandakutiak of the image at 7 am. It was attended by members of the Sangha, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, officials, members of the pagoda board of trustees and Wat associations.

The seventh Dhammacakka Day ceremony took place in conjunction with offering of Waso robes to the Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) at 8 am. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and pagoda board trustees offered "soon" to members of the Sangha.

Similar ceremonies were held at Mahani Sasana Yeiktha on Sasana Yeiktha Street in Bahan Township, at the Maha Wizaya Pagoda and at the All Myanmar Buddhists Association in Bahan Township today. — MNA

Pilgrims throng Shwedagon pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Waso, Saturday. — MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects progress of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) Project

YANGON, 31 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence met Mon State level departmental officials at the meeting hall of South-East Command in Mawlamyine on 28 July morning and gave instructions on agriculture, livestock breeding and production matters.

Also present were Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials.

Mon State Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Sein Win reported on cultivation of 583,896 acres of monsoon paddy against the target of 701,505 acres, planting of pepper and rubber and land reclamation. Director U Khin Maung Tin of Irrigation Department on irrigation facilities and Head of Mon State Fisheries Department U Sai Kyaw Myint on meat, egg, fish and prawn production. The commander gave a supplementary report. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Maung Bo called for greater efforts to meet the targets and compile the correct data in the respective fields. He then recalled that national races regained the independence through reclamation. So, he said, the entire national races cannot accept disintegration of the Union. For ensuring development of the country, efforts are to be made for proportionate improvement of political, economic, social and administration pillars. The government saved the country which faced disintegration in the past and now the government is building good foundations for establishing the discipline-flourishing democratic system which the entire people desire. And then, arrangements are being made to introduce correct democratic practices to the people. Therefore, people are to cooperate with the government in striving for emergence of a developed and discipline-flourishing democratic country. Similarly, he said, service personnel are to discharge their respective duties with might and main. The personnel should always pay attention to political awareness and security alert and organize the people to gain success in their tasks. Winning the trust of the people, the personnel are to strive with goodwill for carrying out public welfare tasks.

Now, the five rural development tasks are being undertaken. So, employees should go down to grassroots level to achieve success in their tasks. As the personnel represent the government, they are to secure participation of the people in building a modern and developed nation.

Next, they went to Kyautkhan Monastery Pagoda and paid homage to the pagoda. They made donations at the pagoda. At the view point near the eastern corner of the pagoda, they viewed developing Mawlamyine. Afterwards, they attended the ceremony to donate blankets, mosquito nets and clothes to older persons, co-organized by Mon State Organization for Women’s Affairs and Mon State Supervisory Committee for Maternal and Child Welfare Association, at Susana Beikman in Mawlamyine.

First, they paid respects to 300 older persons. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo donated blankets and mosquito nets to six older persons. Similarly, the commander and wife, the deputy commander and officials presented offerings to the older persons.

At 10 am, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party arrived at construction site of Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) in Mawlamyine. In the briefing hall, officials reported on progress in construction of the main bridge and laying of tiles on the pedestrian way which is 97 per cent complete, building of the approach road, the drum and culvert and 89 per cent completion of the construction tasks on Mawlamyine bank, 88 per cent completion of the bridge construction on Mottama bank, collection of materials for construction of railroad at Thanlwin Bridge (Mawlamyine) and the railroad to be built in December 2004. The Thanlwin River (Mawlamyine) Bridge will be the longest one in the country and the project will be completed soon.

Afterwards, they inspected extension of Mon State-Thanlon section of Yangon-Mawlamyine Union Highway. At Kyaukpan Village in Thathan Township, they inspected completion of Kyaukpan-Danu-Wiyaw-Winkan rural road. Officials reported on completion of the 12 miles long Kyaukpan-Danu-Wiyaw section road and building of 52 miles long Wiyaw-Winkan section.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave necessary instructions. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party left the construction site and arrived back here in the evening.

Construction of Thanlwin River (Mawlamyine) Bridge has been completed 89% on Mawlamyine bank and 88% on Mottama bank.

MNA
Secretary-2 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends Waso robes offering ceremony of Camp Commandant’s Office

YANGON, 31 July — The Camp Commandant’s Office of the Ministry of Defence held the Waso robes offering ceremony at Sangyoung Monastery in Mayangon Township this morning.

Present were Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thida Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo of the Ministry of Defence, Camp Commandant Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein and wife Daw Amy Khaing, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence and families.

First, the Secretary-2 and the congregation received the Five Precepts from Joint-Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Tipadakkhara Tipatka Kovidha Bhaddanta Jagarababavamsa.

Next, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thida Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo of the Ministry of Defence, Camp Commandant Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein and families donated Waso robes and provisions to the Sayadaw. Later, the Joint-Secretary Sayadaw delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits. — MNA

Kengzen Kenko products introduced

YANGON, 31 July — A ceremony to open Kengzen Kenko International (Myanmar) and Kengzen Kenko International (Bangkok) was held at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this morning.

Present were Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Hla Htwe, Office of the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Brig-Gen Than Tun of the Ministry of Defence, entrepreneurs and guests. Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Managing Director U Thein Htwe of Kengzen Kenko International (Myanmar) and Chairman Mr Komsak Ampanyuth of Kengzen Kenko International (Bangkok) cut a ribbon to mark the opening of the office of the company. — MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win attends first Waso robes offering ceremony of Pathadikayon Sarthintaik

YANGON, 31 July — The first Waso robes offering ceremony of the families of Office of the Chief of Armed Forces Training was held in conjunction with the ceremony to donate a throne to Pathadikayon Sarthintaik and the consecration ceremony at the Sarthintaik on Yangon Insein Road in Hlaing Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were Sarthintaik Sayadaw Sasana Dhaja Siri Pawara Dhammacaryya, sayadaws and members of the Sangha, member of the State Peace and Development Council Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and wife Daw San San Yi, Yangon Division PDC Chairman Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and wife, Vice-Chiefs of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Myint Win, Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and Brig-Gen Nyan Win and their wives. Principal of National Defence College Maj-Gen Moe Hein and wife, officials and wellwishers.

First, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and wife donated the throne on which a Buddha Statuette will be kept at Maha Zeya Mingala Thein-kyuang of Pathadikayon Sarthintaik. Next, the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha consecrated the Buddha Statuette.

Next, the Waso robes offering ceremony was held. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and the congregation took the Nine Precepts from the Sayadaw of the Sarthintaik. The Sayadaws and the monks recited parittas. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and wife, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, senior military officers and wellwishers offered Waso robes to the monks and heard the sermon delivered by the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha. Later, ‘soon’ was offered to the monks. — MNA

Commander, Mayor inspect sanitation tasks in Yangon City

YANGON, 31 July — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected sanitation tasks and proper flow of water at drains being carried out by Tatmadawmen, members of Myanmar Police Force, workers of Yangon City Development Committee, non-governmental organizations and residential people and fulfilled the requirements after giving instructions to responsible persons.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin also inspected the similar tasks in Tamway, Thingangyun, Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (North) and North Okkalapa townships. Officials reported on carrying out of sanitation tasks and dredging of drains.

The commander and the mayor gave necessary instructions.

Similar tasks were also undertaken in all districts, cities and wards of Yangon City Development Committee Area. — MNA
Doctor says French hospitals not ready for heatwave

Paris, 30 July— French hospitals could not cope with a repeat of the heatwave which killed almost 15,000 people last summer, a prominent doctor said on Thursday.

"If there is no real will to make the public hospitals more dynamic in all sectors, we will again see disasters and important bottlenecks in emergency services," Pelloux said.

The government's plan, to be active from June 1 to October 1 each year, includes a new weather and health alert service, a database of people at risk from heat-related illness and a response plan for hospitals and volunteer aiding workers.

Cambodia hosts POW/MIA talks among four countries

Phnom Penh, 30 July — The second consultations on Prisoner of War (POW)/Missing in Action (MIA) was held Thursday among senior representatives of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Prisoner of War/MIA Affairs Jerry Jennings attended the meeting.

The two-day talks were held to examine the broad policy issues which may assist in the overall mission of accounting for Americans missing in action from the Vietnam War. The first such meeting was held last year in Bangkok, Thailand.

Addressing at the opening of “2004 Four-Party Dialogue on the Search for US Missing Citizens during the Vietnam War,” Hun Sen said that “this event reflects our strong efforts in humanitarian activities and integration of our country into the international community”.

In 1991, a US delegation of emergency doctor who led attacks on the government over its handling of the 2003 heatwave in May would not be enough to cope, he said.

"The only thing that has incontrovertibly changed compared to last year is prevention measures for a heatwave and alert system,” Pelloux, head of the AMUHF association of emergency doctors, told reporters.

"But the problem is: Who to alert? As we are understaffed and as there have been too many closures of beds, we would not be able to treat people affected by the heatwave, especially the elderly and suffering dehydration temperature drop passed 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit).

An official report blamed the heat-related death on poor organization, a lack of communication and key staff being away on holidays.

The government’s plan, to be active from June 1 to October 1 each year, includes a new weather and health alert service, a database of people at risk from heat-related illness and a response plan for hospitals and volunteer aiding workers.

China’s space hero meets overseas youngsters

Beijing, 30 July — Yang Liwei, China’s first man in orbit, had a get-together with almost 4,000 overseas Chinese students from Hong Kong and Macao at the Central Gymnasium in central Beijing Thursday evening.

Yang, now 39, was the only pilot of the Shenzhou-5 spacecraft that orbited the Earth for almost one day last October. Since then, Yang has become an icon for many young students in China.

The astronaut told the young audience that the success of China’s first manned space launch is a source of pride for all Chinese.

1,000 young students are participating in a “roots-seeking” summer camp at the sponsorship of the State Council Overseas Chinese Affairs Office and the China Association for Overseas Exchange.

At the gathering, the young campers staged a series of art and martial art performances.

Female Long Marcher dies at age 96

Beijing, 30 July — Jian Xianren, one of a few outstanding women fighters who survived the historic 25,000-kilometer 1935 Long March led by the Communist Party of China (CPC), died in Beijing on July 25. She was 96.

Chinese leaders including Hu Jintao, Jiang Zemin, Wen Jiabao, Zeng Qinghong and Wu Guanzheng, offered their condolences to her family members. Jian was born in Cili, in central-south China’s Hunan Province, on April 5, 1909. She joined the CPC in 1927 and the Red Army in 1929.

In November 1935, Jian began the Long March, carrying her 19-day-old daugh- ter. In October 1936, she ar- rived in the northern part of Shaanxi Province, northwest China. The Long March is known internationally as the largest military manoeuvre in Chinese history. She studied at Communist Party schools in Yan’an, Shaanxi and Moscow, then the capital of the Soviet Union. Since the founding of the People’s Republic, she has worked in the city of Wuhan and the Ministry of Light Industry. During the “Cul- tural Revolution (1966-1976), Jian was persecuted by a handful of radicals.

INVITATION FOR TENDER
No. 004/POL/2004-2005

Sealed Tenders from eligible suppliers are invited for the supply of Engine Oil SAE 50, API (CB/BS) (OR) (CC/SC), (For Diesel Engine). Prices are to be Quoted in Malaysian Ryats Yangon.

(a) Tender Documents are available at the office of Procurement & Stores Department, Head Office, Road Transport, No. 375, Bogyoke Aung San Street, Yangon, Myanmar, Commencing on the 2nd August 2004.

(b) Tender will be closed on 16th August 2004 at (16:00) hours.

(c) The Road Transport Reserves the right to reject any or all Tenders without assigning any reason.

(d) Detailed information will be available at the office of the Procurement & Stores, Department or Contact Phone Nos. (01-252574) (01-376549)

MANAGING DIRECTOR
ROAD TRANSPORT

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV “BAGO” VOY NO BG775/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV “BAGO” Voy No BG775/N are hereby notified that the vessel will arrive at Yangon port on 02-08-2004 and will be berthing on about 03-08-2004 and cargoes will be landed into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm upto Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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**Report says osteoarthritis cream has short-term effect**

*London, 30 July — Painkiller creams and gels can relieve the suffering of osteoarthritis, but their effect only lasts about two weeks, researchers said on Thursday.*

An analysis of 13 trials of painkillers known as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), scientists at the University of Nottingham in England found that topical solutions were no better than a placebo after 14 days.

Aspirin and Ibuprofen are common examples of NSAIDS.

"No evidence supports the long-term use of topical NSAIDs in osteoarthritis," WeiYa Zhang, an epidemiologist and expert on muscle diseases, said in a report published online by the British Medical Journal.

Guidelines in the United States and Europe recommend topical NSAIDs as an effective treatment for the degenerative joint disease, but Zhang and his colleagues said the recommendations needed to be revised.

Osteoarthritis is the most common form of arthritis and a major cause of disability in elderly people.

"Most osteoarthritic patients report that they have pain in the knees, hips, fingers and lower spine region," according to the World Health Organization.

Oral NSAIDs were more effective than the topical creams or gels in head-to-head studies, but they can cause ulcers and dangerous stomach bleeding. — MNA/Reuters

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**MGM mum on whether Brosnan will return as Bond**

*Los Angeles, 30 July — Mum’s the word, 007. Film studio Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc on Thursday kept its lips pursed as tight as any secret agent with a license to kill on whether Pierce Brosnan would play James Bond in the next superspy movie set for release in November 2005.*

The Irish-born actor has portrayed the fictional hero of the multi-billion dollar film franchise four times since 1995’s “GoldenEye”, but this week he said he has no idea whether he will continue in the role.

"That’s it," he told Entertainment Weekly magazine in a story published on Tuesday on its web site. "I’ve said all I’ve got to say on the world of James Bond."

"Bond is another lifetime," the 51 year-old actor said, "That’s it," he told a news conference.

"Yes, it is a very realistic concern, though, that nanoparticles could slip through membranes inside the body," Professor Ann Dowling, of the University of Cambridge, told a conference.

"Nanoparticles and nanotubes," Professor Dowling said, "are pieces of material so small that they can slip through membranes inside the body.

"Most nanotechnology is used to improve health and safety in the environment, but we believe research and regulation is required immediately to address uncertainties about the effects of manufactured nanoparticles and nanotubes," Dowling said.

"It is possible that we have underestimated the potential impact of manufactured nanoparticles. Nanotechnology has fascinated scientists with its possibilities and also inspired fears about its dangers. Britain’s Prime Charles recently voiced his concerns about the new technology and called for a greater openness on the part of its proponents.

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**Estimates of Amazon’s greenhouse gas “too low”**

*Brasilia (Brazil), 30 July — Many estimates of the amount of greenhouse gas given off by burning and deforestation in the Amazon are far too low because they fail to take account of gas released by rotting vegetation, a deforestation conference was told on Thursday.*

Scientists from Brazil’s National Institute of Amazon Research said about 400 million tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent were emitted in 2003 — 60 per cent more than one estimate at the conference.

"It’s emitting much more than it is absorbing," said Philip Fearnside, a researcher at the institute, challenging a view presented to the conference on Wednesday that the jungle is a small net producer of oxygen.

The conference is discussing the findings of the Large Scale Biosphere-Atmosphere Experiment in Amazonia, the world’s biggest study of jungle deforestation. It started in 1998 and is being conducted by Brazilian and foreign organizations, including the US space agency NASA.

The Amazon, a continuous forest covering an area larger than the continental United States and home to up to 30 per cent of the world’s animal and plant species, lost 5.9 million acres to logging and burning in 2003.

Fearnside said that hydro-electric dams in the Amazon, for instance, should be halted because rotting trees in flooded areas release methane gas.

The Amazon’s four dams produced more emissions between them than Brazil’s largest city, Sao Paulo, he said.

But Carlos Nobre of Brazil’s National Institute of Space Research disputed Fearnside’s theory.

"We are most ungood news. We are most unbelivable,” said Nobre, who estimated Amazon burning produced 250 million tons of carbon-dioxide equivalent last year. — MNA/Reuters

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**China produces robot to operate 3,500 metres underwater**

*Shanghai, 30 July — China has succeeded in producing an underwater robot which can operate 3,500 metres under the water surface, as its first robot began to work on a ship in Shang- hai on Thursday. The robot was developed by a team of Shanghai Jiaotong University headed by Professor Zhu Jimo, weighing 1.25 tons and measures three metres long and 1.8 metres tall.*

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**UN delivers aid to 17,000 snowstruck in Peru**

*Ica (Peru), 30 July — The UN food aid agency has begun delivering 180,000 US dollars in supplies to 17,000 people in Peru’s high southern Andes after the worst frost and snowstorms in 30 years killed livestock and wiped out crops.*

The World Food Programme said on Thursday cereals, oil and sugar were being distributed in Puno, near the border with Bolivia, where temperatures have plunged as low as — 31 degrees Fahrenheit (-35 degrees Centigrade) and 80 per cent of land is covered by snow.

"This severe weather has had a devastating effect on the lives of many people in this region. The gravity of the situation demanded swift WFP intervention," Dorte Ellehammer, the programme’s country director for Peru, said in a statement.

Floods and drought at the start of the year destroyed many crops in Puno. Peruvians living high in the Andes are dirt-poor subsistence farmers and a WFP study in December found up to 91 per cent of children under five were malnourished. — MNA/Reuters

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**Italy to finally celebrate its own Columbus Day**

*Rome, 30 July — For the first time Italy is honouring one of its most famous sons, the Genoan explorer Christopher Columbus, like the United States has for centuries.*

Born in the Italian port in 1451, the navigator who lived in both Portugal and Spain, will be honoured on 12 October with “National Cristoforo Colombo Day”, his Italian name.

The first recorded celebration of Columbus Day in the US was on 12 October 1792, commemorating the 300th anniversary of Columbus landing in the Bahamas, which began a new era of European exploration and expansion.

But it was the 400th anniversary of the event which inspired the first official Columbus Day holiday in the United States.

Claudio Scajola, Minister for Implementation of Great Fatherland Programs, said on Thursday Italy had decided to "make the most of the name of the great genius of the sea Colombus and the discovery of America which marked the birth of the modern era." — MNA/Reuters
Beckham offers support to Eriksson

Tokyo, 30 July — David Beckham has given his support to under-pressure England manager Sven-Goran Eriksson.

The Swede’s future is in doubt after an affair with a Football Association secretary but England captain Beckham said on Thursday: "As far as I'm concerned he's a great man, a great player to the rest of the (England) players."

"Every one of the players respects him as a man, as a captain and what he's done for the country."

Speaking after his club Real Madrid beat J League team JEF United Ichihara 3-1 in Tokyo on Thursday, Beckham was asked for his opinion of his manager's current problems.

"That's for other people to decide, but as far as I'm concerned he's a great England manager. I've enjoyed working with him and hopefully I can carry on working with him."

Beckham is no stranger to media intrusion himself, though, and he added a note of realism to his comments, saying: "At the end of the day we love playing under him and if people decide otherwise then so be it. "But my comments and I know the rest of the players' comments will be that he's a great manager and we love working with him."

"But we'll have to see."
WEATHER
Saturday, 31 July, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in Kayah State and lower Sagasang Division, rain or thundersonders have been isolated in Chin State and upper Sagasang and Magway Divisions and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were: Mudon (6.53) inches, Mawlamyine (4.68) inches and Thaton (2.56) inches.

Maximum temperature on 30-7-2004 was 29.0°C (84.2°F). Minimum temperature on 31-7-2004 was 20.2°C (68.4°F). Relative humidity at 09:30 hrs MST on 31-7-2004 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 30-7-2004 was (4.6) hours approx. Rainfall on 31-7-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, (0.04 inch) at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1684 mm (66.30 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1663 mm (65.47 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1657 mm (65.24 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Kaba-Aye (38 mph) was 12 mph from West at 12:30 hours MST on 30-7-2004.

Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate in Andaman Sea and weak elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 1-8-2004: Rain or thundersonders will be isolated in Kayin, mon States and Tanintharyi Division, scattered in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine States, Yangon, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon State and Tanintharyi Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-8-2004: One or two rain or thundersonders will be isolated in Kayin, mon States and Tanintharyi Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-8-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundersonders. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Flood Bulletin
(Issued at 11:00 hours MST on 31-7-2004)

According to the 06:30 hrs MST observation today, the water levels of Ayeyawady River at Minbu and Magway are about (7) ft above danger levels. The water levels fall about (3) ft below the present water levels within the next (5) days.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 1 August, 2004

Daw Sein Sein
Age (76) years

Daw Sein Sein, aged 76, wife of Dr U Hla Shwe, Head of State/Division Health Department, Medical Superintendent (Retd), of No 36, Mingalar Street (Room No 3/104), Panhaling Housing Estate in Sangyong Township, Yangon Division, mother of Lt-Col Aung Naing (Officiating Tactical Operations Commander) Daw May Than Oo, U Win Naing (Contractor)-Daw Khin Mar Cho, Aung Myo Than- Khin Mar Aye, grandmother of six grandchildren passed away on Asia Royal Cardiac and Medical Care at 2 am on 30-7-2004.

Funeral cortege will leave the Yang Way Mortuary for the Yang Way Cemetery at 11 am on 1-8-2004 (Sunday) for cremation.

Buses will leave the above residence at 9:30 am.

Bereaved Family

Panorama & Myanmar experiment.
15.36 Ancient Pakhangyi Mosque.
15.40 Headline News
15.42 Fabulous ShweGu Dagu Gyi
15.45 National News
15.50 Myanmar Movies Impact.
16.00 National News
16.05 Intl Land of the fabulous Leg-rowers
16.10 Song "The Beautiful Tanintharyi"
16.12 Green Turtle
16.15 National News
16.20 Let us preserve the Watershed Areas
16.25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar-Pano- rama & Myanmar Sentiment"
16.30 National News
16.35 Vegetable and Fruit Research and Development Centre
16.40 Myanmar Natural Silk (Part-III)
16.45 National News
16.50 Music Painting of Myanmar
16.55 Hla Ywe Padi
17.00 National News
17.05 What an Interesting Song from Nga-Oo Shop
17.10 Myanmar Modern Song "Naughty Girl"
17.12 Myanmar Traditional Folk Songs
17.15 National News
17.20 Off-Shore Fishing Boat Construction
17.25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
Prime Minister Khin Nyunt meets Thai Prime Minister Mr. Thaksin Shinawatra at his office on 30-7-2004. — MNA

**PM General Khin Nyunt meets Thai counterpart**

YANGON, 31 July — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, on arrival at Bangkok in Thailand, met Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Thaksin Shinawatra at the latter’s office at noon yesterday.

The Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar was accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint, Director-General at the Prime Minister’s Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, Director-General of Political Department U Thaung Tun and high-ranking officials. Present together with the Prime Minister of Thailand were Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Suwat Liptapanop, Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Sarakiart Sahritrathai, Minister of Commerce Mr Watanaw Monangsukk, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakosol and the high-ranking officials.

At the friendly meeting between the Prime Ministers of the two countries, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that progress of relationship between Myanmar and Thailand is encouraging and the two countries are cooperating in all sectors, especially cooperation in narcotic drugs control and elimination is most satisfactory. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt expressed thanks for assistance provided by Thailand in the development projects of Myanmar.

Thai Prime Minister Mr Thaksin Shinawatra said that Thailand wishes to cooperate with Myanmar in generating electricity, transportation and constructing deep sea port and that both nations will continue to collaborate in ensuring further cementing relations and boosting economy of the two countries. At the end of meeting, the two Prime Ministers exchanged souveniers. Next, the Prime Ministers of the two countries privately met and held discussions again.

After the discussions, Thai Prime Minister Mr Thaksin Shinawatra saw off Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on his departure for Peninsula Hotel where he was putting up.

**Four political objectives**
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconciliation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

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

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**INSIDE**

**Perspectives**

Dutiful citizens — the strength and power of the nation (Page 2)

**General Khin Nyunt arrives Bangkok to attend 1st BIMSTEC Summit**

YANGON, 31 July — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and departmental heads, left here by flight of Myanmar Airways International at 8:30 am on 30 July to attend the First BIMSTEC Summit to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, at the invitation of Prime Minister of Thailand Mr Thaksin Shinawatra.

The Prime Minister and party arrived at Bangkok International Airport at 10 am local time.

First, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint, Deputy Director-General Mr Pasan Theparak of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand boarded the aircraft and welcomed the Prime Minister and party.

On arrival at the special lounge of the airport, the Prime Minister and (See page 9)

Thailand is encouraging and the two countries are cooperating in all sectors, especially cooperation in narcotic drugs control and elimination is most satisfactory. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt expressed thanks for assistance provided by Thailand in the development projects of Myanmar.

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