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

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

Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preserving 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

Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife attends Waso robes offering ceremony of Camp Commandant’s Office

YANGON, 16 July — The Camp Commandant’s Office of the Ministry of Defence organized the ceremony to donate Waso robes to members of the Sangha at Sangyoung Monastery on Sangyoung Street in Mayangon Township this morning, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win.

Also present on the occasion were Joint-Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Dwipitaka Kovidha Kalewa Tawya Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa, Presiding Nayaka of Sangyoung Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Wiçitta and members of the Sangha, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and wife Daw Amy Khaing, officers, other ranks and families.

Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win and congregation share merits gained at Waso robes offering ceremony of Camp Commandant’s Office of Ministry of Defence.— MNA
Sunday, 17 July, 2005

Women taking part in nation-building endeavours shoulder-to-shoulder with men

The world population is now 6.5 billion and the largest group of young women ever in history is entering their child-bearing age. Most are from developing countries. On the average, every day 70,000 teenage girls marry and 40,000 give birth. Skilled attendance at birth reduces maternal mortality by 74 per cent.

As regards education, UNICEF estimates that out of 121 million children who are not able to attend school, 65 million are girls. Globally 600 million women are illiterate compared to 320 million men.

Touching briefly on the situation in our country, the population of Myanmar stands at 54.3 million with 27 million male and 27.3 million female. Myanmar has a very high adult literacy rate of 93.3 per cent while the primary school enrolment is about 96.6 per cent.

Myanmar enjoys a significantly high literacy rate, when compared with the world literacy rates. In this regard, women enjoy literacy rate on equal terms with that men do.

The ceremony to mark the World Population Day was held at Sedona Hotel on Kabay Pagoda Road on 15 July 2005 with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said that one of the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development is to provide gender equity and equality and empowerment of women, as it is significant to human development. It is also the third goal of the Millennium Development Goals.

Therefore, equality is essential to achieving the MDGs and the ICMDP Programme of Action.

The theme of the World Population Day for 2005 set by UNFPA is “Equality”. In the course of history, Myanmar women have not only been enjoying rights equal to men but also have the opportunity to play an important role on equal status with men for the development of their families, human societies, the nation and the people as a whole.

The government is encouraging and nurturing Myanmar women to enhance their capabilities effectively fulfill their roles. The Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation is engaged in all the affairs of the mass of Myanmar women.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon all the Myanmar women to make relentless efforts for national development and development of women, while enjoying rights on equal terms with men.

Families of Home Affairs Ministry offer Waso robes

YANGON, 16 July — Under the aegis of Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and wife Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, staff families of the Ministry of Home Affairs offered Waso robes to members of the Sangha at Taunggyi Pariyatti Monastery in Bahan Township, this morning.

The congregation took Five Precepts from Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rathassa Saddhammajotikadhaja Maha Maha S d h a m a j o t i k a Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara.

Later, members of Sangharecetid Paritta and the minister and wife offered robes and cash to the funds for building the three-storey refectory at Taunggyi Pariyatti Monastery.

Ministry of Rail Transportation holds Waso robes offering ceremony

YANGON, 16 July — Under the patronage of Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and wife Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha, staff of the Ministry of Rail Transportation donated Waso robes, provisions and K 3.6 million towards the funds for building the three-storey refectory and the funds for building the three-storey refectory at Taunggyi Pariyatti Monastery.

Ministry of PBA and RDNRA donates Waso robes, alms to Sayadawys

YANGON, 16 July — The Ministry of PBA and RDNRA donated Waso robes and provisions to the Sayadawys of the Sangha at the Dhammayon Monastery of Department of Development Affairs in Bahan Township, this morning.

Ceremony of conveying replica of Buddha images to be held

YANGON, 16 July — A ceremony to offer Waso robes and convey replica of Inlay Phaungdaw-U Buddha images will be held at Shwemunwa Tawya Monastery in Thitseinkon Ward in Mingaladon Township on 20 July, the full moon day of Wasso. Those wishing to donate Waso robes and provisions to the Sangha of Dhamma Maydin Paryatti Sarthintaik and Monastic Education School (North Okkalapa) may contact Shwemunwa Tawya Monastery (Tel: 0991163, 635976, 09 5011279). —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
China develops new method to desalinate brackish water

Hangzhou, 15 July— China has recently developed a new method to desalinate brackish water at a lower cost, in its latest bid to ease shortage of fresh water.

The new technology will be commercially available soon as the developer, the Hangzhou Research and Development Centre of Water Treatment Technology under the State Oceanic Administration, has recently inked a contract with a paper-making mill in south China’s Guangdong Province on jointly building a brackish water treatment facility at the estuary of the Pearl River in the province.

According to an official with the R&D centre based in this capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, the brackish water treatment facility will have a daily processing capacity of 100,000 tons.

Adopting the new technology, the centre developed, Zhu Shufei from the centre said, the facility desalination cost will be roughly the same as price of daily-used running water and much lower than that of sea water desalination.

The facility will adopt reverse-osmosis-based filtration technology in the whole process of desalination, Zhu said.

Currently, there are approximately 1 million people in western part of China and in the coastal regions have to drink brackish water. Commercialization of the new brackish water desalination technology will help provide more quality fresh water for water-thirsty areas in the country. — MNA/Xinhua

Cambodian retired King wishes to keep birthplace as museum

Pinom Penh, 15 July — Cambodian retired King Norodom Sihanouk expressed his wish to keep his birthplace as a museum, local newspaper The Cambodia Daily reported on Thursday.

The property, the royal house ‘Tak Sin Pi Rom’ was loaned by Sihanouk to former leader of the North Korea (DPRK) Kim Il Sung as a token of friendship and support.

“I offered His Excellency Marshall Kim Il Sung, who supported me in everything and who I regarded as a sibling, the royal house ‘Tak Sin Pi Rom’ as the Embassy of DPRK,” the former King said in his message posted on his web site on Tuesday.

Sihanouk, 82, said he loaned the property to North Korea for 20-year period, and that in about eight to nine years the property would again belong to his family.

“When the 20 years end, I publicly declare that I offer the royal house to the state, the nation and Cambodian citizens as affiliated with the National Museum,” the retired King wrote.

Norodom Sihanouk also called on the government never to sell or dismantle his birthplace. — MNA/Xinhua

Regional officials discuss anti-poverty issues in Laos

HANOI, 15 July — Officials of ASEAN member countries and its dialogue partners China, Japan and South Korea are gathering in Lao capital Vientiane to discuss how to develop national anti-poverty programmes, according to sources from Laos on Thursday.

The conference, which opened on 13 July, aimed to carry out measures to build anti-poverty programmes, the report quoted Lao Prime Minister Bounnhang Vorachith as saying.

During the meeting, delegates exchanged views on experiences in the fight against poverty in their countries, and sought ways to boost cooperation between the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), its partners and international organizations to devise action plans and find financial sources for the programme.

The results of the meeting would be submitted to the 38th ASEAN ministerial meeting (AMM), which will take place in Vientiane later this month, and the 11th ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur by the end of this year, said the report.

ASEAN delegates are from Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. — MNA/Xinhua

International Fashion Week to be staged in Shanghai

Shanghai, 15 July— The Third Shanghai International Fashion Week is due in this east China’s metropolis in mid-October this year, which will be accompanied with a fashion fair and a children’s garment show, said sponsor of the fashion week.

A series of activities will be held during the fashion week, including information releases, exhibitions, evaluation of fashion designs, symposiums, forums and fashion purchasing festivals.

The sponsoring of the fashion week is targeted at enhancing Shanghai’s fashion image and promoting the growth of the city’s fashion industry, the sponsor source said.— MNA/Xinhua

Al-Iraqiya crew in Iraq attacked by gunman

New York, 15 July— A gunman fired on a car carrying an Al-Iraqiya television crew in Baghdad on Thursday, wounding three staffers, according to news reports.

The crew was on its way to cover the funerals of car-bomb victims when a masked assailant walked up to its car in the New Baghdad neighbourhood and opened fire, Al-Iraqiya correspondent Bassem al-Fadhli told The Associated Press. Al-Fadhli was traveling in the car, but he was not injured.

The driver, a cameraman, and an assistant cameraman were wounded, he told the AP. The Committee to Protect Journalists could not immediately reach Al-Iraqiya officials for comment, but the station reported the attack on the air and said one of the three wounded staffers had suffered severe injuries.

The crew was assigned to cover the funerals of people killed in an explosion Wednesday in the neighbourhood, al-Fadhli told the AP. The Wednesday blast killed up to 27 people, including 18 children and teenagers.

At least three staffs of Al-Iraqiya, the Iraqi public network, have died since hostilities began more than two years ago.—Internet

US soldiers examine the remains of a vehicle after a suicide car bomb attack in Baghdad on 15 July, 2005.—Internet
**Indonesia, Japan in free trade talks**

**JAKARTA, 15 July** — Under an agreement inked with Japan during Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's visit to Tokyo in June, senior officials from the two nations are to open the first round of free trade talks here on Thursday.

**Indonesia** and **Japan** have agreed to negotiate after the modalities needed for further and more substantive negotiations will be proposed at the two-day talks, part of scheduled rounds of negotiations aimed at establishing a bilateral Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). Indonesia will identify the areas in which to negotiate after the modalities are agreed upon. Differences expected in September.—**MNA/Xinhua**

**German challenger won’t deploy Iraq troops**

**BERLIN, 15 July** — German opposition leader Angela Merkel said in an interview published on Friday she will follow the lead of Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder’s government and not send troops to Iraq if she wins upcoming elections.

The vow drew derision from Schroeder’s party, who pointed out that she had been a leading critic of Schroeder’s stance against the war.

Merkel, who is seen as more supportive of America than Schroeder, told the Hanover-based Neue Presse daily that a conservative-led German government “will put Europe’s relationship with the USA back on a sensible footing.”

Her party platform promises to “reinvigorate” relations with the US, strained by Schroeder’s vehement opposition to the Iraq war. But she is treading carefully on Iraq ahead of the election, reflecting the war’s huge unpopularity in Germany.

Asked whether voters could count on her continuing Schroeder’s policy of keeping German soldiers out of Iraq in the future, Merkel replied: “Yes.”

Polls show Merkel, the leader of the conservative Christian Democratic Union, has a strong chance to become Germany’s first female chancellor in elections expected in September.—**Internet**

**Nepal opens aviation training centre**

**KATHMANDU, 15 July** — Nepal has constructed an aviation training centre with an objective of providing pilots basic training for the first time in Nepal, Army Chief said here on Thursday.

The Royal Nepal Army Aviation Training Centre, constructed at the premises of the Sri No 11 Brigade of Royal Nepalese Army at the Tribhuvan International Airport in central Kathmandu, is to provide training to six pilot trainees in the beginning, said General Pyar Jung Thapa, Chief of Army Staff of Nepal, when inaugurating the centre.

Ryal Nepal Army is expected to be self-reliant in generating skilled pilots after the operation of the centre,” Thapa noted.

The training centre also plans to train non-military trainees by charging fees in coordination with the Civil Aviation Authority, a government body of Nepal, he added.

The centre is well equipped with a technical library, exercise materials and a flight simulator. **MNA/Xinhua**

**Fans of ‘Harry Potter’**


**Two South Korean military jets crash into sea**

**SEOUL, 15 July** — Two South Korean fighter jets crashed into the sea in separate incidents eight minutes apart, killing one of the pilots and leaving three crew members missing, an Air Force spokesman said on Thursday.

Both planes crashed on training missions Wednesday night. In the first case, an F-4E fighter with two aboard went down in waters south of the Korean Peninsula and shortly after an F-5F fighter with two aboard crashed west of the peninsula.

The spokesman said he could not comment on why the jets crashed until investigations were complete. The pilots of the two planes were using night vision goggles, he added.

“We are troubled because these incidents happened nearly simultaneously,” he said.

**Indonesia** and **Japan** announced plans to open their doors to liberalize its labour sector with Indonesia intending to attract foreign workers into the country, opening this month, in collaboration with the National Certification Board, which would be officially opened this month, in cooperation with related ministries.

The requirement was aimed indirectly at reducing the flow of foreign workers into the country, with Indonesia intending to liberalize its labour sector under international agreements, said The Jakarta Post.

The government is to start opening its doors to job seekers from countries grouped within the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) next year, and in 2008 for those from outside ASEAN as mandated by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

However, the policy could mean undesirable consequences and invidious fees for the approximately 130,000 foreigners working in the country, as well as affecting foreign investment that is badly needed to help drive economic growth.

The plan to require a language proficiency test was first discussed in mid-2003, with the Ministry of Education planning to launch a test similar to the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

However, the plan could not be realized following protests from the business community, as well as a lack of funds to prepare testing facilities. **MNA/Xinhua**

**Local language test required for work in Indonesia**

**JAKARTA, 15 July** — The Indonesian Government will, starting from next year, require all foreign workers to pass an Indonesian-language proficiency test to obtain work permits, a local newspaper reported on Thursday.

“Foreign workers must master the Indonesian language before they can work here, as well as Indonesians to master English before working abroad. This is to ensure that jobs that could be carried out by Indonesians don’t fall to foreigners,” Minister of Manpower and Transmigration Fahmi Idris was quoted by The Jakarta Post as saying.

He added that the language proficiency test would be carried out by the National Certification Agency for Workers, which would be officially opened this month, in cooperation with related ministries.

The requirement was aimed indirectly at reducing the flow of foreign workers into the country, with Indonesia intending to liberalize its labour sector under international agreements, said the Jakarta Post.

The government is to start opening its doors to job seekers from countries grouped within the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) next year, and in 2008 for those from outside ASEAN as mandated by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

However, the policy could mean undesirable consequences and invidious fees for the approximately 130,000 foreigners working in the country, as well as affecting foreign investment that is badly needed to help drive economic growth.

The plan to require a language proficiency test was first discussed in mid-2003, with the Ministry of Education planning to launch a test similar to the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL).

However, the plan could not be realized following protests from the business community, as well as a lack of funds to prepare testing facilities. **MNA/Xinhua**
ASEAN, China, Japan, S Korea to enhance energy cooperation

SEM Reap (Cambodia), 14 July—The Second ASEAN, China, Japan and South Korea Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM+3) was held here on Wednesday, focusing on “Promoting Greater Energy Stability, Security and Sustainability through ASEAN+3 Energy Partnership.”

Ministers of 10 ASEAN member countries, Japan and South Korea, and representative from China attended the meeting.

The meeting had a comprehensive discussion on key energy concerns and agreed to further enhance their energy cooperation to cope with the growing energy demand and rising dependence on oil import.

They agreed to take necessary steps to respond to the high price including joint study on oil market and trading in the ASEAN+3 countries. They also reaffirmed the importance of oil stockpiling and to strengthen dialogue with the Middle East and other oil producing countries to foster mutual understanding.

With the successful developing of the ASEAN+3 Energy Security Communication System, the ministers and their partners believe that the regional capacity for timely emergency response will be enhanced. Chinese Embassy’s Counsellor Peng Anhai, on behalf of the Chinese Government, attended the meeting. In his speech, Peng said that “Chinese Government has laid great emphasis on sustainable development of energy.”

Acknowledging ASEAN+3 energy cooperation has achieved tremendous progress, Peng said that “looking into future, energy cooperation between ASEAN and China, Japan and South Korea holds great potential.”

He, in the meantime, reaffirmed that “the Chinese Government is ready to cooperate with the ASEAN countries together with Japan and South Korea in the energy sector.”

ADB to release $50m for Bangladesh’s power sector

DHAKA, 14 July—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is likely to release 50 million US-dollar aid for the power sector development programme in Bangladesh by this month, The Independent reported on Wednesday.

The Bangladeshi Government has started the process of corporatizing Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) and Power Development Board (PDB).

To release the amount, ADB earlier set eight conditions including the major condition of corporatization of two organizations for getting the loan, The Independent quoted sources in the Power Division as saying.

Other conditions for the loans were settlement of outstanding power bills of different state-owned enterprises, settlement of arrears among the power agencies, and appointment of independent auditor in DESA.

Sources said that most of the conditions of the ADB were partly complied with and the Bangladesh Government was in the process of meeting the conditions.

The loan would be released by this month, Power Secretary Nazrul Islam said.

The daily also quoted officials of the Power Division as saying that the Finance Division would use the loan to provide power agencies arrear bills of different ministries.

China to push forward DDA negotiations with other WTO members

DALIAN, 14 July—with only four months left for the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Hong Kong at the end of this year, the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations have entered a crucial phase, and China is willing to push forward the process together with other WTO members, said Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai on Wednesday in Dalian.

He was here to attend the two-day WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting. Bo met separately with the United States Trade Representative Rob Portman, Brazil Foreign Affairs Minister Celso Amorim and the WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchatipol and exchanged views with them on current DDA round talks.

In a meeting with Portman, Bosaid that China has worked hard to boost the DDA and wishes to see a converging point with the United States to push forward the negotiation process.

Having stated China’s stand on the DDA negotiations, Bostressed that China made a lot of commitments before joining the WTO, the Power Division as saying.

Other conditions for the loans were settlement of outstanding power bills of different state-owned enterprises, settlement of arrears among the power agencies, and appointment of independent auditor in DESA.

Sources said that most of the conditions of the ADB were partly complied with and the Bangladesh Government was in the process of meeting the conditions.

The loan would be released by this month, Power Secretary Nazrul Islam said.

The daily also quoted officials of the Power Division as saying that the Finance Division would use the loan to provide power agencies arrear bills of different ministries.

Raising of free-range ducks banned in Thailand

BANGKOK, 14 July—Thai Government has banned the raising of free-range ducks in the wake of the recurrence of bird flu infection in the Central Suphanburi Province, local Press reported on Wednesday.

At a meeting of officials in charge of avian influenza prevention on Tuesday, Deputy Prime Minister Phanuphak Suravichathai asked them to make sure that farmers in 25 provinces, mostly in the central region, halt the raising of free-range ducks immediately until the end of the year.

Last week, new cases of bird flu have been confirmed at five spots in Suphanburi’s Sam Chuk District, where more than 450 fowl have been destroyed. The ban will be officially announced in one or two days, Niranorn Aumtragosdik, director of the Bureau of Disease Control and Veterinary Services was quoted by Bangkok Post as saying.

Believing the free-range duck has contributed to the spread of bird flu, the Livestock Department earlier banned the activity but later reached compromise with some 1,000 farmers allowing them to move their ducks within designated zones.

Singapore Navy launched fourth frigate

SINGAPORE, 15 July—The Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) launched its fourth frigate RSS Tenacious at Singapore Technologies Marine yard on Friday, according to a statement by the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF).

The launch of RSN Tenacious, the third self-built frigate which will undergo harbour and sea trials in the next phase, marks another milestone for the Formidable-class frigate programme started by the MINDEF a decade ago.

According to the programme, Singapore will acquire several more frigates in the coming years, which are expected to play a significant role in the Singapore Armed Forces’ future war-fighting system.

To save time, sophisticated sensor and weapons systems to be installed in the frigates are undergoing shore-based testing while the ships are being built, said the statement.

ADB to release $50m for Bangladesh’s power sector

DHAKA, 14 July—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is likely to release 50 million US-dollar aid for the power sector development programme in Bangladesh by this month, The Independent reported on Wednesday.

The Bangladeshi Government has started the process of corporatizing Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) and Power Development Board (PDB).

To release the amount, ADB earlier set eight conditions including the major condition of corporatization of two organizations for getting the loan, The Independent quoted sources in the Power Division as saying.

Other conditions for the loans were settlement of outstanding power bills of different state-owned enterprises, settlement of arrears among the power agencies, and appointment of independent auditor in DESA.

Sources said that most of the conditions of the ADB were partly complied with and the Bangladesh Government was in the process of meeting the conditions.

The loan would be released by this month, Power Secretary Nazrul Islam said.

The daily also quoted officials of the Power Division as saying that the Finance Division would use the loan to provide power agencies arrear bills of different ministries.

China to push forward DDA negotiations with other WTO members

DALIAN, 14 July—with only four months left for the Sixth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Hong Kong at the end of this year, the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) negotiations have entered a crucial phase, and China is willing to push forward the process together with other WTO members, said Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai on Wednesday in Dalian.

He was here to attend the two-day WTO Informal Ministerial Meeting. Bo met separately with the United States Trade Representative Rob Portman, Brazil Foreign Affairs Minister Celso Amorim and the WTO Director-General Supachai Panitchatipol and exchanged views with them on current DDA round talks.

In a meeting with Portman, Bosaid that China has worked hard to boost the DDA and wishes to see a converging point with the United States to push forward the negotiation process.

Having stated China’s stand on the DDA negotiations, Bostressed that China made a lot of commitments before joining the WTO, the Power Division as saying.

Other conditions for the loans were settlement of outstanding power bills of different state-owned enterprises, settlement of arrears among the power agencies, and appointment of independent auditor in DESA.

Sources said that most of the conditions of the ADB were partly complied with and the Bangladesh Government was in the process of meeting the conditions.

The loan would be released by this month, Power Secretary Nazrul Islam said.

The daily also quoted officials of the Power Division as saying that the Finance Division would use the loan to provide power agencies arrear bills of different ministries.
India, Afghanistan discuss security situation

NEW DELHI, 15 July — India and Afghanistan on Wednesday discussed the security situation in the war-ravaged country and shared concerns over reports of regrouping of Taleban elements which were engaged in acts of terror and violence.

This figured during talks visiting Afghan National Security Advisor Zaimal Rassoul had here with Indian External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh.

The two sides also discussed progress in the ongoing reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. India has pledged to continue its wholehearted assistance to the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

Rassoul’s trip comes ahead of the visit to Afghanistan by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the second half of August.

Singh will be meeting Afghan President Hamid Karzai and other top leaders in Kabul.

Singh also had a meeting with Ali Altatas, UN Secretary-General’s special envoy on reforms for the Asia Pacific Region.

Record number of contestants to compete in 55th MissWorld pageant

HAIKOU, 15 July — A new record number of beauty contestants will compete in the 55th Miss World pageant scheduled to take place on 10 December in Sanya, a seaside resort on the southern tip of Hainan Province, the organizers said.

It will be the third Miss World activity ever hosted by this Chinese city.

So far, Miss World brokerage organizations in 125 countries and regions have applied to take part in this year’s Miss World contest and the contestants will begin arriving from 11 November, said the organizers.

Before the final contest, the contestants are required to attend a range of activities, including a film prize-awarding ceremony slated for 12 November, a city tour of Sanya, a publicity event to mark the World AIDS Day in Beijing.

Champions of previous Miss World pageants will also be invited to this year’s gala, according to the organizers.

The 54th Miss World pageant, also held in Sanya last year, attracted contestants from 107 countries and regions in the world, arrecheaplyg.

Kindergartens shut down after discovery of disease in Thailand

BANGKOK, 15 July — Some 28 kindergartens and nurseries in Bangkok has been shut down temporarily after a steep increase of foot-and-mouth disease among their children, local Press reported on Friday.

The 28 schools and nurseries, where the epidermic has been detected recently, were ordered to close for seven to ten days since Thursday. Some schools had just a few cases, while in others, whole classes have been infected.

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (AMA) teams has sent epidemiologists and public health officials to provide information to schools and nurseries across the capital, said Bangkok Deputy Governor Pensri Pichaisant.

The communicable disease, which is spreading among children aged 3-10, usually displays symptoms of a rash with blisters. In extreme cases, it can be fatal, although nobody is known to have died from the disease in Thailand.

Two ships collide off Japan, one crew member dead

TOKYO, 15 July — Two ships, one a tanker carrying gasoline, collided in dense fog off western Japan on Friday, leaving one crew member dead and five missing, coast guard officials said.

The collision between the 697-ton tanker Kyokuyo Maru and the 499-ton freighter Nikko Maru took place around 4 am (1900 GMT) off Cape Mikizaki, about 320 kilometres (200 miles) west of Tokyo.

Neither vessel sank but the Kyokuyo Maru was carrying gasoline and burst into flames, a coast guard official said, adding that it was not immediately clear whether the gasoline had leaked into the surrounding water.

One crew member from the Kyokuyo Maru died and five were missing.

The five crew members on the other vessel were safe.

Japan grants drilling rights in East China Sea to oil firm

OKYO, 15 July — The Japanese Government has granted Teikoku Oil Co concessions to conduct experimental drilling in the East China Sea near natural gas fields being explored by a Chinese consortium.

The central government gave the green light after winning approval from the governors of south Japan’s Kagoshima and Okinawa Prefectures, which have state-designated jurisdiction over the sites.

On April 28, Teikoku Oil applied for the experimental drilling rights at three sites covering a combined 400 square kilometres in the East China Sea, following the ministry’s decision earlier that month to unfreeze concession-granting procedures.

The sites are located just east of what Japan claims is the median line separating the 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zones (EEZ) of Japan and China in the East China Sea.

China does not accept and acknowledge this median line since it was unilaterally drawn by Japan without discussing with China. The EEZ was claimed by China on the continental shelf basis, while the drilling activities are being conducted on the Chinese side in the area.

However, the Chinese Government calls for negotiation to solve the dispute and joint exploration. It has held talks with Japan to settle the dispute.

China Sea, oil industry

MNA/Xinhua

A young student rides on a horse during a training session at Tuen Mun Public Riding School in Hong Kong on 15 July, 2005. — INTERNET

Bangkok, 15 July — Some 28 kindergartens and nurseries in Bangkok has been shut down temporarily after a steep increase of foot-and-mouth disease among their children, local Press reported on Friday.

The 28 schools and nurseries, where the epidemic has been detected recently, were ordered to close for seven to ten days since Thursday. Some schools had just a few cases, while in others, whole classes have been infected.

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (AMA) teams has sent epidemiologists and public health officials to provide information to schools and nurseries across the capital, said Bangkok Deputy Governor Pensri Pichaisant.

The communicable disease, which is spreading among children aged 3-10, usually displays symptoms of a rash with blisters. In extreme cases, it can be fatal, although nobody is known to have died from the disease in Thailand.

He added that the BMA would take every effort to prevent the spread of the disease. — MNA/Xinhua

Kindergartens shut down after discovery of disease in Thailand

BANGKOK, 15 July — Some 28 kindergartens and nurseries in Bangkok has been shut down temporarily after a steep increase of foot-and-mouth disease among their children, local Press reported on Friday.

The 28 schools and nurseries, where the epidemic has been detected recently, were ordered to close for seven to ten days since Thursday. Some schools had just a few cases, while in others, whole classes have been infected.

The Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (AMA) teams has sent epidemiologists and public health officials to provide information to schools and nurseries across the capital, said Bangkok Deputy Governor Pensri Pichaisant.

The communicable disease, which is spreading among children aged 3-10, usually displays symptoms of a rash with blisters. In extreme cases, it can be fatal, although nobody is known to have died from the disease in Thailand.

He added that the BMA would take every effort to prevent the spread of the disease. — MNA/Xinhua
It was clear to me only after I had read the paper next day. It was the destruction of seized narcotic drugs in commemoration of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. I learnt that the ceremony is held annually; that commencing from 1990, the destruction ceremony had been held for 19 times in Yangon; and 34 ceremonies had been held to destroy narcotic drugs, precursor chemicals and poppy seeds seized in border areas and other towns.

It reminded me of the history of narcotic drugs in the nation. In the past there was no poppy cultivation in Myanmar let alone production of drugs. It is totally against ethic and the way of life of Myanmar people. Being convinced well that abuse of narcotic drugs leads to financial ruin and tarnishes the dignity of human society, Myanmar people absolutely abhor and regard drinking alcohol and smoking and consuming opium as bad habits. So, there have been anti-opium drive in the nation since many years ago.

As a matter of fact, those who introduced cultivation of poppy and bad habits of smoking and consuming opium in the nation were the colonialists. After 1885, they officially allowed the people to cultivate poppy in Shan State, Kayah State, Kachin hill region, and the regions on the east bank of Thanlwin River. Their promulgation of laws on control of opium was totally ineffective without any relation to the pragmatic world since such action was taken just for the name sake. They ignored poppy cultivation and production of opium instead of banning such acts.

It is hard to inherit fine traditions but easy to get into bad habit. Gradually, the bad habits were firmly rooted, so all possible means had to be employed to address the problem. What is important is to ward off drug-related cases in the nation.

It is learnt that the price of heroin, methamphetamine, stimulant tablets, Ephedrine and diazepam destroyed on 26 June was more than US$328 million, and the narcotic drugs destroyed from the first to 19th time, US$ 14,661 million. However much the value of the seized narcotic drugs was great, the nation has to destroy the drugs that pose threat to the nation and the people and world. Myanmar is taking all possible measures pragmatically to eradicate narcotic drugs.

I would like to cite the speech delivered by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo at the prize-presentation ceremony for literary, music and arts competitions to mark anti-narcotics movements.

According to the World Drug Report issued by the UNODC, there was a 73 per cent decline between 1996 and 2004, and according to the US Government Drug Strategy Report (2005), there was a 34 per cent decline in poppy cultivation in 2004 if compared with that in 2003. And the opium output was reduced to 292 tons, down from the output of 2,560 tons eight years ago, accounting for 88 % decline. It was indeed a tribute to the Myanmar’s anti-narcotics campaigns.

Government Drug Strategy Report (2005), there was a 34 per cent decline in poppy cultivation in 2004 if compared with that in 2003. And the opium output was reduced to 292 tons, down from the output of 2,560 tons eight years ago, accounting for 88 % decline. It was indeed a tribute to the Myanmar’s anti-narcotics campaigns.

In my opinion, it indicated the State’s efforts to eliminate narcotic drugs with the considerable expenditure of money, manpower, time and methods on implementation of its drive in the interests of world people. In fact, the drug issue is the concern of all the nations, not the concern of the individuals alone. That is why the government has been making such strenuous efforts to wipe out narcotic drugs that pose danger to the world people, while striving with might and main for national development.

Some broadcasting stations such as BBC, VOA and RFA have turned a blind eye to the drugs eliminations and sincerity of the government, and to come and see the government is worthy of respect for its measures pragmatically to eradicate narcotic drugs.

According to the World Drug Report issued by the UNODC, there was a 73 per cent decline between 1996 and 2004, and according to the US Government Drug Strategy Report (2005), there was a 34 per cent decline in poppy cultivation in 2004 if compared with that in 2003. And the opium output was reduced to 292 tons, down from the output of 2,560 tons eight years ago, accounting for 88 % decline. It was indeed a tribute to the Myanmar’s anti-narcotics campaigns.

The government is seeking better ways and means to address such narcotics issue, to root out drug-related cases, to avert undesirable consequences, and to repel the dangers of drugs. It informs the people through the media drug related social evils.

It can be witnessed that Myanmar has been exerting sustained efforts on self-reliance basis. The government is worthy of respect for its implementation of a wide range of methods in order that the dangers of drugs cannot hinder national development.

However, western media are distributing fabricated stories, holding negative views, ignoring the nation’s prevailing situations, and making various accusations against the nation.

Therefore, I would like them to adopt a more positive approach to the nation, to observe goodwill and sincerity of the government, and to come and see things in the right perspective and feel the truth.

Translation: MS

*******

Ministry of Industry inspects textile mills in Mandalay Division...

(from page 16)

Member of the Secretariat of the USDA U Aung Thaung met Secretaries and executives of Meiktila, Wundwin, Mahlaing and Thazi Township USAs. They reported on organizational matters, public welfare services and future tasks.

U Aung Thaung discussed concepts of USDA members, implementation of five rural development tasks and cooperation with the people for success of the seven-point Road Map. The Minister inspected the site for construction of a textile mill near Mya Kyantaung Pagoda in Pyaywwe. Managing Director of Myanmar Textile Industries U Oo Thein Maung and Chairman of Yamethin District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Kyi Shein and officials reported on work to be done.

U Aung Thaung met secretaries, executives and township organizers of Pyaywwe and Yamethin Township USAs.

MNA
The ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa. Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa administered the Five Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas. Next, Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife offered Waso robes and alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Viçitta.

The members of the State Peace and Development Council and wives and officials donated Waso robes and provisions to members of the Sangha. The congregation took a sermon delivered by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Jagarabhivamsa and shared merits gained. — MNA

**Ministry of Science and Technology families offer Waso robes**

YANGON, 16 July — The Ministry of Science and Technology held the ceremony to donate Waso robes and alms to members of the Sangha at the meeting hall of the ministry, this morning.

Present on the occasion were Presiding Sayadaw of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Aggadhamma of Dhamma Younggyi Pariyatti monastery at Kyaukyedwin ward in North Okkalapa Township and members of the Sangha.

Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung and wife Daw May Kyi Sein, Deputy Ministers and their wives, Directors-General, Rectors and departmental heads under the ministry, families and guests.

First, the congregation received the Five Precepts from the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha. Next, Minister U Thaung and wife offered Waso robes and alms to the Sayadaws. Afterwards, the deputy ministers and officials donated Waso robes to members of the Sangha. Later, they offered ‘soon’ to the Sayadaws.

MNA

**47th Waso robe offering ceremony held at Hninzigon Home for the Aged**

YANGON, 16 July — The 47th robe offering ceremony organized by Hninzigon Home for the Aged Management Committee, was held at Thirtyada Hall of Hninzigon Home for the Aged this morning.

The congregation took Five Precepts from Thakarya Township Patikari Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Dighhanikaya Kovidha Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Ingisa.

On behalf of Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Committee, Vice-Chairman U Kyaw Shein supplicated the purpose of offering robes. Afterwards, committee members and wellwishers donated the provisions to members of the Sangha.

Next, the Patikari Monastery Presiding Sayadaw delivered a sermon and the congregation shared the merits.

Besides, altogether 240 aged from Hninzigon Home for the Aged donated robes to 14 sayadaws.

MNA
For extended cultivation of...

(from page 16)

In Thandwe District, the plan was set to put 1,588 more acres of land under monsoon paddy in Thandwe Township, 6,900 acres in Taungup Township, and 1,000 acres in Gwa Township, totalling 9,488 in 2005-06. So far, 8,995 acres of monsoon paddy has been cultivated.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Taungup Rubber Farm of Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries near Thandwe-Taungup Road. Assistant Manager U Myint Thwin briefed them on the location and area, cultivation matter, the plan to extend 125 acres of rubber plantation in 2005-06 and 500 acres in 2006-07, collection of seeds, grafting nursery, seeding and future tasks.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected the rubber nurseries and seeding works and thriving 6,050 rubber plants. Next, they oversaw rubber plantations along both sides of Thandwe-Taungup Road. They met with officials, other ranks and families of Taungup Station in Taungup and left instructions on agriculture and livestock breeding tasks to be carried out on a manageable scale and welfare tasks of the families.

At Taungup Township PDC Office, they explained development of the region at the meeting with local authorities, social organization members and local people.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivered a speech, saying that Taungup Township needs to grow monsoon paddy and pepper to meet the target.

The growing of rubber will be creating the job opportunities for local people as well as a business to earn income. Thus, it is necessary to organize the local people to grow rubber on extended areas.

The Government is implementing the border areas development plan, the 24-region development plan and five rural development tasks for equitable improvement of all regions of the country. Peace and stability, growth of economy and development of human resources play an important role in making progress of the State. That is why, local authorities in cooperate with the local people are to harmoniously carry out regional development tasks in line with the plans of the Government.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than viewed thriving 29,000 pepper plants on 30 acres of a local farmer and urged local growers to extend pepper cultivation. Arrangements are being made to extend cultivation of 300 acres of rubber plantations this year.

The township has put 1,589 acres of land under rubber plantations. At Kaingshay Bridge, they oversaw construction tasks. It was a 540-foot-long Bailey bridge. Now, The bridge is being upgraded to a reinforced concrete one.

Next, they inspected maintenance of roads and durability of bridges along Taungup-Maei section.

In the evening, they arrived at Pyinwun Camp of Yangon-Kyaukpyu Road Project. Officials reported to them on construction of the road in the mire applying geotextile method, completion of 16 miles long road — 14 miles earth work and two miles geotextilized road — and finding the axis of Yanbye-Peinnetaung short cut.

Chairman of Kyaukpyu District PDC Lt-Gen Myo Tint briefed them on running of a bus line on Kyaukpyu-Taungup section and arrangements for smooth transport. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions. They spent the night in Maei.

MNA

Petronas Oil Co of Malaysia grants scholarships to Myanmar students for second time

Yangon, 16 July—Petronas Oil Co of Malaysia in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy granted scholarships to eight Myanmar students for further studies in Petronas Technological University yesterday.

It is the second ceremony to grant scholarships to Myanmar students by the Ministry of Energy on Pyay Road. Present were Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, resident representative of Petronas Oil Co Mr Abu Bakar Sin Salleh, Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar Dato’ Cheah Sam Kip, heads of departments and enterprises and officials.

The minister presented scholarships to the students. They will have to serve at the Ministry of Energy after their further studies. — MNA

Neo-colonialist—what he craves to be

* Say what you want to say, maybe it is Natural and surely realistic
What I want, what I’ve said If not included therein I will not recognize it.
* Show what you want, whatever you show Maybe so pretty, but if what you show Is in variance with my pattern If it’s like that I will not recognize it.
* Do whatever you like, but if it includes not You, no matter how good yours May be, I will not recognize it.
* Well, remember the words you utter Your display, your acts If they’re definitely In your liking I will elevate your life, back you up You continue to do as I bid Then, I will unstintingly Be your saviour, you remember.

Byan Hlwar (Trs)
**Organizational (Basic) Course No 1/2005 winds up**

**Yangon, 16 July** — The Organizational (Basic) Course No 1/2005, organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, concluded at the training hall of General Administration Department on Saya San Road, here, this afternoon.

President of MWAF Daw Than Nwe, in her address, urged Myanmar women to organize their fine traditions and capabilities as a strength of the nation for gaining more success in the society, join hands with other social organizations, cooperate with the Government, the people and Tamadaw for emergence of a new peaceful, modern and developed nation, actively participate in the implementation of the seven-point Road Map of the State up to the discipline-flourishing democratic country, and bring out qualified organizers in the tasks to uplift the living standard of women in the respective regions by applying experience obtained from the training course.

President Daw Than Nwe, Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Myint, Head of Organizational Department Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo and General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Maung Tarn presented completion certificates to the trainees.

Altogether 51 women trainees from State and Division Women’s Affairs Organizations attended the five-day course. — MNA

**New school building of BEMS No 9 in Insein Township opened**

**Yangon, 16 July** — The opening ceremony of the new school building of No 9 Basic Education Middle School in Insein Township was held in conjunction with a cash donation ceremony for the multi-media classrooms at the school this morning. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Com- mander of Yangon Command Maj-Majgen Myint Swe and Minister for Education U Than Aung attended the ceremonies.

Also present were Deputy Ministers for Education U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Angen Myo Min, directors-general of the departments under the ministry, the chairman of Myanmar Examinations Board, departmental officials, the chairman of Yangon North District PDC and members, the chairman of Insein Town- ship PDC and members, the township education officer, teachers and students, the chairman and members of the school board of trustees, members of social organizations, wellwishers and guests.

First, the headmistress and the chairman of the school board of trustees formally opened the new school building. Next, the commander and the deputy minister presented the certificates for the opening of the school building and for the cash dona- tions. Minister U Than Aung also spoke on the occasion.

Afterwards, the commander and the minister presented certificates of honour to wellwishers who donated K 4.24 million. Later, the headmistress spoke words of thanks. The school building was con- structed at a cost of K 9.3 million. — MNA

**Commander inspects water treatment plant in Amarapura**

**Yangon, 16 July** — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Com- mittee Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and officials inspected water treatment plant in Shwege Village in Amarapura Township on 15 July. The commander met a hiking and mountaining team at the Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Office. They will climb Hsinlaung and Mynnmahtauk in Kalaw Township. Secrecy board chairmen of Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyi Thein, Division MCWA, MCDC and others presented food, medicines and K 500,000 as leader of the team Dr Khin Maung.

The team includes 86 — 29 men and 57 women. — MNA

**Deputy Health Minister Dr Mya Oo inspects hospitals in Bago Division**

**Yangon, 16 July** — Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, accompanied by officials of the Health Department, arrived at People’s Station Hospital in Ottwin Township in Bago Division on 13 July afternoon. The deputy health minister met with health committee members, social organizations and made a speech. Afterwards, he ins- pected operation theatre, medicine store, laboratory room and X-ray room and attended to the needs.

On arrival at Nyaungchayhtauk Station Hospital, Pyu Township Hospital and Kanyuntwin Station Hospital, Penwe- gon Station Hospital in Kyaukdaga Township and Township Hospital, the deputy minister met with healthcommittee members, social organizations, officials and health staff. Dur- ing his tour, the deputy min- ister gave instructions on providing maternal and child health care, malaria, TB and AIDS preventative measures, providing medicines in rural areas and taking measures to set up the fund for needy patients under the leadership of health committees in coop- eration with social organi- zations and the people. — MNA

**Commander and Mayor inspect tasks on beautifying Yangon City**

**Yangon, 16 July** — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Majgen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon City Development Com- mittee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin together with offi- cials inspected tasks on beautifying the city, proper flow of drainages and paving the roads this morning.

The commander and the mayor looked into unblocking of the drainages along Maha Bandoola Street, Anawrahta Road and Bo Aung Kyaw Road. They also oversaw removing of waste from the drainages along Bo Myat Tun Street, Baho Road and inspected paving of the roads in Kyimyindine, Kamayut and Mayangon Town- ships where the officials conducted them around. The commander and the mayor then gave neces- sary instructions. — MNA

**Commander inspects regional development in Kutkai Township**

**Yangon, 16 July** — A work coordination meet- ing of Shan State (East) Development Affairs Committee was held at Shan State (East) Development Council Office in Kengtung on 14 July. Present were Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Majgen Min Aung Hlaing and officials. Director of Shan State (East) Development Affairs Committee U Tin Aye reported on measures undertaken, arrangements for construction of Yanhkan market and parking lot. — MNA

**Minister for Cooperatives Col Zaw Min and wife donate Waso robes and alms to a Sayadaw at the 78th Waso robes offering ceremony of the ministry. — Cooperatives**

**Work coordination meeting of Shan State (East) Development Affairs Committee held**

**Yangon, 16 July** — A work coordination meet- ing of Shan State (East) Development Affairs Committee was held at Shan State (East) Development Council Office in Kengtung on 14 July. Present were Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Majgen Min Aung Hlaing and officials. Director of Shan State (East) Development Affairs Committee U Tin Aye reported on measures undertaken, arrangements for construction of Yanhkan market and parking lot. — MNA
Vietnam to foster relations with China

HANOI, 16 July — “Vietnam’s Party and State will continue to develop their consistent friendship and comprehensive cooperation with China on the basis of mutual trust,” said Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien. During the upcoming visit of Vietnamese State President Tran Duc Luong to China, the two sides will work out key directives and specific measures to effectively develop their cooperation, especially in the fields of politics, economy, culture, science, technology, security and defence, local newspaper Vietnam News on Friday quoted Nien as saying. They will also sign some economic and trade agreements, issue a declaration on concluding the bilateral negotiations for Vietnam to join the World Trade Organization, and discuss a series of bilateral matters, as well as regional and international issues of mutual concern he added.

The visit, slated for 18-22 July, is an evidence of the meeting tradition of high-ranking leaders of Vietnam and China, which helps boost the relations between the two parties and two states to a higher level, particularly in the fields of economics, trade and investment for the two peoples’ benefit, peace, stability and cooperation in the region and the world, Nien said.

Mentioning relations between China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Foreign Minister said Vietnam has helped boost China-ASEAN trade ties, contributing to the development and wealth in the region. The trade turnover between Vietnam and China is expected to exceed 10 billion US dollars in 2016, Nien said. The turnover, which stood at 6.74 billion dollars in 2004, was more than 3.2 billion dollars, in the first quarter of this year.

China Tibetan Cultural Week opens in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 16 July — The China Tibetan Cultural Week opened on Friday in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in celebration of the coming 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Tibet Autonomous Region.

The cultural week will feature exhibitions of Tibetan cultural relics, religious rituals conducted by about ten living Buddhas and performances of Tibetan songs and dances. A number of senior officials from the central government sent letters of congratulations, including Jia Qinglin, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Raidi, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC), and Liu Yandong, head of the United Front Work Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

The excellent traditional Tibetan culture is a resplendent pearl in China’s folk cultural treasure-house, as well as China’s irreplaceable spiritual fortunes, and it is the joint responsibility for the Chinese at home and abroad to inherit and carry forward the excellent traditional Tibetan culture, read the letter from Jia Qinglin.

The Cultural Week will help people in Hong Kong know more about Tibet, its traditional culture and the glamour of the snow-covered region and promote the exchanges and cooperation between the two regions in various aspects, read the letter from Raidi. The activity will display the glamour of the snow-covered pearl, Tibet, to Hong Kong, the oriental pearl, and provide a rare chance for Hong Kong people to know more about the Motherland’s splendid culture and a stage for Tibet to display its unique charm in the metropolis, read the letter from Liu Yandong.

Tung Chee-hwa, Vice Chairman of the CPPCC National Committee, Gao Siren, director of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the HKSAR, and Elsse Leung On-sie, secretary for justice for the HKSAR government, also attended the opening ceremony.

The cultural week is jointly sponsored by the Information Office of the State Council, the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the HKSAR, and the people’s government of the Tibet Autonomous Region.

Eight more dead, 50 missing in Romania floods

BUCHAREST, 16 July — Eight more people were killed and 50 others missing on Thursday as floods caused by heavy rains continued hitting large areas of Romania, the Rompres news agency reported.

Floods have hit more than 30 counties of the Balkan country over the past few weeks, swelling rivers, inundating homes and charming up roads. Thousands of people were also left homeless in the floods, the worst in more than a decade. The official from the weather service said rainfalls in many areas over the last 10 days “equal the average for an entire year”.

In eastern Romania, roads remained closed and railway traffic was disrupted. Many areas were left without electricity or gas.

TV footage showed that a large number of troops, using boats and helicopters, were rescuing hundreds of stranded people in disaster areas.

The government has earmarked 140.5 billion new lei (about 4.7 million US dollars) for disaster relieving efforts. Prime Minister Calin Popescu Tariceanu appealed to people to donate some money to help those left without homes in the country, saying food supplies from state reserves would be sent to flooded areas and the Cabinet would approve a financial aid package at its Thursday meeting.

Meteorologists said heavy rains would stop pouring in many areas over the next four to five days, but warned that more rain was expected.

China Tibetan Cultural Week opens in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 16 July — The China Tibetan Cultural Week opened on Friday in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in celebration of the coming 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Tibet Autonomous Region.

The cultural week will feature exhibitions of Tibetan cultural relics, religious rituals conducted by about ten living Buddhas and performances of Tibetan songs and dances. A number of senior officials from the central government sent letters of congratulations, including Jia Qinglin, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), Raidi, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC), and Liu Yandong, head of the United Front Work Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

The excellent traditional Tibetan culture is a resplendent pearl in China’s folk cultural treasure-house, as well as China’s irreplaceable spiritual fortunes, and it is the joint responsibility for the Chinese at home and abroad to inherit and carry forward the excellent traditional Tibetan culture, read the letter from Jia Qinglin.

The Cultural Week will help people in Hong Kong know more about Tibet, its traditional culture and the glamour of the snow-covered region and promote the exchanges and cooperation between the two regions in various aspects, read the letter from Raidi. The activity will display the glamour of the snow-covered pearl, Tibet, to Hong Kong, the oriental pearl, and provide a rare chance for Hong Kong people to know more about the

Moscow tightens metro security in anti-terror step

MOSCOW, 16 July — Moscow launched new security controls on its transport system on Friday, hoping to stop attacks like those that killed more than 50 people in London last week.

When the measures are fully implemented, police will have access to a secure metro-wide communications system, while video cameras in carriages will be added to those already operating in stations. “The most important part of the project is the establishment of video surveillance in the carriages, and the broadcasting of the pictures to a situation centre,” said Dmitry Gveyev, head of the Moscow metro, in an interview with Ivesita daily.

“Now we are finishing the installation of such cameras on our whole fleet, but the tests will take a little time.” Moscow has long sought new ways to halt militant attacks. Chechen rebels have killed hundreds of people in the city, with suicide attackers targeting a rock concert, the metro, a theatre and other landmarks. But the project has been given new urgency by the suicide bombing of three underground trains and a bus in London last week, an attack which brought back memories of the February 2004 explosion that shattered a metro carriage in Moscow.

At least 40 died in the Moscow metro blast, which has been blamed on a suicide bomber. “A special radio network is being created, which will allow our workers to communicate between themselves or with the police and pass on all necessary information,” he said.

“The system will work everywhere: on the stations, on the escalators, at the depots, in the tunnels.” Moscow tightened security after the 2004 attack. It banished the traditional tickets, on the escalators, at the depots, in the tunnels.”

Officials said the fact a suicide bomber blew herself up outside a metro station in August last year was proof that security measures stopped attackers entering the tunnels.

Ten people died in the bombing. — MNA/Reuters

Chinese residents pose for a picture after washing themselves with sea mud during a “Crazy for Mud” event at a seaside park in Datangh county, east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 16 July, 2005. About 3000 visitors attended the festival. — INTERNET

East African Community’s e-commerce law in the offing

DAR ES SALAAM, 16 July — The East African Community (EAC) has started to formulate a law regulating e-commerce businesses in and outside the regional economic integration.

The EAC Secretariat has been instructed to set up a special committee to formulate the model law on e-commerce for the EAC member states of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, according to reports reaching here on Friday from Arusha in northern Tanzania where the EAC Headquarters is seated.

The committee will comprise of experts from the EAC sub-committees, the EAC Task Force on Approximation of Laws and the EAC Communications Sector. The guidelines for the EAC e-commerce law were already approved by Uganda’s Attorney-General Kihika Makubuya, Kenya’s Attorney-General Amon Wako and Tanzania’s Deputy Attorney-General Mr. Manwayika.

The EAC, an East African regional economic integration entity that was first established in 1967 and then revived in 1999, is striving to boost its integration process after starting its Customs Union in January this year. — MNA/Unhau

Eight more dead, 50 missing in Romania floods

Bucharest, 16 July — Eight more people were killed and 50 others missing on Thursday as floods caused by heavy rains continued hitting large areas of Romania, the Rompres news agency reported.

Floods have hit more than 30 counties of the Balkan country over the past few weeks, swelling rivers, inundating homes and charming up roads. Thousands of people were also left homeless in the floods, the worst in more than a decade. An official from the weather service said rainfalls in many areas over the last 10 days “equal the average for an entire year”.

In eastern Romania, roads remained closed and railway traffic was disrupted. Many areas were left without electricity or gas.

TV footage showed that a large number of troops, using boats and helicopters, were rescuing hundreds of stranded people in disaster areas.

The government has earmarked 140.5 billion new lei (about 4.7 million US dollars) for disaster relieving efforts. Prime Minister Calin Popescu Tariceanu appealed to people to donate some money to help those left without homes in the country, saying food supplies from state reserves would be sent to flooded areas and the Cabinet would approve a financial aid package at its Thursday meeting.

Meteorologists said heavy rains would stop pouring in many areas over the next four to five days, but warned that more rain was expected.
Agriculture and Irrigation, for the supply of the following stores (in Myanmar Kyats.)

1. Sealed Tender are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, Ministry of
northwest of Romania, the worst hit area. “We may
said late on Wednesday, returning from a visit to the
stroyed or flooded, but also infrastructure,” Tariceanu
Balkan country over the past few weeks, swelling
homeless, Prime Minister Calin Tariceanu said.


3. For more details, Contact: 01-682209, 01-682593. Only Tenders Purchased from
Mechanization Department (Head Office), AMD Bayintnaung Road, Insein Town-

2. Tender Closing date: 18-8-2005 (Thursday) 12:00 hrs.

3. Tender documents are available at Equipment & Stores Branch of Agricultural

12

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 17 July, 2005

World Bank lends $120m to Tamil Nadu
WASHINGTON, 15 July — The World Bank has approved a 120-million-
US-dollar credit to support the government of the south Indian state of Tamil
Nadu for implementing a poverty eradication programme in the state.

The Tamil Nadu Em-
powerment and Poverty Reduction Project called “Puthu Vazhvuy” (new life) aims at creating op-
portunities and build so-
cial capital in poor com-
munities and to involve the communities them-
selves in designing and implementing the changes that will affect them.

“The project sup-
ports the Government of
Tamil Nadu’s existing

3. Tender documents are available at Equipment & Stores Branch of Agricultural
Mechanization Department (Head Office), AMD Bayintnaung Road, Insein Town-

4. Tractor Tyres & Tubes 1-Lot 10-Items

7. Crawler Tractor and Excavator Spares 1-Lot

INVI TATION TO SEALED TENDER
TENDER NO (1) (ES) A.M.D (2005-2006)

1. Sealed Tender are invited by Agricultural Mechanization Department, Ministry of Agri-
culture and Irrigation, for the supply of the following stores (in Myanmar Kyats.)

Sr No Description Quantity
1. Zwe/Zetor 50 Super Zetor 6711/701/8811 Tractor Spares 4-Lots, 186-Items
2. SH-50, SH-654 Tractor Spares 2-Lots, 123-Items
3. TN-800 Tractor Spares 1-Lot, 55-Items
4. Tractor Tyres & Tubes 1-Lot, 10-Items
5. Tractor Fuel Injection Pump, Nozzles & Plungers. 1-Lot, 18-Items
6. Assorted Taper Roller & ball Bearing 1-Lot, 35-Items
7. Crawler Tractor and Excavator Spares 1-Lot
2. Tender Closing date: 18-8-2005 (Thursday) 12:00 hrs.
3. Tender documents are available at Equipment & Stores Branch of Agricultural
Mechanization Department (Head Office), AMD Bayintnaung Road, Insein Town-
ship, Yangon, during office hours from (18-7-2005). Only Tenders Purchased from
AMD will be accepted.
4. For more details, Contact: 01-682209, 01-682593.

Director General
Agricultural Mechanization Department

A NASA-funded astronomer has discovered a world where the sun sets over the
horizon, followed by a second sun and then a third, as pictured in this
artist’s conception released by NASA on 13 July, 2005.—INTERNET

Chinese SOEs invite world investors for cooperation
SHENYANG, 15 July — A total of 24 key state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in
northeast China are publicly opening up their businesses for both domestic
and overseas investors, a step further to promote ongoing reforms in the
country’s old industrial base.

It is expected that the
move will help to improve the
SOEs’ overall capacity
and upgrade their prod-
ucts through system inno-
vation, said an official
with the local state asset
watchdog.

To realize the goal, the
24 enterprises will try to
introduce strategic in-
develop mixed-ownership econo-
 mies by way of setting up
joint ventures, coopera-
tive production and trans-
fering state-owned stock
rights, according to Liu
Yongsheng, director of
the Shenyang Municipal
Commission for Super-
vision and Management
of State-owned Proper-
ties.

Located in Shenyang,
capital of China’s old in-
dustrial base of Liaoning
Province, the 24 enter-
prises register gross as-
sets of 79.23 billion yuan
(about 9.5 billion US dol-
lars), some 71.8 per cent
of the properties held by all
the SOEs in the city.

The 24 backbone en-
terprises, whose busi-
nesses cover machinery,
pharmaceutical, com-
turer sciences and many
other sectors, boast a long
history of growth, strong
technological compe-
tence and competitive-
ness in the domestic and
even overseas market,
said Liu.

They employ 122,000
workers, which constitute
51.4 per cent of all em-
ployees in the SOEs here,
Liu noted.

He noted that the 24
large-scale enterprises,
with satisfying business
profits, are representative
of Shenyang’s SOEs.

Shenyang will soon
publish specific measures
to tackle a number of prob-
lems concerning the allo-
cation of employees and
relief of the enterprises’

Romania may ask foreign
help to cope with floods
Bucharest, 15 July — Romania may ask for inter-
national help to clean up damage caused by recent
floods which have killed five people and left thousands
homeless, Prime Minister Calin Tariceanu said.

Torrential rains have hit more than half of the
Balkan country over the past few weeks, swelling
rivers, inundating homes and churning up roads.

“The damage is great, not only are houses de-
stroyed or flooded, but also infrastructure,” Tariceanu
said late on Wednesday, returning from a visit to the
northeast of Romania, the worst hit area. “We may
even ask for international help.“ MNA/Reuters

Donate blood

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/PTI

UNDP helps
Uganda
clear mines
in north
KAMPALA, 15 July — The United Nations De-
velopment Programme (UNDP) has earmarked
200,000 US dollars to eliminate land mines in
the areas that have been affected by the 19-year
war in northern Uganda, local media reported on
Thursday.

The UNDP office in
Uganda said it wanted a
50-per-cent reduction of
mines in the north by
2007 under the National
Mine Action Programme
in the East African coun-
try.

The strategic objec-
tive of the UNDP is to
have aredaction and clear-
ance of mines and unexploled ordnance con-
taminated land in Gulu,
Kitgum, Lira and Pader
districts by December
2007 in accordance with
regional and national re-
habilitation and develop-
ment plans.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

China’s SOEs invite world investors for cooperation

Shenyang, 15 July — A total of 24 key state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in
northeast China are publicly opening up their businesses for both domestic
and overseas investors, a step further to promote ongoing reforms in the
country’s old industrial base.

It is expected that the
move will help to improve the
SOEs’ overall capacity
and upgrade their prod-
ucts through system inno-
vation, said an official
with the local state asset
watchdog.

To realize the goal, the
24 enterprises will try to
introduce strategic in-
develop mixed-ownership econo-
 mies by way of setting up
joint ventures, coopera-
tive production and trans-
fering state-owned stock
rights, according to Liu
Yongsheng, director of
the Shenyang Municipal
Commission for Super-
vision and Management
of State-owned Proper-
ties.

Located in Shenyang,
capital of China’s old in-
dustrial base of Liaoning
Province, the 24 enter-
prises register gross as-
sets of 79.23 billion yuan
(about 9.5 billion US dol-
lars), some 71.8 per cent
of the properties held by all
the SOEs in the city.

The 24 backbone en-
terprises, whose busi-
nesses cover machinery,
pharmaceutical, compu-
turer sciences and many
other sectors, boast a long
history of growth, strong
technological compe-
tence and competitive-
ness in the domestic and
even overseas market,
said Liu.

They employ 122,000
workers, which constitute
51.4 per cent of all em-
ployees in the SOEs here,
Liu noted.

He noted that the 24
large-scale enterprises,
with satisfying business
profits, are representative
of Shenyang’s SOEs.

Shenyang will soon
publish specific measures
to tackle a number of prob-
lems concerning the allo-
cation of employees and
relief of the enterprises’

social burdens, a bid to
great environment for overseas inves-
tors to participate in the
cooperation campaign.

Specific information concerning business invi-
tations of the 24 enter-
prises will be published at a web site of SOEs reform
in Liaoning Province, a web site of the Shenyang
Property Right Trading and the web sites of the
Shanghai and Shenzhen
stock exchanges.

The 24 enterprises include Shenyang Ma-
chine Tool Group, Shenyang Air-Blower Group, Shenyang
Hongmei Enterprises Group, and Changbai
Computer Group.

SOEs and those en-
terprises whose shares are
controlled by the state
have always played a vi-
tal role in the city’s eco-
nomic and social deve-
loment. —MNA/Xinhua
**Telephone**

**FAO says world tea production reaches new highs**

Rome, 15 July — World tea production continued to reach new highs in 2004, and the output grew by 2 per cent to reach an estimated 3.2 million tons, according to an FAO report on Thursday.

The report, prepared for the Intergovernmental Group on Tea meeting in Bali (20-22 July 2005) to review the current world tea market and its medium-term outlook, said the expansion in production was due mainly to the increases recorded in Turkey, China, Kenya, Malawi, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

The growth in output from these countries more than offset declines in other major producing countries, including India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

In China, tea output for 2004 approached the 800,000 tons milestone as policy initiatives to promote production and trade of tea began to have an impact on the sector, it said.

In Sri Lanka, production increased slightly by 1.3 per cent to 309,000 tons in 2004. In Indonesia, where a 12.0-per cent growth was recorded, output reached 170,000 tons in 2004. In Turkey, production was reported to have expanded dramatically in 2004 as output increased by 32 per cent to reach around 205,500 tons, due to higher yields.

Tea production in Kenya increased by more than 11 per cent in 2004 to reach 128,000 tons Malawi also reported a significant increase of 19 per cent in tea production with output reaching 50,000 tons.

In India, tea production declined by 4.3 per cent to reach around 820,200 tons due to unfavourable weather conditions and the closure of up to 70 tea gardens in Assam. FAO said that world tea exports increased by 4.4 per cent in 2004 to reach 1.47 million tons, as shipments from all major exporting countries increased during the year.

Tea exports from China expanded by more than 7 per cent to reach 282,000 tons, and were dominated by green tea, which accounted for more than 75 per cent of its total exports.

World net tea imports continued to increase in 2004, by 1.5 per cent, reaching 1.42 million tons. In 2004, tea prices opened at 1.56 US dollars per kilo in January and closed at 1.73 US dollars per kilo in December, reflecting an improvement on the demand side, according to FAO.

**Cell phone saves immigrants lost in Arizona Desert**

**MEXICO CITY, 15 July** — A group of stranded illegal immigrants facing death in the parched Arizona Desert saved themselves by using a cell phone they found to call rescue services, the US Border Patrol said on Thursday.

The group got lost in the desert near Arivaca, south of Tucson, Arizona, on Wednesday after their guide abandoned them during a four-day trek across the border from Mexico.

Lost and low on water, they used a cell phone they found in their guide’s bag to dial 911. Rescuers dispatched helicopters and located the group in the desert shortly after sunset.

“They quick thinking in using the phone to call for help and lighting signal fires saved their lives,” the Tucson Sector of the US Border Patrol said in a news release.

**Talking on cell phones while driving dangerous**

**SYDNEY, 15 July** — People talking on cell phones while driving are at least four times more likely to be involved in a collision and using a hands-free device does virtually nothing to reduce the risk, new research has shown.

The University of Sydney study, based on a survey of 400 car crash victims, found that people using hand-held phones were five times more likely to have a collision. It also found that people using hands-free devices while driving were four times more likely to have a crash resulting in injuries.

Governments around the world, including Germany, Australia and several US states, have prohibited the use of hand-held cell phones while driving, but the new research, published in the British Medical Journal, suggests the ban should be widened.

“This research has highlighted that hands-free isn’t fine, that it does also elevate your risk of crashing,” study co-author Professor Mark Stevenson told Reuters on Thursday. “The key message here is that we need to basically avoid using phones whilst driving. That is what is going to minimize your risk,” said Stevenson, of The George Institute’s Injury Prevention and Trauma Care Research Group at Sydney University.

The research included talking on phones and sending text messages while driving, he said.

The study involved more than 400 drivers and was conducted in the emergency departments of three hospitals in Western Australia state.

Dr Suzanne McEvoy, the report’s principal author, said more than half of the study participants reported having a hands-free phone device in their vehicles.

“The increased likelihood of crashing was not influenced by gender, age of the driver or availability of a hands-free device,” McEvoy said. Stevenson said respondents agreed to have their billing records made available by their phone service providers.

Using those records, researchers compared phone use just before the collision with journeys taken by the same drivers in the week before their crash. “This is the first study that’s looked at outcomes that come after the crash,” Stevenson said.

He said researchers looked at whether drivers had been using their phones up to 10 minutes before their collision. “The majority were in a very short time period just before the crash.”

**Zimbabwe suspends hunting of lions**

Harare, 15 July — The Zimbabwe National Parks and Wildlife Management Authority announced on Wednesday it has imposed a two-year moratorium on the hunting of lions in Gwayi, Matabeleland North, to boost their population.

“We have put lions in Gwayi under moratorium for two years because we want the population to improve as well as the quality of trophies,” Director General of the authority Morris Mutsambiwa said. “We want people to hunt lions they are satisfied with.”

Mutsambiwa said the remarks while addressing a Nigerian national parks delegation in the country to familiarize themselves with the operations of their local counterparts as well as the country’s flora and fauna.

The 12-member delegation, which arrived in the country on Monday, will leave on Wednesday next week.

Mutsambiwa added that hunting of lions in the area had also been suspended because the big cats were under human threat.

The country has an estimated lion population of about 3,500.

The director general said hunting of lions in other areas was however allowed.

Meanwhile, he said efficiency at the organization had greatly improved following its transformation from a public entity into a quasi-government institution about two years ago.
Sports

Reyes, Clichy extend contracts with Arsenal

LONDON, 16 July—Arsenal's Spanish forward Jose Antonio Reyes and French defender Gael Clichy signed new long-term contracts with the Premier League club on Friday.

"Jose Antonio has signed a new six-year contract, securing his future with the club until 2010," the FA Cup winners said on their official website.

"Gael has also extended his contract, securing his future with the club until 2010," Reyes, 21, who joined Arsenal from Spanish club Sevilla in January 2004 for a club record 17 million pounds (29.90 million US dollars), has had a tough time at Highbury last summer with reports suggesting he had found it difficult to settle in London. The striker was the victim of a radio hoaxter last February who claimed to be a Real Madrid representative offering him a transfer back to Spain. Reyes said he was keen on the move.

The following month he was quoted by a Spanish newspaper saying he had set his heart on a move to Real and wanted the Madrid side to open negotiations as soon as possible. However, Reyes has now put the uncertainty about his future behind him by committing his future to the north London club.

"I'm so happy to have extended my contract with Arsenal and I'm looking forward to having many more successful years with the club," he said.

The Spanish international has already collected Premier League and FA Cup winners medals. He has made 66 appearances, scoring 17 goals.

French Under-21 international Clichy joined Arsenal from Cannes in August 2003 and has made 46 appearances.

"I'm delighted to have signed a new contract to help put my future with Arsenal," said the 19-year-old. "I really wanted to sign a new contract and I hope it will help me to improve."

In August 2004, aged 18 years and 10 months, Clichy became the youngest player to earn a Premier League winners medal.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Abidal breaks foot in Lyon draw

Paris, 16 July—Olympique Lyon and France defender Eric Abidal will be out of action for up to three months with a foot injury, the Ligue 1 champions announced on Friday.

Abidal broke his left foot when Lyon drew 1-1 with Colombian side Once Caldas in their opening game at the Peace Cup tournament in Pusan, South Korea.

"I did not feel anything when it happened. Then I left for the hospital and I have been told I could be out for 12 weeks," Abidal told the club's website.

Once Caldas took the lead through Soto in the 12th minute but Mahamadou Diarra, who has been linked by the media with a move to Arsenal, equalized 20 minutes later.

Lyon midfielder Michael Essien, who said earlier in the day that he was hopeful of completing a move to English champions Chelsea, was sent off in the 74th minute for a second bookable offence.

Veira agrees personal terms with Juventus

TIRIN (Italy), 16 July—Former Arsenal captain Patrick Vieira has agreed personal terms to complete his move to Serie A champions Juventus, the Italian club said on Friday.

The Turin-based side sealed a 20-million-euro (24.38-million-US-dollar) deal with Arsenal for the French international midfielder on Thursday.

"Vieira has signed and is happy with the deal. It is all sorted out," a spokesman for the club told Reuters on Friday.

Vieira, who helped Arsenal to win seven major domestic titles during his nine-year stay, was due to be presented to the media later in the day.

Arteta to make permanent move to Everton

Madrid, 16 July—Spanish midfielder Mikel Arteta will make a permanent move from Real Sociedad to Everton subject to a passing a medical, the Primera Liga club said on Friday.

Sociedad said that Everton would pay 2.9 million euros (3.54 million US dollars) for the 23-year-old, who played on loan at Goodison Park for the second half of last season following Thomas Gravesen's departure for Real Madrid.

A former Under-21 international, Arteta began his career at Barcelona before spells at Paris St Germain and Glasgow Rangers.

He played a key role in helping Rangers win the Scottish title in 2003 when he scored a last-minute penalty in their 6-1 rout of Dunfermline Athletic in the final league game of the season as they pipped arch-rivals Celtic on goal difference. Arteta returned to his home city of San Sebastian to sign for Sociedad for 4 million euros at the start of last season, but failed to win a regular place and left for Everton during the January transfer window.

Abidal breaks foot in Lyon draw

Paris, 16 July—Olympique Lyon and France defender Eric Abidal will be out of action for up to three months with a foot injury, the Ligue 1 champions announced a week earlier.

Abidal broke his left foot when Lyon drew 1-1 with Colombian side Once Caldas in their opening game at the Peace Cup tournament in Pusan, South Korea.

"I did not feel anything when it happened. Then I left for the hospital and I have been told I could be out for 12 weeks," Abidal told the club's website.

Once Caldas took the lead through Soto in the 12th minute but Mahamadou Diarra, who has been linked by the media with a move to Arsenal, equalized 20 minutes later.

Lyon midfielder Michael Essien, who said earlier in the day that he was hopeful of completing a move to English champions Chelsea, was sent off in the 74th minute for a second bookable offence.

Veira agrees personal terms with Juventus

TURIN (Italy), 16 July—Former Arsenal captain Patrick Vieira has agreed personal terms to complete his move to Serie A champions Juventus, the Italian club said on Friday.

The Turin-based side sealed a 20-million-euro (24.38-million-US-dollar) deal with Arsenal for the French international midfielder on Thursday.

"Vieira has signed and is happy with the deal. It is all sorted out," a spokesman for the club told Reuters on Friday.

Vieira, who helped Arsenal to win seven major domestic titles during his nine-year stay, was due to be presented to the media later in the day.

Arteta to make permanent move to Everton

Madrid, 16 July—Spanish midfielder Mikel Arteta will make a permanent move from Real Sociedad to Everton subject to passing a medical, the Primera Liga club said on Friday.

Sociedad said that Everton would pay 2.9 million euros (3.54 million US dollars) for the 23-year-old, who played on loan at Goodison Park for the second half of last season following Thomas Gravesen's departure for Real Madrid.

A former Under-21 international, Arteta began his career at Barcelona before spells at Paris St Germain and Glasgow Rangers.

He played a key role in helping Rangers win the Scottish title in 2003 when he scored a last-minute penalty in their 6-1 rout of Dunfermline Athletic in the final league game of the season as they pipped arch-rivals Celtic on goal difference. Arteta returned to his home city of San Sebastian to sign for Sociedad for 4 million euros at the start of last season, but failed to win a regular place and left for Everton during the January transfer window.

Woods surges clear at St Andrews after second round

ST ANDREWS (Scotland), 16 July—Tiger Woods took control of the British Open with a flawless 67 to move four shots clear of the field late in the second round on Friday.

The world number one, a stroke ahead overnight after an opening 66, played impeccable golf to collect three birdies from the front nine and another two on the way home to put him on course to repeat his open triumph at St Andrews five years ago.

American golfer Seve Ballesteros, seeking his 10th career major, was caught at six under par by world number two Vijay Singh and South African Trevor Immelman before he started his second round, but he picked up two birdies in the first five holes to move clear once again.

Further birdies followed at the ninth, 10th and 14th holes although Weeds missed several good opportunities to extend his lead further. —Reuters

CONCACAF Gold Cup starts to hot up

CAMBRIDGE (Massachusetts), 16 July—The CONCACAF Gold Cup hots up this weekend when the tournament reaches the quarterfinal stage.

"Nobody wants to go home," US goalkeeper Kasey Keller told reporters on Friday.

"But the one difference in the Gold Cup, compared to a (World Cup) qualifier or something like that, is the no teams have their full squads here.

"That takes a minor bit of intensity out of it but gives a great opportunity for a lot of players to play three or four or five games that they normally wouldn't get... so those guys are going to be showing some intensity."

The US face Jamaica in Foxboro, Massachusetts on Saturday, the same day Costa Rica play Honduras.

Holders and four-time champions Mexico meet Colombia in Houston, Texas on Sunday. The last quarterfinal is between Panama and South Africa.

Mexican coach Ricardo La Volpe is wary of the Colombians.

"We have to respect Colombia," La Volpe said. "It's a very complicated team because it's full of youth."

"Usually, when those young players get a chance to play for their national team, they play extremely hard because they want to impress their coach."

The heavily-favoured Mexican, who earned rave reviews after reaching the semifinals of the Confederations Cup in Germany last month, resume the final phase of World Cup qualifying in August.

During the early stages of the Gold Cup, US coach Bruce Arena used 22 members of his 23-man squad.

"It's too early to make final conclusions on the newer players," said Arena.

"There things take time but this (tournament) is a good chance to evaluate them. There's a transition period for everybody."

One relative newcomer to have stone is Jamaica forward Jermaine Hue, who has scored twice for the Reggae Boyz.

"It's a very complicated team but they have some great players."

The semifinal will be played on Thursday at the Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

CBC US coach Bruce Arena used 22 members of his 23-man squad.

"It's too early to make final conclusions on the newer players," said Arena.

"There things take time but this (tournament) is a good chance to evaluate them. There's a transition period for everybody."

One relative newcomer to have stone is Jamaica forward Jermaine Hue, who has scored twice for the Reggae Boyz.

"It's a very complicated team but they have some great players."

The semifinal will be played on Thursday at the Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey.
UN panel fails to agree on how to govern Internet

UNITED NATIONS, 15 July — A group set up by the United Nations to come up with a global plan for managing the Internet said on Thursday that it has been unable to agree on who should do the job or how it should be done.

The Working Group on Internet Governance instead came up with four rival models for overseeing the web and sorting out technical and public policy questions.

In a report to be submitted to the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis in November, the group also proposed creation of a permanent forum to carry on the debate.

To understand the problem, “you must recognize that the Internet was set up largely by academics for limited use, but has grown beyond anyone’s wildest expectations, with nearly one billion users today”, Markus Kummer, the working group’s executive coordinator, said in a telephone interview.

At issue for the world body is who runs the Internet and how it can better serve the world.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has long pressed industry, government and private interest groups to try to narrow the “digital divide” and ensure that people in poor nations have greater access to the Internet.

The Internet is now loosely managed by various groups.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), for example, manages the domain name system and is under the control of the US Government.

Helping set technical standards are the International Telecommunication Union, an international organization; the private sector-led Internet Engineering Task Force, and the academia-oriented W3C.

Among the governance groups put forward by the group were a continuation of the current system, creation of a world body to address public policy issues stemming from the work of ICANN, and creation of a body to address a broader range of public policy issues.

The fourth option is to create three bodies, one to address policy issues, one for oversight and one for global coordination.

The group also recommended a coordinated global effort to combat spam, or junk e-mails, and urged that law enforcement authorities respect the right to freedom of expression when they crack down on Internet-related crimes.

MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Saturday, 16 July, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, rain or thunder-showers have been scattered in Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and widespreads in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Mandalay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myeik (2.17) inches, Mogok (2.09) inches and Homalin (1.93) inches.

Maximum temperature on 15-7-2005 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 16-7-2005 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs MST on 16-7-2005 was 88%. Total sunshine hours on 15-7-2005 was (0.8) hours approx. Rainfalls on 16-7-2005 were (0.04) inch at Mingaladon, nil at Kabay-Aye, and (0.08) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (37.36) inches at Mingaladon, (34.57) inches at Kabay-Aye and (40.32) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from southwest at (13-20) hours MST on 15-7-2005.

Bay influence: Monsoon is weak in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 17-7-2005: Rain or thunder-showers will be widespread in Kachin State, scattered in Chin, Shan and Rakhine States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: General decrease of rain in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-7-2005: Likelihood isolated rain or thunder-showers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
For extended cultivation of rubber, officials are to organize the local growers

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects extended cultivation of monsoon paddy, rubber and pepper in Thandwe, Kyaukpyu Districts

YANGON, 16 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint met with departmental personnel at the office of Thandwe District Peace and Development Council in Thandwe on 13 July morning.

Local authorities reported on agriculture, livestock breeding and administration matters of Thandwe Township and District.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that Thandwe Township and District are to extend cultivation of monsoon paddy to meet the target of 1.1 million acres in 2005-06. It is necessary to draw the plan on sanitation and beautifying of Thandwe for sightseeing of tourists.

Three main points — peace and stability and prevalence of law and order, economic growth, development of human resources — are the drive for emergence of a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

Therefore, systematic plans are to be laid down for restoring peace and stability and prevalence of law and order in the region.

He stressed the need to carry out agriculture and livestock breeding tasks with concerted efforts for economic development, and to put the land under 10 main crops of the State, rubber and pepper.

For extended cultivation of rubber, officials are to organize the local growers by giving educative talks and necessary assistance.

Furthermore, he said that efforts are to be made for boosting the paddy per-acre yield and cultivation of double cropping, and speeding up production of sea water prawn. Local authorities are to try to achieve greater progress of the region by joining hands with the local people.

(See page 9)

Over 120,000 various saplings planted in Yangon Station

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe plants a sapling at Yangon Station tree planting ceremony.

YANGON COMMAND

YANGON, 16 July — Tree planting ceremony of Yangon Station of Yangon Command took place at the station in Mayangon Township this morning. It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thein Hlay Maj-Gen Myint Swe in his address, said that Yangon Command holds the ceremony every year with the aim of conserving the forest. Yangon Station had been holding the first ceremony in the command. Planting tree is conducive to the posterity. Tatmadawmen and their families of the command are to take part in the greening project of 30-mile radius Yangon International Airport all the year round, noted the commander.

Yangon Station Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint, Col Myint Soe of Yangon Station and Director U Khin Win of Forestry Department reported on progress of planting trees and conserving them to the commander. At the ceremony, the commander and wife delivered the saplings to those present.

The commander and wife planted the saplings to mark the ceremony. The officials then grew the assorted saplings. The commander and party viewed round planting of the saplings and the ceremony ended. Over 120,000 various saplings were planted today.— MNA

Minister for Industry-1 inspects textile mills in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 16 July — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Managing Director of Myanma Textiles Industries U Oo Thein Maung and officials inspected construction of Textile Mill (Myittha) near Langwa Village in Myittha Township on 15 July.

The minister inspected storage of electrical and construction materials and scale model of the mill. He told officials concerned to finish the work in time. Member of the Secretariat of the USDA U Aung Thaung met secretaries and executives of Kyaukse, Singaing, Myittha and TadaU Township USDA.

They reported on the future tasks and public welfare services. U Aung Thaung fulfilled the requirements and discussed implementation of five rural development tasks with greater momentum and emphasis on public welfare services.

The minister inspected Wundwin Textile Mill and gave instructions on minimizing loss and wastage, reduction of expenditure, quality of the product and fire prevention measures.

He also inspected sale of food-stuff at Winthuzar shop in Meiktila.

(See page 7)