Established 1914

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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 preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets with officers, other ranks at An Station, fulfils requirements for regional development

Yangon, 19 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tin Hlaing, on 16 July met with officers and other ranks and their families of An Station in An, Kyaukphyu District, Rakhine State. At the meeting, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged officials concerned to fulfill the needs of the families in education, social and health sector and to cooperate with local people in regional development tasks.

(See page 8)

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, accompanied by departmental officials, on 17 July inspected the monsoon paddy cultivation in Kyauktaga Township and Pyu Township and Pyuchaung multi-purpose dam project which is under construction in Pyu township.

At the briefing hall of the project, Assistant Director of the Irrigation Department U Myint Aung reported on digging of the 2,477-foot-long diversion tunnel and arrangements for construction of spillway. Next, Director-General U Kyaw San Win of the Irrigation Department also gave a supplementary report. After hearing reports, the minister gave instructions on timely completion of the project and urged the officials to cooperate with respective departments in hydel power supply tasks. Next, the minister inspected completed part of the diversion tunnel using machinery and construction of the power intake structure by Hydel Power Department.

Upon completion, Pyuchaung multi-purpose dam project will

(See page15)
For all Buddhists to gain Waso merit

Today, the Fullmoon Day of Waso, is a day of extraordinary virtue, signifying as it does the commencement of the holy retreat for all the Buddhist monks and because on this very day, countless deeds of merit are being done by countless number of pious and virtuous people in all parts of the nation as they offer Waso robes to members of the Sangha who are preparing for the retreat.

Better known to the Buddhists as the Dhammacakka Day, significance of the Fullmoon Day of Waso can be seen in that it was the day on which the Buddha-to-be Prince Siddhattha was conceived, the day on which he renounced the worldly life and the day on which the Lord Buddha delivered His First Sermon—Dhammacakka Pavattana Sutta—to His Five Disciples in the Deer Park (Sarnath) soon after the Enlightenment.

The Dhammacakka Pavattana Sutta is one of the most important discourses of the Buddha as it embodies the basic doctrine of the Dhamma. The Buddha expounded the Four Noble Truths—the truth of suffering, the truth of cause of suffering, the truth of cessation of suffering and the truth of the way leading to cessation of suffering.

The Lord Buddha pointed out the nature of suffering and unhappiness. He held that all existence is painful, and that pain is a product of craving, and that the cease of craving will result in the end of pain. By this, He provided the path to liberation from all the ills of this existence is painful, and that pain is a product of craving, and that the cease of craving will result in the end of pain. By this, He provided the path to liberation from all the ills of this life.

This holy occasion is an opportunity for gaining merit through offering robes and alms to members of the Sangha or practising meditations, alms and other essentials to members of the Sangha or practising meditations.

As regards offering alms such as robes and other offerings to members of the Sangha, it is virtuous in itself, for the offerings presented on this occasion would be used by the monks during the Lent of absolute devotion to meditation and strictest observance of their code of conduct.

It is not everyone who can forsake worldly pleasures or even the responsibilities of worldly conduct. As regards offering alms such as robes and other offerings to members of the Sangha, it is virtuous in itself, for the offerings presented on this occasion would be used by the monks during the Lent of absolute devotion to meditation and strictest observance of their code of conduct.

MVA holds Waso Robe Offering Ceremony

YANGON, 19 July—The 8th Mass Waso Robe offering ceremony of the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association took place at Aungmingalar Monastery of Kayin-seik-sanpya village in Thanlyin township this morning.

Those attendance at the ceremony kept the Five Precepts through offering robes to the members of Sangha. Then, they presented 800,000 Kyats for the building of a rural clinic. After that, the Sayadaw gave a sermon and shared merits gained.

Because of Lord Buddha’s goodness

With harbouring thoughts, saying what’s unvirtuous
Or committing such acts
Always keeping the mind under control
As if Lord Buddha who preacheth
I supplicate in all humility
In my act of “puja”
He preacheth committance
To all thoughts, words and Deeds that are virtuous
To the Lord’s entire charity
I supplicate in all humility
In my act of “puja”
Harbouring thoughts clean and virtuous
And doing good deeds was preached
By the virtuous Lord
As if we were living, unmatched
I keep Him in my thoughts
In my act of “puja”
The virtuous preachings of Buddha
The three Virtues, we in Myanmar
Hold in this land, as innate roots
What he preacheth, the cure for all mundane ailing, variegated
To overcome them, as an elixir
Because of Lord Buddha’s goodness.

Shoon Mya Aung

Win Thuza Shop opened in Loikaw, Kayah State

YANGON, 19 July—Ministry of Industry-1 has opened Win Thuza shops, 13 in Yangon and 34 in other towns across the country, selling clothes, foodstuffs, consumer goods, paper and chemicals to the public at a reasonable price.

Yesterday, a new Win Thuza Shop was opened in Loikaw, Kayah State. The opening ceremony was attended by Kayah State Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Hla Myint Shwe and wife, Managing Director U Soe Yi of Myanma Ceramics Industries, officials, departmental staff, members of social organizations and town elders. U Soe Yi extended greetings on the occasion and explained the purpose of the opening of the shop. Next, U Soe Yi and Kayah State PDC Secretary Lt-Col Win Tun formally opened the shop and Chairman Col Hla Myint Shwe formally unveiled the signboard of the shop.

The guests viewed the shop. At the shop 198 kinds of goods worth K 25,34 million are put on sale. On the very opening of the day the people bought goods worth K 4 million.

Paper reading session on knowledge bank on 23 July

YANGON, 19 July—A paper reading session on knowledge bank will be held at the lecture hall on the second floor of Sarpay Behkman Building, No 529, Merchant Street, at noon on 23 July 2005. At the paper reading session, Sayamagyi Daw Kyan (Ma Kyan) and Dr Myint Hlaig will read their papers, and those interested may attend the session.

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
Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Over 500 Villagers donate blood to mark Dhammacakka Day

YANGON, 19 July —The 52nd blood donation ceremony to mark the Full Moon Day of Waso (Dhammacakka Day) was held on 17 July in Hlsueng Village in Myinmun Township, Sagaing Division.

Over 500 blood donors from the village led by Shwehtitsaung Sayadaw Ashin Ardicca Lankara of Thirnmonastery of Hlsueng Village donated blood at the ceremony.

After the ceremony, Sayadaw Ashin Ardicca Lankara (First Class in Social Field) who has donated blood for 87 times handed over the blood bottles to Medical Superintendent of Mandalay General Hospital Dr U Win.

Doctors and staff of the hospital presented the donors with refreshments.

On 16 June, blood donors recited the verses of Dhamma to mark the Dhammacakka Day at the monastery in the village.
Cambodia unveils Phnom Penh development plan

PHNOM PENH, 19 July—The Bureau of Urban Affairs of Phnom Penh Municipality has made a plan to expand the city and build major new infrastructures by 2020 to accommodate Phnom Penh's growing economic activities and population, local Press reported on Monday.

Chhay Ruthsen, chief of the Municipality's Department of Basic Construction and Land Planning, said on Friday that the Phnom Penh area will be broadened north, south, east and west, with Wat Phnom as the central point and city limits forming a radius of 30 kilometres, the Chinese-language newspaper The Commercial News reported. The area opposite Chaktomuk River will be developed into a "new" area and some urban zones will become Phnom Penh affiliated towns.

Growing annually by 3.2 per cent, the capital's population is expected to reach 2.5 million by 2020. Necessary infrastructure to be built includes roads, boulevards, canals and a railway system to link the city's growing and dispersed areas, according to The Cambodian Press Review.

High-rise buildings, which are absent from Phnom Penh's skyline, will be built at the entrances of the city and by the river and lake, said The Commercial News. To fund the future boom of the city, the Phnom Penh Municipality will promote investment in the construction of buildings and apartments.

Phnom Penh Governor Kep Chukema, on a visit to Bangkok last week, has said that the capital has 569 poor communities with 25 per cent living on public land, which he said is a problem that needs to be solved, reported Khmer newspaper Island of Peace.

To reduce the number of poor communities, the city is seeking partners to improve the city's urbanization.

Vietnam's biggest drug trafficking ring brought to court

HANOI, 19 July—A total of 22 local people involved in the biggest-ever drug trafficking ring in Vietnam with nearly one tons of heroin transported from Laos are to face trial on Monday.

The ring led by a 29-year-old man named Pham Van Phuong from Hanoi capital have transported nearly 3,000 cakes of heroin from Laos to Vietnam's northern region in recent years, local newspaper Pioneer reported Monday. After arresting Phuong and his accomplices in November 2003 when they were transported heroin through the Vietnamese province of Phu Tho, local police detected many branches of the ring in different northern localities, including Hanoi and Son La Province. The ring has nearly 100 members.

Thailand to expand spa services in China

BANGKOK, 19 July—Thailand's Public Health Ministry will open a new branch of spa services in southwestern China's Yunnan Province to expand the country's spa industry.

The new branch is expected to be open and start operation in September this year as Thai spa services as well as its herbal plant product have been increasingly popular in China. Deputy Public Health Minister Anuthin Charnveerakul was quoted by Bangkok Post newspaper as saying on Monday.

Earlier, the ministry has joined in a Thai spa business in China's Shanghai, whose operation was proved to be a success.

Indonesia, GAM to sign peace deal in August

JAKARTA, 19 July—The Indonesian Government and the separatist Free Aceh Movement (GAM) will officially sign a truce on 15 August, Media Indonesia quoted Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla as saying on Monday in Jakarta.

Kalla made the statement after both sides signed their final draft of peace during the fifth informal meeting held on Sunday in Finland, Helsinki, in efforts to end decades-conflict that has claimed over tens of thousands of lives. Kalla said that among the agreement were withdrawal of government troops and handover the rebel's weapons, which would be done at the same time.

Minister says Indonesia should be fully prepared for ACFTA

JAKARTA, 19 July—Indonesian Minister of Trade Mari E Pangestu here on Sunday told local media that both the government and enterprises should be fully prepared to embrace the launch of the biggest free trade area between the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China (ACFTA) to ensure that it would be beneficial for the country.

"The government will assist small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), through partnership programs, capacity building and providing microcredit, in preparation for the free trade area," the Jakarta Post on Monday quoted her as saying.

The government realized that Indonesia's competitiveness would depend heavily on its effort to curb rampant corruption and red tape, relax the rigid labor law, improve tax rates and administration, guarantee legal certainty and work on the country's ailments infrastructure, she said.

Nevertheless, as the bulk of all goods traded would have their import duties gradually reduced to zero by 2010, the country's manufacturers still have time, albeit limited, to anticipate the full impact of ACFTA, she added. Meanwhile, the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin)'s product development and marketing committee head, Thomas Darmawan, said that China was far more ready than Indonesia in embracing ACFTA. "They have new factories, built in integrated areas, producing low-end products ready to penetrate the ASEAN market," Thomas said. Indonesia has to be ready to facilitate Chinese manufacturers to expand production here, he added.

"In order to do so, Indonesia must have a lobby team in China that moves to convince Chinese industry players, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore have had such teams for years," said Thomas.

In addition, Anton Supit, a top executive at the Indonesian Employers Association (Apindo), said that the 2010 liberalization schedule should provide more than enough time, but only if the government succeeded in waking up the local private sector.

1,770 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 18 July—As of Monday, 18 July, 2005, at least 1,770 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,360 died as a result of hostile action. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is six higher than the Defence Department's tally, last updated at 10 am EDT on Monday.

The British military has reported 92 deaths; Italy, 25; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,631 US military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 1,251 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.
China to revise Criminal Procedural Law

BEIJING, 19 July — China’s top legislature has put the revision of the Criminal Procedural Law into its five-year legislation plan to prevent and control the widespread use of torture to extract confessions.

An official with the Commission of Legislative Affairs under the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC), who asked to remain anonymous, said the current Criminal Procedural Law, which was enacted in July 1979 and revised in 1996, is ineffective. He disclosed that legal experts were making a field study on the revision of the law, but have not started to draft its amendment. The amendment draft of the Criminal Procedural Law will be submitted to the top legislature for deliberation in 2006 and is expected to be voted on for adoption in 2007.

The current Criminal Procedural Law has 226 items. However the number of judicial interpretations and regulations making up the law, formulated by the Supreme People’s Court, the Supreme People’s Procuratorate and the Ministry of Public Security, exceeds 1,400. The numerous judicial interpretations and regulations restrain each other, undermining the authority of the Criminal Procedural Law, said Chen Weidong, Professor of the People’s University.

Chinese law experts believe that the Chinese legislature has made a final decision to revise the Criminal Procedural Law, primarily based on a report on the implementation of the Criminal Procedural Law conducted by the Standing Committee of the NPC in 2000. Hou Zongbin, director of the Committee of the Internal and Judicial Affairs of the NPC said in his report that the most severe problem he found in his study of the implementation of the law in six provinces is the use of torture to extract confessions. — MNA/Xinhua

Traffic accidents up in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, 18 July — Although various traffic management infrastructures are in place, the number of road accidents continues to go up in Nepali capital, the Kathmandu Valley.

Over 2,500 accidents took place during 11 months — mid-July 2004 to mid-June 2005 — 300 more than the same period of last year, statistics from Valley Traffic Police Office show on Monday.

The number of accidents increased to 2,537 from last year’s 2,222, and there was no significant decrease in number of deaths due to accidents. There were 123 accident deaths last year, which came down to only 122 this year, superintendent of police at the office, Romendra Singh Deuja told reporters.

According to Deuja, more than 295,000 vehicles have been registered at the Department of Transport Management. The flow of vehicles from outside the valley is also adding to the total number of vehicles, which the limited road network of only 702 kilometres in the valley cannot support. Besides, severe violation of traffic rules by young and drunk motorcyclists and microbus and rickshaw drivers, coupled with encroachment of road by footpath vendors, pedestrians and unmanaged cattle are other causes of increasing traffic accidents, Deuja noted. — MNA/Xinhua

Kyrgyz President-elect calls for US to pull out of base

MOSCOW, 18 July — Kyrgyzstan’s newly elected President Kurmanbek Bakiyev stressed on Sunday that with the appeasement of the situation in Afghanistan, it is the time for the United States to schedule its pullout of forces from the base in his country.

“The situation in Afghanistan is really different (from 2001): a President has been elected, parliamentary elections have also taken place, and as the situation has changed, why not envisage this question?” Bakiyev said in an interview with Russian television on Sunday.

The base was established in 2001 during the US-led campaign to topple nearby Afghanistan’s Taliban leadership and remains a staging post for US-led operations in Afghanistan.

Bakiyev reiterated that he is to hold negotiations with US officials over the dismantlement of military base from the Central Asian country in the foreseeable future.

He said that at the recent summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), leaders of the six member countries specified that, with the change of situation in Afghanistan, it is necessary for members of the anti-terror alliance to determine a deadline for their usage of the facilities of SCO member countries and their military presence in these countries.

In 2001, the US Government asked if they could establish a base on Kyrgyz territory for the struggle against terrorism and Kyrgyzstan agreed, but as it was not clear how long the war in Afghanistan was going to last, the agreement had no time limit, Bakiyev recalled during the television interview.

But now as the situation is different in Afghanistan, it is about time to discuss the pullout.

Some 1,500 troops from the United States and the NATO countries were stationed at the base at the Manas International Airport. Besides Kyrgyzstan, the United States also have troops stationed in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. — MNA/Xinhua

Report says Britain’s role in Iraq makes it more vulnerable to terrorism

LONDON, 18 July— A respected British research centre on Monday criticized Britain’s US-friendly policy in Iraq, saying British involvement there had put the country at greater risk of terrorist attacks.

The report stopped short of linking Britain’s Iraq role to the 7 July mass transit attacks, which killed at least 56 people in London. But it said Britain’s involvement in Iraq had kept the country from devoting full attention to defending itself from terrorist attacks.

Critics of Bush administration policy in Iraq have made similar accusations in the United States, but Monday’s report was particularly contentious because of its timing — British police are still tallying the dead from the 7 July attacks — and because it was issued by Chatham House, Britain’s most prestigious foreign policy think tank, which has a reputation for non-partisanship.

The report was written by two leading British academics on national security issues, Frank Gregory of the University of Southampton and Paul Wilkinson of the University of St Andrews in Scotland.

They wrote that “the situation over Iraq” had benefited Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaeda network by giving “a boost” to its “propaganda, recruitment and fundraising,” splitting its opponents, providing it with a training ground and diverting resources that could have been devoted to assisting the government in Afghanistan and hunting down bin Laden.

Using the word for a seat behind the rider of a horse or motorcycle, the authors criticized the government’s willingness to let the United States guide its actions in Iraq.

“Riding pillion with a powerful ally has proved costly in terms of British and US military lives, Iraqi lives, military expenditure, and the damage caused to the counter-terrorism campaign”, they wrote.

Cops crack down on night walkers in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, 18 July — The Kathmandu Valley Police launched a campaign to apprehend suspicious persons walking during night, Valley Police Office said on Monday.

“The campaign is aimed at making the Valley free from crimes,” said Krishna Basnet, deputy inspector general of Valley Police Office.

“We are especially aware during the night because crime rate is comparatively higher in the evening and night,” Basnet noted.

In the last two days, police have taken 90 persons into custody, according to Basnet. “The persons taken into custody will be freed if not involving in any crimes after necessary interrogation finishes in three to four days,” Basnet added.

MNA/Xinhua
Shaanxi to offer free herbal therapy to AIDS sufferers

Xi’an, 18 July — Northwest China’s Shaanxi Province has decided to offer free herbal therapy to 50 AIDS patients and HIV carriers in the province in the coming 12 months.

A document issued by the provincial health department last week said the move will be part of the province’s efforts to treat and prevent HIV/AIDS with traditional Chinese medicine.

The free treatment, which is expected to start by the end of July, will hopefully ease pains and enhance immunity for AIDS patients and provide early intervention to postpone as much as possible the development of HIV into AIDS, said Yuan Ruishua, deputy director of the provincial administration of traditional Chinese medicine.

“In the coming days we’ll obtain a clear picture of how the AIDS patients and HIV-carriers are distributed in the province and solicit volunteers who are willing to get the therapy,” Yuan told Xinhua in an interview.

He said the budget for the 12-month treatment is 250,000 yuan (30,000 US dollars), which is to cover the herbal therapy and immunity tests for all the 50 volunteers and training of doctors and nurses who are to provide the therapy.

The provincial health department said Shaanxi Province reported 75 new HIV/AIDS infections in the first six months of this year, bringing the province’s total number of infections to 357.

Ministry of Health figures say there are 840,000 HIV carriers on the Chinese Mainland, of whom 80,000 are suffering from AIDS.

Traditional Chinese herbal medicine has proven effective in fighting various viruses and diseases through enhancing the human immune system, which is the very target of the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV.

Four US soldiers wounded in Afghan blast

KABUL, 18 July — Four US soldiers were wounded in Afghanistan when their vehicle was hit by a blast in a restive southeastern province, the US military said on Sunday.

It was the latest in a wave of violent incidents in the troubled country, where Taliban guerrillas and their Islamic militant allies have stepped up attacks on Afghan US-led forces ahead of parliamentary elections in September. Dozens have been killed in recent weeks.

By far the worst incident was the blast near a Shiite mosque which caused devastation in the mixed Sunni and Shiite town, in the centre of a violent area dubbed by US forces the “triangle of death”.

A suicide bomber blew up a fuel truck near a crowded vegetable market outside the mosque.

In addition to the 98 killed, hospital sources said 75 wounded were being treated, including 19 in a serious condition.

On Sunday, angry crowds railed against the authorities outside buildings gutted by flame, while bulldozers swept aside the burnt-out wreckage of cars.

At a tense session in Parliament, politicians assailed the government for failing to maintain security and called for local militia to be formed to replace failed police and soldiers.

Britain could start pullout from Iraq

LONDON, 18 July — Britain could start scaling back its military presence in Iraq over the next 12 months, Secretary of Defence John Reid said on Sunday.

“I believe it is a process that could start — no more than that — over the next 12 months,” the Defence Secretary said in an interview with the US cable news network CNN, adding that he wanted Iraq’s own forces to take over responsibility for security.

Reid made the remarks when he was asked to comment on a leaked memorandum, published in a British newspaper, which said that Britain is considering scaling back its troop presence from current 8,500 to 3,000 by the middle of 2006.

He said neither Britain nor the United States had “imperialist ambitions” in Iraq and expressed the belief that Iraqis can “gradually” take control of their own security and counter-terrorism. “But we will not be going unless and until they are in a position to do that, so it will be conditional withdrawal, not set to any immutable time scale,” he added.

In a later interview with British Sky News television on Sunday, Reid admitted the security situation in Iraq was deteriorating, as more than 100 people were killed and hundreds more wounded in a series of suicide bombings over the weekend in Iraq.

“And the reason that is getting worse and greater, is that in terms of democratic control and the formation of their own security forces the (Iraqi) position is getting better,” he explained.

Chinese DM stresses developing friendly cooperation with Vanuatu

BEIJING, 19 July — Chinese Defence Minister Cao Gangchuan stressed here on Monday that China is willing to develop friendly cooperation with Vanuatu.

Cao, also vice-chairman of the Chinese Central Military Commission and state councilor, made the remarks during talks with visiting Vanuatu’s Minister of Internal Affairs George Wells, who is also in charge of national defence.

“China has all along attached importance to developing friendly coop- erative ties with Vanuatu on the basis of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence,” Cao said.

To establish and develop friendly cooperation between the two countries in defence affairs will help boost the all-round development of bilateral relations, he said.

“China is willing to work along with Vanuatu to carry out exchanges and cooperation in defence affairs on the basis of equality and mutual benefit,” he said.

Cao also briefed the guest on China’s social and economic development and stance on the Taiwan question.

2005 Int’l Human Settlements Meeting to be held in Nanning

NANNING, 19 July — A major international meeting on human settle- ments is scheduled to be held in Nanning, capital city of south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Auton- omous Region later this year, announced organiz- ers.

The 2005 Interna- tional Human Settlements Meeting, jointly spon- sored by the United Na- tions Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Chinese Ministry of Construction, will commence in Nanning from November 9 to 11, making Nanning the fifth Chinese city to host an international congrega- tion on human settle- ments, after Chengdu, Hangzhou, Baotou and Weihai.

The meeting’s theme will be urban sustainable development and is expected to attract Chinese and overseas planners and experts. Participants may also take the opportunity to showcase the develop- ment achievements of their respective cities at an exhibition to be staged on the sideline of the meeting.

Sadr says resistance in Iraq ‘legitimate’

BAGHDAD, 18 July — Radical cleric Moqtada Sadr, who led uprisings against US troops in Iraq, says armed resistance against the occupation is “legiti- mate.”

In an interview with BBC’s Newsnight, to be broadcast Monday night, Sadr said even US President George Bush would agree fighting an occupying force was the correct course of action.

However, he did call upon Iraqis to exercise restraint with US troops, who want to “provoke them.”

He also said he would not interfere with the demo- cratic process, saying, “Whoever wants to take part, let him do so.”

“Resistance is legitimate at all levels be it religious, intellectual and so on,” Sadr said.

Sadr argued the presence of foreign troops was at the root of Iraq’s current problems.
China for more economic cooperation with Uzbekistan

TASHKENT, 19 July — Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi appealed on Monday to both Chinese and Uzbek entrepreneurs to increase mutual investment and expand economic and technical cooperation after the bilateral relations between the two nations have entered a new stage.

Addressing a forum of Chinese and Uzbek entrepreneurs, Wu said China and Uzbekistan, as neighbours with sound political relations and complementary economies, have the privilege and necessity to expand their economic cooperation.

The establishment of friendly cooperative relations between the two countries offers a broad prospect for further economic development, Wu said.

In her speech “Creating a Mutually-beneficial and Cooperative Tomorrow for China and Uzbekistan”, Wu offered four suggestions for the entrepreneurs.

First, the two countries explore the industries of each other and cooperate in those areas which are complementary. Emphasis should be put on mechanical equipment, telecommunications, household electronics, textiles, in which China has advantages, and oil, mineral resources, cotton and other products which Uzbekistan is rich of.

Secondly, explore new ways of cooperation besides traditional ones. The two sides could cooperate in household appliances, computer, soil amelioration and agricultural while continuing to push forward the cooperation in oil and natural gas, minerals, infrastructure construction, chemical industry and power production.

Thirdly, improve trade and investment environment through strengthening coordination. The two governments create an open, transparent and safe environment for trade and investment, and provide better services and convenience to entrepreneurs of both countries.

Fourthly, sincere cooperation for common development. The Chinese side is willing to increase financial support for Uzbekistan’s economic development. The Chinese side would also share technology and experience of management with Uzbekistan.

MNA/Xinhua

Spain to speed up investment in west China

CHENGDU, 19 July — With the Spanish Government shifting its investment focus to west China, its “China Programme”, launched this May, will allure more Spanish companies to the vast and underdeveloped region, said a Spanish official here on Monday.

Ricardo Blazquez, director of Spanish Valencia Autonomous Region foreign trade bureau’s Shanghai office, said “the Chinese Mainland has already become an indispensable part of economic globalization, which has attracted many Spanish entrepreneurs”.

He said the energy-abundant western part of China will become one of the world’s most important markets, which should not be neglected by any nations or individuals. The Spanish Government issued a “China Programme” this May, aiming to strengthen its economic relationship with China.

The programme said the Chinese market will be given priority in Spain’s overseas development. It also promised to invest 690 million euros in China in the next three years, mainly developing trade and tourism.

The Spanish Government is paying increasing attention to investment in west China. The first Sino-Spanish foreign trade office in the western region is under construction. Spain started its economic cooperation with China in the 1980s in the eastern coastal provinces.

In 1994, Valencia Autonomous Region established a sister province relation with southwest China’s Sichuan Province. Since then, the vast west of China has aroused great interest in the Spanish business circle, said Huang Xiaoxiang, vice-governor of Sichuan. In 1999, Sichuan imported a vegetable plastic wrap production line from the Spanish FOMESO company, starting west China’s economic cooperation with Spain.

Three years later, a Spanish Baroque furniture centre was founded in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan. The official said the project, with an investment of more than 100 million yuan (about 12 million US dollars), signified that the potential of the west China market had already been recognized by the Spanish investors.

MNA/Xinhua

Senior Talib commander detained

KARUL, 18 July — Afghan National Army (ANA) has captured a senior Talib commander in the restive Uruzgan Province, Defence Ministry spokesman said on Sunday.

“Our troops during an operation in Charchino District of Uruzgan Province detained Talib’s senior commander Mullah Abdul Rashid last Thursday,” Zahir Azimi told reporters at a Press conference.

Rashid, according to the spokesman, was an important military figure of the Talib movement in the insurgency-hit southern region.

“Seven assault rifles and nine band grenades were also recovered from Rashid’s possession,” Azimi added.

MNA/Xinhua

Heavy monsoon rains kill 12 in northeast India

GUWAHATI (India), 18 July — Torrential rains lashed northeastern India on Sunday causing heavy flooding that killed at least 12 people and left more than 100,000 homeless.

Thousands in the tea-rich state of Assam took shelter in railway stations and government buildings as their homes filled with waist-deep water.

With many rivers running above danger levels, roads and bridges were washed away, disrupting food and medical supplies to people displaced from their homes.

MNA/Reuters

Wild panda “thief” leads chase through Chinese city

BEIJING, 18 July — A wild giant panda which wandered into a southwestern Chinese city on the weekend led would-be rescuers on a day-long chase before it was captured and returned to the wild, the China Daily reported on Monday.

The animal was first spotted early Saturday morning in Dujianyang, a city in Sichuan Province, and was pursued by residents of a housing complex who initially thought it was a cat but later, it said.

The panda managed to escape by climbing over roofs and disappearing through an iron gate into darkness.

“The panda was amazingly agile and totally different from those at the zoos,” a witness, surnamed Xu, was quoted as saying.

Several hours later, police received reports that the panda had been sighted in a river, the newspaper said.

Police observed the swimming panda until it stopped to climb a tree on the riverbank, where it stayed until daybreak.

“Haitang” moves toward Fujian Province

FUZHOU, 18 July — Typhoon Haitang landed eastern Taiwan on Monday morning and is moving toward the coast of northern and central Fujian Province, east China, with force 12 wind at its centre, the Fujian provincial meteorological station said on Monday.

As a result, 19 flights flying from Hong Kong to Taiwan were cancelled and another 25 flights are expected to be delayed to Monday noon or afternoon, according to reports from Hong Kong. Twenty-four flights from Taiwan to Hong Kong will also be cancelled.

The provincial meteorological station of Fujian, which sees Taiwan across the sea, forecast that Typhoon Haitang would land the coast between Quanzhou and Ningde cities of the province early Tuesday morning or Tuesday noon.

According to the weather station, fresh gales swept over the coastal areas of northern and central Fujian on Monday morning and force 7-8 wind were reported in southern coastal areas of the province. The weather station forecast heavy rains with gales may strike most part of Fujian from Monday night to Tuesday day, with rainstorms likely to pelt Ningde, Fuzhou and Putian in the coming two days.

MNA/Xinhua

Workers prepare steel sheets before they are pressed into car parts at the Geely auto factory in Ningbo, China, on 18 July, 2005. —INTERNET

Peach Sticks are seen in this handout photo. The art of preserving fruits and vegetables is being learned by a new audience—immigrants to Canada from Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Far East. —INTERNET

The provincial meteorological station of Fujian, which sees Taiwan across the sea, forecast that Typhoon Haitang would land the coast between Quanzhou and Ningde cities of the province early Tuesday morning or Tuesday noon.
Rats invade central Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 19 July — Hong Kong’s central business district, famous for gleaming skyscrapers and fashionable bars, is facing an invasion of rats.

Between January and June, the densely populated area’s rodent infestation rate swelled to 17 per cent from zero, based on the number of rats attracted to every 100 pieces of bait.

“Central was virtually rat-free a few months ago, then the situation deteriorated. We have to tackle the problem actively. What is important is sustained action,” said Ho Yuk-yan, a consultant with the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department. He attributed the influx to poor vigilance at restaurants in the area’s old, rundown and poorly-maintained buildings and maze of dank alleyways.

Government officers are distributing pamphlets to educate restaurant workers about hygiene, food storage, rubbish disposal and rat prevention. Workers were also putting out poisoned bait.

The district is now the second-worst rat infested area in Hong Kong, behind a shopping centre in rural New Territories. A rodent infestation rate above 20 per cent is considered high.

Iran stresses avoidance of double standards in stemming terrorism

TEHERAN, 19 July — Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi on Sunday stressed the importance of eradicating the root causes of terrorism and avoiding double standards in the anti-terrorism combat, the official IRNA news agency reported.

“In our view, dealing with the root causes of terrorism and avoiding double standards and discriminatory approaches are prerequisites for eradication of terrorism,” Kharazi was quoted as saying at the opening ceremony of the International Conference on the United Nations Reforms held in Teheran. Kharazi did not elaborate on the so-called root causes but called for a “comprehensive definition of terrorism.”

“To combat the ominous phenomenon, a comprehensive definition of terrorism is needed not to give an excuse to powerful states to suppress liberation struggles of nations under occupation,” he said.

The minister further condemned the unilateralism and power politics of some countries under the anti-terrorism disguise.

“In our world today, unilateralism and the temptations of the powerful states to use force against weaker states are part of the real threats that seriously jeopardize peace, security and development,” Kharazi stressed.

The International Conference on United Nations Reforms, sponsored by Iranian Foreign Ministry, opened here on Sunday.

Representatives from 20 countries and Iran attended the conference.

Belarus orders out US professor

MINSK, 19 July — Belarus on Monday gave a US professor at a state university 24 hours to leave the former Soviet country — three days after ordering out a European diplomat.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Vasily Vanshina said the state’s institutions had refused to extend Boeck’s registration. She declined to elaborate why the US Embassy declined to comment. Professor Terry Boeck denounced the move, saying Belarus was trying to tie itself of Western interference in local elections in 2006. “Before participating in the 2006 presidential election Belarusian President (Alexander) Lukashenko has started a massive clean-up aimed at representatives of the West,” he said in a letter posted on opposition website www.charter97.org.

Lukashenko has accused the West of plotting to overthrow him through a popular revolution. The government said Friday it has given Andrey Boeck, a US diplomatic adviser at the Polish Embassy in Minsk, until July 21 to leave the country in retaliation for the expulsion of a Belarus diplomat from Poland.

Belarus had expelled another Polish diplomat and a Czech diplomat in recent months. Poland and Belarus dispute who started the round of diplomatic expulsions.

Concerts to be held to display traditional Chinese Taoist music

BEIJING, 19 July — More than 90 Taoist musicians from the Chinese mainland have left here Sunday for Taipei to attend three concerts that will be held in late July and early Autumn to showcase the country’s thousand-year-long traditional Taoist music.

Jointly sponsored by top Taoist associations from the two sides, the programmes of the Cross-Straits Taoist Music Concerts will include ones by both Mainland and Taiwan based choirs. The concerts will be respectively held on 20 July, 26 July, and 3 August, in Taibei, Tainan and Taizhong, three key places in south, south and central Taiwan.

According to the China Taoist Association (CTA), the long-awaited performance will be the largest exchange activity between the Taoists from across the Taiwan Straits, which they believe will play greater role in promoting further exchanges between the Taoist followers from the two sides.

Five of the mainland’s most famous Taoist music choirs from Longhu Mountain, Suzhou, Wudang Mountain, Qingcheng Mountain and Qingyang Temple, will all deliver their masterpieces to the audience.

“The event is one that bears deep cultural characteristics,” said CTA vice-president Zhang Jiyu, who is also head of the Mainland music delegation. “We Mainland Taoists attach great significance to it.”

Taoism from the two sides, he said, have grown from the same root and shared the same origins and the same belief.

“The purpose that we hold the performance is to set up a platform that serves to channel the feeling and souls of the people from the two sides so as to jointly promote China’s traditional culture,” said Zhang.

Taoist music is one used by Taoists when holding ceremonies, celebrate the birthdays of gods, pray for good fortune, subdue or get rid of evils, release souls from purgatory and other religious activities.

As one of the world’s most ancient religious music, Taoist music contains the basic religious belief and aesthetic theory both in music pattern and rhyme, forming their own characteristics.

As a major part of China’s traditional music, Taoist music have many works rendered as masterpieces of China’s folk music.

S’pore to take more measures to prevent terrorist attacks

SINGAPORE, 19 July — Singapore is planning to deploy explosive detection dog teams at subway stations to carry out surprise checks, Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan announced at Parliament on Monday.

Closed-circuit television cameras (CCTVs) will also be installed at bus interchanges to help detect suspicious situations, added Tan, who is concurrently the Coordinating Minister for Security and Defence.

Calling terrorist attacks a transnational threat, Tan reiterated that Singaporeans should remain vigilant, get psychologically prepared, and keep social cohesion across different ethnic and religious groups provided such attacks occur.

Singapore has stepped up its security immediately after the bomb blasts targeting the London transport system on July 7, which left more than 50 people dead and over 800 injured.

Iranian professor given 24 hours to leave

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

The first eight prove successful

BEIJING, 19 July — China has achieved phenomenal progress in the reform of its rural credit cooperatives over the past two years, Li Wei, vice-chairman of the Banking Regulatory Commission (BRC) said here on Monday.

“It’s a marvelous achievement for the rural credit cooperatives to shake off the losses of more than 300 billion yuan (36.28 billion US dollars) in 2003 to realize a capital adequacy ratio of 2.49 per cent,” Li was quoted as saying by Monday’s China Securities Daily.

BRC statistics revealed that by March, the capital adequacy ratio of China’s rural credit cooperatives grew 10.94 percentage points since the end of 2002.

The first eight provinces to start reforming rural credit cooperatives have found their capital adequacy ratios had risen as high as 8.65 per cent at the end of last year.

With an aggregated deposit balance of 3.064 trillion yuan (about 370.5 billion US dollars) as of June, China’s rural credit cooperatives have become the fourth group of financial institutions to break through the deposit record of three trillion yuan. The other three are the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the Agricultural Bank of China and the China Construction Bank.

Li said that the cooperation between rural commercial banks and rural credit cooperatives has demonstrated dynamism. Currently, there are 43 rural financial institutions in China, including nine commercial banks and 34 credit cooperatives.

With another 13 under construction, China is expected to have 150 to 200 rural financial institutions by the end of next year, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

Reform of China’s rural credit cooperative proves successful

A young girl skis on artificial snow at the Nanshan ski resort east of Beijing, in this 12 Feb, 2005 file photo. A Chinese academic was reported on Tuesday 19 July, 2005 as saying that ski resorts were contributing to water shortages in Beijing. — Reuters
Regional development undertakings supervised in Thaton District

YANGON, 19 July—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Mon State PDC Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, on 17 July morning held a meeting with Thaton District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Thaw Zin and members at Thuwunna Yeiktha in Thaton.

On the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo elaborated on tasks for regional progress, and attended to the needs. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party visited Pobbayon Monastery in Thaton and offered aims to Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddharmata Jotikadajha Bhaddanta Khemacara.

They viewed the cultivation of monsoon paddy in the model plot in Zayticaung Village, Thaton, and together with officials, released 3,000 shrimp fries into the paddy fields.

At the meeting with local farmers, Lt-Gen Maung Bo dealt with extended cultivation of paddy, and multiple cropping, and fulfilled their requirements.

On arrival at the 5,000-acre rubber plantation project of Max Myanmar Co in Aungyi Village, Bilin Township, they heard a report by Managing Director U Zaw Zaw on progress in putting 1,116 acres of paddy of 30 acres of paddy and 30 acres of groundnut, and growing of rubber in the farm. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing planted commemorative rubber saplings and inspected the rubber farm.

They met with local authorities and members of social organizations in Bilin, and elaborated on cooperation of departments, social organizations and local people in carrying out regional development tasks, and the five rural development tasks, extended cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy for regional food security. In response to the reports by the chairman of Township PDC and officials, they provided assistance for the projects.

Next, they inspected the Sittoung Bridge (Mokpalin) Project. Officials reported on progress of digging bore piles and future programmes. Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions on timely completion of the bridge meeting the set standards.

On completion, the main bridge will be 1,365 feet long with a 26-foot-wide motorway flanked by six-foot-wide walkway. — MNA

Over 12,000 trees planted at Hmawby Station’s tree planting ceremony

YANGON, 19 July — Tree planting ceremony organized by the Hmawby Station of the Yangon Command was held on 17 July at local battalion in Hmawby Township.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe participated in the ceremony.

Members of the local battalion and regiments and their families and members of social organizations planted hardwood trees, perennial trees and shady trees numbering more than 12,000.

As Yangon Division is located in the Bago Yoma greening project area, members of the battalions and regiments in the division are to make efforts for greening the respective areas, the commander said in his address.

According to an official of the Forest Department, a total of 1,060,000 trees have been planted by the Forest Department as part of the Bago Yoma greening project. There are 1,000 acres of teak special plantations and 2,600 acres of other plantations in the region, he added. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets with officers...

Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected the rubber plantation of the multi-purpose farm of the Western Command. A total of 8,000 rubber trees are planted in the farm by the Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at the briefing hall of the Special Group-3 (Road Construction) of Public Works at milestone No 64/7 on Minbu-An Road. After hearing the reports on progress of the repairing of road from milestone No 61/0 to milestone No 88/0 and from milestone No 88/0 to No 95/0 on Minbu-An Road, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than fulfilled the requirements.

On 17 July, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with officials of the Myanmar Agriculture Service in Pyay, Bago Division (West).

At the meeting, an official of the Myanmar Agriculture Service reported on prospects for irrigation in five townships in Pyay District and six in Thayawady District in 2005-2006 from 16 dams and reservoirs river water pumping projects in Bago Division (West).

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that Bago Division set a target of 2.8 million acres of paddy in 2005-2006 monsoon season. Therefore, over 1.2 million acres of paddy are to be cultivated in Bago Division (West) this monsoon season and 0.2 million acres in summer.

Officials concerned are to make efforts to meet the target, he urged. — MNA

Forestry Minister inspects development tasks in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 19 July — CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung met with service personnel and local people in Mezaligon village of Ingapu Township on 16th July and discussed regional development.

The following day, the minister inspected Basic Education High School in Htooigyi Village.

The next day, the minister attended the opening ceremony of Myanmar bridge across Nankathi creek in Kwinkauk village. The bridge is 300 feet in length and 12 feet in width. It can withstand 30 tons of load.

On arrival at information and communication technology camp in Kwinkauk village, the minister viewed preparation of Internet access and rebuilding of Thathancho Village Primary School in Hinthada Township.

Next, the minister met with secretaries and executives of district and township USDAs at Hinthada Township and held discussions on measures to be taken for realization of the objectives of the association. — MNA

Commander inspects development tasks in Pathein

YANGON, 19 July — Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung on 16 July inspected the extended construction of road leading to downtown of Pathein and gave instructions to the officials.

Afterwards, the commander inspected sanitary tasks being carried out by local Tatmadaw men, members of Myanmar Police Force and locals in the Pathein University and road construction and sanitation in the downtown. Later, the commander met with officials of the Pathein Industry Zone and fulfilled the requirements. In the Pathein Industry Zone, there are 65 industries producing household goods and agricultural machinery. — MNA

MNA
Diplomats of foreign missions and resident representatives of UN agencies in Yangon led by Acting Dean of Diplomatic Corps Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun also laid wreaths at the tombs of Arzans and paid tribute to them.

The representatives of Union Solidarity and Development Association, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Myanmar Fire Brigade, MRCS, MWJA, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, Myanmar Music Asiayon, Myanmar Thabin Asiayon, Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiayon also laid wreaths and paid tribute to the Arzans.

As in previous years, officials concerned made contact with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and arranged for her to attend the 58th Anniversary Arzani Day ceremony to lay wreath and pay respect to her late father Bogyoke Aung San. She said that she had no wish to attend the ceremony, and did not attend it. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Attorney-General U Aye Maung and Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung lay wreaths at the Arzani Mausoleum. — MNA

Acting Dean of Diplomatic Corps Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun and diplomats paying tribute to the fallen leaders. — MNA

Diplomats pay tribute to the fallen leaders. — MSA

Foreign diplomats lay a wreath at the Arzani Mausoleum. — MNA

Foreign diplomats pay tribute to the fallen leaders. — MSA

Diplomats of a foreign mission pay tribute to the fallen leaders. — MNA

Diplomats pay tribute to the fallen leaders. — MSA
Members of families pay tribute to fallen Arzanis

On behalf of U Aung San Oo, son of Bogyoke Aung San, U Nan Nwe pays tribute at the tomb of Bogyoke Aung San. — NLM

A family member of U Ba Win pays tribute at the tomb of U Ba Win. — MNA

Family of U Ba Choe pays tribute at the tomb of U Ba Choe. — MNA

Family of Mongpawn Sawbwa lays a wreath at the tomb of Mongpawn Sawbwa. — MNA

Family of Mahn Ba Khaing pays tribute at the tomb of Mahn Ba Khaing. — MNA

Family of Thakin Mya pays tribute at the tomb of Thakin Mya. — MNA

Family of U Razak pays tribute at the tomb of U Razak. — MNA

Family of U Ohn Maung pays tribute at the tomb of U Ohn Maung. — MNA

Family of Yebaw Ko Htwe pays tribute at the tomb of Yebaw Ko Htwe. — MNA
Diplomats pay tribute to fallen Arzanis

A diplomat pays tribute to fallen leaders. — MNA

Delegates of Myanmar Fire Brigade lay wreath at Arzani Mausoleum. — MNA

Representatives of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon lay wreath at Arzani Mausoleum. — MNA

Representatives of Myanmar Music Asiayon lay wreath at Arzani Mausoleum. — MNA

Officials of UN agencies pay tribute to fallen leaders. — MNA

Delegates of Myanmar Fire Brigade lay wreath at Arzani Mausoleum. — MNA

Representatives of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon lay wreath at Arzani Mausoleum. — MNA

Representatives of Myanmar Music Asiayon lay wreath at Arzani Mausoleum. — MNA
**Hunt for British bombing network spreads**

**London, 18 July —**
British secret services last year vetted one of the bombers behind the London bombings and judged he was not a threat, a report said on Sunday, as police searched for a support network of planners, bomb-makers and financiers.

The Sunday Times, citing a senior government source, said intelligence agency MI-5 had assessed the eldest of the bombers, Mohammed Shafee Khan, but concluded he posed no threat and failed to put him under surveillance.

The government refused to be drawn. “We never comment on the activities of security services,” one official said.

Investigations into the 7 July bomb attacks which tore through London’s transport system, killing 55 people, have fanned out across the world.

Police have said they expect to find clear links to al-Qaeda.

Three of the bombers were young British Muslims, while the fourth was a Jamaican-born Briton. Two of them were teenagers, one was 22 and the oldest 30.

In Pakistan, security forces have detained eight people from Faisalabad, Lahore and the city of Gujranwala on suspicion of links with any of the bombers, Shahzad Tanweer.

Tanweer visited Faisalabad and Lahore in the last two years. Pakistani sources say that in 2003 he met a man later arrested for bombing a church in the capital, Islamabad.

Pakistan intelligence officials said on Sunday British authorities had handed over a list of telephone calls made from Tanweer’s home in Britain, to follow up.

The Sunday Independent, a newspaper said police had established a link between Khan and al-Qaeda.

“It said a man who is believed to have attended an al-Qaeda “summit” in Pakistan last year and who pleaded guilty to terrorism charges in the United States following his arrest shortly afterwards, had identified Khan from photographs.”

**Madrid train bombings aim to end Aznar government**

**Madrid, 18 July —**
The extremist Islamic group responsible for the Madrid train bombings on 11 March, 2004, aimed to put an end to Jose Maria Aznar’s conservative government, local police said on Saturday.

The information was contained in a text found on the computer of Jamal Ahmad, a suspect in the Madrid bombings, and was signed by the Abu Hafa al-Masri Brigades of al-Qaeda.

The brigades, which claimed responsibility for the deadly attacks in London on 7 July, also claimed responsibility for the Madrid train blasts in a message sent to the London newspaper *The Guardian* after the attacks.

Jamil Ahmad died together with other extremists who detonated a bomb in a suicide attack in Leganes in Madrid after being surrounded by police.

According to the text, dated 15 March, 2004, “in Madrid’s case, the time factor was very important in order to put an end to Aznar’s ignoble government.”

**Russia, Ukraine settle gas dispute**

**Moscow, 18 July —**
Russian and Ukrainian gas companies Naftogaz Ukrainy and Gazprom announced on Sunday they had settled a dispute over natural gas supplies that Russia earlier said were missing.

The two had been at loggerheads over Gazprom accusations of pilfering gas and damaging the stability of its supplies in Europe, a charge that Ukraine denied.

Last month Gazprom announced the disappearance of 7.8 billion cubic metres of gas and said it was unilaterally deducting the volume from fees it pays Ukraine for the transit of gas to European customers.

“According to the signed agreement between both companies, Naftogaz Ukrainy has been awarded 2.5 billion cubic metres of gas as part payment for transit services of Russian gas in 2005,” the companies said in a joint statement.

Under the deal, Gazprom will sell 5.25 billion cubic metres of gas stored underground in Ukraine to RosUkrEnergo, an Austrian-Russian joint venture partly managed by Gazprom. The gas will be delivered by Naftogaz Ukrainy.

The two companies agreed up to the quantity of gas that was at the centre of the disagreement. The statement did not refer directly to Gazprom’s previous allegations.

Sunday’s statement also said Russian gas transit through Ukraine would be increased over the next couple of years.

“The transit of Russian gas via the Ukrainian territory will be increased by 8 billion cubic metres in 2005 and by between 8 and 11.5 billion cubic metres in 2006 compared to previously planned delivery,” the statement said.

**Zimbabwean demining company operates worldwide**

**Harare, 18 July —**
Mine-Tech Zimbabwe has become a household name in many countries as it continues with its operations of removing landmines in former war zones worldwide.

The company’s Managing Director Max Dyke said Saturday that the company had managed to successfully complete more than 21 landmine demining operations across the world.

“We managed to carry out at least 21 demining operations the world over,” said Dyke. For a couple of years now, the company has been carrying out operations in the war ravaged Asian state of Afghanistan under the auspices of the United Nations.

“We are demining at Bagram about 70 kilometres northeast of the capital Kabul,” he said. “The area is heavily infested with booby landmines that were planted during the armed conflict that lasted many years.”

Some countries, he said, were reduced to minefields, posing danger to human and animal life.

“For instance, in Iraq we stopped counting the landmines due to their overwhelming numbers,” said Dyke. “In Lebanon, we have managed to harvest at least 3,000 landmines and we expect more in Afghanistan.”

**Turkey leaves for Russia, Mongolia**

**Istanbul, 18 July —**
Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan left on Sunday for visits to Russia and Mongolia.

Erdogan told report­ers before his departure that he will meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss bilateral relations, adding he will then travel to Mongolia, the first by a Turkish prime minister since 1964.

**US-registered plane crashes off Costa Rica’s coast, killing six**

**San Jose, 18 July —**
A US-registered small plane crashed off Costa Rica’s coast on Saturday, killing six people aboard, Costa Rican authorities said.

The plane, which went down off the Pacific coast about 260 kilometres northeast of San Jose, was owned by a company based in Panama.

**Egypt not to extradite London bombing suspect**

**CAIRO, 18 July —**
Egyptian Prosecutor General Mahir Abdel-Wahed hinted on Saturday that an Egyptian biochemist arrested over suspected involvement in the 7 July London bombings would not be extradited even if he was charged.

He said that the country’s Constitution bans the extradition of any Egyptian citizen accused of committing crimes abroad to any foreign state, the official MENA news agency reported.

Egyptian Interior Minister confirmed Friday that 33-year-old Magdy Nasr were arrested in Cairo for an alleged involvement in London bombings.

Nasr had returned to Egypt for a 45-day vaca­tion and planned to return to Britain to complete his studies.

Nasr denied any link to the attacks which killed at least 54 and wounded 700.

Abdel-Wahed affirmed that the prosecution authority did not receive any official notification from any party that Nasr was accused in any crime.

Meanwhile, Egyptian Interior Minister Habib el-Adly said the Egyptian government has no links to the terrorist al-Qaeda network.
Romania floods kill 20 in past week

BUCHAREST, 18 July — Floods in Romania killed 20 people in the past week, with thousands left homeless and dependent on Army airlifts for food and drinking water, authorities said on Sunday.

The deaths took the toll in the Balkan state’s worst floods in half a century to 26 this month. Torrential rains have swollen rivers, flooded homes and churned up roads, hitting the eastern part of the country of 22 million particularly hard.

Prime Minister Calin Tariceanu said emergency aid had been airlifted by the Army to stranded villages and flooded water had started to be pumped away.

“The Army will help the population with manpower and equipment,” said Tariceanu, announcing the latest death toll after a government crisis meeting on Sunday morning. “Beds and tents have started to be distributed.”

Authorities said more than 11,000 people had to be evacuated in four central and eastern counties and 640 homes were completely destroyed by water that also swamped nearly 88,000 hectares (217,400 acres) of farmland.

The government has earmarked around one billion lei (344 million US dollars) to rebuild infrastructure and said Romania would also ask for international help to clean up the damage.

MNA/Reuters

Study shows seabird droppings raising Arctic chemical levels

OTTAWA, 18 July — Seabird droppings are leaving more than a foul mess in the Arctic — they are contaminating northern lakes and ponds with extremely high levels of mercury and DDT, said a study carried out by Canadian researchers.

Concentrations of the chemicals were found to be as much as 60 times higher in bodies of water on Devon Island in Canada’s Nunavut region, than in other Arctic areas, the study said to be published in the journal Science.

Inland layers of sediment less than a centimetre thick were analyzed last summer at Cape Vera, 1,800 kilometres north of Iqaluit on the island’s north shore, where 20,000 northern fulmars nest annually.

The samples revealed that their guano, laden with mercury, DDT, PCBs and pesticides, gradually oozed down fortress-like cliffs 250 metres high and into surrounding shallow freshwater lakes and ponds.

The fulmars, which look like the common seagull and dine on zooplankton, squid and fish in the Atlantic Ocean, are picking up the pollutants from their aquatic feast and funneling the waste back into relatively untouched ecosystems, said John Smol, a biology professor at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario.

In doing so the birds are creating a “boomerang effect” whereby industrial pollutants thought to be forever lost in the ocean hundreds of kilometres away are returning to the continent and threatening land species.

“(Water) insects are eaten by the birds, the birds are eaten by the foxes,” Smol said. “It’s quite possible we have a whole new mechanism of (pollutants) going back in to the terrestrial ecosystem.”

The birds are the dominant species in the region and are single-handedly responsible for biological activity in the area, said Jules Blais, an environmental toxicology professor at the University of Ottawa.

That makes their impact on the local environment more pronounced, said Blais, who suspects the phenomenon is not limited to Devon Island, the largest uninhabited island in the world.

There are other seabird colonies distributed throughout the Arctic that would have this kind of effect because they nest in large densities together, said Blais, who led the study.

There are about 10 million seabirds that colonize the Canadian Arctic, creating a risk that humans could be exposed to dangerously elevated levels of the pollutants.

MNA/Reuters

Putin hopes for more trade with Turkey

MOSSOW, 18 July — Russian President Vladimir Putin, meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Sochi, Russia’s southern sanitaria city on Sunday, expressed hope for more trade with Turkey, setting the goal at 25 billion US dollars a year.

Putin said that the Russian-Turkish trade now tops 10 billion US dollars a year and that “we have set an absolutely realistic task of bringing it to 25 billion US dollars a year within the next few years”, the Interfax news agency reported.

In addition to the trade, Russia “is interested in investments, energy cooperation and high technologies”, Putin told the Turkish Prime Minister, who arrived in Bocharov Ruchei residence in Sochi on Sunday.

“Cooperation between the countries is in the interest of both peoples and our two states,” Putin said.

The President noted that the bilateral relations had undergone very serious political, economic and cultural transformations in the past three years.

Erdogan, for his part, thanked Putin for the invitation to visit Russia and conveyed greetings from people of Turkey to people of Russia. The two leaders will continue their talks on Monday on bilateral relations and cooperation in energy, particularly in energy, according to the ITAR-TASS news agency.

This is the fourth meeting of Putin and Erdogan since last December when Putin visited Ankara.

Vladimir Putin visited Turkey.

MNA/Xinhua

Swiss scientists conclude study on altitude sickness in China

GENEVA, 19 July — Swiss scientists concluded their massive experiments on the causes of altitude sickness in China and returned home last week, the official web site Swissinfo said on Monday.

Around 70 scientists and climbers — some of them volunteers — had spent around four weeks on the 7,546-metre Muztagh Ata Mountain in China’s westernmost Xinjiang region. “In general it was a very successful trip,” said Urs Hefti, a surgeon at the Aarau cantonal hospital and president of the Swiss Society of Mountain Medicine.

“We had four main projects,” he said. “One was about the brain and how it works, one about the lungs, another concerned the eyes and then we took blood samples up to at least 7,000 metres.” They also looked into how rapid ascents contribute to conditions such as high-altitude pulmonary edema, acute mountain sickness and high-altitude cerebral edema.

Although analyses of the results are not expected for at least a year, the expedition was one of the largest and best prepared in recent years, according to Swissinfo.

MNA/Xinhua

Greek PM condemns all acts of violence, terrorism

ATHENS, 18 July — Greek Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis told his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday that Greek Government condemns all acts of violence and terrorism. “Greece unequivocally condemns acts of violence and terrorism,” the Prime Minister Calin Tariceanu said emergency aid had been airlifted by the Army to stranded villages and flooded water had started to be pumped away.

“‘The Army will help the population with manpower and equipment,” said Tariceanu, announcing the latest death toll after a government crisis meeting on Sunday morning. “Beds and tents have started to be distributed.”

Authorities said more than 11,000 people had to be evacuated in four central and eastern counties and 640 homes were completely destroyed by water that also swamped nearly 88,000 hectares (217,400 acres) of farmland.

The government has earmarked around one billion lei (344 million US dollars) to rebuild infrastructure and said Romania would also ask for international help to clean up the damage.

MNA/Reuters

British police arrest six under immigration laws

LONDON, 18 July — British police said on Monday that six men arrested in northern England were held under immigration laws as they previously announced.

“There was an error on the original Press release,” a police spokes- man said. “They were arrested on suspicion of immigration offences.”

Police said the arrests on Sunday in a suburb of the northern town of Leeds, where two of the 7 July London bombers lived, were not directly linked to the attacks.

“New information of those arrested were released. ‘We are in close liaison with officers from (London’s) Metropolitan Police as part of this inquiry.’” West Yorkshire Police said in a statement. “All six men remain in police custody at this time.”

Four bombs on 7 July tore through London’s transport system, killing 55 people and injuring hundreds more.

MNA/Reuters

London bomber linked to 2003 Israel attack

JERUSALEM, 19 July — One of the suspects in last week’s London bombings visited Israel in 2003 and is believed to have helped plan a suicide bombing by two British Muslims in Tel Aviv, an Israeli newspaper reported on Sunday.

Citing Israeli security sources, Maariv daily said that Mohammad Siddique Khan, who police believed blew himself up aboard the underground train at Edgware Road on 7 July, travelled to the Jewish state two years ago. — MNA/Reuters

Andean typical masks, made by craftsman Santiago Rojas, are seen hanging up on a wall in Cuzco, Peru, on 14 July, 2005. Rojas, one of the most well known craftsmen in Cuzco, has been doing the masks, used by dancers in religious parties, for more than 70 years.—INTERNET

Swiss scientists conclude study on altitude sickness in China

GENEVA, 19 July — Swiss scientists concluded their massive experiments on the causes of altitude sickness in China and returned home last week, the official web site Swissinfo said on Monday.

Around 70 scientists and climbers — some of them volunteers — had spent around four weeks on the 7,546-metre Muztagh Ata Mountain in China’s west- ernmost Xinjiang region. “In general it was a very successful trip,” said Urs Hefti, a surgeon at the Aarau cantonal hospital and president of the Swiss Society of Mountain Medicine.

“We had four main projects,” he said. “One was about the brain and how it works, one about the lungs, another concerned the eyes and then we took blood samples up to at least 7,000 metres.” They also looked into how rapid ascents contribute to conditions such as high-altitude pulmonary edema, acute mountain sickness and high-altitude cerebral edema.

Although analyses of the results are not expected for at least a year, the expedition was one of the largest and best prepared in recent years, according to Swissinfo.

MNA/Xinhua
Cole signs one-year extension with Arsenal

LONDON, 19 July— England defender Ashley Cole has signed a one-year contract extension with Arsenal, the player's agents Stellar Group said on Monday.

The deal will take the left back through to 2008 and follows the "tapping up" affair in which Cole, Chelsea and their manager Jose Mourinho were given record fines last month by the Premier League.

Cole, whose side won the FA Cup but lost their league title to Chelsea last season, said in a statement: "I am now looking forward to another successful season, said in a statement: "I am now looking forward to another successful season.""I am now looking forward to another successful season.""I am now looking forward to another successful season.."

"We are all determined to regain the Premiership and title and I can't wait for the season to start now."

Chelsea were fined 300,000 pounds (524,300 US dollars), Mourinho was fined 200,000 pounds and Cole 100,000 pounds for breaches of Premier League rules on approaches to players under contract following a meeting in a London hotel in January.

Chelsea have accepted their fine but Cole and Mourinho, supported by his club, have launched appeals which will be heard by a three-man panel on 10 August.

Along with the fine, Chelsea were also warned they would be docked three points if they committed a similar offence next season. — MNA/Reuters

Mourinho says Wright-Phillips one of the best in England

LONDON, 19 July— Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho believes Stamford Bridge-bound winger Shaun Wright-Phillips is "one of the best players in England".

Premier League champions Chelsea agreed a fee with Manchester City for Wright-Phillips on Sunday and he is now discussing personal terms for a move to west London.

"He is young. He has space for his development and he has the qualities that everyone is looking for in a modern footballer," Mourinho told Sky Sports News.

"He is quick, he is intelligent, he is creative, he can break by himself and shape the balance of the team.

Last season Chelsea were without the services of wingers Arjen Robben and Damen Duff for long spells through injury and Mourinho felt they did not have enough cover on the flanks.

Wright-Phillips signs for Chelsea

LONDON, 19 July— England winger Shaun Wright-Phillips signed a five-year deal with Chelsea on Monday.

The 23-year-old, who costs Chelsea 21 million pounds, will fly with Chelsea on Tuesday for their pre-season tour of the US as Jose Mourinho's side as they prepare for the new campaign.

Wright-Phillips spent most of Monday at Stamford Bridge — accompanied by his father Ian Wright — finalizing personal terms and completing a medical.

After completing the deal and being handed Chelsea's number 24 shirt, Wright-Phillips said he was ready to fight for his place along with Damen Duff and Arjen Robben.

He said: "I never expected to be in any other position..." added Mourinho.

FIFA delegation inspects South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 19 July— A FIFA delegation arrived here on Monday morning to inspect venues ahead of South Africa's hosting of the 2010 Soccer World Cup.

The group will inspect 10 out of 13 venues submitted in South Africa's successful bid to be the first African country to host the cup.

The seven-member delegation would visit Johannesburg, Pretoria, Rustenburg, Bloemfontein, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan, Durban and Cape Town.

A final decision on venues would only be made known after the 2006 World Cup to be held in Germany. Soccer spokesman Markus Siegler said no daily statements would be made on findings.

FIFA congratulates Colombia for Fair Play award won in Holland

BOGOTA, 19 July— FIFA, soccer's world governing body, congratulated Colombia for having won the Fair Play award in the Holland 2005 Youth World Cup.

Through a communique for Colombian Soccer Federation, Oscar Astudillo, FIFA also said that in the coming days the transfer of sports material valued at 10,000 US dollars for the development of youth teams in Colombia would be coordinated.

The document by FIFA accompanies the "Fair Play award, medals and diploma.

This is the third time Colombia wins such award in the history of youth world cups. Previously it did so in the Soviet Union (1985) and in the United Arab Emirates (2003). In the Holland 2005 World Cup, Colombia advanced to the finals of final where they were defeated 2-1 by Argentina, who won the tournament.

Brazil's volleyball team captain Valeska Menezes (3rd R) and Marcelle Moreira kiss the winning trophy during the awarding ceremony at the World Grand Prix women's volleyball in Sendai, northern Japan, on 18 July, 2005. Brazil won the round-robin tournament. —INTERNET

Women's 1 metre springboard gold medalist Blythe Hartley from Canada, centre, shows off her medal, along with silver medalist Xia Min Wu, left, from China, and bronze medalist Heike Fischer from Germany during medal ceremonies at the World Aquatics Championships on Monday, 18 July, 2005 in Montreal. —INTERNET

China wins three-metre synchronized to sweep golds

MONTRÉAL, 19 July— China's Wang Feng and He Chong won the gold medal in the three-metre springboard synchronized event at the World Swimming Championships on Sunday.

A precision performance by Wang and He provided China with an opening day sweep of the diving golds following a dominating display by Jia Tong and partner Yuan Pei Lin in the women's 10-metre platform synchronized event.

He and Wang, who won a silver in the same event at the 2003 worlds with another partner, finished with a five-dive total of 384.42 easily outpointing the German duo of Tobias Schellenberg and Andreas Wells on 364.59. American brothers Justin and Troy Dumais took the bronze with 360.27. — MNA/Reuters

Juventus midfielder Appiah joins Fenerbahce

ROME, 19 July— Juventus midfielder Stephen Appiah has joined Fenerbahce for eight million euros (9.66 million US dollars), Juve managing director Luciano Moggi was quoted as saying by the ANSA news agency on Monday. Appiah, the captain of Ghana, was put up for sale last week after Italian champions Juventus signed midfielder Patrick Vieira from Arsenal for 20 million euros.

There was no immediate confirmation of the deal. — MNA/Reuters

FIFA delegation confirms World Cup in South Africa

After completing the deal and being handed Chelsea's number 24 shirt, Wright-Phillips said he was ready to fight for his place along with Damen Duff and Arjen Robben.

He said: "I never expected to be in anywhere and walk into any team to be honest with you.

"Competition is just healthy really and will help make me a better player. I just want to try and get some medals and be a regular part of the team. I want to play well for myself and for the fans, and for the coaching staff."

Chelsea chief executive Peter Kenyon said: "We're delighted that Shaun has joined us. He'll be a fantastic asset to the team and squad. This carries on the Chelsea policy of investing in young, English talent."

Wright-Phillips was withdrawn from the City squad that travelled to Thailand on Sunday for the FA Premier League Asia Trophy. — MNA/Xinhua
A & I
Minister inspects agricultural tasks...

(from page 1)
supply irrigation water to 100,000 acres of land and it expects to generate 121 kilowatt hours of electricity in a year.

Later, the minister met with members of the agricultural coordination committee, farmers and staff of the Myanmar Agricultural Service at 1000-acre model plot in Sangalay Village in Nyaungbin Township.

At the meeting, he discussed matters on boosting farm produce, meeting the paddy production target and use of agricultural machinery.

Next, the minister inspected the paddy fields.

MNA

Donate blood

Wednesday, 20 July
Tune in today:
8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music: Child in time (Deep Purple)
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music: Empty rooms
- (Gary Moore)
8:50 am National news/Slogan
9:00 am Music: Looking for love (Whitesnake)
9:05 am International news
9:10 pm Music: Save your love (Great White)
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Lunch time music
- Smile a little smile for me (Plying Machine)
- The Iocomotion
- (Little Eva)
- Hooray for Hazel (Tommy Roe)
- What a wonderful world
- (Louis Armstrong)
9:00 pm Special feature Wazo: The month of offering
- Sacred yellow robes
9:10 pm Article/Music
9:35 pm Music for your listening pleasure
- Do you know what I mean
- Love me & leave me (The Scorchers)
- Kiss the rain
- (Billie Myers)
- Say what you want
- (Texas)
9:45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

WEATHER

Tuesday, 19 July, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Magway Division, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin, Chin, Kayah, Mon and Kayin States, scattered in Shan State, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Kachin and Mon States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mawlamyine (4.29) inches, Myitkyina (3.31) inches, Thaton (2.72) inches, Hpa-an (2.17) inches, Pathein (1.61) inches and Gwa (1.54) inches.

Maximum temperature on 18-7-2005 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 19-7-2005 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 19-7-2005 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 18-7-2005 was (5.5) hours approx. Rainfalls on 19-7-2005 were (0.67 inch) at Mingaladon, (0.04 inch) at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2005 were (38.03 inches) at Mingaladon, (34.61 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (40.32 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (13) mph from North at (15:38) hours MST on 18-7-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 20-7-2005: Weather will be partly cloudy in Magway Division, rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Rakhine State, Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Shan State, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 89%.

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Weak to moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-7-2005: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-7-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
YANGON, 19 July — The 58th Anniversary Arzani Day, 2005, was observed at the Arzani Mausoleum this morning. On behalf of the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, Chairman of the 58th Anniversary Arzani Day Observance Committee Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung attended the ceremony, laying the State flag; laying wreaths at the tombs of National Leader Bogyoke Aung San and his fallen comrades; paying tribute to them and dispensing metta.

Also present on the occasion were Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Chairman of the 58th Anniversary Arzani Day Observance Work Committee Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung and members of the Work Committee, the secretaries of subcommittees, senior military officers, members of the Guard of Honour and senior officials of Myanmar Police Force and Fire Brigade.

On arrival at the Arzani Mausoleum at 7.55 am, Chairman of the 58th Anniversary Arzani Day Observance Committee Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung was welcomed by the Chairman of the 58th Anniversary Arzani Day Observance Work Committee Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung. Together with Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Attorney-General U Aye Maung and Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung took respective places before the tombs of Arzanis.

At that time, the Union flag was lowered at half-mast and the Guard of Honour of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air Force) as well as the Band Troupe saluted the fallen heroes.

Afterwards, the dispensing of metta and two-minute silence in memory of Arzanis followed.

Chairman of the 58th Anniversary Arzani Day Observance Committee Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Deputy Minister for Culture Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung left the Arzani Mausoleum.

Later, families of the Arzanis laid wreaths at the respective tombs. First, U Nan Nwe laid wreath at Bogyoke Aung San’s tomb and paid tribute to him while metta was being dispensed on behalf of the eldest son of Bogyoke Aung San, U Aung San. Next, families of other Arzanis laid wreaths at the respective tombs and dispensed metta.

(See page 9)

Minister observes renal transplant, visits recipient and donor

YANGON, 19 July — Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint together with directors-general, deputy directors-general and officials under the departments of the Ministry of Health observed the 11th renal transplant at the New General Hospital on Bogyoke Aung San Street this morning.

At the meeting hall of X-ray department of the hospital, the minister and party observed the renal transplant on close circuit TV and they were briefed by leader of the operation team Professor Dr Paing Soe, Director-General of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar). The minister and party watched the renal transplant performed on patient Daw Khin Myint through the close circuit TV. The kidney donor is Daw Myint Myint Win, the younger sister of the patient.

Today is the third day of the 11th renal transplant. The surgeons successfully took the kidney from donor Daw Myint Myint Win, younger sister of the patient at 11 am. Next, the minister and party visited patient Daw Khin Myint and fulfilled the requirements.

At 1.30 pm, the surgeons successfully transplanted the kidney into patient Daw Khin Myint. Dr Paing Soe, Director-General of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar), Professor Dr Tin Myint and Professor Dr Than Aye participated in the 11th renal transplant. The successful renal transplant has been due to cooperative efforts of doctors and nurses.

The patient and the donor are in good health.

MNA

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and those in attendance pay tribute to the fallen leaders at the 58th Anniversary Arzani Day ceremony.—MNA

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

(19-7-2005)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mawlamyine</td>
<td>4.29 inches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Myitkyina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thaton</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gwa</td>
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INSIDE

The Dhammacakkha Pavattana Sutta is one of the most important discourses of the Buddha as it embodies the basic doctrine of the Dhamma. The Buddha expounded the Four Noble Truths—the truth of suffering, the truth of cause of suffering, the truth of cessation of suffering and the truth of the way leading to cessation of suffering.