Established 1914

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

State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe receives Chinese Foreign Minister and party

YANGON, 28 July—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Senior General Than Shwe received Foreign Minister of the People’s Republic of China Mr Li Zhaoxing and party at Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw building on Pyay Road, here, at 10 am today.

Together with Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lieu-General Thein Sein, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lieu-Col Pe Nyein and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Chinese Foreign Minister and party were accompanied by Chinese Ambassador Mr Li Jinjun.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe cordially greets Chinese Foreign Minister Mr Li Zhaoxing at Pyithu Hluttaw building.— MNA

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

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Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Senior General Than Shwe receives Chinese Foreign Minister Mr Li Zhaoxing and party at Credentials Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw building.— MNA
Crush internal and external destructive elements as common enemy

The State Peace and Development Council has been exerting endeavours day in, day out to put into reality the national goal — emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation.

The people who have realized the benevolent attitude of the government are taking part in implementation of the State’s objectives hand in hand with social organizations formed as strong national forces.

But, internal and external destructive elements in collusion are manufacturing exaggerated stories with the intention of bringing crises to the nation. Certain big nations are coercing the nation finding various types of pretext to get the nation under their thumb.

At such a time when the government and the people are making harmonious efforts with heart and soul to shape the brighter future of the nation, the onus is put on all to ward off all saboteurs relying on external elements and resorting to various means to hinder the progress of the State.

The mass meeting focusing “Guard against the danger posed by destructionists through united strength of people” was held at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon the other day. Social organizations dealt with guarding against the danger of destructionists through united strength of people and actively participating in implementation of the seven-point Road Map, and endeavours made for stability of the State and nation-building tasks upholding Our Three Main National Causes with Union Spirit. Those present approved the decisions with one voice.

The destructive elements who are allergic to the national progress are speeding up their attempts to cause disruption to the national development tasks.

Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation

Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views

Oppose foreign nations interferring in internal affairs of the State

Oppose all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

English Course for Hockey Umpires and Coaches opened

The minister presented certificates of honour to the officials who have sponsored the course and the president of MHF gave away certificates to nine wellwishers.

Minister U Aung Thaung meets Mr Preecha Temporn and party. INDUSTRY-1

Minister U Aung Thaung received courtesy call from Deputy Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Win. Deputy Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Win received Deputy Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung.

Minister receive Thai guests

Yangon, 28 July—Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naung and Central Executive Committee member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, on 26 July, met with officials and discussed matters on organizational and regional development tasks at the office of Myanmar Salt and Marine Chemicals Enterprise in Mawlamyine.

Next, the CEC member proceeded to No 1 Basic Education High School in Mudon and inspected renovation of school buildings and gave instructions to teachers on paying attention to turning out of outstanding students with high efficiency.

At the Mudon Township USDA office, the CEC member met with Township USDA secretary and executives and urged them to participate in organizational, social, educational and regional development tasks.

Yesterday morning, the CEC member met state, district and township secretaries of USDA and discussed matters on organizational tasks of the association, participation in successful implementation of the seven-point policy programme of the State and nation-building tasks. He also urged them to strive to become outstanding ones on whom the State can rely.

At Binl Township USDA office, he also met with USDA members and urged them to actively participate in nation-building tasks.— MNA
38th ASEAN ministerial meeting concludes

VIENTiane, 27 July—The 38th ASEAN ministerial meeting closed here on Tuesday afternoon with fruitful achievements obtained on a number of commonly concerned international and regional issues.

The annual ministerial meeting, attended by foreign ministers of ASEAN member states and foreign ministers from Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste, agreed to establish ASEAN Development Fund, serving as the bloc’s common pool of finance resources to support the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) and the ASEAN Community.

Consensus has been reached among the ministers on mapping out ASEAN Charter, a key document with legal binding force to its members. The draft of the charter will be submitted to 11th ASEAN Leadership Summit in Malaysia later this year.

UNESCO, Cambodia sign two agreements to protect ballet, temple

Phnom Penh, 27 July — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) signed two agreements with Cambodia on Tuesday to protecting its Cambodian royal ballet and one of the Angkor temples.

The visiting UNESCO Director-General Matsuura Koichiro and Cambodia’s Council of Ministers Sok An signed the documents in the Council of Ministers.

Matsuura said the agreements reflect the international recognition of Cambodia’s world cultural monuments and the valuable contribution of Cambodians to the history of humanity.

Under the agreements, UNESCO will use about 2.5 million US dollars offered by Japan to help Cambodia to preserve the Bayon Temple in Angkor Thom, part of the sprawling Angkor Wat temples and Cambodia’s royal ballet.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Tuesday met with Matsuura Koichiro, focusing on access to education, preservation of the World Heritage-listed Angkor and other cultural monuments.

Matsuura thanked Cambodia for its efforts to preserve Angkor Wat temples and other world cultural monuments, saying that Cambodia has made great progress on political, cultural, education and other areas in last 10 years.”

Matsuura, arrived here on Monday for a two-day visit, was also granted a royal audience with King Norodom Sihamoni, who had worked in Paris as Cambodia’s ambassador to the UNESCO before he took the throne in October last year. — MNA/Xinhua

Five US soldiers killed, five wounded in two incidents in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 28 July—Separate attacks in Iraq over the last few days have left five US soldiers dead and five others wounded, military officials in Baghdad reported.

One soldier was killed and five were wounded today when an improvised explosive device detonated near a combat patrol in Salah Ad Din province at about 11. The wounded Task Force Liberty soldiers were taken to a coalition forces medical treatment facility.

In southwest Baghdad on 24 July, four Task Force Baghdad soldiers were killed when their vehicle struck a roadside bomb at 7:15 pm.

The incidents are under investigation, and the names of the deceased soldiers are being withheld pending notification of next of kin. —Internet

An Iraqi man raises his arms as an unidentified US soldier of the army infantry from the Stryker Brigade enters his house during a patrol in Mosul, northern Iraq, on 26 July, 2005. Internet

Vietnam appeals for investment in its iron ore mine

HANOI, 27 July — Vietnam is calling for foreign and local businesses to make pre-feasibility studies about its biggest iron ore mine in central Ha Tinh Province, which is expected to house a large metallurgy complex in the next few years.

The Thach Khe mine, estimated to house 550 million tons of iron ores, accounting for 60 per cent of Vietnam’s total iron ore reserves, has favourable conditions for exploitation and construction of a metallurgy complex, according to the local newspaper Pioneer on Tuesday.

Investment for exploiting the mine and building the complex in the province is estimated at over three billion US dollars. With an amount of 300-350 million US dollars, the first batch of iron ores will come out after three-five years of investment, said local experts.—MNA/Xinhua

Thai Deputy PM meets CPC delegation

BANGKOK, 27 July — It is a fixed policy for the Thai Rak Thai Government and the ruling Thai Rak Thai Party to further the friendly relations with China, said Thailand’s Deputy Prime Minister Phinij Jarusombat.

The Thai Deputy PM made the above remarks on Monday when meeting with a visiting Communist Party of China (CPC) delegation headed by Hu Jiayan, deputy secretary of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Regional Committee of the CPC.

The Thai Rak Thai Party has also put great importance to maintaining good relations with the CPC, a statement issued by the CPC delegation on Tuesday quoted Phinij as saying. — MNA/Xinhua
Philippine merchandise imports up 2.7% in May

MANILA, 27 July — Philippine merchandise imports increased 2.7 per cent year-on-year to 3.37 billion US dollars in May, the National Statistics Office (NSO) said on Tuesday.

The NSO said in a statement that the figure in May led total imports in the first five months of the year to decline 0.2 per cent year-on-year to 16.44 billion dollars.

Electronics imports in May were valued at 1.39 billion dollars, down 1.7 per cent year-on-year and down 5.8 per cent from April, accounting for 41.3 per cent of the total, the NSO said.

According to the office, imports of mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials was 35.6 per cent year-on-year in May to 493.92 million US dollars.

Industrial machinery and equipment imports were down 14.8 per cent to 128.91 million US dollars, and payments for raw materials and intermediate goods were up 6.4 per cent to 1.35 billion US dollars.— MNA/Xinhua

US military dog handlers face Abu Ghraib hearing

FORTMEADE (Maryland), 27 July — US Army dog handlers in Iraq's Abu Ghraib Prison used unmuzzled dogs to threaten naked prisoners and competed to see who could make inmates urinate on themselves, according to testimony at a military hearing on Tuesday.

Sergeant Santos Cardona, 31, and Sergeant Michael Smith, 24, are accused of maltreating detainees at the infamous Baghdad prison between November 2003 and January 2004 during the height of the prison-abuse scandal.

Tuesday's legal proceedings for the dog handlers at Fort Meade military base outside Washington were part of an Article 32 hearing, the military equivalent of a pretrial hearing that determines whether the two sergeants face courts-martial.

Disrupting photos of dogs barking and growling at inmates were broadcast worldwide in the abuse scandal in Iraq. In other trials, several US soldiers have already been sentenced for abusing inmates, with jail terms up to 10 years.

Smith and Cardona told investigators last year that US military intelligence personnel asked them to bring their dogs to prison interrogation sites. The use of unmuzzled dogs to humiliate and intimidate detainees is a violation of the Geneva Conventions.

Under Islam, dogs are considered ritually unclean so their use against Islamic detainees could add a deeper layer of fear and apprehension for the prisoners.

Private Ivan Frederick, convicted of abusing prisoners at Abu Ghraib, testified via telephone that in one instance Cardona's dog bit a naked inmate twice on the left and right thighs.

ASEAN welcomes resumption of six-party talks in Beijing

VIENNAN, 27 July — Foreign Ministers from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) expressed their welcome to the recent resumption of the six-party talks on the nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula in Beijing.

In a final joint communiqué issued Tuesday at the end of the 38th ASEAN ministerial meeting here, the foreign ministers hoped that concerned parties could find solutions acceptable to all sides, toward a nuclear-weapon-free Korean Peninsula, on the basis of the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and equality which will contribute to the maintenance of peace, security and stability in the wider Asia Pacific Region.

"ASEAN reaffirmed its support to the process and reiterated the potential role of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), as the primary forum for dialogue on peace and security issues in the region, in contributing to the momentum of finding a resolution to the Korean Peninsula issue," the ministers said.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam's export turnover rises in first seven months

HANOI, 27 July — Vietnam is estimated to record export turnovers of 17.4 billion US dollars in the first seven months of this year, posting a year-on-year surge of 18.1 per cent.

Items recording high growth in export value include woodwork, rising 47.8 per cent to 843 million dollars; and rice, up 35.9 per cent to 869 million dollars, according to the country's General Statistics Office on Tuesday.

Crude oil, one of Vietnam's biggest foreign currency earners, is set to bring in four billion US dollars in the first seven months, marking an increase of 34.4 per cent.

Other key items such as textile and garment products, seafood, and footwear are estimated to post export growths of 0.2 per cent, 2.9 per cent and 0.2 per cent, respectively, the office said.

Vietnam finds it difficult to boost exports of seafood, mainly due to effects of increased oil prices.

The Ministry of Fisheries decided to lower its seafood export target to 2.4 billion US dollars this year from the initial 2.5 billion US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

ASEAN establishes ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on South China Sea

VIENNAN, 27 July— Foreign Ministers from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have endorsed the establishment of the ASEAN-China Joint Working Group to study and recommend measures to translate the provisions of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DoC) into concrete cooperative activities.

This was contained in a joint communiqué issued on Tuesday at the end of one-day ASEAN ministerial meeting in Vientiane, Laos.

"We looked forward to the 1st meeting of the working group on the implementation of DoC to be held in Manila in August 2005, as a concrete step toward the full implementation of the DoC," the ministers said.

The ministers welcomed China's view underscoring that a regional code of conduct in the South China Sea is essential, as conveyed during the 11th ASEAN China Senior Officials Consultations in Shanghai.

MNA/Xinhua

Americans believe war in Iraq can’t be won, nor democracy established

WASHINGTON, 27 July — A majority of Americans believe the United States cannot win the war nor establish democracy in Iraq, according to a USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll published today.

Fifty-one per cent believe outright that the United States cannot win the war in Iraq, 21 per cent believe the war could be won but in the end will not be won, while 43 per cent predict a victory. By a 58-to-37 per cent margin, Americans said their government would not be able to establish a democratic government in Iraq.

USA Today, which published the poll results, did not provide the date or the number of people that took part in the survey.

MNA/Xinhua

Indians walk through a flooded street following continuous heavy rain as traffic gets jammed in Mumbai on 27 July, 2005.— INTERNET

A US soldier from the Stryker Brigade patrols a street in Mosul, northern Iraq, on 26 July, 2005. — INTERNET
ASEAN strongly condemns terrorism

VIENTIANE, 27 July—Foreign Ministers from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have expressed outrage at the series of terrorist attacks in Britain and Egypt that resulted in the loss of innocent lives.

In a joint communiqué issued Tuesday at the end of ASEAN ministerial meeting here, the foreign ministers strongly condemn such acts of terror and extend their sympathies to the victims and their families. They are four strong condemnation of all acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and emphasized the need to address the root causes of terrorism. We continue to reject any attempt to associate terrorism with any race, region, nationality or ethnic group.

“In this context, we are fully committed to enhancing our cooperative efforts to combat international terrorism at national, regional and international levels,” the communiqué said.

The ministers looked forward to continuing their determination to enhance coordination and cooperation with the international community in combating international terrorism.

“We believe this will ensure peace and stability, create an environment conducive to our efforts to attain sustainable development, progress and prosperity in ASEAN,”

transnational crimes, the ministers emphasized the important role of ASEAN in regional initiatives to combat transnational crime and the efforts of the ASEAN Plus Three countries (China, Japan and South Korea) to develop work programmes to implement cooperation in the specific areas identified,” the ministers said.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan FM likely to skip Laos to lobby for UNSC seat

TOKYO, 27 July—Japanese Foreign Minister Nobtatake Machimura looked likely on Tuesday to skip a regional gathering in Laos this week in favour of seeking support in New York for Japan’s bid for a permanent membership on the United Nations Security Council.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Machimura has expressed his intention to go to New York and was thus unlikely to attend a series of regional meetings that start in Laos on Wednesday, including one on Asia-Pacific security, a decision that other Asian countries might see as a snub.

“There is no problem,” Thai Foreign Minister Kantathi Suphaphongkorn said in Vientiane on Tuesday. “We understand our Japanese counterpart cannot join us because of the G-4 situation. Of course we are disappointed.”

Japan this year stepped up its decade-old drive for a permanent seat, eager to win diplomatic recognition equal to its economic clout and what it sees as a well-deserved position since it foots about 20 per cent of the world body’s bills.

But the campaign has faced opposition from China and received only halfhearted support from Tokyo’s close ally, the United States. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has said he wanted the General Assembly to deliberate by the time of a UN summit in September, arguing that the Council’s make-up reflects the balance of power at the end of World War II and must be updated.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese women expect to fly space mission by 2010

BEIJING, 27 July—Chinese women astronauts will soon be reaching for the stars along with their male counterparts, on Tuesday’s China Daily quoted an official with China’s space programme as saying.

They will embark on a space mission no later than 2010, working as flight commanders or on-board engineers, said Hu Shixiang, deputy chief commander of China’s Manned Space Programme. He said at least four women astronauts will be chosen during the selection process, which is to formally start in 2008. This year, China’s Air Force has selected around 30 women pilots, some of whom are reportedly intended to be future astronauts, the paper said.

“It is true women aviators have some advantages in terms of flight experience and physique, but we need payload experts with strong science and engineering background to do experiments in outer space,” Hu said.

MNA/Xinhua

Floods kill dozens in India as Mumbai under water

MUMBAI, 28 July—Landslides and floods killed at least 30 people in India’s western state of Maharashtra, leaving dozens more missing, and crippled normal life in the nation’s financial hub, Mumbai, a state official said on Wednesday.

Most fatalities in the industrial powerhouse state were in the coastal districts of Raigad and Ratnagiri, where several villages were cut off after heavy monsoon rains.

Maharashtra’s relief secretary, Krishna Vatsa, said the government had called in the Army, Navy and Air Force to assist thousands of people who were stranded and to pull out possible survivors of landslides.

“We have not been able to reach some villages where more than several dozen people may be missing in landslides,” Vatsa told Reuters, confirming at least 30 deaths in Raigad and Ratnagiri and adding that electricity, telephones links and transport connections had been cut off to those districts.

Press Trust of India reported 54 fatalities in Raigad District alone due to floods and landslides. In coastal Maharashtra, officials and media reported more than 1,700 people had been rescued since Tuesday.

Trading on Mumbai’s bond and currency markets was cancelled and Maharashtra Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh declared a state holiday saying conditions were very bad. The government asked people to stay at home as further heavy rains were forecast.

MNA/Xinhua

Gunmen kill up to 17 in Baghdad bus ambush

BAGHDAD, 27 July—Gunmen opened fire on a bus carrying employees home from a factory in Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad, on Tuesday, killing up to 17 people, police and hospital sources said.

A source at a nearby Hospital, which received some 20 wounded patients from the attack.

He said about 36 workers had been on the bus.

Two Iraqi women carrying their baby walk past a US armoured Humvee along a street during a raid operated by joint US-Iraqi forces in the neighborhood of Baquba City, in Doya Province on 27 July 2005. — INTERNET

China, Zimbabwe willing to continue traditional friendship

BEIJING, 27 July—China and Zimbabwe are willing to continue their traditional friendship, according to their foreign ministers here on Tuesday.

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing met with his Zimbabwean counterpart Simbarashe Samuel Mumbengewigwe on Tuesday and they exchanged views on bilateral relations and issues of common concerns.

Accompanying Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe, Mumbengewigwe arrived in Beijing on 23 July for a week-long visit. Li said, as the two

countries forged diplomatic relations 25 years ago, bilateral relations went on smoothly, with frequent high-level exchanges, fruitful economic and trade cooperation, and sound cooperation in international affairs.

The visit by Zimbabwean President Mugabe is a symbol of the deepening of bilateral traditional friendship and will enhance their friendly cooperation, he said.

China is willing to work with Zimbabwe to implement the consensus that leaders of the two countries have reached, Li said.

Mumbengewigwe said the two countries enjoy a traditional friendship and China has offered a great support to the Zimbabwean people during their national liberation.

MNA/Xinhua

Two Iraqi women carrying their baby walk past a US armoured Humvee along a street during a raid operated by joint US-Iraqi forces in the neighborhood of Baquba City, in Doya Province on 27 July 2005. — INTERNET

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MNA/Xinhua
Malaysia sees growth for natural gas vehicles in APR

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 July — The potential for natural gas vehicles (NGVs) is growing in the Asia-Pacific Region, a senior Malaysian official said here on Tuesday.

“Already we can see a rapid rise in the number of natural gas vehicles in the different countries in this region,” said Dato’ Sri Chan Kong Choy, Malaysia’s Transport Minister, in a speech to open the First Asia-Pacific Natural Gas Vehicles Association’s Conference and Exhibition (ANGVA).

Currently, some $40,000 natural gas vehicles run in Pakistan, and more than 160,000 travel in India, and in Malaysia there are also over 14,500 such vehicles, the official told the conference held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

The Malaysia Government has been supporting and encouraging the NGV industry through various incentives, lower retail price of natural gas for vehicles, exemption of import duty and sales tax for the import of conversion kits, and lower road tax for bi-fuel vehicles and monofuel natural gas vehicles, he said. Malaysia has also been encouraging the development of the local NGV and the related technology, he added.

There are more than 7.4 million vehicles (excluding motorcycles) in Malaysia, and the market potential is considered to be large, adding that the country will increase the number of natural gas filling stations to serve 54,000 vehicles by the Year 2010. — MNA/Xinhua

Roh Moo-hyun accepts resignation of top envoy to US

SEOUL, 27 July — South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun decided to accept the resignation of South Korea’s Ambassador to the United States Hong Seok-hyun, who expressed intention to step down one day earlier, according to Roh’s spokesman Kim Man-soo on Tuesday.

Roh, however, will allow Hong to continue his job for the time being before officially accepting his resignation, the spokesman said in a news release of the Presidential Office.

The timing of the acceptance of his resignation will depend on the settlement of his job as the ambassador to the United States,” said Kim.

Hong made a phone call from Washington to Chief of Staff of the South Korean Foreign Ministry on Tuesday.

Indonesian “OV-10 Broncos” grounded following crash

JAKARTA, 27 July — The Indonesian Air Force decided on Tuesday to suspend the operations of the remaining nine light attack aircraft OV-10 Broncos following the crash of a Bronco last Thursday that killed two pilots.

The US-made aircraft were grounded pending the results of the ongoing investigation into the accident, said First Marshal Yushan Sayuti, Chief of the East Java-based Albudhrahman Saleh Air Force Base. The Broncos belong to the Squadron 21 based in the East Java town of Malang. “Investigations are underway,” Yushan was quoted by the Detikcom online news service as saying. He said the investigation may take a long time because the ill-fated plane did have cabin voice recording known as black box. Yushan confirmed that the Indonesian Military (TNI) will not dismiss the Squadron 21 due to the suspension.

— MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to intensify auto part production

HANOI, 27 July — Vietnam will increase the proportion of locally-made parts in assembled automobiles, especially light trucks and buses in the next five years, and export vehicles and their spare parts by 2020.

In the 2005-2006 period, the country is focusing on raising the local content in light truck’s engines to some 33 per cent, and in light trucks and buses’ bodies to 40-50 per cent, according to the Industry Ministry on Tuesday.

The ministry said by 2010, Vietnam will increase the local content in engines of all kinds of automobiles, excluding cars, to some 50 per cent, that in gearboxes of the vehicles to over 75 per cent, and that in bodies of light trucks and buses to nearly 100 per cent.

Now, none of 90 automobile assembling facilities in the country have poured sufficient investment into manufacturing important parts such as engines and gearboxes.

Under a strategy on developing Vietnam’s automobile industry, the country will encourage all economic sectors to produce components, especially those of engines, on large scale.

Projects on manufacturing common- and special-use vehicles like buses, light trucks, tank trucks and ambulances are to enjoy incentives in terms of land, loan, technology transfer, and research and development.

Automakers in Vietnam sold a total of 16,128 vehicles in the first half of this year, posting a year-on-year rise of 26.1 per cent, the Vietnam Automobile Manufacturers Association told Xinhua recently.

— MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to send blood sample for bird flu test

JAKARTA, 27 July — Blood samples from two Indonesians hospitalized in Jakarta will be tested for the bird flu virus even though initial results showed both have typhoid, health officials said on Monday.

The women, including a news photographer who had recently photographed chicken farms, are under close observation following the recent death of three members of a family from the virus, officials said. The samples would be sent to Hong Kong, they said.

Both men have been treated at hospitals in North Jakarta and are suffering from high fever and flu symptoms. “The temporary diagnosis is typhoid. We have sent specimens to the WHO this morning for further tests,” said Evi Zelvino, a spokeswoman at the Jakarta health agency, referring to the World Health Organization. The WHO’s spokes-woman in Indonesia, Sari Setiogi, said they planned to send the samples to a laboratory in Hong Kong for testing and results should be known in 7-10 days. — MNA/Reuters

— MNA/Xinhua

Number of leprosy cases in Vietnam drops

HANOI, 27 July — Vietnam reported the rate of leprosy cases nationwide dropped to an average of 0.1 per 10,000 residents in 2004 from 0.7 per 10,000 in 1995.

With the drop, Vietnam attained the World Health Organization’s leprosy elimination target of less than 1 per 10,000 population, according to the Vietnam News Agency on Monday.

Over the past decade, nearly 23,370 leprosy patients have been cured, while more than 10,000 disabled others have been given annual functional rehabilitation, said the agency. To eliminate the disease totally in the country, the Health Ministry will increase social involvement in combating the disease, give high-risk remote and rural areas greater access to leprosy control services and improve functional rehabilitation services for disabled patients.

— MNA/Xinhua
Russia welcomed on Wednesday the return of the US shuttle to space, saying it would bring financial relief to Moscow after a long, two-year fight to keep humans in orbit. "We regard this extremely positively," Konstantin Kredenko, spokesman of the Roskosmos space agency, said after the shuttle Discovery blasted off from Cape Canaveral. Since the shuttles were grounded in February 2003 after one disintegrated on re-entry, killing seven astronauts, only Russia has sent people and cargo to the International Space Station (ISS) from its Baikonur cosmodrome in neighbouring Kazakhstan.

MNA/Reuters

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin cordially converse with local people at the dengue hemorrhagic fever control campaign on 9th Minye Kyawswa Street in Ward 3 of Hlinethaya Township on 27-7-2005.— VDCC

WE regard this extremely after a lone, two-year fight Russia welcomed on cordially converse with local people at the dengue hemorrhagic fever control campaign on 9th Minye Kyawswa Street in Ward 3 of Hlinethaya Township on 27-7-2005.— VDCC

East is East and West is West

Information and communication technology began to develop with high acceleration towards the end of the 20th century. The ICT is now covering the whole world. Some scholars say that the world is not round anymore, but has become flat, ensuring equal opportunity for all as changes in the ICT age are much faster than those in the agricultural and industrial ages.

We will have to agree that man has not seen any mutual penetration of thoughts, human values, lifestyles, tastes, habits, and behaviours across the boundaries as strong and fast as in the present age during the past 2,000 years. Unlike in the past, literature, music, films, plays and paintings are reaching every part of the world within seconds from the satellite and through the Internet and websites, leading to the formation of a blend of cultures. Life-styles are changing with high velocity that some are even speaking and writing against the tradition of dining with bare hand, starting to describe it as an unhealthy and out-dated habit. They are advocating the use of chopsticks and fork and spoon as a healthy and modern eating style. (I have no objection or otherwise to their suggestion. Every person can choose any style he likes. There cannot be a single or uniform style of eating in the whole world).

The mode of dressing is changing significantly almost every ten years in Myanmar or any other global country. The culture of wearing jean or skirts, dyeing hair blonde and changing hair styles has already reached even the villages because of the actors and actresses and models youths have watched in films, video and TV plays and fashion shows. But the tradition of wearing thanakha exists till today in both the rural and urban areas.

Twenty years ago, an American expert in political science said that ideological wars will end in the 21st century. His words were true to some extent. But he continued to say that rivalry or the fight for global supremacy will be fought on the cultural front in the 21st century. With the intention of gaining the upper hand on the front, powers of the West including the US and England drew the strategy to launch a continuous offensive, and since 20 years ago, they have been in the process of organizing the global peoples to assume that only the western films, pop music and songs, literature and art are of the high class, and that those of the orient and Africa are of the low-class, outdated and worthless types to be discarded.

People with less knowledge begin to accept the western culture and styles higher in level than the culture of any other region of the world.

Ten years ago, a man built a large and grand hotel in Yangon at a huge cost. As the hotel was built with the European design and architectural style, it did not suit to the weather of Yangon, which is hot in summer and has a lot of rain in the rainy season. The hotel was too hot in summer. The roof of the hotel was too flat that it leaked during the rainy season and gaves were too short that they could not give the hotel shelter against splashing rain drops. It had very few guests in summer. The owner had to rely only on winter. And the facilities of the hotel were fast deteriorating because of the rain water that leaked or splashed into it. So, it had to be resold. A retired officer who had inspected the hotel once told me that it was wrong to assume that the western style or design was superior than that of the east in all aspects. A race must value its own characters and traits.

In our country some quarters are trying to adopt a constitution, an exact copy of the west. But the people have never accepted a direct copy. There were also persons who wished to copy ideologies of other nations. If one ignores the nation’s nature and history his thoughts and ideas will never fit the nation’s actual condition.

All need to understand clearly that East is East and West is West. In this regard, the people should try to widen their knowledge.

We do not need to accept all the foreign models. We must take the good parts and discard the parts that do not suit to our traditions and culture. We will have to Myanmarize the foreign model to be adaptable and acceptable to our nation. The spirit and act of Myanmarization has started since the Bagain period while preserving the race, its characters and lineage. It is a fine tradition existing till at present.

(Translation: TMT)


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(Translation: TMT)


Ampicillin Capsule IP
(Ampicillin Trihydrate IP Equivalent to Ampicillin 250 mg)

CADIChEM Pharma
W/86 MIDC Industrial Estate
Mumbai

Ampicillin Capsule BP 250 mg (Amoxicillin Capsule BP 250 mg)

S-Mox-250
Systemic Pharmaceutical
Industrial Estate
Baroda-16

S-Mox-250
(Ampicillin Trihydrate IP Equivalent to Ampicillin 250 mg)
Actively and unitedly participate in realization of seven-point Road Map with Union Spirit

(from page 16)

Hpa-an Township
USDA Daw Amy Kyaw
and Daw Nan Ta Kaw Awa acted as masters of ceremonies.

Next, the meeting chairman, members of the panel of chairmen and those present saluted the State flag.

Afterwards, the meeting chairman delivered an address on the occasion. In his speech he said prevalence of peace and stability is sine qua non for building a modern and developed democratic nation. Union Spirit is also a key factor for peace and stability in the state. Union Spirit means that all national races are living through thick and thin as long as the world exists. This spirit was constantly embedded in the hearts of national races since Myanmar heading for a new modern and developed nation.

Today’s government is carrying out security, stability, peace and development tasks round the clock while it is stepping up implementation of the seven-point Road Map to hand over the State’s power to the people. The government made known to the international community that it is exerting all-out efforts for the emergence of a new modern and developed democratic nation.

So, he urged those present to actively and unitedly participate in realization of the seven-point Road Map through Union Spirit and patriotic spirit upholding the national policies which are inborn national duties.

Afterwards, Executive of Kayin State USDA U Kyaw Nyunt Win said that in an attempt to cause disintegration of the Shan state government and independence of Shan State through foreign media, they betrayed the Union and it was an attempt to disturb the stability and prevalence of peace and tranquillity in Shan State. On behalf of the national people, U Kyaw Nyunt Win pledged to oppose the acts of expatriates which could lead to disintegration of the Union and harm Our Three Main National Causes.
Taking lessons from the past history, the government has paid emphasis on consolidation of national unity. And with the unity of the Tatmadaw and the people, the State is also trying to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Some western countries have tried to drive a wedge aiming at causing disintegration of the Union. Therefore, there were hindrances to the development of the State.

The government has paid emphasis on consolidation of national unity. And with the unity of the Tatmadaw and the people, the State is also trying to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

After realizing the genuine goodwill of the government, 17 armed groups returned to the legal fold. Since then, they have been participating in nation-building tasks in cooperation with the national people. Expatriates and some western countries have tried to drive a wedge aiming at causing disintegration of the Union. Therefore, there were hindrances to the development of the State.

As soon as Myanmar had regained her inde-

pendence, she became a member of the United Nations on 18 May. And Myanmar has been cooperating with the ILO so far. She said before 1988, there was no accusations people have been destroyed due to their inhumane acts. She said the ABSDF is an insurgent group that was formed in the border region where insurgents are operating.

Afterwards, Daw Nan Than Htay, member of Kayin State Women’s Affairs Organization, said looking back to the past history of Myanmar, it can clearly be seen that there prevailed national solidarity, Union Spirit and anti-colonialist sentiment in the country. Now is the time when the State is striving to build a discipline-flourishing democratic nation, she said. Taking lessons from the past history, the government has paid emphasis on consolidation of national unity. And with the unity of the Tatmadaw and the people, the State is also trying to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

All in all, she said, all national people opposed and condemned the destructive acts of the members of FTUB, ABSDF and NCGUB who are lackeys of the West Bloc and gaining political profit under the pretext of democracy.

Hpa-an Township USDA, tabled a motion calling for guarding against internal and external destructionists, as well as to maintain our Three Main National Causes with Union Spirit.

Kayin State Women’s Affairs Organization member Daw Nan Than Htay. MNA

Prime Minister General Sein Win cordially greets Chinese Foreign Minister Mr Li Zhaoxing at Zezaythiri Bokman. MNA

Kayin State Women’s Affairs Organization member Daw Nan Than Htay. MNA

Minister for Social Welfare and Child Welfare Association member Daw Nan Hla Yin May. MNA

Daw Nan Hla Yin May. MNA

Government has implemented short-term and long-term plans systematically for the development of border areas after making peace with national race armed groups so that they could return to the legal fold to ensure stability of the State and community peace.

Kayin State Women’s Affairs Organization member Daw Nan Than Htay. MNA

Hpa-an Township USDA executive U Tin Ko Latt. MNA

Daw Nan Hla Yin May. MNA

MNA

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(See page 10)
goal of building a discipline-flourishing peaceful, stable and all-round developed democratic nation in accord with the aspirations of the people.

At such a time when the government is fulfilling all requirements for gentle transition from the nation’s old system to a new one, certain big nations are putting pressure, imposing economic sanction and levelling accusations against the nation. He said war veterans sincerely believed that only when the people make strenuous efforts on self-reliance with Union Spirit, will it be possible to achieve the goal of building a discipline-flourishing peaceful, stable and all-round developed democratic nation in accord with the aspirations of the people. As is known to all, some nations are resorting to various means to put Myanmar rich in national recourses under their domination. He said they will never stand for conditions that harm the success the nation has achieved.

It is incumbent upon all Myanmar national people to protect and safeguard the discipline-flourishing democratic nation for its perpetual existence. National solidarity and Union Spirit are a sure, imposing economic sanctions are putting pressure on self-reliance with Union Spirit, will it be possible to achieve the goal of building a discipline-flourishing peaceful, stable and all-round developed democratic nation in accord with the aspirations of the people. As is known to all, some nations are resorting to various means to put Myanmar rich in national recourses under their domination. He said they will never stand for conditions that harm the success the nation has achieved.

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Monsoon paddy cultivation

YANGON, 28 July — A ceremony to conclude cultivation of monsoon paddy for 2005-06 was held in Kalagon Village of Hmawby Township yesterday morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivered an address.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Director-General U Tun Tin of Agricultural Mechanization Department, No 1 Military Region Commander Col Myat Thu, Hmawby Station Commander Lt-Col Tin Oo, local authorities and departmental officials. Chairman of Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myat Min briefed him on completion of growing monsoon paddy in townships of the district.

Head of Yangon North District Settlement and Land Records Department U Myaung Maung explained rules of the seeding skills competition. The commander and officialsviewed participated of contestants from eight townships in the competition.

After the competition, Managing Director U Than Lwin of Steel Stone Co presented 100,000 to the all the teams through Mingala township Myanma Agriculture Service Manager U Zaw Lin. Officials also presented second and third prizes to Hlegu and Taikkyi township teams. The commander awarded medal and cash prize to Hmawby Township team.

Next, the commander and officials inspected new model of Leyar-16 power-tiller, formula of EM Bokarshi, and signed the visitors’ book. At the ceremony to free fish into the paddy fields, the commander and officials participated in it.

Y. N. N. X.

Minister visits private poultry farms in Taunggyi

YANGON, 28 July — Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo yesterday morning.

The minister informed reports on flow of water into Chaunggauk Dam and supply of water to Lemyin Dam through canal presented by officials in Pyay Township on 25 July. Chaunggauk Dam can store 12,500 acres-feet of water at the highest level and now it stores 6,800 acres-feet of water.

The commander and the minister inspected irrigation facilities at the two dams.

At Nyaungdon Dam, Deputy Director U Myo Tun of Irrigation Department reported to the commander and the minister on arrangements made for supply of water from Chaunggauk Dam to Meiktila Lake through Nyaungdon Dam.

The commander and the minister oversaw upgrading of Kontaung Dam in Thazi Township.

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Irrigation facilities inspected in Pyay Township

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N. Y. N. X.

PRC Foreign Minister concludes visit

YANGON, 28 July — The visiting Chinese delegation led by Foreign Minister of the People’s Republic of China Mr Li Zhaoxiong, accompanied by officials, visited the Shwedagon Pagoda this morning.

First, the guests offered flowers, lights and joss sticks to the pagoda and signed the visitors’ book.

Next, the visiting Chinese delegation made cash donations to the funds of the pagoda to members of the pagoda board of trustees, who then presented a picture of the pagoda as a token of Dhamma present. Then the guests viewed the religious buildings at the pagoda. In the afternoon, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha hosted a lunch in honour of the delegation. The guest also visited Myanma Gems Museum.

In the evening, the Chinese delegation left here by air. They were seen off at the airport by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, and officials, the Chinese Ambassador and staff members.

N. Y. N. X.

Nyaungdon oil and gas field produces 98 million cubic feet of natural gas daily

YANGON, 28 July — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspected the site for construction of Fertilizer Plant near Asugyi Village of Kyonpyaw Township on 26 July.

Chief Engineer (Drilling) U Kan Myint Gyi of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise reported on successful drilling of new well No 25 in Nyaungdon and production process, Director U Kyaw Hlaing on prospects of oil and gas production in Nyaungdon region, and Chief Geologist U Min Han on seismic works. Managing Director U San Lwin gave a supplementary report.

The minister instructed them to make efforts for drilling more new wells in Nyaungdon region and similar geographical area such as Maukau, Ywama and Dedeay regions. He decided to place the drilling machine and laid down the plan to boost production of oil and gas.

Next, Brig-Gen Lun Thi presented cash prize to the employees. Afterwards, he inspected completion of drilling works and productivity. Well No 25 pumps out over 5 million cubic-feet of natural gas and 24 barrels of condensate daily.

Now, 21 wells in Nyaungdon oil and gas field produce 98 million cubic feet of natural gas and about 800 barrels of condensate daily.

N. Y. N. X.
“Gert” kills one, affects thousands in northern Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 27 July—A person had been killed in flood in Mexico’s northern state of Nuevo Leon caused by tropical storm Gert which touched down in the Tamaulipas State on Monday, local media reported on Tuesday. The victim’s body was found entangled in branches and trees, one kilometre away from the spot where he was caught by water of La Silla River, the report said.

According to the Civil Protection Office in Nuevo Leon, rains will continue affecting several states in northern Mexico in the coming hours. MNA/Xinhua

London bomb suspect convicted robber

LONDON, 27 July—A prime suspect wanted for last week’s attempted London bombings had served a jail sentence for knifepoint robberies and grew to hate the British system after his conviction, newspapers reported on Wednesday.

Muktar Said Ibrahim, 27, whom police said planted a bomb on a bus in last week’s attempted attacks, was jailed for 5 years in 1996 for mugging people when he was part of a teenage gang, the Daily Telegraph said. The Sun tabloid said Ibrahim arrived in Britain from the East African country of Eritrea in 1992. “He was very bitter about getting five years (in jail),” the Sun quoted an unnamed associate as saying. “He was never the same person after.”

Newspapers said Ibrahim and another of the four suspected bombers came to Britain as child refugees from East Africa and had received state welfare payments.

The Times called them “the benefit bomb- ers who repair help with hatred”, while the Daily Mail said Britain had lost control of its borders and was “at the mercy of murderous fanatics”.

The Home Office (interior ministry) and police declined comment on reports. MNA/Reuters

Heat wave sweeps across US, kills dozens

WASHINGTON, 27 July—A relentless heat wave has swept across the Midwest and the East Coast of the United States since last week, causing record-high temperatures in many areas and claiming dozens of lives.

The National Weather Service reported on Tuesday that nearly 200 cities in the West hit daily record highs last week, including Las Vegas at around 47-degree Celsius and Death Valley soared to 53-degree Celsius.

In Washington DC and nearby Maryland, residents are expected to experience the hottest weather of this year on Tuesday afternoon as temperatures will probably hit 38-degree Celsius. The National Weather Service have issued warnings from Nebraska to Washington DC and from Illinois to Louisiana, telling people to drink plenty of water, remain inside air-conditioned rooms and stay out of the sun.

The relentless heat, combined with high humidity, has taken dozens of lives in recent days, including 24 in Phoenix, Arizona, alone. In Missouri, Oklahoma and New Jersey, the heat has caused at least 11 deaths.

To relieve their suffering, people relied heavily on the air conditioners or tried to find a cool place such as swimming pools and fountains.

Demand for electricity to run air conditioners hit a new extra-fall on Tuesday in Ohio and Tennessee.

The good news is that a break in the heat is already on the way, at least for the Midwest. Some areas will begin to feel relief on Wednesday. MNA/Xinhua

Swiss hydrogen-powered car sets record in fuel efficiency

GENEVA, 27 July—A special hydrogen-powered car invented by Swiss scientists has set a new world record in economical fuel consumption, the official web site swissinfo said on Monday.

The PAC 11 car came in at the recent Shell Eco-Marathon in Lausanne, Switzerland, completing a 25-kilometre circuit using only one gram of hydrogen.

This converts to about 5,385 kilometres per litre of petrol, a new world record in economical fuel consumption. It means that PAC-Car would only need eight litres of petrol to drive around the globe. At the marathon, 25 cars, travelling at a minimum average speed of 30 kilometres per hour, competed for the best fuel efficiency title.

The PAC 11 car shell is made of carbon fiber materials, and weighs just 10 kilos. The vehicle is nearly three metres long, half a meter wide and 61 centimetres high. It can reach a maximum speed of 35 kilometres per hour.

The groundbreaking model was developed by a team of 20 mechanical engineering students at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich.

Team leader Lino Guzzella outlined the winning formula: “Light-weight design, aerodynamics, controls, power electronics, chemistry — the real hard engineering stuff.”

The project’s main sponsor was the Federal Energy Office of Switzerland, which hopes to promote energy efficient systems and renewable energy.

But experts estimate that Switzerland is decades away from developing the PAC-Car on a commercial scale, because hydrogen is not produced industrially and cannot be easily stored.

MNA/Xinhua
Chinese astronaut Yang Liwei on how to be qualified astronaut

BEIJING, 27 July — Chinese astronaut Yang Liwei on Tuesday told hundreds of young space fans that devotion, dedication and readiness of sacrifice are some of the major elements that make a qualified astronaut.

Addressing the students at the 16th Conference of Young Astronauts International, the Chinese astronaut said people with those elements will be able to persist in a long-term period of training to become a qualified astronaut.

Yang, who circled the earth in October 2003 aboard a Chinese-made spaceship for about 21 hours on the country’s maiden space flight, said that is his answer to the question he was frequently asked by children on the secrets to become an astronaut.

About 350 primary and middle school students from China, the United States and South Korea were among those present at the opening ceremony of the six-day event.

Also present at the ceremony were three retired US astronauts — Charles Duke, who landed on the moon in 1972, Charles Bolden, who deployed the Hubble space telescope on a 1990 mission, and Mae Jemison, the first black American astronaut.

The three astronauts are here as guest of the Chinese Society of Astronautics (CSA) on a two-week China tour, which began on 29 July.

They will visit China’s space research and development institutes, including those that develop China’s spaceships, satellites and carrier rockets.

---INTERTIEN---

Michael Jackson hospitalized after trial

LONDON, 27 July — Michael Jackson went to hospital suffering from dehydration and weight loss after jurors acquitted the singer of child molestation last month, his lawyer said on Tuesday.

"Michael Jackson was ill from time to time. In fact, people didn’t realize he actually entered the hospital after the verdict," Jackson’s lawyer Tom Mesereau told BBC radio in an interview. "He was dehydrated, he had lost a tremendous amount of weight, he was having trouble keeping food down, he was terrified about what was going happen to his children and he had an recurring back problem," he added.

The child star turned superstar, whose "Thriller" album made him one of the world’s best known entertainers, was visibly weak at the end of his four-month trial and his family said he had gone to bed after the verdict. Mesereau said he had not spoken to Jackson in the last few weeks although the two had been in touch after the trial.

---MNA/Xinhua---

Chinese scientists work out new tool to decode mammal genes

SHANGHAI, 27 July — Chinese scientists have worked out a highly efficient tool to decode information in mammal’s genome and hopefully to study more closely the mammalian life cycle, including causes for birth defects and certain diseases.

The findings, a transposition system dubbed PiggyBac and its elements, are "landmark findings with the potential to alter the way mouse genetics is carried out worldwide, and with implications for human gene therapy," say editors with Nature, an authoritative international magazine on life science. The findings have been summarized into a "PiggyBac Transposition in Mammalian Cells and Mice", the thesis will make a cover story, said Professor Xu Tian, head of the University’s development biology institute and leader of the research team.

The first author of the thesis is Ding Sheng, a third-year graduate student at Fudan University. In Chinese, the PiggyBac, a DNA transposon from a moth, is named after "Liu'ai", the Hercules in Chinese legend. Its elements can be used for genetic manipulation of mice, including generating transgenic mice.

---MNA/Xinhua---

Seven in ten Italians cannot afford a “decent” life

ROME, 27 July — Seventy per cent of Italians feel they do not earn enough to afford a “decent” standard of living, a study released on Monday found — the latest indication that the population is feeling the pinch of a struggling economy.

The proportion of people who are “subjectively poor” — those who say they can buy necessities but no luxuries — has rocketed from just 50 per cent two years ago, said ISAE, the government-funded economic thinktank which conducted the survey.

"Subjective poverty has increased consistently since the survey began (in 2000), first slowly and then picking up speed. In the last year there has been a very rapid increase," said ISAE, which questioned 24,000 families on their spending power.

The "subjective poverty" measure reflects how Italians feel their incomes measure up to their aspirations, and the massive rise indicates a widespread feeling that buying power has decreased in the last two years.

The survey adds to a steady flow of gloomy economic data and Italians’ perception of their own wealth and comes as politicians gear up for a general election to be held by next May where the economy will be the overriding issue.

ISAE found the "subjective poverty level" — the minimum monthly income required for a "decent living standard" — was 1,250 euros (1,508 US dollars) for a single person, 2,600 euros for a large family.

The proportion of "subjectively poor" is about 10 times higher than those under the absolute poverty level, said ISAE. Around 6.8 per cent of households earn less than they need to live on.

---MNA/Reuters---

Young Thais spend heavily on cigarettes

BANGKOK, 27 July — Young Thais spend billions of baht yearly on smoking and a large number of teenagers have become heavy smokers, said a recent study.

"The amount young people spend on cigarettes is about three times higher than the entire government budget for public health services this year," newspaper Nation on Tuesday quoted economist Suchada Tangthangkhian as saying.

Suchada’s comment followed a recent study by Suat Dusit Poll, which found that total cigarette spending as much as 3.2 billion baht (about 80 million US dollars) a year on cigarettes.

---MNA/Xinhua---

“Discovery” launched successfully

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida, the United States), 27 July — The US space shuttle Discovery was launched just as scheduled Tuesday morning two and a half years after the Columbia disintegration grounded NASA's shuttle fleet.

About 1,000 smoke bombs, minute flames and huge hoars, the shuttle rocketed into the sky at exactly 10:39 am EDT (1439 GMT) as planned, leaving a straight column of smoke behind.

The shuttle separated from the twin rocket boosters at 2 minutes 5 seconds into flight, and shut down the main engines after reaching the space 8 minutes and 23 seconds into flight, all as planned.

NASA Administrator Michael Griffin described the liftoff as with "power and majesty".

However, he and other NASA officials at the news conference about one and a half hour after the shuttle liftoff restrained from calling the mission now a successful flight. The flight would not be successful until after Discovery's 12-day mission and landing, said officials.

"We had a very, very clean countdown," but only after the 12-day mission and landing could we be comfortable, said shuttle launch director Mike Leinbach.

"We've still got a lot of work to do," said Bill Parsons, shuttle programme manager.

Almost 2,500 guests of NASA, including First Lady Laura Bush and Florida Governor Jeb Bush, witnessed the shuttle liftoff about five kilometres away from the launch pad, NASA said.

It added that the First Lady went to the launch command centre where she hugged and congratulated workers there. "Thank you so much for your hard work. You're inspiring everybody," she said.

NASA workers at the command centre later gathered for traditional beans and cornbread to celebrate the launch success.

---MNA/Xinhua---
Schalke beat Werder Bremen to reach League Cup final

**Berlin, 28 July**— Schalke 04 beat Werder Bremen 2-1 with goals from Zlatan Bajramovic and Ebbe Sand on Wednesday and will face VfB Stuttgart in the League Cup final.

Bajramovic opened the scoring 11 minutes before halftime with a wonder goal that squeezed in at the near post and Sand took advantage of a mix-up between goalkeeper and defender for the second in the 71st minute.

Nelson Valdez pulled one back in the final minute at the end of a swift break. Stuttgart beat holders Bayern Munich in the first semifinal of the low-key pre-season tournament on Tuesday. The final takes place in Leipzig on August 2.

Bremen had the best chance of the opening half-hour but Tim Borowski slipped a shot wide from no more than two metres when he seemed certain to score.

Kevin Kuranyi then shot weakly for Schalke after being put through on goal before the home side took the lead with Bajramovic's perfectly judged volley.

Schalke dominated the second half and Sand managed to nip in ahead of keeper Tim Wiese to seal victory. The Bundesliga season begins on August 5 when Bayern, last season's league and cup winners, host Borussia Moenchengladbach.—**MNA/Reuters**

**Deportivo beat Newcastle 2-1 in Intertoto semifinal**

**La Coruña (Spain), 28 July**— Goals from striker Ruben Castro and defender Jorge Andrade gave Deportivo Coruna a 2-1 victory over Newcastle United in the first leg of an Intertoto Cup semifinal at the Riazor on Wednesday.

The English side were given hope of turning the tie around in next week's second leg at St. James' Park thanks to a thundering volley from midfielder Lee Bowyer.

Primera Liga side Deportivo gained an early reward for fielding an attacking line-up when young striker Castro steered home past goalkeeper Shay Given in the 11th minute after lively winger Pedro Munitis had slipped down the right and slipped a neat pass into the area.

Newcastle, who beat Slovakian side Dubnica 5-1 on aggregate in the previous round, were unable to find their rhythm against the Galicians. But Graeme Souness' men hit back against the run of play three minutes into the second half when Bowyer smashed home with an unstoppable left-foot volley after Diego Tristan had half-cleared a corner.

Depor restored their lead 10 minutes later when Portugal centre back Jorge Andrade made the most of some half-hearted Newcastle defending to stride forward from inside his own half before calmly curling the ball low into the corner of the net to make it 2-1. The home side were unable to cash in on their domination and Castro missed a fine chance to extend the lead late in the game. The winner of the tie will face the semifinal between Lazio and Olympique Marseille.—**INTERNET**

**Carew scores hat-trick on Lyon debut**

**Aixerre, 28 July**— Striker John Carew marked his Olympique Lyon debut in style with a hat-trick as they demolished AJ Aixerre 4-1 in the French season's curtain-raiser, the Trophy of the Champions, on Wednesday.

Norway's Carew, who joined the Ligue 1 title holders from Besiktas last month, scored twice inside five minutes after the break to help Lyon lift the trophy for a fourth consecutive time.

The French champions, bidding for a record fifth consecutive Ligue 1 title this season, showed why they are hot favourites to claim more domestic honours with their easy victory over the French Cup winners. Teenager Hatem Ben Arfa opened the scoring for Lyon from the penalty spot in the third minute after Carew was fouled in the area by goalkeeper Fabien Cool.

The Burgundy side equalized thanks to midfielder Lionel Mathis who outmanoeuvred Lyon captain Claudio Cacapa before beating Gregory Coupet from close range in the seventh minute. Lyon took the lead again when Carew marked his debut in French soccer by slotting home just after the half-hour mark.

The towering striker showed he has skill as well as strength when he got past two defenders to net a cross-shot and make the score 3-1 in the 67th minute. Carew put the match beyond doubt thanks to a 72nd-minute goal before he was replaced by young striker Nilmar.—**MNA/Reuters**

Celtic suffer Champions League embarrassment

**London, 28 July**— Gordon Strachan was humiliated in his first game as Celtic manager when his team lost 5-0 at Artmedia Petralka of Slovakia in the first leg of their Champions League campaign on Wednesday.

The result, one of the worst in the Scottish club's history, left Celtic facing another costly exit from Europe's most prestigious club competition in which they have consistently under-performed in recent seasons.

The 1967 European champions fell behind just before halftime when Juraj Halenar, who went on to complete a hat-trick, put Artmedia in front. In the second half the Slovakian side ran riot, scoring further goals through Blazej Vasicak, Halenar (twice) and Marcin Mikulik.

The pick of the goals was Halenar's second, a superb volley straight from a corner, and Celtic's misery was compounded by a suspected cheekbone fracture suffered by striker Chris Sutton.

"I'm still in shock," former Southamp- ton manager Strachan was quoted as saying by the BBC. "None of those players will ever forget that performance. Embarrassment is the strongest emotion right now and it's difficult to look anyone in the eye."—**MNA/Reuters**

**Argentine defender signs for newly promoted Cadiz**

**Madrid, 28 July**— Experienced Argentine centre-back Eduardo Berizzo has signed a one-year deal with newly promoted Cadiz, the Primera Liga side said on Wednesday.

The 35-year-old joins last season's Second Division champions on a free transfer after being released by Celta Vigo.

The former Argentine international, who began his career at Newell's Old Boys, signed for Celta from River Plate in 2001 and remained with the club when they were relegated from the top flight in 2004. The Uruguayan forward Fabian Estoyanoff and Portuguese defender Mario Silva are the other leading close-season recruits for the Andalucians as they prepare for their first campaign in the top flight for 12 years.
**Australia facing hotter, more volatile weather**

**Canberra, 28 July** — Australia could be up to two degrees Celsius warmer by 2030 and face more bushfires, heatwaves and storms despite global efforts to reduce greenhouse gases, a climate change report showed on Tuesday.

Australia is also at risk of stronger cyclones, fewer frosts, changing ocean currents and a more pronounced cycle of prolonged drought and heavy rains, found the government-commissioned report by The Allen Consulting Group.

Environment Minister Ian Campbell said that while Australia — which has refused to sign the Kyoto Protocol on global warming — was focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, it was also important to be prepared to adapt to inevitable climate change.

"The report tells us that some degree of climate change is inevitable because of greenhouse gases already emitted to the atmosphere and the strong growth of global emissions," Campbell said in a statement.

Campbell said the report on climate change would help Australia's Government, industries and communities begin to respond to the climate changes that were likely over the next two to three decades.

Australia is suffering one of its worst droughts in a century, which Treasurer Peter Costello has said was dampening the country's economic growth.

A panel of scientists that advises the United Nations has said world temperatures are likely to rise by 1.4-5.8 Celsius by 2100, triggering more frequent floods, droughts, melting icecaps and driving thousands of species to extinction.

Despite the Australian Government not signing the global Kyoto Protocol because it says the pact unfairly excludes developing nations, Campbell said Australia was on track to meet its Kyoto emissions target.

Kyoto came into force in February after years of delays and a pullout by the United States, the world's top polluter.

Under Kyoto, rich nations are meant to cut emissions of heat-trapping gases from power plants, cars and factories by 5.2 percent below 1990 levels by 2008-12 to try to slow what many scientists say could be catastrophic climatic changes.

**Flood Warning**

(issued at (12:30) hrs MST on 28-7-2005)

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation, the water-level of Sittoung River at Madanik is (1026) cm. The water-level may reach its danger level (1070) cm during the next 48 hrs commencing noon today.

**WEATHER**

**Thursday, 28 July, 2005**

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Shan and Kayah States, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and Tanninbhu Divison and isolated heavyfall in Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawes (6.26) inches, Ye (5.24) inches, Gwa (5.04) inches, Sittway (4.08) inches. Myeik (3.70) inches and Maungtau (2.80) inches.

Maximum temperature on 27-7-2005 was 82°F. Minimum temperature on 28-7-2005 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs MST on 28-7-2005 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 27-7-2005 was (0.2) hours approx. Rainfalls on 29-7-2005 were 0.43 inch at Mingaladon, 0.59 inch at Kaba-Aye, 0.27 inches at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2005 were 45.94 inches at Mingaladon, 45.47 inches at Kaba-Aye and 49.76 inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 6 mph from Southwest at (15:05) hours MST on 27-7-2005.

**Bay inference**: Monsoon is generally strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 29-7-2005: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Shan and Kachin States, Sagaing Division and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States, Tanninbhu Divison. Degree of certainty is 80%.

**State of the sea**: Squalls with rough seas will be experienced at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach 35 mph to 40 mph.

**Outlook for subsequent two days**: Likelihood of decrease of rain in the upper Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area** for 29-7-2005: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area** for 29-7-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 60%.

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**Chinese Foreign Minister Mr Li Zhaoxing and party visit Shwedagon Pagoda.** (News on page 11) — MNA/Reuters

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### Flood Warning

**Friday, 29 July**

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<td>Musical programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Weather report</td>
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<td>7:05 pm</td>
<td>Evening news</td>
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<td>Song of yesteryears</td>
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<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>News</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>International news</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>Weather report</td>
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**Tuesday, 29 July**

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Prime Minister General Soe Win receives Chinese Foreign Minister Mr Li Zhaoxing and party at Zeyathiri Beikman. — MNA

YANGON, 28 July — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win received visiting Foreign Minister of the People’s Republic of China Mr Li Zhaoxing and party at Zeyathiri Beikman, Konmyinttha, here, at 8 am today. Together with the Prime Minister on the occasion were Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint, Director-General U Soe Tint of the Prime Minister’s Office and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Chinese Foreign Minister and party were accompanied by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interests and bilateral cooperation between the two countries. — MNA

Tatmadaw implementing seven-point Road Map to systematically hand over the State power to the people

YANGON, 28 July — Mass meeting focusing “Guard against the danger posed by destructionists through united strength of people” was held at Zwegabin Hall in Hpa-an, Kayin State, yesterday morning. Present on the occasion were members of Kayin State Union Solidarity and Development Association, Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Women’s Affairs Organization, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, Red Cross Society, nurses, faculty members of Hpa-an Education College, departmental officials and local people totalling over 1,000.

Executive of Kayin State USDA U Saw Myat Hut Win presided over the meeting together with Chairperson of the Supervisory Committee for Kayin State MCWA Daw Mar Mar Lu, Chairperson of Kayin State WAO Daw Tin Sein, Chairman of Organizing Committee for Township WVO U Thet Oo Shin, Staff Officer (Grade-I) of Kayin State Red Cross Society U Khan Kyaw Win, Deputy Commanding Officer of Auxiliary Fire Brigade U San Ko, townelder U Saw Soe Tint. Member of (See page 8)