YANGON, 8 July — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspected the Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge (2) Project in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon East District, this afternoon.

Superintending Engineer (Project) U Myint Lwin of Public Works of the Ministry of Construction and officials reported on work progress. In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Myint Swe called for completion of the project on schedule meeting the standards set, and timely completion of the tarred approach roads to the facility that will be able to withstand 75-ton loads. Upon completion, the bridge will link Bagomyit Street in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and Kalawel Village in Thanlyin Township, Yangon South District. And the reinforced concrete type facility will be 4,540 feet long and 72 feet wide with a six-foot-wide pedestrian lane each on either side on it.

The road will link Thayetpin Chaung Village and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township Industrial Zone in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township. On completion, the facility will be 4.4 miles long and 34 feet wide. Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected the bridge project. The superintending engineer also gave an account of the project. He looked into the physic nut plantation in Ward 93 in the township. Local authorities reported on achievement in exceeding the targets of growing physic nut plants. Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on the project. So far, Yangon East District has put 7,214.83 acres and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township 544.67 acres under physic nut plants.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence inspects physic nut farm of Yangon East District. — MNA

The photo shows progress of Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge No 2 being built by Bridge Construction Special Group-1 of Public Works. — MNA

Upon completion, Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge-2 will link Bagomyit Street in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township and Kalawel Village in Thanlyin Township, Yangon South District. And the reinforced concrete type facility will be 4,540 feet long and 72 feet wide with a six-foot-wide pedestrian lane each on either side on it.

MNA
**Dhammacakka Day**

Today, the Dhammacakka Day, is a day of religious significance to the Buddhists. After attaining the Buddhahood, the Lord Buddha walked Migadawon where He preached the Dhammacakka Discourse to the Five Disciples, plus devas and Brahmans on Fullmoon Day of Waso.

The Buddha expounded the Four Noble Truths in His first sermon known as the Dhammacakka Pavattana Sutta— the truth of suffering, the truth of cause of suffering, the truth of cessation of suffering and the truth of way to cessation of suffering, and delivered the Noble Eightfold Path for human beings to follow in order that they can escape from suffering and craving.

The Dhammacakka Pavattana Sutta, it is worthy of note, is one of the most important discourses of the Buddha, for it embodies the basic tenets of the Buddhism. The Buddha Himself preferred the practice of the Middle Way or Majhima Patipada, which avoids the extremes of self-indulgence and self-mortification and of eternalism and nihilism.

The Noble Eightfold Path—Right Understanding, Right Thought, Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right Mindfulness, Right Concentration—are the noble practices of the Dhammacakka Discourse.

We firmly believe that all the Buddhist devotees will be able to follow the Noble Eightfold Path through practice and moderation to find truth, fulfillment and happiness.

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**Commands, Mayor inspect sanitation works**

_YANGON, 7 July—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Huy Win and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected unblocking of ditches and sanitation tasks at the corner of Waizanyantar Road and Parami Road in South Okkalapa Town-ship this morning and gave necessary instructions to the officials. Next, the commander and mayor also looked into dredging of ditches with the help of heavy machinery along Parami Road and Thanthuma Road in ward (5) and ward (14), in South Okkalapa Township._ — MNA

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**MoU signing ceremony held**

_YANGON, 7 July — A ceremony to sign the MoU on academic matters between Union of Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Working Committee for Academic Matters) and Chonnam National University of Republic of Korea was held at the meeting hall of UMFCCI this morning. It was attended by UMFCCI Vice-President U Thaung Tin, General-Secretary of UMFCCI Chairman of Working Committee for Academic Matters U Sein Win Hlaing and committee members, Director of Chonnam National University Professor Dr Hoisoo Kim and members. Those present made discussion on matters related to MoU. At the ceremony, Chairman of Working Committee for Academic Matters U Sein Win Hlaing and Director of CNU Professor Dr Hoisoo Kim signed the MoU to set up Korean Technology, Culture and Business Education Center (KTCBEC) under UMFCCI Training Center, jointly conducted by Gwangju-Jeannam e-Learning Research Center, Chonnam National University._

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**Traffic rules enforcement course opened**

_NAY PYI TAW, 6 July — Organized by Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee of Nay Pyi Taw, an opening ceremony of traffic rules enforcement course for auxiliary traffic police took place at Mingalarkandaw in Pyinmana on 28 June. It was attended by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, senior military officers, local authorities and others. Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin made an opening speech. A total of 100 trainees attended the 3-day course._ — MNA

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**The Commerce Journal comes out**

_YANGON, 7 July—Volume-6, No 12 of the Commerce Journal with eight special pages has been in circulation. The journal carries a wide array of items such as service of Myanmar Trade Net, the differences between leadership and management by Maung Su San, sales of train tickets for company staff, herbal export to Sri Lanka, commerce dialogue by Maung Taing Bin, 100 keys to success by Kyi Shone, Chinese automobiles with own brands by Maung Paso Gyan, local and foreign market news and others. It is available at No 38, 30th Street, Pabedan Township._ — MNA

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**People’s Desire**

* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

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**Responsible persons of UMFCCI and Chonnam National University signing an MoU. — UMFCCI**

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**Traffic rules enforcement course completed.**
ASEAN launches new project to promote tourism

BANGKOK, 7 July — Tourists visiting Southeast Asia can now enjoy the convenience of one-stop-shopping for air tickets, hotels and tour packages for different ASEAN member countries, an ASEAN tourism official said Thursday.

Tunku Iskandar, chairman of Intra-ASEAN Travel Committee told a Press conference here that the project “Visit ASEAN Pass”, aimed to promote intra- and inter-ASEAN tourism and supported by the national tourism organizations of all 10 ASEAN countries, was introduced one year ago and launched from January, 2006 at an ASEAN tourism forum. With the VAP e-booking system coming into effect, the project has now officially “live”, Tunku said. The next step will be selling it to travel service suppliers all around the world. Tunku noted, adding that up till now, there are already 666 hotels registered as VAP suppliers.

The Visit ASEAN Pass, comprising the ASEAN AirPass, the ASEANHotelPass and the ASEAN TourPass, is to provide travellers with special deals offered by the national airlines and members of the national hotel associations and national travel agents associations.

Travellers from all around the world can book air tickets, hotels and tour services for different ASEAN countries by just one visit to any travel agent or ASEAN airline’s office which has registered as an ASEAN Tourism Association (ASEANTA) member, without additional cost. — MNA/Xinhua

Pirates attack three ships off Indonesia

JAKARTA, 7 July — Pirates have attacked three ships, including two UN-chartered vessels and a Japanese bulk carrier, in Indonesian waters around the Malacca Strait in recent days, maritime and police officials said on Wednesday.

In at least one of the weekend attacks, raiders were armed with AK-47 rifles, grenades and pistols.

“That area has been a piracy hot spot in the past, so we hope it is not the start of a series of attacks and we are monitoring the situation at the moment,” Choong said.

Jodi Heryadi, a spokesman for Aceh police, said that in one of the weekend attacks the pirates, who were in fishing boats, took the crews’ wallets, cellphones, shoes and clothes. — MNA/Reuters

Bio-diesel producing Jatropha planted in Zambia

LUWAKA, 7 July — A kind of crop producing bio-diesel has been planted in Mkushi, central province of Zambia, according to Zambia News and Information service. Marli Investment, a Mkushi based agro-service company, has started an outgrower scheme for “Jatropha”, a crop that produces bio-diesel.

It quoted Zambia National Farmers Union (ZNFU) Mkushi District business manager, Martin Mwansa, as saying in Mkushi on Wednesday that so far some farmers have been requested to tender until given seed for the crop that matures in two years and that the farmers have been requested to tend until that age. He said the seeds from Jatropha plant produces bio-diesel, a liquid which can be later refined into a final quality product, the common engine diesel that is derived from crude oil. — MNA/Xinhua
Hu says China must ease growing wealth gap

BEIJING, 7 July — Chinese President Hu Jintao on Thursday called for stronger efforts to tackle a widening Gulf between rich and poor that analysts say threatens social stability even as the economy booms.

Speaking during a discussion of China’s income distribution, Hu said salaries should be market-oriented but China must focus on fairness, make policies favourable for poorer regions and crack down on illegal earnings, according to a report posted on the central government website.

Beijing must aim for higher minimum living standards in urban areas, better pensions and the expansion of the middle class, he told the meeting. Premier Wen Jiabao also attended the gathering.

A Chinese think-tank has suggested higher minimum wages to halt the emergence of an urban underclass, after a study found that from 1994 to 2004 China’s urban poor had become poorer, with minimum wage rises not matching average urban income rises.

“We have to stick to the system in which distribution according to work is dominant ... but further attention should be paid to social fairness,” Hu was quoted saying.

He also called for government agencies to double their efforts to “try to ease the trend of widening wealth distribution gap between regions and certain social groups”.

Hu, who also called for adjustment of “excessive” incomes, reiterated a pledge to boost public servants’ salaries but said the government needed to do more research into how to do it.

Finance Minister Jin Renqing, in an interview with the official Xinhua news agency, said the government would inject more funds into rural regions to help beef up infrastructure and increase farmers’ incomes.

Zhang Baixiu, a farmer, shows an odd duck with 4 legs at Minzhu village in Zaozhuang city, east China’s Shandong Province, on 7 July, 2006. The duck has four legs, two of 4 webbed feet are normal, and the others grow together. The duck can walk on land and swim in the water like other normal ducks.—INTERNET

Unknown brain disease kills 13 in northern Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 7 July — An unknown brain disease has killed 13 people and hospitalized eight others in the Municipal Hospital of Imperatriz, local media Wednesday quoted health authorities of Brazil’s Maranhao state as saying.

The mysterious syndrome, which was first detected at the beginning of this year, has mainly affected the rural region around Imperatriz, the second largest city of the northern Brazilian state. Physicians of the Maranhao State, joined by a team of the Health Ministry’s neurologists who arrived on Sunday, have been investigating the disease on site. They have collected blood samples of the people infected with the disease and put them into laboratory analysis.

The disease is not contagious, said experts, adding that it is not fatal if treated in time.

The disease-infected people, with swollen legs, usually feel weak and are extra sensitive.

Most of those killed by the disease lived in rural areas, where proper medical care was not immediately available. When they finally reached a hospital, the disease was already well advanced.

Experts believe that a lack of Vitamin B1 in diet could be the cause of the syndrome.

They say alchoholics are the highly risky group as the high consumption of alcohol reduces the body’s capacity to absorb vitamins.

Eight Asian bodies found on PNG shores

CANBERRA, 7 July — Eight bodies, thought to be Asian, have been found on a remote Papua New Guinea (PNG) beach, raising concerns about people smuggling and transnational crime in the area.

The rotting bodies, some torn apart by sharks, were so badly decomposed that they had to be buried where they were found in Western Province, just cross the water from the Australian border in the Torres Strait, Australian Associated Press reported on Wednesday.

PNG police were quoted as saying the nationality of the dead was yet to be determined.

But PNG Western Province police commander Inspector Mark Yangen said the dead might have been asylum seekers or illegal fishermen whose vessel had capsized.

Villagers living between Daru, the capital of Western Province, and the mouth of the Fly River had been reporting bodies washing up on the beach and until last Thursday, a total of eight were found.

Other bodies might still be out at sea or might have washed up elsewhere along the coast, Yangen said.

Floods claim 11 lives in S-W, east China

BEIJING, 7 July — Floods have claimed four lives in southwest China’s Chongqing Municipality, and seven others are confirmed dead in east China’s Huaihe River drainage basin. The floods, caused by heavy rainstorms, have caused 161 million yuan (20.1 million US dollars) in damages and destroyed 12.415 houses and 32,560 hectares of crops.

The rainstorms that have ravaged nine counties have affected 1.24 million people. One person remains missing. In east China’s Huaihe River drainage basin, 10.86 million people have been affected by torrential rains since last week.— MNA/Xinhua

Sean Connery to publish views on life and Scotland

EDINBURGH, 8 July — Sean Connery, who has said he would not live in his native country mixed with autobiographical anecdotes, his publishers said. Canongate Books of Edinburgh said it had acquired world English-language rights to the film star’s memoirs, “Connery’s Scotland,” in conjunction with Polygon.

“Our goal is to produce a very readable, visually stimulating and hopefully intriguing history of Scotland, with personal discoveries,” Connery said in a statement. Best known for his screen portrayal of fictional British spy James Bond, Connery will work in collaboration with writer and film-maker Murray Grigor.

Connery, the Edinburgh-born son of a truck driver, worked together with Grigor on an award-winning documentary, “Sean Connery’s Edinburgh.” The star now lives in the Bahamas. The Heraldnews-paper quoted Grigor as saying: “The content of the book is not quite all settled, and we have just been discussing exactly what will go into it.” —Internet

A three-month-old Siberian Tiger is fed milk by a zoo keeper at the Hengdaohezi Siberian Tiger Zoo in Hailin, northeastern China’s Heilongjiang, on 6 July, 2006. According to the zoo, which has a total of 256 tigers, it is the world’s largest Siberian Tiger Zoo in Hailin, northeastern China’s Heilongjiang, on 6 July, 2006. According to the zoo, which has a total of 256 tigers, it is the world’s largest breeding centre for Siberian Tigers.—INTERNET

A local resident of Castlegar, British Columbia uses binoculars to watch as a leading edge of a summer storm accompanied by high winds and plenty of lightning and thunder moves into the area on 6 July, 2006.—INTERNET

The mysterious syndrome, which was first detected at the beginning of this year, has mainly affected the rural region around Imperatriz, the second largest city of the northern Brazilian state. Physicians of the Maranhao State, joined by a team of the Health Ministry’s neurologists who arrived on Sunday, have been investigating the disease on site. They have collected blood samples of the people infected with the disease and put them into laboratory analysis.

The disease is not contagious, said experts, adding that it is not fatal if treated in time.

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Experts believe that a lack of Vitamin B1 in diet could be the cause of the syndrome.

They say alchoholics are the highly risky group as the high consumption of alcohol reduces the body’s capacity to absorb vitamins.

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California man kills self, four children

LOS ANGELES, 7 July— A California man armed with a hunting gun shot and killed his four young children before turning the gun on himself, a report said Wednesday.

The killings happened early Tuesday, the festive Independence Day, in Gustine, about 150 kilometres southeast of San Francisco, when the 38-year-old father opened fire at his four children aged from 5 to 12, according to local newspaper Modesto Bee.

Tremor Branscum died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, and authorities said the victims, including a pair of five-year-old twins, each died from a gunshot wound to the head.

Police in the Northern California city believe the shooting deaths of four children and their father, who had argued with their mother earlier, was murder-suicide.

They said Branscum killed his children and himself at home when his wife left with a friend for about an hour after the couple argued loudly at a market.

Neighbours reported seeing the father and children lighting off fireworks just hours before the slayings, according to police.

Calling the slayings "surreal", Jim Bonta, the mayor of Gustine, said there has been no murder reported in the city for almost four decades.

India to buy three more stealth frigates

NEW DELHI, 7 July— The Indian Navy will acquire three additional Talwar-class stealth frigates from Russia at a cost of $5.54 billion (€2.2 billion US dollars), the Indian Government announced Thursday.

The Cabinet Committee on Security, which met under the chairmanship of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh here, gave its approval to the purchase, according to Indo Asian News Service.

Of the total cost, 51.14 billion rupees (€1.13 billion US dollars) will be the cost of the warships and 4 billion rupees (88 million US dollars) for additional equipment to be fitted on, Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said after the meeting.

The first ship will arrive in India within five years after the signing of the contract, the Indo Asian News Service said.

Deputy to Blair faces sleaze inquiry

LONDON, 7 July— Britain’s Parliament began a career-threatening investigation on Thursday into contacts between Prime Minister Tony Blair’s deputy and an American billionaire hoping to open a London casino.

The inquiry is the latest in a string of bad headlines for Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott who also threaten to undermine Blair’s already precarious position.

Blair allies fear that if Prescott is forced out of office, calls could grow for Blair to leave much sooner than planned after he said he would not seek a fourth term.

Prescott, who denies any wrongdoing, is accused by some local officials and opposition politicians of abusing his power to help US oil and entertainment mogul Philp Anschutz in a bid to open a casino at London’s Millennium Dome.

Parliament’s Standards Commissioner said he would launch a full inquiry over a visit by Prescott to Anschutz’ Colorado ranch and whether it should have been declared publicly.

“Following preliminary enquiries, the commission has decided to look at the issues around the hospitality,” said a spokeswoman for Commissioner Philip Mawer.

India, China reopen historic trade route

NATHU LA PASS (Tibet), 7 July— The barbed wire that separated the world’s two most populous nations is gone and happy crowds of traders crossed the Sino-Indian border, 44 years after a border conflict closed down one of their main trade routes.

China and India restarted border trade Thursday through the Nathu La Pass, which sits 4,545 metres above sea level and is wedged between Yadong County of Tibet’s Xigaze Prefecture and India’s Sikkim State.

They also opened two border trade markets — the Reninggang market in Yadong and Changgu mart in India’s state of Sikkim.

Traders from both sides of the borderline crossed the pass to enter each other’s territories after an inaugural ceremony late Thursday morning.

Nathu La Pass was also a major artery of the Silk Road that historically linked China via Central Asia to Europe. “We’re very happy that trade is opened through Nathu La. It is a small beginning. I hope that subsequently we’ll be able to visit the Chinese Mainland through Nathu La in the near future,” Sonam Dorjee, member of the State Planning Commission of the Sikkim government, told Xinhua in an interview.

Before the pass was officially reopened, China and India raised their national flags and played national anthems on the two sides of their borderline.

Experts say the reopening of Nathu La Pass, plus last Saturday’s launching of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, will help pave a new Silk Road and build up regional harmony and prosperity.

Indian Govt notifies ban on sugar exports

NEW DELHI, 7 July — The Indian Government has announced a ban on the export of sugar for the current financial year, that is 31 March, 2007.

The ban would, however, not be applicable on preferential quota sugar exports to the United States and the European Union, according to a notification by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). Sugar exports to the US and EU would be permitted only through the Indian Sugar Exim Corporation Ltd up to a quantitative ceiling notified by DGFT, the statement said.

The government had made the last month banned exports of pulses and eased the norms for import of sugar and wheat as part of measures to check rising prices of essential commodities. The notification allows for shipment of the commodity against the contracts in which Letters of Credit were opened before 22 June this year, when the government had announced its decision to ban exports.

GSLV to lift off with “INSAT-4C” on 10 July

BANGALORE, 7 July — The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle will blast off into space on 10 July, with the state-of-the-art communications satellite INSAT-4C at 4.30 pm (1100 hours GMT) or 4.30 pm IST, the space agency said in a statement here.

As per the present progress, the launch is expected to take place at around 4.30 pm on 10 July from the second launch pad which was commissioned in May 2005 with the launch of the PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle), the space agency said in a statement here.

Preparations for the launch are proceeding satisfactorily at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, it said.

The launch rocket’s systems have been integrated and checked, ISRO said. The INSAT-4C, the latest satellite in the INSAT series, has undergone detailed checks since its arrival at the spaceport from the ISRO Satellite Centre here. After propellant filling, the satellite has been integrated with the GSLV, it said.

ISRO said the mission readiness review is planned for Thursday, followed by a meeting of the Launch Authorization Board that will clear the launch. In the next few days, a complete check of the fully integrated rocket and the satellite will be carried out, it said.

Official says US airstrike kills 19 in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 7 July — The US military air raid on a suspected hideout of Taliban militants left 19, including civilians, dead in the troubled southern Helmand Province on Tuesday night, spokesman of the provincial Government said Thursday.

“The incident took place in Ghach Zar Village in Kajaki District around 12 o’clock at night,” Hajji Mohiuddin Khan told Xinhua.

He could not tell how many civilians were killed, saying an investigation was underway to identify the victims.

Strongest rainstorm in 45 years hit E China province

NANJING, 7 July — Continuous storms hit parts of East China’s Jiangsu Province since 21 June, which have dumped 316 millimetres of rain and have collapsed houses, inundated croplands and caused dozens of casualties.

From 21 June to July 5, this coastal province has had the most rainfall since 1961, nearly four times the average of this period in many years, according to the provincial meteorological bureau.

The disastrous weather inundated large tracts of cropland and forests and rising water levels are threatening to overflow the shores of a major lake along the lower Huaihe River which runs across the province.

Water flowing into Hongze Lake hit 6,500 cubic metres per second, leading to rising water levels, the bureau said. A cyclone in an area of the province also caused dozens of casualties, according to the bureau.

Meanwhile, the water levels in other major lakes along the Huaihe River are also rising to flood levels, said the Huaihe River Water Resources Commission.

Spain confirms first case of H5N1 bird flu

MADRID, 8 July — Spain has recorded its first case of H5N1 bird flu in a waterfowl outside the northern city of Vitoria, the country’s Agriculture Ministry said on Friday.

The government department said the disease had been found in a great crested grebe in a marsh area. A protective zone with a three-kilometre radius has since been set up.

Preventive measures, including banning outdoor poultry farming within a certain distance from some marshlands, had already been in operation in Spain, a country which is on a major route of migrating birds from Africa. Bird flu has killed at least 131 people worldwide since it began ravaging Asian poultry in late 2003, according to the World Health Organization.

Google steps up competition in China’s on-line books

BEIJING, 7 July — Google, the world’s largest Internet search engine company, is to start an on-line book search service in China, accelerating fierce competition with Baidu, its biggest Chinese rival, the Xinhua-run Shanghai Securities News reported Wednesday. Google had signed cooperation agreements with four publishing houses in China, including the Tsinghua University Press and the Children’s Publishing House, the newspaper said.

The US-based company will make their books available on-line, provide search links and grant free access to a segment of each work, but readers would have to pay to read the full content, said Kai-Ju Lee, vice-president of Google.
Aung Thein (Dawei)

Uncle Phyo: Come in. Where have you been lately? We haven’t seen each other for long. Come and sit. Here are some fresh fruit and green tea.

Aung Thein: I was away in Kathoung. The seasonal fruit looks delicious. Oh, thanks a lot.

Phyo: I have many things to tell you. The National League for Democracy (NLD) has been continuously carrying out its wrong policy of defying all orders, confrontation, utter devastation, isolating Myanmar by cutting off all her international links, and relying on foreign powers, that would in no way benefit the nation and the people. The NLD has connections with expatriate groups and terrorist insurgent groups. The government has firm and adequate evidence to declare NLD unlawful association.

Thein: I have also heard about it.

Phyo: Concerning the minister’s clarification, I would like to know whether the NLD had connections with illegal organizations in the past also.

Thein: It had connections with illegal organizations in the past, uncle.

Phyo: If so, please elaborate on the whole affair, so that the public would be known.

Thein:We are acting on information searched the house of Daw Suu Kyi on 20 July 1989, they found 40 persons illegally staying at her house in addition to letters and papers sent to her by underground insurgent organizations and unlawful groups.

Phyo: Please continue.

Thein:Among the letters the authorities found was the 23-9-88 dated letter from KNU chairman Saw Bo Mya to U Aung Gyi, U Tin Oo and Daw Suu Kyi, saying that KNU would provide all-out support to them in opposing and attacking the Tatmadaw, and the copies of the announcement of the Burma Communist Party Central Committee issued on 19 August 1988, and the declaration of BCP 4828 regional committee.

Phyo: Did the authorities find papers of other unlawful organizations?

Thein:Yes. They also found a diary of an ABSDF youth, who went to Phayathonezu region, about his visit to KNU area from Yangon during the period from 18 September 1988 to 16 October 1988, the 13-8-89 dated biography of a member of Democratic Student Front (DSF), India (Manipur), and the Progressive Student Force for Democracy (PSFD), the record on the arrival of four DSF members in Myanmar, and papers on political assessment of the prevailing situation and the stance of DSF and PSFD.

Phyo: Did they also find any letters sent by ABSDF that had been declared a terrorist organization not long ago?

Thein: Than Tun Soe, CO of ABSDF battalion 701 sent a 7-6-89 dated letter to Ko Maw and Ko Aung who were acting as bodyguards of Daw Suu Kyi. In the letter was written that Than Tun Soe had a plan on overthrow Daw Suu Kyi, that he had not got the opportunity to do so then; and that he sent video tapes and photos for Daw Suu Kyi.

Phyo: Anything else?

Thein: Of the 40 persons found holing up in Daw Suu Kyi’s house was Soe Myat Thu, joint secretary of the logistics committee of ABSDF. Under the assignment of the BCP in November 1988, he arrived at Yangon via Kathoung from Ranong in Thailand. During his stay in Yangon, he met with Daw Suu Kyi, student leaders and war veterans and gave advice to launch an armed opposition against the Tatmadaw. Afterwards, he left Yangon for Bangkok. He met Brang Seng of KIA after the ABSDF Central Committee meeting held at U Thu Ta insurgent camp. He was arrested at Daw Suu Kyi’s house while trying to make contacts with foreign embassies on his return to Yangon.

Phyo: Didn’t the BCP also make contacts with the NLD in addition to ABSDF?

Thein:Yes, the BCP did. BCP politburo member Kyaw Mya sent a letter to Thet Khang a member of underground cell (UG) at the end of February 1989. The letter in reality was sent from first vice-chairman of the BCP central military commission Kyaw Zaw (retired briggen Kyaw Zaw) to Daw Suu Kyi. The letter said that the BCP leaders were in favour of Daw Suu Kyi; that they had the similar view as Daw Suu Kyi, urging her to continue to strive for ending the internal strife, vitalizing national politics and flourishing of democracy.

Phyo: The NLD as a legally formed political party should not make contacts with unlawful and illegal organizations at all. It should inform the authorities if those organizations made attempts to contact it. If you have just said is true, it can be assumed that NLD has had connections with expatriate groups and terrorist insurgents since long ago.

Thein: All I have told you are true and concrete as they are based on the clarification of the special press conference held on 5-8-89 concerning the BCP’s clandestine plots to cause unrest for grabbing power and its infiltration into various political parties.

Phyo: The Information Minister said at the press conference (4/2006) that the government already had firm evidence to declare NLD an unlawful association. The minister’s clarification had made profound impact at home and abroad. Some foreign radio stations are interviewing almost daily the so-called student leaders of expatriate groups abroad concerning NLD’s future.

Thein: I have also heard them. The worst is the interview with the persons from inside the nation who called themselves the new generation students of 1988.

Phyo: Aren’t the so-called new generation students of 1988 the members of All Burma Student Union formed in November 1988? They were released from prison not long ago after being arrested in March and April 1989 for causing disturbances under the manipulation of the BCP during the 1988 unrest.

Thein: You are right.

Phyo: To my knowledge, those persons once launched opposition against the Burma Socialist Programme Party government under the orchestration of BCP. Now, they with the support of the West bloc are taking part in the interview programmes of some foreign radio stations to tarnish the image of the Tatmadaw government. One of the directors of a foreign organization — US Campaign for Burma — is a former executive of the BCP.

Thein: Yes, I know.

Phyo: At the invitation of the Myanmar Minister for Foreign Affairs, Under Secretary-General of Political Affairs of UN Mr Ibrahim A Gambardi visited Myanmar on 18 May this year. The government permitted Mr Gambardi to meet and talk freely with NLD executives including Daw Suu Kyi at the Government Guest House. The foreign sources that are slaming Myanmar in various ways should understand the government’s goodwill.

Thein: I agree with you. Expatriate groups abroad and their masters are not happy with the government’s decision to extend one more year of restriction order on Daw Suu Kyi on 27 May 2006. They are trying to slander the government, which they call “military junta”.

Phyo: Whatever the expatriates and their masters are saying from abroad, the government knows best the objective conditions at home. It will do what is necessary for the protecting community peace and stability and the rule of law. It has to give priority to majority’s interest, rather than an individual’s.

Thein: Concerning the minister’s clarification at the press conference, please tell me what would be the future of the NLD, and the government’s attitude in the future.

Phyo: In my view, the future of NLD depends on the deeds of its members. The party’s future will be bright, if they do good. If they make things worse they will meet with legal action. The government’s attitude will be according to a motto — “If you are good, I will not be bad”. OK, that’s all for today.

(Translation: TMT)

Myanma Alinn & Kyemon: 8-7-2006

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**Energy Minister meets national entrepreneurs**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi met with national entrepreneurs who have purchased the fuel through foreign exchange at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 July.

It was attended by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Hay, the director-general and the managing-directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry and others.

The minister elaborated on the distribution of fuel to the national entrepreneurs and discussed matters on oil price and, storage and distribution of fuel with those present. Later, the minister, the deputy minister and officials replied to the queries raised by the national entrepreneurs. The minister fulfilled the requirements of the entrepreneurs and the meeting ended. — MNA

**Minister for Electric Power No 1 receives Chinese guests**

Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min poses for documentary photo with Vice-President Mr Mao Guoquan and party of China Power Investment Corporation of China. — ELECTRIC POWER NO 1

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July — Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min received Vice-President Mr Mao Guoquan and party of China Power Investment Corporation of China at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 July.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister for Electric Power No 1 U Myo Myint and directors-general. — MNA

**Tea, physic nut saplings handed over to five villages in Kengtung Township**

Commander Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing presents physic nut saplings to a villager. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July — A ceremony to hand over tea and physic nut saplings to five villages of hilly region in Kengtung was held at the model farm in Armude Village near Kengtung-Mongkhok Road in Kengtung Township on 21 June.

Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing explained undertakings for regional development and urged local farmers to extend cultivation of summer paddy, tea and physic nut plants. Departmental officials reported on benefits of growing tea and physic nut plants, prevention against forest depletion, and participation in regional development.

The commander handed over 35,000 tea saplings and 19,000 physic nut saplings, 40 bags of sticky rice and medicines to the representatives of five villages.

Next, the commander viewed cultivation of tea and physic nut saplings at the terrace tea farm. The commander inspected thriving 9,150 physic nut plants at Nam-in Village-tract.

At the hall in Armude Village, the commander met with officials and left instructions on upgrading of the village to a model one. — MNA

**Religious Affairs Ministry holds cash assistance presentation ceremony**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July — A ceremony to reward service personnel of Ministry of Religious Affairs who won Good Public Service Medals for 2006 by the State Peace and Development Council to present cash assistance to the children of the staff of the ministry was held at the meeting hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. It was attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser U Aung Maung, heads of department and staff.

Firstly, Pro-Rector (Admin) Dr Myint Kyi presented K 1,451,500 for the children of the staff to Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung on behalf of Associated Professor of International Tharavada Buddhist University Sayadaw Dhamma Kathika Bahuja nahnitadhara of ITBMU hands over cash assistance for children of staff to Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung presented K 3,000 each to 15 staff who won Good Public Service Medals. Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko also presented cash assistance for the children of staff to the officials. Cash assistance provided by the ministry and Sayadaw Dhamman Kathika Bahuja nahnitadhara Dhamma Duta Ashin Chekinda amounted to K 94,425,000. — MNA

**Vice-Mayor inspects tax free markets**

YANGON, 8 July — Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa together with head of markets department U Soe Myint and officials inspected tax free markets in Yankin Township, Tamway Township and Sanchaung Township.

The vice-mayor and party looked into poultry, fish and vegetable shops run by Yangon Vegetable Cultivation and Poultry Breeding Special Zone, edible oil shops of Myanmar Oil Dealers Association and groceries run by Yangon Division Wholesale Centre and cordially met with shop keepers and customers.

The vice-mayor together with chairman of Myanmar Rice Dealers Association and responsible personnel inspected arrival of rice-loaded vessels from Ayeyawaddy Division in Seikkan Township. At the meeting hall, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa gave necessary instructions and fulfilled the requirements. — MNA

**Ambassador calls on mayor:** Singaporean Ambassador Mr Chua Hian Kong Robert called on Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin on 8 July. The Mayor receives the ambassador. — YCDC
PBANRDA holds Waso robes offering ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July — Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs held the 13th Waso robes offering ceremony at the hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

The ceremony was graced under the presence of a nine-Sayadaw led by Pyinmana Zaygon Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Gantihavaṣaka Pandita Bhandanta Kavisara.

It was attended by Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt and wife Daw Kyin Khine, Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe, Directors-General and the Managing Director of the departments and enterprise under the ministry and families of the ministry.

The Nayaka Sayadaw invested the congregation with the Five Precepts. Later, the minister and wife and those present offered weso robes and provisions to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha. Sayadaw Bhandanta Kavisara delivered a sermon and those present shared the merits gained.

After the ceremony, the families of Ministry for PBANRDA led by the minister and wife offered ‘soon’ to the Sayadaws.

Ministry of Home Affairs offers Waso robes to Sayadaws

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July — Under the auspices of Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and wife Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo and party offered Weso robes and provisions to the Sayadaws.

After taking a sermon from the Sayadaw, the congregation shared merits gained.

Later, they donated ‘soon’ to members of the Sangha.

Merits shared for all-round renovation of PhaungdawU Standing Buddha Statue in Insein

YANGON, 8 July — A ceremony to share merits for completion of the walls, the banner post and the platform of PhaungdawU Standing Buddha Statue was held at Dhamma Yeiktha Dhammayon in the precinct of the pagoda in Myothit (A+B) Ward in Insein Township this morning.

Member of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tilokabhivamsa of Ywama Pariyatti Monastery, Chairman of Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myat Min, Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Bhaddanta Vimalabuddha, Member of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha U Tejaniya and members of the Sangha, Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo and wife Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo, departmental heads and staff families.

Chairman of the Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Bhaddanta Vimalabuddha administered the Five Precepts.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo, wife Dr Daw Nyunt Nyunt Oo and party offered Weso robes and provisions to the Sayadaws.

PPE, MMPE hold Waso robes offering ceremony

YANGON, 8 July — Under the auspices of Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win, families of Printing and Publishing Enterprise and Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise held a Weso robes offering ceremony at Kyaukyaydwin Yanada Beikman Pariyatti Monastery in North Okkalapa Township this morning.

A total of 25 wellwishers donated K 14.45 million to the fund for construction of the all-round renovation of the Buddha Statue. — MNA

POEM:

Special Obeisance On Arrival of Lent

* At the start of the Lenten period
  We pay obeisance with special thoughts
  To the Holy One
We do it, holding our palms in supplication
Hearts filled with spirit of offering
We supplicate before Lord Buddha.

* By this offering in this manner
  As Teacher of Disciples Three
We lay down all that we felt amiss
But pray not for their fulfillment
And not as a clamour, for healing
Or to make it known repeatedly, O Lord.

* The main reason for paying obeisance
  Specially now, today
Is for Myanmar at present
Who, with their clear conscience
Shunning bad acts, not veering from the path
And for doing what is good and noble
So that we may overcome
The vicious acts that are being committed
And all acts that tend to corner us
Not veering from our original path
And continue marching, acting confidently
To let Buddha, our Lord, know
We are thus supplicating.

* Shunning vice and espousing the good path
  Keeping a clear mind as preached
The wondrous Buddha Dhamma’s ability
We dedicate and pray
Specially at the start of the Lenten period
We supplicate, O Lord.

Shoon Mya Aung (Trs)
Bahan Township MCWA holds annual meeting

YANGON, 8 July — Bahan Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association held the 16th Annual Meeting at No 2 Basic Education High School in Bahan Township this morning, with an address by Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai. Chairperson of Bahan Township MCWA Daw Phyu Phyu handed over 1,000 membership applications to Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai. Next, Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai and party presented prizes to outstanding members and association branches. The Chairperson of Township MCWA read the annual report and financial statement, and submitted future tasks. — MNA

Torrential rains cause floods in some parts of Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July — The rivers and creeks in Myanmar became raging due to the continuous rains that fell down in torrents throughout the nation in recent days. Due to the incessent heavy rains, some wards, villages, roads and railroads close to rivers and creeks were flooded in Mawlamyine, Kyakto, Bilin and Mudon Townships in Mon State, Hpa-an and Kya-in Seikkyi Townships in Kayin State, and Taninthayi, Dawei, Ye and Yebyu townships in Taninthayi Division. On the morning of 6 July, Maung Tun Myint Aung, 18, son of U Aung Khin Soe of street to BEHS No-4 in Ward 6, Hpa-an, plunged into a drain with his motorbike and lost his life. On the same day, a landslide occurred near the footpath, west of the Moksoe Taung Pagoda in Kyakhtiyoe Pagoda Region, Kyakto. In the incident, a temporary hut was thrown into the ravine and Ko Naing Lin Tun and wife Ma Zin Mar who lived in that hut are missing. In the remaining incidents, there were no casualties, and officials concerned managed to evacuate the flood victims to safe places. Now, the floods have abated in those regions. Local Tatmadaw members, personnel, and members of social organizations are helping the victims to return to their homes, carrying out relief measures, and providing relief for them. — MNA

Singapore to train more seafarers

SINGAPORE, 8 July — Singapore on Friday launched a Maritime Training Fund, aiming to train up to 20 seafarers each year for its booming maritime cluster. Initiated by the Singapore Maritime Officers’ Union (SMOU) and local shipping companies, the fund of 2.3 million Singapore dollars (about 1.5 million US dollars) will focus on training in operating more complex navigational tools and handling gas and chemical products. Channel NewsAsia report said. The SMOU is to partner with other Asian countries, starting from China in October this year, to recruit from regional nations. Speaking at the launching ceremony, Minister of State for Finance and Transport Lim Hwee Hua said that manpower development will be one of the key factors in Singapore’s efforts to become an international maritime centre. — MNA

Former Chinese V-P conferred Honorary Degree in S’pore

SINGAPORE, 8 July — Former Chinese vice-premier Li Lanqing received a Honorary Doctor Degree of Letters from the National University of Singapore (NUS) here on Thursday. Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew attended the conferment ceremony at the NUS, along with the faculty and students from the university. Speaking at the ceremony, Li said that the cooperation and exchanges between China and Singapore in the fields of political relations, economy, trade, education, culture, science, technology and tourism are getting closer and bearing fruit. “Through mutually beneficial cooperation, we have not only promoted the fundamental interests of our two peoples, but also contributed to prosperity and progress of our region and the world as a whole,” said Li, who retired in 2003. — MNA/Xinhua

MMCWA(Central) donates cash and kind

Vice-Chairperson of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint presents medicines to Dr Chit Ko Tin. — MMCWA

Yangon, 8 July — Vice-Chairperson of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and executives presented K 500,000 and medicines worth K 700,000 for Child Cancer Unit of Yangon Children Hospital to Medical Superintendent Dr Chit Ko Tin yesterday afternoon. Deputy Director Dr Kyaw Lin and officials, specialists, matrons and nurses attended the ceremony. — MNA

Afflux bund of Washaung Dam breached

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July — Owing to the heavy rains in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State on 5 July, the Washaung dam had overflowed its embankment in the afternoon. Therefore, the afflux bund of the dam had to be breached about 200 feet to lower the water level and save the dam. Tatmadaw members in cooperation with departmental personnel and local residents removed the flosasam in the dam. At the same time, arrangements are being made for rebuilding the afflux bund of the dam. — MNA

Chinese college students join “new countryside” construction drive

BEIJING, 8 July — Chinese college students will go to the countryside during their summer vacation to publicize “new socialist countryside” policies and help rural residents improve their lives. The students will head to around 1,000 villages in 600 teams, with 100 teams devoted to publicizing government policies, 100 publicizing the “socialist concept of honour and disgrace”, 100 providing technical assistance to farmers, 100 giving lectures to rural students, 100 providing medical and health care and 100 teams of PhD students offering advice on local economic development, according to the activity plan. The summer vacation of Chinese colleges and universities generally start in July and last for around one and a half months. The government usually organizes college students to make field trips to the countryside and other grass roots units. A circular, jointly issued by the Ministry of Education and several other organizations, said the activity is “an effective approach” to improving the ideological and political education of college students. — MNA/Xinhua
UNSC to begin process of selecting new S-G next week

UNITED NATIONS, 8 July — The United Nations Security Council will begin the process of selecting a new secretary-general, for which Indian candidate Shashi Tharoor is in the fray, from next week when it is expected to hold the first "straw" or informal poll on aspirants already in the field.

The poll is designed to gauge the support that each of the declared candidates enjoys among the Council members especially the permanent five — United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — whose backing is necessary for a candidate to be finally nominated.

Though the Council is free to devise its own procedure, generally each candidate is voted separately. The members are distributed blank ballots on which they make a mark to show whether they support or oppose the candidate. The permanent five either mark the paper with a different ink or are given ballots with different colours.

Should a permanent member oppose a particular candidate, he or she is informally informed about it but no one would know which of the five has cast negative vote.

There could be several straw polls before a final poll is taken and a nomination sent to the General Assembly for approval.

Currently, there are three candidates in the field — Indian nominee UN Undersecretary General Shashi Tharoor, Sri Lanka’s Jayantha Dhanapala and Thai Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai.

Indonesians living abroad can lose citizenship

JAKARTA, 8 July — The Indonesian Parliament is slated next week to enact the citizenship bill, under which an Indonesian citizen who lives abroad for five consecutive years and fails to report to the Indonesian mission will lose his citizenship.

“All Indonesian citizens who live abroad for five consecutive years, including corrupt officials who flee justice, and fail to report themselves to the Indonesian mission will lose their citizenship,” said Slamet Effendi Yusuf, who chairs the special committee on citizenship bill in the House of Representatives.

The ruling also applies to “those who join foreign military service without prior approval from the President”, he said.

But Indonesian students whose adopted countries obliged foreign citizens to join the military service can elude the ruling, he said.

Indonesians who take oath of allegiance to a foreign country or hold foreign passport on their names can also lose citizenship.

Deputy Prime Minister S. Jayakumar said that the long global supply chains are vulnerable to disruption by external forces and with terrorist attacks being the biggest threat.

“To safeguard global trade and commerce, the security of the global supply chain as a whole needs to be enhanced. Collective attention must be paid to this complex task,” he noted, adding that the consequences of such disruption could be devastating for many economies worldwide.

Stressing that Singapore approaches the supply chain security issue on a holistic basis, Jayakumar, who is also Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Law, announced the establishment of the country’s national supply chain security programme.

Two killed in coal mine collapse in northern Turkey

ANKARA, 8 July — Two people died as they were trapped under a collapsed coal mine in northern Turkey on Friday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

According to the report, the collapsed coal mine in Azdavay Town of Kastamouni Province belonged to a private company.

Bodies of an engineer and an administrator of the private company were pulled under the rubble at the end of rescue operations that lasted more than five hours.

Meanwhile, six workers who entered the collapsed mine to rescue the trapped people were poisoned by the gas leakage, said the report, adding that they were rushed to a hospital for medical treatment and they are in stable condition after treatment.

Dutch police seize massive drugs in Rotterdam

BRUSSELS, 8 July — Dutch police have intercepted a shipment of 204 kilos of heroin in the Netherlands as part of an international operation against a Turkish drugs gang, Dutch media reported on Friday.

The drugs were hidden inside speakers in a delivery van stopped in Rotterdam on Tuesday, the National Detective Service of the Netherlands was quoted as saying.

The consignment came from Turkey believed to have come from Afghanistan.

The Netherlands uses the United States, Britain, Germany and France, according to the Dutch police. Five other people were arrested in May by the Dutch police as part of the investigation. The drugs are believed to have come from Afghanistan.

Soldiers exercise during a training session at a beach in Sanya, south China’s Hainan Province, on 6 July, 2006. — INTERNET

APEC Symposium on total supply chain security opens in S’pore

SINGAPORE, 8 July — The inaugural Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Symposium on total supply chain security opened here on Thursday with the participation of some 320 policy makers, industry practitioners and professionals from over 15 countries and regions.

They are expected to address issues like threats and vulnerabilities to the global supply chain, benefits to facilitating trade and business, perspectives from governments and industry on principles and approaches towards supply chain security, international cooperation, as well as challenges for the future.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Singapore’s Deputy Prime Minister S. Jayakumar said that the long global supply chains are vulnerable to disruption by external forces and with terrorist attacks being the biggest threat.

“To safeguard global trade and commerce, the security of the global supply chain as a whole needs to be enhanced. Collective attention must be paid to this complex task,” he noted, adding that the consequences of such disruption could be devastating for many economies worldwide.

Stressing that Singapore approaches the supply chain security issue on a holistic basis, Jayakumar, who is also Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Law, announced the establishment of the country’s national supply chain security programme.
Flood kills three oil workers in N-W China
Unmu, 7 July
Three oil workers were killed and five are missing after a flood washed away their work camp in Yumen, northwest China's Gansu Province on Thursday, a local source said.

More than 50 workers lived in the camp operated by Tuha Oil Field Company which is headquartered in Hami, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. — MNA/Xinhua

Putin wants quicker reaction from Iran
Moscow, 7 July — Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that Iran should offer “quicker” response from its major powers’ proposals over its nuclear programme, but spoke out against sanctions.

“We would like this reaction to be quicker, and the talks that should begin on the basis of these proposals should be constructive,” he said, through an interpreter, on an interactive webcast.

“Too endlessly this is counter-productive, but it would be more counter-productive to drive this problem into a dead-end and that is why I would not speak about sanctions at the moment.”

Putin next weekend hosts President George W. Bush and the other leaders of the G-8 nations for a key 11 July meeting.

Bush and the other leaders hosts President George W. Bush and the other leaders of the G-8 nations for a key 11 July meeting.

Oil near record above $75, eyes on US gasoline
London, 7 July — Oil stayed within sight of a new record high beyond 75 US dollars on Thursday as investors fretted over gasoline supply in the United States, where drivers burn 40 per cent of the world’s motor fuel.

Prices have climbed more than 50 US dollars a barrel over the past two weeks, fuelled by signs that US pump prices near 3 US dollars a gallon have yet to pinch the wallets of motorists in the world’s biggest energy user.

Investment funds, a key driver of a four-year rally that began at 20 US dollars, remain convinced there is no end in sight to the bull market and helped propel Wednesday’s climb to a new record of 75.40 US dollars a barrel.

“It will be much more than 100 US dollars before the bull market is over,” Bernstein US investor Jim Rogers told Reuters on Thursday. He has predicted the current bull market has another 15 years to run.

US crude for August shed 30 cents to 74.89 US dollars a barrel by 1014 GMT. London Brent crude was off 36 cents to 73.62 US dollars a barrel.

In another indication of the market’s sustained strength, Goldman Sachs raised its forecast for five-year-ahead US crude by 7.50 US dollars to 67.50 US dollars a barrel because of the rising costs of bringing new oil on line.

Goldman, the biggest trader of energy among investment banks, also lifted its second-half 2006 estimate by 5 US dollars to 75 US dollars.

US Government data due at 1430 GMT will provide further clues on the health of demand in the United States.

The data is expected to show a 1.1-million-barrel decline in gasoline stockpiles and a 1.9-million-barrel draw on crude inventories for the week to June 30, a Reuters poll found. Distillate stocks were seen up 1.1 million barrels.

NYMEX gasoline futures led Wednesday’s rally, rising 5.7 cents or 2.6 per cent, on forecasts that US demand increased last week ahead of the holiday weekend. Supply concerns raised by the row between key oil producer Iran and the West over Teheran’s atomic ambitions, along with a partial loss of Nigerian supply, had helped drive prices to the previous record at 75.35 US dollars in April. — MNA/Reuters

New York Mayor testifies in favour of guest worker programme
New York, 7 July — New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg on Wednesday testified in favour of the guest worker programme at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on immigration reform.

Outlining his support of the programme that would allow illegal immigrants to work legally in the United States while putting them on a path to citizenship, the mayor called on lawmakers to hold businesses accountable for violating current laws.

“By working at businesses that hired illegal immigrants, the federal government sent a clear signal to those in other countries. If you take it into your country, you’ll have no trouble qualifying for employment,” said Bloomberg.

Bloomberg also backs a DNA or fingerprint database to track and verify the identity of legal US workers. He also supports an increase in work visas and opposes suggestions of mass deportations.

“The truth of the matter is we need lots of immigrants to come into this country every year,” said Bloomberg. “Our birth rate is not high enough to sustain the growth in the economy that we need.

This is the third time this year that the mayor has testified before a congressional committee on issues concerning the city. — MNA/Xinhua
JOHANNESBURG, 7 July — At 132 years of age, South African granny Moloko Temo may be the world’s oldest citizen, though her name has not appeared in the Guinness Book of World Records, local media reported on Thursday.

Temo, who lives in Mohodi Village in South Africa’s northern province of Limpopo, celebrated her 132nd birthday on Tuesday, said The Citizen newspaper. “Her skin still looks healthy, even though she is wrinkled, and her complexion is very light,” said the newspaper, which carried a picture of her identity document that records her year of birth as 1874.

Another newspaper said the newspaper that though her old daughter, told the newspaper, which though her elderly mother cannot see and has to use a wheelchair, she still speaks well and enjoys the company of others.

Efforts were being made to have her recognized as the world’s oldest living person by the Guinness Book of World Records, which currently lists Maria Estefi de Capovilla of Ecuador, born on 14 September, 1889, as the oldest living woman.

“I wish I can live to see the 2010 Soccer World Cup (in South Africa). Everyone here is talking about it.” Temo told Sowetan at her colourful birthday party in her village on Tuesday.

A little girl muses over life possibilities on Mars at the Beijing Planetarium, where an exhibition on the birth of the solar system opened on 6 July, 2006.—INTERNET

Hollywood to make movie based on London Olympics promotion video

LOS ANGELES, 7 July — Hollywood studio Paramount/Nickelodeon has signed a deal with British TV director Daryl Goodrich to make a feature-length movie based on his video that helped London win the bid for the 2012 Olympics, reports said Wednesday.

Goodrich’s three-minute promotion video was shown as part of the London bid committee’s final presentation to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in Singapore last year.

It seemed that the short film, titled “Inspiration”, impressed the IOC members as London was chosen to host the 2012 Games. The video featured a Mexican boy and his trusty dog.

Within days of London’s selection as 2012 host, Hollywood studios and agents began calling Goodrich and his producer Caroline Rowland about possible projects.

Advised by renowned British film producer Lord Puttnam, whose credits include the Oscar-winning “Chariots of Fire”, Goodrich and Rowland set up a production company and were considering various film ideas with sports themes.— MNA/Xinhua

New study show colon cancer related to body measures

LONDON, 7 July — European researchers have found that men and women with a large waist circumference and a large waist-to-hip ratio (WHR) have an increased risk of developing colon cancer.

In a European-wide study known as EPIC (European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition), researchers got the conclusion after examining in 368,277 participants the associations between various body measures and the risk of colon and rectal cancer, according to the main European science website AlphaGalileo on Wednesday.

The analysis is based on a six-year follow-up during which 984 participants developed colon cancer and 586 rectal cancer, according to the researchers.

The study results showed that women with a WHR over 0.85 had a 52-per-cent higher risk of colon cancer than those with a WHR under 0.73 and similar values were observed in men, whose colon cancer risk increased by 51 per cent from the group with the lowest WHR (less than 0.89) to the group with the highest WHR (equal to 0.99).

The study results also showed that height was also rather strongly associated with cancer risk in both sexes, with women taller than 167.5 centimetres having a 79-per-cent higher chance of developing colon cancer than short women (less than 156.0 centimetres) and men tall 180.5 centimetres (the tallest ones) having a 40-per-cent higher chance than short men under 168 centimetres (the shortest ones).

In the study, the researchers also observed sex-specific differences with body mass index (BMI) (calculated by dividing the body weight in kilograms by the square of the body height in m2) and found men with a BMI over 29.4 had a 55-per-cent higher risk of colon cancer than slim men with a BMI under 23.6 and women had only 6 per cent higher risk at the most between the corresponding groups.

However, there is no relation between the body measures of the investigation and rectal cancer risk.

The results support the hypothesis that abdominal body fat is especially important for development of colon cancer, the researchers claimed — MNA/Xinhua

Sales volume of Mercedes-Benz rise by 25% in China

BEIJING, 7 July — Sales of Mercedes-Benz in China surged 25 per cent in the first five months of this year to reach 13,122 units, Beijing Daily reported on Wednesday.

Till Becker, CEO of DaimlerChrysler in Northeast Asia attributed the sales increase to strong demand for the Benz-S series. The report said the consumption tax introduced by China on 1 April, which was aimed at discouraging consumers from buying cars with large engines seems to have had little impact on the sales of imported luxury sedans.— MNA/Xinhua

A polar bear sleeps soundly on the artificial ice at the Polar Animal Hall in Dalian, northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on 5 July, 2006. The polar animals enjoy a comfortable cool environment during the hot summer.—INTERNET
Watson takes charge at US Senior Open

New York, 8 July— Tom Watson moved to plug one of the few holes in his glittering resume by firing a second-round four-under 66 to grab a one-shot lead at the US Senior Open at the Prairie Dunes Country Club in Hutchinson, Kansas on Friday.

Watson, winner of eight majors and three seniors titles, mixed six birdies with a pair of bogeys to move to four-under 136 heading into the weekend and into contention for his first US Senior Open crown.

Defending champion Allen Doyle, Mark James, Bob Gilder and Morris Hatalsky were a shot in arrears.

“I could say I’m hitting on all cylinders, but I’m not exactly doing that right now,” Watson told reporters. “Hit it sideways a little bit here and there and you just have to try and treat everyone just like another opponent,” said the Hawaiian youngster who is seeded second to Sorenstam.

Watson’s six World Cup matches so far. His two early goals in the Germany-Sweden World Cup duel sent the hosts into quarterfinals. The other goal came from Germany’s last Group A match against Ecuador.

Podolski’s “I would have liked to have taken home the World Cup. But this is a great honour and is a great motivation to become more successful.”

Podolski beat off competition from 40 candidates including Cesc Fabregas from Spain, Lionel Messi from Argentina, Cristiano Ronaldo from Portugal, Luiz Valencia from Ecuador to win the coveted prize.

“Podolski not only scored three goals, he was a key element in Germany’s attack,” explained Holger Osieck, head of the FIFA Technical Study Group. “He showed a great understanding with Miroslav Klose and the two players formed a very effective partnership. Together, they netted eight of Germany’s 11 goals.”

Scolari says third-place match causes suffering

Stuttgart, 8 July— The third-place match at the World Cup causes suffering for the teams involved, said Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari ahead of his side’s game with Germany on Saturday.

Scolari said it was a struggle to motivate players only days after they suffered agonizing defeats in the semifinals of the competition.

Hosts Germany were beaten 2-0 by Italy on Tuesday, conceding two goals deep into extra time, and Portugal went down to a 1-0 defeat against France on Wednesday, sunk by a controversial penalty.

“From the business perspective, maybe it’s a good thing,” said Scolari. “I felt I played really solid and pulled out the birdies when I needed them.” Her eyes lit up at the prospect of playing Pak, another player who hit the headlines very early in her career. In her rookie 1998 season, Pak, then aged 20, won four times on the LPGA Tour, including two majors. “I’ve never played Se Ri before but I really respect what she’s done. She came out here (on the LPGA Tour) and achieved so much early on and I’ve always admired her,” said Wie.

Sorenstam won the first two holes with birdie and finished past American Heather Young by 3 and 2. “Heather put up a good fight and it was a good match, but I’m very happy with the way I’m playing,” said the Swede, who started the week by winning her third US Women’s Open.

Sorenstam goes through to meet 20-year-old Britain’s Klose, the German First Division top scorer from Werder Bremen, is now leading the top scorer list with five goals. — MNA/Xinhua

Inspired Nadal reaches Wimbledon final

London, 8 July— An inspired Rafael Nadal beat Marcos Baghdatis 6-1, 7-5, 6-3 on Friday to set up a dream final against triple Wimbledon champion Roger Federer.

The Spanish second seed, who beat Federer in the French Open final last month, battered his Cypriot opponent to a standstill in front of an enthralled Centre Court crowd.

Baghdatis, 21, was overwhelmed in a 30-minute first set but the second produced a breathtaking battle as the pair contested sublime rallies.

Despite going two sets and then a break down Baghdatis refused to give up, but 20-year-old Nadal would not be denied and he became the first Spanish man to reach the final here since Manuel Santana in 1966, clinching victory in two hours 26 minutes.

During his run to the final, Nadal dropped just 14 points in the first two rounds.

Podolski named Best Young Player of 2006 World Cup

Berlin, 8 July— German rising star Lukas Podolski won the FIFA Best Young Player award of the 2006 World Cup on Friday.

The 21-year-old Polish-born striker has scored three goals in Germany’s six World Cup matches so far. His two early goals in the Germany-Sweden World Cup duel sent the hosts into quarterfinals. The other goal came from Germany’s last Group A match against Ecuador.

Podolski said: “I would have liked to have taken home the World Cup. But this is a great honour and is a great motivation to become more successful.”

Podolski beat off competition from 40 candidates including Cesc Fabregas from Spain, Lionel Messi from Argentina, Cristiano Ronaldo from Portugal, Luiz Valencia from Ecuador to win the coveted prize.

“Podolski not only scored three goals, he was a key element in Germany’s attack,” explained Holger Osieck, head of the FIFA Technical Study Group. “He showed a great understanding with Miroslav Klose and the two players formed a very effective partnership. Together, they netted eight of Germany’s 11 goals.”

Klose, the German First Division top scorer from Werder Bremen, is now leading the top scorer list with five goals. — MNA/Xinhua

Finalists unable to train at stadium

Berlin, 8 July— World Cup finalists France and Italy cannot train at the Olympiastadion before Sunday’s final because of the condition of the pitch. FIFA said on Friday. Spokesman Andreas Herren confirmed that FIFA had taken the decision “because of the state of the pitch and because of the heavy rainfall in Berlin over the last couple of days.” — MNA/Reuters

Scolari says third-place match causes suffering

Stuttgart, 8 July— The third-place match at the World Cup causes suffering for the teams involved, said Portugal coach Luiz Felipe Scolari ahead of his side’s game with Germany on Saturday.

Scolari said it was a struggle to motivate players only days after they suffered agonizing defeats in the semifinals of the competition.

Hosts Germany were beaten 2-0 by Italy on Tuesday, conceding two goals deep into extra time, and Portugal went down to a 1-0 defeat against France on Wednesday, sunk by a controversial penalty.

“You are on the side of the fence, this game represents suffering, rather than a match you are happy to take part in.

“After losing to France, it’s very difficult to motivate the players for this.

“It’s difficult to stop our players and ourselves thinking about what we missed out on. You think about what you’ve lost and not about what you might win.” — MNA/Reuters

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“It’s difficult to stop our players and ourselves thinking about what we missed out on. You think about what you’ve lost and not about what you might win.” — MNA/Reuters
Struggling China graduates stay put on campus

Beijing, 8 July — Thousands of new graduates in China’s booming southern city of Guangzhou have refused to leave university dormitories due to a lack of affordable housing and satisfactory jobs, state media said on Friday.

Students in Guangzhou were offering prices 10 to 15 per cent above the city average of 1,000 yuan (125 US dollars) per month in areas popular with graduates, the China Daily said, so about 200,000 of them have simply stayed put.

“I didn’t find a job until the end of last month. And now I am busy looking for a house, which the company will not provide,” a newly minted graduate Chen Qi told the paper.

“Besides that, high rental costs are really frightening.” — MNA/Reuters

Quake causes $1b economic losses in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 8 July — Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs M. Surya Palapa Dana Ali said the seismic event that caused economic losses reaching 7.7 trillion rupiah (about $1 billion US dollars), as the government was still collecting data to assess the full impact of the disaster.

Small and medium enterprises suffer financial losses reaching 7.7 trillion rupiah (about $1 billion US dollars) in economic losses. — MNA/KhinA

WEATHER

Saturday, 8 July, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly in Magway Division and Kayah State, rain have been isolated in Chin State, Sagain and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Bago Division, Shan and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Rakhine State, isolated heavy falls in Kayin, Mon States, Bago, Yangon and Thaninthayi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Gwa (4.25) inches, Yangon (3.70) inches, Hpa-an (3.58) inches, Dawei (3.47) inches, Shwegyin (3.43) inches, Thandwe (3.31) inches, Thaton (2.72) inches, Kyaukpyu and Hinthada (2.56) inches each, Kyauktaw (2.40) inches and Nya Pyi Taw (0.79) inch.

Maximum temperature on 7-7-2006 was 84°F. Minimum temperature on 8-7-2006 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 09.30 hours MST on 8-7-2006 was (96%).

Total sunshine hours on 7-7-2006 was Nil.

Rainfalls on 8-7-2006 were (2.00) inches at Mangaladal, (1.14) inches at Kaba-Aye and (3.70) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (38.58) inches at Mangaladal, (47.52) inches at Kaba-Aye and (51.85) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (9-30) hours MST on 8-7-2006.

Dawyee Monsoon is generally strong in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 9-7-2006: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagain Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State and upper Sagain Division and widespread in the remaining areas with likely isolated heavy falls in Rakhine, Mon, Kayin States, Yangon, Bago and Thaninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (85%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35 to 40) mph. Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 9-7-2006: Isolated rain Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 9-7-2006: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 9-7-2006: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 12.00 hr MST on 8-7-2006)

According to the (06.30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Sittang River at Madans (1147) cm. It may remain above its danger level of (1070) cm during the next (48) hour commencing now.

According to the (06.30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Shweli River at Shwegyin is (746) cm. It may remain above its danger level of (700) cm during the next (48) hour commencing now.
Minister for Industry-1 inspects factories in townships of Mandalay Division

NAY PYI TAW, 8 July — Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, accompanied by Secretary of Mandalay Division USDA U Tin Maung Oo and executives of district and township USDA's, met with the secretary and executives at Mahlaing Township USDA Office yesterday.

Mahlaing Township USDA Secretary U Shwe Nann reported on progress of rural development tasks and fulfillment of school furniture.

The Secretariat Member explained organizational tasks and undertakings of the rural development tasks.

At Mahlaing Cotton Factory, the minister inspected cotton ginning tasks, boilers and machines. Next, the Secretariat Member attended the ceremony to grow physic nut plants organized by Taungtha Township USDA at Panpaung Village-tract.

At Taungtha Cotton Factory, the minister inspected arrangements for installation of cotton ginning machines.

Afterwards, the Secretariat Member attended the ceremony to donate school furniture and exercise books to basic primary schools at the office of Taungtha Township USDA. Secretary Minister U Aung Thaung presented school furniture and exercise books to 189 basic education schools through Township Education Officer Daw Marlar May Thin.

Next, member of Myanmar War Veterans Organization Central Organizing Committee Minister U Aung Thaung met members of Taungtha Township War Veterans Organization, secretaries and executives of Kyaukpadaung, Natogyi and Taungtha Townships USDA's.

Township WVO Chairman U Aung Than reported on social and economic matters of WVO members and carrying out of public welfare tasks. Executives and organizers of Kyaukpadaung, Natogyi and Taungtha Townships USDA's briefed the Secretariat Member on carrying out of public welfare tasks. The Secretariat Member presented K 3 million for construction of new building at Kyawzi BEHS donated by wellwishers to officials.

While in Taungtha, Minister U Aung Thaung inspected sales of products from the Ministry of Industry-1 at Taungtha Win Thuza Shop and left necessary instructions. He proceeded to Vest Factory (Taungtha) and viewed production process of the factory. Factory Manager U Saw Lin and Managing Director U Oo Thein Maung gave supplementary reports. Later, the minister instructed officials to make efforts for exceeding the production target.

INSDIE

Nay Pyi Taw & neighbouring areas
Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Yangon & neighbouring areas
Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Mandalay & neighbouring areas
Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

11 quit NLD as they have lost interest, faith in it because of its evil deeds

YANGON, 8 July — Members of Khan U Township National League for Democracy in Sagaing Division — U Kyaw Shwin, U Aung Myint, U Toe Maung, U Win Aung, Daw Kyi Sein, Daw Nyo Hmi, Daw Yin Yin Hla and Daw Nyo Nyo Win of Ngatingyi Village and U Si, Daw Khaing Myat and U Myint Sein of Magyioak Village — resigned of their own accord from the party on 12 and 23 June respectively. They sent their resignations to NLD Headquarters and authorities concerned.

In their resignation letters, the 11 members said they quit the NLD as they have lost interest and faith in it because of its evil deeds.

Politburo member Kyaw Mya sent a letter to Thet Khaing a member of underground cell (UG) at the end of February 1989. The letter in reality was sent from first vice-chairman of the BCP central military commission Kyaw Zaw (retired brig-gen Kyaw Zaw) to Daw Suu Kyi. The letter said that the BCP leaders were in favour of Daw Suu Kyi; that they had similar view as Daw Suu Kyi, urging her to continue to strive for ending the internal strife, vitalizing national politics and flourishing of democracy.