With considerable success in restoring stability and peace, government has been able to create fine opportunities for economic development

Chaungmange Dam inaugurated as 187th irrigation facility of the nation

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July—The Chaungmange Dam near Pannyaon Village in Lewe Township, Pyinmana District, was inaugurated this morning. The facility was built by the Construction Group (5) of the Irrigation Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

The opening ceremony was attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, SPDC Member Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the director-general of the SPDC office, heads of department, service personnel, members of social organizations, town-selders, students and local people.

The General said the ceremony has brought auspiciousness to local people in Lewe Township because the Chaungmange Dam that can benefit 8,000 acres of farmland has been put into commission successfully. The government values and enhances the interests of the people, and has given priority to equitable development of all parts of the nation in the process. As is known to all that with the considerable success in restoring stability and peace, the government has been able to create fine opportunities for economic development, and the socio-economic life of the people is rising. And the government is building transport facilities such as roads and bridges essential for economic and social development.

Such basic needs for the mankind as food and clothes are produced through agriculture. Irrigation water plays a crucial role in that regard. With this context, the government has been building dams, reservoirs, sluice gates and river water pumping stations and tapping underground water throughout the nation.

The dam is the 187th facility of its kind. The government will continue to build irrigation facilities. (See page 8)

General Thura Shwe Mann addresses opening ceremony of Chaungmange Dam. — MNA

The government values and enhances the interests of the people, and has given priority to equitable development of all parts of the nation in the process.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
The population of the world today is 6.5 billion and that of the 10-24 age group is more than one billion. As the youth in that age bracket live in different societies, they have different political, economic, social and cultural experiences. Therefore, cooperative efforts should be made to shape a better future for them.

There are various problems facing the youth all over the world. About 133 million youth who are illiterate, about 115 million have never been to school and about 100 million left school before they were able to read or write.

There are more than 70 million young people in the world who are infected with HIV/AIDS and over half of them are youth. In the developing nations, there are about 82 million young women who got married before they were 18. Every year, 15 million young women in the 15-19 age bracket give birth.

The population of Myanmar is over 55 million and that of the 10-24 age group is about 15 million. The government regards the youth as the strength and asset of the nation and therefore is fulfilling all the requirements for their education, health and social development.

Every undertaking is being made for the school-age children to be able to complete primary education and for rural and urban children to be able to enjoy equal opportunity in education. Moreover, educative work on prevention of AIDS is being carried out widely among students by township health departments, and school health personnel. As Myanmar is actively cooperating with WHO, UNDP, UNFPA and other NGOs at home and abroad, we believe that the nation will be able to continue training the citizens.

CSSTB Chairman inspects CICS

YANGON, 12 July — Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Department (CSSTB) U Hla Kyi inspected the Training Centre at CICS (Central Institute of Civil Service) on his visit this morning.

The chairman heard the reports on academic matters, administration and construction tasks, agricultural and poultry farming tasks presented by the director general and the training department head, and gave necessary instructions. CSSTB Chairman U Tha Nyun and party looked into water supply facility for agricultural purpose, progress in construction of the trainee-capacity hall, construction of a three-storey building for No 6 company (men) and a two-storey building for No 2 company (women), cultivation of rubber and physic nut plants and the hospital, and fulfilled the requirements.

Sports Minister donates stationery to schools in Monywa

NAW Pyi Taw, 12 July — Central Executive Committee member of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented stationery to schools in Monywa.

The minister went to Kinmontaw village in ChaungU Township and handed over desks to the village’s middle school.

On his trip, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented subsidies to farmers in the township.

On 9 July, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented stationery to the affiliated middle school in Kanpyu Village, Ayadaw Township, and the high school (branch) in Ywathagyi, Wetlet Township.

Potato Value Chain Workshop conducted

YANGON, 12 July — Jointly organized by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the Greater Mekong Subregion Business Forum (GMS-BF), the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Myanmar Agricultural Producers Association, the Potato Value Chain Workshop 2006 was held at Ayetaya Golf Resort, Taunggyi on 5 and 6 July. It was attended by officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, the president, vice-presidents and executives of UMFCCI, the director of UNESCAP Trade and Investment Division, the chief of Investment and Enterprise Development Section, representatives and experts from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, the People’s Republic of China and Bangladesh.

On 5 July, resource persons read papers on Potato Value Chain at the workshop. On 6 July, participants of the workshop visited potato farms in Heho and the potato market and value added potato product factory in Aungban. The workshop came to an end after receiving confirmation of the approval and resolution (draft) of the discussion.

Basic Performing Arts Course concludes

YANGON, 12 July — A concluding ceremony of Basic Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Course was held at No 6 BEHS, Botataung Township yesterday, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife Daw Mar Mar Wai.

First, Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win made a speech on the occasion, saying that Yangon Division achieved success in the Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions yearly.

The participants are to try their best to maintain their success and to improve quality of performance year after year.

After presenting completion certificates to two trainees, the commander and wife gave souvenirs to course instructors and trainees.

Next, the course instructors explained about lectures on respective subjects. The trainees performed entertainment to the audience.

Afterwards, artists and trainees sang the song before conclusion of the ceremony.

People’s Desire

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Delegates of GMS countries pose for documentary photo after completion of Potato Value Chain Workshop. — UMFCCI
**Russia Navy chief’s plane burns in wave of mishaps**

**MOSCOW, 11 July** — A plane carrying Russia’s Navy chief burst into flames on Monday after overshooting a runway in the Crimean airport near Simferopol, in Ukraine, Interfax news agency reported, citing a Navy spokesman.

State television showed remains of the burnt out airplane and an unidentified Navy official told Interfax that the officials’ baggage and documents had been destroyed.

The plane was forced to return to the airport just after take-off because of engine trouble, which the Navy spokesman said may have been caused by a collision with a flock of birds. The incident follows the deadly fire which broke out on a Russian airliner after it veered off the runway on Sunday and ran into nearby buildings in the Siberian airport of Irkutsk.

**Filipino woman hits Marine accused of rape in court**

**MANILA, 11 July** — A Filipino woman, testifying against four US Marines accused of raping her last year, hit one of them with her handbag in a courtroom on Monday after saying he tried to trip her.

The Marines, being detained by the US Embassy in Manila, deny the charges filed in December, saying only one of them had sex with the woman and that it was consensual. The woman, resuming her testimony after breaking down several times in previous hearings, said the Marines took advantage of her after they drank together at a bar in Subic Bay, a former US Navy base northwest of Manila, on 1 November. She accuses Lance Corporal Daniel Smith of forcing her to have sex in a van.

There was a minor commotion at the outset when the woman hit Smith with her handbag after she thought he and another of the Marines tried to trip her as she walked across the courtroom. Court and US Embassy personnel moved quickly to separate the woman and Smith. The woman, a management accounting graduate, will testify again on Tuesday after the judge stopped the hearing for the day. — MNA/Reuters

**Police snap over 500 vehicles for illegal racing in Johor**

**KUALA LUMPUR, 11 July** — Police rounded up about 600 people and 550 vehicles in Malaysia’s southern state of Johor on Sunday, which were suspected for the involvement of illegal racing there, a local newspaper said on Monday.

The Malaysian police authorities mobilized some 140 policemen and a helicopter to start the operation at a road section near Johor Baru, capital of the Johor State, the New Straits Times said.

Some 600 people were brought to a local police station for inquiries and 34 of them were detained for illegal racing, including two civil servants and two students, the newspaper said.

More than 400 cars and 150 motorcycles, including some from Singapore, also were detained, it said.

The daily said that the weekly races, which offered winners lucrative cash prizes and the promise of sexual favours from young women, attracted hundreds of participants and spectators over the past three months.

Local police took the action after receiving complaints for too much noises by residents and were finding the organizers and whether the racing involves betting. — MNA/Xinhua

**US control of goods to China contradicts Sino-US trade relations**

**BEIJING, 11 July** — China has urged the United States to give up its “cold war mentality” and take constructive measures to promote the healthy development of Sino-US trade relations, Chong Quan, spokesman of the Ministry of Commerce, said on Monday in response to a document issued by the US Commerce Department on 6 July which announced new restrictions on the export of goods to China. The US side should, by taking the overall Sino-US ties into consideration, promote bilateral trade on high technologies to ease the trade imbalance between the two sides, Chong said.

It goes against the interests of both Chinese and US firms and bilateral trade ties to set up irrational obstacles and additional premises to the normal trade between the two sides, Chong said.

According to Chong, China attaches great importance to the US move and will issue further comments after listening to the opinions of relevant industries. — Xinhua

**High metal prices drive coin smuggling**

**MANILA, 11 July** — Smugglers have tried to ship out millions of older one-peso coins from the Philippines, not for their金属 content but for their face value of less than 2 US cents each but for the copper and nickel content as metals prices soar.

The central bank said customs authorities seized a 40-foot container at the weekend that was loaded with 2-3 million coins, weighing 12.2-18.3 tonnes, bound for Japan. Any export of coins worth more than 10,000 pesos must be declared.

It was the latest attempt this year to illegally ship the one-peso coins minted until 2003, after seizures of about 400,000 pieces in May and 1 million pieces in February, central bank Deputy Governor Armando Suratos told Reuters on Tuesday. “It could be because of the metal content,” Suratos said. “In 2002, the cost of producing one-peso coin was already 1.40 to 1.60 pesos.”

Until 2003, an alloy containing 75 percent copper and 25 percent nickel was used to make the 6.1-gram coins — which has made its mental content now worth about 3.50 pesos each.

Suratos said the central bank started minting one-peso coins made of steel and plated with nickel in 2004 to cut costs.

Copper at the London Metal Exchange has risen nearly 75 percent since the start of the year, ending at $7,730 per tonne on Monday, partly due to strong demand for industrial metals from China and tight supplies.

Nickel touched a record high of $24,800 per tonne on Monday before closing at $24,650. ($1=52.20 pesos) — Internet

**Chinese Olympic champion Liu Xiang set a world record of 12.88 seconds in the men’s 110 metres hurdles at a super grand prix meeting on 11 June, 2006. — Internet**

**A cat drinks water from a tap at the Fahai Temple in Beijing, capital of China, on 11 July, 2006. — Internet**
US moves to limit online gambling

UNITED NATIONS, 11 July—The US House of Representatives has backed a bill which aims to rein in online gambling.

The bill aims to limit internet gaming by making it illegal for US-based banks and credit card firms to make payments to online gambling sites.

Estimates suggest the online gaming industry generates $12bn (£6.4bn) a year worldwide, half from US gamblers.

As yet it is unclear whether the US Senate will make the bill law ahead of elections in November.

Critics have attacked the proposals as an "outrageous" measure, claiming it aims to stir up the more conservative sectors of society ahead of the elections—and so boost the Republican party's chances.

However, one of the bill's sponsors, Republican Bob Goodlatte, claimed the plans aimed to control a "scourge on society" which causes "innumerable problems".

The US plans have come under close scrutiny from some UK-listed sites such as Partygaming and 888 Holdings—owners of 888.com—and amid concerns that earnings will suffer if the US government does clamp down on online gaming.

Gambling is illegal in many parts of the US, but internet gaming firms like 888 have millions of US customers, because they are based offshore in countries that allow gambling and are out of reach of US laws.

The bill would make it illegal to accept payments from people who live where federal or state law prohibits betting.

Polish President named twin brother as PM

WARSAW, 11 July — Polish President Lech Kaczynski on Monday nominated his twin brother Jaroslaw Kaczynski as Prime Minister, the President's Office said in a statement.

"The President of the Republic of Poland, Lech Kaczynski, has designated Jaroslaw Kaczynski as prime minister," the statement said.

Jaroslaw Kaczynski replaces Prime Minister Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz, who formally resigned on Monday. Jaroslaw Kaczynski now has two weeks to form a new Cabinet and the Parliament will then have a further two weeks to approve his nomination as premier and his programme for governing Poland.

MNA/Xinhua

Bush departs from "cowboy diplomacy"

WASHINGTON, 11 July — The Bush Administration is abandoning the so-called "cowboy diplomacy," represented by a muscular, idealistic and unilateralist vision of US power and how to use it, a leading US magazine said.

The cover story of the latest edition of Time magazine said the shift underway in US President George W Bush's foreign policy is bigger and more seismic than a change of wardrobe or a modulation of tone. The change comes at a time when the President found himself in "a world of hurt," including a grinding and unpopular war in Iraq, a growing insurgency in Afghanistan, an impasse over Iran's nuclear ambitions, brewing war between Israel and the Palestinians and other global crises, as well as his poor approval ratings, it said. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraq renews threat to review Australia trade ties

BAGHDAD, 11 July — Iraq's Trade Minister on Sunday repeated his threat to reconsider trade deals with wheat supplier Australia unless it reopened an inquiry into the killing of one of his bodyguards by Australian soldiers.

Australia's defence force chief said last week that a military inquiry had cleared the soldiers of any wrongdoing.

Two people, including a bodyguard of Iraqi Trade Minister Abdul Falah al-Sudany, were killed and several wounded when Australian security forces in Baghdad shot at their car as it approached their convoy on 21 June.

Sudany's spokesman, Mohammed Hanoun, said the minister was "not satisfied" with the results and was unhappy with the failure of Australian investigators to talk to any of those wounded in the incident to get their accounts of what happened.— MNA/Reuters

Over 50 college students food poisoned in E China city

FUZHOU, 11 July — More than 50 students from Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University in east China's city of Fuzhou suffered food poisoning after having their meals in the university canteen on Monday.

The campus hospital has received 54 students who claimed to suffer diarrhoea, sick up and nausea since 10:00 am Monday, according to the clinic.

A student said he was haunted by diarrhoea and sick up from 7:00 am Monday just after having supper in the university's canteen on Sunday.

Zhou Tao, vice head of the campus hospital, said the students might suffer some acute gastroenteritis and added that the majority of the students felt better after dextrose transfusion and some simple remedies.

The provincial disease prevention and control centre, together with the city's epidemic prevention station, have collected samples from the sick students to investigate the cause of the food poisoning.

MNA/Xinhua

WHO expert says greater efforts needed in China's "AIDS" control

BEIJING, 11 July — Despite lower estimated figures and stronger political commitment, China still faces challenges in HIV/AIDS control, said an expert from the World Health Organization (WHO) Monday.

The government had made some achievements in fighting HIV/AIDS in terms of high-level political commitment and the initiation of effective prevention, treatment, care and support programmes, said Dr Wiwat Rojanapithayakorn, HIV/AIDS team leader in the WHO's Beijing office.

"The country has got one agreed HIV/AIDS action framework that drives alignment of all partners, one national AIDS authority with a broad-based multi-sector mandate and one agreed country-level monitoring and evaluation system," Wiwat said in a presentation at a regional conference. However, China still needed to scale up effective interventions and eliminate the widespread stigma of sufferers. It should also mount an effective AIDS response in the context of a weak healthcare system, the expert told the Beijing Conference on East Asian Regional Cooperation in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

China has 650,000 people living with HIV/AIDS, including 75,000 with clinical, or fully developed, AIDS. Wiwat cited the 2005 Update on the HIV/AIDS Epidemic and Response in China as saying...
Fugitive otter recaptured after month on the run

JOHANNESBURG, 11 July — An escapee who had spent almost a month on the run, eating the finest food and frolicking in clear blue water, has been recaptured by police and returned to the New Zealand zoo where it was rescued off Brazilian shores in Rio de Janeiro.

A victim is brought out of a collapsed building in New York on 10 July, 2006. A three-story building collapsed in Manhattan on Monday morning after an apparent gas explosion, causing injuries, a frantic rescue operation and sending smoke billowing into the air.

Global warming prompts marine life census in Antarctica

SYDNEY, 11 July — Global warming in Antarctica is allowing scientists to undertake a census of marine life.

The ice shelves of Antarctica are melting as the frozen continent warms up more quickly than any other place on earth. Australian Antarctic Division spokesman Tony Press says the marine census will be used to monitor the effect of climate change.

“arctica and also what changes might occur in the future,” he said.

Gunmen kidnap Iraqi diplomat in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 12 July — Gunmen kidnapped an Iraqi consul who is posted in Baghdad on Thursday, police and Interior Ministry sources said. Wisam Abdullah al-Awadi was in Baghdad visiting his family.

It was not clear which group was behind the kidnapping. After fighting between Sunnis and Shiites in the predominantly Shiite Amil District in southwestern Baghdad by gunmen in two cars, police said. Abdullah al-Awadi’s father in Karbala and his family were left in the dark.

Eight miners die in China’s Shanxi Province

BEIJING, 11 July — A coal mine explosion in northern China has killed at least eight people, the latest in a series of disasters to hit the province of Shanxi.

aparition of the crowd last month. The other otters were caught but Jin was believed to have swum down a creek and into the harbour.

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Airstrikes leave 60 civilians dead in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 12 July — Air raids conducted by the US-led coalition forces in the southern Urugzgan Province of Afghanistan have left at least 60 civilians dead, a law-maker from the restive province said on Tuesday.

“The aircraft pounded three villages namely Deh Jauze, Sarosah and Kakrak, 12 kilometre-away from Trinkot, the provincial capital of Urugzgan, Monday morning which lasted from 1:00 am to 4:00 am,” Abdul Khalilq told Xinhua. About 30 more civilians were wounded in the air strikes, he added.

On the other hand, the US military rejected the claim as baseless.

“No, there was no civilian injured, and we have no report to support the claim,” spokesperson of the coalition Tamara Lawrence told Xinhua.

The US military in a Press released issued on Monday said that the coalition attacks had left more than 40 extremists dead in villages 10 kilometre-away from Trinkot.

More than 1,000 people mostly Taleban-linked militants have been killed in the ongoing insurgency since the beginning of this year.— MNA/Xinhua

UN study says Ukraine canal menaces Danube Delta

GENEVA, 11 July — A major Ukrainian ship canal project slicing through the Danube Delta threatens serious damage to wildlife in one of Europe’s major wetlands, a UN scientific commission said on Monday.

The project, the Bystroe Canal, will destroy nesting and feeding sites for unique bird colonies, and spawning and nursery areas for fish important to the economy in both Ukraine and Romania, a report from the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) found.

Officials from the group, which requested the study, said Ukraine needed to come into line with a 1991 convention on cross-border environmental-cooperation by beginning joint assessments of the problem with Romania.

“We are confident that the two countries will now come together on this,” said Kaj Barlund, director of the agency’s division dealing with environmental issues.

The scientific commission, headed by a Dutch scientist, was established after Romania complained that construction and dredging for the project — to create a deepwater link between the Danube and the Black Sea — was causing environmental havoc.

WWF tells G-8 that climate-energy Marshall Plan needed

GENEVA, 11 July— The WWF environmental group on Tuesday urged the Group of Eight nations (G-8) to treat climate change and energy security in one concerted effort, comparable to the post-World War II Marshall Plan.

In a study released ahead of a G-8 meeting in Russia on 15-17 July, the WWF said the future of global climate and energy supply were closely linked and could not be tackled separately.

“The concept of energy security is meaningless unless it is seen in the wider context of climate security, where the overriding threat is climate change caused primarily by fossil fuel use,” said WWF climate change expert Jennifer Morgan.

The report called for “a serious global ‘Climate and Energy Security Plan’ similar in dimension to the Marshall Plan,” referring to the US-led financial aid package for West European countries devastated by World War II.

Plane crashes in central Pakistan, 45 dead

MULAN (Pakistan), 11 July — A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) passenger plane crashed on the outskirts of the central city of Multan on Monday, killing all 45 people on board, the local police chief said.

“Everyone is dead,” police chief Iftikhar Babar told Reuters. Flight PK 688, en route for Lahore before flying on to Islamabad, crashed three minutes after take-off from Multan Airport, said Hasan Jaffery, a PIA spokesman. The Fokker plane was carrying 41 passengers and four crew.

“I saw the plane diving downwards. It hit electricity wires and then crashed after hitting a wall of an orchard,” said Mohammad Akram, a farmer who was working his fields. He said the plane burst into flames after impact.

President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz both expressed grief over the crash, according to state-run Pakistan Television. Aziz also ordered an inquiry.

Egyptians freed in Iraq

KUWAIT, 11 July — Three Egyptians kidnapped in Iraq have been freed, Kuwait’s private television al-Rai reported on Sunday.

“They are being received by Egyptian authorities at the Iraqi-Kuwait border,” Rai said.

“The three were freed following intensive efforts by the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait.”

It was not immediately clear when the men were abducted.

A television official identified the three, who work for an Egyptian construction firm, as Salah al-Iraqi, Hassan Ibrahim and Osama Gaweesh.

Three other Egyptians are among 17 hostages held since the start of 2005. Nabil Tawfiq Sulaiman and Mitwali Mohammed Qassem were kidnapped in Iraq on 19 March while Samuel Edward was snatched on 26 September, 2005.

More than 200 foreigners and thousands of Iraqis have been kidnapped since the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Fifty-nine foreign hostages have been reported killed by their captors. — MNA/Reuters

Novice cowboy Finnley Hewlitt of Australia goes over the top of horse War Drum during the Novice Saddle Bronco event at the Calgary Stampede Rodeo in Calgary, Alberta, on 11 July, 2006.—INTERNET
“Doctor! My friend U Chit died suddenly last night after suffering from severe chest pain. We were not able to send for a physician as it was about two in the morning”, Uncle U San Maung told me.

“It seemed that he died because of his physical and mental exhaustion. His daughter eloped with a young man whom he disapproved of three days ago, and when he found her, she refused to return home with him. It hurt him much,” U Chaw expressed his opinion.

“Mental suffering rather than physical suffering might be the cause of his death. Here, I came to remember what rich man Nakulapita asked the Buddha”, U Tin Aye said.

“The rich man asked Buddha how to enjoy real peace and happiness for aged persons like him, saying that he could not visit the Buddha and the members of the Sangha for paying obeisance and seeking Ovada very often as he was suffering from physical pain because of ageing. “The Buddha told him that nobody young or old was free from physical pain; that all must learn to find a practical way that would make them free from mental sufferings and one was to practise.”

“The rich man approached and sought Ovada from Shin Sariputtara too to understand the Buddha’s teaching more clearly. Shin Sariputtara told him that sometimes metal suffering was the cause of physical pain because of the wrong belief, and sometimes it was man’s extreme attachment to his possessions that made him suffer from mental pain.”

“I agree with you U Tin Aye. I have learnt that envy, jealousy, lust, greed, anger and bewilderment can cause mental pain.”

“I presume that our friend suffered from heart failure because of his daughter.”

I then joined in the discussions, giving my opinion.

“In my view we should take lessons from his death based on the quotation — The children are not your own sons and daughters. They come not from you, they come through your love. You can give all your love but not all your thoughts and instructions.”

U Chaw agreed with me and said, “According to the Buddha’s teachings, man suffers illness because of extreme greed resulting from his failure to get a gold cup unfairly. When I have read in a book that anxiety made people die earlier. Trying to be free from anxiety is the way to lead a healthier and longer life.”

In support of our discussions, U San Maung told us about a story in which a merchant died because of his extreme greed resulting from his failure to get a gold cup unfairly.

“Violent anger, jealousy and evil mind are also the cause of earlier or sudden death,” U Tin Aye said.

“Doctor, please explain the illnesses caused by mental suffering,” they requested me.

“What my mentors taught me is that we all should practise moderation concerning problems; should not entertain hard feelings towards life; should not have grudge to anyone; should keep ourselves free from jealousy; should refrain from rivalry; should not enlarge or recall the problems; should learn more Buddhist literature to make mind and body more gentle and civilized and to have the optimistic view.”

(Translation: TMT)  
Myanma Alin: 12-7-2006

Lucky draw programme for Cherry Oo customers

YANGON, 12 July — Cherry Oo Watch Shop held a lucky draw programme for its customers, who bought its products during the period from February to June, at the Central Hotel this morning. First, General Manager U Yan Naing Kyaw of Cherry Oo Export & Import Co Ltd extended greetings and film stars and journalists chose lucky draw winners. The lucky draw programme was also attended by responsible persons of Yangon Cherry Oo Watch Shop as well as the branches of Mandalay and Taunggyi.

Relief work for flood victims stepped up

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July — Members of Myanmar Police Force and social organizations have stepped up relief work after some parts of the country were flooded due to torrential rains. On 11 July, some low-lying areas in Kyaikmaraw were flooded as Attaymar River’s water level rose to as high as 520 centimetres. Residents in the areas were evacuated to temporary shelters and schools were closed. Members of the police force, the fire brigade, the Red Cross Society and social organizations provided assistance and carried out relief work. There have been no reports of casualties and loss of property.

Although heavy rain also caused damage to the railways of Mawlamyine-Dawei Railroad Section, the rail transportation could resume on 10 July.

The torrential rains also caused floods in Thandwe, Taungu and Gwa in Rakhine State on 8 July and flood victims were transported to temporary shelters. The flood waters totally receded yesterday.

In Kawlin Township, Sagaing Division, Hlaingyaiwaw Creek was swollen and Hlaingyaiwaw Dam burst its earthen embankment at 1 am on 10 July. On 11 July, Shweygin Canal in Thanzetpin, Bago Division, exceeded its danger level and flooded some low-lying areas. Flood victims were moved to relief centres and schools were closed temporarily. During the floods, a pillar of the wooden bridge across the Siton Canal in Thanzetpin, Bago Division, was damaged, and the bridge is thus closed while it is under repair.
With considerable success in restoring stability…

Measures are to be taken for enhancing the interests of the farmers and the nation and ensuring food security of the people by extending sown acreage with effective use of the water from the dam, promoting capacity of crop cultivation and boosting per acre yield of the crops. And the farmers will be able to stand as reliable citizens who can serve the interests of the nation and their own by cultivating high-yield crops in the well-prepared farmland with effective use of the irrigation water along with advanced agricultural methods. Cultivating other suitable crops under the aegis of the government has contributed towards the economic development of the nation.

The government has paid serious attention to the development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors in strengthening the economy of the people and the state. Now, progress has made in the transport and commercial sectors by properly distributing the agricultural produce, produced through effective implementation of the economic objectives, to the markets. Thanks to the sound national economy, the government has been making significant efforts to develop social activities including the health sector. Because of public participation the living standard is further improving. The government has been building roads and bridges in the entire nation, ensuring peace, stability and the rule of law, and restoring national consolidation. The people are enjoying the fruits of government’s development endeavours.

Almost all the national races groups that followed the armed struggle line resulting from the past alien plot to sow discord have returned to the legal fold at present. The people warmly welcomed Mein Sin, with the rank of vice chief of staff and 758 brigade commander of SSAS who returned to the legal fold after realizing the government’s goodwill and its endeavours for the benefit of the Union together with the entire people. In the past and also at present, the Tatmadaw has served public interest as the state, the Tatmadaw government and the armed forces. It has also paved the way to shape of the future. The Tatmadaw after taking the lessons of the weaknesses of the previous constitutions has been in the process of implementing the seven-step Road Map for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic state in accord with the genuine public wish without tolerating any attempts to jeopardize independence and sovereignty. Its endeavours are for the benefit of the people at present and in the future also. The entire people should take part in the government-led efforts to ensure national peace and stability and the rule of law, to strengthen the sound economic foundations and to enhance people’s knowledge to enable them to differentiate between good and bad. The efforts will enable people to practise democracy and human rights correctly. National development depends on individual development. From individuals, households, villages, wards, townships, districts, provinces and the nation emerges. For individual development (See page 9)
With considerable success in restoring stability...

(from page 8)

all should value time, observe discipline, work hard, apply advanced techniques, and possess patriotism and Union Spirit. Only then will the nation be able to make progress.

People who love the nation always take pride in their dutiful efforts. All should be able to take pride in themselves as good citizens. Collective efforts by the government and the people will overcome all difficulties and lead to progress. The region where Lewe is located has become the hub and administrative centre of the nation. In accordance with the new constitution to be adopted, Nay Pyi Taw will become the nation’s capital, heading for further development of regional education, health, economic and social infrastructures. Local people are urged to value and effectively utilize the emerging sound infrastructures and opportunities for regional interest.

In conclusion, he urged local people to maintain the dam, preserve the watershed area, use water systematically, realize crop cultivation targets, and serve national interest.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo.

MNA

Chaungmange Dam near Pannyosan Village in Lewe Township, Pyinmana District. — MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann and party inspect Chaungmange Dam. — MNA

Local farmer U Htay Win. — MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann cordially converses with locals at the opening of Chaungmange Dam. — MNA

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Wai Lwin. — MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann gave instructions on systematic implementation of dam projects, extension of cultivated lands around the dam, establishment of model villages around the dam can store 91,770 acre-feet water. One 50-kilowatt generator will be installed at the dam for production of 0.6 million kilowatt hours yearly. The dam will irrigate 8,000 acres of farmland.

Before the opening ceremony, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo reported to General Thura Shwe Mann on completion of dam clusters in Lewe region including Chaungmange Dam.

General Thura Shwe Mann gave instructions on systematic implementation of dam projects, extension of cultivated lands around the dam, establishment of model villages around the dam, growing of physic nut plants in the area where paddy and other crops cannot be cultivated, and efforts to be made for meeting the production target of the crops.
YANGON, 12 July — A ceremony to present membership applications of the Union Solidarity and Development Association was held at Monywa Institute of Economics on 7 July.

It was attended by members of the Panel of Patrons of the USDA (Central) Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Secretariat Member of USDA Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and CEC Member Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

Associate Professor Daw Maw Maw Khin presented 1,251 membership applications of faculty members, staff and students of the university to Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

At Monywa University, Rector Dr Maung Htoo presented 2,223 membership applications to CEC member Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint.

At the USDA membership application presentation ceremonies at Monywa Institute of Economics and Monywa University, the commander and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan donated K 500,000 each and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, one set of computer each and sports gear to officials.

On the occasions, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave a speech. He said that nowadays, the Government, the Tatmadaw and the people are carrying out development of the nation. The USDA is the main strength of the people. Likewise, students are included in the association. The USDA is serving the interest of the people.

Next, Secretariat Member Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that he warmly welcomed the youths who joined the USDA. They will be reliable persons for the association. The USDA is serving the national duty such as non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

Today’s youths are to realize situation of the history and the present. As such, they will have the capabilities to conscientiously discharge the national duties in the future. After studying the history, they are to strive for development of the nation.

CEC member Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint also gave a speech.

Afterwards, the commander and the ministers attended the ceremony to launch Chan Hla Vessel at Chindwin Dock in Monywa.

NAY PYI TAW, 12 July — Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected the wall magazine at Meiktila District Information and Public Relations Department on 4 July morning.

Next, the minister proceeded to the retransmission station of Myanma Radio and Television in Sagaing and inspected re-transmission tasks. The station is retransmitting MRTV-4 programmes to townships of Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions. Arrangements are being made to cover extending the retransmission works to more townships of Sagaing Division.

At the ceremony to grow physic nut plants in the precinct of Kaunghmudaw Stupa, the minister gave a speech and participated in the physic nut growing ceremony.

Afterwards, the minister inspected Yathetpan self-reliant village library in Gwaybindaw Village in Myinmu Township. He donated K 30,000 for the library to the librarian.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan grew physic nut plants in the precinct of Kaunghmudaw Stupa. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspected Yathetpan self-reliant village library in Gwaybindaw Village, Myinmu Township. — MNA
**MWAF donates desks, cash to Thirimingala monastic education school**

**Yangon, 12 July** — Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation donated desks and cash to Thirimingala monastic education school, Tamway Township this morning.

Present on the occasion were the Presiding Sayadaw of Thirimingala monastery, members of Sangha, Vice-President of MWAF Daw Khin Thet Htay, Head of Administration Department Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe and members, Patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Mar Mar Wai, departmental officials, chairpersons of Division, District and Township WAOs and executives, local authorities, the chairman of school supervisory committee, teachers and responsible persons.

First, the congregation received the Five Precepts from the Sayadaw Maha Saddhamarajakajtaha Bhadanta Aaggavuma.

Next, Vice-President of MWAF Daw Khin Thet Htay, Patron of Yangon Division WAO Daw Mar Mar Wai and Head of Administration Department Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe donated Waso robes and provisions to the Sayadaw and members of Sangha.

**Afterwards,** Vice-President of MWAF Daw Khin Thet Htay and Head of Administration Department Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe presented 34 desks worth K 1,020,000 and cash K 300,000 to Chairman of School Supervisory Committee U Aung Kyaw Soe.

Next, School Supervisory Committee U Aung Kyaw Soe spoke words of thanks.

After the ceremony, Vice-President of MWAF Daw Khin Thet Htay and officials looked into sanitation works in the school.

**MNA**

**YANGON does not consider situation in Myanmar constitutes threat to international peace and security**

**NAM opposes unanimously attempts to inscribe Myanmar’s situation under UNSC agenda**

**Yangon, 12 July** — Member countries of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) opposed unanimously the proposal by a member of the Security Council to inscribe the situation in Myanmar under the agenda of the Security Council saying that the situation in Myanmar does not pose a threat to international peace and security.

At the Coordinating Bureau Meeting of NAM held on 6 July 2006, representatives of Myanmar’s neighbouring countries, ASEAN members Cambodia, Indonesia and Vietnam, and Sri Lanka said that they do not consider the situation in Myanmar constitutes a threat to international peace and security, and oppose attempts by a member of the UNSC to inscribe the situation in Myanmar under the agenda of the UN Security Council.

Moreover, representatives of Africa and Latin America said that as Myanmar’s neighbouring countries and regional countries reaffirmed that the situation in Myanmar does not pose a threat to international peace and security, the situation in Myanmar should not be inscribed under the agenda of the Security Council. Members of NAM India, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, and Cuba, Venezuela and Guatemala from Latin America and Nigeria and Egypt from Africa also opposed the attempts by a member of the Council and 22 members expressed their support.

Chairman of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement Mr Hamidon Ali sent a letter to Mr Jean-Marc de la Sabliéve, President of the Security Council, on 10 July. (Following is the full text of the letter.)

On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), I have the honour to convey to you, in your capacity as President of the Security Council of the United Nations, the concerns that have been expressed by Member Countries of the NAM on the proposal by a member of the Security Council to inscribe the situation in Myanmar under the agenda of the Security Council, with a view to adopting a draft resolution thereof.

The Non-Aligned Movement reaffirms its principled positions pertaining to the cardinal requirement to uphold and respect for the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, maintain the relationship between the Security Council and other principal organs of the United Nations in accordance with the Charter, in particular on the question of encroachment by the Council on the functions and powers of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as other matters related thereto.

The principled positions of the Movement of these issues have been transmitted to the President of the Security Council for the month of February 2006 through my letters dated 10 February 2006 and 20 February 2006 as contained in documents S/2006/85 and S/2006/111, respectively, copies of which are enclosed herewith.

The Non-Aligned Movement stresses once again that the decision by the Security to initiate formal or informal discussion on the situation in any Member State of the United Nations or any issue that does not constitute a threat to international peace and security as contrary to Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations. The NAM does not consider the situation in Myanmar constitutes a threat to international peace and security, and opposes attempts by a member of the Council to categorize Myanmar as such. Therefore, inscribing this issue under the agenda of the Council would be in violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter, in particular Article 24. In this regard, the Movement further stresses once again the need for the Council to uphold the primary of and full respect for the Charter in carrying out its duties and responsibilities.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

— MNA

**Monsoon rains trigger floods and death in S Asia**

**Locknow (India), 12 July** — Monsoon rains have inundated large parts of Uttar Pradesh State in India, and 21 people were killed in drownings, house collapses and lightning strikes over the weekend, officials said on Monday.

In neighbouring Bangladesh, at least 12 people have died in landslides or after being hit by lightning over the past two days in heavy rainstorms in the nation’s east.

Across India, at least 250 people have been killed since the start of the monsoon season in June.

The heavy rains have caused power outages for several hours across Uttar Pradesh, India’s most populous state.

Last week, more than 80 people died in extreme monsoon weather in western and eastern India and normal life in large parts of Mumbai ground to a halt for two days as downpours hit India’s financial hub.

In Uttar Pradesh, people slammed the government for not undertaking measures to prevent waterlogging and flooding.

— MNA/Reuters

**Wealthy Brazilian lady keeps tons of garbage at home**

**Rio de Janeiro, 12 July** — A 70-year-old woman has been missing for four days.

On Sunday, the local police broke into Violeta de Carvalho Martinez’s house in Itaim Bibi neighbourhood on request of her neighbour, who said Mrs Martinez had been missing for four days.

The police found the 350-square-metre building was filled with garbage and rats, but did not see the old lady. They had thought Mrs Martinez could be lying dead within the piles of garbage until she showed up Monday at the 15th Precinct.

Police Chief Maria Aparecida Resende Corsato said the old lady might suffer from some kind of compulsion that made her collect and store garbage at home for about 20 years. According to the police, the garbage was stocked from the floor to the ceiling in all rooms of the house, and the lady slept in a Fiat car parked in her garage.

— MNA/Xinhua

**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 13 July, 2006 11**
India aims to enrol 3 min children with special needs in schools

NEW DELHI, 11 July — Buoyed by the success in the enrolment of children with special needs in schools under the ambitious ‘Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan’ (Education for all) campaign, Indian Government has set a target of enrolling over three million children in the current year.

From 566,000 Children With Special Needs (CWSN) admitted in schools in 2002-03, the enrolment of such children currently stands at 1.705 million “The target for the current year included an expenditure of 3.038 million CWSN in 34 states, barring Sikkim,” a source in Union Human Resource Development Ministry said.

Observing that education of children with special needs is an important component of the SSA, he said besides increasing the physical coverage, the expenditure on inclusive education has also shown an upward trend. From a mere 26 per cent expenditure in 2003-04, the states have shown an overall expenditure of 65.50 per cent on CWSN related activities in 2005-06.

“The focus of SSA is now on reaching out to those out of school CWSN, where special needs receive continuing on site support,” the source added.

Though most states have identified and enrolled CWSN in schools, they differ in approaches and strategies adopted to achieve the ultimate objective of schooling such children.
The high-flying repairmen from the space shuttle Discovery wrestled with a spate of problems during the nearly seven-hour spacewalk, including the partial disconnection of astronaut Piers Sellers’ emergency jet backpack.

“What else could happen, man?” one of the astronauts said when a new cable assembly for the mobile rail cart was finally put into position on the space station. “Don’t ask,” came the reply. Sellers had problems with his jet-powered backpack, a small but critical piece of equipment that could save an astronaut’s life if the safety tethers that keep him attached to the station should fail.

Spacewalker Mike Fossum works on the equipment pallet in the payload bay of the Shuttle Discovery during the mission’s second spacewalk in this view from NASA TV on 10 July, 2006.—INTERNET

A man swims in the Mediterranean sea in the east coast of the Balearic island of Mallorca on 11 July, 2006. Picture taken on 11 July, 2006.—INTERNET

Astronauts fix space station’s rail cart

Houston, 11 July — Two spacewalking astronauts repaired a transport system outside the International Space Station on Monday, paving the way for NASA to resume assembly of the half-built, 100-billion-US-dollar complex later this year.

The rail cart was out of commission since December, when its power and data cable was inadvertently severed. Sellers and Fossum installed a new cable and rail assembly.

Without the cart, NASA would not be able to resume space station assembly, which, if all goes well, would begin with the launch of shuttle Atlantis on 28 August. Construction was halted after the 2003 Columbia disaster.

NASA needs to finish construction of the space station by 2010 when the three-ship fleet is scheduled for retirement. Shuttles are the only spacecraft that can deliver the station’s major components.

Return of soprano queen with slim shape

Beijing, 11 July — A famous American soprano fired by the Royal Opera House because of her weight has been rehired after undergoing stomach surgery and losing 61kg, her spokesperson and the prestigious theatre said on Sunday.

Californian Deborah Voigt, one of the world’s top opera singers, was sacked by the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in London, from her role in Richard Strauss’s opera Ariadne on Naxos in 2004. She was too fat, the opera house said.

She now has a contract to return to the role in the 2007-2008 season, a Royal Opera spokesperson said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the house does not officially announce its casts so far in advance.

Voigt underwent gastric bypass surgery in June 2004. She has since lost 61 kilogrammes. She said she had worn size 30 clothes at her biggest. She is now a size 14 and well on her way to a slinky size 12.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, Singapore’s Minister of State for Education Lui Tuck Yew said that the programme is designed for top students who are passionate in science and technology. “It is vital that Singapore nurtures a group of bright young people who are keen to delve into the deepest fundamentals of science and who can bring such value to our industries,” Lui said.

He added that the programme will help train a special pool of students and arm them with a deep and broad science education, who are needed in building Singapore into a research-intensive, knowledge-driven, innovative economy.

Yang Chen Ning, a professor at China’s Qinghua University, was present at the ceremony. He arrived in Singapore on 7 July to pay a six-day visit and to attend the 37th International Physics Olympiad. A record number of 600 participants from around 90 countries and regions are here for the 10-day competition, which opened Sunday at NTU.

Nine people to face trial for Britain’s largest robbery

London, 11 July — Nine people accused of taking part in the biggest robbery in British history are to be tried at the Old Bailey next April, Sky news reported on Monday.

Six men and three women have been charged with offences relating to the £53 million-pound (£97.52 million US dollars) raid, which took place in February at a securities depot in Kent, in the southeast of the country.

The defendants face charges ranging from conspiracy to commit robbery and kidnapping to handling stolen goods.— MNA/Xinhua

WB supports Indonesian education project for poor children

Jakarta, 11 July — The World Bank will support an early-age education and growth project with a total fund of 128 million US dollars in Indonesia.

The bank will give 67.5 million US dollars to the project while 25.3 million US dollars will come from the Dutch Government and the remaining from the Indonesian Government, said a statement issued on Monday by the World Bank office in Jakarta. The project is aimed at reducing the number of dropouts among elementary school students, the statement said.

World Bank Representative in Indonesia Andrew Steer said that the project was also expected to develop more productive community and lessen juvenile delinquency.

The project would copy a similar project which was successfully implemented in 11 regencies for nine years in the country. Indonesia’s national education programme has set a target of reaching around 740000 children from the poorest families in 3000 villages. Under the programme, children below six-year old and their parents will receive a grant to prepare the children for early-age education in special centres established for that purposes. In the centres, young mothers and children will learn knowledge about health and nutrition. — MNA/Xinhua

Singapore NTU launches Yang Chen Ning Scholars Programme

Singapore, 11 July — Singapore’s Nanyang Technological University (NTU) launched a Yang Chen Ning Scholars Programme on Monday.

Speaking at the launching ceremony, Singapore’s Minister of State for Education Lui Tuck Yew said that the programme is designed for top students who are passionate in science and technology. “It is vital that Singapore nurtures a group of bright young people who are keen to delve into the deepest fundamentals of science and who can bring such value to our industries,” Lui said.

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FIFA to investigate Zidane head-butting

LONDON, 12 July— FIFA will open a disciplinary investigation into the circumstances surrounding France captain Zinedine Zidane’s head-butt on Italy’s Marco Materazzi during the World Cup final.

Playing the last match of a great career, the French midfielder drove his head into Materazzi’s chest in the second period of extra time in Berlin after exchanging comments with the Italian.

"FIFA will open a disciplinairy investigation into Zidane’s conduct to enable it to clarify the circumstances surrounding the incident as exactly as possible,” world soccer’s governing body said in a statement.

What exactly was said between the two remains a mystery although Materazzi has denied allegations he called Zidane a “dirty terrorist”.

"I used an insult that I’ve heard used a dozen times and which is heard all the time on the pitch," Materazzi told the Gazzetta dello Sport newspaper after asking whether he had insulted Zidane’s sister.

"I certainly didn’t say him a terrorist: I’m ignorant, I don’t even know exactly what an Islamic terrorist is... I also certainly didn’t say anything about Zidane’s mother: for me, a mother is sacrosanct.

Italy won the final in a penalty shootout after the head-butt.

There was further controversy when the incident was brought to the attention of referee Horacio Elizondo by the fourth official.

Elizondo what had happened.

Most Valuable Player Michael Young of the Texas Rangers holds up his trophy after the American League All-Star baseball game in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on 11 July, 2006. —INTERNET

Klinsmann not to renew Germany contract

BERLIN, 12 July— German national soccer coach Juergen Klinsmann has decided not to extend his contract, which expired at the end of the World Cup, German media reported on Tuesday.

Klinsmann has told the co-president of the German soccer federation, Theo Zwanziger, that he will not be staying on, Bild newspaper said in a preview of its Wednesday edition, without identifying its source.

Munich’s Sueddeutsche Zeitung also reported that the former German striker had decided to step down, while German soccer news agency SID said team manager Oliver Bierhoff had indirectly confirmed Klinsmann’s decision.

Algerian President backs Zidane over head-butt

LONDON, 12 July— The President of Algeria said on Tuesday he had sent a letter of support to Zinedine Zidane after the French soccer captain was sent off in his career.

President Abdelaziz Bouteflika described Zidane, the son of Algerian immigrants, as “a World Cup demi-god” and the best footballer in the world.

"Yesterday I sent a personal letter on my behalf and on behalf of all the Algerian people to express my solidarity and my friendship to Zidane, and to give him some comfort,” Bouteflika told a news conference in London after talks with British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"He was a demi-god of the World Cup, but five minutes later for many people unfortunately he becomes something that sports men should shy away from," said the president, speaking through a translator.

"He has not lost his own human dimension.”

Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika told a news conference in London after talks with British Prime Minister Tony Blair that he had sent a letter of support to Zinedine Zidane after the French soccer captain was sent off in his career.

"The match was Zidane’s last in competitive football and Bouteflika said it was not for others to judge the footballer’s actions.

"We support him because he is Algerian, we support him because he is the best... he’s the best in the world. It was necessary for Algeria to express itself and to side with him.”

Rabobank’s team rider Oscar Freire of Spain (L) and Davitamon’s team rider Robbie McEwen (R) sprint to the finish line with the pack of riders to win the 9th stage of the 93rd Tour de France cycling race between Bordeaux and Dax, on 11 July, 2006. —INTERNET

Fourth official says saw Zidane headbut with own eyes

MADRID, 12 July— The fourth official who was responsible for alerting the referee that Zinedine Zidane had headbutted Italian defender Marco Materazzi in the World Cup final has said he saw the incident as it happened.

Spaniard Luis Medina Cantalejo said television replays played no part in his decision to inform referee Horacio Elizondo of the Frenchman’s aggression as the two players trotted back after a corner.

"I saw it happen live, I didn’t invent anything," Medina Cantalejo told Spanish radio station Cadena Ser on Tuesday.

"The ball was elsewhere and that was where the referee was looking, while the linesman was getting back into position.

"I always tell my fourth official to keep an eye on the players because things can happen as the players get back into position and that is all I did.”

Zidane, playing his final game before retiring from professional football, was sent off in the second period of extra time in the World Cup final with the score 1-1 and Italy went on to win the game on penalties.

It was the 14th time that the Frenchman has been sent off in his career.

Medina Cantalejo rejected suggestions from France coach Raymond Domenech that the sending off had been provoked by the television replays.

"I respect his opinion, but that is not what happened. This incident shows how important the fourth official is. My job is to calm down I told Elizondo what had happened.”

The Spianiard told sports paper AS on his behalf and on behalf of all the Algerian people to express our solidarity and our friendship to Zidane, and to give him some comfort,” Bouteflika told a news conference in London after talks with British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"He was a demi-god of the World Cup, but five minutes later for many people unfortunately he becomes something that sports men should shy away from," said the president, speaking through a translator.

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Domenech to remain as France coach

PARIS, 12 July— Raymond Domenech will stay on as coach after leading France to the World Cup final, the French Football Federation (FFF) said on Tuesday.

Domenech, who took over from Jacques Santini after Euro 2004, was offered an extension to his two-year contract and he accepted it, the FFF said on their website.

"Taking into account the excellent performance of France during the World Cup, the federal committee unanimously offered Raymond Domenech the chance to carry on his mission as national coach,” a statement said.

France lost Sunday’s World Cup final to Italy on penalties and start their qualifying programme for Euro 2008 in September.

“I’m proud of this team and I’m proud of Raymond Domenech,” federation chairman Jean-Pierre Escalettes told a news conference.

“Many of our dreams came true (during the World Cup). The players honoured the blue shirt with their commitment.”

MNA/Reuters

Captain Zinedine Zidane and player Franck Ribery (R) appear before supporters on the balcony of the Crillon Hotel, overlooking Place de la Concorde, where crowds gathered during their World Cup 2006 homecoming in Paris on 10 July, 2006. —INTERNET
Explosions hit train network in Mumbai, over 160 killed

NEW DELHI, 12 July — Over 160 people were killed and more than 400 others injured when seven powerful bombs ripped through crowded commuter trains in Mumbai Tuesday, Indian police and officials said.

More than 160 people were killed in the series of explosions that rocked commuter rail network during rush hour Tuesday evening, The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency, citing officials, said.

Mumbai Police Chief A N Roy put the number of injured to more than 400 in the explosions in the financial capital of India.

The blasts occurred at packed railway stations and on trains in the Matunga, Khar, Mahim, Jogeshwari, Borivali and Bhayander localities in and around Mumbai and a seventh blast occurred at a subway near Khar.

The first blast took place at 6:25 pm in a commuter train near Khar station and other explosions quickly followed, the Indo-Asian News Service said.

Most of the deaths are believed to have occurred at just one station, Matunga, where a deafening explosion ripped through a train carriage.

The explosions tore through at least two compartments packed with people returning home from work.

Hundreds of people living in buildings adjoining the railway stations and surviving passengers rushed to railway station amid incessant rains and picked up bodies splattered on the tracks.

Malaysian police crack major drug ring

KUALA LUMPUR, 12 July — Malaysian police have cracked a major international drug syndicate in northern Malaysia and arrested 21 people, local reports said on Tuesday.

The police also seized ecstasy pills worth of 14.4 million ringgit (3.89 million US dollars) in their operations launched separately at Kulim in the state of Kedah and another area in the state of Pinang, the News Straits Times said.

The ring, led by a 42-year-old chemist, ran a drug lab within a factory, which manufactures cosmetics, soaps and conceits of drugs and smuggles them in Malaysia and other regions like Australia and Japan, the newspapers said.

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak said that the syndicate was believed to have been actively involved in local and international drug trafficking.

The 21 suspects arrested, including the chemist, were aged between 19 and 52, and they may face death sentences if convicted.

WEATHER

Wednesday, 12 July, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagona Division, rain has been isolated in Magway Division, scattered in Shan and Kayah States, upper Sagona and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread to widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in Bago, Mandalay and Tanintharyi Divisions.

The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Toungoo (Aviation Met Office) (6.18) inches, Thandwe (5.04) inches, Sittway (3.58) inches, Kyaukpyu (3.17) inches, Myeik (3.18) inches, Thaton (2.72) inches, Hpa-an (2.48) inches, Putao (2.44) inches, and Myingyan (2.36) inches.

Maximum temperature on 11-7-2006 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 12-7-2006 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 12-7-2006 was (96%).

Total sunshine hours on 11-7-2006 was nil.

Rainfalls on 12-7-2006 were (0.04) inch at Mingaladon, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.16) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (43.58) inches at Mingaladon, (52.44) inches at Kaba-Aye and (56.30) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Northwest at (11:50) hours MST on 11-7-2006.

Forecast valid until evening of 13-7-2006:

Rain will be isolated in lower Sagona and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kayah and Shan States, Mandalay Division and fairly widespread in Chin State, upper Sagona and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Mon State, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas will be experienced 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 13-7-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 13-7-2006: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 13-7-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein receives Italian Ambassador

**YANGON, 12 July** — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Lt-Gen Thein Sein received Italian Ambassador Mr Raffaele Miniero who had completed his tour of duty at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha, here, at 2 pm today.

Also present at the call were Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director-General U Myint Thein of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office. — MNA

Entire people totally oppose plot of destructive group to destroy country through unrest

They are to safeguard peace and tranquillity and better results for development built for many years

**YANGON, 12 July** — The government, the people and the Tatmadaw of the Union of Myanmar are endeavouring for emergence of a peaceful, modern developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with the desire of the entire people. Now peace and tranquillity and better foundations for development and better conditions for democratization have achieved.

The government on its correct path of development is marching towards the national goal in accord with the seven-step Road Map. At the same time external and internal destructive elements who want to seize State power through shortcut gathered in a neighbouring country and held a meeting to create a commotion in the country and commit terrorist acts. Information is received in advance that destructive groups and saboteurs are attempting to destabilize the country by distributing agitative leaflets and through demonstrations in collusion with groups at home and abroad. This has been made public.

Those who took part in the 88 unrest and members of a political party in the country and its followers are plotting to destabilize the country by distributing agitative leaflets and through demonstrations in collusion with destructive groups sent by terrorists, destructive elements and saboteurs and expatriates using Martyrs Day which falls on 19 July as a tool.

At the same time other armed groups who witnessed stability and development and efforts of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw gave up their armed struggle line and returned to the legal fold. Local people are very glad to see peace and progress in the respective regions. Moreover, the entire people are also pleased to see better prospects for development and the fact that some regions where there was no peace and stability have now enjoyed peace and tranquillity.

The people who want to earn their living in peace and who do not want the already-achieved peace and tranquillity and better conditions for development to be ruined due to the attempts of external and internal destructive elements bent on seizing State power in shortcut way are making arrangements to guard against the acts of saboteurs and destructive elements, in cooperation with organizations representing the people.

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