Established 1914

Volume XIV, Number 90                          6th Waning of Waso 1368 ME                     Saturday, 15 July, 2006

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

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

Four social objectives
* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Cash and kind provided to needy and disabled children of Yangon East District

Maternal and Child Welfare Association accepts 10,000 membership applications in Yangon East District

YANGON, 14 July — A ceremony to provide health care to child cancer patients and assistance to disabled children was held in conjunction with the ceremony to present membership applications of Maternal and Child Welfare Association at Yankin Education College in Yankin Township on 12 July noon, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win and wife Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai.

Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai explained treatment to be given to child cancer patients.

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win presented stipends and stationery to basic education and university students.

Next, wellwishers donated K 10.1 million for providing health care to child cancer patients and assistance to disabled and needy children.

Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai handed over assistance and stationery to disabled children. Afterwards, the Chairperson accepted 10,000 membership applications from Yangon East District MCWSC Daw Nan Shwe Yin.

The Chairperson donated K 11 million to the funds for child cancer patient treatment to North Okkalapa General Hospital. Head of Department Professor Dr S Kyaw Hla gave talks on cancer disease and medical treatment.

Chairman of Yangon East District PDC Lt-

Col Maung Maung Shein and Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Mynl presented gifts to Medical Superintendent Dr Mya Thaung and specialists who rendered assistance in providing medical treatment to disabled children.

Next, the commander, wife and guests viewed medical treatment being provided by specialists.

At the ceremony, K 5,210,000 and stationery worth K 500,000 were provided to 57 needy students and 48 disabled children of townships in Yangon East District.

Chairman of Yangon East District PDC Lt-

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win presents stipend for one year and school stationery to a student. — MNA

The third world not just refers to China, India or Brazil, it also includes many other countries which used to be considered a burden. Therefore, the emphasis of the American transformational diplomacy means to send more diplomats to those cities that have more than one million people in the world so that they can closely contact local people and influence and even shape the domestic transition track in those countries.

Under the pretext of promoting democracy to intervene in other country’s domestic affairs, the US action will surely inflict boycott from various nations and people. Some scholars in the US have warned the Bush administration that the US transformation of diplomacy may make the US become an unwelcome country which will win support from neither the US itself nor other countries.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
PERSPECTIVES
Saturday, 15 July, 2006

Irrigation facilities boosting national economy

The government gives a serious attention to the implementation of water supply tasks across the nation such as construction of dams, reservoirs, sluice gates and river water pumping stations, tapping underground water, and digging small lakes and canals.

The Chaungmange Dam that will benefit 8,000 acres of farmland was put into service in Lewe Township the other day.

The facility is the 187th of its kind in the nation as well as the 10th of its kind in Nay Pyi Taw Command area among the irrigation facilities the government has built since 1988.

Apart from irrigating 8,000 areas of farmland in Lewe Township, the Chaungmange Dam will be able to generate 50 kilowatts.

The emergence of the dam will help raise the standard of living of the families of local farmers through extension of sown acreage, promotion of cultivation capacity and boosting per acre yield of crops, bring prospects for national development, and contribute towards food security of the people.

Local farmers can enhance the quality and boost per acre yield of the crops by using high-yield strains and advanced agricultural methods on fertile lands.

Properly distributing the agricultural produce to the markets strengthens the development in the transport and commercial sectors. Now, cumulative progress has been made day after day in the production, services and trade sectors, thereby enhancing the economy of the State.

Hockey pitch with artificial lawns to be built

YANGON, 14 July — A coordination meeting on building a hockey pitch with artificial lawns took place on 11 July at the office of Myanmar Hockey Federation. It was attended by MHF President Brig-Gen Myo Myint (Retd), Vice Presidents U Kyaw Naing, U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing, U Myint Naing, U Khin Maung Maung Aung and U Kyaw Min (Managing Director of MMM), Chief Engineer of MMM U Khang Thu Win, Representatives of Bangladesh Ministry of Sports Mr Habibur Rahman and Mr Obayed Ullah and technicians Mr Khurshid Alam and Mr Ahmed of Polytan German Co that will export artificial lawns for the pitch.

The facility is the 187th of its kind in the nation as well as the 10th of its kind in Nay Pyi Taw Command area among the irrigation facilities the government has built since 1988.

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Work coordination meeting on organ transplant held

YANGON, 13 July — Health Department of the Ministry of Health sponsored a work coordination meeting on organ transplant this morning with an address by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Director-General Dr Tin Nyunt of Health Department, directors, medical superintendents and others.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo made a speech.

He also elaborated on successful operations for organs transplant.

Next, the deputy minister urged health staff to redouble their efforts for advancing level of medical science and for serving in the interest of the people and the State.

SPED Director-General meets Myanmar archery team

YANGON, 14 July — Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik gave instructions to those who will attend the “7th Asian Archery Trainers’ Workshop” to be held in Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia from 17 to 21 July and Myanmar Archery Team that will take part in the Second World Ranking Asian Archery Circuit Championship to be held from 21 to 27 July, at the meeting hall of Aung San Stadium, here, this afternoon.

General Secretary of Myanmar Archery Federation U Kyaw Oo (Assistant Director of SPED), executives U Maung Oo, and archers Zaw Win Htaik, Ye Min Swe, Lin Naing, Tin Zin Es and Aye Thida will participate in the Second World Ranking Asian Archery Circuit Championship.

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MAL
Expert says oil hungry world could turn to Antarctica

HOLART, 13 July—An Iranian oil expert in Hobart for an international conference on Antarctica says the world needs to adapt as oil supplies diminish. "I predict that world oil prices reach US$200 per barrel, drilling in Antarctica could become profitable."

He says he hopes it never happens, but doubts any international treaty could protect the frozen continent. "It will certainly not happen tomorrow, you need time, you need much higher prices," he said. "Antarctica is the last frontier, and, in my opinion, it is the home of 20 million penguins.”

Meanwhile, the Australian Antarctic Division says rising fuel costs are forcing it to re-examine its work on the frozen continent. The division’s director, Tony Press, says Australia is already looking at a number of changes to respond to higher fuel costs.

"We’re looking at things like alternative energy, we’ve got industrial size wind generation in Antarctica, we’re looking at hydrogen,” he said. “But there are other economies we need to look at, including how efficiently we operate, but that might mean how we collaborate with other countries.” —Internet

US detains 1,000 terror suspects around the world

WASHINGTON, 13 July—About 1,000 terror suspects are in US custody worldwide, a Pentagon legal adviser disclosed on Tuesday. According to the transcript of a testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee, Daniel Dell’Orto, the Pentagon’s principal deputy general counsel, told the committee that “I would say it’s probably in the order of about 1,000 (detainees)”. Among that total, some 450 prisoners are being held in the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, he said.

In other words, the rest must be jailed in secret prisons elsewhere in the world, probably run by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Reports on CIA secret prisons in Europe have raised concerns from EU lawmakers. In his testimony, Daniel Dell’Orto also echoed an earlier White House statement that said the Bush Administration and the US military have always been complying with the Geneva Conventions in dealing with detainees.

However, it obviously marks a reversal of a former US policy which regards terror suspects as “enemy combatant”, who are not prisoners of war and therefore shall not be protected by the Geneva Conventions. The policy change came at a time when the White House is reportedly rethinking its anti-terror tactics in light of a series of detainee abuse scandals, among other legal military and political challenges.

Gunmen kidnap passengers from N-E Baghdad bus station

BAGHDAD, 13 July—A group of unknown gunmen kidnapped 24 people on Wednesday from the bus station of Muqdadiyah, some 90 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, an Iraqi Army spokesman said. "Unknown gunmen attacked the Muqdadiyah station parking lot, where buses line up to pick up passengers, and seized up to 24 of them," the spokesman told the media.

Four kidnapped people were later released by the gunmen near the village of Balloor outside the town of Muqdadiyah, and were found by an Iraqi Army force which was chasing the gunmen, the spokesman said.

President of ice manufacturer Yamane, Masahiro Yamane shows a display of ice flower sculptures in Tokyo on 13 July, 2006. The large and small ice sculptures containing artificial flowers are priced at 35,000 yen ($304) and 3,500 yen ($30). —Internet

Putin warns off democracy critics ahead of G-8

Moscow, 13 July—Russian President Vladimir Putin, hosting a G-8 Summit this weekend, accused foreigners who criticize his democracy record of echoing colonialist rhetoric of bygone days and singled out Dick Cheney for personal attack.

US Vice President Cheney has been an outspoken critic, veiling the Kremlin in May by saying Russia was backsliding on democracy and using its vast energy resources as a tool to blackmail its neighbours.

Putin told the US channel NBC he would not allow the issue to be used to interfere in Russia’s internal affairs and called Cheney’s criticism “a failed hunting shot”, according to a transcript released by the Kremlin.

Cheney accidentally shot and wounded a friend during a quail hunt in February. Putin, who will host US President George W Bush and the leaders of Britain, France, Germany, Canada, Japan and Italy, said Russia was ready to listen to “well-intentioned criticism”.

“But we will categorically object to using all possible levers, including the idea that our society needs democratization, for interfering in our internal affairs,” he said. “We consider this absolutely unacceptable.”

The two leaders clashed openly over democracy at a meeting in the Slovakian capital Bratislava in February 2005.

Press, says Australia is already looking at a number of the frozen continent. The division’s director, Tony Press, says Australia is already looking at a number of changes to respond to higher fuel costs. "They talked of their civilizing role, of the White man’s mission.

“If you change the word ‘civilizing’ to ‘decolonization’, you find the same logic, you can read the same things in the Press of today.”

“There are differences between countries and it could be very dangerous to ignore these,” he added.

Visitors walk past a dragon kite on display at the Mu Tian Yu section of the Great Wall of China in Beijing on 13 July, 2006. —INTERNET

A bust in silver bronze showing French soccer star Zinedine Zidane is seen in Monaco, on 12 July, 2006. The sculpture by French artist Jean-Baptiste Seckler, has a limited edition of 100 numbered copies, weighs 2.8 kg, is 20cm high and cost 3000 euros ($3820 US Dollars). Zinedine Zidane’s signature is affixed to the pedestal and the final point of the signature is made with a diamond of 0.03-carat. —INTERNET
Chinese Vice-President vows to further ties with Mauritius

BEIJING, 13 July—Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong on Tuesday said that Chinese Government valued its friendship with Mauritius, and would enhance high-level exchanges and mutual cooperation.

Zeng made the remarks while meeting Madan Murlidhar Dulloo, Mauritius Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Cooperation, in Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

Zeng said relations had progressed soundly with fruitful cooperation since the two countries established diplomatic ties in 1972.

“The new government of Mauritius, since it came into power last year adhered to the one-China policy. The two countries recorded new progress in trade, culture, education, communication and tourism, as well as close consultation and cooperation on international affairs,” Zeng said.

Dulloo agreed Mauritius and China had cooperated well in major international and regional issues such as the reform of the United Nations.

He said the Mauritius Government valued relations with China and would maintain its one-China policy, enhance cooperation and promote relations between Africa and China.

Mom has quadruplets three years after triplets

LOS ANGELES, 13 July—After delivering triplets three years ago, Angela Magdaleno thought she was done having babies. She was wrong four times over.

Magdaleno gave birth to quadruplets on 6 July by Caesarean section. She now has nine children.

The latest additions — two girls and two boys — were doing well Wednesday, while their mother, resting at home, said: “I’m happy because they’re healthy and so am I.”

Still, Magdaleno, 40, worried she might be overwhelmed with the work and sometimes struggles with mixed emotions about the future.

“I don’t know if I’m sad or happy,” she said. “I’m happy but, I don’t know. I don’t know how to explain it.”

Three years ago, Magdaleno gave birth to the triplets after undergoing in vitro fertilization. She said her husband wanted many children. After their birth, she thought she was done having babies.

Careless burglars take taxi home

BERLIN, 13 July—Two Albanian men carrying stolen computers and flat-screen televisions worth $13,000 (7,000 pounds) flagged down a Berlin taxi to transport their loot home but were later arrested after the cab driver called the police.

The taxi driver first flagged down the thieves load bulky boxes of stolen goods in front of a low office in the government quarter at 1 am and then drove them to their apartment in a north Berlin district, a police spokeswoman said on Thursday.

After collecting his fare and a generous tip, the taxi driver notified the police who later raided the apartment and found other stolen items from previous burglaries.

Killer kangaroo, demon duck of doom roamed outback

SYDNEY, 13 July — Forget cute, cuddly marsupials. A team of Australian palaeontologists say they have found the fossilized remains of a fanged killer kangaroo and what they describe as a “demon duck of doom”.

A University of New South Wales team said the fearsome fossils were among 20 previously unknown species uncovered at a site in northwest Queensland State. Professor Michael Archer said on Wednesday the remains of a meat-eating kangaroo with wolf-like fangs were found as well as a galloping kangaroo with long forearms that could not hop like a modern kangaroo. “Because they didn’t hop, these were galloping kangaroos, with big, powerful forelimbs. Some of them had long canines (fangs) like wolves,” Archer told Australian Broadcasting Corp radio.

Vertebrate palaeontologist Sue Hand said modern kangaroos look almost nothing like their ferocious forebears, which lived between 10 million and 20 million years ago. The species found at the dig had well muscled-in teeth, not for grazing. These things had slicing crests that could have crunched through bone and sliced off flesh”, Hand said.

The team also found prehistoric lungfish and large duck-like birds. “Very big birds — more like ducks, earned the name ‘demon duck of doom’, some at least may have been carnivorous as well,” Hand told ABC radio. Archer said the team was studying the fossils to better understand how they were affected by changing climates in the Miocene epoch between 5 million and 24 million years ago.

Indian sand artist Sudarshan Patnaik gives finishing touches to a sand sculpture of Tuesday’s Mumbai train blasts, at the Golden beach in Puri, about 70 km (43 miles) east of India’s eastern city of Orissa, on 13 July, 2006. —INTERNET

A mahout and Olaf Behlert (R) from Germany’s Cologne Zoo inspect a wild elephant trapped in mud in Khaos Song sub-district in Chantaburi Province on 13 July, 2006. —INTERNET

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Putin says sanctions on Iran will hamper settlement of N-dispute

MOSCOW, 13 July— Russian President Vladimir Putin said any sanctions against Iran would disrupt the latest diplomatic attempts to resolve the standoff over its nuclear issue, according to a transcript of a television interview released by the Kremlin on Wednesday.

“We are not letting all acquire nuclear weapons or means of delivery,” Putin told Canada’s CTV television.

“We are for finding coordinated decisions all together, including within the framework of the G-8,” he added.

“If today, without receiving an answer from Iran to the nuclear offer put forward by the six countries, we start to proceed to some sanctions, then we will simply disrupt this positive process that has just begun,” Putin said.

Western countries have asked Teheran to respond ahead of this weekend’s G-8 summit in St Petersburg. Teheran has snubbed the calls, insisting on giving a response in August.

“What will change if we wait three more weeks? I think nothing is likely to change. Therefore no fuss is necessary here,” Putin said.— MNA/Xinhua

Japanese carmaker plans additional investment in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 13 July —Japanese carmaker Daihatsu plans an additional investment of 70 million US dollars in Indonesia, which is tipped to become its second production base after Japan, to increase production capacity to 150,000 units a year, an executive said Wednesday.

Local unit PT Astra Daihatsu Motor will add investment to increase capacity from currently 114,000 units a year, the company’s vice-president Sudirman was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying.

“We have several plans that cannot be disclosed now as discussions are still ongoing, but one thing for sure is an additional investment of 70 million dollars to be materialized in 2007,” he said.

The expansion is to anticipate growing demand for Xenia and Avanza minivans, which are produced in collaboration with Daihatsu’s mother company Toyota.

The two models are also sold to Thailand, Brunet and Malaysia, and Daihatsu plans to expand the export markets to the Philippines and Mexico.

“Daihatsu has targeted to grab 10.5 per cent of Indonesia’s auto market share in 2006,” he said.— MNA/Xinhua

Chinese scientists closer to geological record of dinosaur extinction

CHANGCHUN, 13 July— Chinese scientists say they are closer to determine the geological stratum record of the mass extinction event that killed the dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

The research on the dividing line between Cretaceous and Tertiary periods, or the K/T Boundary, could provide an important clue to the extinction of dinosaurs, said leading scientist Sun Ge, of Jilin University.

Scientists from China, the United States, Russia, Germany and other countries chose a stratum section in Jilin County, northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, and collected fossil samples, hoping to find evidence of sudden loss of life and ensuing revival at that time.

Sun said the K/T Boundary, several centimetres thick, was regarded as the time “point” when the depopulation occurred. The Cretaceous period marked the end of the Cenozoic era when dinosaurs ruled the planet, while the Tertiary period was the beginning of the Cenozoic era when humans evolved.

Scientists have claimed the discovery of K/T boundaries in North America and other regions, where findings of large increases of the radioactive element, iridium, were the possible result of a meteor strike.

Scientists have discovered in Jilin County fossils of dinosaurs living just prior to the sudden depopulation and fossils of flora that appeared immediately after.

They say the fossils discovered in Jilin have a correlation with fossilized organisms found in K/T boundaries elsewhere.— MNA/Xinhua

US Army to end deal company linked to Cheney

WASHINGTON, 14 July — The US Army will end a controversial deal with a major defence contractor that provides logistical support to US troops worldwide and was linked to US Vice-President Dick Cheney, The Washington Post reported Wednesday.

The decision, which cuts deeply into Halliburton’s dominance of government contracting in Iraq, came after several years of attacks from critics who saw the contract as a symbol of politically connected corporations profiteering on the war.

Cheney had been president of the Texas-based company for five years before he became the Vice-President in 2001.

Under the logistical deal, Halliburton had exclusive rights to provide the Army with a wide range of work that included keeping soldiers around the world fed, sheltered and in communication with friends and family back home.

Over the past years, government audits turned up more than 1 billion US dollars in questionable costs in the deal while whistle-blowers told how Halliburton overcharged for things like food and drinks, double-billed on meals and let troops to bathe in contaminated water.— MNA/Xinhua

New case of FMD reported in N-W China

BEIJING, 13 July — A new outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) has been reported in northwest China’s Qinghai Province, the Ministry of Agri-culture confirmed on its website on Tuesday.

Cattle at three farms in Qinghai’s Henan County had been affected, culling and non-infected areas, disinfection have been taken jointly by the ministry and the Qinghai provincial government.

MNA/Xinhua

200 killed, 714 injured in Mumbai blasts

MUMBAI, 14 July — A total of 200 people were killed and 714 injured in Tuesday’s serial blasts in suburban trains there, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister R R Patil said here Wednesday.

Relying to a debate on an adjournment notice on the issue in the assembly, Patil had earlier said that 183 people died in the blasts but later revised the death toll to 200.

Railway Minister Laloo Prasad has announced compensation of five rupees lakh to each of the families of those killed and a job for every affected family, Patil said.— MNA/PTI

Japanese acrobat performs in the capital Ulan Bator during the annual Naadam Festival recently.—INTERNET

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MNA/Xinhua
Study shows lung cancer risk twice as high for women smokers

CHICAGO, 13 July — Cigarette-smoking women run twice the risk of lung cancer as men who smoke but are far less likely to die from the disease than males, according to a study published on Tuesday.

Why women are more susceptible to the cancer-causing agents in cigarette smoke is not clear, the report said, but the findings indicate that women who smoke should be screened sooner and targeted with anti-smoking messages earlier.

The conclusions, from researchers at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Centre in New York City, were based on 7,498 women and 9,427 men, at least 40 years of age and with a history of cigarette smoking, who were checked for lung cancer between 1993 and 2005.

When the study started none had lung cancer. Later 156 women and 113 men developed the disease.

“Given the same exposure, women are less likely to die from lung cancer than men, but they also have double the risk of getting the disease,” said Claudia Henschke, the physician who led the study. “We’re not really sure why that might be.” Overall, women were 52 per cent less likely to die of the disease, said the report published in this week’s Journal of the American Medical Association.—MNA/Reuters

Malaysia denies any armed escort ships in its waters

KUALA LUMPUR, 13 July — Malaysian marine police Wednesday said that they had not found any armed escort ships encroaching the Malaysian waters for protecting merchant ships in the Malacca Straits.

The Singapore-based armed escort services now may have stationed their security personnel on the ships and no longer on escort vessels, according to officers from Malaysia’s Southern Region Marine Police based in Malaysia’s southern state of Johor.

The Singapore-based armed escort services, operated by ex-elite armed forces members, were closely monitored, the officers were quoted by Malaysian media as saying.

In another development, the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) Piracy Reporting Centre told Malaysian reporters that the IMB did not recognize the armed escort ships in the Malacca Straits.

The centre reiterated that the IBM supported the Malaysian Government’s view that the responsibility to secure the strait lies with littoral states, stressing this had been endorsed by the United Nations.

If any incident involving the armed escort ships took place in the Malacca Straits, the shipping company would be fully responsible.

The escort services currently were still going on, the centre admitted, but saying the number of vessels involved was small. MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian Govt reaps $618m from bond sales

JAKARTA, 13 July — The Indonesian Government has cashed in on a bullish market during its monthly bond offering this week, managing to raise 5.625 trillion rupiah (some 618 million US dollars) in proceeds, a report said Wednesday.

During Tuesday’s offering, the government sold 4.325 trillion rupiah worth of bonds maturing March 2013 at a weighted average yield of 12.21 per cent, and another 1.3 trillion rupiah worth of June-2021-maturing bonds at a 12.41 per cent yield.

Market appetite for the bonds proved to be high, with the FR0033 and FR0034 series bonds being oversubscribed by 1.91 and 2.1 times respectively, said The Jakarta Post newspaper.

Bidders had requested yields ranging from 12.09 per cent to 14.75 per cent for the 12.5-per-cent-coupon FR0033 bonds, which will be payable twice a year every March and September, and from 12.31 per cent to 14.87 per cent for the 12.8-per-cent FR0034 series, payable every June and December. — MNA/Xinhua

At least 12 dead in Chile floods, landslides

SANTIAGO, (CHILI), 13 July — At least 12 people, including three firemen and a police officer doing rescue work, died or were missing in southern Chile in swollen rivers and landslides set off by heavy rains, officials said on Wednesday.

President Michelle Bachelet travelled to the site of a landslide that buried 10 people in the Bio Bio Region 300 miles (500 kilometres) south of the capital, and the government declared the region a disaster zone, freeing up resources to respond.

Bachelet watched as rescue workers at the landslide in the town of Chiguayante, near the coastal city of Concepcion, searched for a 10th body in the mud after removing nine.

Among the dead in the landslide were three men from Chile’s volunteer firefighting corps, who had been searching for victims after one landslide and were carried away in a second landslide.

“We sincerely regret the fact that three firemen died in service in Chiguayante, as well as the fact there are still people missing who we are trying to rescue,” Interior Minister Andres Zaldívar told reporters.

GM chief says not against alliance with Renault, Nissan

WASHINGTON, 13 July— General Motors Corporation Chairman and Chief Executive Rick Wagoner said Tuesday that he was keeping an open mind towards a proposed alliance with Renault and Nissan.

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US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has said that America needs bold diplomacy that not only reports about the world as it is, but seeks to change the world itself. She calls it “transformational diplomacy.” Such a diplomacy has become an important concept in the Bush administration in the second term.

Early this year, a year after she became Secretary of State, Rice gave a speech at Georgetown University and explained what transformational diplomacy means in principle and in practice. She said the US diplomatic deployment in the world is still the pattern during the cold war. Their diplomats are mainly in Europe with partners, but in the vast third world countries, its diplomatic force is not enough. She said the third world not just refers to China, India or Brazil, it also includes many other countries which used to be considered a burden. Therefore, the emphasis of the American transformational diplomacy means to send more diplomats to those cities that have more than one million people in the world so that they can closely contact local people and influence and even shape the domestic transition track in those countries.

Under the pretext of promoting democracy to intervene in other country’s domestic affairs, the US action will surely inflict boycott from various nations and people. Some scholars in the US have warned the Bush administration that the US transformation of diplomacy may make the US become an unwelcome country which will win support from neither the US itself nor other countries.

She said the US will also establish quite a few regional public diplomacy centers and form the transnational network called American Position Posts in order to deal with the threat of pandemic diseases from various countries.

To enable diplomats to communicate with locals, the US State Department has conducted large scale of training in languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Farsi and Urdu and improved the internet capacity in their embassies. She said the internet network will enable their diplomats to talk with people living far away. Rice said the State Department also established an Office of Reconstruction and Stabilization to be in charge of the US foreign aid so that the aid can better serve the strategic goal of transforming the US diplomacy.

Although the transformation just looks like a change of working style, in fact, it is very strategic.

First of all, this marks the great change of US diplomatic guiding principle from balancing great powers to emphasizing its diplomacy with the developing countries. Rice claimed that conflict among great powers is remote than ever. Thus many international practices might be overturned by now. She thought the greatest threat in the future is not from conflict between countries, but might be from inside a country. Thus the sovereignty system is out of date, and the character of a regime is more important than the distribution of power in the world.

Secondly, the transformational diplomacy implies that to intervene in other country’s internal affairs has become the major task of the US diplomacy. It requires the US diplomats communicate with local people and have the capability of influence and even guide the development in those areas. This means the US has put its public diplomacy as an important part of its diplomatic policies. It has absorbed the experience and force from Non-Governmental Organizations and CIA so that the diplomats can openly represent the US government to influence other nations’ internal affairs. It can be seen as a breakthrough in US diplomacy.

Thirdly, the transformation of diplomacy will make the US democratic strategy a long-term and systematic target. Rice has stressed that the purpose of such change is to establish and protect those democratic countries which can meet the needs of their people and be responsible in the international system and well administer themselves. Obviously the redistribution of human resources in the state department is to ensure the long-term goal of promoting democratic movement in the world to be carried out.

Bush administration has conducted important military readjustment during his first term. Now in his second term, he is transforming the US diplomacy. These two changes reflect the US overall understanding and grasp of the international situation which will have a profound impact on the international pattern.

However, to implement the idea is not that easy. As soon as the idea was spoken up, they became very controversial. Many people think the logic in transformation of diplomacy is wrong because it thinks the character of a regime is the fundamental issue of the current international politics. They argue even if there is a domestic problem in a country which threatens the US security, the reason behind might not be because of the different character of the regime, but many other complicated reasons such as poverty and irrational economic structure. If you force a regime to change its nature, it might worsen the situation. As long as the supreme state characterized by the disappearance of the borders of states has not come, it is reasonable to protect a country’s sovereignty. Therefore, the theory that in order to protect the US national security, it denies other country’s sovereignty is an arbitrary logic as if it only let itself live, but not others.

In the 1990s, the US advocated the Washington Consensus. But experiences in Latin America shows that Washington Consensus is not absolute truth which is right in any case. The colored revolution in the former Soviet Union and the instable situation in Iraq have proved that the US democracy is not necessarily the prioritized choice for every country. Under the pretext of promoting democracy to intervene in other country’s domestic affairs, the US action will surely inflict boycott from various nations and people. Some scholars in the US have warned the Bush administration that the US transformation of diplomacy may make the US become an unwelcome country which will win support from neither the US itself nor other countries.

There is also doubt about the US capacity of carrying out such a diplomacy. Bush administration hopes it will be like the reconstruction program in Germany and Japan after the second world war. However, the US financial situation now is not like that after the second world war and those countries they want to reconstruct do not have the solid basis like in Germany and Japan then. Thus, upon the situation that the US economy is not that booming, can it win support from the senate and house of representatives to put large amount of dollars into the risky program of the transformational diplomacy without any insurance in its effect?
Ministry of Rail Transportation holds Waso robes offering ceremony

YANGON, 14 July — Under the aegis of Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and wife Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha, families of the Ministry of Rail Transportation offered Waso robes and cash donations to the funds for construction of a three-storey refectory at Taunggyi Pariyatti Monastery in Bahan Township this morning.

It was attended by Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and wife Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha, departmental heads and staff families.

Administrator Sayadaw of the monastery Bhaddanta Kalyanadhamma administered the Five Precepts.

The minister and wife and officials donated Waso robes and alms to the Sayadaws and donated K 3.6 million for construction of the building.

Later, the Administrator Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and the congregation shared merits gained.

— MNA

Supreme Court holds Waso robe offering ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 14 July — The first Waso robe offering ceremony of the Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw) was held at the meeting hall of the Supreme Court in Nay Pyi Taw this morning.

It was attended by Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, the director-general of the Supreme Court and staff families.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Gandhamala of Thiri Gandhamar Thabyayaye Moegok Vipasana Monastery invested the congregation with the Five Precepts.

The Chief Justice, the minister, the attorney-general and those present offered Waso robes and provisions to the sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

The Sayadaw delivered a sermon and the congregation shared the merits gained.

After the ceremony, the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha were offered ‘soon’.

— MNA

Waso robes offered to Sayadaws

YANGON, 14 July — A collective robes offering ceremony was held at the office of Yenangyoung Township Peace and Development Council on 9 July, Chairman U Kyaw Soe Lwin of Township PDC, his wife and officials offered robes and alms to Chairman Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Sobhana of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee and members of Sangha.

Later, the chairman and officials shared merits gained.

— MNA

Doh Kyeywa Journal appears

YANGON, 14 July — Volume-3, No 14 of Doh Kyeywa Journal has come out today.

The journal embraces a variety of articles on cultivation of hybrid corns, potatoes, production of quality tea. In addition, it ranges from special features to short story, comedy, cartoon and poems.

Copies of the journal are available at the offices of Information and Public Relations Departments in various townships.

Those wishing to put commercials in the journal may contact No 22-24, Pansodan Street, Tel: 371340, 371342. — MNA

Technical seminar on Pedrollo pumps

YANGON, 14 July — A technical seminar on new products Pedrollo water pumps was conducted by Unid Trade (M) Ltd at the Traders Hotel yesterday evening.

Departmental officials, proprietors, agents and guests attended it. Chairman of Unid Trade (M) Ltd Mr Shafiq Ur Rahman and General Manager U Thein Nyunt delivered opening addresses.

Managing Director Mr Nadar Khanm of Pedrollo nk Ltd, Bangladesh introduced Pedrollo pump and Mr E Franchetto of Pedrollo SPA, Italy explained the production, distribution and capacity of the pump.

Later, they answered the queries raised by those present. The soundproof Pedrollo pumps prevent water pollution and reduce vibration with a high pumping capacity. — MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 15 July — The Government of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Mikhail M Mgeladze as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Union of Myanmar, in succession to Mr Oleg V Kabanov.

Mr Mikhail M Mgeladze was born in 1948.

He graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations in 1972 and secured his PhD degree in History from the Diplomatic Academy of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR in 1989.

He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1972 and has served in various capacities both in the Ministry and in Russian diplomatic missions in Calcutta, Madras, and New Delhi. Since 2005, Mr Mikhail M Mgeladze has served as Deputy Director of the Department of Africa at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia.

Mr Mikhail M Mgeladze is married and has one daughter. — MNA

Myanmar delegation attends Myanmar-Lao Bilateral Consultations in Vientiane

NAY PYI TAW, 14 July — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu arrived back here by air yesterday after attending the Myanmar-Lao Bilateral Consultations in Vientiane, Laos People’s Democratic Republic, from 10 to 13 July at the invitation of Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR Mr Bounkeuth Sangsombou.

During the visit, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu called on Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR Mr Thongloun Sisoulith.

At the Myanmar-Lao Bilateral Consultations, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu and Laos Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Bounkeuth Sangsombou discussed issues of mutual interest between the two countries.

Also present at the meeting were Myanmar Ambassador to Laos PDR U Tin Oo, Minister-Counsellor U Sein Oo and First Secretary U Min Thein.

Members of the delegation — Deputy Director U Soe Lin Han and Assistant Director U Kyaw Soe of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs — arrived back here. — MNA

Fourth conference of MWJA recounted in Zigon Township

YANGON, 14 July — Zigon Township Writers and Journalists Association recounted the fourth conference of MWJA for 2006 at Township PDC office on 10 July.

Chairman U Aung Soe (Aung Soe Vet-Surgeon) of Township WJA made a speech on the occasion and U Khin Maung Tun (Min Thwe Nwe, Zigon) recounted the conference to those present.

Township WJA also donated cash and publications to self-reliant libraries. — MNA
People need to be aware of dangers ... (from page 16)

The minister noted that the colonialists are practising neo-colonialism. All the people need to be aware of the dangers of neo-colonialists who use method of enslavement through the neo-colonialism. In addition, the people are to harmoniously take part in the realization of the seven-step Road Map and establishment of the new democratic nation. The minister inspected North Yamar Supporting Dam construction site and Hlaing Creek Dam Project site in Pale Township and left necessary instructions. While in Pale Township, the minister attended a ceremony to grow physic nut plants in the township.

Yangon Command secures champion in Tatmadaw Karatedo Tournament

Yangon, 14 July — The prize presentation ceremony of the 15th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Shield Tatmadaw (Air, Navy and Air) Karatedo Tournament was held at the National Indoor Stadium 1 in Thawwunna this morning. On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander of Mingaladon Airbase Brig-Gen Zin Yaw awarded championship trophy to Yangon Command team. Officials presented prizes to winners in the singles (Kumite), singles (Kata), team (Kumite) and (Kata) events and the singles open (Kumite) event respectively. Among the spectators were Brig-Gen Ye Chit Pe of Mingaladon Station, Commandant Col Htein Lin of Defence Services Self-defence and Sports Institute, officers and other ranks.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and wife being welcomed by Ambassador of French Republic Mr Jean Michel Lagombe and wife at the reception to mark the National Day of French Republic on 14-7-2006.

Korean trade mission meets Myanmar entrepreneurs

Yangon, 14 July — Jeonbuk Trade Mission of Republic of Korea and Myanmar entrepreneurs held comprehensive discussion on trade at Grand Plaza Park Royal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road this morning. Responsible persons of 10 companies from ROK and a 70-Myanmar entrepreneurs discussed mutual benefit on trade between Myanmar and ROK. It was also attended by Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Ju-heum and Counsellor Oh Jae-ho.

Official inspects Tuyintaung Hill greening task

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 July — Director-General of Dry Zone Greening Department U Tun Tun inspected Tuyintaung Hill greening task in NyaungU Township, Mandalay Division, and neem and physic nut plantations in Chauk Township, Magway Division on 5 and 6 July. In meeting with staff of his department, the director-general urged them to strive for thriving of all plantations and assign specific duties to staff for ensuring effective supervision at all levels. He also made arrangements to facilitate their functions.

Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Ju-Heum meets entrepreneurs at the meeting of Myanmar and Korean businessmen.
Chinese guest calls on Electric Power (2) Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 14 July — Minister for Electric Power (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint received Deputy General Manager Li Pingqing of Yunnan Power Grid Corporation of the People’s Republic of China in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 July morning.

The cordial meeting focused on bilateral cooperation in the electric sector. Also present at the call were the director-general of the Department of Electric Power, the managing director of the Myanma Electric Power Enterprise and the managing director of Electric Power Distribution Enterprise.

Course No 15/2006 in Basic Diplomatic Skills concludes

YANGON, 14 July — The graduation ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (BDS 15/2006) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at Wunzin Minyazar Hall of the ministry with an address delivered by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu on behalf of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs this evening.

Also present at the occasion were directors-general of the departments under the ministry, departmental officials, Myanmar ambassadors, senior diplomats, professors of universities and institutes concerned and trainees.

Altogether 160 trainees interested in international affairs, businessmen dealing with foreign firms, staff members of companies and service personnel attended the 12-week course.

Precautionary measures taken in flooded areas

YANGON, 14 July — At 9 am on 13 July in Kyaukmar Township in Mon State, the water level of the Ayeyawady River reached as high as 481 centimetres, close to the danger level of 510 centimetres. So, the households in Shinawpu Ward were evacuated to the relief camps and provided with temporary accommodations.

The road section between mile post Nos 7/6 and 7/7 on Thathon-Hpa-an Road at Durnansek Village in Thatmon Township, Mon State, was flooded a little. So, the people in Durnansek Ward were provided temporary accommodations at the primary school that was temporarily closed commencing 12 July. Officials, members of the Myanmar Police Force and social organizations are providing relief services for the victims.

Kadaikkyi Road at Kyaikkaw in Thaton Township was flooded and it is now negotiable by large automobiles only.

The water level of the Bago River has receeded to 848 centimetres on 13 July. The river started to flood Waw Township yesterday and the flooding led to temporary closure of some primary schools.

The current of the Haungthayaw River abated to 549 centimetres at 4 pm on 12 July. The danger level there is 550 centimetres high. Temporary accommodations were provided for the victims of 52 households at the camps. Departmental officials concerned are inspecting the relief camps and providing relief for the victims.

Stationery donated to nunneries

YANGON, 14 July — CEC Member of the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Tin Tin Mya and members, members of the Yangon Division and Yangon East District MCW supervisory committees, chairpersons of Dagon Myothit (South) and Dagon Myothit (East) Township MCWAs and members donated stationery to Mangala Siddhi Nunnery in Dagon Myothit (South) in Yangon East District this morning.

CEC member Dr Than Oo explained the purpose of the donation. The CEC members handed over the donations worth K 200,000 each to Mangala Siddhi Nunnery in Dagon Myothit (South) Township and Chantha Aung Nunnery in Dagon Myothit (East) Township.

Press conference on membership of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon held

YANGON, 14 July — A press conference on applying for membership in Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon was held at the office of MMPA in Bahan Township this afternoon.

At the conference, procedures related to applying for the membership were briefed. The membership of MMPA is divided into 10 levels such as feature/script, director, main actor or actress, supporting actor or actress, play and playback music, producer, technician, editing, production and video. Membership applications are available at MMPA.

For further information, contact MMPA (Ph: 544270, 544271).

Hindi traditional poem recitation ceremony held

YANGON, 14 July — With the assistance of the Indian Embassy to Myanmar, the Myanmar Hindu Religious Organization and the Myanmar Hindi Literature Association jointly organized the Hindi traditional poem recitation ceremony at Central Hotel on Bogyoke Aung San Street, here, this evening.

Chairman of Myanmar Hindi Literature Association Writer Paragu gave a speech.

Next, four poets recited Hindi traditional poems.

Also present on the occasion were First Secretary Mr Raj K Srivastava of the Indian Embassy, Chairman of Myanmar Hindu Religious Organization U Maung Shwe and members and enthusiasts.
An official with the flood control authorities of Fujian Province analyzes a satellite image of cloud in Fuzhou, capital of southeast China’s Fujian Province, on 13 July, 2006.—INTERNET

Test advised for newborns to detect heart problem

LONDON, 14 July — Babies should be given a simple, non-invasive test when they are about a month old to check for a life-threatening heart problem, Italian researchers said on Thursday.

The electrocardiogram (ECG) test could prevent deaths from an hereditary illness known as long QT syndrome (LQTS) — a heart problem than can cause sudden, unexplained death.

“Our health ministries should simply add it as part of the national health service and offer it to everyone,” said Professor Peter Schwartz, a heart specialist at the University of Pavia and the IRCCS Policlinico San Matteo research hospital in Italy.

MNA/Reuters

Chemical leak in Houston sends 21 to hospital

HOUSTON, 14 July — At least 21 people were taken to hospitals after a chemical leak at a northeast Houston warehouse on Wednesday afternoon, according to Harris County Hazardous Materials spokesman.

Over 200 people at the warehouse were checked for symptoms of exposure to hydrobromic acid, the spokesman said. The leak was caused by a forklift puncturing a drum of the substance.

A Houston television station said the warehouse is owned by Nailor Industries, which the spokesman declined to confirm.

The leak was contained inside the warehouse, which is not located along the petrochemical corridor along the Houston Ship Channel.

Hydrobromic acid is an acid stronger than hydrochloric acid.

MNA/Xinhua

Celebrities and TV fuel cosmetic surgery rise

LONDON, 14 July — Celebrity obsession and television makeover shows are fuelling a rise in cosmetic surgery in Britain, researchers said on Thursday.

Bigger breasts, wrinkle-free skin and face-lifts are top of people’s wish lists, according to a report by market research firm Mintel.

Nearly 700,000 procedures will be carried out this year, a rise of 40 per cent on 2005, driven in part by changing public attitudes towards cosmetic surgery, the report said.

“Acceptance of cosmetic surgery is growing,” said Mintel analyst Jenny Catlin. “Television coverage and the popularity of procedures amongst celebrities (have) invariably played a key role.”

Easier access to treatment has eroded the “mystique factor” to the point where a quarter of women and one in 10 men would consider going under the knife, she added.

The market will be worth 659 million pounds in 2007, more than the amount Britain spends on tea, according to the report. The most popular treatments last year were Botox injections to iron out wrinkles and chemical peels which take off the top layer of skin to try to give a smoother look.

The number of breast enlargement operations will reach an estimated 26,000 this year from 10,000 in 2003.

But despite the growth in popularity, nearly a third of Britons still oppose cosmetic surgery on principle, Mintel said.

More than a third said the price of surgery put them off, while a quarter said they feared something could go wrong.

MNA/Reuters

Singapore, Thailand conduct naval exercise

SINGAPORE, 14 July — Naval forces from Singapore and Thailand started their biennial Exercise Singsiam at Singapore’s Changi Naval Base on Wednesday.

According to a statement issued by Singapore’s Ministry of Defence, the nine-day exercise involves three ships from the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and two ships from the Royal Thai Navy.

Comprising a sea phase and two shore phases, this year’s Exercise Singsiam will also include a maritime surveillance and tracking exercise for the first time.

Hosted by the RSN, this year’s exercise will be conducted at both the Changi Naval Base and the Sattahip Naval Base in Thailand.

MNA/Reuters
Brazilian President voices importance of Brazil-Africa ties

RIO DE JANEIRO, 13 July — Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Wednesday stressed the importance of Brazil-Africa ties and appealed for the reform of the United Nations.

African descendants form a significant part of the Brazilian population, said Lula at the opening ceremony of the Second Conference of Intellectuals from Africa and the Diaspora (CIAD) held in Salvador in north-eastern Brazil.

Lula said his government believes Brazil should not only strengthen ties with Europe and the United States, but also with Africa.

He also said the United Nations should not stay unchanged for 60 years.

US pop star Stevie Wonder also participated in the ceremony, calling for peace in Africa.

The CIAD aims to discuss the contribution of African countries and African Diaspora to social development, democracy and cooperation. The first CIAD conference was held in Dakar, capital of Senegal, in October 2004.

Two Chinese confirmed dead in Russian air crash

MOSCOW, 13 July — The two Chinese passengers missing in a crash of a passenger plane in Siberia were confirmed dead by Russian authorities, China’s Consulate General in Khabarovsk said on Wednesday.

The two victims, both female, were Wang Xiaojie, a businesswoman from Liaoning Province, and Li Qingli, a student from Heilongjiang Province studying in Russia.

Two bodies, identified as Wang and Li, arrived at Khabarovsk and identified her body, and Wang’s relatives will arrive soon, Tu added.

MNA/Xinhua

3,500 people swim across China’s third longest river

GUANGZHOU, 13 July — Over 3,500 people swim across China’s third longest river, the Pearl River, the third longest in China, on Wednesday afternoon, to show to the public the once polluted river has turned clean.

However, some of the swimmers said that the water is still muddy. “Under the water, I could not see things 0.5 metre in front of me. And my eyes were uncomfortable,” said a swimmer whose surname is Fan. The unusual and bold activity is organized by the municipal government of Guangzhou, capital of the southern province of Guangdong.

“We come here not for swimming,” said Zhang Guangning, mayor of Guangzhou. “We hope the activity will make the local residents become aware of the importance of pollution control.”

The 2,200-kilometre-long river is 600-700 metres wide as it runs through Guangzhou.

The latest mass crossing of the Pearl River was in the 1970s but for the past 30 years, it has been impossible for a large group of people to swim across it due to heavy pollution.

MNA/Xinhua
Ireland becomes second wealthiest nation in OECD

LONDON, 13 July—Ireland has climbed to the position of second wealthiest nation in the eight leading countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Irish Times reported on Tuesday.

Ireland is now in the top tier of the world’s wealthiest citizens with an average personal net wealth of nearly 150,000 euros (1 euro equals 1.2825 US dollars), the newspaper quoted research done by the Bank of Ireland as saying.

The country obtained the level following a decade of rampant economic growth and soar-away property prices that have transformed household balance sheets and created 30,000 millionaires, said the research named “Wealth of the Nation”.

Within just a decade, the personal net worth of the average Irish citizen has more than trebled from 46,000 euros to 148,000 euros, the report said.

This is higher than the average net wealth of 137,000 euros in Britain and 129,000 euros in the United States.

Only the Japanese, with an average net wealth of 206,000 euros, are wealthier than the Irish.

The main wealth driver is property values, which account for 64 per cent of total assets and have added some 450 billion euros to the nation’s balance sheet since 1995.

This represents an annual capital return of 19 per cent, the report said.

Volkswagen to lay off up to 6,000 workers in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 13 July—The Brazilian unit of German automaker Volkswagen on Wednesday announced that it was scheduled to cut 4,000 to 6,000 jobs through 2008.

The layoff plan, a part of the company’s restructuring efforts, is aimed at increasing its profitability and decreasing labour costs.

Volkswagen has five factories in Brazil with about 21,000 workers. The factory in Taubate of Sao Paulo State will be the first one affected by the plan.

The company’s directors were expected to explain the plan to local lawmakers on Wednesday, trying to tell lawmakers “that if the current situation continues through 2008, the job cuts will be inevitable”, said Flavio Chantre, a Volkswagen spokesman.

Volkswagen is negotiating with the local workers’ union over the financial compensation for those to be laid off. The negotiations have been tense with a series of work slowdowns and strikes.

The automaker said it was losing money as the strong appreciation of the local currency, the real, had reduced its car export profit.

The US dollar, which was worth 3.52 reals at the beginning of 2003, had dropped to 2.19 reals recently.— MNA/Xinhua

Cathay Pacific’s passengers 11.1% more in first six months

HONG KONG, 13 July—Cathay Pacific Airways announced on Tuesday that in the first six months of 2006, the airline carried 8.14 million passengers, up 11.1 per cent over last year’s same period.

The company’s freight volume was also up 10.5 per cent at 572,552 tons during the same period, the report said.

The cargo business received a boost from the launch of a new service to Mumbai and Chennai in India, with flights commencing on 2 June. Cathay Pacific General Manager Revenue Management, Sales & Distribution Ian Shiu said: “the performance for June is quite impressive. Long-haul routes to Europe and North America were particularly strong, with healthy front-end business helping to offset the impact of increased competition on back-end yields.” — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysia’s northern state to use satellite to study turtles

KUALA LUMPUR, 13 July—The state government conducted a study on some turtles last year, attaching four of them with transmitters to study their movements after laying eggs, according to the officials.

The state showed that these turtles migrated to Vietnam, the Philippines and Indonesia after laying eggs in Terengganu, they said.

The state government would install transmitters on turtles at the same place it chose last year to see where turtles will go this year, they added.— MNA/Xinhua
Barcelona panders to Chinese in Far East expansion plans

MADRID, 14 July — Barcelona signed deals with three Chinese media companies on Thursday to help promote the European and Spanish champions in the Far East. "Barcelona can now guarantee a permanent presence in China offering fans the club's TV station, a magazine and an Internet portal all in Chinese," Barca vice-president of media and marketing, Marc Ingla, told the club's website. "We are doing this through companies who are leaders in their fields. It is a real landmark for the club." Broadcaster EuroSoccer will carry Barca TV while Sports CN will develop an exclusive Internet portal for the club, as it already does for some other European teams. Titan Sports, China's biggest sports publishers, will produce a club magazine in Chinese which it will distribute along with its publication Soccer Weekly.

These agreements come a week after Barcelona wrapped up a promotional deal with Singapore's Tiger Beer, who will be the club's official partner in Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Italy FA boss snubs Berlusconi's call for leniency

ROME, 14 July — The head of the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) has snubbed calls by the country's former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi for leniency towards clubs involved in the Serie A match-fixing trial.

"I'm not interested in what he says. I've got my own job to do," said Guido Rossi on Thursday, responding to claims by Berlusconi earlier in the day that sanctions against clubs would hit innocent fans the hardest.

Berlusconi is the owner and president of AC Milan, one of four clubs from Italy's top division — along with Juventus, Fiorentina and Lazio — accused of trying to influence the appointment of match officials for games during the 2004-05 season. Twenty-five individuals, including club and federation officials, referees and linesmen, are also awaiting the verdicts of the trial, which are expected on Friday or Saturday.

"We will not accept punishments against the fans, the teams, when the people who should be punished are the individuals that made the mistakes," said Berlusconi. "Barcelona can now guarantee a permanent presence in China offering fans the club's TV station, a magazine and an Internet portal all in Chinese," Barca vice-president of media and marketing, Marc Ingla, told the club's website. "We are doing this through companies who are leaders in their fields. It is a real landmark for the club." Broadcaster EuroSoccer will carry Barca TV while Sports CN will develop an exclusive Internet portal for the club, as it already does for some other European teams. Titan Sports, China's biggest sports publishers, will produce a club magazine in Chinese which it will distribute along with its publication Soccer Weekly.

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FIFA summon Materazzi over Zidane head butt

LONDON, 14 July — FIFA have begun disciplinary proceedings against Italy's Marco Materazzi over the incident in which he was head butted by Zinedine Zidane in the World Cup final, soccer's world governing body said on Thursday.

France captain Zidane was sent off in extra time after the butt, a reaction to comments by the Italian defender he said later, in Sunday's Berlin final won by Italy on penalties. FIFA said the proceedings opened on Thursday follow Zidane's remarks on French television on Wednesday night in which he said he was repeatedly insulted by Materazzi.

Zidane apologized to a world audience for his reaction, his final act as a professional footballer, but said he did not regret it because to do so would imply he was wrong to have responded to Materazzi. "As part of the process, Zinedine Zidane will be given the right to be heard by means of a written statement, which must be submitted by 18 July," FIFA said.

"Materazzi will subsequently be sent a copy of the statement so that he can respond to it," they said in a statement.

Arsenal sell bond to help finance new stadium

LONDON, 14 July — Arsenal sold a 260-million-pound (478.5-million-US-dollar) bond on Thursday, the first publicly marketed, asset-backed bond issue from Europe's 11.6-billion-euro market in soccer revenues.

The two-part deal backed by Arsenal ticket sales will refinance the bank debt associated with the construction of the club's new Emirates Stadium in north London. Arsenal will move to their new home for the coming season after 93 years at nearby Highbury, and ticket sales from the 60,000-seat stadium will repay the bond.

The deal included a fixed-rate tranche of 210 million pounds, which offered investors a life of 13.5 years and a spread of 52 basis points over British government bonds. A floating rate tranche of 50 million pounds offered a life of 7.1 years and a spread of 22 basis points over Labour.

World Cup effect hits City of London job market

LONDON, 14 July — The World Cup soccer tournament proved a big distraction for bankers in the City of London financial centre in June, causing an early lull in the job market, according to a survey published on Friday.

July and August are traditionally quiet months for recruitment as people put off decisions on moving jobs until after the summer holiday season.

"However, with the World Cup falling in June, the seasonality effect came into play so early," said recruitment consultants Morgan McKinley in its monthly survey of the City of London job market.

It said this contributed to a drop in the number of new candidates of 13.3 per cent when compared with May.

But the overall climate remained buoyant with 34 per cent more job vacancies in June this year compared with June 2005.

Investment banks have been hiring a lot of new staff this year to cope with a boom in financial market activity and to expand into new areas.

"We continue to experience unwavering demand from employers to hire high calibre financial services professionals," said Morgan McKinley Chief Executive Robert Thesiger.

He said the average City of London salary stood at 50,214 pounds in June, the first time it has stayed above 50,000 pounds for four months in a row.

Switzerland's Martina Hingis plays a shot to Japan's Ai Sugiyama during their match at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London on 30 June, 2006. Hingis will make her competitive debut in India later this year after organizers of the WTA event in Kolkata confirmed the Swiss former world number one's participation on 13 July, 2006. —INTERNET

Liu Xiang of China celebrates setting a new world record in the men's 110-metre race at the IAAF Super Grand Prix athletics meeting in Lausanne, on 11 July, 2006. Liu won the race in a world record time of 12.88 seconds. —INTERNET

Tennis player Maria Sharapova, center, walks down the hallway during the filming of her first television advertisement for Nike at Arthur Ashe stadium at the United States Tennis Center in New York, on 12 July, 2006. —INTERNET
Prisoners need more research protection in US

WASHINGTON, 14 July — The growing US prison population needs better and more organized protection from potential medical research abuses, a committee of experts said on Wednesday.

There is little information on what kind of medical experiments are currently done on prisoners and parolees, the Institute of Medicine panel said.

Given the “dark” history regarding such re-
treatment of all prisoners is a hallmark of decent
society,” said Lawrence Gostin, Associate Dean and Professor of Law at the Georgetown Univer-
sity Law Centre in Wash-
ington, who chaired the committee.

“More than 7 million people are currently in prison, jail, on probation or parole in the United States — a 4.5-fold in-
crease over 1978,” the com-
mittee said.

Children wait for the announcement of the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC), in Baoxing County of Ya’an City, south-
west China’s Sichuan Province, on 12 July, 2006.—INTERNET

US wants passenger info before overseas departures

WASHINGTON, 14 July — Homeland security official

ficials proposed on Wednesday making air-
lines transmit passenger names and other informa-
tion to the government before an international departure, a change de-
signed to keep suspected terrorists off US-bound flights.

If approved, the secu-
rity initiative would reverse the current policy of re-
quiring that manifests for flights originating in for-

eign countries be transmit-
ted shortly after takeoff.

The proposal seeks to improve and streamline security as well as end the inconvenient and some-
times embarrassing prac-
tice of ordering flights di-
verted or turned around if
manifest information raises suspicion with US
authorities or is incom-
plete. — MNA/Reuters

WEATHER

Friday, 14 July, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayin State and Magway Divi-
sion, rain have been isolated in lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Bago Division and Kayin State, fairly widespread in Shan State, upper Sagaing and Yangon Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in upper Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Katha (3.30) inches, Kawkhoud (2.52) inches, Dawei (2.28) inches, Sittway (2.17) inches, Myeik (1.33) inches and Kyaukpyu (1.03) inches.

Maximum temperature on 13-7-2006 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 14-7-2006 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 14-7-2006 was (92%). Total sunshine hours on 13-7-2006 was nil. Rainfalls on 14-7-2006 were (0.08) inch at Mingaladon, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and nil at Cen-
tral Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (43.98) inches at Mingaladon, (52.56) inches at Kaba-Aye and (56.30) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (64 mph) from South-
west at (9-30) hours MST on 14-7-2006.

Bay inference: Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 15-7-2006: Rain will be widespread in Kayin, Chin, Rakhine, Mon States, Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Kayin State and upper Sagaing Division and isolated to scattered in the re-
mainin areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine, Mon States and Taninthayi Division. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with rough seas 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: General increase of rain in Coastal areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 15-7-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 15-7-2006: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 15-7-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather outlook for weekend of July 2006: During the coming weekend, rain will be widespread in Yangon Division and isolated in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division.
NAY PYI TAW, 14 July—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung this morning inspected No 1 Brick Factory Project (Nay Pyi Taw) being implemented by Myanmar Ceramics Industries in Mingon village, Pyinmana Township, Mandalay Division and gave necessary instructions.

Accompanied by officials concerned, the minister inspected the production process of the brick factory and installation of machines. The minister stressed the need for those responsible to make all-out efforts for timely completion of the project.

Next, the minister heard a report presented by Managing Director of MIU Soe Yi on production of raw bricks and extended building of stoves.

The minister emphasized the need for those responsible to take systematic measures for production of 200,000 bricks per day. After that, he inspected the production process of coal and already-produced coal and gave instructions on extended installation of machines.

The Myanmar Ceramics Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 will build brick factories with a capacity of producing 300,000 bricks per day to satisfy the need of bricks for the Nay Pyi Taw construction project.

In the open season, the industries will be able to produce 200,000 bricks a day.

Upon completion of the project, the industries will be able to produce 300,000 bricks a day, it is learnt.

People need to be aware of dangers of neo-colonialists who use method of enslavement through neo-colonialism

USDA Secretariat Member inspects regional development tasks in Pale Township

Yangon, 14 July — Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsang met with local people in Thitaya Village of Pale Township on 9 July. He also met with local people from villages in Pale Township at Dhammayon and Kyayningyi Village. After hearing the reports on progress of the village, the minister explained development matters for the region. The minister donated cash and kind to the Nadawshauk Village.

He arrived there to provide necessary assistance to undertakings of rural development in the rural areas in accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe. At present, the Government is giving priority to the uplift of education standard for development of human resources. As today is knowledge age, efforts are being made for turning out a large number of educated persons. Parents are also responsible to arrange learning programmes for their children. Only when technologies improve will the country develop. The regional development will contribute towards development of the nation.

Government is undertaking rural development tasks at over 60,000 villages throughout the nation. In the time of the Tatmadaw Government, over 180 dams were built for benefiting the agricultural tasks.

USDA Secretariat Member Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsang inspects the Hlinechaung Dam Project in Pale Township. MNA

(See page 9)