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

Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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

Senior General Than Shwe attends first rainy season tree planting ceremonies in Nay Pyi Taw

Construction of City Hall, buildings in Nay Pyi Taw inspected

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspect scale model of City Hall. — MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 July — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe attended the first ceremonies to grow trees in rainy season for greening Nay Pyi Taw this morning and planted gum-kino which is the national flower, sal, star flower and Gangaw (Mesua ferrea) trees.

At 9 am, the first rainy season tree planting ceremony of the Ministry of Defence was held in front of the building at Nay Pyi Taw Golf Course.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) (See page 16)
**For sustainable development of Myanmar forests**

In the Union of Myanmar, arrangements are being made for prevention against deforestation. Establishment of forest plantations, conservation of natural forest and resurveying of forest areas are being carried out to conserve natural resources in the country.

The Ministry of Forestry is making all-out efforts for the development of forest sector. As a result, there are about 60,000 square miles of reserve and protected public forest areas and over 1.3 million acres of forest plantations in the nation. The forest plantations include special teak plantations, commercial plantations, plantations for village use and watershed plantations.

The Arid Zones Greening Department is taking steps for replanting of trees and preservation of already-grown trees with the participation of local people, thereby contributing much to the development of the forest sector.

At present, there have emerged green and lush forests in arid zones such as Monywa, Sagaing, Myingyan, Meltikila, Yamethin, Pakokku, Minbu, Magway, Thayet, Gangaw, NyangU, Kyaukse and Shwebo Districts.

The Ministry of Forestry is earning foreign exchange for national development. As natural environment and forest resources are contributing a lot to economic development of the State, it is required not only to effectively use those natural resources but also to systematically preserve them.

At a time when efforts are being made for preservation of reserve and protected public forests and establishment of special teak plantations and commercial plantations, it is incumbent upon local authorities and the public to actively take part in the drive for greening their own regions.

**First meditation course to be opened in Dagon Myothit (North) Township**

**YANGON, 15 July — Aung Chantha Dhammadhuta Sayadaw Bhaddanta Candasunsuya of Mogok Meditation Centre will open the first meditation course during the rainy season at Pantapwinttaung Monastic Education School to the Sayadaws.**

Buddhist devotees wishing to practise meditation at the centre are requested to get there under own arrangements.

**Reminder for motorists**

**Yangon Division Peace and Development Council has reminded that U Wisara Road, Dhammazedi Road, U Htawng Bo Road, the road to the southern stairway of Shwedagon Pagoda, Shwegondaing Road and Arzani Road will be temporarily closed from 6 am to 6 pm on 19 July while the 59th Anniversary Arzani Day Ceremony is being held at Arzani Beikman. The people are to use other roads during the time 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

**Families of Transport Ministry hold Waso robes offering ceremony**

**NAV PI TAW, 15 July — Ministry of Transport held the first Waso robe offering ceremony at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.**

It was attended by Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe and wife Daw Mya Theingi, Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung and wife and departmental heads and wives.

First, Chairman of Pyinmana Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi invested the congregation with the Five Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Parittas.

Later, the minister and wife, the deputy minister and wife and departmental heads and wives offered Waso robes and provisions to the Sayadaws. Next, the Chairman Sayadaw delivered a sermon, and those present shared the merits gained.

After the ceremony, the congregation donated ‘soum’ to members of the Sangha.

**Waso robes, stationery and cash donated to Pantapwinttaung Monastic Education School**

**YANGON, 15 July — A ceremony to collectively donate Waso robes, stationery and cash to Pantapwinttaung Monastic Education School was held at Pantapwinttaung Tawya Area in Taikkyi Township, Yangon North District, this afternoon.**

Taikkyi Station Commander Col Win Maung and wife Daw Myint Myint Kyi, Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Myat Kyaw, departmental officials, members of social organizations and others attended the ceremony.

Presiding Sayadaw Saidhamma Jetikadha Bhaddanta Paññasara of Pantapwinttaung Tawya Area administered the Five Precepts to the congregation.

Later, officials offered Waso robes and alms to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha. They also donated stationery worth over K 300,000, and K 75,000 to the fund of Pantapwinttaung Monastic Education School to the Sayadaws.

**70 fans donated to Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association**

**YANGON, 15 July — The Korea-Myanmar Friendship Association donated 70 electric fans to the Myanmar-Korea Friendship Association at Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.**

Chairman Dr Kim Jung Ho of KMFA extended greetings and presented the fans to responsible personnel.

The goodwill delegation led by Dr Kim Jung Ho of KMFA that arrived Myanmar on 11 July paid visits to historic pagodas in Bagan, Mandalay and Inlay regions. They signed an agreement on promotion of tourism industry with Myanmar Hoteliers Association.

**All this needs to be known**

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
Iran warns of repercussions if US causes problems

TEHRAN, 14 July — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Thursday that if the United States chose to create “problems” for Iran in a nuclear dispute, such a move would have repercussions elsewhere.

“If some are after creating problems, they should know that any problem created for Iran in the region will harm the interests of everyone,” he said in a televised speech to a rally in northwest Iran.

“Americans want to create disputes, while everyone is trying to keep the atmosphere calm, to continue the constructive...”

He told the United States not to “interfere” in the dispute, saying it could be resolved in talks with the European Union.

“We need time to review (the offer) and hold talks in a calm atmosphere ... An issue that has been created over years cannot be resolved over months,” Ahmadinejad said. — MNA/Reuters

Cheney, Rove, others sued in CIA leak case

WASHINGTON, 14 July — Former CIA operative Valerie Plame and her husband sued US Vice-President Dick Cheney, top White House aide Karl Rove and others on Thursday for their role in disclosing her classified CIA employment.

The lawsuit alleged a “conspiracy among current and former high-level officials in the White House” to “discredit, punish and seek revenge” against Plame’s husband, former ambassador Joseph Wilson, for publicly disputing statements made by Bush justifying the war in Iraq.

The suit was the latest twist in a long-running saga over the public exposure of Plame that put US President George W. Bush on the defensive over his campaign to justify the war and reached into the highest levels of the White House.

The lawsuit comes at a time when Rove, Bush’s top political aide, seeks to keep Congress in Republican hands in November elections. Rove learned last month he would not face criminal charges in the CIA leak investigation.

Plame and Wilson’s suit said the couple suffered violations of their constitutional and legal rights, including an invasion of their privacy, and that the disclosure of her name destroyed her CIA career.

He told the United States not to “interfere” in the dispute, saying it could be resolved in talks with the European Union.

“We need time to review (the offer) and hold talks in a calm atmosphere ... An issue that has been created over years cannot be resolved over months,” Ahmadinejad said. — MNA/Reuters

Pakistan will help India probe Mumbai bombs if needed

ISLAMABAD, 14 July — Pakistan said on Thursday it was ready to help India’s investigation into the Mumbai bomb blasts that killed 186 people and rejected Indian accusations that an “infrastructure of terrorism” existed on Pakistani soil.

“Pakistan stands ready along with the international community to help India’s investigation, because terrorism is a global problem,” Tasnim Aslam, Pakistan’s Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, told Reuters.

She said such help would be unconditional and in no way dependent on a resolution of Pakistan’s dispute with India over Kashmir. — MNA/Reuters

Aircraft robbed of undisclosed amount of money in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 14 July — A chartered aircraft was robbed of an undisclosed amount of money at the Bloemfontein Airport, about 400 kilometres south of Johannesburg, early on Thursday.

The police said that the robbers stopped their Ford double cab bakkie in front of the beachcraft twintop plane, preventing the pilot from taking off. “The robbers gained entry to the area when the Coin security van delivered the cash to the plane and left the area,” she said.

Hizbollah TV hit by Israeli fighter-bombers

BEIRUT, 14 July — Israeli fighter-bombers Thursday hit Lebanese Hizbollah’s Al-Manar television station in the group’s stronghold in Beirut’s southern suburb, wounding six people, Lebanese Future television channel reported.

The report said that several Israeli fighter-bombers flew over the southern suburbs of Beirut, a Shiite-dominant area, and fired at least one missile on the building housing the Al-Manar.

Thursday’s airstrike on Hizbollah’s TV station came in a response to Wednesday’s border clashes between Hizbollah milita and Israeli Army. — MNA/Xinhua

A customer pays as he refuels his car at a self service gas station in Tokyo. Ignited by a flare-up in violence in the Middle East, world oil prices hit fresh record highs, with prices in New York and London at one stage breaching the $70 dollar mark. — INTERNET

Russian President Vladimir Putin signs a pipe line element at Severstal’s Izhora Pipe Line Plant near St Petersburg on 14 July, 2006. Severstal launched the Izhora Pipe Plant on Friday, part of a $600 million investment that will allow the Russian steel maker to supply pipes to the country’s booming oil and gas sector. — INTERNET

Spanish Crown Prince Felipe de Borbony Grecia and his wife Princess Letizia pose for photographs with dancing lions during an inauguration ceremony to mark the opening of Institute Cervantes in Beijing, capital of China, on 14 July, 2006. — INTERNET

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad...
**Shell introduces fuel economy formula**

**Kuala Lumpur, 15 July** — Oil company Shell Malaysia Trading Sdn Bhd expects the introduction of its latest retail innovation, the new Shell Super, would help maintain the company’s position in the market.

Shell Malaysia Trading and Shell Timur Sdn Bhd managing director Mohzani Abdul Wahab said the new fuel economy formula, which replaces the “Better Mileage” formula, is designed to promote engine cleanliness and friction reduction for improved engine efficiency.

Mohzani believes the new Shell petrol formulation will help the company defend its dominant market share of 36 per cent in the Malaysian retail petrol market as competition from Petronas Nasional Bhd and ExxonMobil intensifies. “This year will be interesting as we hope to sustain our growth and see how the market reacts within the next few months with the new fuel,” he told reporters after launching the new Shell Super in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

He is confident the new fuel would be well accepted by consumers as it is an energy-efficient petrol thus giving better mileage to consumers.

The new product will be available at all Shell kiosks nationwide by today.

**California wildfire continues with no indication of containment**

**Los Angeles, 14 July** — A wildfire ripped across the Southern California desert east of Los Angeles Wednesday, forcing more than a thousand people to flee and destroying at least 30 homes and outbuildings, including several in a historic Western movie town.

Some 100 homes were evacuated early in the day from communities in Little Morongo Canyon and Burns Canyon in San Bernardino County, about 150 kilometres east of here, adding to the 1,000 plus who had fled the flames Tuesday in the area.

Local authorities declared a state of emergency late Tuesday, requesting Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger approve disaster money.

Reports said Firefighters were concentrating resources along the southern front of the Sawtooth Complex, which burned toward populated Morongo Valley and Yucca Valley areas. Fire officials are worried that more spot fires could break out as strong winds fanned the flames, and they refused to give estimate of when the fire might be controlled.

“If we have more of the same with the high winds and high temperatures it could be trouble,” California Department of Forestry official Marc DeRosier told local TV channel NBC4.

At least 30 homes and outbuildings were destroyed in Pioneertown, a historic Western movie town, and surrounding towns. Seven firefighters and two civilians suffered minor injuries, including burns and smoke inhalation.

**Suicide bomber kills six northeast of Baghdad**

**Baghdad, 14 July** — A suicide bomber struck the council headquarters of an Iraqi town northeast of Baghdad on Thursday, killing six people and wounding three others, local police said.

The suicide bomber wearing an explosive-packed vest detonated himself in the council headquarters of Abu Saada, a town near Iraq’s restive city of Baquba, killing six people, including four council members, according to the police.

The powerful blast devastated the building of the council headquarters, said the police, adding three people, including the head of the local council, were wounded in the incident.

Baquba, some 65 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, is the provincial capital of Diyala Province which is located in the so-called Sunni Triangle, a guerrilla stronghold.

**Bank of Japan ends era of zero interest rates**

**Tokyo, 15 July** — The Bank of Japan has ended an era of zero interest rates in a watershed decision for the world’s number two economy which has finally escaped from its long deflationary spiral.

The unanimous decision by the BoJ’s policy board Friday to raise the overnight call rate target by a quarter point to 0.25 percent is the strongest sign yet that Japan’s economy has returned to normality after years of emergency measures.

It was the first interest rise in Japan for almost six years, reflecting a global trend of monetary tightening and an end to the era of easy credit that will force Japanese to kick their addiction to virtually free money.

“The Japanese economy has been in a difficult period for over 10 years but thanks to efforts by the private and public sectors it is beginning to return to a normal state,” said BoJ governor Toshihiko Fukui.

**El Salvador pounces on street gang, arresting 195**

**Mexico City, 14 July** — El Salvador police arrested 195 suspected members of a violent street gang in one of its bases outside the capital San Salvador on Wednesday, reports reaching here said.

The sweep on the Mara 18 gang came one day after policeman Jose Mauricio Sanchez was shot while on duty near the scene of the arrests.

Police blamed the killing on the band and said they believed the killer was among the suspects in custody.

Mara 18 is one of two gangs of tattooed youths which have horrified the Central American nation with their bloody killings and rapes.

**MNA/Xinhua**
**Humidity raises heart attack risk in elderly**

**LONDON, 15 July**— High humidity can increase the risk of a heart attack in the elderly even in relatively mild climates, according to research published on Thursday.

Scientists who studied deaths from heart attacks in Athens, Greece in 2001 found that humidity was one of the most important factors influencing average monthly death rates from heart attacks for people over 70 years old.

“It was linearly associated with heart attack deaths,” said Dr Georgios Giannopoulos, of the University of Athens. “It means that higher humidity values were related to higher death rates,” he told Reuters. The research published in the journal Heart is thought to be the first study to identify a relationship between humidity and heart attacks, which are a leading cause of death in developed countries.

The scientists analyzed the link between weather conditions including temperature, pressure levels and humidity with the 3,126 heart attack deaths that occurred in Athens in 2001. — Internet

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**China, Switzerland pledge closer military ties**

**BEIJING, 14 July**— Senior military officials of China and Switzerland on Wednesday agreed to step up exchanges and cooperation between the two Armed Forces.

“The relations between the two armies have progressed soundly with regular exchanges on health, peacekeeping and other specialized fields,” said Liang Guanglie, chief of the General Staff of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), when holding talks with visiting Commander of the Armed Forces of Switzerland Christophe Keckeis.

China would like to make joint efforts with Switzerland to push military-to-military ties to a new high, Liang was quoted as citing a statement from the Chinese Defence Ministry. Liang also briefed Keckeis on China’s defence policy and military construction.

Keckeis had hoped he could promote military exchange and cooperation through his China visit.

MNA/Xinhua

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**Oil hits record near $76 on Nigeria, Mideast**

**LONDON, 14 July**— Oil surged to a record high near 76 US dollars a barrel on Thursday on renewed worries over supply from major exporter Nigeria and as conflict between Israel and Lebanon heightened international tensions.

Prices also rose as the Iran nuclear row appeared to be heading to the UN Security Council, North Korea walked out of talks with South Korea and crude inventories in top consumer the United States fell more than expected.

“Geopolitical tensions have stepped up — we are moving on to a new phase in Iran and Israel,” said Mike Wittner of investment bank Calyon. “In the end, geopolitical risk is about a current supply disruption getting worse or a new one happening.”

US crude traded 82 cents higher at 75.77 US dollars a barrel by 1132 GMT, after hitting a record 75.89 US dollars. London Brent was up 1.12 US dollars at 75.51 US dollars after reaching a record 75 60 US dollars.

In Nigeria, two suspected explosions at a crude pipeline operated by Agip, a unit of Italy’s Eni, caused oil spills, Nigerian officials said. Eni denied reports of sabotage and extensive oil spills and said damage would be repaired soon.

Royal Dutch Shell Plc has already had to shut down 473,000 barrels per day of Nigerian supply, almost a quarter of output in Africa’s top oil supplier, due to attacks by rebels.

Adding to Middle East tensions, Israel struck Beirut Airport and blockaded Lebanese ports on Thursday, intensifying reprisals that have killed 47 civilians since Lebanese Hezbollah fighters seized two Israeli soldiers and killed eight a day earlier.

Supply breaks and growing Middle East tension mean oil prices may rise further, analysts say. — MNA/Reuters

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**Singapore to use mobile phone audio guide system in art exhibition**

**SINGAPORE, 14 July**— A mobile phone audio guide system will be introduced to visitors at the inaugural Singapore Biennale Art Exhibition to be held in September this year, Channel NewsAsia report said Thursday.

With this system in place, visitors only need to dial a designated number with their mobile phones and follow the audio instruction to key in a three-digit code assigned to each art work.

They can hear audio segments about artists, venues, art installations, as well as comments, thoughts and discussions left by other visitors.

Organizers of the exhibition hope that the system can help kindle interest in and promote knowledge about contemporary art among Singaporeans. Organized by Singapore’s National Arts Council and National Heritage Board, this international art exhibition will open on 4 September and last for more than two months.

“Art works by more than 80 artists and art collectives from over 35 countries around the world are expected to be shown at the event.” — MNA/Xinhua

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**China seized 3.46 bln fake cigarettes in first half**

**BEIJING, 14 July**— China’s State Tobacco Monopoly Administration announced on Thursday that it had seized 3.46 billion fake brand cigarettes in the first half of 2006.

Law enforcement agencies arrested 2,858 people in connection with fake brand cigarettes, with 844 prosecuted, said Zhang Xuliang, the administration’s spokesman.

Zhang said the tobacco industry produced over one trillion cigarettes in the first six months, and achieved over 150 billion yuan (18.75 billion US dollars) in pre-tax profits, a year-on-year increase of 18.5 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

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**A damaged search and rescue Cormorant helicopter is lifted from the deck of the Canadian Coast Guard vessel Earl Grey after it arrived at CFB Shearwater, Nova Scotia, on 14 July, 2006. Three Canadian military personnel were killed and four injured on Thursday after their search and rescue helicopter crashed into the Atlantic Ocean during a training exercise. — Internet**

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**A car with a set of music players is displayed during an auto maintenance, repair and accessory fair in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 13 July, 2006. The car has three LCDs on its dashboard and six 12-inch loudspeakers in its front compartment. Young people in Brazil are very fond of installing high-power music players in their cars. — Internet**

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**Acarobats perform at the Urumqi International Grand Bazaar in Urumqi, capital of northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 11 July, 2006. The bazaar attracts a large number of tourists for its unique folk customs, architectures, folk songs and dances, and delicious foods. — Internet**

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**A pair of chimpanzees look at a mascot of English primateologist Jane Goodall through a window at Sydney’s Taronga Zoo on 14 July, 2006. Goodall, known for her research with wild chimpanzees where she identified tool making and hunting activities, is visiting Australia as part of a fundraising tour to continue her work with chimpanzees in Uganda. — Internet**
China’s Ministry of Commerce to curb illegal trade of textiles

BEIJING, 14 July — The Ministry of Commerce has issued a circular to alert domestic companies to the pitfalls of exporting textile products to the United States and the European Union using fake certificates of origin.

Under last year’s Sino-US and Sino-EU memoranda on textile trade, the agreed trade volume for the following year will be slashed to penalize the whole industry if these illegal practices are carried out.

Sun Kaifen, from the Commerce Department of north China’s Hebei Province, said that the ministry has ordered local departments to inspect companies and submit a report around mid-July.

The ministry will punish companies and individuals concerned strictly in line with the law, Sun said.

Since the EU and US imposed textile export quotas on China last year, the country’s textile exports to these economies have been slowing down and shifting to neighbouring countries and regions.

Hong Kong and South Korea, for instance, have registered year-on-year growth of 234 per cent and 150 per cent respectively in their textile exports to the EU between January and May.

The Customs authorities of some EU members said this rapid growth could be a sign of malpractice.

Better emergency response system urged for China’s chemical accident

BEIJING, 14 July — “China lacks the facilities to cope with chemical accidents,” according to Chen Shanrong, deputy director of the Environmental Protection Inspection Department with the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA).

No professional investigative and impact evaluation experience of chemical accidents has been accumulated and put into application, Chen said on Wednesday at the “Sino-German Symposium on Chemical Management”.

Some provinces and most of China’s 3,000 chemical plants and offices have failed to set up emergency response systems in this field, he said.

Supervision and management of hazardous chemicals involve 10 ministries in China, with the transportation department responsible for the delivery and the police department supervising the production.


Rare Shakespeare First Folio fetches $5.2m

LONDON, 14 July — A rare mint condition First Folio edition of William Shakespeare’s plays fetched 2.8 million pounds (5.2 million US dollars) at an auction on Thursday.

The result at Sotheby’s in London was below the top estimate of 3.5 million pounds and less than the saleroom record for a comparable copy of 6.2 million US dollars made at Christie’s, New York, in 2001.

Several copies of the First Folio have also been sold privately, including that purchased by John Paul Getty from Oriel College, Oxford, for an estimated 3.5 million pounds. Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen reportedly bought another.

Printed in 1623, seven years after Shakespeare’s death and containing 36 plays, only about 250 copies of the First Folio survive and most of those are incomplete.

The volume up for sale on Thursday has been in the Dr. William’s Library — a research facility for English Protestant dissent — since about 1716, making it the longest uninterrupted ownership by a public library of any copy.

Two quakes hit Aceh

JAKARTA, 14 July — Two consecutive earthquakes measuring 4.9 and 4.0 on the Richter Scale jolted a number of areas in Aceh on Thursday morning but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, the Antara news agency said.

Several parts of the province, such as Banda Aceh, West Aceh, and Aceh Besar were hit by two consecutive quakes measuring 4.9 on the Richter Scale at 6:20 am and 4.0 on the Richter Scale at 10:04 am.

He said the epicentre of the first tremor was located at the coordinate of 2.16 degrees Northern Latitude and 96.97 degrees Eastern Longitude, around 36 kilometres southeast of Sinabang Town in Sumedang District at the depth of 33 kilometres under the sea bed.

While the epicentre of the second one, felt by people in Banda Aceh and its surrounding areas, was located at the coordinate of 4.28 degrees Northern Latitude and 96.06 degrees Eastern Longitude at a depth of 15 kilometres under the sea bed and 117 kilometres west of Meulaboh Town in West Aceh.

Experiment with marijuana may lead to heroin use

NEW YORK, 14 July — Teens who experiment with marijuana may be making themselves more vulnerable to heroin addiction later in life, if the findings from experiments with rats are any indication.

“Cannabis has very long-term, enduring effects on the brain,” Dr Yasmin Hurd of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, the study’s lead author, told Reuters Health in an interview.

Whether or not trying marijuana is a “gateway” to use of so-called harder drugs like heroin and cocaine has been hotly debated, she and her colleagues note in the journal Neuropsychopharmacology.

To investigate whether pot smoking could cause brain changes that might predispose an individual to later drug use, Hurd and her team looked at rats exposed to the active ingredient in marijuana, THC, during a developmental period similar to human adolescence.

To mimic the relatively small amount used by most teens experimenting with pot, the rodents received periodic, small doses of THC.

As young adults, the animals were fitted with catheters that allowed them to self-administer heroin.

The researchers compared the amount and frequency of their drug use with that of rats that had not been given THC previously.

A macaque drink water at Walongkou scenery spot in Jiyuan, central China’s Henan Province, on 12 July, 2006. The scenery spot took various measures to help more than 3,000 macaques prevent sunstroke.

A billboard was blown down by strong wind caused by tropical storm Bilis in Rui’an, east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 14 July, 2006. Continuous strong wind and heavy rain hit southern area of Zhejiang Province. Typhoon Bilis landed in Beibi Town of Xiapu County, southeast China’s Fujian Province on 14 July.

A macaque drink water at Walongkou scenery spot in Jiyuan, central China’s Henan Province, on 12 July, 2006. The scenery spot took various measures to help more than 3,000 macaques prevent sunstroke.

A macaque drink water at Walongkou scenery spot in Jiyuan, central China’s Henan Province, on 12 July, 2006. The scenery spot took various measures to help more than 3,000 macaques prevent sunstroke.
Since 2004-2005, the Ministry of Information has taken a leading role in establishing self-reliant libraries in rural areas where 70 per cent of the population live. It is heartening to learn that states and divisions are celebrating for successful completion of establishment of a library in each village. Before long, Myanmar will stand as a nation that has village libraries most in the world.

The travellers of foreigners who visited Myanmar showed that the nation was noted for development in library. In his travelogue, British envoy Michael Symes said that among the kings over the area from the bank of the Danube River to China, the then Myanmar king Badonmintra Bodaw U Waing’s library had more bundles of palm leaf writings than any other’s. In the third Century AD, two Chinese monks, on their way from China to India, passed through Myanmar and documented the Myanmar literature and treatises that they had witnessed.

In the travelogue written by Dr Francis Buchanan, who accompanied Michael Symes, he said that he hardly saw Myanmar people who were illiterate. He added that almost the people he met in the country held a palm leaf and a small stick of soapstone, writing statistics, data or songs, and noting down anything new to them.

The travelogues of foreigners who visited India, passed through Myanmar and documented the Myanmar literature and treatises at the palace were not to be stolen nor burnt down. But, no one followed the order, and palm-leaf writings and inscriptions were heaped and burnt down on the floor of the palace. Anyone who happened to be in the palace could get one or two palm-leaf writings. For durability and sustainable progress of the self-reliant libraries: — establishment of a library in each village in rural areas — to create the following benefits:

1. for youth in rural areas to have an easy access to publications, 
2. to widen their scope of knowledge by reading, 
3. to be able to distinguish right and wrong, 
4. to spend time beneficially, 
5. to become polite and to possess good character, and 
6. to become reliable citizens.

In 1886, British envoy James Coblack wrote in his diary that he took charge of the pitakattik of the Myanmar king in the palace and as soon as he had taken the duty, he compiled a list of palm-leaf writings and inscriptions to prevent the damage of the pitakattaik.

However, when Myanmar fell under alien subjugation, the colonialists fearing that nationalistic spirit would be reawakened among the national people resorted to wicked means to wipe out Myanmar literature. In the book “Myanmar Kings’ Administration” (fifth volume) by Bagan Wundaukmin (officer who assisted Hluttaw ministers) U Tin, it was said that on 28 November 1885, the British troops occupied Mandalay Palace. Earlier on 5 October the same year, colonel Sladen issued an order saying palm-leaf writings, palm-leaf inscriptions, documents and archives at the palace were not to be stolen nor burnt down.

In the book “Myanmar Kings’ Administration” (fifth volume) by Bagan Wundaukmin (officer who assisted Hluttaw ministers) U Tin, it was said that on 28 November 1885, the British troops occupied Mandalay Palace. Earlier on 5 October the same year, colonel Sladen issued an order saying palm-leaf writings, palm-leaf inscriptions, documents and archives at the palace were not to be stolen nor burnt down.

However, in the time of servitude, not only the nation and the people and national resources but also literature or a cultural heritage were exploited, stolen or destroyed. So, members of the Myanmar Writers Association formed in 1942 held talks across the nation for establishment of libraries. Now, under the guidance of the Head of State, the Ministry of Information is playing a leading role in implementing one of the five rural development tasks — establishment of a library in each village in rural areas — to create the following benefits:
First, the Senior General grew a sal tree with fertilizer and watered it. Next, he sprinkled scented water on it. The Senior General also planted gum-kino, star flower and Gangaw trees. Next, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye cultivated sal, gum-kino, star flower and Gangaw trees.

General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party grew sal, gum-kino, star flower and Gangaw trees.

Employees of the ministries, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association and social organizations collectively planted 850 trees on either side along the road to the City Hall.

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected progress in construction of the City Hall. At the briefing hall, Senior General Than Shwe heard reports on construction of the City Hall and progress of tasks presented by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt. After hearing the reports, Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on building of the City Hall meeting the set standards and cultivation of flowery plants in the park to be constructed in the area of the City Hall.

The Senior General and party viewed the scale model of the City Hall. Afterwards, they inspected completion of staff quarters in Nay Pyi Taw, construction of the Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market, and progress of the hotel projects in the Hotel Zone by car. — MNA
Development of Monghsat, Mongton regions discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 15 July — Chairman of Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing together with Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe attended the ceremony to open the Technical School for Youth of Border Areas under the Education and Training Department of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in Mongta on 8 July.

On 7 July, the deputy minister met with local authorities and USDA executives and gave instructions on regional development tasks on 9 July.

On 10 July, the deputy minister together with the deputy commander of Triangle Region Command and officials met with departmental officials and USDA executives at the office of Mongton Township PDC and left necessary instructions.

On 11 July, the deputy minister met district and township level officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs at Taikphyu District Police Force. On 12 July, the deputy minister inspected thriving tea plantation of Myanmar Police Force and Prisons Department in Pankewe Village of Kengtung Township. — MNA

Cash assistance provided to disabled children, needy students in Yankin, South Okkalapa Townships

YANGON, 15 July — Under the supervision of Yangon East District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, Yankin Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association held the ceremony to provide cash assistance to disabled children and needy students at the Township MCWA Office at the corner of Yanshin and Sethmu-1 Roads in Yankin Township yesterday morning.

Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai gave a speech and accepted 1,100 membership applications from the Township MCWA Chairperson Daw Mi Myint. Daw Mar Mar Wai accepted K 100,000 each donated by Pyay Aung Construction Group and ES4E Language Centre, for disabled children and needy students.

The Chairperson and officials presented A donor presents cash assistance for disabled children and needy students to Yangon Division MCWSC Chairperson Daw Mar Mar Wai. — MNA

ISD Table Tennis Tournament concludes

YANGON, 15 July — The final match and prize presentation ceremony for the 9th Inter-State and Divisional Table Tennis Tournament-2006 took place at the gymnasium of Aung San Sports Ground this morning. At the prize presentation, for the women’s event, Secretary Daw L Khun Yi of Central Work Committee of Myanmar Women’s Sport Federation presented the first prize to Yangon Division, the second prize to Mon State and the joint-third prize to Shan State (South) and Ayeyawady Division. He also presented the best player awards to Hla Myo Khaiing (Yangon Division) for the men’s event and Ma Tin Tin Than (Yangon Division) for the women’s event.

Next, Myanmar Olympic Committee General Secretary Sports and Physical Education Department Director General U Thaung Htaik presented championship shields to the first prize winning teams.

Pho Lapya Co and Pyi Gyi San presented soft drinks and mineral water to participants. — MNA

Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport meets

YANGON, 15 July — A coordination meeting of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport was held at the Yangon Command this evening.

Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win spoke on action taken against drivers for their reckless driving and reduction of traffic accidents.

Next, those present discussed measures taken for secure and smooth transport and installation of CNG kits at natural gas vehicles (NGV).

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the commander. — MNA

Health care, welfare services provided to local people in PyinOoLwin District

YANGON, 15 July — Under the leadership of Mandalay Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, a team comprising specialists from Myanmar Medical Association (Mandalay), Myanmar Dental Association (Mandalay), Mandalay General Hospital, Children’s Hospital, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital, Central Women’s Hospital and Traditional Medicine Department provided health care to local people at Tagaung Hospital in PyinOoLwin District on 7 July.

A total of 1782 patients underwent medical treatment and other 74 were transferred to hospitals concerned for treatment. One hundred sets of spectacles were donated to eye patients. Next, Mandalay Division MCWSC held a respect-paying ceremony at Tagaung General Administration Department.

On the occasion Chairperson of Division MCWSC Daw Khin Pyone Win presented gifts to 35 elderly persons. Next, doctors and specialists gave talks on HIV/AIDS, malaria and other common diseases.

Afterwards, Daw Khin Pyone Win donated 24 insecticide-treated mosquito nets and MCWA and WAO uniforms for Tagaung.

Mandalay Division MCWSC Chairperson Daw Khin Pyone Win donates insecticide-treated mosquito nets. — MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 16 July, 2006
Transition to democracy calls for peace and stability, strong national economy and high education standard of the people

Minister for Information on inspection tour of Sagaing Division

YANGON, 15 July—Secretariat Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan elaborated on speedy implementation of regional development undertakings in meeting with executives of Pale Township USDA at the township PDC office on 10 July.

He also held a meeting with local people at Pyahle Village in Yinnmarbin Township. The minister in his speech said that the purpose of his tour of rural areas was to help expedite the implementation of rural development tasks in line with the policies laid down by the association. Now, USDA members are playing a major part in the five rural development tasks.

In addition, steps are being taken to supply electric power and to open self-reliant libraries in rural areas. The government is taking measures to improve the standard of living of rural folks who are contributing through agriculture.

The seven-step Road Map is being implemented phase by phase and success has been achieved to a certain degree. He called on the local people to join hands with the government and the USDA to ward off the dangers of the insurgents who cannot bear to witness such progress.

The commander presented newspapers, journals, sports gear, school uniforms, and exercise books to Kangon Village-tract. The minister presented 50 textbooks, 100 dozen exercise books, 50 ball-point pens, desks worth K 80,000, publications, blankets, pieces of soap, mosquito nets, clothes and video tapes. He also donated exercise books and ball-point pens to the township USDA.

U Maung Maung-Daw Khin Saw Thaik donated K 50,000 to the township USDA; and Pacific Asia Trading Co, K 500,000 and U Maung Maung-Daw Khin Saw Thaik, K 50,000 to Kangon Village affiliated high school through the officials.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye delivers a speech at the inauguration of Wala Dam in Yinnmarbin Township. — MNA

YANGON, 15 July—Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and the minister attended the ceremony to grow physic nut saplings held near the Wala Dam.

Next, they attended the inauguration of Wala Dam at Maukthayet Village in Yinnmarbin Township. The commander said that the Wala Creek has been dammed to irrigate 100 acres of farmland, to supply clean water to local people and to green the region.

Next, the government, the Tatmadaw and the people are making cohesive efforts to transform the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline. In this regard, the drive calls for peace and stability, strong economy of the nation and the people and high education standard. To achieve the targets, the government constructs infrastructures for development, while fulfilling the requirements of respective regions.

In Monywa District, Sagaing Division, the government has so far constructed 12 dams and Hlinechaung and Myauk-yama supporting dams are under construction.

Now, the water level of the 700-foot-long and 23-foot-high Walachaung Dam has reached 14.7 feet high. The USDA members’ helping hand to the Irrigation Department secured completion of the project ahead of schedule. He called for measures for durability of the irrigation facility.

Next, the minister delivered a speech.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan view physic nut plants growing ceremony in Yinmarbin Township. — MNA

He handed over 38 desks worth K 304,000, clothes, blankets, stationery to the basic education schools and publications and video tapes to rural libraries.

Thesecretariat member also met with executives of the township USDA at the township PDC office and instructed them to speed up implementation of rural development tasks.

At Kangon Village affiliated school in Salingyi Township, the commander said that Kangon Village is one of the villages that are enjoying development in Sagaing, calling for measures for reduction of respective regions.

For the development of the education sector, Sagaing Division has been served with many universities, colleges, 3,900 primary schools, 1,028 post-primary schools and 58 high schools, he said.

The minister said that many nations make efforts to bring about development through various technologies in the knowledge age. In Myanmar, the government has given priority to the development of the education sector. He called for producing human resources as many as it can.

Now, almost all the parts of the nation have enjoyed the taste of peace and stability. The number of the remnant insurgents is on the decrease. On 6 July, 848 members led by commander of brigade 758 U Mein Sin with the rank of vice chief of staff of SSA-S returned to the legal fold. Only with peace and stability, will the nation be transformed into a democratic state.
Turkey inaugurates strategic Caspian oil pipeline

CEYHAN, (Turkey) 15 July — Turkey inaugurated on Thursday a four-billion-US-dollar pipeline carrying oil from the Caspian Sea to the Mediterranean, part of an energy corridor vital to both Western and Turkish strategic interests.

Turkish, Azeri and Georgian heads of state were joined by ministers from around the world for a ceremony at the port of Ceyhan to mark the opening of the 1,770-kilometre pipeline from Azerbaijan’s Baku, which also goes to Georgia’s Tbilisi.

“This is a historic moment, it changes the energy map of the world,” BP Chief Executive John Browne told the opening ceremony. “This project is an achievement in overcoming doubts. We have a daily challenge of operating the pipeline safely for people and the environment.”

Oil giant BP, the main partner in the consortium running the pipeline, expects its capacity to reach one million barrels per day by 2008, mainly on Azeri shipments.

Ceyhan is already the terminal for a pipeline from Iraq’s Kirkuk fields and with a planned line from the Black Sea city of Samsun, it is expected to account for 8 per cent of global crude trade at capacity.

The project, backed by the United States and which sidesteps major energy producer Russia, is also designed to reduce Western dependence on Middle East oil. Last month Kazakhstan officially joined the venture. — MNA/Reuters

3 killed in Canadian military helicopter crash

OTTAWA, 15 July — Three people were killed and four injured after a Canadian Army helicopter crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the province of Nova Scotia early Thursday.

The CH-149 Cormorant helicopter was performing a joint search and rescue training operation with the Canadian Coast Guard when it was suddenly forced to ditch at about 00:30 am (0430 GMT) near Canso, about 330 kilometres north of Halifax, Nova Scotia’s capital, local TV reported.

Rescuers airlifted four surviving personnel from the downed aircraft. One was taken to hospital in Halifax while the other three are currently in Canso.

The military and Coast Guard are currently on the scene, working to recover the bodies of the three crew members who died, as well as the ditched helicopter. The weather in the area is currently windy and rainy, but it is not yet known if conditions played a factor in the crash. — MNA/Reuters

Thai police seize 13 kilos of heroin

BANGKOK, 15 July — The Thai Police have seized 13 kilos of heroin and arrested members of a suspected international drug gang at a rented house in Bangkok.

Bangkok’s Metropolitan Police Commissioner Lieutenant-General Viroj Chunharangsi revealed the haul at a Press conference Friday.

Police found the heroin packed in large cardboard boxes and arrested suspected traffickers Pairoi Sangkaew, 45, and Chalermae Thairacha, 25.

The two suspected traffickers said the drugs were destined for the United States or Europe, where they could fetch a street value of as much as 4.2 billion baht (110.52 million US dollars). — MNA/Xinhua

Kuwait economy to expand 5% in 2006

KUWAIT CITY, 15 July — A report released recently by Credit Suisse said Kuwait’s economy is predicted to grow by 5 per cent in 2006 and 4.3 per cent in 2007, local newspaper Arab Times reported Friday.

Credit Suisse, a Switzerland-based global financial services company, predicted Kuwait’s strong government spending on development and infrastructure project will continue in 2006.

It said that inflationary pressures were strong for the oil-rich kingdom in the past two years, and this trend will likely continue in 2006 to 2007, as the US dollar depreciates against other major currencies. — MNA/Xinhua

US capital declares crime emergency

WASHINGTON, 15 July — Police in Washington DC has declared a crime emergency in the wake of a series of violent crimes that haunted the city recently, US media reported Wednesday.

“We have seen a troubling increase in crime in recent weeks, even with the hard work and best efforts of our officers,” Washington DC Police Chief Charles H Ramsey said.

The declaration will allow more flexibility to adjust police officers schedules and reassign them to high-crime areas.

The move followed the death of Alan Senitt, a British political activist whose throat was cut open by robbers in the city’s Georgetown area on Saturday. The attackers even attempted to rape his female companion.

Senitt was a volunteer for the potential presidential campaign of former Virginia Governor Mark R Warner.

On Tuesday night, two groups of tourists were robbed at gunpoint on the National Mall, only blocks away from the White House and the US Capitol.

In the past 30 days, robberies in the capital city have increased by 14 per cent and assaults with deadly weapons jumped by 18 per cent. — MNA/Xinhua

Residents make their way through a flooded street in Malabon Town after rains from tropical storm Bilis left parts of Manila flooded on 13 July, 2006. — INTERNET

A student of Henan Shaolin Martial Arts Institute performs in a kungfu stage play “Shaolin Temple” in Athens, Greece on 12 July, 2006. This is the first time for Shaolin kungfu to be performed in Greece. — INTERNET

Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer (L1), Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev (L2), Georgian President Mihail Saakashvili (L3) and Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan (L4) attend a ceremony inaugurating the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline in the Ceyhan town of Adana, Turkey, on 13 July, 2006. — INTERNET

Annan to send team to Middle East to urge restraint

UNITED NATIONS, 15 July — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan is sending a three-person team to the Middle East to urge all parties to exercise restraint and help defuse the major crisis in the region, a spokesman said on Thursday.

The team will first visit Cairo to meet with Egyptian officials and consult with Arab League foreign ministers meeting there on Saturday, the spokesman said.

Annan was travelling in Rome on Thursday.

The team is then expected to head to Israel, the Palestinian territories, Lebanon, Syria and possibly other destinations “as needed”, the spokesman said. Vijay Nambiar, Annan’s political adviser, is to head the team. The other members are UN Middle East envoy Terje Roed Larsen and Alvaro de Soto. — MNA/Reuters

The two suspected traffickers said the drugs were destined for the United States or Europe, where they could fetch a street value of as much as 4.2 billion baht (110.52 million US dollars). — MNA/Xinhua

Residents make their way through a flooded street in Malabon Town after rains from tropical storm Bilis left parts of Manila flooded on 13 July, 2006. — INTERNET

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July, 2006. The Denver-Julesburg basin oil field near Dacono, Colorado on 12

Mudslide kills six in western Colombia

BOGOTA, 14 July — Three adults and three children died in a massive mudslide triggered by heavy rainstorms in Tado, a settlement in the western department of Choco, Colombia, regional authorities said on Wednesday.

The mudslides buried three homes in Tado, which is close to the Panama border. The six victims were all from one family.

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Japan, China agree to boost aviation links

Tokyo, 14 July — China and Japan agreed on Thursday to boost the number of flights between their respective countries in the latest move to improve ties between the Asian neighbours.

Under the agreement, the number of passenger flights will rise by 20 per cent and the number of cargo flights will double. Japan’s Transport Minister Kazuo Kitagawa said in a statement after a meeting with civil aviation authorities in Beijing.

The deal, which follows a year and a half of negotiations, will allow 13 companies from each country to provide flights, up from the current six.

“We anticipate that this agreement will lead to further development of aviation links between the two countries,” the ministry statement said.

The total number of weekly flights between China and Japan will be boosted to 547, with Chinese companies responsible for 300, while Japanese companies provide 247. In 2005, about 6 million passengers flew between Japan and China.

Chinese, Sri Lankan FMs vow to further bilateral ties

BEIJING, 14 July — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing met with his Sri Lankan counterpart Mangala Samaraweera in Beijing on Thursday. The two diplomats hailed bilateral ties and vowed to further cooperation.

Li noted that Premier Wen Jiabao’s visit to Sri Lanka in 2005 and the establishment of an all-round cooperative partnership between the two countries shows that bilateral ties have entered a new stage of development.

China and Sri Lanka established diplomatic relations in 1957. The two countries will host a national theme year for each other to mark the 50th anniversary next year.

“I hope the two sides will make joint efforts to expand cooperation through celebration activities and push bilateral ties to a new high,” Li said.

Samaraweera agreed with Li’s remarks about bilateral ties, saying he appreciated China’s assistance to Sri Lanka’s economic and social development.

Money not major motivating factor in job commitment in S’pore

SINGAPORE, 14 July — Money is not a major motivating factor in job commitment among employees in Singapore, a recent survey on employee engagement showed.

According to Channel NewsAsia report Thursday, good working environment, good career prospects and being involved in the decision making process are some of the motivators cited by respondents in the survey.

Some 24 per cent of the employees polled chose money as an important factor in job commitment and 56 per cent picked having a good working environment, the report said.

The survey also found that 75 per cent of the respondents felt that they are engaged in their organizations and work in terms of loyalty, productivity and satisfaction, while the rate is higher in local companies than in multinational companies.

Conducted by the Singapore Human Resources Institute and covering 130 companies with between 50 and 800 employees, the survey is said to be the first of its kind in the city state.

In a separate survey by the institute on the profile of the Singaporean workforce, half of the 60 employers interviewed said that Singaporean workers are the preferred choice for all positions, according to the report.

However, Singaporeans are found not willing to undertake overseas assignments on a local salary package.

Chines girls and one of the five doll mascots of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games perform on Wangfujing Street in Beijing, on 13 July, 2006. A total of 23 teams consisting of 1,500 people from 13 countries and regions presented a performance in Beijing on Thursday, with the aspiration for the 2008 Olympic Games. —INTERNET

A new oil well is drilled near Dacono, Colorado on 12 July, 2006. The Denver-Julesburg basin oil field near Denver stretches from Wyoming. —INTERNET

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Canadian companies to help build roads in Myanmar

AIDAN MOYNIHAN, CEO of Canadian company Provincial Services International, signs a memorandum of understanding with the MNA for a project to build a road in Myanmar on July 11. (Photo: MNA)
China needs 100 years to finish world heritage applications

VILNIUS(Lithuania), 14 July — It will take China 100 years to have all its heritage sites included on the World Heritage List, Wang Fengwu, a member of the Chinese delegation attending the 30th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC), said on Tuesday.

In an interview with Xinhua, Wang, who is also Deputy Director-General of the Department of Urban Development in China’s Construction Ministry, said more than 200 sites in China aimed to apply for inclusion on the list.

Among them, more than 60 sites have been put on the preparatory list of world heritage. These include 17 natural sites, around 30 cultural sites and 13 mixed ones, Wang said. But each year, only two sites, one natural and one cultural site, at most in each state party of the WHC are allowed to apply to be put on the list.

If all the intended Chinese sites were to make it on to the list, it would take about 100 years, he said. Wang added that inclusion was not the final goal, although being on the list could bring huge economic and social benefits to local people.

“What’s more important is that the local government will have to commit itself to proper conservation and management of the heritage under international conventions,” he said.

The phenomenon of putting too much stress on application while paying too little attention to management and protection should be changed, Wang said, adding that the core of the World Heritage Convention is protection, not development.

Economic survey shows Nepalis eating better, drinking less

KATHMANDU, 14 July — Nepalis are consuming more meat and fish, smoking less, and have become more sober as per capita alcohol intake has dropped, the Economic Survey said.

The total cigarette production stood at 9,493 million sticks, 0.8 per cent higher than previous fiscal year, the Survey said.

However, average consumption of liquor went down to 349.5 millimetres from previous fiscal year’s 353.6 millimetres. The latest liquor intake figure is just 8 per cent of average global consumption, it added.

The lowest incidence was seen in April and May, while the highest occurred in August and September, the Survey said.

The latest liquor intake figure is just 8 per cent of average global consumption, it added.

More boys than girls worries North China province

SHIJIAZHUANG, 14 July — Boys outnumbering girls could become a major obstacle for the development of North China’s Hebei Province if effective measures to curb the trend are not taken soon, a senior official has said.

There are 1.4 million more boys than girls in the age group between three and 15, among which 450,000 boys were born as a result of gender selection, a practice that has been strictly banned in China, said Hebei Provincial Vice-Governor Sun Shihun at a provincial conference on gender issues.

While research shows the total population of the province is over 68 million, officials there could not provide the population of the three-to-15 age group.

Although the province has reduced the ratio of boy births to girl births from 118 to 100 in 2000 to 114 to 100 in 2005, more needs to be done to achieve a better gender balance, the official said.

In some areas of Hebei, there are 134 boys for every 100 girls. The national ratio was 116.9 to 100 in 2000 and 108.5 to 100 in 1982, census statistics show.

Since 2004, Hebei has closed 201 medical clinics that were found to have been involved in gender selection. The province has dealt with 848 gender selection cases involving 745 hospitals and clinics.

While it closed hundreds of clinics, it also fined 374 others and revoked licences of 104 medical staff and brought charges against three people.

The traditional Chinese preference for boys is widely blamed for the gender gap. As infants assume the name of their fathers, Chinese families want to have boys in order to carry on their lineage.

Boys are also assumed to be better caregivers to aging parents.

The study should enable health authorities to easily identify a sector of the population who could be screened for heart disease risk. — MNA/Reuters

Study shows living alone doubles risk of heart disease

LONDON, 14 July — People who live alone are twice as likely to suffer serious heart disease as those who live with a partner, according to research published on Thursday.

Doctors found the risk was even higher among older people, after conducting a study of 138,000 people aged between 30 and 69 in the Danish city of Aarhus.

The reasons for the increased risk were unclear, said Kirsten Nielsen, of Aarhus Sygehus University Hospital, who reported the findings in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health.

But she said it was likely to be linked to factors associated with single living, such as smoking, obesity, high cholesterol levels, less frequent visits to family doctors and the lack of a family support network.

“Age is of course a risk factor, and when you combine that with living alone you have a group in the population at a very high risk,” Nielsen said.

Men aged over 50 living alone made up only 7.7 per cent of the study group, and women living alone aged over 60 just 5.4 per cent. But lone men in this age group accounted for two-thirds of the male patients who died within a month of being diagnosed with angina or heart attack between 2000 and 2002, while the lone women in the age group made up a third of deaths.

The lowest incidence of serious heart disease was found among those living with a partner, who had enjoyed a high standard of education and were in work. Nielsen said the study should enable health authorities to easily identify a sector of the population who could be screened for heart disease risk. — MNA/Reuters

A model shows a BMW car during the Ninth Harbin International Auto Show in Harbin, capital of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 13 July, 2006. Over 600 car makers and accessory manufacturers from 12 countries and regions displayed their products in the show, opened on Thursday. —INTERNET

Jessica Simpson, the singer, who celebrated her 26th birthday on 10 July, 2006 — with close friends and family in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. —INTERNET

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The study should enable health authorities to easily identify a sector of the population who could be screened for heart disease risk. — MNA/Reuters
Schwartzel keeps up South African tradition

LONDON, 15 July—Charli Schwartzel maintained the tradition of South African excellence at the Scottish Open, claiming a share of the lead with Swede Johan Edfors midway through Friday’s second round.

The 21-year-old from Johannesburg raced home in 30 shots to fire a five-under-par 66 for an eight-under tally of 134 on another benign day at Loch Lomond, the final warm-up event in Europe ahead of next week’s British Open at Hoylake.

Schwartzel, the second youngest South African to earn full membership of the European Tour after Dale Hayes, began his round in sedate fashion before his putter caught fire and he birdied the 12th, 13th, 15th, 17th and 18th holes today.

Edfors, tied for the lead with Briton David Drysdale overnight, had five birdies and three bogeys in his 69.

South African Tim Clark is defending the title this week while compatriot Ernie Els won here in 2000 and 2003 and Retief Goosen emerged triumphant in 2001.

Briton Jamie Donaldson (67), one of Schwartzel’s playing partners, was one stroke off the pace alongside Drysdale (70).

Clark was on six-under along with Britons Lee Westwood and Raymond Russell, Argentina’s Andres Romero and Gregory Havret of France.

Romero carded a seven-under 64 after a purple patch in mid-round where he captured nine birdies in 11 holes, including six in a row from the fifth.

The 5-foot-11 Schwartzel, who weighs only 66 kg, said he was helped by a lot of calm conditions.

The world number eight started his round at the 10th and limped to the turn in 37. But two birdies and an eagle on the inward half helped him retrieve the situation.

The day’s best recovery came from Britain’s Tim Dyson, who followed an outward 40 with an inward 30.—MNA/Reuters

Juventus, Fiorentina, Lazio to be relegated to Second Division

ROME, 15 July—Italian soccer clubs of Juventus, Fiorentina and Lazio will be relegated to the Second Division due to match-fixing scandal, the Gazetta dello Sport newspaper reported on Friday.

Meanwhile, AC Milan will stay in the top flight with a penalty of points deduction but will be ruled out of next season’s Champions League.

“The verdict will be this: Juventus, Fiorentina and Lazio will be relegated to Division Two,” said Gazetta. “AC Milan will stay in the First Division but will not be allowed to take part in the Champions League.”

The newspaper further said that Juventus will be deducted 20 points from the start of their Serie B campaign with Fiorentina penalized 10 and Lazio six or seven, and Milan will lose 10 to 15 points from their Serie A challenge.

Materazzi faces FIFA over Zidane head butt

LONDON, 15 July—Marco Materazzi faced FIFA’s disciplinary committee on Friday over the incident that saw French captain Zinedine Zidane sent off for a head butt on the Italy defender in the World Cup final last weekend.

The hearing was hastily convened so Materazzi, who helped Italy win Sunday’s final in Berlin on penalties, did not have to interrupt a holiday next week when FIFA had originally summoned the Italian and Zidane.

He was given a verbal reprimand and a one-match ban.

FIFA spokesman Andreas Herren confirmed that the hearing was underway at the world football body’s Zurich headquarters. “They are talking, finding out what happened,” Herren said.

He did not comment on what punishment, if any, Materazzi might face or when a decision would be announced.

FIFA had begun proceedings against Materazzi on Thursday, saying that both he and Zidane had been summoned to appear before the disciplinary committee on 20 July.

Materazzi would then be sent a copy of the statement to allow him to respond, it said.—MNA/Reuters

Pakistan’s Meherullah wins featherweight boxing title

ISLAMABAD, 15 July—Pakistan’s Meherullah Lassi won the featherweight category title in the International Boxing Championship at the Karachi Port Trust (KPT) Sports Complex on Friday, local private Geo TV reported.

Meherullah beat South Korean Lee Doje 38-27 to win the featherweight title. Besides four Pakistanis, Uzbekistan, South Korea and Iran had three boxers each in the fray for the titles.

Iran’s Mehmedi Gharibani defeated China’s Lee Yuping to win the light heavyweight gold medal, his compatriot Ali Mazhari won the heavyweight title by beating Syrian Somar Gason.

Johann grabs share of lead at John Deere Classic

WASHINGTON, 15 July—American Zach Johnson birdied the last five holes to grab a share of the early lead while Michelle Wie’s hopes of making her first PGA Tour cut looked very slim at the John Deere Classic in Silvis, Illinois on Thursday.

Johnson completed a seven-under 64 to set the first-round pace with compatriot J.P. Hayes and Australia’s John Senden. The 16-year-old Hawaiian Wie battled to a six-over-par 77 in the first round of the tournament. Wie double-bogeyed her second hole and dropped six more shots, along with two birdies, before finishing 13 strokes off the early pace. Bidding to become the first woman to make the cut on the PGA Tour in 61 years, Wie ended up in the trees, water, sand and even the weeds before equaling the second worst score among the morning starters.—MNA/Xinhua

Lind Dan from China returns a shot during men’s singles action against Niels Christian Kaldau of Denmark at the MVP Cup badminton tournament in Manila on 14 July, 2006.—INTERNET
20 Chinese firms among world’s 500 largest

BEIJING, 15 July — Twenty Chinese companies, including four newcomers, rank among the 500 largest firms in the world as listed in Fortune magazine’s latest Global 500 published on Wednesday.

China’s three largest state-owned construction firms ascend to the list for the first time, with China Railway Engineering ranking 441, China Railway Construction 485, and China State Construction 486. Shanghai Automotive, at 475, is another new firm and the second Chinese automaker on the list. China First Automotive secures its place, but drops from 484 last year to 470. All the Chinese firms on last year’s list maintain their places this year, with most moving up in ranking.

Sinopec, rising from 31 to 23, remains the largest Chinese company on the list. State Grid, up from 40 to 32, and China National Petroleum, up from 40 to 39, retain second and third Chinese placings respectively. The four state-owned commercial banks of China move up substantially on the list from the previous year. The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China jumps from 299 to 199, the Bank of China from 399 to 255, China Construction Bank from 315 to 277, and the Agricultural Bank of China from 397 to 377. — MNA/China

US mulls separation of forces with South Korea

SEOUL, 15 July — The United States is considering separating its forces from South Korea’s and establishing an independent command to support the South’s troops on the Korean Peninsula, the commander of US Forces Korea said on Thursday.

South Korea gave the United States command of its troops during the 1950-1953 Korean War. It later regained their peacetime control but US forces would still command South Korean forces in the event of a war.

“While no final decisions have been made, we are considering creating two independent commands — one ROK (South Korean) and one US with US forces in a supporting role to take advantage of US air and naval warfare capabilities,” General B.B. Bell told a security forum in South Korea’s Parliament. — MNA/Reuters

Sat., 15 July, 2006
Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rains have been isolated in Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kayah State and upper Sagaing Division, fairly widespread in Shan State and widespread in the remaining states and divisions with locally heavy falls in Taninthayi Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawei (3.54) inches, Myeik (2.91) inches, Thandwe (2.44) inches, Kyaukpyu (2.08) inches, Kawthoung (2.05) inches, Sittway (2.00) inches, Mawlamyine (1.97) inches, Thayet (1.38) inches, Pyapon (1.34) inches, Machanbaw (1.22) inches and Co Co Island (1.18) inches.

Bay influence: Monsun is strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
Forecast valid until evening of 16-7-2006: Rain will be widespread in Kachin, Rakhae, Kayin and Mon States, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, fairly widespread in Chin State, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions, scattered in Shan, Kayah States and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhae, 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: Strong monsoon
Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 16-7-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 16-7-2006: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 16-7-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Senior General Than Shwe attends first rainy season tree planting ceremonies in Nay Pyi Taw

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister General Soe Win, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence.

First, Senior General Than Shwe planted a gum-kino tree with fertilizer in front of the building of Nay Pyi Taw Golf Course and poured water at it.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe grew a sal tree. Afterwards, the Senior General planted star flower and Gangaw trees.

Likewise, General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence cultivated Gangaw and Gangaw trees.

Prime Minister General Soe Win also grew gum-kino, sal, star flower and Gangaw trees.

Next, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence cultivated Gangaw and Gangaw trees.

Senior General Than Shwe and party attended the 2006 rainy season tree growing ceremony in front of the City Hall of Nay Pyi Taw that is under construction. Also present on the occasion were the ministers, the Chief...