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 tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconciliation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

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

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**Cash and kind donated to monasteries, nunneries in Yangon East and West Districts**

YANGON, 16 July — Families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers donated rice, edible oil, salt, gram, medicines and cash to 17 monasteries and two nunneries in four Dagon Myothit Townships in Yangon East District this afternoon.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the donation ceremony held at Tipitaka Nikaya Sarthintaik in Pale Yadana Street in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

Present on the occasion were presiding Sayadaws, members of Sangha and nuns of the 19 monasteries and nunneries, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, departmental heads, Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein, local authorities and members of religious and social organizations.

First, Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Monastery Sayadaw Tipitaka Dhara Dhammananda garika Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vayaminda Bhivamsa administered the Five Precepts to the congregation.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Col Maung Pa and senior military officers offered alms to the Sayadaws, members of the Sangha and nuns. Next, on behalf of Tatmadaw families, departments under various ministries and wellwishers, officials concerned donated rice, salt, medicines and gram for the monasteries and nunneries to the Sayadaw. Afterwards, families of the Tatmadaw, Yangon Division and Yangon East District PDCs, departments, organizations, companies and other wellwishers also made cash donations, which were accepted by Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party. Today’s donations were 410 bags of rice, 184 viss and 70 ticals of edible oil, 369 viss and 40 ticals of gram, 61 bags of iodized salt, 1,847 bars of Shwewah soap, 1,847 cakes of soft soap, 369 tubes of toothpaste, 48 tins of fishpaste, 480 boxes of Tun Shwe War embrocation and 375 boxes of various traditional medicines and K 24,257,000.

Similarly, Families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) and wellwishers donated rice, edible oil, salt, gram, medicines and cash to 23 monasteries and seven nunneries and Hninsigon Home for the Aged in Bahan Township in Yangon West District this afternoon.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe also attended the donation ceremony held at Mingala Market Dhamayon in Gyawwa Street in Bahan Township. (See page 8)

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Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and congregation share merits for meritorious deeds of Tatmadaw families and wellwishers who donated rice and alms to 17 monasteries and two nunneries in Yangon East District. — MNA
Paddy output takes upward curve

Rice is the staple crop of Myanmar as well as an export item. The government is making endeavours for extended cultivation of paddy and production for surplus and local sufficiency and export as the national task.

Actual paddy cultivation acreage was 14.4 million and 973 million of baskets of paddy were produced in 2004-2005 against the target of 13.69 million acres of monsoon paddy and 959 million baskets of paddy.

Similarly, paddy cultivation acreage increased up to 15.41 million and over 1,081 million baskets of paddy could be produced in 2005-2006 against the target of over 15.04 million acres of monsoon paddy and 1,074 million baskets of paddy.

It is targetted to produce over 1,100 million baskets of paddy from 16.48 million acres of monsoon paddy in the country in 2006-2007. Ayeawady and Yangon Divisions are to extend the paddy cultivation acreage up to 100,000 and 1.2 million respectively with the yield of 68 baskets an acre.

Sufficiency in paddy is 290 per cent in Ayeawady Division, 239 per cent in Bago Division (East) and 154 per cent in Sagaing Division. The government has been fulfilling requirements in agriculture for boosting production of crops and raising socio-economic life of rural people. It is also providing assistance for supply of water for agricultural purpose, quality strains, fertilizers, pesticides, farm implements and cultivation methods.

There were only 23 million cultivation acreage in 1988 nationwide and now there are over 46 million cultivation acreage. Over 653 million baskets of paddy were produced in 1988 and total production of monsoon and summer paddy in 2005-2006 rose to 1,360 million baskets.

Paddy output is most encouraging in 2005-2006 rose to 1,360 million baskets.

Coord meeting of Ministry of Electric Power No (1) held

YANGON, 15 July — A coordination meeting of the Ministry of Electric Power No (1) was held at the meeting hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday with an address by Minister for Electric Power No (1) Col Zaw Min.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister U Myo Myint, directors-general, deputy directors-general, directors, plant managers and officials.

In his address, the minister said that power supply sector plays a very important role in progress of the industrial sector. Strenuous efforts are to be exerted to complete construction of power plants.

Next, he urged officials to train junior engineers in order to increase their work efficiency.

Later, the minister heard reports on progress of projects, future tasks, arrival of heavy machinery and materials and supply of power presented by project directors and plant managers. The general manager of Hydroelectric Power Production Enterprise and the director-general of Hydroelectric Power Administration Department also gave supplementary reports.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks delivered by the minister. — MNA

CEC member on tour of inspection in Dalla Township

YANGON, 15 July — CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Yangon Division In-Charge U Maung Pa made a field trip to inspect the development of Dalla Township.

At Danok Model Village, the CEC member and party paid homage to State Central Working Committee of the Sangha Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pindola and members of the Sangha. He also met with local people and gave instructions on progress of rural development tasks, thriving monsoon paddy plantations and development of the village.

CEC member U Maung Pa also attended the school stationery and cash donation ceremony for primary schools provided by USDA, at Thiri Zeya Nawratha hall in Dalla Township.

The CEC member presented 10 desks, K 100,000 and school uniforms to Township Education Officer U Than Hlaing, school heads and students. The CEC members also inspected Dalla Township Hospital and fulfilled the requirements.

USDA CEC member U Maung Pa presents K 100,000 to Dalla Township Education Officer U Than Hlaing. — YCDC

Reminder for motorists

Yangon Division Peace and Development Council has reminded that U Wisara Road, Dhammazedi Road, U Htaw Bo Road, the road to the southern starway 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.

Yangon Division Peace and Development Council

Basic Football Coaching Course concludes

YANGON, 15 July — The Basic Football Coaching Course 1/2006 jointly organized by Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Football Federation concluded at the National Football Training Ground, here, yesterday afternoon.

General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of SPED U Thaung Htaiak gave a speech, and presented completion certificates to 45 trainees.

President of MFF U Zaw Zaw donated 10 footballs for basic education schools to Deputy Head of Department U Aye Min of No 3 Basic Education Department.

The Basic Football Coaching Course was opened from 5 to 14 July.
Elephants kill two in Zambia

LUSAKA, 15 July — Two people were killed by marauding elephants in Mambwe District in Eastern Province of Zambia on Thursday, a Zambia Wildlife Authority official said here on Friday.

The duo went to the fields where they met their fate, and after that game scouts were sent to the area to track down the elephants, said the authority’s public relations manager Maureen Mwape.

Elephants are reported to be on the loose in Mambwe District, which raises fears among the local residents that the wild animals might attack people and destroy their plants and houses.

Residents have been demanding the government authorities to reduce the number of elephants and kill those attacking people and damaging their plants and huts.

Chinese president Jiang Zemin and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

The 25-article treaty stresses a new type state-to-state relationship, which seeks no alliance nor confrontation and does not target against any third country.

Addressing a reception marking the occasion, Chen Haosu, president of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), called the treaty as another milestone in bilateral ties.

China-Russia relations have achieved comprehensive, in-depth and rapid growth since the treaty was signed five years ago, he said.

Chen said CPAFFC, as an active participant of Year of Russia in China, is ready to work closely with the Russian side to successfully hold activities of the year-long programme, and make good preparation for Year of China in Russia next year.

Russian Ambassador to China Sergey Razov said he believes the treaty will continue to play a crucial role in promoting bilateral ties, and bring concrete benefits to the two peoples.

It also helps the two countries to make greater contribution to maintaining world peace and stability, he added.

British Govt ministers questioned in donor probe

LONDON, 15 July — At least two British Government ministers have been questioned by police in connection with a loans-for-peerages scandal, their spokesmen said on Friday.

Neither Science Minister Lord Sainsbury nor Trade Minister Ian McCartney were cautioned nor investigated, their spokesmen said on Friday.

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China, Russia celebrate 5th anniversary of good-neighbourly treaty

BEIJING, 15 July — China and Russia celebrated the fifth anniversary of the signing of the China-Russia good-neighbourly treaty here Friday.

The treaty was signed in Moscow on 16 July, 2001, between the then Chinese president Jiang Zemin and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

The 25-article treaty stresses a new type state-to-state relationship, which seeks no alliance nor confrontation and does not target against any third country.

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Litter chief accused of being litterbug

YOUNGSTOWN, 15 July — The city official in charge of keeping Youngstown clean has been accused of littering his property.

George Finnerty III, 58, litter control coordinator since 1985, appeared in court Thursday on a misdemeanor citation from the Mahoning County Sheriff’s Department, which took pictures of cardboard boxes, broken furniture, tires and other trash around Finnerty’s home.

Finnerty said he had already taken care of many of the problems. He said he wished the sheriff’s department had first given him a warning.

Municipal Court Judge Robert Milich ordered Finnerty to return to court on 21 August to show the junk has been cleaned up.
China, Cambodia to further enhance bilateral relations

BEIJING, 15 July — China will work with Cambodia to continuously enhance the bilateral all-round partnership of cooperation, State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan said here on Friday when meeting with visiting Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Hor Nam Hong.

Tang said China and Cambodia are good friends and partners sharing mutual trust and sincere cooperation. The two countries always give each other consistent understanding and support on issues concerning the other side’s core interests.

Hor, also Cambodian Minister of Foreign Affairs, echoed Tang as saying Cambodia is also willing to further strengthen the all-round partnership of cooperation between the two countries by joint efforts with the Chinese side. China’s trust-worthy friend of Cambodia, which has provided long-term generous assistance and precious support to the economic and social development of Cambodia, he noted. Cambodia will continue to abide by the one-China policy, and opposes “Taiwan Independence” separatist activities in any forms, Hor stressed.

Bangladesh to offer rice aid to poor families

DHAKA, 15 July — Bangladesh plans to launch a programme to feed millions of poor families in the countryside for three months until the next rice harvest, a government minister said on Thursday.

Asadul Habib Dulu, Deputy Minister for Food, Relief and Disaster Management, said the programme would commence on 25 August. Each family would receive a free ration of 10 kilos of rice each month.

More than six million families would be covered under this year’s programme, he added.

Bangladesh death toll reaches 14 in Philippines

MANILA, 15 July — At least 14 people have been killed while seven remained missing as typhoon “Bilis” (locally known as “Florida”) swept Luzon Region of the Philippines over the past three days, said Philippine disaster officials on Friday. The National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) said 51,680 people have been hit by flood caused by typhoon.

The casualties were caused by drowning, landslides and falling trees and most of them took place in northern Luzon, which was particularly hard hit by typhoon. The storm, which packs winds of 100 kilometres per hour and gustiness of up to 130 kilometres per hour near the centre, was spotted 520 kilometres northwest of Bacolod, Batanes in the northernmost part of the Philippines at around 04:00 am local time (20:00 GMT), said local weather station PAGASA.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has asked schools in Metro Manila and central and southern Luzon to resume Friday, while those in northern Luzon will remain closed due to heavy rains.

Typhoon death toll reaches 14 in Philippines

WASHINGTON, 16 July — Roads and bridges built by US taxpayers are starting to be sold off, and so far foreign-owned companies are doing the buying.

On a single day in June, an Australian-Spanish partnership paid $3.8 billion to lease the Indiana Toll Road. An Australian company bought a 99-year lease on Virginia’s Pocahontas Parkway, and Texas officials decided to let a Spanish-American partnership build and run a toll road from Austin to Seguin for 50 years.

Few people know that the tolls from the US side of the tunnel between Detroit and Windsor, Canada, go to a subsidiary of an Australian company — which also owns a bridge in Alabama.

Some experts welcome the trend. Robert Poole, transportation director for the conservative think tank Reason Foundation, said private investors can raise more money than politicians to build new roads because these kinds of owners are willing to raise tolls.

“They depoliticize the tolling decision,” Poole said. Besides, he said, foreign companies have purchased infrastructure in Europe for years; only now are US companies beginning to get into the business of buying roads and bridges.

Lightning strikes kill 82 in China

BEIJING, 15 July — Lightning strikes killed 82 people across China in June, a Chinese newspaper reported on Friday after several nights of violent storms in the capital, Beijing.

The death toll was recorded across 20 provinces, with 22 people killed in the eastern province of Jiangsu alone, the International Business Daily said.

It said the death toll marked an increase on June 2005, but did not give figures.

“The main reasons for the deaths are the lack of lightning avoidance measures, equipment and knowledge,” the International Business Daily said. It did not elaborate.

Typhoon death toll reaches 14 in Philippines


Suspected thief robs judge at own trial

Berlin, 15 July — A 61-year-old German on trial for theft got himself into more trouble when he stole from the judge during his court hearing, police said on Thursday.

Police in the central town of Coburg said that while facing her at the bench, the man pocketed a bunch of keys from the judge, who did not notice until he had left the room. When confronted by court officials in the toilet, the man, who had a string of convictions for theft, told them he had been shocked to discover the keys in his pocket.

He told them he realized how suspicious his story would sound and that he had therefore hidden the keys under a toilet brush, said police spokesman Bernhard Schmitt. “He’d been stealing all his life so it was probably just an intuitive act,” said police.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (R) shakes hands with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Hor Nam Hong during their meeting in Beijing, capital of China, on 14 July, 2006.

Foreign companies buy US roads, bridges

Cost member Tracey E Bregman laughs while answering questions about the CBS daytime drama ‘The Young and the Restless’ at the 2006 Summer CBS Television Critics Association Press tour held in Pasadena, California, on 15 July, 2006.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (R) shakes hands with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Hor Nam Hong during their meeting in Beijing, capital of China, on 14 July, 2006.
S Korea FM formally becomes 4th-candidate to lead UN

UNITED NATIONS, 16 July — South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon has been formally nominated to succeed Kofi Annan as UN Secretary-General, his government said in a letter circulated at the United Nations on Friday.

Ban, whose nomination was widely expected, became the fourth official candidate for the post opening up in January 2007, when Annan’s second five-year term runs out.

The three others are Thai Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai, Sri Lankan disarmament specialist and government adviser Jayantha Dhanapala, and Indian novelist Shashi Tharoor, the UN undersecretary-general for public information.

But more names are expected to surface in coming weeks, diplomats say. “Over a career spanning more than 37 years, Minister Ban has provided distinguished service both to the government of the Republic of Korea and on the international stage,” South Korean UN Ambassador Cho Young-jin said in a letter to the Security Council dated Thursday. — MNA/Reuters

Iraq war costs $291b so far

WASHINGTON, 15 July — The Iraq war has cost 291 billion US dollars so far and could total a half trillion dollars even if the US Government pulls all troops out of Iraq by the end of 2009, The Los Angeles Times reported Friday.

The figure comes from an analysis of the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), amid debate in Washington over whether to set goals or timetables for US troops to withdraw from Iraq, according to the report.

The CBO study estimated future war costs based on two scenarios. The more optimistic scenario is based on the US maintaining troop levels in Iraq at 140,000 through next year, but quickly dropping them thereafter and pulling out most of them by the end of 2009.

Under this schedule, the Iraq war will cost an additional 184 billion dollars for the 2007-2010 budget years.

Under a more pessimistic scenario, with a slower drawdown of troops and a continued US presence of 40,000 over the long term, the Iraq war could cost 406 billion dollars over the next decade, the CBO said.

Since the war started in 2003, the actual costs have far exceeded early estimates.

Former White House economic advisor Lawrence Lindsey initially put the total costs between 100 billion and 200 billion dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

Colombian rebels seize 170 timber workers as human shields

BOGOTA, 15 July — Colombia’s armed rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), had snatched 170 timber workers to use as human shields, a top provincial official told media on Friday.

Julio Ibarguen, governor of the western Colombian department of Choco, said that the local authorities of Riosucio, a town in the jungles of Choco, had found the bodies of 10 sawyers near the scene of the abduction, which he described as “a FARC massacre”.

Freddy Lloreda, Interior Minister of Choco Department, said on Thursday that the kidnapping of lumber workers, who were expected to be used as human shields, came after intense fighting had broken out between FARC forces and other paramilitaries over recent days in the Riosucio Region, some 50 kilometres from the Panama border.

Five of the hostages, who managed to escape, said that the FARC rebels had accused them of collaborating with the paramilitary forces they were fighting.

China finds huge natural gas reserve in South China Sea

BEIJING, 15 July — China’s Ministry of Land and Resources announced Thursday the discovery of natural gas reserves exceeding 100 billion cubic meters in the northern South China Sea.

The reserves were found in a prospect well numbered LW 3-1-1, in the Zhuhaijiangou basin 250 kilometres from Hong Kong, the ministry said.

It was China’s first prospect well with a drilling depth of more than 1,000 metres, according to the ministry. This important discovery showed the potential reserves of oil and gas in the blue water of the South China Sea, the ministry said.

China launched its strategic exploration and appraisal of potential oil and gas reserves in the northern South China Sea in 2004. — MNA/Xinhua

Volunteer participation rate rises in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 15 July — A survey conducted by Singapore’s National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre showed that volunteer participation rate is rising in the city state.

According to Channel NewsAsia report Thursday, 28 per cent of the respondents aged between 15 and 24 years involved themselves in volunteer work in 2006, up from 25 per cent in 2004. The volunteer participation rate for people aged 55 to 64 rose from 30 per cent to 38 per cent in 2004, accounting for 15.5 per cent of the country’s population and 30,000 more than the figure recorded two years ago, according to the report. The survey also found that Singaporeans donated some 40 per cent more hours of volunteer work but about 22 per cent less money last year than two years ago.

In 2005, Singa-poreans volunteered a total of 49 million hours, which were equivalent to 1.12 billion Singapore dollars (about 709 million US dollars) in wages or 0.58 per cent of the gross domestic product, while the total donations contracted by 97 million Singapore dollars (about 61 million US dollars) to 341 million Singapore dollars (about 216 million US dollars). — MNA/Xinhua

BCIA to cut domestic flights due to frequent thunder storms

BEIJING, 16 July — Beijing Capital International Airport (BCIA) will cut its domestic flights between July 15 to September 25 due to frequent thunder storms. General Administration of Civil Aviation said on Friday.

The administration said that a total of 584 flights will be cut, mainly those due to depart between 5 pm and 8 pm, when thunder storms are most likely to occur. Most of the flights due to be cut are routes to popular cities like Hangzhou in Zhejiang Province, Nanjing in Jiangsu Province, both in east China, and Harbin in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province.

Temporary and charter flights of domestic and foreign aviation companies, in and out of the airport, will also be limited during this period.

Air China, China Southern Airlines, China Eastern Airlines and Hainan Airlines are all involved in the flight cuts. — MNA/Xinhua
New Polish PM sworn in

WARSAW, 15 July — Jaroslaw Kaczynski was sworn in as Poland’s Prime Minister by his twin brother, President Lech Kaczynski, in a ceremony on Friday, solidifying the Kaczynski family’s grip on power in the EU’s biggest new member.

The Kaczynski government often criticized for mishandling foreign relations and drifting on domestic policy.

Jaroslaw Kaczynski, head of the ruling conservative Law and Justice party, replaces fellow party member Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz, who resigned in a surprise move last week.

Prime Minister Kaczynski said his first objective was to pass new legislation, although he did not elaborate on what laws would be given priority.

“I’m convinced Poland will be better off if our programme is implemented,” he said. “It is an opportunity, an opportunity to define our place in the EU.”

Twelve miners trapped by colliery flooding in N-W China

HORHOT, 15 July — Twelve miners are still trapped in a coal pit in northwest China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region after the pit was flooded Thursday afternoon, local government sources said on Friday.

The flooding was led by a sudden rainstorm occurred at the Jinli Coal Mine of Junggar Banner at 3:30 pm Thursday, when 12 miners were working underground.

Rescuers raced to the spot with pumps, power generators, sandbags, ambulances, etc.

As of 4:30 am Friday, 20,000 cubic metres of water have been pumped out, and the water in the shaft has been lowered by 150 metres.

But too much sullage retarded the rescue operation, which is still underway at Press Time.

The mine, a private business, produces 300,000 tons of coal annually. It is carrying out technological upgrading to raise its annual output to 450,000 tons per year.

Massachusetts Governor takes over Boston tunnel inquiries

BOSTON, 15 July — The Massachusetts governor took over inspections of the “Big Dig” on Friday after a tunnel collapse in the highway system killed a woman inside and raised safety worries over America’s costliest public works project.

Governor Mitt Romney signed an emergency bill giving him broad powers over the inspections and reducing the oversight responsibilities of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, a semi-public agency whose chairman is under pressure to resign.

Romney, a potential Republican White House contender, now has authority over records and staff as well as inquiries on the 242 potentially dangerous ceiling bolt fixtures discovered this week in the tunnel that collapsed.

The decision to reopen the tunnel is now his.

The governor met with federal and local inspectors at the area where a 38-year-old woman was killed late on Monday when a three-ton concrete ceiling panel crushed her car. Romney said the tunnel would open “when it is entirely safe”.

Also on Friday, US transportation officials expanded their investigation into the collapse.

The National Transportation Safety Board said it was sending more engineers and the agency’s director of highway investigations to the site.

“This tragic accident raises some serious safety issues that require independent investigation,” said Mark Rosenker, the acting chairman of the panel.

Bomb kills seven in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 15 July — A bomb planted in the street killed at least seven people and wounded five as they left a Sunni mosque in northern Baghdad after Friday prayers, police said.

Further details of the incident at the Ismail al-Qubaisi Mosque were not immediately available. At around the same time, six mortar rounds hit a Shiite mosque in Balad Ruz, a town northeast of Baghdad, killing two people and wounding five, police said. Scores of people have been killed in tit-for-tat sectarian violence between Shiite and minority Sunni Muslims over the past week in the Iraqi capital.

LECH KACZYNSKI, Lech Kaczyński, Kaczyński, Kaczynski, Poland, Prime Minister, Moscow University, Moscow, Russia, Anna Litvinova poses with Miss Russia 2006 Anna Litvinova poses with Miss Ru
The flourishing of the Buddha Sasana rests on members of the Sangha who adhere strictly to the Vinayas (code of conduct for Buddhist monks) and preserve the Sasana. Members of the Sangha have to stay away from all the secular affairs. So, lay devotees are obliged to offer alms-food to members of the Sangha. One of the salient points that make Myanmar have a good reputation as a nation where Theravada Buddhism flourishes most in the world is that lay disciples sufficiently provide four material requisites — alms-food, robes, monastic dwelling, and medicines and medical requisites — for members of the Sangha yearly. Therefore, in compliance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air Force) in cooperation with wellwishers donate rice, edible oil, salt, medicines and alms to members of the Sangha yearly.

Under the patronage of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, ceremonies to donate rice, edible oil, salt, medicines and alms to members of the Sangha were held during the Buddhist Lent in 2005. It is encouraging to learn that at the ceremonies, cash and kind was donated to 284 monasteries, 44 nunneries, eight homes for the aged and schools for the blind and 35,404 persons along with two Islam homes for the aged and Muslim elderly women, one home for the aged led by Christianity sisters, one school for the deaf and dumb, and one school for the blind in the Yangon Division municipal area.

The donations were 9,535 bags of rice, 4,465 viss of edible oil, 7,004 viss of chick pea, 37,819 viss of salt, 7,701 bottles of soft salt, 174,943 boxes of different kinds of traditional medicines, 70,808 cakes of soap, 19,040 viss of dried fish, 13,620 viss of dried chilly, 198 bottles of fish sauce, 70 packets of durian jam, 2,190 packets of dried noodle, 360 bottles of soft drinks, 30 packets of coffee mix, 96 packets of candy, 1,536 ball-point pens, 710 pictures of the Buddha, 49 religious books, and 70 CDs.

The purposes of the donation are to do meritorious deeds on behalf of the entire Tatmadaw as Tatmadaw members are always busy with security and defence duties across the nation and they hardly have opportunities to perform meritorious deeds; to enable members of the Sangha to stay and carry out religious tasks in peace and comfort with four material requisites in abundance and ensure flourishing of the Sasana for more than 5,000 years; to preserve the Buddhist culture in accordance with one of the four social objectives “Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character”; and to share the merits earned by doing so with the servicemen who have made supreme sacrifices in the interests of the motherland.

In response to the donation, State Ovadacariya Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Phayaphyu Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Narinda Bhivamsa delivered a sermon saying, “Dating back to the history of the Sasana, about 600 years after the demise of the Buddha, Majjhima Region where the Buddha attained Enlightenment was ruled by kings of other faiths. In consequence, there were no Buddhist laity who offered four kinds of requisites to members of the Sangha and the Buddha Sasana thus ceased there. Now, the Tatmadaw Government and wellwishers are donating provisions to members of the Sangha residing throughout the country. Such good deeds contribute to the flourishing of the Sasana”.

Since 1996, families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air Force) and wellwishers have yearly performed such meritorious deeds for ten years.

I write this article to honour the donating of provisions and setting up of trust funds by families of the Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air Force) and wellwishers to monasteries, nunneries, homes for the aged, schools for the blind and religiously prestigious persons in Yangon Division municipal area under the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and under the supervision of Secretary-1 Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, and to enable people, celestial beings and higher celestial beings to rejoice in the merits thus shared by saying “Well-done”. And I wish the wellwishers a momentum in doing meritorious deeds in the month of Wao.

Translation: MS

(Translated from Myanmar Alin: 16-7-2006)

**New medicine introduced**

**Promed Export Pvt Ltd Business**

Head Mr Ramesh Souri introduces new medicine at the seminar. — NLM

**Translation: MS**

YANGON, 16 July — A seminar to introduce new medicine organized by Ni Lay Naing Co Ltd was held at Traders Hotel this morning. It was attended by Managing Director Dr Maung Maung Lay, Advisor Professor Dr Than Aung of Yangon Eye Hospital and Professors, Eye Specialists, Business Head of Promed Export Pvt Ltd Mr Ramesh Souri and guests.

Managing Director Dr Maung Maung Lay extended greetings and Mr Ramesh Souri introduced new medicines. Next, Professor Dr Than Aung gave talks on Topical Anaesthetic, Cycloplegic and B/Bllocker and answered the queries raised by those present. — MNA

**All this needs to be known**

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
Cash and kind donated...

(from page 1)

Present on the occasion were State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Vice-Chairman Maha Aungmye Bonsan Monastery Sayadaw and Chairperson Maha Nayaka Committee Vice-Chairman Maha Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jo’tika Bhaddanta Pañinda Bhivamsa, president Sayadaws, members of Sangha and nuns of the monasteries and nunneries, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, departmental heads, Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Kyaw Tint, local authorities and members of religious and social organizations, First, Bhaddanta

Lt-Gen Myint Swe accepts K 1.5 million donated by Managing Director U Kyaw Sein (Jewellery Luck Co Ltd-Olympic Hotel). — NLM

Stipends provided to outstanding needy students

YANGON, 16 July—With the sponsorship of the Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, a ceremony to provide cash assistance to outstanding needy students of Yangon Division who are pursuing education at Institute of Medicine, Technological University and Technological College was held at the meeting hall of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council on Bank Street, Kyauktada Township this morning.

Chairman of Yangon Division PDC Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Hay Win and wife Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai attended the ceremony and presented cash assistance to the students.

First, Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai explained the purpose of the providing cash assistance.

Next, the commander and wife presented stipends for 2006-2007 academic year to 12 students.

On behalf of the students, a medical student spoke words of thanks.

At the ceremony held today, each medical student was provided with K 325,000, each technological university student K 250,000 and each technological college student K 250,000 for 2006-2007 academic year.

Senior military officers offer rice and alms donated by Tatmadaw families to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs leaves for PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 16 July—At the invitation of Deputy Minister Mr Zhang Xinfeng of the Ministry of Public Security of the People’s Republic of China, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe on 14 July left here for PRC to attend the meeting on cooperation in poppy substitute crops cultivation to be held from 16 to 23 July. The delegation was seen off at Nay Pyi Taw airport by officials of the ministry. The Deputy Minister was accompanied by Director-General U Than Swe of Border Areas and National Races Department, Director-General U Saw Win of Bureau of Special Investigation, officials of the Ministry of Defence, General Administration Department, Myanmar Agriculture Service and CCDAC. — MNA

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe and party being seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. — MNA

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein donates Waso robes and offerings to a Sayadaw. — l & f

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries offers Waso robes

NAY PYI TAW, 16 July—Under the auspices of Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and wife Daw Myint Myint Aye, the staff families of the ministry held Waso robes offering ceremony at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 14 July.

Ko e y w a Thapaykon Monastery Sayadaw Ça’la Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Javanatikkha invested the congregation with Five Precepts. Next, Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, directors-general and managing directors donated Waso robes and alms to the Sayadaw and members of the Sangha.

After the ceremony, they offered ‘soon’ to members of the Sangha.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence donates provisions to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein donates Waso robes and offerings to a Sayadaw. — MNA

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Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence donates provisions to a Sayadaw. — MNA
YANGON, 16 July — A ceremony to share merits for construction of the new hostel and one set of computer to the Secretariat Member.

Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Minister for Information Development Association Solidarity and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye presents a colour TV for Yagyi village self-reliant library to an official. — MNA

Together with departmental officials, the commander and the minister attended the ceremony to grow physic nut plants at the special plot of Kani Township.

They viewed thriving 1,000 acres of physic nut plantation of North-West Command. Secretary of Sagaing Division PDC Lt Col Myo Myint reported on implementation of five special physic nut plantation zones — 2,600 acres in Kani Township, 2,400 acres in Kalay Township, 1,360 acres in Sagaing Township, 1,000 acres in Katha Township and 1,000 acres in Shwebo Township for extraction of bio-diesel from the seeds. Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan instructed them on cultivation of crops in the rural areas and boosting production. Furthermore, rural people are to give priority to growing Scintion strain mango to be exported. Not only agricultural tasks but also livestock breeding are to be undertaken.

The minister urged them to cultivate physic nut plants that will contribute to the task of rural power supply. Efforts should be made for extraction of bio-diesel from the seeds of physic nut. In addition, local people are to grow plums for producing snacks and for exporting seeds of plum. He stressed the need to be aware of the dangers of some selfish organizations that are harming progress of the State. If the people have no united strength to wipe out the dangers, the nation and the people will face the fate similar to that during the period between 1948 and 1988. That is why the people are to join hands with the Government, the people and the Tatmadaw, villages in Sagaing Division have been upgraded to model ones.

He added that youth in Sagaing Division have the opportunities to pursue education at universities and colleges opened in Monywa. Educated persons are to be turned out for development of human resources. As the youth will discharge duties of the State in the future, the education plays the most important role of the nation. Therefore, the Government development tasks to be undertaken throughout the nation. It is visible that the irrigation facilities built by the Government are contributing toward economic growth of the rural people with extended cultivation of crops in the rural areas and boosting production. Furthermore, rural people are to give priority to growing Scintion strain mango to be exported. Not only agricultural tasks but also livestock breeding are to be undertaken.

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NAY PYI TAW, 16 July— Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, accompanied by officials concerned, viewed the growing of trees by staff members in the compound of the Ministry of Industry-1 here yesterday morning.

Next, the minister attended the ceremony to offer Waso robes to members of the Sangha held at the training hall of the ministry.

The congregation led by the minister received the Five Precepts from Presiding Sayadaw of Thabye Aye Mogok Vipassana Kyauktlaik Bhaddanta Gandhamma. And members of the Sangha recited parittas.

After that, the minister offered Waso robes to the Sayadaw.

Later, directors-general and managing directors under the ministry offered Waso robes to members of the Sangha held at the training hall of the ministry.

Ministry of Transport holds tree growing ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 16 July— A ceremony to grow trees and put various kinds of fishes into the dams was held at the Ministry of Transport in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 July. 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 officials.

First, the minister and wife planted a Thitseink tree (Belleric myrobalan) and the deputy minister and wife grew a star flower tree in the compound of the ministry. The minister later viewed growing of trees.

Next, the staff families of the ministry put various kinds of fishes into the dams near the ministry. — MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.
Two white rhinoceroses “kiss” at Paomaling Wildlife Park in Jinan, capital of east China’s Shandong Province, on 12 July, 2006. The park held “wedding ceremony” for a pair of 9-year-old white rhinoceroses “Nan Nan” and “Fei Fei”. White rhinoceros is a kind of endangered animal. — INTERNET

China’s foreign exchange reserves hit $ 941.1b by end of June

BEIJING, 16 July — China’s foreign exchange reserves hit 941.1 billion US dollars by the end of June this year, up 32.37 per cent from the same period of last year, People’s Bank of China, or the central bank, said here on Friday.

In the first six months, China’s foreign exchange reserves increased 122.2 billion US dollars, 21.2 billion more than the same period of last year, the bank said.

In June, the reserves increased 16.1 billion US dollars, 3.9 billion less than the same period of last year.

China’s foreign exchange reserves have surpassed Japan at the end of February this year, becoming the world’s biggest.

In recent years, China’s foreign exchange reserves have kept climbing due to the surplus of current and capital accounts in international payment.

In the first six months, China’s trade surplus has reached 61.4 billion US dollars.

Insiders said that the dramatic increase of foreign exchange reserves will pose pressures on the appreciation of Chinese currency and affect the independence and validity of the country’s monetary policies.

They said the increase of 122.2 billion US dollars in the foreign exchange reserves means that the monetary supply of RMB will boost by almost 1,000 billion yuan.

The outstanding bank loans has been keeping a major concern for Chinese Government this year.

On 28 April, the People’s Bank of China raised the minimum rate commercial banks charge on one-year loans in local currency, the yuan, 27 basis points, to 5.85 per cent in a move to discourage lending.

The central bank also required domestic commercial banks to raise their required reserves at the central bank by 0.5 percentage points starting on 5 July.

Australia to provide more fund for Indonesia’s quake victims

JAKARTA, 16 July — Australia plans to provide 21 million US dollars to support the rehabilitation and reconstruction in earthquake-devastated areas of Yogyakarta Province over the next three to four years, local media reported on Saturday.

Australian Ambassador to Indonesia Bill Farmer was quoted by the Jakarta Post as saying on Friday that the funds would be allocated for education, health and small and medium-sized enterprises in the areas affected by the earthquake on 27 May.

“This is really an overwhelming human disaster. I’m pleased that Australia, as a friend, is able to play its own part in recovering from that,” Farmer said.

MNA/Xinhua

ST PETERSBURG (Russia), 17 July — Russian and US negotiators failed in marathon talks that ended on Saturday to strike a bilateral deal to pave the way for Russia to join the World Trade Organization, both sides said.

“A final agreement has not been reached, but significant progress was made,” said Sean Spicer, spokesman for US Trade Representative Susan Schwab.

“The talks in St Petersburg have ended, and they did not end in success,” Russian trade negotiator Maxim Medvedkov told Reuters.

Schwab’s team negotiated into the early hours on Saturday with Russian counterparts headed by Economy Minister German Gref, but could not reach an understanding on admitting US farm produce to the Russian market, a US source said.

Negotiators working virtually non-stop since mid-week had been under pressure to reach a deal before Presidents George W Bush and Vladimir Putin held a working meeting at the Group of Eight summit in St Petersburg.

Medvedkov said the two sides had agreed to hold further talks in the weeks ahead. Schwab has a heavy schedule of bilateral meetings at the St Petersburg summit.

With the stalled Doha round of global trade talks forcing its way onto the agenda, it would be difficult to devote further time to Russia’s WTO aspirations.

Russia is the largest country outside the 149-member trade club, and a bilateral deal with Washington would remove the last major obstacle to its accession.

MNA/Reuters
Ukraine agrees on gas prices with Gazprom

Kiev, 15 July— Ukraine said Russia had agreed not to raise gas prices before 2007 but Russian gas export monopoly Gazprom said on Thursday that much would depend on sales of gas from Central Asia to Russia.

Unchanged prices for Ukraine may serve as a guarantee of smooth gas supplies to Europe in 2006. But uncertainty hangs over 2007 as both Russia and Turkmenistan, Ukraine’s second largest gas supplier, want price rises.

“We see no reason for price increases. We will work within these price agreements,” Bolkisev told a news conference. Ukraine agreed in January to a near doubling of the low prices it had been paying to Russia for gas, calming a row that had briefly cut supplies to Europe of Russian gas through pipelines on Ukrainian territory.

Gazprom had repeatedly said it wanted to raise prices for Ukraine from the second half of the year, but said last month they would remain unchanged throughout the third quarter.

“If Turkmenistan does not raise its prices, there won’t be any significant jump in prices in our contracts with Ukraine,” a Gazprom spokesman said on Thursday.

Police draw up sketches of four suspects of Mumbai blasts

Mumbai, 15 July— The police in Mumbai on Thursday have sketched four suspects based on eyewitness accounts of the seven blasts Tuesday evening which killed 198 and wounded nearly 800.

The sketches will be distributed soon across India. Meanwhile, combing operations have already been under way in Mumbai as part of investigations. Hotels and guest houses are being searched by the police.

Flights from Mumbai have been delayed due to increased security checks.

Thailand’s N-E on bird flu alert after poultry deaths

Bangkok, 15 July— Thailand’s northeast is on alert against possible outbreaks of avian influenza after poultry found dead were found dead for unknown reasons in the region, the Thai News Agency reported Thursday.

However, the authorities confirmed that no bird flu case has been confirmed so far.

The Regional Office of Animal Health and Sanitation 3 Director Suwudhi Chalejorn, who oversees the nine provinces in Thailand’s northeast, said poultry found dead in five of seven provinces have already tested negative, but lab results are not yet available for nine dead birds from Surin Province and one from Yasothon Province.

The poultry deaths alerted local animal husbandry officials to boost prevention measures against possible outbreaks of bird flu in all provinces under supervision of the regional office, he said.

Letter to “NY Times” contains white powder, own editorial

NEW YORK, 15 July— The New York Times on Friday received a letter containing a suspicious white powder and a copy of a recent editorial in which the paper defended its coverage of the Bush Administration’s anti-terrorism programmes.

Tests found the powder to be harmless, but not before the incident helped push US stocks lower and raised fears of a possible recurrence of anthrax tainted letters sent to newsmen and other offices in late 2001.

About 150 people for questioning. It is said that the police have detained more than 150 people for questioning. However, up to date, no one has been formally claimed to be arrested. The probe by the police has revealed that all bombs were placed in the luggage and timers were used to trigger the blasts, according to local newspapers.

The handwritten envelope, opened by a mail room worker, was addressed to the paper, not to any individual, with a postmark from Philadelphia and no return address. Times spokesman Catherine Mathis said.

Emergency vehicles and an ambulance responded to the newspaper’s offices on 43rd Street and Mathis said the man who opened the envelope was taken to hospital for precautionary tests and treatment.
Chinese, Russian scientists to jointly study minerals in Siberia

BEIJING, 15 July — A group of Chinese scientists and journalists will fly to Irkutsk of Russia on 19 July, to join in Russian scientists to study mineral resources in Siberia.

The Sino-Russian joint expedition is part of China’s Year of Russia programmes, to bolster bilateral relations in all fields. China hopes the Siberia tour would help Chinese scientists find a new way to look for mineral resources in the country’s northeastern area, which neighbours Russia’s Far East region.

In addition to mineral resources, the joint expedition team will also study local environment, regional economy and aquatic biology. The 32-member Chinese team will comprise scientists from five institutes of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and journalists from Chinese media.

Indonesia, Ecuador agree to cooperate in oil sector

JAKARTA, 15 July — Indonesia and Ecuador agreed to collaborate in the oil and gas sector, foreign ministers of the two countries said here on Friday.

Both sides signed an agreement on mining and energy on Friday to facilitate the already existed initiative among the companies of the two countries, said Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda.

He said that Indonesia sent a delegation to Ecuador two weeks ago, which was led by the state-owned oil firm of PT Pertamina. “We have just signed memorandum of understanding in the oil and gas sector, actually (it is) a reflection of the wish of the two governments to work closely to promote our pilot cooperation in the energy sector,” said Wirajuda in a joint Press conference.

On the same occasion, visiting Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Francisco Carrion said that his country was seeking a new stakeholder in the sector and expected the Indonesia’s expertise in the field could be useful for his country. “Ecuador now is seeking for the participation of new stakeholder company,” he said.

WFP says hunger decreases children’s learning ability

GENEVA, 15 July — A huge number of children worldwide still suffer from hunger, which not only affects their health, but their learning ability, the UN’s World Food Programme (WFP) said in a new report on Thursday.

“Over 300 million children worldwide regularly go to bed hungry and approximately 100 million of these are school-aged children who don’t go to school because their parents are too poor,” the agency said.

“Even if they do manage to go to school, undernourished children are unable to concentrate on their lessons,” it added.

The World Hunger Series report focuses on hunger and practical strategies to address the worldwide problem. The first part of the report was released on Thursday and mainly explored the relationship between hunger and learning. “This can cyclone into a vicious circle, where a population of hungry, unskilled adults creates a generation of children too hungry to grow, learn or develop the capacity to fight hunger, and then go on to have their own hungry children,” said Sheila Sisulu, deputy executive director of the WFP. “The World Hunger Series shows that learning can be an effective means of addressing hunger,” Sisulu said.

“Education is not just about literacy and numeracy,” she added, “it can also give people knowledge about health, hygiene, nutrition in addition to basic skills or trades which enable them to feed themselves and their families”. According to the report, increasing the percentage of educated women in a community can greatly reduce childhood hunger.

“The number of years a woman attended school can reduce the likelihood that her child will be malnourished by up to 40 per cent,” the report said.— MNA/Xinhua

China pledges to become big power in flash industry

BEIJING, 15 July— The Chinese Government has worked out an ambitious plan to make China one of the world’s largest manufacturer and exporter of flash products within a period of five to 10 years.


The flash industry manufactures “creative” products including all kinds of printing, visual and audial flash products as well as flash-related costume, toy and game, says the 28-clause “Comments”.

The government plans to set up a special fund for supporting the industry, while local governments will also allocate special funds for the purpose.

In addition, the government will support flash companies with favourable policies in fund-raising, listing and tax. The government will also set up state-level flash industry parks, train specialists, and invite experts from overseas.

Exports of flash products will enjoy government subsidies and loans as well as tax refunding.

Singers perform on a giant floating stage at Lake Constance during a dress rehearsal of Giuseppe Verdi’s “Il Trovatore” in Bregenz, on 14 July, 2006. — INTERNET

Oil tanker capsizes in E China, three rescued, one missing

JINAN, 15 July — An oil tanker capsized on Friday noon on the sea near East China’s Shandong Province, three shipsmen were rescued but another one was missing.

According to the frontier guards in the city of Weihai, the Lurong Oil 66 ship was overturned amid strong wind on the sea about 500 metres away from a dock in the Rongcheng City at about 12:00 am.

The frontier guards immediately organized rescue operation after receiving the distress call.

By Press Time, the rescue operation for the missing sailor is still going on.— MNA/Xinhua

The International Space Station is seen with part of the Shuttle Discovery’s payload bay in the foreground from a camera aboard the orbiter after the undocking of the two spacecrafts on 15 July, 2006. — INTERNET

A horse stands next to the three wheeled motorised taxi called ‘tuk-tuk’, belonging to two British women, Jo Huxster and Antonia Bolingbroke-Kent in the Tien Shan mountains outside Almaty, on 15 July, 2006. Huxster and Bolingbroke-Kent’s 12,000-mile journey started from Bangkok in May, and is expected to end three months later in the English town of Brighton. — INTERNET
**Sports**

**Italy mourns match-fixing scandal ruling**

ROME, 16 July—Less than a week after winning the World Cup, Italy mourned the biggest blow to national soccer in decades on Saturday after top clubs were ousted from the elite league for match-fixing.

An Italian sports tribunal delivered the verdict late on Friday, punishing Italy's most successful team Juventus with relegation to Italy's second-tier Serie B along with Fiorentina and Lazio.

The fourth club involved, AC Milan, owned by former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, was also heavily penalized, starting next season's Serie A campaign minus 15 points.

**Juventus, Milan and Fiorentina to lose Champions League spots**

MILAN, 16 July—Juventus, Fiorentina and AC Milan will all miss out on Champions League football with AS Roma, Palermo and ChievoVerona taking their spots next season after the verdicts of the soccer tribunal.

Juve and Fiorentina were relegated to the second tier Serie B by the tribunal, which had examined match-fixing allegations, along with Lazio who, having finished sixth, had not qualified for Europe's premier club competition.—MNA/Reuters

**FIFA said on 13 July, 2006 that it has opened disciplinary proceedings against Marco Materazzi for his conduct in World Cup finals had summoned Zinedine Zidane and the Italy defender to attend a hearing of its disciplinary committee on 20 July. A decision is expected later that day.**—INTERNET

**Ronaldo out for 3 weeks after minor knee surgery**

MADRID, 16 July—Real Madrid striker Ronaldo will be sidelined for three weeks after having a minor operation on his left knee in Brazil, the Primera Liga club said on Saturday.

"The operation was a success and we believe he will be able to return to work in three weeks time," Real doctor Alfonso del Corral told the club's website.

Brazil doctor Jose Luiz Runcio had said the player was "able to return to work in three weeks time," Real club said on Saturday.

**Atletico’s Pablo apologizes to fans for Real blunder**

MADRID, 16 July—Atletico Madrid’s Spain defender Pablo Ibanez has asked for the fans to forgive him after he agreed to a possible move to bitter city rivals Real during their presidential election campaign.

One of the candidates in Real’s election, Juan Palacios, said the player was prepared to swap the Vicente Calderon for the Bernabeu if his bid to be president was successful.

Palacios lost to Ramon Calderon leaving the 24-year-old centre back to face the anger of the red and white half of the city.

"My representatives told me about it while I was at the World Cup and when I saw the money they were offering and that they were serious Iagreed to their proposition," Pablo told a news conference on Saturday.—MNA/Reuters

**Juve’s new coach eyes long road back to top**

ROME, 16 July—Juventus’s new coach Didier Deschamps, who stood down as England captain after their exit from the World Cup finals, is looking for an Asian city as a site for a new state-of-the-art academy to go with those he runs in London and Los Angeles.

“We’re looking from the Pacific to the Middle East and anywhere in between,” Ed Cunningham of AEG, partners in the project with 19 Entertainment, told Reuters.

“lt’s not a matter of which city wants it, but of where’s best to put it.

“We’d like it to be a hub for children from all over Asia.” As a child, Beckham attended a soccer school run by former England and Manchester United player Bobby Charlton and wants to pass on similar experiences to the next generation.

“This is what he wants to do when he retires, help kids develop as leaders and soccer skills,” Cunningham added.

The academy is not a charity, however, nor is it necessarily aimed at earthing the David Beckham of the future.

“It’s not for elite kids, there may be kids with promise but alongside there’ll be kids who haven’t played much,” said Cunningham.

**Beckham looking for venue for Asian academy**

BEIJING, 16 July—England’s David Beckham wants to build on his popularity in Asia by opening a new soccer academy on the continent.

The Real Madrid midfielder, who stood down as England captain after their exit from the World Cup finals, is looking for an Asian city as a site for a new state-of-the-art academy to go with those he runs in London and Los Angeles.

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**Beckham looking for venue for Asian academy**

BEIJING, 16 July—England’s David Beckham wants to build on his popularity in Asia by opening a new soccer academy on the continent.

The Real Madrid midfielder, who stood down as England captain after their exit from the World Cup finals, is looking for an Asian city as a site for a new state-of-the-art academy to go with those he runs in London and Los Angeles.

“We’re looking from the Pacific to the Middle East and anywhere in between,” Ed Cunningham of AEG, partners in the project with 19 Entertainment, told Reuters.

“lt’s not a matter of which city wants it, but of where’s best to put it.

“We’d like it to be a hub for children from all over Asia.” As a child, Beckham attended a soccer school run by former England and Manchester United player Bobby Charlton and wants to pass on similar experiences to the next generation.

“This is what he wants to do when he retires, help kids develop as leaders and soccer skills,” Cunningham added.

The academy is not a charity, however, nor is it necessarily aimed at earthing the David Beckham of the future.

“It’s not for elite kids, there may be kids with promise but alongside there’ll be kids who haven’t played much,” said Cunningham.
World leaders’ items to be auctioned for charity in S’pore

SINGAPORE, 16 July—Eleven pieces of personal items donated by state leaders from around the world are to be auctioned for charity in Singapore, the Channel News Asia reported Friday.

Collected in more than two years with the help of the United Nations, these items include a portrait of Russian President Vladimir Putin, a pewter vase from abdicating Cambodian King Norodom Sihamouk, bottles of wine autographed by the prime ministers of New Zealand and Australia, and an autographed tie from a former Canadian prime minister.

The organizer, Singapore’s non-governmental organization Youth Challenge, hopes to use the money for setting up a school in Mongolia and a performing arts school in Zimbabwe through the World Humanitarian Fund.

The auction will be held online at hay.com.sg for the next 10 days and the starting bid for all the items is 99 US dollars, according to the report.

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Singapore, S Korean Coast Guards conduct anti-piracy exercise

SINGAPORE, 16 July—Coast Guards from Singapore and South Korea conducted their first ever joint maritime exercise along the Malacca Straits on Friday.

The exercise involved eight vessels and some 100 Coast Guard personnel from the two sides, according to Channel NewsAsia report.

During the exercise, the officers boarded a merchant ship, which had been attacked and hijacked by pirates, and brought the robbers under control.

Apart from sending a Coast Guard vessel to act as the merchant ship, South Korea also deployed a helicopter to partake in the rescue mission.

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WEATHER

Sunday, 16 July, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State and lower Sagain Division, rain has been scattered in Shan State. Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in the remaining states and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thaton (2.83) inches, Myeik (2.68) inches, Pyay (2.44) inches, Pyaung (2.32) inches, Hpa-an (2.25) inches, Homalin (2.05) inches, Maungtaung (2.01) inches and Magway (1.03) inches.

Maximum temperature on 15-7-2006 was 99°F. Minimum temperature on 16-7-2006 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 16-7-2006 was (88%). Total sunshine hours on 15-7-2006 was nil. Rainfalls on 16-7-2006 were (Tr) at Mingaladon, (0.04) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.04) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (45.00) inches at Mingaladon, (53.11) inches at Kaba Aye and (56.42) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (16:30) hours MST on 15-7-2006.

Bay influence: Monsoon is strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 17-7-2006: Rain will be isolated in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Chin, Shan and Kayah States and Mandalay Division, fairly widespread in Bago and upper Sagain Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Likelihood of isolated squalls in Mon and Rakhine States. Ayeyawady,Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Decrease of rain in Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 17-7-2006: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 17-7-2006: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 17-7-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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Flood Bulletin

(issued at 17:00 hrs MST on 16-7-2006)

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madauk is (1116) cm. It may remain below its danger level (1070) cm during the next (72) hrs commencing noon today.
Families of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air) and wellwishers donate rice and alms to three Pariyatti monasteries in Nay Pyi Taw

Return to legal fold of 848 members led by Brigade (758) commander Mein Sin of (SSA-S) and Press Conference No 5/2006 to be telecast in 8 pm news programme

Three quit Einme Township NLD due to loss of trust in NLD and its leaders