With all infrastructures built by State, people of Chin State are to strive for improvement of their livelihood and regional development

Mindat-Matupi tarred road inaugurated

NAY PYI TAW, 21 July — The 102-mile Mindat-Matupi tarred road, built by Public Works, was inaugurated in Matupi in Chin State yesterday morning with an address by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Vice-Chairman of Chin State PDC Col Hsan Aung, officials of the SPDC office, departmental officials, local authorities and others totalling 2000.

In his speech, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said in Chin State there are four main roads — Haka-Gangaw Road, Haka-Matupi Road, Kalay-Falam-Haka Road and Mindat-Matupi Road. The 102-mile Mindat-Matupi road opened today links Mindat and Matupi in Chin State (South). It is the main exit of Matupi as well as a road that links Yezwa on Matupi-Haka Road. Mindat-Matupi Road was first built in 1955 and it was rebuilt into the earth road in 1973. Being the earth road, it was not serviceable in the rainy season.

That was why the Head of State gave guidance that measures were to be taken to improve the roads in Chin State. Pakokku-Pauk-Kyauktu-Mindat Road was opened on 27-11-2003 to get easy access to Mindat in Chin State (South) and to improve economic, social and transport sectors by linking other states and divisions including Magway Division, he said. Four groups were assigned duties to start upgrading Mindat-Matupi Road on 12-12-2004. But there were difficulties in building the road due to geographical conditions. However, thanks to the strenuous efforts of personnel of Public Works and local people who actively participated in construction tasks in accord with the State policy of ensuring harmonious development of all the regions across the country, the 102-mile road had been opened successfully. Now there are 1,062 miles of roads in Chin State compared to only 695 miles before 1988. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, 183 new bridges of 180 feet and above were built. Among them Bar Bridge in Chin State was first built. The bridge, 340 feet long, was built across Manipur River on 12-12-1992. It was opened on 13-3-1998.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint continued that another bridge in the state is Kattel Suspension Bridge, 440 feet long, that was inaugurated on 25-4-2002. It lies on Tiddim-Reed Road across Manipu River. In addition, Manswang Bridge also situated on Tiddim-Reed Road across Manipura River was built on 20-3-2005. It is a Bailey bridge with 460 feet in length. In the past the journey between Mindat and Matupi was rough and a day-long trip. But now one can travel from Matupi-Mindat to Pakokku within 12 hours, he added. The State, mobilizing its own resources, is building roads and bridges to ensure equitable development of all parts of the country and more unity and amity among national brethren. Not only in Chin State but also in other states and divisions, roads, bridges, railroads, airports and jetties being built one after another.

Chin State (North) is now in a position to get easy access to other states and divisions via Haka-Gangaw exit and Kalay-Kalewa-Yagyi-Monywa exit.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint addresses the opening ceremony of Mindat-Matupi tarred road (102-mile) in Chin State. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Work hard in concert for greater progress of the Union

The government, in its drive for national development, is implementing through harmonious combination for the border areas and national races development project that covers border areas, the 24-special development zones project that covers states and divisions, and the rural development tasks that cover countryside regions of the nation. As a result of the projects, all parts of the Union including Shan State have now had prospects for development.

With the centre of four of the development regions established under the plan by the government—Taunggyi, Lashio, Kengtung and Panglong—Shan State has seen peace, stability and all-round development.

In the past, local youths in the fringes of Shan State were deprived of opportunity to pursue education owing to the armed insurgency. Now, peace and stability has been restored, and so almost all the villages have been served with schools, and local youths of national races have had an easy access to higher education in Taunggyi University, Panglong University, Government Technological College, Government Computer College and Education College.

Today, Shan State has got basic foundations for development as a network of transport facilities, schools, universities and colleges where local national youths can pursue higher education, specialists hospitals, general hospitals, health care centres, rural health care centres and coal-fired and hydropower electricity power stations.

In particular, the region has enjoyed increasing development with industrial zones and border trade centres that aim to effectively enhance regional development, such modern border cities as Muse, Chinswehau, Laukkai, Mongla and Tachilek, thriving tourism industry and good trade.

The development of the entire Union including Shan State is the fruitful result of peace and good trade.

For development such as a network of transport facilities, schools, and local youths of national races have almost all the villages have been served with schools, and local youths of national races have had an easy access to higher education.

Minister Foreign Affairs Daw Myint Myint Soe made an opening speech. Chairperson of the Executive Committee Daw Khin Hin Nyan also spoke and the secretary presented the report of the committee for the year 2005-2006 and the treasurer submitted the financial statement for the year 2005-2006 that were approved by the meeting. The meeting was attended by honorary members who are wives of the ministers, members of the Board of Patrons Daw Lai Lai Kyi and Dr Daw Khin Mya Win, wife of the Deputy Ministers for foreign affairs, executive committee members cum wives of senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, wives of the ambassadors and diplomats from ASEAN embassies in Yangon and the association members.

This was followed by the cash donations for the association. The Zaw Win-Daw Khin Khin Htay, K 100,000 by U La Maw-Daw Phyu Phyu Nyunt, K 100,000 by U Hong-Swan-Daw Aye Aye Mu, K 100,000 by Daw Myint Myint Aye, K 100,000 by U Tun Myint-Daw Aye Aye Nyunt, K 100,000 by executive members, US$ 50 by Daw Kyi Kyi, K 50,000 by Bangladeshi Women’s Association, K 50,000 by U Sonny Aung Khin, K 50,000 by Training, Research and Foreign Languages Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, K 100,000 by Indian Women’s Association and others.

Daw Myint Myint Soe and responsible persons accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the them.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the chairperson and a luncheon was hosted to members of the association.

The MAWFA was formed on 26 July 2001 to promote cooperation and understanding and encourage cultural exchange among the peoples of Southeast Asia through the collaboration of ASEAN ladies. — MNA
Two die in Dutch walk

After temperatures rose to more than 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit), Dutch television said.

Around 300 people fainted and 30 walkers had to be taken to a hospital because of the heat.

Temperatures in the Netherlands are set to rise to 36 degrees Celsius (96.80 degrees Fahrenheit) on Wednesday in what is a second heatwave in three weeks.

The organizers have cancelled the walk, which dates back to 1909 and has around 44,000 participants from across the world.

The two boys died of dehydration and medical conditions aggravated by high temperatures, local authorities said.

A heatwave in 2003 killed some 15,000 people in France, with bodies piled up in mortuaries and unclaimed corpses buried in paupers’ graves.

In France, two elderly people died on Tuesday, probably also due to heat. Temperatures topped 35 Celsius (95 Fahrenheit) in the Gironde Prefecture where they have died.

An 85-year-old man died in a hospital in Bordeaux and an 81-year-old woman who lived in the city was found dead in her home.

Both suffered from medical conditions aggravated by high temperatures, local authorities said.

A heatwave in 2003 killed some 15,000 people in France, with bodies piled up in mortuaries and unclaimed corpses buried in paupers’ graves.

Ten dead as storms sweep Japan

Tokyo, 20 July—At least 10 people died and 13 went missing in Japan on Wednesday as torrential rains swept through a wide swath of the country, triggering mudslides and floods.

More than 60 cm (24 inches) of rain has fallen in the last few days, disrupting rail and road traffic.

Weather forecasters warned that the rain might continue and could trigger more mudslides and floods in central and western Japan.

Among those affected, at least four died and four others went missing after mudslides struck houses in Okaya, in Nagano prefecture in central Japan, Kyodo News agency said.

Also in Okaya, an 80-year-old woman was found dead after her home was crushed by mudslides, a local official said.

About 200 troops joined hundreds of rescue workers in searching collapsed houses and swollen rivers for those missing in the region.

A 66-year-old man drowned in an irrigation channel in Yamanashi prefecture in central Japan, a local official said.

A 26-year-old man went missing after his car was swept into a river in the central Japanese prefecture of Gifu, Kyodo News agency said.

Two people remained unaccounted for after a mudslide buried a house in Kyoto prefecture on Wednesday.

The attack set a nearby building ablaze and damaged two civilian cars, the source said, adding that ambulances, fire engines and Iraqi police rushed to the area to evacuate the victims and put out the fire.

Violence has persisted in Iraq despite the formation of a new national unity government in the war-torn country in late May.
Earthquake jolts N-W China

BEIJING, 20 July—An earthquake measuring 5.6 degrees on the Richter Scale jolted a county in northwest China’s Qinghai Province at 5:53 pm (Beijing Time) Wednesday, according to the China Seismological Bureau.

The epicentre was located in a sparsely populated pasturing area on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau at 33.0 degrees north Latitude and 96.3 degrees east Longitude, about 70 kilometres south of the county seat of Yushu.

The area was hit by another earthquake measuring 5.0 degrees on the Richter Scale on Tuesday. No casualties from both the quakes have been reported, according to the bureau.

With a population of 240,100, Yushu County is located in the southwest of Qinghai. It is under the administration of the Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, which covers an area of 198,000 square kilomètres or 27.5 per cent of the province’s total.—MNA/Xinhua

15 killed in road accident in Philippines

MANILA, 20 July—Fifteen farmers were killed and 22 others wounded in the early morning Thursday when a truck carrying them overturned on a downhill road in Negros Oriental Province, central Philippines, said local officials.

The deadly accident took place in the town of La Libertad of Negros Oriental Province as the victims were riding in a 10-wheeler truck to a market to sell their products, the officials said.

La Libertad Mayor Josie Sy-Limkaichiong said that she could not determine exactly what caused the accident up to now, but she said rains may have made the road slippery, or the driver may have fallen asleep as it was very early in the morning.

The mayor said that the municipal government would provide medical and financial needs to the victims.—MNA/Xinhua

Jellyfish slow Japanese nuke plant

TYO, 20 July — A mass of jellyfish forced a Japanese nuclear power plant to slow part of its output this week after the slimy creatures blocked up the plant’s seawater cooling system.

“It’s the first time we have had to lower power output because of jellyfish,” a Chubu Electric Power Co spokesman said.

The water intake at Chubu Electric’s Hamaoka power plant in Shizuoka prefecture, about 150 kilometres (90 miles) southwest of Tokyo, stopped automatically on Wednesday when the slippery customers got blocked in a filtering device.

Without enough seawater coming in to the cooling system, Chubu Electric had to lower the output of two of the reactors at the plant to 60-70 percent of capacity. Output returned to normal by the evening after the company removed the jellyfish, the spokesman said. “We sometimes do the same thing when debris from typhoons sticks to the filter,” he said. No radioactive material leaked out due to the incident, he added.—Internet

Five killed, six missing due to flood in northern Vietnam

HANOI, 20 July — Flood and landslide sparked by torrential rain in Vietnam’s northern provinces of Bac Can and Vinh Phuc have killed five people and left six others missing, local officials told Xinhua Wednesday.

In Bac Can, flooding and landslides have killed four people, including three adults in a family, and left five others missing since 17 July, said an official from the provincial Storm and Flood Prevention and Rescue Committee, who identified herself Thao.

The five missing people included three schoolteachers from Bac Be District, who were swept away by strong water flows as a boat carrying them was capsized, she added.

In Vinh Phuc, floods have killed a person and left another missing when they were collecting firewood, said an official from the provincial People’s Committee, who declined to be named.—MNA/Xinhua

Singapore eyes to set up ASEAN clearing and depository utility

SINGAPORE, 20 July—The Singapore Exchange (SGX) on Wednesday proposed that a clearing and depository utility be set up within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to facilitate the integration of regional markets.

“The objective of the entity is to provide clearing and custody facilities to ASEAN exchanges for cross border trading of ASEAN products by their respective brokers. The proposed entity could be jointly owned by ASEAN exchanges,” SGX Chief Executive Officer Hsieh Fu Hua said at an industry conference.

The regional utility is also expected to help facilitate growth of securities trading within the ASEAN community, mitigate the risk faced by clearing brokers, as well as lowering costs and increasing value to customers, according to Hsieh.

“As an initial step, we could promote integration through harmonizing and aligning our market practices and standards with the international investment community,” he added.—MNA/Xinhua

Five killed in gas accident in Egypt

CAIRO, 20 July — Five women were killed in an Egyptian village on Tuesday when a small gas cylinder exploded, set fire to their house and blew out one of the walls on top of a neighbouring house, the state news agency MENA said.

The women were the wife of the owner and the wives of her two brothers in one house and a 65-year-old woman and her granddaughter in the house next door, it said.

The accident took place in Minya Province, in the Nile valley about 140 km (85 miles) south of Cairo.—MNA/Reuters

Rescue workers use a crane to hoist the bus in the accident scene of China’s metropolis of Shanghai, on 19 July, 2006. The accident occurred Wednesday at about 6:40 pm when a 49-seat Benz bus carrying 30 people rushed out of the Hangzhou-Shanghai freeway in Songjiang District, leaving at least seven people dead and 22 others injured. Initial investigation showed that the driver’s misoperation was to blame.—INTERNET
Poor nations ‘being pushed back’

LONDON, 20 July—The world’s poorest nations are at a “critical moment of transition” which threatens to push them even further behind, the United Nations has warned.
The 50 least developed countries, most of which are in Africa, lack the means to compete in a rapidly globalising world, says the UN’s Unciad agency.
Unciad’s latest report says aid should be used to make poorer economies more productive and boost wealth creation.
“We need to go back to the basics,” said co-author Zeljka Kozul-Wright.
“If countries do not invest in infrastructure, they are not going to sow the seeds for growth and development in future,” she told the BBC News website.
According to Unciad’s annual Least Developed Countries (LDCs) report, the poorest nations achieved an overall 2004 growth rate of 5.9%—their best performance for 20 years.
But that average masks big disparities among the LDCs in terms of growth performance. At the top of the table, Chad achieved a 31% increase in GDP, while for the worst performer, Haiti, GDP shrank by 3.8%.

Pakistan, India talks about illegal border crossings

ISLAMABAD, 20 July — An important meeting of Pakistan Rangers and India’s Border Security Force (BSF) was underway Wednesday at Wagah border of Pakistan and India, local private Geo TV reported.
Indian team head Sri A Jain has alleged that illegal crossings of Pak-India border was continued while Pakistan officials have called the Indian allegation baseless.
Earlier, Deputy Director General of Pakistan Rangers (Punjab) Brigadier Muhammad Qaiser Khan Tareen received the Indian delegation led by BSF Rangers (Punjab) Brigadier Muhammad Qaiser Khan.

Coalition soldier killed, two injured in Afghanistan

KABUL, 20 July—Firefight in Afghanistan’s southern Uruzgan Province left one soldier of the US-led coalition forces dead and injured two others, a Press release of the US military said Wednesday.
“A Coalition soldier was killed while conducting combat operations in the Carhar Cineh District of Uruzgan Province on Tuesday,” the Press release said.
“Two Coalition soldiers were wounded in the fighting and taken to a Coalition hospital. They are listed in stable condition,” it added.
However, it did not disclose the names and nationality of the soldiers.
It is the second coalition soldier killed in the volatile Uruzgan Province in the past three days.

Gas explosion kills five in S-W China province

GUIYANG, 20 July — A gas explosion has left five people dead at a coal mine in southwest China’s Guizhou Province, local authorities said Wednesday. The accident took place at about 5:30 pm on Tuesday at a coal mine located at Zhaiji Village, Yenachuan Township of Hezhong County, according to a source with the county government. All the five miners working underground were killed in the blast, the source said, adding their bodies were recovered Wednesday morning. The coal mine had been illegally operated before the tragedy, the source said—MNA/Xinhua

General view of a Security Council meeting to discuss the conflict between Israel and Lebanon, at the United Nations headquarters in New York on 20 July, 2006. —INTERNET

Peru, Russia sign nuclear cooperation agreement

LIMA, 20 July—Peru and Russia have signed an agreement to develop nuclear technology in the field of energy cooperation. Peru’s Foreign Minister Oscar Mauutra said on Wednesday.
This agreement will contribute to Peru’s socio-economic development via energy resources that have a smaller impact on the environment. Mauutra said at a ceremony where he signed the agreement with Serguey Kirienko, the head of Russia’s Federal Atomic Energy Agency.
He added that the agreement complies with the guidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and avoids violation of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. The agreement includes joint nuclear research projects, an expert exchange programme and a technician training programme.
Russia has signed similar agreements with the United States, Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Canada, South Korea, Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Cuba—MNA/Xinhua

Official says China faces “serious” soil pollution

BEIJING, 20 July—China’s soil is one of the worst in the world, the official said Tuesday.
China faces “serious” soil pollution that jeopardizes the ecology, food safety, people’s health and the sustainable development of agriculture.
“It is estimated that nationwide 12 million tons of grain are polluted each year by heavy metals that have found their way into soil. Direct economic losses exceed 20 billion yuan (about 2.5 billion US dollars),” said Zhou Shengxian, director of the State Environmental Protection Administration.

Addressing a national video conference on soil pollution, Zhou said harmful substances in the soil are absorbed by crops. As people consume such crops, their health is at risk. “Soil pollution has worsened. According to incomplete statistics, about 150 million mu (10 million hectares) of arable land in China has been polluted,” said Zhou.
China has around 1.8 billion mu (120 million hectares) of arable land. On Tuesday, SEPA and the Ministry of Land and Resources jointly launched China’s first soil pollution survey backed by a budget of one billion yuan (125 million US dollars).
The programme aims to assess soil quality across the country by analyzing the amount of heavy metals, pesticide residue and organic pollutants in the soil. Using the results of the survey, the two organizations will conduct pilot projects on rehabilitating and comprehensive treatment of polluted soil.
They will also work to establish a soil quality supervision and management system.

MNA/Xinhua

In a photo provided by the Miss Universe pageant, Nadine Chandrawinata, Miss Indonesia 2006, checks out part of the national costume of Kurara Chibuna, Miss Japan 2006, before the taping of the opening number on Sunday’s Miss Universe pageant, on 20 July, 2006, at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. —INTERNET

A woman presents a Bagua (the Eight Diagrams) abacus of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) in Huizhou County, east China’s Anhui Province, on 20 July, 2006. —INTERNET

Internet

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MNA/Xinhua
Vietnam has investment of $43m abroad

MANILA, 20 July — Vietnam poured over 43 million US dollars into eight projects abroad between January and mid-July, a local official told Xinhua on Wednesday.

The projects mainly involve in exploring and exploiting oil and gas in Singapore, growing rubber trees in Laos and building a big hospital in Cambodia, said Nguyen Anh Tuan, deputy head of the Foreign Investment Agency under the Ministry of Planning and Investment. Other destinations of the projects include Malaysia and the United States. Vietnam, which had total investment of over 367 million dollars abroad in 2005 mainly in Laos, Russia, Cambodia and Indonesia, is expected to annually invest 200 million dollars abroad between 2006 and 2010, Tuan said.

According to the data, the country has granted licences to 158 overseas investment projects with a total registered capital of more than 670 million dollars in nearly 40 countries and regions. Laos has attracted most of the Vietnamese investment abroad, he noted. — MNA/Xinhua

Lithuania’s new government sworn in

VILNIUS, 20 July — The swearing in of Lithuania’s new government, led by Prime Minister Gediminas Kirkilas, was done in Parliament on Tuesday, according to reports from Vilnius.

Kirkilas’ four-party coalition, with 53 seats in the 141-seat Parliament, is Lithuania’s 14th since the Baltic country regained its independence and its first minority government.

Kirkilas’ Social Democrats took six Cabinet posts, including the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Education and Science.

The National Farmers’ Union got three ministries, including the Foreign Ministry, which will be headed by Petras Vaitiekunas, who previously served as ambassador to Belarus, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Economy.

The other two parties in the coalition, the Liberal Central Union and the Civil Democratic Union each got two ministerial portfolios.

The new government pledged to fight corruption, reverse a demographic trend that has seen Lithuania’s population shrink due to low birthrates and emigration, speed up the country’s infrastructure development and boost the growth of science and technology.— MNA/Xinhua

Manila tells villagers around volcano to evacuate

MANILA, 20 July — Philippine authorities ordered about 4,000 people to evacuate their homes and farms near an erupting volcano in the central region, disaster officials said on Tuesday.

On Friday, volcanologists raised the alert level to 3 on a 1-5 scale after 2,462-metre (8,077-foot) Mount Mayon began spewing ash and lava. The experts said Mayon, the most active of 22 volcanoes in the Southeast Asian country, was showing signs of a major eruption within weeks.

“Residents outside the danger zone were also advised to bevigilant due to risks of rockfalls and pyroclastic flows on the volcano’s slopes,” the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said in a statement on Tuesday.

Phivolcs said volcanic tremors had eased but lava continued to flow from Mayon’s crater, creating a stream of incandescent mud and rocks as far as 800 metres down the southeastern slope.

— MNA/Reuters

China to spend heavily on water treatment, recycling

BEIJING, 20 July — China will invest up to 300 billion yuan (37.5 billion US dollars) in urban sewage treatment and recycling during the 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-2010) period, a senior official with the Ministry of Construction has said.

Zhang Yue, deputy head of the ministry’s urban construction department, told Xinhua that China will further open its water sector to foreign and private capitals to raise the necessary funds.

In a document released last December, the Chinese Government said by 2010, 70 per cent of the waste water in Chinese cities must be treated before being discharged into the environment.

Zhang said the Ministry of Construction has in collaboration with the National Development and Reform Commission and the State Environmental Protection Administration drafted a plan for urban sewage treatment and recycling between 2006 and 2010. The plan is expected to be approved by the State Council soon, he said.

According to the plan, major cities must have 80 per cent of their sewage treated by 2010. For medium and small cities, the rate should be between 60 to 70 per cent.

— MNA/Xinhua

Canada asks Israel, Lebanon not to attack evacuation ships

OTTAWA, 20 July — Canada wants Israel and Lebanon to be aware that they will not attack seven ships scheduled to pick up Canadians stranded in the strife-torn country. Foreign Minister Peter MacKay said on Tuesday.

“We want assurances that those ships will be protected and afforded the utmost safety,” MacKay said during an interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The first of Canada’s seven chartered passenger ships is scheduled to arrive at the port of Beirut on Wednesday.

Officials say that the vessels, capable of carrying an estimated 2,000 Canadians a day, are expected to take the Canadians to Cyprus and Turkey, where chartered aircraft will take the passengers back to Canada.

Officials said the Canadian Government has dispatched a military reconnaissance squad to Lebanon to ensure the Canadians’ safety and offer logistical advice.

As many as 50,000 Canadians are believed to reside in Lebanon. The bulk of them are permanent residents of Lebanon with dual citizenship and are unlikely to leave. Another estimated 5,000 Canadians are visiting relatives for the summer holidays.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Stephen Harper rejected criticism that Canada had been slower than other countries in helping its citizens leave Lebanon. — MNA/Xinhua

A boy jumps into the water at Vienna’s Schafberg swimming bath, on 20 July, 2006. A heat wave hits Austria these days with temperatures up to 37 degrees Celsius. — INTERNET

A Liberian vessel (Sea Victory Monorvia) sails at the Kenyan docks in the coastal city of Mombusa, on 18 July, 2006. Kenya’s main port is targeting cargo business for reconstruction of southern Sudan to expand its business, and the government is planning a second port to serve northern neighbours like Ethiopia, an official said on Tuesday.— INTERNET

A shop owner tries to salvage anything of value from his shop destroyed in a bomb attack, on 20 July, 2006, in Kirkuk, 290 kilometers (180 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq. Late Wednesday a car bomb exploded in a popular market in Kirkuk, killing one civilian and wounding seven others, police Brig Sarhat Qudir said. — INTERNET

A boy jumps into the water at Vienna’s Schafberg swimming bath, on 20 July, 2006. A heat wave hits Austria these days with temperatures up to 37 degrees Celsius. — INTERNET
If find happiness every time I compare the scenes of the photos taken at border areas before 1989 and the ones shot at the time of development at present. Photos that were taken in 1989 and 1990 documented the birth of the history of border area development. The photos I got from U Than Aung of the Information and Public Relations Department five years ago were old but, as valuable as gold for me.

The photographer took those pictures in 1990, during his trip to Namtit region in northern Shan State, Mongla and Silu regions in eastern Shan State when he went there together with a team of UNDP staff. Namtit then was just a hamlet. His photos show a car bogged down in the muddy village entrance road and the village which had only 14 or 15 houses. His significant shots at Mongla village included a picture in which U Sai Lin, the national race leader of Special Region 4, passing a bamboo bridge over a creek at the entrance to the village together with visitors. The photographer also recorded villagers of Silu warmly welcoming the team. All those pictures were taken 16 years ago. But during the arrangement of Public Relations Subcommittee, a subordinate body of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races. The documentary shot during the trip was broadcast by TV Myanmar in a feature under the title — The bloom on Thanlwin River bank. The development momentum of Mongla region reached new heights in 1997. Mongla Town was complete with pagodas, a Buddhology museum, a middle school (now upgraded into a high school), a 50-bed hospital and a TV retransmission station. Near the town was the Wanton Dam. The main market was under construction and hotel services were gaining momentum for development. The Drug Elimination Museum has been an honour to Mongla.

It was 1997 that an information team visited Mongla region under the arrangement of Public Relations Subcommittee, a subordinate body of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races. The documentary shot during the trip was broadcast by TV Myanmar under the title — The bloom on Thanlwin River bank.

The opening ceremony of the Border Area Nationalities Youth Technical School in progress.

The development of Mongla region is the first to be internationally proclaimed as an Opium Free Zone. It is a place fully enjoying the fruits of peace and stability and rapid development.

A student who passes the matriculation examination from any one of the nationalities youth development schools may attend the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College in Yangon or Mandalay. Vocational schools are being run to improve the living conditions of nationality girls and women and to ensure their secure life.

Youths who have completed arts, science and engineering diploma courses from one of the two degree colleges are discharging duties under various ministries for development of their own regions. The Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs has been making arrangements for the qualified students of the degree colleges to attend B Tech course, master of arts course or master of science course. In the near future, those students will have the opportunity to pursue PhD courses.

The school helps define the government’s goodwill towards national race youths and in shaping the future of border areas. Mongolia region is the first to be declared an Opium Free Zone in April 1997, a result of six years of efforts to beef up alternative farming programmes in the area. Large farms the region is running with aims to export stand witness to the fact that the programmes are going strong till today.

Border areas including Mongla region are now gaining rapid progress. But how are we going to maintain the sound foundations of their rapid progress? Who will continue to shape the future of border areas? They are no other persons than the national races of Myanmar. The government on its part has been running 27 nationalities youth development schools and 34 vocational training schools for women in the border areas and one Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College each in Yangon or Mandalay for human resources development. A student who passes the matriculation examination from any one of the nationalities youth development schools may attend the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College in Yangon or Mandalay for human resources development.

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Opium Free Zone in April 1997, a result of six years of efforts to beef up alternative farming programmes in the area. Large farms the region is running with aims to export stand witness to the fact that the programmes are going strong till today.

Border areas including Mongla region are now gaining rapid progress. But how are we going to maintain the sound foundations of their rapid progress? Who will continue to shape the future of border areas? They are no other persons than the national races of Myanmar. The government on its part has been running 27 nationalities youth development schools and 34 vocational training schools for women in the border areas and one Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College each in Yangon or Mandalay for human resources development. A student who passes the matriculation examination from any one of the nationalities youth development schools may attend the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College in Yangon or Mandalay for human resources development.
With all infrastructures built by State, people of Chin State are...

(from page 1)

another by the government. In Chin State (South) Mindat-Kyaukhtu-Pauk Road has also been upgraded. Therefore, one can travel from Mindat to Pakokku in a half day. And one can also travel from Pakokku to Anawrahta Bridge across Ayeyawady River and then to other states. With all infrastructures built by the State, the people of Chin State are urged to strive for the improvement of their livelihood and regional development. All in all, he said, as Mindat-Matupi Road has been upgraded, one can travel from Mindat to Matupi only in six hours although it took about five days in the past. Pakokku can also be reached in a day. Due to the launch of bus lines to run along the route to Mindat, Matupi and Pakokku, economic, social, health and education sectors of local people will improve. So, all people of Chin State are to participate in the efforts for nation-building tasks with Union Spirit and maintain the road, he urged.

In conclusion, the commander thanked those who put their energy to the road construction and urged the local residents to maintain the road.

In his speech Construction Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun said as part of the government’s efforts for the transportation sector, the 102-mile long Mindat-Matupi tarred road was inaugurated. A total distance of roads in Myanmar has increased from 13,635 miles in 1988 to 19,021 miles in 2006. In Chin State, after the construction of the Mindat-Matupi Road, the total distance of earthen and tarred roads reaches 1,062 miles. In Chin State, there are four main roads — the 70-mile long Haka-Gangaw Road, the 115-mile long Haka-Matupi Road, the 173-mile long Haka-Matupi Road, the 15-mile long Kalew-Haka Bridge and the 102-mile long Mindat-Matupi Road. Haka-Gangaw Road will also be upgraded this year to become an all-weather facility, the minister said.

Meanwhile, bridges on the state’s roads will also be renovated and upgraded. Bar Bridge on Kalay-Falam-Haka Road has been upgraded and will be inaugurated this year.

Although it was a five-day journey from Mindat to Matupi in the past, now it will take only 6 hours due to the newly inaugurated 102-mile long tarred road. Moreover, living and education standards of residents in Chin State will improve, the minister said.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the stone inscription of the Mindat-Matupi Road. Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Construction Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Chin State Peace and Development Council Vice-Chairman Col Hsan Aung formally opened the road. After the opening ceremony, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party pose for documentary photos together with local people.

The 50-mile long road section of Mindat-Matupi Road was tarred in 2005-2006 and the section from mile post Nos 50/0 to 102/0 was upgraded in 2006-2007 fiscal year. — MNA
Industry-2 Ministry exerts effort to develop new farm implements  

YANGON, 21 July — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin and officials met with staff of No 2 Agricultural Machinery Factory (Malun) in Minhla Township, Magway Division, on 17 July. General Manager U Than Aung reported on production of the factory for the 2006-2007 fiscal year to the minister. The minister urged the officials and staff to exert their utmost efforts to develop advanced farm implements and natural gas-run tractors. Later, the officials conducted the minister around the factory. On 18 July, the minister and party went to Pakokkia Industrial Regional of the Ministry of Industry-2 in Myaing Township. At the briefing hall, Project Director U Tin Htut Aung of Myanma Industrial Construction Services explained construction of Machine Tools Factory to the minister. The minister later called upon the officials to complete the work on schedules.

Next, Managing-Director U Oo Zun of Myanma Tyre and Rubber Industries reported on cultivation of physic nut in the industrial regional to the minister. The minister and party inspected the sites to build factories, and the officials also conducted them around the industrial region.—MNA

Talks on Child Cancer given  

YANGON, 21 July — Yangon North District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee organized a ceremony to present membership applications in conjunction with a ceremony to give educative talks on Child Cancer and Reproductive Organs Cancer at Kanaung hall in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone this afternoon.

Daw Mar Mar Wai, chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC attended the ceremony and made a speech. Daw Saw Shwe, chairperson of Yangon North District MCWSC presented membership applications to Daw Mar Mar Wai.

Later, Paediatrician Dr Daw Khin Saw Yi and Obstetrics and Gynaecologist Dr Daw Aye Aye Shwe of Insein Hospital gave talks on child cancer and reproductive organs cancer. Daw Mar Mar Wai also inspected the delivery room of Shwepyitha Township MCWA and met expectant mothers there. And she provided cash and kind to them. The chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC and party went to Pre-primary School in Shwelinban Industrial Zone, Hlinethaya Township and presented umbrellas to the children. — MNA

MWAF organizes educative talks  

YANGON, 21 July — With the sponsorship of the education sub-working group of the social and cultural working committee under Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and the Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization, the educative talks were held at the Youth Training Centre (Kyawkwai) of the Social Welfare Department this afternoon.

It was attended by Secretary of the sub-working group Dr Khin Mar Aye and members, Secretary of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Swe Khin Mar Win and members, chairpersons of district/ townshipward women’s affairs organizations and members. Secretary of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Swe Khin Mar Win extended greetings. Secretary of the sub-working group Dr Khin Mar Aye and member Dr Khin Thet Myaing gave talks.—MNA

Low-fare taxi service opens on July 23  

YANGON, 21 July — Chairman of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Hlay Win inspected Parami Taxies to be put into service in Yangon in front of the meeting hall of Yangon Command Headquarters this evening.

Bandoola Transport Co Ltd will use Sonata III CNG taxies manufactured by Hyundai Motor Company. The commander instructed officials to make arrangements for enabling the public and students to take taxies at low fare and to place emphasis on secure and smooth transport. — MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Hlay Win inspects CNG-run taxies of Bandoola Transport Col Ltd. — MNA

Parami taxies will transport passengers with charging K 100 for every mile. The taxi service will be launched from Parami Highway Bus Terminal in South Okkalapa Township at 6 am on 23 July. — MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife being welcomed by Egyptian Ambassador Mr Mohamed Mohamed Minnsey and wife at the reception to mark the National Day of the Arab Republic of Egypt on 21-7-2006. — MNA

Minister for Electric Power No (2) receives Chinese guest  

NAY PYI TAW, 21 July — Minister for Electric Power No (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint received Mr Zaho Ruolin, Chairman of China National Electric Equipment Corporation at the ministry, here, yesterday morning. Also present at the call were the Director-General of Electric Power Department and the Managing Director of Electric Power Supply Enterprise.—MNA

Secretory Dr Khin Mar Aye of Health Sub-Working Group gives talks on health. — MNA
Coord meeting of Energy Ministry held

NAY PYI TAW, 21 July — A coordination meeting to increase the production of chemical fertilizer by the factories of Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy was held at the meeting hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening with an address by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi.

Also present were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay, the director-general, managing directors, factory managers and officials.

In his address, the minister gave instructions to produce chemical fertilizer to meet the target during the 2006-07 fiscal year and running of factories at full capacity. He heard the reports on progress of maintenance works and production of chemical fertilizer presented by officials concerned. Next, the deputy minister, the director-general and officials gave supplementary reports. The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the minister. — MNA

Information Minister receives foreign guests

NAY PYI TAW, 21 July — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Chairman Mr Bernard Chen Tien Lap of Ntegrator Pte Ltd and party at the minister’s office this evening. Also present were the directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, deputy director-general and head of office. — MNA

Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) nearing completion

The Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) is nearing completion. A y e y a w a d y Bridge (Yadanabon) linking Khawdaw Ward of Mandalay and Taung Ward of Sagaing is under construction at the place, 2,000 feet upstream from the existing Inwa Bridge. Inwa Bridge is situated in the strategic point of the central area of Myanmar. So far, Inwa Bridge has been in service for about 70 years after its opening in 1934. Since 1992, over 15-ton loaded vehicles have not been permitted to pass through the bridge for its durability. Therefore, vehicles in excess of the permitted load pass through the river by Z-craft.

To overcome difficulties of transport sector, construction tasks of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) Project on Mandalay bank commenced on 30 October 2001 after the stake driving ceremony. Likewise, construction of the bridge on Sagaing bank started on 26 November 2002. At present, the bridge is nearly complete due to concerted efforts of both construction teams on Mandalay and Sagaing banks. According to the decision of the Special Projects Implementation Committee Meeting 1/99, engineers from Public Works under the Ministry of Construction drew the design of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) that can withstand earthquake jolts, by conducting detailed survey of the axis, soil test and possible earthquakes.

(See page 11)

Return Journey to Upper Land

* My birthplace, my land
With yearning to be there sometime
My mind gets worned out severally
Though it’s not worlds apart
I, from the Upper Land
Have been roaming
The Lower Land, lower place
Arriving to make money
Lower Myanmar with great beauty
Made me fall in love
Far apart from Upper Land
* As the occasion allowed
Headed for birthplace, Upper Land
With the one who’s ever at my side
My spouse likened to a lass
I made the journey
’Cause I was in Yangon most of the time
Feel odd when I go elsewhere
The road may sometimes be rough
Let her see what she might
To make the journey up complete
I put in my all.
* However,
Journey to Upper Land
Was smooth as could be
’Twas as if in Yangon
A cushy ride in the coach
Beside the route, its environs
Were full of emerald green fields
And the woodlands of same colour
Their freshness gladdens me
’Cause this journey brought happiness
Wanting to see how beloved spouse
Of low land abode was feeling
Took half a glance and
Caught a face brimming with a smile

Shoon Mya Aung (Trs)
Drug mistakes injure 1.5 million in US every year

WASHINGTON, 21 July — Medication errors hurt 1.5 million people every year in the United States and cost at least $3.5 billion US dollars, according to a report issued on Thursday.

Medication errors are among the most common medical errors, harming at least 1.5 million people every year,” the institute said in a statement.

Such mistakes kill at least 7,000 people a year, according to the institute, an independent, non-profit organization that advises the federal government on health issues.

“The extra medical costs of treating drug-related injuries occurring in hospitals alone conservatively amount to $3.5 billion US dollars a year, and this estimate does not take into account lost wages and productivity or additional health care costs,” the institute added.

One example — a Denver hospital gave a newborn infant a tenfold overdose of penicillin in case it had been infected with syphilis from its mother in 1996.

Nurses balked at giving the baby five injections so administered the medicine in what turned out to be an unusual and improper way intravenously. The baby died, and the autopsy showed it did not have syphilis and never needed the treatment in the first place.

“Such cases as these demonstrate the real harm of even small medication errors,” said MNA/Reuters.

Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) …

The bridge will be 3,675 feet long. Inwa Bridge is 3,948 feet in length. Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) will have two 367.5 feet bridge spans, three 735 feet spans and two 567.5 feet spans. The approach bridge on Mandalay bank will be 1,140 feet long and the approach bridge on Sagaing side, 780 feet long. Hence, the total length of the bridge will be 5,614 feet. The bridge will have a 49 feet wide four-lane motorway flanked by six wide walkways. Its clearance will be 700 feet wide and 40 feet high. The bridge can withstand 60-ton loads.

Steel frames for the bridge were imported from People’s Republic of China. Myanmar engineers built the bridge that can endure the wind-speed of 90 miles per hour.

Therefore, Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) will be the widest span facility among the bridges constructed with iron frames in the country.

Upon completion, Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) will contribute not only towards better transport of large vehicles from Mandalay to Monywa, Shwebo, Gangaw, Kalay, Myitkyina and other towns through Sagaing at any time but also toward smooth and speedy flow of commodities. Therefore, Myanmar engineers of Public Works are striving day in, day out for completion of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon) before December 2006.

Translation: TTA

Spain, FAO sign agreement on fighting hunger

LAGOS, 21 July — The Spanish Government on Wednesday signed an agreement totalling 25 million euros (31.25 million US dollars) with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to fund joint anti-hunger projects.

The agreement, signed at the end of the first Joint Spain-FAO Commission meeting, commits 8 million euros (10 million dollars) to be given to the Spain-FAO Latin American and Caribbean Trust Fund.

The joint com-mission also agreed to about 9 million euros (11.25 million dollars) for new joint projects and reviewed a series of other ventures that are currently underway, such as food security projects in Mauritania, Mali and Central America; water projects in Africa’s Burkina Faso, Guinea, Senegal and Mali; the Mediterranean fishing project; and an Egyptian anti-bird-flu project.

MNA/Xinhua

Building collapse kills over 50 in Lagos

LAGOS, 21 July — More than 50 people were killed in a collapsed building in Lagos, Nigeria, officials said here on Wednesday.

An Baba, an official of Lagos State Ambulance Service told reporters that more than 50 corpses had been recovered from the collapsed building and deposited at the mortuaries in Gbagada, Ikeja and Lagos Island general hospitals.

According to him, scores of people were still trapped under the debris.

Olabode Ojajuni, public relations officer of the Lagos State Police Command, told Xinhua that the tragedy occurred at about 7 pm (1800 GMT) Tuesday, adding that 45 persons were rescued so far.

There was no “inking of the incident”, an eyewitness said, adding that over 120 people were trapped in the rubble, many of them children and their mothers as well as many customers in a restaurant, salon and six other shops on the ground floor of the building. So far, the immediate cause of the incident has not been immediately ascertained.

MNA/Xinhua

Five 1,000-year-old wells discovered in E China

NANCHANG, 21 July — Chinese archaeologists have discovered five 1,000-year-old wells in Ji’an City, east China’s Jiangxi Province.

Many items used in sacrificial ceremonies and carved bricks dating back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907) and the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127) were unearthed from the mud-filled wells.

The wells, from five to 11 metres deep, were found at a construction site of a new building for the Ji’an Hotel. Archaeologists arrived immediately on receiving the news and carried out excavations and protection of the site.

The most valuable items unearthed were 30 well-preserved porcelain articles made in the famous Jingzhou kilns of the Tang Dynasty.

MNA/Xinhua

India, South Africa, Brazil to explore business cooperation

DURBAN, 21 July — India, South Africa and Brazil are expected to explore regulations for small businesses and access to finance and technology support at a summit as part of their trilateral cooperation to be held here next month. The summit, from 23 to 25 August, will involve India’s National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), South Africa’s Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seta) and Brazilian Micro and Small Businesses Support Service (Sebrae).

Speaking to reporters in Pretoria, NSIC Director Arun Kumar said they envisaged sharing expertise to ensure the transition of small businesses, currently in the second economy, to the mainstream economy.

MNA/PTI

A traditional Venetian gondola passes between narrow boats in the Little Venice area in London on 21 July, 2006. The gondola “Rosanna” has been restored to full working order after 30 years on the canals of Venice in Italy, and is now being used on the canals in central London this weekend for leisure transportation. —INTERNET

Robert Lee, late Hong Kong movie star Bruce Lee’s younger brother, poses in front of Bruce’s statue during its inauguration ceremony at Avenue of Stars tourist spot in Hong Kong Thursday, 20 July, 2006. The ceremony marked the 33rd anniversary of the death of the Hong Kong film and martial arts legend.—INTERNET

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The joint com-mission also promised about 9 million euros (11.25 million dollars) for new joint projects and reviewed a series of other ventures that are currently underway, such as food security projects in Mauritania, Mali and Central America; water projects in Africa’s Burkina Faso, Guinea, Senegal and Mali; the Mediterranean fishing project; and an Egyptian anti-bird-flu project.
Singapore launches new staff training programme for SMEs

SINGAPORE, 20 July— Singapore launched a new staff training programme for local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) Wednesday, as announced by Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang. Speaking at a local forum, Lim said that the programme, called SME Training for Enhanced Performance and Upgrade (Step-Up), is expected to benefit some 600 workers from 100 SMEs in the first year.

A joint effort between Singapore’s Standards, Productivity and Innovation Board (SPRING) and the Workforce Development Agency, the programme will “identify and plug training gaps while emphasizing industry and occupational skills that are immediately applicable to the workplace,” according to Lim. He also announced at the forum that the government and industry associations have jointly committed 60 million Singapore dollars (about $38 million US dollars) to invigorate 10 strategic industries including logistics, furniture, fashion, information technology and precision engineering.

ICRC concerned about humanitarian situation in Lebanon

GENEVA, 20 July— The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said Wednesday that it was “extremely concerned” about the grave consequences Israeli military action was having on civilians in Lebanon. “Hundreds of civilians in Lebanon have been killed or wounded, and it remains difficult to organize medical evacuations and to maintain health services,” the ICRC’s head of communications, Pierre Krähenbühl, told reporters at a press conference.

Italy spy chief denies role in CIA kidnapping

ROME, 20 July— The head of Italy’s military intelligence agency on Wednesday defended himself and colleagues being investigated for their possible role in the alleged CIA kidnapping of a terrorism suspect in Milan.

Nicolo Pollari told a closed-door meeting of the Senate Defence Committee that the Sismi intelligence agency had “nothing to do with illegal acts” and would not break the law to help foreign agents. The comments, relayed to reporters by the committee’s chairman, were Pollari’s first known response since prosecutors questioned him on Saturday over Sismi’s possible role in helping the CIA abduct a Muslim cleric in Milan and fly him to Egypt. The suspect, an Egyptian named Hassan Mustafa Osman Nasr, says he was tortured there under interrogation.

“General Pollari said calmly that our secret services did not violate the law, even in situations that can be defined as border-line,” Senator Sergio De Gregorio, the defence committee’s chairman, told reporters. De Gregorio added that although Sismi cooperated with foreign agents, it would not do so with “projects that were against the law”. Twenty-six Americans, most believed to be CIA agents, face arrest warrants over the Nasr case. Pollari declined to speak with reporters as he left the hearing.

MNA/Reuters
Nearly 100 injured as cruise ship tilts in US

WASHINGTON, 20 July — At least 93 people were injured, 16 of them seriously, when a cruise ship listed sharply off Port Canaveral, Florida, on Tuesday, media reports said on Wednesday.

Two victims were airlifted to local hospitals, and 10 ambulances, three helicopters, four buses and mass-casualty trailers were on hand as the vessel arrived at the port, CNN reported.

Some passengers suffered broken bones, Rosalyn Postel, spokeswoman for port, was quoted as saying.

The New York-bound ship, the Crown Princess, developed a problem with its rudder, causing it to take a “heavy roll,” listing hard to one side about two hours after its departure from Port Canaveral, the Coast Guard said.

All 3,100 passengers and 1,200 crew members aboard the 113,000-ton ship were accounted for, according to the Associated Press.

Some passengers said the ship was already tilting Tuesday morning, even before the sudden roll to the side, the Associated Press reported.

The ship, which was on a nine-day Western Caribbean cruise and had been scheduled to return to New York on Thursday, would remain at Canaveral National Seashore, the Coast Guard planned to inspect it Wednesday. Princess Cruise Lines, which operated the ship, said it was investigating what caused the severe list.

Drug industry laments G-8 failure on vaccine plan

NEW DELHI, 20 July — World leaders missed a major opportunity to boost basic health in poor countries this week when G-8 leaders failed to adopt a lead vaccine for a novel advance purchase scheme, drug companies said on Tuesday.

The Group of Eight major powers had originally hoped to select a lead project for an advanced market commitment (AMC) programme when leaders met in St Petersburg.

But rows over funding meant the proposal never got off the ground.

“This is a missed opportunity to take a concrete step to help the world’s poorest communities,” Harvey Bale, director-general of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations in Geneva, said in a statement.

Drug manufacturers have supported the AMC concept as a way to guarantee a market for vaccines for use in developing countries, which otherwise would not be commercially viable.

Under the scheme, governments would guarantee purchase of a specified number of treatments for a disease, at a pre-set price, for which all companies supplying an effective vaccine would be eligible. The first advance market commitment would have been used to promote development of a vaccine for pneumococcal disease.— MNA/Reuters

Pakistan’s export register 14.4% growth in fiscal 2005-06

ISLAMABAD, 20 July — Pakistan’s exports in the fiscal year of 2005-06 (July 2005-June 2006) were recorded at 16.469 billion US dollars, showing an increase of 14.4 per cent over last fiscal year’s 14.391 billion dollars, according to trade figures released on Wednesday.

The fiscal 2005-06 also witnessed the imports of 28.581 billion dollars, an increase of 38.8 per cent over last year, the state-run APP news agency reported. — MNA/Xinhua

5th World Water Congress to open in Beijing in September

BEIJING, 20 July— The Fifth World Water Congress is to be held 10-14 September this year in Beijing, the first time China has hosted the most important conference for the world water industry, said Wang Tiehong, general secretary of the organizing committee. This year’s Congress will focus on water resource management, safety of drinking water, sustainable water use and the harmony between the water environment and humans, Wang said.

Seminars and forums will also be held for overseas participants about the challenges facing China’s water resources and its laws and policies relevant to the industry. There will also be an exhibition of advanced techniques, equipment and engineering technology in water-processing areas, Wang added.

This year’s Congress is co-hosted by China’s Ministry of Construction and the International Water Association (IWA). Wang Guangtao, the Chinese Minister of Construction, will be the president of the organizing committee.

The IWA is the most authoritative association in the world water industry. Its mission is to provide practical and sustainable solutions for water crisis and consumption. — MNA/Xinhua

Four naval warships on stand by to evacuate Indians in Lebanon

NEW DELHI, 20 July — Four warships of the Indian Navy have been kept stand-by off the Mediterranean coast of Lebanon to carry out evacuation of 12,000 Indian nationals living in that country, if the situation so warrants in the wake of increased Israeli military action.

Destroyer INS Mumbai, guided-missile frigates INS Betwa and INS Brahmaputra and the auxiliary fleet tanker INS Shakti have been moved to the Lebanese coast to evacuate Indian nationals. Navy sources said. The sources said the possible evacuation would be worked by the government with Israeli authorities.— MNA/PTI

A model showcases a costume during a ‘Bride and Groom’ fashion show in New Delhi, on 20 July, 2006. — INTERNET

Male Sumatran tiger Rokan lays in the grass while eating his breakfast at the US National Zoo in Washington, on 20 July, 2006. Tigers have 40 percent less habitat than they did a decade ago, due to intense poaching and the rise in fiscal export revenue over last year, the state-run APP news agency reported.
BRAZIL SUDDENLY FACES COACH, PLAYER SHORTAGE

**ZURICH, 21 July —** Former France captain Zinedine Zidane and Italy defender Marco Materazzi were both fined and banned by FIFA on Thursday after the head-butting incident that marred the World Cup final.

Zidane, who has retired as a player, was fined 7,500 Swiss francs (6,014 US dollars) and handed a three-match ban by FIFA's five-man disciplinary committee following his red card for head-buttng Materazzi in Berlin on 9 July.

As he is no longer a player, he offered to undertake three days of community service on FIFA's behalf as part of their humanitarian activities, which the committee accepted.

The Italian defender, who admitted insulting Zidane, provoking the Frenchman's head-butt, was handed a two-match ban and fined 5,000 Swiss francs (4,010 US dollars). He attended a hearing last Friday, but his sentence has been fiercely criticized in Italy. The bans apply to Materazzi as a player, who has confirmed he has no intention of reversing his decision to retire.

Materazzi will miss Italy's opening two Euro 2008 qualifiers against Lithuania on 2 September and, ironically, France on 6 September.

"In their statements, both players stressed that Materazzi's comments had been defamatory but not of a racist nature," a FIFA statement said.

"During the course of their hearings both players also apologized to FIFA for their inappropriate behaviour and expressed their regret at the incident."— MNA/Reuters

BRAZILIAN GIANT ZIDANE REJECTS VENEZUELA HAILING

**ZURICH, 21 July —** Coach Carlos Alberto Parreira's departure on Wednesday has left Brazil suddenly facing a short-age of coaches and players to choose from as they set about rebuilding after their World Cup failure.

On the coaching front, Vanderlei Luxemburgo and Paulo Autuori appear to be the only obvious candidates and even they come with question marks hanging over them.

As for players, Parreira's faith in his ageing team over the last two years has given little chance for new faces to emerge in the national team.

Luxemburgo's record at club level, which includes five Brazilian championship titles with four different clubs, makes him the obvious choice.

But the coach has already had one bite at the cherry, a disastrous two-year spell which ended with him being sacked after a humiliating loss to nine-man Cameroon at the 2000 Olympic Games.

During his tenure Luxemburgo became the centre of an investigation over his tax returns and was later found to have adulterated his age, making himself three years younger than he really was.

He also fell out with Ronaldinho — now the world's number one player.— MNA/Reuters

**SPORTS MARKETING PIONEER MCCORMACK VOTED ON TO HALL OF FAME**

**HOYLAKE, England, 20 July —** The late Mark McCormack, once dubbed the most powerful man in sport, will become a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame on 30 October as part of the class of 2006, officials said on Wednesday.

A pioneer of the sports marketing industry and founder of golf's official world rankings, McCormack was selected through the lifetime achievement category by the World Golf Foundation (WGF) board of directors selection committee.


"I'm delighted to have secured Bernardo, he is a player I've been looking at for some time and think he will be a terrific acquisition for this football club," City manager Stuart Pearce told the website.

Corradi, a former Italy international, said: "I hope to bring all my enthusiasm to Manchester City and I want to show everyone that I want to work hard now and during the season with my teammates. I want to do well here."

The Italian joined Valencia from Lazio in 2004, but was loaned out last season to Parma for whom he scored 10 goals.— MNA/Reuters

**MANCHESTER CITY SIGN STRIKER CORRADI FROM VALENCIA**

**LONDON, 21 July —** València's Italian striker Bernardo Corradi has joined Manchester City, the Premier League club said on Thursday.

The 30-year-old signed a three-year contract for an undisclosed fee, City said on their official website.

Reports in Spain put the fee at around 1.5 million euros (1.9 million US dollars).

"I'm delighted to have secured Bernardo, he is a player I've been looking at for some time and think he will be a terrific acquisition for this football club," City manager Stuart Pearce told the website.

Corradi, a former Italy international, said: "I hope to bring all my enthusiasm to Manchester City and I want to show everyone that I want to work hard now and during the season with my teammates. I want to do well here."

The Italian joined Valencia from Lazio in 2004, but was loaned out last season to Parma for whom he scored 10 goals.— MNA/Reuters

**THAWORN WIRATCHANT OF THAILAND WATCHES HIS TEE SHOT ON THE 18TH HOLE DURING THE FIRST ROUND OF THE BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP AT THE ROYAL LIVERPOOL GOLF CLUB IN HOYLAKE, ON 28 JULY, 2006.**— INTERNET

**LIN, ZHANG SAIL INTO 2ND ROUND AT MACAO OPEN**

**MACAO, 20 July —** World champions Lin Dan and Zhang Ning of China both eased to the second round of the Macao Open badminton championships here on Wednesday.

Lin, the Danish Open champion, won a 21-5, 21-15 victory over Wang Shuo of China in 34 minutes, scoring 11 aces and winning 85 per cent (29-of-36) of his first serve points.

Indonesia's Taufik Hidayat, another men's singles title favourite, swept past local player Leong Kin Fai 21-9, 21-11.

Four other Chinese players — Chen Long, Chen Hung, Chen Yu, Chen Jin and Bao Chunlian — made it through into the men's singles second round.

In the women's singles, world number one Zhang Ning routed Finland's Anu Nieminen 21-8, 21-13.— MNA/Xinhua

**PARREIRA RESIGNS AS BRAZIL COACH**

**RIO DE JANEIRO, 20 July —** Carlos Alberto Parreira resigned as coach of Brazil on Wednesday less than three weeks after their quarterfinal exit at the World Cup, the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said.

"After a meeting held this morning... with CBF president Ricardo Teixeira, coach Carlos Alberto Parreira left the Brazilian national team," said a statement on the CBF's official website.

"It was a joint decision and Parreira will not have, from today, any professional connection with the Brazilian Football Confederation."

Parreira, who led Brazil to their fourth world title in 1994, had been at the helm since the start of 2003. Brazil lost 1-0 to France at the World Cup after starting the tournament as favourites.— MNA/Reuters

**SAFIN STUNNED, HAAS PROGRESS AT INDIANAPOLIS EVENT**

**WASHINGTON, 21 July —** Two-time Grand Slam winner Marat Safin suffered a shock exit at the RCA Championships on Wednesday in Indianapolis, falling in straight sets to world No 512 Wesley Whitehouse of South Africa.

Safin, seeded 16th, lost in six, 6-4, 6-2 to the 27-year-old journeyman, who has won only two matches this season at the ATP level.

Fifth-seeded Tommy Haas easily advanced to the third round after defeating George Bastl of Switzerland 6-3, 6-3.

The victory gave Haas a 31-12 record this year, including tournament victories at Delray Beach and Memphis. He is currently 21st in the ATP Tour rankings, only two matches short of his victory total for all last year.

Two more Russians advanced as Igor Kunitsyn ousted Germany's Lars Burgsmuller 7-5, 6-2 and seventh-seeded Dmitry Tursunov advanced when German Benjamin Becker quit with heat exhaustion.

Tursunov led 6-3, 5-7, 2-1 when Becker called it a day.

Belgium's Xavier Malisse, seeded 11th, used a strong serve to oust Lee Hyung-taik of South Korea, 7-6 (7-4), 6-1.

Malisse had 12 aces while winning 76 per cent (29-of-36) of his first serve points.

In the day's another big upset, No. 6 seed Dominik Hrbaty of Slovakia and ranked 22 in the world was upset by Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark, 6-3, 6-2. Carlsen, No. 123 in the ATP rankings, saved 10 of 11 break points during the match while winning 83 per cent of his first serve points (15-of-18).

Other second-round winners at the Indianapolis Tennis Centre included 12th-seeded Gilles Muller, a 6-2, 6-3 winner over Paul Capdeville; and No. 8 Paradorn Srichaphan, a 7-6 (7-4), 6-7 (4-7), 6-4 winner over qualifier Wayne Arthurs.— MNA/Xinhua

**CHINA'S JIA TONG DIVES IN THE WOMEN'S 10-METER PLATFORM EVENT AT THE FINA WORLD CUP COMPETITION IN CHANGSHU, A CITY IN EAST CHINA'S JIANGSU PROVINCE, ON 20 JULY, 2006. JIA TOOK THE GOLD MEDAL WITH 385.30 POINTS.**— INTERNET
Indonesia’s tsunami death toll reaches 547, 323 missing

JAKARTA, 21 July — At least 547 people were killed, 465 injured and 323 still missing in the tsunami disaster, triggered by a 6.8 magnitude quake, hitting Indonesia’s Java Island on Monday, National Disaster Management Coordination Board said here on Thursday.

An official in charge of the board, Setio Sutarmo, told Xinhua that over 5,541 people had also taken refuge at camps and tents, after giant waves struck onto land and damaged buildings and infrastructure in the southern coastal areas of Indonesia’s West Java, Central Java and Yogyakarta provinces.

The buoys would be set up in quake-vulnerable zones with high population density and huge amount of assets, he said. Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has said that the government would update and improve tsunami detector device to give early warnings to people.

Swedish tsunami survivor Peter Damerum, left, looks on as Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, right, and his wife Kristiani, lower right, greet his sons Pidi, center, and Permarten, second left, during their meeting at Halim Perdanakusuma airbase in Jakarta, Indonesia, Friday, July 21, 2006. "We put priority on southern sea off Java and Bali islands," Kusmayanto Kadiman said. Indonesia is the most populated area in Indonesia and Bali Island is the most favourite tourist destination in the country. Both of them have huge infrastructures.

WEATHER

Friday, 21 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, rain have been isolated in Kayah State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin, Shan and Chin States, upper Sagaing, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heayfalls in Kachin and Rakhine States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Putao and Sittway (3.11) inches each, Phyapon (2.84) inches, Thaton (2.68) inches, Hpa-an (2.24) inches, Mawlamyine (2.20) inches, Thanlaw (1.97) inches and Pyinmana (0.55) inch.

MAXIMUM wind speed on 20-7-2006 was 122 mph. Minimum temperature on 21-7-2006 was 66°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 21-7-2006 was (96%). Total sunshine hours on 20-7-2006 was nil.

Rainfalls on 21-7-2006 were (0.51) inch at Mingaladon, (0.39) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.16) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (48.46) inches at Mingaladon, (38.03) inches at Kaba-Aye and (62.64) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest (at 22:00) hours MST on 20-7-2006.

Bay inference: Monsoon is weak in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate to strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 22-7-2006: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, Mandalay Magway and lower Sagaing Divisions, scattered in Shan, Chin, States and upper Sagaing Division, fairly widespread in Kachin State, Bago, Ayeyawady and Tanninhthay Divisions and widespread in the remaining states and divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 22-7-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 22-7-2006: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 22-7-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 22-7-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather outlook for last weekend of July 2006: During the coming weekend, rain will be widespread in Yangon Division and likelihood of isolated in Naypyitaw and Mandalay Divisions.
Lt-Gen Kyaw Win tours Laikha, Shan State (South)

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, together with Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Brig-Gen Thaung Aye on 15 July visited Maha Myatmuni Buddha Image in Laikha, Shan State (South).

They offered flowers, lights and joss sticks and paid homage to the Buddha Image. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and the commander went to Konnin Monastery in Laikha and presented offerings to Chairman of Laikha Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Presiding Sayadaw of the monastery Sayadaw U Vicittasara. During his tour, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win also visited the Haw Palace in Laikha. — MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence offers alms to a Sayadaw of Konnin Monastery in Laikha.

MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects tax-free markets

Yangon, 21 July — Tax-free markets are open in Yangon for enabling city dwellers to buy fresh vegetables, meat and fish and other kitchen items. Accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and officials, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence this morning inspected tax-free markets in Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (South), Thakayta, Tamway and Yankin Townships.

After inspecting the markets, Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on supervision to be made for selling of goods with correct weight and measures and sale of meat, fish and vegetables at fair price.

—the Ministry of Defence

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects Shukhintha tax free market in Thakayta Township.—MNA

Two members resign from YeU Township NLD

Yangon, 21 July — Two members of YeU Township National League for Democracy in Sagaing Division—chairman U Tin Tun and secretary U Win Aung of Magyedaw Village-tract —resigned from the party on 26 June of their own accord by sending letters of resignation to the NLD headquarters and local authorities concerned.

In the letters submitted to Sagaing Division Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-commission, they said that they were no longer interested in the party and party duties. So, they quit the party and the duties of their own volition.

Thirty-one members of YeU Township NLD have left the party since last June 2006. Therefore, 33 members have quit the party so far. — MNA

Panglong is a place fully enjoying the fruits of peace and stability and rapid development. Hence, we can say that the Border Area Nationalities Youth Technical School adds glory to Mongla region.