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Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Maldives

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives on the occasion of the 41st Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Maldives, which falls on 26 July 2006. — MNA

Sayadaws and members of the Sangha attend the merit sharing ceremony for religious buildings in Lashio. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife attend merit sharing ceremony for religious buildings in Lashio

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July — Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San today attended the merit sharing ceremony for Abhayathukha ordination hall, Zayathukha Mingala building and Thukha Mingala Hsinshweli Sasana Beikman constructed on the hill of Yandaingaung Pagoda in Lashio, Shan State (North). The ceremony was also attended by Members of the Sangha led by Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Magway Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharajhita Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Kumara, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Lt-Gen Thita Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, senior military officers, the Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command. (See page 6)

The congregation led by Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San receive the Nine Precepts from a Sayadaw. — MNA

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

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

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

- Four economic objectives
- Four social objectives
- Four political objectives
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Wednesday, 26 July, 2006**

**Try to boost the export of meat and fish**

Myanmar is encouraging the extension of fish and prawn breeding industry. Production and release of fingerlings is very important to production of fish. Therefore, it is necessary for fish farmers to release enough fingerlings into the creeks and rivers in their neighbourhood to increase the production of quality strains. Moreover, catching of fish and prawn should be systematically supervised to avoid their extinction.

In Myanmar, we get a lot of rain in June, July and August. During these months, fish and prawn usually lay their eggs in the creeks and rivers across the nation. Therefore, Fisheries Department has issued notices against the catching of fish and prawn with eggs.

Moreover, to prevent the extinction of fish and prawn in the Myanmar waters, Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has prohibited the off-shore and deep-sea fishing in Rakhine and Mon States and Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions from 1 June up to 31 August.

The government is making every endeavour for the development of the meat and fish sector and to earn more than US$ 400 million through the export of fish and prawn from 2006-2007. Myanmar Fisheries Federation and various organizations under it and entrepreneurs, on their part, are to work in concert to boost the export of meat and fish through systematic exploitation of marine resources.

**USDA Secretary- General meets members in Maubin**

YANGON, 25 July— Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Htay Oo on 23 July met with departmental officials and USDA members in Ayeyawady Division at the hall of Maubin Township USDA Office.

At the meeting, the Secretary-General urged them to participate in the development tasks of the region and to strive for meeting the objectives of the association joining hands with local people.

Officials of Maubin District USDA reported on USDA members’ contribution to the development of the region and future plans. — MNA

**Foreign Minister sends felicitations to Maldives**

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July— On the occasion of the 41st Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of Maldives, which falls on 26 July 2006, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Dr Ahmed Shaheed, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives. — MNA

**Secretary-General of Union Solidarity and Development Association U Htay Oo meeting with departmental officials and USDA members in Maubin. — MNA**

**Teak sales in late July**

YANGON, 25 July — Myanma Timber Enterprise under the Ministry of Forestry will sell its high and low quality teak through the tender system by the end of the month.

According to the source of MTE, 1,340 tons of low-quality teak will be sold on 28 July through the sealed tender system and 1,360 tons of high-quality teak on 31 July through the international tendersystem. About 2,500 tons of teak were sold in April, about 2,600 tons in May and about 2,700 tons in June through the tender system.

A foreign merchant evaluates the price of a pile of teak logs at the sales of teak. — FORESTRY

**Myanmar pockets one gold, one bronze in Second Asia Circuit Archery Contest**

YANGON, 25 July — The Second Asia Circuit Archery Contest is being held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 21 to 27 July. In the contest, Myanmar archery team has secured one gold and one bronze medal until 24 July.

The gold medal was secured by Tin Zin Ei in women’s 50-meter compound event (single) and the bronze medal by Ye Min Swe in men’s 30-metre compound event (single). Participating countries in the contest are Korea, China (Taipei), Hong Kong, India, Bhutan, Myanmar, host Malaysia, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Qatar and Australia. — NLM

**Tin Zin Ei, a gold medalist. — NLM**
Venezuelan leader lauds Belarus, blasts capitalism

Minsk, 24 July—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday praised ex-Soviet Belarus as a model state and called for joint efforts to counter “hegemonic” capitalism.

Chavez, a self-described leftist revolutionary who commands vast oil revenues, is on a world tour, partly to win support for a bid to win a place on the UN Security Council. He sees the seat as a way to resist what he terms a “social war which we are forced to resist what he terms a deepened threat to world oil supplies or a force majeure event,” she said.

Although there are some refinery capacity problems, demand is not growing and probably is shrinking with gas at more than 3 US dollars a gallon, Lundberg said.

The highest price for gasoline was found in San Diego at an average 3.28 US dollars a gallon, and the lowest regional average was in Charleston, South Carolina, at 2.77 US dollars a gallon, she said.

Latin American climber found dead in Pakistan

Islamabad, 24 July — A search party has found the body of one of Latin America’s leading climbers, who went missing 10 days ago on Pakistan’s Nanga Parbat, the world’s ninth-highest peak, a diplomat said on Saturday.

Jose Antonio Delgado was one of 18 people killed and several others left missing across Japan after several days of heavy rain touched off floods and landslides.

They said about 60,000 local residents were urged to evacuate.

Last week’s national average exceeded by one-third a high set last year after Hurricane Katrina caused a gasoline shortage, but was still short of an inflation-adjusted peak of 3.16 US dollars set in March 1981, survey author Trilby Lundberg said.

Prices were unlikely to go higher, she said.

“This price increase does not portend more price increases, unless there is a deepened threat to world oil supplies or a force majeure event,” she said.

Residents walk through flooded area, on 22 July, 2006 in Izumi, Southwestern Japan. Nearly 40,000 residents in southern Japan have been advised to flee their homes as meteorologists warned of flash floods and landslides, officials said on Saturday, as a news report said the nationwide death toll from a week of heavy rain climbed to 21.

Heavy rain sweeps southern Japan, four dead

Tokyo, 24 July—At least four people died and one is missing after torrential rain triggered floods and landslides on Japan’s southern main island of Kyushu, local officials said on Sunday.

The rain was heaviest in Kagoshima on the southern tip of Kyushu, 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) southwest of Tokyo, where more than 120 centimetres (47 inches) of rain had fallen since last Tuesday.

Weathermen warned that more rain of up to 25 centimetres (10 inches) was expected over the same area in the next 24 hours. An 86-year-old woman died after being washed away by a flooded river and a 45-year-old man died after being swept up by a mudslide, officials said.

They said about 60,000 local residents were urged to evacuate.

Local governments called on the military to help with rescue operations. Last week, at least 18 people died and several others were left missing across Japan after several days of heavy rain touched off floods and landslides.

US gasoline prices top $3 a gallon

New York, 24 July—The average retail price of a gallon of gasoline topped 3 US dollars in the United States last week, the highest price in 25 years, according to the latest nationwide Lundberg survey released on Sunday.

The national average for self-serve, regular unleaded gasoline was 3.0150 US dollars per gallon on 21 July, a rise of almost 2 cents per gallon from two weeks ago when the average was 2.9952 US dollars, the survey of about 7,000 gas stations said.

Last week’s national average exceeds by one-third a cent a high set last year after Hurricane Katrina caused a gasoline shortage, but was still short of an inflation-adjusted peak of 3.16 US dollars set in March 1981, survey author Trilby Lundberg said.

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Jose Antonio Delgado, a 41-year-old Venezuelan, became stranded in bad weather at a height of 24,280 feet (7,400 metres) from his base camps.

Delgado was one of the most successful Latin American climbers of all time and summited Mount Everest in 2001.

Nanga Parbat, 26,660 feet (8,126 metres) high at the western end of the Himalayas, was first conquered by German Buhl, of Germany, in 1953 after 31 people died attempting it.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese scientist Li Shuang, member of the China-Russia joint scientific investigation team, shows a rock specimen at a volcanic terrain in the Tunkinsky region, Russia’s Republic of Buryatia, on 23 July, 2006.—INTERNET

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, left, and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko seen during a welcome ceremony in Minsk, Belarus, on Monday, 24 July, 2006.—INTERNET

50 years after its nationalization, the Suez Canal is more vital than ever to Egypt’s economy and revenues from transit fees look set to continue a spectacular rise.

INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

BELARUS: Chavez in Minsk

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, left, and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko seen during a welcome ceremony in Minsk, Belarus, on Monday, 24 July, 2006.—INTERNET

MNA/Reuters

MINSK, 24 July—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday praised ex-Soviet Belarus as a model state and called for joint efforts to counter “hegemonic” capitalism.

Chavez, a self-described leftist revolutionary who commands vast oil revenues, is on a world tour, partly to win support for a bid to win a place on the UN Security Council. He sees the seat as a way to resist what he terms a “social war which we are forced to resist what he terms a deepened threat to world oil supplies or a force majeure event,” she said.

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MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

34 killed, 70 wounded in suicide car bombing in E Baghdad

Baghdad, 24 July — Some 34 people were killed and about 70 others wounded when a suicide bomber blew up his car into a busy market in Baghdad’s eastern neighbourhood of Sadr City on Sunday, an Interior Ministry source said.

“A suicide bomber detonated his explosive-laden car at about 9:20 am (0520 GMT) at the Jamila popular market near the police station of Sadr City,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. “Our latest reports said that up to 34 were killed and about 70 others wounded in the powerful blast which also damaged several nearby shops and buildings,” the source said.

The police believe the suicide bomber was targeting the busy market in the Shiite slum of Sadr City, not the police station, the source said. — MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

50 years after its nationalization, the Suez Canal is more vital than ever to Egypt’s economy and revenues from transit fees look set to continue a spectacular rise.

INTERNET
Melbourne, 24 July — As regional petrol prices continue to soar, researchers are looking at some unusual sources to find alternative fuels.

A project is under way in south-west Western Australia that is aiming to make biodiesel from the algae that clogs the region’s waterways.

Algae is mostly made up of natural oils like nitroglyceride that can be removed and made into a feedstock for biodiesel. Scientists from Murdoch University are working to set up equipment that removes nutrient rich water from rivers and waterways around Mandurah and Harvey.

Professor Steve Hall says the water will then be used to grow algae in specially designed ponds.

“You solve industrial wastes, municipal wastes, agricultural wastes, clearly that’s the way we are going to be moving to look for value-added solutions from areas we’ve never previously explored,” he said.

The project is supported by the Peel Development Commission, which says the project has the potential to stop major outbreaks of algae damaging the region’s rivers.

The commission’s Colleen Yates says several biodiesel facilities could be set up near some of the areas most sensitive to algal blooms.

——INTERNET——

Los Angeles, 24 July — Californians sweated again on Sunday in a heat wave that has set records across the state and caused scattered power outages while St Louis and New York City struggled with outages that began last week.

As of Sunday afternoon, 100,000 homes and businesses were without power in California, a survey of the state’s big utilities showed.

Even in usual havens from the heat like San Francisco, temperatures soared to records on the weekend with the Bay City hitting 87 degrees Fahrenheit (30 Celsius) Saturday. In places used to the heat like Palm Springs and the San Fernando Valley near Los Angeles, the heat wave is making history.

In Woodland Hills in the Valley, the temperature on Sunday hit at least 100 (37.7 Celsius) for the 18th straight day. An estimated 800,000 Californians experienced at least temporary loss of electricity during the weekend as air conditioners battler temperatures as high as 122 degrees Fahrenheit (50 Celsius) in Palm Springs, California, and more than 110 degrees (43 Celsius) in the San Fernando Valley near Los Angeles, the heat wave is making history.

——INTERNET——

Delhi cinema bomb alert fake, two kids arrested

New Delhi, 24 July — Bomb alert at a cinema in Indian capital Delhi proved to be fake while the police arrested two kids for making the hoax call, Indo-Asian News Service reported Sunday.

Delhi police arrested two boys, 15 and 14, for making a hoax call to the police on Sunday noon claiming that a bomb was placed at the Satyam Theatre at Patel Nagar of west Delhi.

The boys were traced by the telephone number and would be sent to a juvenile home after questioning, the police said.

“They had made the call for fun,” said Robin Hibu, deputy commissioner of police. Audience were evacuated from the cinema right after the anonymous call.

It took the police two hours to check the cinema after the evacuation. Hibu said.

“We managed to trace the call immediately and our teams started working to identify the caller,” said Hibu. “We are also questioning the owner of the telephone booth from where the call was made.”

It was the second case of this kind. Earlier this week the police had arrested two pre-teens — aged 10 and eight — for making hoax calls to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

——INTERNET——

Seven construction workers killed in western Baghdad

Baghdad, 24 July — Unknown gunmen stormed a house under construction in western Baghdad on Saturday, killing seven workers and wounding another, an Interior Ministry source and witnesses said.

The attack took place at the mainly Sunni neighbourhood of Khadraa when gunmen in two cars stormed a house and opened fire at a group of construction workers, killing seven of them and wounding another, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

“We learned later that the workers had come from the al-Furat District (Shiite District), but we are not quite sure whether the killing was part of sectarian strife or for other reasons,” local resident Muafaq Hamid told Xinhua. Sectarian tension and insurgency have mounted in Baghdad and some other cities despite the formation of a new unity government in the war-torn country in late May.

——INTERNET——

A contestant works on his sculpture during the 1st Harbin Summer Ice Sculpture Competition in Harbin, capital of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 23 July, 2006. A total of 22 people of 11 teams from the city took part in the contest starting on 23 July. —INTERNET

——INTERNET——
**Singaporean volunteers shave hair for children with cancer**

**SINGAPORE, 24 July —** Some 340 volunteers, including 80 women, had their hair shaved to raise money for children with cancer in Singapore on Sunday, according to Channel NewsAsia report at night.

They are participants in a “Hair for Hope” fund-raising event held by the Children’s Cancer Foundation. Another 300 volunteers are expected to continue the goodwill event next Sunday.

The oldest of them is 65 years old and the youngest is just one year old.

They hope to raise a total of 250,000 Singapore dollars (about 158,000 U.S. dollars) for children with cancer and their family, as well as showing their support and love to this unfortunate group.

Nine volunteers helped raise 2,000 Singapore dollars (about 1,265 U.S. dollars) when the initiative inaugurated in 2003. The number of volunteers and the amount of fund raised rose to 310 and 147,000 Singapore dollars (about 93,000 U.S dollars) last year.

MNA/Xinhua

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**India arrests fourth suspect in Mumbai blasts**

**MUMBAI, 24 July —** A senior officer of the Indian police says they have arrested a fourth man on suspicion of involvement in the Mumbai serial blasts that killed more than 180 people earlier this month.

Police inspector Sunil Deshmukh says Tavir Ansari, a doctor of traditional Indian medicine and resident of Mumbai, was picked up by the crime branch of the city’s police.

“We have arrested him on suspicion, for further interrogation. He has undergone training in Pakistan,” Mr Deshmukh said.

Handcuffed and with a black hood covering his face, Ansari was escorted by police through a crowd of television reporters to a court in central Mumbai to hear the 11 charges against him.

They include murder and violation of laws relating to explosives and the railways. He was remanded to police custody until 4 August.

Three men, all Indian Muslims, were arrested last week for their alleged role in the rush-hour blasts which ripped through first class carriages of Mumbai’s commuter trains and platforms.

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**At least 15 killed by car bomb in Iraq’s Kirkuk**

**BAGHDAD, 24 July —** At least 15 people were killed and dozens wounded when a car bomb exploded in northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk on Sunday, police said.

The attack took place at about 12:30 pm (0830 GMT) near the courthouse of Kirkuk, killing at least 15 people and wounding dozens others, police sources said. The powerful blast damaged several civilian cars and nearby buildings, they added.

MNA/Xinhua

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**Landslide blocks Nepal’s highway linking China**

**KATHMANDU, 24 July —** A landslide blocked the central Arniko Highway, the only highway that links Nepali capital Kathmandu with China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, on Sunday, local government office said.

“A landslide triggered by heavy rainfall from Saturday evening blocked the highway at Halhale area of Sindulpulchok District, some 100 kilometres northeast of Kathmandu,” Mohan Wagle, a local administrative official, said in a Press statement.

No one was hurt by the landslide, the statement noted, adding, “However, several buses and trucks were stranded on the mountainous route.”

MNA/Xinhua

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Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife attend merit sharing ceremony for religious buildings in Lashio

(from page 1) Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of the Central Command, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San present provisions to a Sayadaw.

First, the ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namotassa. The congregation received the Nine-Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara and Members of the Sangha recited partitas.

Bhaddanta Kumara. At the ceremony, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San presented robes and provisions for 17 monasteries to Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. Afterwards, Commander Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut presented documents relating to the religious buildings to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. After the ceremony, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greeted U Phun Dar Shwim of Special Region-1, U Shauk Mi Hlyan of Special Region-2, U Lwe Maung of Special Region-3, U Ma Htu Naw of Special Region-5 in Shan State (North) and U Zaw Yaw of Special Region-2 in Kachin State, who also attended the ceremony.

Mya Mya San presented robes and offerings to members of the Sangha. Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, presented robes and offerings for four nunneries in Lashio to Nun Daw K Thi of Sasana Hitakari Nunery and Nuns.

N y a u n g d o n Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharatttha Guru Bhaddanta Osada Bhivamsa delivered a sermon and the congregation shared the merits gained.

After the ceremony, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye greeted U Tun Myint of Asia World Co Ltd, U Teza of Htoo Trading and U Soe Myint of Nwpesin Co donated K 1 million each to the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Thein Sein and party visited the pagoda and offered noon (a day meal) to members of the Sangha.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife planted a gangaw tree in front of Thukhamingala Hsinshweli Sasana Beikman. Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife and party also planted gangaw trees in front of the building.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife paid homage to a Buddha Image at Yandaingaung Pagoda and donated K 1 million for the pagoda through the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

Afterwards, U Tun Myint of Asia World Co Ltd, U Teza of Htoo Trading and U Soe Myint of Nwpesin Co donated K 1 million each to the Pagoda Board of Trustees.

After the cash donation, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party visited the pagoda and offered noon (a day meal) to members of the Sangha.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife attend merit sharing ceremony for religious buildings in Lashio.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San present provisions to a Sayadaw.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San present provisions to a Sayadaw.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San grow a gangaw tree.

Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, presents robes to a Nun.
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife pay homage to a Buddha Image at Yandaingaung Pagoda. (News on page 1) — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San offer a day meal to Sayadaws at Abhaya Thukha ordination hall. (News on page 1) — MNA

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife attend merit-sharing ceremony for religious buildings in Lashio. (News on page 1) — MNA

Information Minister receives Prof of Georgetown University

Nay Pyi Taw, 25 July—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Prof David I Steinberg of Georgetown University in America at his office, here, this morning. Also present at the call were directors-general and managing-directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry and officials.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife grow a gangaw plant. (News on page 1) — MNA

Arid zone greening tasks inspected

Yangon, 25 July—Director-General of the Dry Zones Greening Department under the Ministry of Forestry U Tun Tun inspected the plantations nurtured for the greening of arid regions in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay divisions from 20 to 22 July.

During the inspection tour, the director-general met with those in charge of the projects at district and township levels, gave instructions on speeding up tasks for greening of mountain ranges, prevention against indiscriminately cutting down trees, and growing of physic nut plants on the mountain ranges yearly.—MNA

Myanmar Insurance’s on-job training course opens

Yangon, 25 July—On-job Training Course No (14/2006) of Myanmar Insurance under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue was opened at MI Headquarters this morning with an opening address by Managing Director U Thein Lwin. The three-week course is being attended by 60 trainees. —MNA
My heart was filled with pervasive delight and great joy while I was watching the news on TV. And tears were welling up in my eyes to represent my great pleasure.

The members who returned to the legal fold leaving the wrong path were entering the correct path with renewed vigour as they were determined to serve the interests of their regions and national races. They were making decisive action to create a bright future of their own.

Along the route they were marching were local people of national races giving them a wholehearted welcome. They were all smiles garlanding the members and presenting bundles of flowers. Their welcome to the members was like the manner in which people give the warmest welcome to their family members or relations on their return home from a long journey.

The scenes were in the TV news aired at 8 pm on 17 July 2006 showing 848 members led by Brigade (758) commander U Mein Sin with the rank of vice-chief of staff from Shan State Army (South) (SSA-S) (Ywet Sit) returning images to the legal fold at the ceremony held on 16 July 2006 in Laikha, Shan State (South).

The images brought peace to the people who want to see peace and stability across the nation and nothing that harms the already-achieved stability of the State. It also added vigour to the government’s drive to march towards a new nation. And it was also like a ray of sunshine for ensuring national solidarity, and peace, stability and development of the nation.

In his explanation about their abandonment of armed struggle line and the reasons of their return to the legal fold, Brigade (758) commander U Mein Sin said that he did not accept at all the drug production and trafficking by Ywet Sit and he felt very disappointed with the acts of Ywet Sit and leaders that tarnished the image of the group such as the massacre of innocent people and the torching of villages by Ywet Sit, committing rape against indigenous women perpetrated on young women by the leaders, harming, antagonizing and driving the Pa-O nationals that lived together with Shan nationals out of Shan State. When he witnessed Panglong University, Panglong Government Technological College and Panglong Computer College that had emerged due to the collaborative efforts made by the Tatmadaw Government and the people to carry out regional development undertakings, he came to realize that only with peace and stability of the region, would it be possible to secure regional development. He said he also realized that his 20 years of armed insurgency did not bring any benefits to the people but adverse effects on the locals. He also elaborated on Ywet Sit’s acts such as production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, setting fire to villages, massacring local people in the villages, robbing national race travellers, collecting extortion money, committing rape and production of counterfeit 500-kyat notes identifying the places and dates where and when Ywet Sit committed the acts.

Deputy brigade commander U Sai Ta of SSA-S brigade (758) (Ywet Sit) and column commander U Sai Yone recounted their experiences and opinions, saying that they decided to return to legal fold and join hands with the government in the interests of Shan State because of Ywet Sit’s inhuman terrorist acts, opium trafficking, collection of extortion money, and the adversities faced by local Shan nationals. They said their return to the legal fold brought peace and bright future to them.

A local Shan national Nan Hlaing Kham, on behalf of local people, said that, “I believe that since the day I was born in this region, today is the most auspicious and happiest day for me as well as for the people in this area. It is because our brethren U Mein Sin and members who followed the wrong path due to the divide-and-rule policy of the colonialists have returned to the legal fold. Since long ago, our national brethren had been living peacefully together. Due to the evil legacy of colonialism, some nationalities in Shan State followed the wrong path of armed insurrection. In consequence, the stability was harmed and the people had to suffer a variety of worries and difficulties. As the sound of gunfire was thundering in the air, local people could not enjoy the taste of peace. Furthermore, the people had to earn their living in a state of alarm in our region where peace and stability could not be restored. And we could not enjoy the benefits fully. We also had to pay extortion money; although the insurgents collected extortion money they had done nothing to serve the interests of the region. Two-thirds of our earnings went to the insurgents as extortion money”. She presented the undesirable effects due to lack of peace and stability in the region such as low education and health standards, untimely damage of historic religious edifices such as pagodas and temples. She also clarified the trials and tribulations including loss of their hard-earned money and lives. She invited all her national brethren who stick to the armed insurgency with suspicion and doubts to take shelter in the warm embrace of the people and to make peace like U Mein Sin after realizing their wrong acts and the prospects for socio-economic progress of local people and mending their ways, to serve the interests of their regions and national races.

U Mein Sin, U Sai Ta and U Sai Yone have come to realize that they were victims of Ywet Sit and cohorts’ self-seeking, unable to practically do anything good for Shan State and its people and democracy cause despite their slogans, and the evil consequences of their armed struggle line they had witnessed during the over 20 years they had passed through.

In addition, they have seen with much amazement the economic and social progress of the national people of the regions where their counterparts have made peace with the government. The have come to know that peace is the backbone of regional development. Moreover, they have trust in the stance and deeds of the government concerning national solidarity.

Prevailing sound conditions in the surrounding areas have heartened them to correctly and boldly set their sight on participating in the endeavours to actually benefit Shan State and its people that is their aim and objective. Evil scenes and bitter experiences of armed struggle line have taught them that they have no alternative, but to abandon their policy and return to the fold.

Those are the reasons why U Mein Sin and his group left the dark side for the bright future. They have discarded their wrong opinions and started to accept the truth. The home bound journey of 848 men led by U Mein Sin was warmly greeted by the government’s goodwill and its sincere policy of national consolidation and the cordial public welcome.

They are now free to peacefully serve the interest of the region where they were born and brought up and the race they cherish.
Oppose-crush perpetrators harming national unity

Local people accord warm welcome to members of Brigade-758 of SSA-S who have returned to the legal fold.

Meanwhile, national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold exchanging arms for peace. They have done so after realizing the government’s sincere attitude and stand regarding national consolidation and accepting the latter’s attitude and stand after possessing the spirit of national unity and Union Spirit. Today, they are engaged in implementation of development projects in their respective regions. Socio-economic progress in all the states and divisions stands witness to this development.

Communist Party (BCP). They found it hard to earn a living when the sound of gunfire was present and as the danger of being hit by a bullet had to be expected any minute. Schools and religious structures such as pagodas and monasteries were reduced to ashes. The smell of blood and carbide was afloat in the mountain farms and crop fields. Such conditions reflected the day-to-day life of the people of Shan State in the past. Their return to the legal shed light on the hopes of the prevalence of peace in the entire Shan State. It is also the driving force for socio-economic development of the state. In other words, peace and stability can be said the engine of growth.

On the other hand, extremist subversive traitors under the influence of greed, anger and delusion and domain of neo-colonialists are distancing themselves from the people for they are afraid to acknowledge the all-round developments and peace and prosperity of Shan State as a result of the local people’s collective efforts for their own good. Without studying the objective conditions and correcting themselves and seeing the truth, those traitors are trying to tarnish the nation’s prestige, with slanders, saying “Shan State is in a state of decline.” “Drug elimination task has not been undertaken effectively.” “Shan women and girls are facing sexual violence and falling prey to human trafficking.” The worst is that they are attempting to sow seeds of discord by spreading narrow racism, doubts and antagonism through groundless political causes.

For some 50 years after Myanmar had regained independence, the people of Shan State had to live in fear bearing the brunt of suppression and exploitation under the influence of feudalisism, evil legacy of the colonialism and the armed insurgency of the extremist races, who are minions of the colonialists. They also fell victim to the intrusion into the country of KMT Nationalist Chinese after the region became the battleground. They experienced the dark age under the domination of the Burma Communists. In conclusion, I would like to call upon the national race armed groups, to join hands with the people and oppose and crush the colonialists and neo-colonialists as well as their minions, destructive elements at home and abroad plus national traitors who are scheming to harm national unity and cause disintegration of the Union.

Hence, the reason the national brethren had been able to reside in the Union through thick and thin for years countable by the thousand is due to the spirit of unity. This spirit is white and clean. But it has been tarnished by the armed insurgency or the dark age or evil acts. The perpetrators, in the past and at present, have been those colonialists and neo-colonialists and their minions—destructionists at home and abroad or national traitors. This is quite obvious.

Meanwhile, national race armed groups have returned to the legal fold exchanging arms for peace. They have done so after realizing the government’s sincere attitude and stand regarding national consolidation and accepting the latter’s attitude and stand after possessing the spirit of national unity and Union Spirit. Today, they are engaged in implementation of development projects in their respective regions. Socio-economic progress in all the states and divisions stands witness to this development.

No doubt, these tangible results the length and breadth of the Union have inspired the 848 members of Shan State Army-South (SSA-S) (Ywet Sit group) led by U Mein Sin, vice-chief of staff and commander of No 758 brigade, to return to the legal fold with the determination to bring about socio-economic development of local population and the nation as a whole.

Their decisive action shows their determination to leave behind the dark days or the life of insurgents in order to head for the white or bright side of life for the sake of national unity.

In conclusion, I would like to call upon the national race armed groups, to join hands with the people and oppose and crush the colonialists and neo-colonialists as well as their minions, destructive elements at home and abroad plus national traitors who are scheming to harm national unity and cause disintegration of the Union.

(Translation: MS-TMT-AK)
Mythum breeding farms, cultivation of tea in Matupi inspected

Nay Pyi Taw, 25 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint and officials of the Ministry of Defence and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Col San Aung and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and the ministries, arrived at No 2 mythum breeding farm in Pha-naing Village in Matupi on 22 July. Head of the Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr Win Maw reported on raising of mythum in Matupi and Rezoir. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on putting record on raising of mythum.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected 31 acres of tea plantation. Lt-Col Ye Lwin reported on cultivation of tea and arrangements for meeting the target of 100 acres. Chairman Col San Aung gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Ye Myint called for officials concerned to make endeavours for Chin State to become a tea-producing state. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party also inspected cultivation of physic nut on Matupi-Rezoir Road and grew physic nut plants. They inspected tea plantation of departments on both sides of the road.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected reclamation of highland terrace cultivation and development of Matupi. They went to tea plantation of Myanmar Agriculture Service and Township Union Solidarity and Development Association where Manager U Aye Ko Ko reported on cultivation of tea. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on tea production and sale and establishment of tea factory. In the afternoon, he met Tatmadaw members and families of Matupi Station and presented clothes, sports gear, personal goods and utensils to them. They left Matupi for Mindat in the evening.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects agriculture, regional development tasks in Bago Division (West)

Brig-Gen Hla Min reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on efforts for growing of 3 million acres in the division of monsoon paddy in 2006-2007, inflow of water into dams and reservoirs in the region, preventative and preparedness measures being taken against floods, and disaster and progress in cultivation of major crops. Next, officials of the Irrigation Department and Myanmar Agriculture Service reported on water storage of dams of the region, preventative measures being taken in Pyay and Thayawady Districts against floods, and meeting the target in growing of eight major crops out of ten to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than who gave instructions. Accompanied by Brig-Gen Hla Min and officials, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on 23 July arrived at Khawa Dam near Chin village in Padaung Township where they were briefed by officials of the Irrigation Department on the salient points of the dam.

Ten-member armed group...

They have done so as they do not want to be bullied by other insurgent groups, realize the goodwill of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw and the endeavours of the government for national development and want to take part in regional development tasks, living with their families and relatives with peace of mind. Those who returned to the legal fold were accorded a warm welcome by the local regiment and officials concerned and provided with all the requirements. And there remain armed groups who want to follow suit, it is learnt.

A ten-member armed group of God Army led by Johnny Tu. 

Arms and ammunition of a ten-member armed group of God Army led by Johnny Tu. — MNA
India tests short-range “Trishul” missile

NEW DELHI, 24 July — India tested short-range surface-to-air missile Trishul on Sunday from a defence base in west Indian state Orissa, Indo-Asian News Service reported.

The missile, about three-metre long and 200 centimetre in diameter, was test-fired from a mobile launcher at about 11:50 am at Chandipur-on-Sea in the coastal district of Balasore in Orissa, the news agency quoted officials as saying.

The Trishul missile, part of India’s integrated guided missile development programme, has a range of 9 kilometres and is able to carry a 15-kilos warhead.

The solid fuel propelled missile was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and has a triple battlefield role for the Army, Air Force and Navy.

Trishul was designed as an all-weather missile with sea-skimming capability to intercept anti-ship missiles.

Prescott hints at Blair quitting “very shortly”

LONDON, July 24 — Britain’s Deputy Prime Minister hinted on Sunday that Tony Blair may “very shortly” step down as prime minister and leader of the Labour Party, triggering a party election soon, The Independent reported.

John Prescott’s comment during an interview with BBC television is likely to add fuel to the burning political question — when will Blair move aside? — ININTERNET

Earthquake jolts Indonesia’s Sulawesi Island

JAKARTA, 24 July — A strong undersea earthquake struck off the coast of Indonesia’s Sulawesi Island on Sunday, 15:25 local time prompting local authorities to warn of the possibility of a tsunami, a meteorology and geophysics official said.

Local officials said there were no immediate reports of any deaths or damage after the quake which they put at 6.6 magnitude, but the authoritative US Geological Survey said the earthquake’s magnitude was 6.1.

Fauzi, the head of the local meteorology agency’s earthquake centre, said Sunday’s quake was at a depth of 62 kilometres (40 miles) under the sea and the epicentre was 90 kilometres (60 miles) southeast of the city of Gorontalo.

“We have informed local officials to warn people in the areas that the earthquake is likely to cause a tsunami in the area,” said Fauzi. — MNA/Reuters

23 killed in road accident in central Nepal

KATHMANDU, 24 July — At least 23 people were killed and nearly two dozen injured on Sunday when a passenger bus met with an accident in central Nepal, Nepal Police officer confirmed.

“At least 23 people were killed and 22 others injured when a passenger bus met with an accident at Chanaute Village of Sindhpulchowk District,” said an official.

Standing next to a make-shift memorial to de Menezes, he reiterated the family’s call for a full inquiry into the exact circumstances that led to de Menezes’ death.

MNA/Reuters

Four provinces in Thailand declared “red zones” for dengue

BANGKOK, 24 July — Thailand’s Public Health Ministry on Sunday declared four provinces as “red zones” for dengue fever due to the high number of cases reported in these areas.

The four provinces in the upper central and lower northern regions — Kamphaeng Phet, Nakhon Sawan, Phichit and Uthai Thani — have all together reported 1,187 cases of dengue fever so far this year, two of them fatal, said Dr Siriporn Kunchana, the health inspector of the regions. — MNA/Xinhua

A pair of Lebanese twin refugees from southern Lebanon sleep before leaving a hotel in Tyres (Sour) port to be evacuated to Cyprus in a ship rented by Germany on 24 July, 2006. —INTERNET

Discounts up to fifty percent are offered in a shoe shop window during a sale at Berlin’s Kurfuerstendamm boulevard on 24 July, 2006. German retailers started their summer sales on Monday. —INTERNET

Miss Switzerland Lauriane Gillieron (L-R), Miss Paraguay Lourdes Arevalos, Miss Japan Kurara Chibana, Miss USA Tara Conner and Miss Puerto Rico Zuleyka Rivera Mendoza stand as the five finalists during the Miss Universe 2006 Pageant at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on 23 July, 2006. —INTERNET

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A wreath was laid to mark killing of Brazilian de Menezes

LONDON, 24 July — The family of Brazilian Jean Charles de Menezes lay a wreath and bunches of flowers on Saturday at the London underground station where he was mistakenly gunned down by police last year.

In front of a small crowd of supporters a short tribute was paid to the 27-year-old electrician who was shot seven times in the head on an underground train at Stockwell station by police who thought he was a suicide bomber.

“This is a day of remembrance, a day of great sorrow,” the de Menezes family spokes¬man, Assad Rehman, told a crowd of about 60 people, many of them wearing the distinctive yellow and green colours of the Brazilian soccer squad.

MNA/Xinhua

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 26 July, 2006 11

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SUNDAY, 26 July, 2006

**Kazakh President calls for overhaul of CIS**

**Frankfurt/Paris, 24 July—** Prosecutors are probing allegations of corruption involving staff at French auto parts firm Faurecia and German carmaker Volkswagen, a German newspaper reported on Saturday.

Spokespeople for both companies told Reuters they were aware of the allegations and were cooperating with the investigation. They declined to comment on details of the case.

Frankfurter Rundschau daily said state prosecutors had confirmed they had launched an inquiry into suspected bribery and corruption involving the firms.

It said that, according to its information, the case concerned alleged payments made by Faurecia to Volkswagen staff with the suspicion they were made to help win business. It said around 20 people were implicated in the affair.

“We are aware of the case,” said a Volkswagen spokesman.

“Those employees still employed by Volkswagen were immediately put on leave of absence until the matter is fully cleared up,” he added.

The Faurecia spokesman said: “I can confirm that an investigation by the public prosecutor is underway at Faurecia. The company is fully supporting this investigation, but we cannot comment further on an ongoing inquiry.”

Faurecia is majority owned by French car maker PSA Peugeot Citroen. **MNA/Reuters**

**Moscow, 24 July—** Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev urged an overhaul of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) on Saturday to improve its effectiveness.

After reviewing the group’s 15-year history, experts concluded that only about 10 per cent of the 1,600 documents approved by member states were observed, Nazarbayev said after an informal summit of the group in Moscow, the Interfax news agency reported.

“Everyone knows the CIS states are dissatisfied with the performance of this organization and some are very dissatisfied,” said Nazarbayev, whose oil-rich Central Asian nation holds the group’s rotating presidency.

The Kazakh leader said he had proposed a reform of the organization, the key element of which was a rule requiring all CIS documents to have consensus approval in order to take effect, and CIS leaders are expected to decide on the proposal at the group’s summit scheduled for November in Minsk.

“Decisions need to be passed that satisfy everybody. There should be no states that disagree with and don’t sign on and, naturally, don’t comply,” he said. The 12-member CIS was set up after the break-up of the Soviet Union to try to maintain economic and political ties.

Nazarbayev singled out five areas in which consensus-based decisions would be essential: migration policy, transportation, education, economic and political Union to try to maintain consensus-based decisions.

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**Drug trial dosing caution urged after British disaster**

**LONDON, 24 July** — Greater caution is needed in early stage tests of novel drugs that stimulate the immune system and only one patient should be given active medicine on the first day, a joint industry taskforce said on Monday.

Six men were left seriously ill when a clinical trial in Britain using an experimental drug went badly wrong in March, triggering widespread public alarm and sending shockwaves through the pharmaceuticals industry.

All six healthy volunteers were given the drug, made by German biotech firm TeGenero AG, at the same time.

Colin Dollery, a consultant to Glaxo SmithKline who co-chaired the taskforce, said tens of thousands of initial Phase I trials were conducted without incident but the TeGenero episode highlighted the need for extra care with potent biotech drugs.

This was particularly the case when drugs activated biological processes in the body rather than inhibited them. British regulators earlier this year concluded that TeGenero’s drug TGN 1412 appeared to cause an unprecedented biological reaction in humans by stimulating the immune system, a reaction which was not seen in animals.

“The great majority of drugs are antagonists — in other words, they inhibit processes,” Dollery told Reuters. — MNA/Reuters

**Togo says halves HIV/AIDS rate but more need drugs**

**LOME, 24 July** — The small West African state of Togo has almost halved its HIV/AIDS infection rate in the past year, but less than a third of those needing life prolonging treatment are getting it, a Cabinet statement said on Saturday.

The number of people infected with HIV fell to 3.2 per cent of adults in 2005, from 6 per cent a year earlier, it said.

However, of the 18,000 people infected who needed life-prolonging antiretroviral treatment, just 5,400 were currently receiving it, Health Minister Suzanne Aho said.

President Faure Gnassingbe, who succeeded his late father last year as national president and as chair of the national anti-AIDS council, made “an appeal to all citizens to carry on protecting themselves from this disease and all sexually transmitted infections”.

The Cabinet statement did not say whether the drop was due to mortality among AIDS patients, population growth — running at nearly 3 per cent per year in Togo — or other factors.

Health Ministry figures indicated 120,000 people were infected with HIV. Togo has around 5.5 million people.

— MNA/Reuters

**US authorities arrest 25 illegal immigrants at Air Force Base**

**WASHINGTON, 24 July** — US authorities arrested 25 illegal immigrants at the Barksdale Air Force Base, in Louisiana, on Friday, media reports said Saturday.

The contract workers were arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, with collaboration from the Air Force. The construction and landscaping workers’ names were put on a list by the six companies doing business on the base, Frank Hartnett, a spokesman for 2nd Bomb Wing based at the airport, was quoted as saying. A news release by the 2nd Bomb Wing said the workers were “foreign nationals” but did not specify a country of origin, the reports said.

— MNA/Xinhua

**Human bird flu cases suspected in Thai north**

**BANGKOK, 24 July** — Two cases of suspected bird flu in humans have been found in Uttaradit, one of the seven Thai provinces declared a “red zone” by the Department of Livestock Development (DLD), provincial officials said on Sunday.

A 67-year-old wildfowl hunter and his 35-year-old son-in-law were admitted to Uttaradit Provincial Hospital on Friday for flu-like symptoms. Both had contact with a bird from the wild, as the hunter shot an unidentified species of wild bird and cooked it to share with his son-in-law before both fell ill, said Provincial Chief Medical Officer Dr. Boonriang Chuchai- saengrat. Blood samples were collected from the two patients and sent for testing at the Northern Medical Science Centre in Pitsanulok Province.

The results were expected in a few days, Boonriang added.

Meanwhile, Panom Meesiri, chief of the province’s livestock office, insisted that although there are suspicious deaths of poultry in many districts, there were no confirmed case of the H5N1 virus.

— MNA/Xinhua

**Five killed as bandits rob bank in southern Nigeria**

**LAGOS, 24 July** — Five people, including four policemen, were feared killed in a bank robbery when a gang of over 20 armed robbers attacked a bank on Bonny Island in Nigeria’s southern state of Rivers, a police spokeswoman said on Saturday.

Ineju Barasua, public relations officer of the Rivers State Police Command, told reporters in the state capital Port Harcourt that the robbers also carted away 400,000 naira (about 3,100 US dollars). She said the bandits swooped on the bank at about 2 a.m. (0100 GMT) on Friday, after laying ambush for the police and cordoning off the Bonny roundabout.

Barasua said informants alerted the police following sporadic shooting, adding that the police moved in with other members of the joint military task force, comprising the Army, Navy and Air Force.

“The police team ran into the robbers’ ambush, losing four of their men and a civilian,” the spokeswoman explained. She said the robbers could only penetrate one of the strong rooms of the bank where they got the 400,000 naira before the joint task force dislodged them.

Barasua said the bandits escaped through the Bonny water front, abandoning 38 live 7.8mm ammunition, one live 7.68mm ammunition and a polythene bag suspected to the container for dynamite at the scene.

— MNA/Xinhua

**Anyone who is willing to pay an extra $15 million can have a chance to take a spacewalk like professional astronauts, SpaceAdventures announced on 21 July, 2006. —INTERNET**

**Starring actors of the movie “Dragon Tiger Gate” Shawn Yue, Donnie Yen, Nichoalas Tse and Dong Jie (L to R) pose for photo at a Press conference in Beijing, China, on 24 July, 2006. Hong Kong kung fu movie “Dragon Tiger Gate” will be released in Asia on 28 July. —INTERNET**
BRAZIL GAMBLE ON UNTRIED DUNGA AS NEW COACH

RIO DE JANEIRO, 25 July—Former Brazil midfielder and captain Dunga was surprisingly named as the country’s new national team coach on Monday.

The 42-year-old, with no previous coaching experience, replaced Carlos Alberto Parreira, who resigned last Wednesday following Brazil’s disappointing performance at the World Cup.

The five-times champions were surprisingly knocked out in the quarter-finals by France after beginning the tournament in Germany as hot favourites. The Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said on its official Web site that Dunga agreed terms after a two-hour meeting with its president Ricardo Teixeira.

The CBF did not say how long Dunga would be in charge but he said his appointment was part of a re-structuring of the national team set-up that had the 2010 and 2014 World Cups as targets.

The midfielder, famous for his fighting spirit, captained the Brazil team that won the 1994 World Cup and wore the armband again four years later when they were runners-up to France.

He was also in the 1990 team. “I want to bring the same determination I had as a player.” Dunga told the CBF’s Web site.

“Motivation and will to win are fundamental for anyone who wants to wear the shirt of the Brazilian national team.”

The favourites to replace Parreira had been ex-Real Madrid coach Vanderlels Luxemburgo and former Peru coach Paulo Autuori.

First-choice Luiz Felipe Scolari, who led Brazil to the 2002 world title, preferred to stay with Portugal until 2008.

INTERNET

GERARD WANTS TO BE ENGLAND CAPTAIN

LIVERPOOL (England), 25 July—Liverpool midfielder Steven Gerrard said on Monday he was keen to take over from David Beckham as England captain.

“Of course I would like to be England captain,” Gerrard said at Liverpool’s kit launch.

“It is the kind of thing every player dreams about. But I am not the kind of player to talk about it and try and get it that way.

“The decision is down to (England manager) Steve McClaren and if it comes my way then great — if not, whoever gets the job will have my full support.”

Gerrard is a leading contender for England skipper along with Chelsea’s John Terry and Frank Lampard.

Beckham stood down as captain earlier this month after England were knocked out of the World Cup in Germany in the quarter-finals.

INTERNET

PLATINI OFFICIALLY NAMED AS UEFA PRESIDENCY CANDIDATE

PARIS, 25 July—Former France captain and coach Michel Platini has confirmed he will run for president of UEFA, European soccer’s ruling body.

Platini, 51, had previously signalled his intent to stand 18 months ago and now French Football Federation (FFF) president Jean-Pierre Escalettes has written to UEFA to officially present him as a candidate, the FFF said in a statement on Monday.

Platini is a member of both the UEFA and FIFA executive committees.

Swede Lennart Johansson, 76, said earlier this month he would be seeking re-election as president to the post he has held since 1990.

The election will take place during the ruling body’s congress in Dusseldorf, Germany on January 25-26 next year.

Platini is the only other man to have officially declared as a candidate for the next four-year term.

Former Germany captain and coach Franz Beckenbauer, who presided over the German World Cup organising committee, said last month he would only be interested in standing for election if Johansson retired.

INTERNET

CHINA’S DU BECOMES SHOOTING GRAND SLAM CHAMPION

ZAGREB, 25 July—Chinese marksman Du Li became a grand slam winner in the shooting sport after she won the women’s 10-metre-air rifle event here on Monday at the 49th World Shooting Championships.

“I am really exited about the result,” said Du.

“But I didn’t think much about the result before the final.”

Du, gold medalist at the Athens Olympics, started the final on the fourth place but shot a highest of 104.1 points in the 10-shot final round, winning her first world title with a total score of 502.1 points.

The 24-year-old Chinese had already obtained the titles of Olympics Games, World Cup, World Cup Final and Asian Games.

It was also a sweet revenge for Du, the silver medalist at the Worlds 2002 in Lahti, as she beat the defending champion Katerina Kirkova of the Czech Republic to the second with an advantage of three tenths of a point.

INTERNET

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2006 US Grand Prix race at the Laguna Seca racetrack near Monterey, California, on 23 July, 2006. —INTERNET

CORINTHIANS FANS DEMAND TEVEZ APOLOGY AFTER GESTURE

RIO DE JANEIRO, 25 July—Fans of Brazilian champions Corinthians have told forward Carlos Tevez to apologize for gesturing to the crowd to be quiet during a game at the weekend.

A leader of the notorious supporters’ group Gavioes da Fiel (Hawks of the Faithful) warned that the Argentine international could face an orchestrated campaign against him if he does not say sorry.

“If he thinks he’s above us, let’s see how Tevez faces an organised campaign on our part,” Gavioes vice-president Wildner Rocha told the Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper.

“Nobody can stand constant pressure,” said Rocha, nicknamed the Little Flea. “They (the players) are not prepared for this and we are.”

Tevez scored the equaliser as Corinthians, bottom of the table after a disastrous slump in form, drew 2-2 at home to Fortaleza.

He celebrated by running to the Corinthians fans and putting his finger over his lips telling them to be quiet. They had jeered the team after Fortaleza took a 2-1 lead.

INTERNET

DUFF COMPLETES NEWCASTLE MOVE

LONDON, 25 July—Irish winger Damien Duff has passed a medical and joined Newcastle United for five million pounds (9.24 million US dollars) from champions Chelsea, the Premier League club said on Monday.

The 27-year-old has signed a five-year-contract.

Duff joined Chelsea from Blackburn Rovers in 2003 in a 17 million pound (31.4 million US dollars) deal and won two league titles. He played 125 games for the London club, starting 95, and scored 19 goals.

INTERNET

THURAM COMPLETES MOVE FROM JUVENTUS TO BARCELONA

MADEIRA, 25 July—French defender Lilian Thuram has passed a medical and signed a two-year contract with Barcelona, the European and Spanish champions said on Monday.

“I am very pleased. To play at this club is the best thing that could happen to a footballer,” Thuram told the club’s website.

Barca are reported to have paid troubled Serie A club Juventus five million euros for the player.

Thuram has won a record 121 caps with France and announced his international retirement after losing in the World Cup final to Italy earlier this month.

He celebrated by running to the Corinthians fans and putting his finger over his lips telling them to be quiet. They had jeered the team after Fortaleza took a 2-1 lead.

INTERNET
A plume of dark smoke rises from a wildfire that has burned more than 500 acres and is located about 40 miles (64 km) east of San Diego, California, on 23 July, 2006.
Prime Minister General Soe Win receives Ambassador of European Commission

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win received Ambassador Mr Friedrich Hamburger of European Commission to Myanmar based in Bangkok, Thailand, at the Prime Minister’s office in Nay Pyi Taw this evening.

Also present at the call were Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Maung Myint, Director-General of Prime Minister’s Office Col Thant Shin, Director-General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MNA

Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win receives Mr Friedrich Hamburger, Ambassador of European Commission based in Bangkok, Thailand, at the Prime Minister’s Office in Nay Pyi Taw — MNA

Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win shakes hands with Mr Friedrich Hamburger, Ambassador of European Commission based in Bangkok, Thailand. — MNA

Ten-member armed group of God Army led by Johnny Tu returns to legal fold

NAY PYI TAW, 25 July — A nine-member armed group of God Army with its base in the other country led by Johnny Tu returned to the legal fold at a Tatmadaw camp in the area of the Coastal Region Command, bringing along with them two AK-47 automatic rifles, two magazines, 60 rounds of ammunition and one AR-15 on 17 July, and so did private Saw Sho from the group, bringing along with him one M-16 automatic rifle, one magazine, 40 rounds of ammunition, one Carbine, one magazine, 30 rounds of ammunition and one M-17 hand grenade on 19 July.

The eight members who returned to the legal fold together with Johnny Tu are Phugaw with the rank of company commander (organizer), Saw Le Htoo with the rank of company commander (office in charge), Khon Pha with the rank of supply and transport in charge, Saw Kye Khu with the rank of (See page 10)

Weather Forecast for (26-7-2006)

**Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas**
Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers.
Degree of certainty is (40%).

**Yangon and neighbouring areas**
One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**Mandalay and neighbouring areas**
Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

INSIDE

* He also realized that his 20-year practice of armed insurgency did not bring any benefits to the people but adverse effects on the locals.

* Due to the evil legacy of colonialism, some nationalities in Shan State followed the wrong path of armed insurrection.

* Although the insurgents collected extortion money they had done nothing to serve the interests of the region.

* They have seen with much amazement the economic and social progress of the national people of the regions where their counterparts have made peace with the government.