Senior General Than Shwe sends message of sympathy to PRC

**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 sympathy to His Excellency Mr Hu Jintao, President of the People’s Republic of China, for the loss of life and property caused by floods and landslides set off by the tropical storm Bilis in Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi and Fujian Provinces of the People’s Republic of China starting from 14 July 2006. — MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of sympathy to PRC

**NAY PYI TAW, 26 July —** Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Zeng Qinghong, Vice-President of the People’s Republic of China, for the loss of life and property caused by floods and landslides set off by the tropical storm Bilis in Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi and Fujian Provinces of the People’s Republic of China starting from 14 July 2006. — MNA

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 reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

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

National races in Shan State now have easy access to basic and higher education and enjoy health care services

**NAY PYI TAW, 26 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 together with Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Central Command, the ministers and departmental heads of Shan State, arrived at Lashio, Shan State (North). — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
PERSPECTIVES
Thursday, 27 July, 2006

Extend agriculture and livestock breeding industries for regional economic development

Ayeawady, Bago and Yangon Divisions are the main regions the nation has to rely on for its economy.

In 2005-06, Bago Division (West) succeeded in meeting the target yields for eight of the ten major crops, and measures are being taken to meet the target yields for all major crops in 2006-2007.

It has also been planned to put 36,000 acres of land under physic nut in Bago Division. Physic nut plants have been grown on 21,000 acres up to now and will be cultivated in the remaining areas at the end of the rainy season.

In 2005-2006 in Bago Division (West), triple cropping was carried out on 37,000 acres but efforts are being made to increase the cultivated acreage up to more than 70,000 in 2006-2007.

This year, Bago Division is to grow monsoon paddy on three million acres and the government, on its part, is rendering necessary assistance. Plans are being made for double and triple cropping.

As the government is laying down plans and fulfilling all the requirements, so it is necessary for local farmers to do their utmost for the benefit of the nation and for themselves.

Regional authorities are also required to give a close supervision at the grass-roots level and make sure that ten major crops, three perennials, three new grass-roots level and make sure that ten required to give a close supervision at the

Regional authorities are also required to give a close supervision at the grass-roots level and make sure that ten major crops, three perennials, three new varieties of crops and physic nut plants are grown as targeted.

We would also like to call on farmers to try by four methods to increase cultivated acreage and engage in mixed, double and triple cropping and extend livestock breeding industry for regional economic development and increased per capita income.

‘Soon’ offered to members of the Sangha

YANGON, 26 July — Wellwisher U Myint Soe-Daw Mya Mya Soe and family of Kamayut Township offered ‘soon’ (a day meal) to 70 Sayadaws of academic and administration departments and 380 members of the Sangha from State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) at Mogok refterory on Kaba Aye Hill this morning.

The ceremony was graced with the presence of members of the Sangha led by Pro-rector Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Utama and Registrar Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Kumara. The wellwisher family offered Waso robes and provisions to five Sayadaws and donated K 496,000 for ‘soon’ (a day meal) through Director Daw Aung Kyi of State Pariyatti Sasana University. The wellwishers shared the merits gained and offered ‘soon’ to the members of the Sangha. — MNA

ASEAN focuses prevention of pests in agriculture

YANGON, 25 July — The 13th meeting of the ASEAN’s working group for agriculture was opened at Sedona Hotel, here, today.

It was attended by Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint and senior officers of the ministry, representatives of ASEAN member nations and diplomats.

The meeting was opened with an address by Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint, and Mrs Pham Kim Oanh, a representative of Vietnam. At the three-day meeting, participants discussed matters on prevention of pests in agriculture, producing of foods which do not cause diseases and holding of the meeting of farmers of ASEAN in Myanmar in 2007. They also discussed upgrading the skills of staff of the working group.

Mrs Pham Kim Oanh delivers an address. — MNA

FOREIGN MINISTER SENDS MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY TO PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Li Zhaoxing, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China for the loss of life and property caused by floods and landslides set off by the tropical storm Bilis in Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi and Fujian Provinces of the People’s Republic of China starting from 14 July 2006. — MNA

Education Minister meets faculty members

YANGON, 25 July — Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyetin, accompanied by Director-General Col Ohn Myint of Department of Myanmar Education Research Bureau, met with the pro-rector, Heads of department, Professors and faculty members at the University of Distance Education (Yangon) yesterday.

Pro-rector Dr Daw Khin Mar Tn reported to the minister on school enrollment of the academic year, distribution of teaching aid submission of assignments, arrangements for the final examination and writing papers on use of e-Education Learning Centre and upgrading the University of Distance Education. After hearing the reports, the minister fulfilled the requirements.

After the meeting, the minister went to University of Foreign Languages (Yangon) and met with the rector, the pro-rector, Heads of department and faculty members at the University. Rector Dr Myo Myint reported on academic and administration of the University. The minister viewed the students learning at language labs. — MNA

Myanmar archery team bag one more silver and bronze

YANGON, 26 July — Myanmar archery team won one more silver and bronze medal each in the Second World Ranking Asian Circuit Archery Championship 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, recently.

Tin Zin Ei secured one silver medal in the knockout matches of the women’s compound singles event. She won over the Indian archer with 113-101 points in the second round knockout competition. In the third-place match of the men’s singles 70-m knockout round event, Lin Naing grabbed one bronze medal with a 116-109 points win over the Malaysian archer.

Myanmar Archery Team achieved one gold, one silver and two bronze medals in the championship. — NLM

CASH DONATED: U Tin Maung Tun and family of No 218, Seikkantha Street, Kyauktada Township, donated K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged recently. Joint-Treasurer U Aung Than of the Home accepts the donation. — NLM

Lin Naing, a bronze medalist. — NLM
Elephants terrorize villagers in Zambia

LUSAKA, 25 July—Elephants and hippos have continued terrorizing villagers of Namoomba area in Siavonga District of Zambia’s Southern Province, Zambia News and Information Service (ZANIS) reported Monday.

It quoted village headman Bornface Mulopa as saying in the area over the weekend that villagers in the area are now leaving in fear because of the huge presence of the wild animals in the area.

Headman Mulopa complained that the elephants destroyed the little food that farmer’s stored in the sheds.

He said that the elephants have crossed over from Zimbabwe in search of food, adding that the animals could be seen moving around the village even as early as 5:00 pm. To avoid being attacked by the wild beasts, villagers are now forced to lock themselves in their homes from 6:00 pm.

Mulopa also said that two fishermen were attacked and sustained injuries last week when a canoe they were using to catch fish capsized after being hit by a hippo on the Zambezi River.

For his good deed, the bond owner’s son gave Moore $100, but residents donated $1,200, a shopkeeper turned $2,500, and two businessmen from Troy combined $2,500, and two businessmen from Troy combined $2,500, and two businessmen from Troy.

Homeless man receives $4,000 for honesty

DETROIT, 25 July—A homeless man who returned $21,000 worth of saving bonds he found in a trash bin is finding out how much honesty can pay off. Charles Moore, 59, had been searching for returnable bottles last week when he came across the 31 US savings bonds. He turned them in to a homeless shelter, where a staff member tracked down the family of the man who had owned them.

For his good deed, the bond owner’s son gave Moore $100, but residents donated $1,200, a shopkeeper turned $2,500, and two businessmen from Troy combined $2,500, and two businessmen from Troy.

Blast hits coalition vehicle in Afghan south

KANDAHAR (Afghanistan), 25 July—A convoy of US-led forces was hit by a blast near the southern Afghan city of Kandahar on Monday and at least two Canadian soldiers were wounded, coalition forces said.

Police said the attack was carried out by a suicide bomber. The blast occurred on a main road outside Kandahar City, where a double suicide attack killed two Canadian soldiers and several Afghans on Saturday.

Coalition spokesman Major Scott Lundy told Reuters: “A coalition vehicle was struck by an IED (improvised explosive device) east of the city.”

But police sources said the blast was a suicide attack. “There was a suicide attack against the coalition this morning,” said a police source, who asked not to be identified. Another police official said the area was cordoned off.

UN Council has first straw poll on Annan successor

UNITED NATIONS, 25 July—South Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki Moon and UN official Shashi Tharoor received the most endorsements in the UN Security Council’s straw poll for the next UN secretary-general, diplomats said on Monday.

In a novel procedure, the 15 Council members, in a secret ballot, checked one of three boxes next to each of the four announced candidates: “encourage,” “discourage,” and “no opinion.”

The numbers each of the four announced candidates received were not disclosed and the race is far from over, with other names expected to emerge. But diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the secrecy of the ballots, said Ban received the most favourable votes followed by Tharoor, an Indian novelist and the head of the UN Department of Public Information.

The other two, whose countries have nominated them, came in third and fourth place respectively: Thai Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart Sathirathai and a former UN disarmament secretary-general, Jayantha Dhanapala of Sri Lanka.

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Doha talks suspended

Geneva, 25 July— World Trade Organization (WTO) chief Pascal Lamy formally recommended on Monday the suspension of the Doha Round of global free trade talks, after a meeting of six key trading powers collapsed due to differences over farming and manufactured goods.

"Faced with this persistent impasse, I believe the only course of action I can recommend is to suspend the negotiations across the Round as a whole," Lamy told an informal conference of the Trade Negotiations Committee, which comprises all the 149 WTO members.

That means all work in all negotiating groups should now be suspended, and the same applies to the deadlines that various groups were facing, he later told reporters at a press conference.

The WTO chief said that negotiators clearly need serious reflection. "Time-out to review the situation, examine available options and review positions."

He did not suggest any date at which the talks might resume. Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath told reporters that it "could take anywhere from months to years" to restart the negotiations.

Some analysts indicated that the suspension could last at least for a few years. Others said, with this suspension, the Doha Round risks a complete death.

Three killed, 19 injured in road mishap in central Nepal

KATHMANDU, 25 July—At least three people were killed and 19 others injured on Monday in a road mishap in central Nepal, local police office confirmed here Tuesday.

"At least three people, including an Army man, were killed and 19 others injured when a passenger bus met with an accident at Bagwan area of Bara District, some 100 kilometres south of Kathmandu," Bara District Police Office said in a Press statement.

All of the injured, at least five of them are in serious condition, are undergoing treatment in the Kalaiya Hospital and Narayani Sub-regional Hospital of the district, the statement said. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to replace oil, gas with biofuel over 10% by 2010

JAKARTA, 25 July— Indonesia plans to shift the usage of oil and gas by at least 10 per cent within the next four years, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Purnomo Yusgiantoro said here Monday.

The Minister said that the biofuel would be made from cassava, sugar cane, palm and castor.

"The government has targeted that in 2010 the biofuel will replace at least 10 percent of gas and oil in Indonesia," he said.

To meet the goal, the minister said that the government planned to provide six million hectares of land. "Now, five million hectares has been available from idle land," said Purnomo.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono would issue a decree on the establishment of a national team to control and make a blue print of the government policy on the biofuel energy.

He said that the state oil and gas company Pertamina and the state owned electricity company PLN would take part in the domestic marketing.

Scientist calls for more renewable energy use

BRISBANE, 25 July—An environmental scientist says Queensland should use more renewable energy sources to generate electricity.

A two-day climate change summit has begun at Parliament House in Brisbane this morning.

It is the third summit at Parliament this year, where previous meetings have covered road safety and obesity.

Keynote speaker Professor Ian Lowe, from Griffith University, says other states have more ambitious targets than Queensland.

"I’m going to argue today that we in Queensland should be setting strong targets for renewables, like 20 per cent of our electricity by 2020, and half of it by 2050," Prof Lowe said.

"They’re entirely achievable, and if you look around the world Sweden now gets a third of its energy from renewables, Norway half, Iceland two-thirds - it’s simply a matter of political will."
Pakistan asks for direct tea exports from Uganda

KAMPALA, 25 July — Pakistan, one of the world’s largest tea importers, invited Uganda to start direct exports to its market, Daily Monitor reported on Monday.

“It’s high time Uganda starts directly exporting its tea to Pakistan instead of going through Mombasa,” said Safdar Sohail, commercial counsellor at the High Commission for Pakistan in Kampala.

Uganda’s tea heavily relies on auctions at the Kenyan port of Mombasa to reach international market. It was branded and consumed as Kenyan tea after Ugandan growers sold their tea to middlemen in the neighbouring country.

Businessmen said the move would enhance the brand of Ugandan tea, the country’s third most important agricultural export after coffee and cotton, and enable Uganda to gain more revenues.

The direct export would also boost the small but once-booming tea industry of the east African country that has seen a transformation from neglected farms.

Records of last December showed that the tea industry was bringing 34 million US dollars to Uganda through total exports of over 37 million tons. MNA/Xinhua

SingTel puts new ultra-fast broadband technologies on trial

SINGAPORE, 25 July — Singapore Telecommunications (SingTel), the state’s largest telecom operator, is putting two new ultra-fast broadband technologies on trial.

According to a statement issued by the company Monday, the Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH) and the residential Metro Ethernet (ME) technologies will be tested in two local condominiums for six months.

The test of the FTTH, which brings optical fiber directly into a subscriber’s home or office, started from last weekend while the ME, an Ethernet network in a metropolitan area, will be tried on 10 August.

“The technologies will allow SingTel to offer customers ultra-fast broadband speeds of up to 80 Mbps (megabits per second) that will also enable advanced triple play of voice, video and data services,” the statement said.

Trial participants are able to watch video-on-demand, play games with low latency, download large music and video files more quickly and make video calls using their computers or laptops.

Currently, SingTel provides its residential customers with the Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) platform to access the Internet.

Five killed, six injured in a truck-bus collision in E China

QINGDAO, 25 July — Five people were killed and six others were injured Monday in a collision between a truck and a minibus with 11 aboard in east China’s Shandong Province, according to local police.

The collision took place at around 4 pm at an intersection in the Jimo City of Shandong, claiming the lives of five passengers on the spot. Two of the six injured are in critical condition.

There was no injury on the heavy-duty truck, police said.

The injured have been rushed to hospital. Cause of the accident is under investigation. — MNA/Xinhua

Death toll in S-W China quake rises to 22

KUNMING, 25 July — Twenty-two people are confirmed dead in an earthquake that jolted southwest China’s Yunnan Province on Saturday, the local government said Sunday.

The earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter Scale also injured 106 people in the city of Zhaotong, eight of whom seriously, said Tian Rongping, a spokesman with the city government.

The local health authorities have sent at least 300 medical workers to the quake-hit areas to provide first-aid to the injured, said Chen Hua, head of the city’s health bureau.

He said timely treatment has brought all the eight seriously injured people out of danger.

Eight-year-old Tang Jianhong was playing outside when she was hit by a falling rock and was badly injured on the waist, legs and belly.

She was immediately sent to the nearest hospital in Huanggecao New District of Yanjin County.

ADB financially helps Vietnam prevent HIV/‘AIDS’


Under an agreement on the issue inked by the two sides here Monday, the money will be poured into a project which supports Vietnam’s efforts in addressing the spread of the disease through an integrated plan involving mass media and community campaigns complemented by a comprehensive programme of activities and services to bring about widespread behaviour change among youths.

“The project will assist the government in conducting a focused campaign to influence behaviour that will boost access and use of condoms and knowledge of HIV/AIDS among youths, and fight dangerous practices such as needle sharing among drug users,” ADB’s country director Ayumi Koinisi said at the signing ceremony.

The project will also support non-governmental organizations in 15 provinces in undertaking youth-focused activities, including community-based advocacy, peer education, life skill training, and improved access to harm reduction services. MNA/Xinhua

Affected by the strong cloud cluster, the capital city was hit widely by a rainfall on 24 July, 2006; some parts of the city suffered from rainstorm. The average precipitation surpassed 30 millimetres, which made it the strongest rainfall in Beijing since summer begins. Meteorologists said it is really rare to witness such a city-wide rainfall in Beijing. —INTERNET

Chinese paramilitary soldiers train in Shanghai, China, on 25 July, 2006. The exercise was part of preparations to mark Army Day, the 79th Anniversary of the establishment of the People’s Liberation Army, on 1 August. —INTERNET

Onlookers clamber across rocks to view the carcass of a Southern Right whale, which was badly injured on 24 July, 2006; some parts of the city suffered from rainstorm. The capital city was hit widely by a rainfall since summer begins. Meteorologists said it is really rare to witness such a city-wide rainfall in Beijing. —INTERNET

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She was immediately sent to the nearest hospital in Huanggecao New District of Yanjin County.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) granted Vietnam a non-refundable aid worth 20 million US dollars to help the country reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS among local youths.

Under an agreement on the issue inked by the two sides here Monday, the money will be poured into a project which supports Vietnam’s efforts in addressing the spread of the disease through an integrated plan involving mass media and community campaigns complemented by a comprehensive programme of activities and services to bring about widespread behaviour change among youths.

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The project will also support non-governmental organizations in 15 provinces in undertaking youth-focused activities, including community-based advocacy, peer education, life skill training, and improved access to harm reduction services. MNA/Xinhua
Rise in soya bean imports threatens China’s cooking oil producers

BEIJING, 25 July—An increase in the amount of soya beans imported into China to sate the country’s demand for cooking oil is threatening domestic cooking oil producers.

China’s cooking oil consumption has increased at an annual rate of 10 per cent over the last five years and China now consumes 16.4 per cent of the world’s total, said Chinese Vice Minister of Agriculture Fan Xiaojian at a trade fair in Dalian, in northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on Sunday.

The surge in demand has boosted China’s oil imports and, according to Fan, China imported a total of 26.6 million tons of beans last year, 68 per cent of China’s bean consumption. It represented 40 per cent of the total world bean trade.

Experts are concerned that the rise in imports will force Chinese bean companies out of the market.

In 2004, when many Chinese cooking oil producers imported a large amount of beans at a high price of 3,500 yuan per ton, the subsequent sharp drop in the bean price in China led to domestic companies incurring heavy losses.

Overseas investors began to take over the struggling Chinese cooking oil producers and have gradually dominated the market. Wang Lianzheng, of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science, said the country must establish a sound market system to boost development of the soya bean industry, exploring ways to market domestic bean products.

Wang also urged domestic companies not to import beans blindly in the future so the bean price in China will remain stable.

Thai elephants to get artificial insemination

BANGKOK, 25 July—Veterinarians from Thailand’s Chiang Mai University and pachyderm conservationists have jointly extracted sperm from eight elephants to be used for artificial insemination to help boost declining elephant population.

Anchalee Kalmapijit, director of the Mae Sae Elephant Kraal, said the extracted sperm will be stored at Kasetsart University and can be used for up to 50 years. Thailand’s elephant population in recent years has diminished rapidly, with domesticated ones now numbering only some 2,600 nationwide. The operation will contribute to the conservation of Asian elephant species, experts say.

The Elephant Conservation Centre in northern province Lam-pang last year successfully conducted an artificial insemination operation for an elephant named Plai Khod, who is now 13 months pregnant and due to give birth to her baby early next year. This hopefully will be Thailand’s first successful case of artificial insemination for elephant.

S Korean FM visits Singapore

SINGAPORE, 25 July—South Korean Foreign Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ban Ki-Moon called on Singapore leaders on Monday during his three-day visit to the country.

During his meeting with Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, they discussed bilateral relations and the recent development in the region, especially in the Korean Peninsula. Channel NewsAsia report said at night.

Apart from agreeing on the need for a peaceful and diplomatic resolution of North Korea’s missile test issue, they also stressed the importance of an open and inclusive architecture for regional cooperation with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) at the core.

In addition, Ban suggested that the two countries go beyond their economic cooperation to include other areas like cultural exchanges. He also called on Singapore’s Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong on Monday.

China mulls US-Russia initiative to combat nuclear terrorism

BEIJING, 25 July—China will carefully study the new US-Russia initiative to combat the nuclear terrorism, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Monday.

“We welcome all efforts helpful to deepen international cooperation and enhance the coordinated drive to deal with nuclear terror,” said Chinese Foreign MINISTRY spokesman Liu Jianchao when asked to comment on the new Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

The initiative was announced by the presidents of the United States and Russia in St. Petersburg on July 15. It called on countries to improve accounting, control and physical protection of nuclear material and radioactive substances as well as the security of nuclear facilities, and prevent acts of nuclear terrorism.

“Preventing nuclear terrorism is one of the most serious challenges the international community faces in protecting world peace and security,” Liu said. The spokesman said China would carefully study the US-Russian initiative.

Wen Jiabao inspects storm-raked areas

CHANGSHA, 25 July—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao is inspecting tropical storm Bilis-ravaged areas in central China’s Hunan Province and has given instructions to local officials on reconstruction work and preparation against similar mishaps.

“The top task before us is to arrange for the lives of people affected, ensuring they have adequate food, clothing, shelters, clean water and medical care,” Wen said Saturday in Hunan, the worst-hit province with 346 confirmed fatalities and 89 missing by Friday.

Meanwhile, production must be restored and homes rebuilt as soon as possible,” he said.

Chinese kung fu practitioners perform during a Shaolin kung fu stage performance called “Into The Temple” in Xiamen, East China’s Fujian Province, on 23 July, 2006. The tropical storm Bilis and floods might cause the collapse of the Shunji Bridge, built in 1211 during the Southern Song dynasty (1127-1279), sources said.—INTERNET

The picture shows a collapsed bridge in Quanzhou, East China’s Fujian Province, on 23 July, 2006. The tropical storm Bilis and floods might cause the collapse of the Shunji Bridge, built in 1211 during the Southern Song dynasty (1127-1279), sources said.—INTERNET

People visit an electronic map during an exhibition marking the 30th anniversary of an earthquake in Tangshan City, north China’s Hebei Province on 24 July, 2006. Tangshan was nearly leveled by an earthquake measuring 7.8 degrees on the Richter Scale on 28 July, 1976, leaving some 240,000 people dead, 160,000 severely injured and more than 4,000 children orphaned.—INTERNET

The picture shows a collapsed bridge in Quanzhou, East China’s Fujian Province, on 23 July, 2006. The tropical storm Bilis and floods might cause the collapse of the Shunji Bridge, built in 1211 during the Southern Song dynasty (1127-1279), sources said.—INTERNET

Chinese kung fu practitioners perform during a Shaolin kung fu stage performance called “Into The Temple” in Xiamen, East China’s Fujian Province, on 24 July, 2006. All the performers are from kung fu schools in China, “Into The Temple”, organized by China Poly Group Corp and Shaolin Temple, will begin a world tour with 106 performances.—INTERNET

Ban Ki-Moon called on Singapore leaders on Monday during his three-day visit to the country.

During his meeting with Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, they discussed bilateral relations and the recent development in the region, especially in the Korean Peninsula. Channel NewsAsia report said at night.

Apart from agreeing on the need for a peaceful and diplomatic resolution of North Korea’s missile test issue, they also stressed the importance of an open and inclusive architecture for regional cooperation with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) at the core.

In addition, Ban suggested that the two countries go beyond their economic cooperation to include other areas like cultural exchanges. He also called on Singapore’s Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong on Monday.

China mulls US-Russia initiative to combat nuclear terrorism

BEIJING, 25 July—China will carefully study the new US-Russia initiative to combat the nuclear terrorism, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Monday.

“We welcome all efforts helpful to deepen international cooperation and enhance the coordinated drive to deal with nuclear terror,” said Chinese Foreign MINISTRY spokesman Liu Jianchao when asked to comment on the new Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

The initiative was announced by the presidents of the United States and Russia in St. Petersburg on July 15. It called on countries to improve accounting, control and physical protection of nuclear material and radioactive substances as well as the security of nuclear facilities, and prevent acts of nuclear terrorism.

“Preventing nuclear terrorism is one of the most serious challenges the international community faces in protecting world peace and security,” Liu said. The spokesman said China would carefully study the US-Russian initiative.

Wen Jiabao inspects storm-raked areas

CHANGSHA, 25 July—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao is inspecting tropical storm Bilis-ravaged areas in central China’s Hunan Province and has given instructions to local officials on reconstruction work and preparation against similar mishaps.

“The top task before us is to arrange for the lives of people affected, ensuring they have adequate food, clothing, shelters, clean water and medical care,” Wen said Saturday in Hunan, the worst-hit province with 346 confirmed fatalities and 89 missing by Friday.

Meanwhile, production must be restored and homes rebuilt as soon as possible,” he said.

Chinese kung fu practitioners perform during a Shaolin kung fu stage performance called “Into The Temple” in Xiamen, East China’s Fujian Province, on 24 July, 2006. All the performers are from kung fu schools in China, “Into The Temple”, organized by China Poly Group Corp and Shaolin Temple, will begin a world tour with 106 performances.—INTERNET
Chin State striving to become tea state of the nation

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects vocational training school for women in Matupi. — MNA

Li-Gen Ye Myint inspects vocational training school for women in Matupi. — MNA

Power plants inspected in Mon State

Yangon, 26 July—Minister for Electric Power No (2) Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint held a meeting with the staff of Kyauktro Township electrical engineer’s office in Mon State on 22 July and called for systematization in the tasks.

In meeting with the staff of Paung Township electrical engineer’s office, he instructed the officials to supervise the tasks to fully provide electric power to local people.

The minister looked into the production process at Padomma soap factory of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd in Paung Township. During his inspection tour of Mawlamyine power station near Ngayatgyi Village by Mawlamyine-Kyaikmaraw Road, the minister underscored maintenance of the machines.

During his visit to Mon State electrical engineer’s office, the minister called on the staff to make concerted efforts to realize the guidance of the Head of State, raise the income of the ministry, and enhance the ministry’s image. — MNA

18 members of Mawlamyine-gyun Township NLD quit

No longer wish to remain as party members due to loss of interest in NLD


They sent letters of resignations to the NLD Headquarters and local authorities.

In their letters sent to Mawlamyinegyun Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Sub-commission, they said that they no longer wished to remain as party members due to loss of interest in the NLD and that was why they resigned from the NLD of their own accord. — MNA
National races in Shan State now have easy access to…

(from page 1)

arrived in Lashio, Shan State (North) by helicopter from PyinOoLwin on 24 July.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party were welcomed at Lashio Airport by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Brig-Gen Aung Than Htut, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint, senior military officers and departmental officials.

On 25 July, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and party attended a ceremony to share merits for construction of Abhaya Thukha Ordination Hall, two-storey Zeyathukha Mingala Hall and Thukha Mingala National races in Shan State now have easy access to…

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha reported on implementation of short-term five-year plans, accomplishments due to cooperation and correct policy and the need to accelerate work momentum.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein reported on yearly increase of foreign trade volume, progress of border trade, transformation of border trade to normal trade, need for the entrepreneurs to follow the correct path laid down by the State, formation of trade promotion bodies and assistance rendered by the ministry.

At the meeting, the Secretary-1 said significant progress has been made in agricultural and trade sectors due to favourable geographical conditions of Shan State (North) and rich resources.

(See page 9)
presence of diplomats, resident representatives of UN agencies and local and foreign newsmen. Similar ceremonies were held in Yangon, Lashio and Kengtung. The 15-year Drug Elimination Project is being implemented in cooperation with the government and the people, he said.

Four development regions — Taunggyi, Lashio, Kengtung and Panglong were designated for speedy development of Shan State, he added.

He also spoke on opening of higher institutions and specialist hospitals and construction of roads and bridges, railroads and airports for ensuring better transport. Now, national races in Shan State have easy access to basic and higher education and enjoy health care services, he said. Unlike in the past, Shan State now has sound foundations for development including robust and highly qualified human resources. It will surely become a developed region.

However, some neo-colonialist powers and some foreign media lacking journalist ethics are floating fabrications, saying that drug problem is growing in Shan State, Shan women are falling victim to sexual violence, national races are suffering from oppression and ethnic cleansing, and human trafficking is rampant in their attempts to tarnish the government’s prestige and break up national unity and the Union. They in reality are making attempts to install a puppet government under their influence, with democracy and human rights as excuses.

Democracy is a practice to manage the affairs of the nation. Myanmar already has experienced multiparty democracy and socialist democracy. The country will have to choose a democracy system that is in conformity with traditions and culture and traits of her people. We have already witnessed the adversities some countries are facing due to the adoption of unrealistic democratic transitions under foreign pressure.

The government laid down and is implementing the seven-step Road Map with goodwill and sincerity to build a discipline-flourishing democratic state that is realistic for the nation and the people. Moreover, it has been building the necessary political, economic and education infrastructures for the perpetuation of the democratic state it is building.

All the national people regardless of the regions they are living in should make collective and united endeavours for peace, prosperity and perpetuity of the Union, while embracing Union Spirit.

(See page 10)
Minister receives guests of PRC

Nav Pyi Taw, 26 July — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin today received Mr Shang Yanguo, Vice-Chairman of XJ Group Corporation and General Manager Mr Liu Hanjie of China EXIM Bank of People’s Republic of China at the ministry.

At the call, they discussed matters on building of the multi-diesel engine factory at Thagaya Industrial Township. They met with departmental personnel and officials of One Stop Services — officials of Customs Department, Immigration and National Registration Department, Internal Revenue Department, Myanmar Economic Bank and Myanmar Police Force — presented reports on experiences in import and export tasks.

After hearing the reports, the ministers said that border trade is being undertaken with five objectives including promoting friendly relationship between the two countries, promotion of bilateral trade, transformation of border trade into normal trade, and full collection of tax. At present, arrangements are being made to transform border trade into normal trade in Muse which is the main border trade camp. They said that Muse 105th Mile Trade Zone is being built with the aims of selling agricultural produce, fruits and marine products at reasonable price.

Both nations including entrepreneurs concerned will enjoy benefits only if border trade can be developed into normal trade. Entrepreneurs who only have small-scale border trade experiences may lack skills in doing business following formal procedures of the normal trade. The government will render assistance as much as it can to businessmen to conduct large-scale border trade properly. Departmental personnel should be free from self-seeking practices in rendering assistance to entrepreneurs within the framework of law.

While government staff should stay away from corrupt practices, traders on their part will have to do business with sincerity. Only then will foreign trade through border will develop systematically both land and sea. According to data, export and import business in Muse region was usual and requirements will be fulfilled in time.

Afterwards, ministers met with President and members of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and members of the Muse-Namkhak Border Trade Merchants Association and local merchants.

At the meeting, the ministers said as trade is the key to development of a nation, the Government has provided assistance to the merchants and entrepreneurs. So, traders are to abide by rules and regulations of the trade and produce quality goods to get good price. Now, it is witnessed that fruits and vegetables get a firm footing in market in Muse and traders are to find the market for agricultural produce and fishery products in border trade.

Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Aung Kyi and directors-general under the ministry.

Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe receives Dr Kim Hak-Su, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). — MNA

Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe receives Dr Kim Hak-Su, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). — MNA

Ministers inspect fishery products being graded to be exported. — MNA

National races in Shan State now...

(from page 9)

The Secretary-1 cordially conversed with those attending the meeting.

On 24 July morning, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han inspected the border trade check point at 105th Mile in Muse Township. They met with departmental personnel and merchants and fulfilled requirements of smooth and speedy flow of commodities between the two countries.

At the hall, the minister met with the Director-General of Border Trade Department and officials of One Stop Services. Director-General U Yan Naing Tun reported on reclamation of land for plots at the 105th Mile Border Trade Zone and completion of buildings, export and import items, annual export and import volume, collection of tax, the setting up of border trade check points, and smooth and speedy undertakings of export and import through One Stop Services. Director-General U San Pyae gave a supplementary report. Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein explained volume of export and import and strength of service personnel.

Member of One Stop Services — officials of Customs Department, Immigration and National Registration Department, Internal Revenue Department, Myanmar Economic Bank and Myanmar Police Force — presented reports on experiences in export and import tasks.

Ministers receive UN Under-Secretary-General

Nav Pyi Taw, 26 July — Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha received Dr Kim Hak-Su, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), at the ministry here this morning.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and officials.

Ministers receive UN Under-Secretary-General

Nav Pyi Taw, 26 July — Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha received Dr Kim Hak-Su, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), at the ministry here this morning. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw and officials.

Ministers inspect fishery products being graded to be exported. — MNA

Ministers inspect fishery products being graded to be exported. — MNA

It is witnessed that fruits and vegetables get a firm footing in market in Muse and traders are to find the market for agricultural produce and fishery products in border trade.
MWAF holds Waso robes offering ceremony

YANGON, 26 July — The second Waso robes offering ceremony of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was held at its Headquarters on Thanlwin Road in Bahan Township this morning. The ceremony was graced with the presence of members of the Sangha led by Member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Pandita Bhaddanta Pandita Bhivamsa of Maha Bawdi Committee Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pandita Bhivamsa of Maha Bawdi Monastic Community. It was also attended by President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Than Than Nwe, distinguished guests, Vice-Presidents and CEC members, the Patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization and members, working group members and executives of MWAF Headquarters.

Firstly, the ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa and the congregation shared the merits gained. Those present offered Waso robes and offertories to members of the Sangha. The Sayadaw delivered a sermon and the congregation shared the merits gained. After the ceremony, they offered soon to members of the Sangha.

MWAF President Daw Than Than Nwe and party offer a day meal to Sayadaws. — MNA

Educative talks given in Insein

YANGON, 26 July — An educative talk on environmental conservation and sanitation conducted by Education Sub-Working Group of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation was held at No. (1) BEHS, Insein on 20 July. It was attended by leader of Social and Culture Working Group Dr Daw Sanda Aung, leader of Education Sub-Working Group and members, the Insein Township Education Officer, the headmistress, teachers and students.

Leader of Social and Culture Working Group Dr Daw Sanda Aung made an opening speech.

Next, MWAF Secretariat member Dr Thet Thet Zin gave talks on school sanitation. — MNA

Sitthwe Yathason comes out

YANGON, 26 July — Featuring a photo of model-cum-actress Khin Lay Nwe on the cover, Sitthwe Yathason magazine is in circulation nation-wide beginning today.

The August issue runs an interview with the cover girl whose appearance fans will see in an increasing number of video plays together with articles and short stories on a life story of a soldier, a romance, golden girl Mandy Moore, renowned local photographer, Seal and Heidi or a story about a vocalist and a beauty discovering new romance, a protagonist of a Korean TV series acting as an intelligence agent and brave police woman all contributed by famous writers of the nation including Thaung Wai Oo, Nwana Thaing etc. The book published by Myayadana Sarpay in South Okkalapa also includes cartoon and poem sections.

Please dial 578670 or 399773 or contact executive editor Lwin Thaung Wai at the publishing house at 14, Ward 2, Thanthuma Street in the town for orders. — MNA

Social welfare tasks carried out

YANGON, 26 July — Chairperson of Ayeyawady Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Than Than Nwe inspected the herbal nursery of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Labutta on 20 July. She visited Thukhtayama monastic education school in Labutta and donated 10 bags of rice, K 100,000 and 100 dozens of exercise books to over 200 students through principal Sayadaw Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Vinaya. She met members of district and township MCWAs at the meeting hall of Myaungmya MCWA. The Division MCWSC chairperson donated Waso robes, five bags of rice and exercise books to 59 students of Parahita youth training school at Aungthethkkan Monastery in Yaytho Nyaungwai Village, Einme Township.

She also donated rice and exercise books to 59 students of Parahita youth training school at Aungthethkkan Monastery in Yaytho Nyaungwai Village, Einme Township. She briefed members of Einme Township MCWA on the objectives and future tasks of the association at Shwe Pyi Tan Hall of Einme Township Peace and Development Council.

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

The second best time is now.
Pakistan seeks more helicopters from US

ISLAMABAD, 25 July—Pakistan has asked the United States to supply more modern helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft to boost its anti-terrorism and anti-narcotics operations along its border with Afghanistan and Iran, the Daily Times reported Monday.

Sources in Pakistani Interior Ministry confirmed that Pakistan had demanded additional helicopters equipped with “bigger guns” during the Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao’s recent visit to the United States, according to Daily Times.

Pakistan needed both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters for re-connaissance and operations in the border areas,” Sherpao told US officials at a meeting of a joint working group on efforts to counter terrorism and drug smuggling, the newspaper said.

The minister told the meeting that Pakistan would “like bigger guns for the helicopters to make operations against well armed drug dealers in difficult terrain more effective”, Daily Times reported.

MNA/Reuters

Cargo ship taking on water in north Pacific

ANCHORAGE (Alaska), 25 July—The US Coast Guard is trying to rescue a crew of 22 people aboard a Canadian-bound cargo ship taking on water and listing severely in the north Pacific Ocean, the agency said on Monday.

The Singapore-based Cougar Ace, a automobile-hauling ship that left Japan carrying 4,813 vehicles, called for help late Sunday night, according to Coast Guard officials in Alaska.

“Our primary concern is to get the crew off of the ship,” said Coast Guard Petty Officer Thomas McKenzie.

A Coast Guard aircraft is to get the crew off of the ship, the Coast Guard said.

One crew member had suffered a broken leg, and all had donned survival suits in case they were forced to abandon ship, the Coast Guard said.

The ship is located 230 miles (370.1 kilometres) south of Alaska’s Aleutian Island chain.

The ship, owned by Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, left Japan on July 22 and was scheduled to arrive at the Fraser River Port near Vancouver on Friday, officials said.

The 654-foot (199.3-metre) ships also carrying about 500 tons of heavy oil, some of which is leaking and leaving a 2-mile (3.2-kilometre) sheen behind the vessel, McKenzie said.

MNA/Xinhua

China regulates foreign investment in real estate sector

BEIJING, 25 July—China issued on Monday new proposals to regulate foreign investment in its real estate sector.

The proposals include an increase in the ratio of registered capital in property developers’ overall investment and restrictions on residential property purchases by foreign institutions and individuals.

They are part of the government’s efforts to regulate China’s real estate market and to improve the efficiency of using foreign investment.

The proposals have been jointly issued by the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Commerce, the National Development and Reform Commission, the People’s Bank of China, the State Administration of Industry and Commerce and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange.

The proposals also provide details about projects, shares, loans and any foreign exchange sales of foreign-invested real estate enterprises.

MNA/Xinhua

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Cambodia has 20,000 to 55,000 illegal weapons

PHNOM PENH, 25 July — Cambodia still has more than 20,000 illegal weapons out of control of the government, local media reported on Monday.

A recent study released that, in late 2005, the government licensed 15,000 and 23,000 weapons, but there were still 20,000 to 55,000 weapons, that lay outside of the control of the government, in the hands of illegal users, Development Weekly reported.

The report was presented by Prok Vanny, president of the Working Group for Weapons Reduction (WGWR), at a recent national seminar.

Prok Vanny stated that the study conducted by the WGWR revealed that Cambodians think that security in their country is improving. However, many people have called on the government to continue its measures to collect and confiscate illegal weapons since they believe that many weapons are still in the hands of some individuals who use them illegally.

Cambodia’s arms law was approved by the National Assembly in April 2005.

Sem Sophal, a three-star general of the National Polices Commissionariat, said that since 1998, the Cambodian Government, with the participation of all levels of its citizens, local authorities, international and national NGOs, has attempted to find a solution to the weapons’ problem in an attempt to make people to live with dignity, peace, stability, security and development.

So far, 195,183 weapons have been publicly burned under “the flame of peace,” he added.

MNA/Xinhua

Study shows cancer drug Gleevec may damage heart

WASHINGTON, 25 July — Gleevec, the pill that transformed cancer treatments by offering an easy way to target a difficult type of leukemia, may cause serious heart damage, researchers cautioned Monday.

They found evidence that treatment caused heart failure in 11 patients who took Gleevec, made by Swiss drugmaker Novartis.

Patients should not stop taking the drug, known generically as imatinib, but should be watched closely for heart damage, the team at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, University of Texas and elsewhere said.

Other drugs in the same class, tyrosine kinase inhibitors, may also damage the heart, the researchers report in the August issue of the journal Nature Medicine. “Gleevec is a wonderful drug and patients with these diseases need to be on it,” Thomas Force, who led the study, said in a statement. — MNA/Reuters

Venture to produce first CDMA phone in Vietnam

HANOI, 25 July — A joint venture between two Vietnamese firms and a South Korean company will manufacture first mobile and cordless fixed phones in Vietnam, a local phone operator said Monday.

IQLinks, a joint venture between EVN (Electricity of Vietnam — Vietnam’s state-owned corporation), South Korea-based Ubiquam and Vietnam’s Chi Linh, will start construction of a phone factory in northern Hai Duong Province soon so that first batches of products using Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) 450 technology supplied by US-based wireless chip developer Qualcomm will come out in July 2007, said EVN Telecom, affiliated to EVN.

The factory is expected to annually produce some 500,000 CDMA phones in the first three years of operation, and over one million units in following years. Each phone will be sold at between 800,000 Vietnamese dong (hundreds of millions of dollars) and some million Vietnamese dong (hundreds of dollars), the phone operator said.

Vietnam is expected to have some 36 million mobile phone subscribers in 2010, up from over 11 million in May, local newspaper Vietnam Economic Times recently quoted Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Do Trung Ta as saying.

MNA/Xinhua

Farnborough International Airshow closes in Britain

FARNBOROUGH (Britain), 25 July — The 2006 Farnborough International Airshow (FIA) closed on Sunday after a highly successful week in which over 38 billion US dollars of business was announced together with major new product and programme launches.

A total of 1480 exhibitors from 35 countries took part in the FIA, and some 75 defence delegations from 43 countries attended, along with 40 civil aerospace delegations from 15 countries. In addition, trade show attendance figures during the week are expected to top the 2004 level of 133,000.

According to the FIA organizers, international aerospace companies used the airshow to announce significant new business worth in excess of 38 billion US dollars, covering civil and defence products, aero-engines, the supply chain, training, equipment and services. — MNA/Xinhua

Heavy downpour attacked Beijing on Monday. The observatory of Beijing had released alarm of heavy rain twice at 16:30 and 17:15. — INTERNET

A car speeds through a flooded road in Beijing, China, on 24 July, 2006.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam’s advertising market registers annual growth of 20-30%
**S Africa sees billions of rand spent on World Cup**

CAPE TOWN, 26 July— South Africa will soon begin work on its stadiums for the 2010 World Cup finals and the costs should run to about 6 billion rand (858 million US dollars), the head of its local organizing committee told Parliament on Tuesday.

The tournament is expected to inject billions of rand into Africa’s largest economy and create badly-needed jobs in a country with an unemployment rate officially estimated at over 25 per cent.

“The World Cup will deliver an overwhelming positive outcome in economic terms,” Danny Jordaan said. Jordaan, speaking to a committee debating a special Sports Measures Bill, said the building of four new stadiums and the refurbishment of a further four would all be under way by January.

He said construction of a new stadium in Port Elizabeth would begin in October, to be followed in November by work on a major revamp of Soccer City, the Johannesburg venue where the 2010 final will be played.

FIFA has allocated the South African local organizing committee a budget of 3.2 billion rand with a quarter of the money already transferred to the country, Jordaan said. A further 130 million US dollars had been given to the South African Football Association by world football’s governing body.

Cape Town’s new stadium will have a 70,000 capacity with a retractable roof, Jordaan said, and is earmarked to host one of the semi-finals.

Soccer City, which already has a capacity of 75,000, would be increased to a new capacity of 104,000. It will host the opening game and the final.

**Turkish Government to join match-fixing probe**

ISTANBUL, 25 July— The Turkish Government pledged on Monday to add its weight to investigations by prosecutors and the national football federation (TFF) into match-fixing allegations in the domestic league.

According to media reports, first division club Denizlispor are alleged to have offered to pay three Malatyaspor players to throw a game with Gaziantepspor to help Denizlispor avoid relegation on the last day of the season.

Malatyaspor lost the game 1-0 and were relegated. Denizlispor, who have rejected the claims, ended the season 15th and avoided relegation.

Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Ali Sahin said there was no question of the new season being delayed by the investigations but, even if the claims proved to be false, the Turkish public needed to be reassured on the issue.

**Juve lose appeal but Lazio, Fiorentina reprieved**

ROME, 26 July— The relegation of Juventus to Serie B for their role in a match-fixing scandal was confirmed by an Italian soccer appeal court on Tuesday but Lazio and Fiorentina received a reprieve and will stay in Serie A.

AC Milan will also remain in the top flight as decided at a previous hearing but with a smaller number of points deducted — minus eight rather than minus 15.

Crucially, the six-times European champions will now be entered for the third qualifying round of the Champions League after their points penalty on last season’s tally was reduced. Juventus and Fiorentina said they would appeal against the latest decision.

Juve did receive some clemency with the appeals court reducing the penalty points they start next season with from minus 30 to minus 17.

They will also have to play three matches at a neutral venue and have been fined 120,000 euros (151,700 US dollars).

The decision to revoke the last two Italian league titles won by Juventus in 2005 and 2006 was confirmed by the appeals court. Although no decision has yet been made on who will be declared champions for those two seasons.

With the various points penalties and Juve’s relegation, Inter Milan come out on top of last season’s standings but it is not yet clear if the title will be awarded to them as it may be left unallocated.

While not the kind of change Juventus had hoped for the reduction does give them a chance to push for promotion back to the top flight Serie A next season.

**Polish FA offices searched in World Cup ticket row**

WARSAW, 25 July— State prosecutors searched the headquarters of Poland’s football association (PZPN) on Monday in the latest chapter of a row over the disappearance of World Cup tickets.

Prosecutors from the southern town of Częstochowa have been investigating charges by some of the several hundred fans who say they paid PZPN but never received tickets for the Poles’ games at the tournament in Germany. Two people have so far been charged in the investigation, which began when journalists from TVN television news caught tourists on film in June who claimed they had bought tickets from PZPN officials at prices several times the face value.

“Today we are searching PZPN and firms (distributors of tickets) connected to it,” prosecutor Stefan Rozmuszczyk told the PAP state news agency.

**Turkish player denies match-fixing claims**

AC MILAN, 26 July—-AC Milan defender Fabio Cannavaro of Italy heads a ball during his presentation ceremony at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 25 July, 2006. INTERNET

**Dunga demands body, mind, heart and soul from players**

SAO PAULO, 26 July— Brazil’s new coach Dunga said on Tuesday his players will have to give body, mind, heart and soul to play for the five-times world champions.

The 42-year-old, who has no previous experience in management, said his players have to give their body, soul, mind and heart to the national team,” he said.

“The players have to understand that we’ve got quality, but they have to be highly motivated, be excited to play for the national team, know that few have this possibility and make the most of it.”

The 42-year-old, who has no previous coaching experience, was the surprise choice when Brazil named their new coach on Monday.

**Boston Red Sox’ Trot Nixon, left, scores past Oakland Athletics’ Jason Kendall in the eighth inning of a baseball game on Tuesday, 25 July, 2006, in Oakland, Calif. Nixon scored on a three-run double by Jason Varitek.**—INTERNET

**Rooney slams former manager Moyes in autobiography**

LONDON, 26 July— Wayne Rooney’s souring relations with Everton manager David Moyes hastened his departure to Manchester United, the England striker has said in his autobiography.

Rooney, who joined United in 2004 for a fee estimated at 25 million pounds (46.30 million US dollars), made his first-team breakthrough at Goodison Park as a teenager.

“I would have gone almost anywhere just to get away from David Moyes. If no-one had come in I would have joined Newcastle,” Rooney wrote in My Story So Far, serialized in the Daily Mail.

“To me he appeared overbearing; just wanting to control people. I suppose being young and confident and playing for England at 17, I wasn’t bothered about upsetting him or answering back.”

Rooney, a product of Everton’s youth academy, made his first-team debut as a 16-year-old in 2002 and two months later, five days shy of his 17th birthday, became the Premier League’s youngest scorer (since surpassed by James Milner) when he netted a superb match-winner against Arsenal.—MNA/Reuters

**Poisoned food in Malaysia**

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 July— Two men have been arrested after a woman died of food poisoning in a southern state, police said.

The woman, aged 60, was admitted to a hospital in Malacca on Monday night after consuming chicken and rice for an evening meal.

The state police chief said the men, aged 21 and 35, had been detained on suspicion of poisoning and were under investigation.

“It is not clear if the man’s girlfriend was a victim,” he said.

**AC Milan’s new defender Fabio Cannavaro of Italy heads a ball during his presentation ceremony at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 25 July, 2006. MNA/Reuters**

**Surprised choice**

SAO PAULO, 26 July— Brazil’s new coach Dunga said on Tuesday his players will have to give body, mind, heart and soul to play for the five-times world champions.

“A national team player has to have posture and attitude and it shouldn’t be necessary for me or anyone else to tell them that,” he told Reuters in a telephone interview. “While I’m in charge, they’ll have to give their body, soul, mind and heart to the national team,” he said.

“The players have to understand that we’ve got quality, but they have to be highly motivated, be excited to play for the national team, know that few have this possibility and make the most of it.”

The 42-year-old, who has no previous coaching experience, was the surprise choice when Brazil named their new coach on Monday.

**Disgraced AC Milan defender Fabio Cannavaro of Italy heads a ball during his presentation ceremony at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 25 July, 2006. MNA/Reuters**

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Chinese driving for Rome in honour of Year of Italy

Xi’an, July 26 — A hundred people from Xi’an, capital city of northwest China’s Shaanxi Province, are driving toward Rome to mark the Year of Italy, a programme China has launched with Italy’s government to enhance cultural exchanges between the two countries.

The team, involving dozens of motor vehicles and 100 people, on Saturday gathered at a plaza outside the southern gate of Xi’an and started the driving tour.

The journey, from the starting point of the Silk Road and to the terminal of the starting point of the Silk Road, is expected to last 40 days.

The team will pass through 16 countries, including artists, entrepreneurs and journalists. They believe the activity will add colour to the programme of Year of Italy. Governments of Xi’an and Rome jointly organized the driving tour.

MVA/Beibei

Israel expresses regret over UN deaths

JERUSALEM, 26 July — Israel said on Wednesday it regretted the deaths of four UN military observers in southern Lebanon and would investigate the airstrike that killed them.

“Israel sincerely regrets the tragic death of the UN personnel in south Lebanon” said Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Regev.

“We do not target UN personnel and, since the beginning of this conflict, we have made a consistent effort to ensure the safety of all members of the UN peacekeeping force.”

This tragic event will be thoroughly investigated,” said Regev.

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MVA/Reuters

New Rainfall Record

Wednesday, 26 July, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 9:00 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been fairly widespread in Mandalay, Magway and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavy falls in Momay State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were: Thatoni (3.74) inches, Mogok (3.22) inches, Mawlamyine (3.03) inches, Gwaw (2.90) inches, Sittway (2.83) inches, Magway (2.64) inches, Shwebo (2.48) inches, Kyaukpadaung (2.15) inches, Katha (2.20) inches, Minbu (2.05) inches and Tada (1.69) inches. Maximum temperature on 25-7-2006 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 26-7-2006 was 68°F.

Relative humidity at 09:00 hours MST on 26-7-2006 was (96%). Total sunshine hours on 25-7-2006 was 2.9 hours approx.

Rainfalls on 26-7-2006 were (0.20) inch at Mandalay, (0.31) inch at Kaba-Aye and (1.89) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (49.33) inches at Mandalay, (59.76) inches at Kaba-Aye and (66.34) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (8) mph from Southwest at (14:20) hours MST on 25-7-2006.

Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 27-7-2006: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and fairly widespread to widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase in rain in the coastal areas. Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 27-7-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%). Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 27-7-2006: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 27-7-2006: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Vice-Senior General Maung Aye receives incoming and outgoing Military Attaches of ROK

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye received Military Attaché Colonel Shim Jae-Koo who had completed his tour of duty and his successor Military Attaché Colonel Lae Nae Chan of the Republic of Korea at Bayintnaung Yeiktha Hall here this morning.

Also present at the call were Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein and Chief of Military Affairs Security Maj-Gen Ye Myint. — MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win sends message of sympathy to PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr. Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China, for the loss of life and property caused by floods and landslides set off by the tropical storm Bilis in Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi and Fujian Provinces of the People’s Republic of China starting from 14 July 2006.

MNA

Prime Minister General Soe Win receives UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Prime Minister General Soe Win welcomes Dr Kim Hak-Su, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 July — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Soe Win received UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Dr Kim Hak-Su at the Prime Minister’s office here this evening.

Also present at the call were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu, Director-General of Protocol Department U Kyaw Kyaw of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director-General of Foreign Economic Relations Department Daw Myo Nwe of Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development. — MNA