Senior General Than Shwe felicitates King of Morocco

NAY PYI TAW, 30 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 Majesty King Mohammed VI of the Kingdom of Morocco, on the occasion of the National Day of the Kingdom of Morocco which falls on 30 July 2006. — MNA

Hydel Power Projects not imaginary ones but they are being implemented practically

State Electric Power Development Project Work Committee meets

NAY PYI TAW, 29 July — The meeting (1/2006) of State Electric Power Development Project Work Committee took place at the Prime Minister’s Office this evening with an address by Chairman of the committee Prime Minister General Soe Win.

It was attended by the ministers, the deputy ministers, directors-general and officials of the SPDC Office and the Prime Minister’s Office, departmental heads and officials of the Ministries of Electric Power Nos 1 & 2.

In his speech the Prime Minister said the development of electric power goes together with that of socio-economy of the State. That is why the leading committee and the work committee for State Electric Power Development Project have been formed. As given its duties and responsibilities, the work committee needs to present the conditions of the projects being implemented and to be implemented to the leading committee. Now is the time when the projects being implemented and to be implemented to the leading committee. Now is the time when the

Prime Minister General Soe Win delivers a speech.—MNA

Minister Col Zaw Min submits report. —MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint presents report.—MNA

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

Four political objectives

* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Measures are to be taken for changing the dams constructed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation into multi-purpose facilities to supply electric power to the regions.
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Sunday, 30 July, 2006**

**Strive for further development of border areas**

With a view to ensuring national solidarity, the government is taking systematic measures for development of economic, education, health and social sectors of national races residing in border areas.

Nowadays, as peace and tranquillity prevails in border areas economic infrastructures were built, and as a result, the living standard of national races has improved remarkably.

To ensure better transport, the government has built over 5,000 miles of new roads and upgraded the old ones coupled with 70 major bridges and 975 small bridges, enabling national races to travel to areas that were of difficult access in the past.

Under the youth development programmes, it has built 27 national race youth development training schools in addition to a large number of basic education schools in border areas for the local youths to be able to pursue education free of charge.

With the emergence of Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree College (Yangon) and Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree College (Mandalay) the local youths have now been able to pursue higher education in the region.

At present, health care services are being provided in border areas with the opening of 79 hospitals, 105 dispensaries, 58 rural health care centres and 140 rural health care branches.

The government has spent over K84,750 million on development of such infrastructures as education, health, agriculture and transport in border areas.

**People’s Desire**

- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

**Remarkable progress witnessed in tourism industry**

**Tree planting ceremony held at Development Degree College (Yangon)**

**In memory of late Major Thaung Tin (Retd) of No MT 11/202, Thumingala Housing Estate on Thudatthana Road in Thingangyun Township, Daw Khin Lay and family donated K100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Retd) of the Home recently. — MNA**
NZ, ASEAN agree on relationship roadmap

Wellington, 28 July — New Zealand Foreign Minister Winston Peters announced Thursday that a roadmap guiding New Zealand's relations with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) over the next four years had been agreed during a meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

According to government Press release, the plan has been under negotiation for two months and was approved at a meeting between Peters and ASEAN foreign ministers led by the Philippines Foreign Minister, Alberto Romulo.

Peters is in Kuala Lumpur to attend a series of ASEAN meetings, including the annual ASEAN Regional Forum, the only region-wide ministerial meeting dedicated to government-to-government engagement on security issues. The Philippines is currently coordinating ASEAN's relations with New Zealand. "This is the first time there has been a formal document setting out how we see our relations with ASEAN developing," said Peters.

"Southeast Asia is of vital importance to our political, security and economic interests. This roadmap identifies specific areas for further cooperation between New Zealand and ASEAN countries, such as counter-terrorism, disaster management and human resource development," said Peters.

"We are particularly pleased that the plan notes the importance of bringing current negotiations on an ASEAN-NZ/Australia Free Trade Agreement to a successful conclusion," said Peters.

Gas explosion kills five in northern Spain

Madrid, 28 July — Five people were killed and at least 10 others injured when a gas explosion ripped an apartment building in northern Spain on Thursday, Efe news agency reported.

The blast was caused by a faulty bottle of propane gas in the early hours of Thursday morning, killing the five in the four-storey building in Spain’s fishing town of Laredo, which is frequented by Spain’s holidaymakers in summer. The bodies were found after firefighters put out a fire caused by the explosion, Cadena SER radio said, citing Laredo Mayor Santos Fernandez.

The blast occurred on the third floor, but the bodies were discovered on a top-floor apartment, according to civil protection department chief Juan Jose Rodriguez. The injured have been sent to hospitals.

Heat wave blamed for dozens of deaths in California

Los Angeles, 28 July — A persistent heat wave was blamed for dozens of deaths in California, the most populous state in the United States, the local KHZ TV station reported on Wednesday. The heat wave that had continued for 20 days led to the deaths of 29 people confirmed so far by state authorities, the report said.

Many of the victims were elderly people unable to seek shelter from the oppressive heat. Officials said the length of the heat wave, with its unusually high temperatures, has created deadly conditions for those who are vulnerable or have no escape.

But there have been conflicting reports of deaths related to California's record-breaking heat wave. The Los Angeles Times put the death toll at more than 50, while a spokeswoman of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, Tina Walker, said the deaths could reach 71.

California has been suffering from unrelenting heat that pushed temperatures to record levels in many cities. The high temperature in Fresno in the central part of the state hit 112 degrees Fahrenheit (44 Celsius) Tuesday, matching a record set in 1931, according to the National Weather Service.—INTERNET

Death toll rises to 27 in Baghdad explosions

Baghdad, 28 July — The death toll rose to 27 in the car bomb and mortar attacks in Baghdad’s southern district of Karradah on Thursday, an Interior Ministry source said.

The latest reports about human casualties said that 27 people were killed and 101 others wounded in the attacks on the Karradah neighbourhhod, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

He said that the deadly attacks at mid-morning were caused by a parking car bomb near the Urzidi Intersection in Karradah neighbourhood and a barrage of six to seven rockets on two other spots of the neighbourhood.

Earlier, the source said that at least 20 people were killed and 54 wounded in the three explosions in Karradah neighbourhood.

Man survives run-in with falling dog in Poland

Warsaw, 28 July — A man was bruised but alive on Wednesday after a Saint Bernard dog thrown out a two-storey window landed on him as he was walking down the street in the southern-Polish city of Sosnowiec.

The 50-kilogramme (110-pound) dog was pushed out of the window by its drunken owner on Monday, police said.

"The dog had a soft landing because it fell on a man," said police spokesman Grzegorz Wierzbicki. "The dog escaped with just a few scratches." "The man was also more in a psychological state of shock than physically hurt," Wierzbicki added. The one-year-old dog, named Oskar, was placed in an animal shelter while police investigate its owners for animal abuse. — MNA/Reuters

A visitor views lacquer pictures during the opening of the First China Fuzhou Lacquer Ware Exhibition at China Arts and Handicrafts Museum in Beijing on 26 July, 2006.—INTERNET

Fifty families from the city of Oulu in Finland will test the new technology over the next two months with Nokia 6136 handsets.—INTERNET

A model presents a creation by label Sun Goddess during the South Africa fashion week held in Sandton, Johannesburg, on 28 July, 2006.—INTERNET

Relief workers evacuate a resident in a rubber boat on flood waters to a safer place in Jincheon, south of Seoul, South Korea, on 29 July, 2006. Three people were killed in torrential rains that pounded South Korea's central and northeastern region on Saturday, the nation's disaster management agency said.—INTERNET

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A visitor views lacquer pictures during the opening of the First China Fuzhou Lacquer Ware Exhibition at China Arts and Handicrafts Museum in Beijing on 26 July, 2006.—INTERNET
China eyes stronger military against threats

BEIJING, 28 July — China needs stronger military forces as it faces growing instability and threats to national security, the ruling Communist Party’s ideological mouthpiece said according to reports in the state media on Wednesday.

An essay in the latest issue of Qiushi, or Seek Truth, says China must strengthen its military to guard a peaceful international setting for economic growth, the official China News Service reported.

“Destabilizing and uncertain factors are increasing and having a major impact on China’s security environment,” the essay said.

“History demonstrates that one cannot rely on others granting peace, and only building a strong military and firm national defence can provide a reliable security barrier,” it added.

Qiushi magazine is the Communist Party’s ideological mouthpiece and often carries essays by senior officials and theorists.

The essay did not specify the threats calling for stronger defence, but it said that Western foes did not want to see a strong China.

“Hostile Western forces do not want to see a strong socialist China emerge in the East, and they are constantly cooking up vain attempts to hold in check and contain China’s development.”

Supporters of independence for Taiwan are also a “major peril”, it added.

China has experienced deepening friction with Japan over Tokyo’s treatment of its World War II invasion and its increasingly assertive foreign policy.

Beijing’s relations with Washington are strained, even as the two countries seek to cooperate over curtailing North Korea’s nuclear weapons programme and defusing other regional disputes. MNA/Reuters

Strong earthquake jolts some parts of Indonesia

JAKARTA, 28 July — A strong earthquake rocked some parts of Indonesia’s North and West Sumatra provinces on Wednesday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or concern for possible tsunami, according to official sources.

The earthquake with a magnitude of 6.1 struck at 18:16 pm local time (1116 GMT) was centered under the Indian Ocean, about 90 kilometres northwest of Gunung Sitoli, the main town on Nias island, an official of the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency.

“It strongly jolted Gunung Sitoli, but so far, we have not yet received any report of damage or casualties,” the official said.

He also said that the quake was 33 kilometres under the sea. MNA/Xinhua

Death toll from “Kaemi” rises to 25 in southern China

NANCHANG, 28 July — The death toll from Typhoon Kaemi has risen to 25 in southern China, with at least 53 still missing, according to local flood control sources on Thursday afternoon.

Floods and landslides have left 17 residents dead and 15 missing in Jiangxi, according to latest statistics from the provincial flood and drought control headquarters.

The deaths include nine in Shangyou, four in Suchuan, three in Nankang and one in Longnan across the province, according to the headquarters.

Meanwhile, six have been confirmed dead and 38 still missing after a military barracks were swept away in the province, military sources said on Thursday morning. MNA/Xinhua

A soldier of a Russian special forces squad carries a comrade to an approaching helicopter during a training in the Northern Caucasus region, in south Russia near the village of Akhmetovka, on 26 July, 2006. INTERNET

Indian student wins international space award

Moscow, July 28 — An Indian student was on Wednesday honoured with the first prize in a prestigious international space science competition for his project on industrial extraction of oxygen from the lunar soil to commercialize space travel.

Kamal Tripuraneni's project 'A Greater Viability of Space Travel by the Lunar Generation of Oxygen via the FFC-Cambridge Process' has been adjudged as the best by an international jury of experts and awarded first prize of Robert A. Heinlein Flight into the Future Contest, a spokesman for the US-based trust that conducts it said after presentation of awards here.

"The project of Indian student Kamal Tripuraneni, currently studying in Cambridge, would help in industrial extraction of oxygen and metals from the lunar soil to commercialize space travel," Dmitry Peison, secretary of the contest, said. MNA/APP

Bus, truck collision in Iran kills 26

TEHRAN, 28 July — A bus and a truck collided head-on in Iran’s Gulf province of Hormuzgan, killing 26 of the bus passengers and injuring 13, state radio reported on Thursday.

“The truck driver, who survived the crash, had a positive blood test for addiction,” Mohammad Kharq, spokesman for the traffic police told state radio.

“He caused the accident as he was in a lowered state of consciousness,” he said. One person dies every 20 minutes on Iran's dangerous roads. MNA/Reuters

A child, center, cries as she wades through a flooded street with others, on their way home from school in Ahmadabad, India, on 28 July, 2006. Monsoon rains lashed many parts of Gujarat State on Friday, flooding parts of Ahmadabad city. INTERNET

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The United States "should immediately abolish all secret detention and secret detention facilities," said the UN Human Rights Committee, which supervises implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The committee said it had "credibile and uncontroverted" information that the United States had detained people "secretly and in secret places for months and years".

It urged the US Government to "grant prompt access by the International Committee of the Red Cross to any person detained in connection with an armed conflict."

The committee also urged Washington to conduct prompt and independent investigations into all allegations of suspicious deaths and torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by its agents and other personnel in detention facilities in Guantanamo, Afghanistan, Iraq, and other overseas locations.

The committee reviewed periodic United States reports on how it had been implementing provisions of the covenant on 17-18 July, and issued the conclusions of the review on Friday.

In the 12-page conclusions and recommendations report, the committee listed a wide range of concerns relating to US conduct in the "war on terror" as well as about the human rights situation in the United States.

Concerns included the "potentially over-broad reach" of counter terrorism laws at home, interrogation techniques authorized by the US Army and safeguards for detainees held at the Guantanamo Bay military base.

The committee also slammed Washington's statement that issues related to its conduct outside US territory were largely "beyond the scope" of the treaty.

"The United States should review its approach and interpret the covenant in good faith," the report said.

It also raised concerns about the domestic human rights situation in the United States, including racial discrimination in education, racial profiling in federal and state law enforcement, and reports of police brutality.

MNA/Xinhua

Six-year-old Lu Di, from west China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, shows off his muscles as others look on in front of the Songshan Shaolin Martial Arts School in central China’s Hennan Province on 26 July, 2006. — INTERNET

Russia defends miliary cooperation with Venezuela

MOSCOW, 28 July — Russia’s military cooperation with Venezuela does not contradict international law, the Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday, a day after the United States expressed concern over Russia’s plan to sell fighter jets to the South American nation.

"Russia implements military-technical cooperation with Venezuela, as it does with other nations, in full accordance with international and Russian legal norms," ministry spokesman Mikhail Kamynin said in a statement posted on the ministry's website.

Russia and Venezuela are building their relations upon market principles and considering the competitiveness of the commodity in question, he said.

Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said last week that Russia had struck a one-billion-US dollar deal with Venezuela to sell 30 Sukhoi-30 fighter jets and as many helicopters to the country.

The US State Department said on Tuesday the United States has raised the issue several times with Russia and maintains its opposition to the deal.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is currently in Russia for a three-day visit.

MNA/Xinhua

All 16 aboard helicopter killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, 28 July — All 16 people aboard a helicopter, including several foreigners, were killed when it crashed in rugged mountain terrain in southeastern Afghanistan, officials said on Thursday.

The cause of Wednesday’s crash was not immediately known, but it took place in an area where insurgents are active and at a time of increased violence across the country ahead of NATO’s groundbreaking mission in the dangerous south.

"There are no survivors," said Colonel Tom Collins, a spokesman for US-led coalition forces.

"Twelve of the 16 have been recovered. The terrain in this area is extremely difficult and we are now working hard to recover the remaining passengers," The Dutch Defence Ministry said two of its troops were aboard the helicopter, a Russian-made transport.

"There is no indication yet on what caused the crash," Collins told a news conference Afghanistian’s Interior Ministry said the helicopter belonged to a Western company and that among those were killed were three foreign women.

A Taliban spokesman said militants had shot down the helicopter. Insurgents have in the past claimed responsibility for shooting down aircraft, but their reports have often proved unfounded.

MNA/Reuters
Cambodian PM speaks highly China-assisted national road

STUNG TRENG (Cambodia), 27 July — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Wednesday spoke highly the rehabilitation project of Cambodia’s National Road No.7, assisted by the Chinese Government and constructed by Shanghai Construction (Group) General Co.

“The people in the region could benefit lots from the road and the bridge,” Hun Sen said during his visit to the construction site of the 1,057 metre-long Sekong River Super-Large Bridge, which will be the largest bridge in Cambodia’s northeast region and one of 13 bridges of the National Road No.7 from Kratie Province to Cambodia-Laos border.

“It will not only promote the exchanges of personnel, goods and traffic but also the development of tourism as well as help to attract more domestic and international investment,” the Premier added.

Cambodia’s National Road No.7 is also the part of the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) highway networks. “The build of the bridge will be sure to promote the social and economic development and mutual benefit of triangle area of Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos,” Hun Sen said, adding “when we have road, we have hope.”

He thanked the Chinese Government and people for continuous assistance, and appreciated the friendly relationship between Cambodia and China. China’s assistance is pure-hearted without any preconditions.

The total length of the National Road No 7 is about 187 kilometres. The project commenced on November 18, 2004 and the total contract time is 44 months which will be completed in May 2008. The total works of the road No7 project includes the road rehabilitation as well as 13 bridges, drainage and protecting works. The project is estimated to cost more than 500 million Chinese RMB yuan (more than 65 million US dollars). With the approximately 71 per cent of the total works have been completed up to the end of July 2006, Shanghai Construction (Group) General Co. makes every endeavour to try to complete the whole project before the end of 2007. — MNA/Xinhua

China commits to East Asia cooperation

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 July — China remains committed to supporting and participating in East Asia cooperation and to pursuing a policy of building good-neighbourly relationships and partnerships with its neighbours.

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing made the pledge here on Wednesday at the 10+3 Ministerial Meeting, also attended by his counterparts from the 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Japan and South Korea.

China will continue to work with all other countries concerned to deepen the 10+3 cooperation, which has improved the development environment in East Asia, enhanced the overall regional strength and delivered real benefits to all the countries concerned over the past years, said Li — MNA/Xinhua

GM reports $3.2b in loss in second quarter

WASHINGTON, 27 July — General Motors Corp reported on Wednesday a loss of 3.2 billion US dollars, or 5.62 dollars per share, for the second quarter of 2006.

Despite the big deficit, the result was still better than expected for the World No 1 automaker absorbed heavy charges for its massive restructuring programme.

The loss of 3.2 billion dollars was compared with a loss of 987 million dollars, or 1.75 dollars per share, for the same period last year.

Heavy rains kill six in central Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 27 July — At least six people were killed and several others injured in building collapses and floods in central Pakistan following heavy rains Tuesday, a government official and police said.

The deaths add to the toll from rains and floods in the country in the last two days to 30. The torrential rains lashed the city of Lahore, the capital of Punjab Province, early Tuesday and more rain was forecast.

The building of a Child Care Centre at Taj Pura locality in Lahore completely inundated in rainwater. Several children drowned in the water and the Army divers recovered two bodies of children.

It was not immediately clear as to how many children drowned and that how many children were in the building.

Two people died when a roof of a factory collapsed at Baghban Pura area. One boy and another man were killed in other areas when parts of a building collapsed.

Sultan Latif, a senior official in the government-run Met Office said Lahore received 31 millimetres rain in 5 hours said other parts of Punjab Province also received heavy rains.

The rains caused floods in different localities. Waters entered houses in some areas and divers were called to save the people from drowning.

Army and paramilitary troops were also called out to help people evacuate from flood-hit areas. They are using boats to shift the people in danger to safer places.

ASEAN+3 FM: Condemned killing of UN observers in Lebanon

KUALA LUMPUR, 27 July — Foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Plus Three ((namely China, Japan and South Korea) were shocked and distressed by the apparently deliberate targeting by the Israeli Defence Forces of the UN observer post in southern Lebanon Tuesday, which killed four UN military observers, according to a statement issued here Wednesday.

The ASEAN Plus Three foreign ministers condemned the time-day meeting, which is part of ASEAN Post Ministerial Conferences started here Wednesday, and issued a press statement, condemning this coordinated attack, extending their deepest condolences to the families of those victims and expressing their sympathies to the governments of Austria, Canada, China and Finland.

The ministers called on the Israeli Government to conduct a full investigation into the incident and demanded that any further attack on the UN positions and personnel must stop. The ministers further encouraged the UN to also conduct its own investigation.

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Cambodia hopes to strengthen financial cooperation with China

PINOM PENH, 29 July — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Friday that he hopes to strengthen financial cooperation with China to further promote Cambodia’s social and economic development.

Hun Sen made the remarks during his meeting with visiting China Development Bank President Chen Yuan, who arrived here on Thursday for a four-day visit.

During the meeting, Hun and Chen exchanged views on financial issues of common concern. The Premier also briefed Chen of six priorities in his country’s development, which include irrigation system, infrastructure, electricity, human resources, export processing and tourism.

Chen Yuan said that it is his visit to seek and promote more cooperation with Cambodia’s financial institutes, adding that his bank is willing to cooperate with Cambodia on some large projects and to support investment on above priorities.

Chen also said China will be glad to support Cambodia on the project of construction of the railway linking Cambodia to some ASEAN member countries as well as China, and to offer more human resources training to promote Cambodia’s economic development and reduce poverty.

Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni received Chen and his delegation Friday morning. The King hopes that the Chinese Government would promote Cambodia’s development of agriculture.

Argentine police seize 600 kilos of marijuana

BUENOS AIRES, 29 July — Argentine police seized nearly 600 kilos of marijuana in Buenos Aires Province on Thursday during a search of a light aircraft that made an emergency landing at a private airfield due to bad weather conditions, police officers said.

Two individuals wearing dark clothes fled the plane, according to witnesses.

Inside the aircraft, police found 535 air-sealed packets of marijuana wrapped in burlap sacks with “Paraguay” printed on them.—MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia’s Karangetan volcano on top alert

JAKARTA, 29 July — Indonesia has put the status of volcano Mount Karangetan in South Sulawesi Province on top alert and evacuated over 1,000 people, local volcanologic and district officials said on Friday.

“The status has been heightened to the highest alert,” he told Xinhua over telephone.

There are about six villages in the southern part of the mountain which possibly may be affected by the lava, he said.

Kronodoro Tanumung, an official of Siau Timur District, said that some 1,000 villagers living near the mountain had taken refuge to safer places.

“At night time, they leave their homes, sleeping in schools, churches and others, and returned home at the day,” he told Xinhua.

Mount Karangetan is one of the 129 active volcanoes in Indonesia, part of the “Pacific Ring of Fire”, a section of fault lines stretching from the Western Hemisphere through Japan and South-East Asia.—MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam receives more foreign visitors

HANOI, 29 July — Vietnam is intensifying tourism promotion on such key markets as the United States, Japan and members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) by improving quality of service and upgrading infrastructure.

Vietnam expects visits of 5.5-6 million foreign tourists and 25-26 million domestic ones by 2010, and total tourism revenues of 4.4-5 billion US dollars in the year, said the VNAT.

The country hosted nearly 3.5 million international arrivals and 16 million domestic visitors in 2005.—MNA/Xinhua

Brazil’s Petrobras to build its largest refinery in 2014

RIO DE JANEIRO, 29 July — Brazilian state-owned energy company Petrobras announced on Thursday that it would build its largest refinery in 2014.

Paulo Roberto Costa, the country’s director of supplies, said the refinery which will be called “Premium”, would have a capacity of 500,000 barrels a day.

Most of the high-quality crude oil derivatives produced by the plant would be exported, he added, without revealing the location of the refinery.

The company already has 11 refineries in Brazil, with two more under construction. One of these is in Rio de Janeiro, which is set to produce products for the petrochemical industry and another will

be in Pernambuco in the east of the country.

Currently, Brazil’s largest refinery is the Campinas facility, which processes 360,000 barrels a day. Venezuela had the South American continent’s largest refinery, which has a capacity of 900,000 barrels a day.

An image released by Christie’s shows Audrey Hepburn wearing a Givenchy dress in the 1961 film “Breakfast At Tiffany’s” will go on sale in December with an estimated price tag of 50 to 70,000 pounds (US$90-130,000), Christie’s auctioneers said on 26 June, 2006.—INTERNET

A herdsman talks by a mobile phone in front of her tent at Qabnye village of Lhasa, capital of southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region, 27 July, 2006. With an investment of 216.9 million RMB yuan (27.1 million US dollars) in the past three years, phone service had been available at all the 241 villages of Lhasa by Thursday when the phone was put through at the remote Qabnye village.—INTERNET
**Hydel Power Projects**  
not imaginary ones...

*from page 1*

State is taking steps to turn the agro-based industry into a system in which different kinds of industry can be set up. Therefore, emphasis has been placed on boosting power supply for the development of agricultural sectors as well as industrial sector. So, the Ministry of Electric Power itself has been reconstituted into the two ministries, one is for generating electric power and the other for distribution.

The Prime Minister said the duty of the work committee is not only to coordinate work for speedy implementation of its ongoing projects but also to present matters related to those projects to the leading committee. In addition, it will take charge of tasks for the development of the electric sector by systematically generating and distributing electric power through coordination and supervision.

In addition to large and medium-scale hydropower projects that are part of the national grid, constant power plants that are part of the national grid, constant

In addition to large and medium-scale hydropower plant projects that are part of the national grid, constant implementation of small-scale hydel power station projects needs to take priority for regional consumption of electricity.

implementation of small-scale hydel power station projects needs to take priority for regional consumption of electricity.

The Head of State has already assigned duties to the Ministry of Industry-2 for production of machines for small-scale hydropower plants for respective regions. So, it is required to conduct surveys in respective regions with the help of local people to find out water resources over which hydropower plants can be built for the regions concerned.

Simultaneously, measures are to be taken for changing the dams constructed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation into multi-purpose facilities to supply electric power to the regions.

The process calls for a master plan through which the major projects that are part of the national grid and the projects designed to supply electric power to the regions concerned can be implemented in harmony.

The drive for extended generation of electric power is to cover construction of new power plants, building of more sub-power stations and power lines for distribution of electric power, and upgrading of present electric power facilities. And necessary steps are to be taken for the improvement in the services of distribution of electric power, and prevention against consuming power through dishonest means. The problem on unnecessary wastage and loss of electric power has not been remedied completely yet. Unnecessary power waste deals with weaknesses of machines and dishonesty of some persons. So, preventive measures are to be taken effectively to remedy both causes.

 Besides, necessary arrangements are to be made for correctly levying taxes on power consumption.

Minister for Electric Power No (1) Col Zaw Min presented reports, saying that capacities of machines power plants that can produce 60 megawatt. After 1988, the ministry built 39 new power plants — 30 hydropower plants that can produce 517,227 megawatt, four steam power plants that produce 281 megawatt, one steam power plant that produces 120 megawatt, and four recyle power plants that have 152.9 megawatt.

A total of 16 hydel power projects are being implemented for supply of more electricity. In this regard, Yeywa hydel power project that will generate 780 megawatt, the implementation of which was started in the Kyaukse Town- ship of Mandalay Division; Kunchaung hydel power plant that can generate 60 megawatt, in Pyu Township of Bago Division; Pyuchaung hydel power project that can produce 40 megawatt, in Pyu Township of Bago Division; Khaubaung hydel power plant that can generate 30 megawatt, in Myaung Township of Bago Division; Yenwe hydel power plant that can generate 60 megawatt, in Zawgi Township of Magway Division; Shwegyin hydel power plant that can produce 375 megawatt, in Shwegyin Township of Bago Division; Shweli hydel power plant that can generate 900 megawatt, in Sanktong Township of Shan State (North); Shwegyin hydel power plant that can produce 54 megawatt, in Monga Township of Shan State (South); Khaunaung hydel power project that can generate 54 megawatt, in Monga Township of Shan State (South); Patha hydel power project that can generate 2.2 megawatt, in Thandwe Township of Kayin State; and Thahtay hydel power plant that can produce 102 megawatt, in Thandaung Township of Kayin State.

Furthermore, plans are under way to implement 15 hydel power projects such as 160-megawatt Kawgata hydel power plants in Kyaukkyi Township of Bago Division, 48-megawatt Biluachaung (3) hydel power plant in Loikaw Township of Kayah State, Bilin hydel power plant in Bilin Township that can generate 140 megawatt for the first phase and 140 megawatt for the second phase, 600-megawatt Hatkyi hydel power plant in Hlaingbwe Township of Kayin State, 660-mega- watt Shwesawya hydel power plant in Burali Town- ship of Sagaing Division, 39-megawatt Thandwe hydel power plant in Thandwe Township of Rakhine State, 30-megawatt Kyintat hydel power plant in Gwa Township of Rakhine State, 54-megawatt Kengtaung hydel power plant in Monga Township of Shan State (South), 380-megawatt Manipura hydel power project in Falang Township of Chin State, 600-megawatt Taninthayi hydel power plant in Taninthayi Township of Taninthayi Division, 150-megawatt Shweli-1 hydel power plant in Namkham Township of Shan State (North), 500-megawatt Shweli-2 hydel power plant in Momeik Township of Shan State (North), 800-mega- watt Mayku hydel power plant in Myitkyina Town- ship of Kachin State, 25-megawatt Dayainge hydel power plant in Hlaingbwe Township of Kayin State, and 20-megawatt Thakhet hydel power plant in Taninthayi Township of Taninthayi Division. The capacities of machines at the power plants will amount to 4,346 megawatt.

There are 11 hydel power plants generated to the national grid—Biluchaung Nos 1 & 2 hydel power plants in Loikaw Township, Kayah State, Kinda hydel power plant in Myittha Township, Paunglaung hydel power plant in Pyinmana Township and Hsudawgyi hydel power plant in Mandalay Township, Mandalay Division, Zawgiy No 1 & 2 hydel power plants in Sagaing Division, Kyyaw Township and Tikkyi coal-fired power plant in Phawnaung Township, Shan State (South), Baunguto hydel power plant in Bagoh Township, Bago Township, Yungphane hydel power project in Kunchaung Township, Sagaing Township, Monga Township and Pyinmana Township, Pyinmana Township, Pathein Township and Paunglaung Township. Those hydel power stations are currently generating 712 megawatt in total.

* A total of 16 hydel power projects are being implemented for supplying more electricity.

* Plans are under way to imple- ment 15 hydel power projects.
Lt-Gen Ye Myint looks into irrigation facilities in Pakokku District

NAY PYI TAW, 29 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence together with Chairman of Sagaing Division PDC Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye inspected irrigation facilities of Shwetanttil river water pumping project near Shwetanttil Village in Pakokku Township on 26 July.

Next, they also inspected canals of Kyeevyaw river water pumping project. At Government Technological College (Pakokku) on Pakokku—Yesagyo Road in Pakokku, they inspected construction of the main building. They attended a ceremony to grow physic nut plants in Yesagyo Township. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on cultivation of physic nut plants in vacant and virgin lands.

At Gwego Dam Project near Gwego Village of Yesagyo Township, Director of Magway Irrigation Department U Nay Daung reported on storage of water in the dam. Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected construction of the dam.

In ancient Pakhangyi town, Lt-Gen Ye Myint paid homage to Sithushin Tharekkhan Buddha Image and viewed renovation tasks in the precinct of the pagoda.

On arrival at Myegedaung Dam Project, site Director U Nay Daung reported on progress of construction. Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected construction of the dam.

They proceeded to Hsinchaung Dam in Kaingmagyi Village-tract of Yesagyo Township. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions to officials on extended cultivation of monsoon paddy and increase of irrigated areas.

The dam was opened in 1995 and it can irrigate 1,000 acres of farmland.

Later, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected Kaingmagyi Dam. — MNA

Registration of vehicles explained

NAV Pyi Taw, 29 July — Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than explained matters related to registration of departmental and private vehicles and traffic rules at the meeting hall of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Present on the occasion were officials of Rail Transportation Ministry, ministries concerned and All Bus Lines Control Committee and responsible persons from private firms. The director-general and directors of Road Transport elaborated on registration of departmental vehicles in Nay Pyi Taw, traffic rules and extension of vehicle licence. They held interactive discussions with those present. Later the deputy minister gave concluding remarks.—MNA

Tune In To Their Media

- Render murky what is clear
- Play up again what’s been settled
- Destroy what is beautiful
- Divide what is united
- Loosen what is held tight
- Threaten what is persevering
- Jeer what is successful
- Impede what is moving forward
- Kill what is in progress
- Shake up what is in solidarity
- Is it good to be
- Scheming for
- Turning berserk for destruction
- Basic answer is that
- People dislike such traits
- Such concoctions, such acts
- Even ordinary people dislike
- The real big power
- And big prize-winners pore over
- Scheme and invent
- Such thoughts and traits
- This utterance and appearance
- They relish a great deal
- Tune in to their media
- You will doubtless find out.

Byan Hlwar (Trs)
Hydel Power Projects not imaginary ones
(from page 8)

Gas-used power stations are Ywama, Kyunchaung, Mann, Thaton, Shwedawng, Myaungun, Thakayta, Ahlon and Hlawga, and those power stations are currently generating 549.9 megawatts.

Steam-powered power stations are Ahlon, Hlawga, Ywama, Thakayta, Tikyt and Mawlamyine, and those power stations are currently generating 285 megawatts.

The 25 power stations are able to produce 1546.9 megawatts. But they were able to produce the megawatts ranging from 601 to 818 in 2005.

Ministry of Electric Power No-2 has twelve 230 KV power stations; sixteen 132 KV power stations and forty-seven 66 KV power stations numbering 75.

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1 U Myo Myint and Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint reported on generating of electric power.

Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin reported on production of metre boxes and ACSR wires used for power grids by the factories under the ministry and future programmes.

Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi reported on drilling of natural gas wells for more distribution of power, installation of pipe lines, distribution of gas and future programmes. Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha reported on the role of electric power sector for economic development.

Next, the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions. In his concluding speech, the Prime Minister said the electric power projects are being implemented with greater momentum. Chindwin basin projects including Hmaambthi project, Maykha confluence project, Shwehi project, Hatkyi project and Tarhsan project. These hydel power projects are not imaginary ones but they are being implemented practically.

On completion of the projects, electricity is sufficient for local consumption and it can also be exported in the future, he said.

The Prime Minister pointed out the important fact that the speedy implementation of the projects makes the people enjoy the benefits sooner. Officials concerned are to make field trips to worksite and the grass roots levels every now and then. He also said they are to organize their subordinates to bring out the interest of the State and the people and to discharge their functions with the sense of duty.

The meeting came to a close at 6 pm. — MNA
China’s annual gross domestic product growth for the first nine months will dip to 10.8 per cent from 10.9 per cent in the first half, the National Development and Reform Commission said on Thursday.—INTERNET

Dakar, 29 July—China has become a major strategic partner of African countries including Senegal, Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade said on Thursday.

The Senegal-China relationship has been developing smoothly since the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries last October, Wade told Xinhua.

Wade said that Senegal and other African countries share common views with China on international affairs and China is playing an increasingly important role in the world.—MNA/Xinhua

The satellite, which was dubbed Arirang 2, was lifted off from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome, about 800 kilometres northeast of Moscow, by a Russian rocket and has successfully sent signals to the Kenya satellite telemetry station from its orbit, said the South Korean Science Ministry and the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI).

The Arirang 2 is expected to send a picture to South Korea’s Daejeon ground control station around midnight from its orbit 685 kilometres above the Earth, the ministry said.

The Arirang 2 satellite, which is designed for geographical updates, natural resource searches and environmental observation, will operate in a low orbit of 685 kilometres from the earth and send high-resolution pictures of the earth’s surface to South Korea. According to local reports, local companies and Israel’s Electro Optical Industries Ltd. jointly developed the high-resolution, multispectral camera equipped on the satellite, which has a resolution of one square metre that can distinguish individual cars on the ground.

The KARI said the satellite will travel 6.8 kilometres a second and circle the globe more than 14 times a day. South Korea launched the Arirang 1 satellite, which has a camera resolution that can distinguish buildings, in 1999.

Arirang 2 is the 9th South Korean satellites currently operating in space.

Following the Arirang 2, the KARI said South Korea will move forward with its space programme that envisions sending 13 satellites into space by 2010. Under the programme, South Korea is expected to complete the construction of a rocket centre in Goheung on the country’s south coast next year and use a locally-built rocket to send a 100-kilo mini satellite into orbit.

Vietnam wants blocked free global trade negotiations to be cleared

Hanoi, 29 July—Vietnam hopes WTO members, especially the G-6, will continue cooperation to clear the potential deadlock of the Doha Round talks on global trade liberation recently held in Geneva, local media reported Friday quoting a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

“Vietnam hopes that members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), particularly the WTO major trading partners forming the G-6, will maintain cooperation in order to find out solutions to overcome the current impasse, during which the interests of developing countries shall be respected and ensured so that the Doha Round is truly a negotiation round for development,” Saigon Liberation newspaper quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Le Dung as saying.

Following the collapse of the G-6 negotiations among the United States, the European Union, Japan, Australia, Brazil and India on July 23 in Geneva, negotiations within the Doha Round framework are likely to be delayed, the spokesman said, stating that “if this occurs, it will be a regrettable mishap, representing a setback in the global trade liberalization process.”

For its part, Vietnam is trying its utmost to become a WTO member and will make every effort to substantially contribute to development cooperation of this global trade system, he said.

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S Korean multipurpose satellite launched successfully

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Egypt marks Golden Jubilee of nationalization of Suez Canal

CAIRO, 28 July — Egypt marked the 50th anniversary of the nationalization of the Suez Canal on Wednesday. On the same day 50 years ago, the then Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser announced the nationalization of the Suez Canal Company, which owned and operated the main water route. The celebration ceremony was relatively low-key with the inauguration of a new bridge in Ismailia, a small city along the Suez Canal, about 120 kilometres northeast of Cairo. Ahmed Ali Fadel, Chairman of the Suez Canal Authority, said that the canal had collected a total transit fee of nearly $3.6 billion US dollars in the first half of this year, the highest in its history.

The United States’ unilateral support for Israel meant continued mass killings of innocent people, destruction of the economic infrastructure and continued crisis in the region of Lebanon and the Palestinian territories, said the spokesman.

Meanwhile, Asefi warned the US against its “arrogant and conceited attitude”, saying the US “began the ceasefires and unilateral policies were responsible for the massive casualties and damages during the Israeli offensive in Lebanon, demanding the United Nations compensate Lebanon’s losses.”

Mubarak says Egypt backs all sects of Lebanese people

CAIRO, 28 July — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said that Egypt fully supported and backed “all sects of the Lebanese people without exception”, the official MENA news agency reported on Wednesday.

Mubarak made the remarks in his Press statements on his way back home after a lightning visit to Saudi Arabia on Tuesday.

Egypt was very keen on preserving Lebanon’s unity and sovereignty and was making its utmost to reach a ceasefire, MENA quoted him as saying.

Mubarak said Egypt was well aware how dangerous the situation was, warning against a looming disaster in the region if conditions deteriorated any further. The only solution was to reach an immediate ceasefire and tried to settle all problems, he said, adding that Egypt advised everyone not to be carried away and seek mis-calculated adventures.

Egypt was taking the conflict with Lebanon’s Hizbollah, holding Washington’s “hegemonic behaviour” responsible for the failure to reach a ceasefire between the two sides in a conference, local Fars news agency reported.

Iran denounces US for failure to reach truce in Rome Conference

TEHERAN, 28 July — Iran on Thursday condemned the US and the United States for supporting Israel in the conflict with Lebanon’s Hizbollah, holding Washington’s “hegemonic behaviour” responsible for the failure to reach a ceasefire between the two sides in a Rome conference, local Fars news agency reported. Iran’s top officials have recently reiterated strong indignation against the US and the US role in the Israeli offensive in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip, calling on the international community to be more active to stop the violence.

Both countries adopt the same stance regarding the need to reach an immediate ceasefire and halt all military operations against the Lebanese people, Mubarak added.

Israel decides not to expand ground operation in southern Lebanon

JERUSALEM, 28 July — Israel decided not to expand ground operation in southern Lebanon during a security Cabinet meeting headed by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Thursday morning. Israel Radio reported. During the meeting, Olmert said the goals of Israel’s 17-day offensive are being met.

The meeting also decided to call up additional reservists to refresh troops in southern Lebanon. The security Cabinet met after nine Israeli soldiers were killed in fierce battles with Hizbollah guerrillas in the conflict with Lebanon’s Hizbollah, holding Washington’s “hegemonic behaviour” responsible for the failure to reach a ceasefire between the two sides in a Rome conference, local Fars news agency reported.

UN rips US over human rights

GENEVA, 29 July — A UN rights panel yesterday demanded the immediate closure of any secret US detention facilities and criticized Washington on a range of other issues — calling for a moratorium on capital punishment, representation in Congress for the District of Columbia and for improved treatment of poor and black citizens victimized by Hurricane Katrina.

Officials in Washington said the UN Human Rights Committee was out of bounds in examining US practices outside the United States but said they would consider its recommendations.

“The committee is concerned by credible and uncontroverted information that the state party has seen fit to engage in the practice of detaining people secretly and in secret places for months and years on end,” according to the 12-page report by the committee, which held a two-day hearing last week on U.S. compliance to a major human rights treaty.

“Our initial reaction is disappointment,” said State Department official Matthew Waxman, who led a US delegation to the hearing. He said the panel appeared to ignore much of the US testimony.

The 18 analysts on the committee, which examines on a rotating basis the record of all 156 signatories to the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, said US practices violate the rights of detainees and their families.

The United States “should only detain persons in places in which they can enjoy the full protection of the law,” the report said.

Mr Waxman denied charges that the United States mishandles terror suspects. “Any idea that any United States or other terrorist is beyond the pale is simply false.”
Russian rocket with 18 satellites crashes after liftoff

MOSCOW, 28 July — A Russian rocket carrying 18 satellites crashed shortly after blasting off from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan late Wednesday, the Federal Space Agency said early Thursday.

The Dnepr carrier rocket with the satellites, which belonged respectively to Russia, Belarus, Italy and the United States, fell down 25 kilometres south of the Baikonur launchpad, a piece of land on the northern Kazakh steppe that Russia leases to launch its spacecraft, Yury Nosenko, deputy head of the Federal Space Agency, was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

No damage or injuries were caused on the ground, he said. “An emergency shutdown of the engines occurred 86 seconds into the flight,” a spokesman of the Mission Control outside Moscow said.

Nosenko said the first stage of the rocket failed to separate on time and “that is why the engine was shut down in the emergency mode”. The crash dealt a fresh blow to Russia’s space programme, which has suffered a series of mishaps since last year.

Heroin dependence can be treated in doctor’s offices

NEW YORK, 28 July — People dependent on heroin, cocaine or prescription opioids may not need to go to specialized drug addiction centres to get treatment. Help can be as close as their regular doctor’s office, clinicians at Yale University School of Medicine report in this week’s New England Journal of Medicine.

Dr David A Fiellin and his colleagues in New Haven, Connecticut, conducted a 24-week clinical trial that included 166 opioid-dependent patients who were treated in a primary care setting using brief counselling and a medication regimen.

Treatment involved taking Suboxone tablets, which contain a combination of buprenorphine and naloxone known to combat drug cravings, along with weekly counselling by a primary care nurse.

In the counselling sessions, discussion included efforts to achieve or maintain opiate abstinence, the use of self-help groups, and results of weekly analysis of urine specimens. Standard sessions lasted 20 minutes, while enhanced counselling sessions were 45 minutes with more in-depth drug counselling. MNA/Reuters

New gold-plated roses, which are very popular among the young people, have come to the flowershops in Chongqing on 26 July, 2006.—INTERNET

S-E Asian nations draw up disaster-response plan

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 July — Southeast Asian nations unveiled a disaster-response plan recently to ensure swift and coordinated emergency relief, drawing on lessons learnt during the devastating Asian tsunami two years ago.

Under the plan, the 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) will create a regional disaster-management and emergency relief fund to help stricken member states, the grouping said at a ministerial meeting in Malaysia.

The agreement also provides for simulation exercises to test emergency response on a regular basis,” it said in a statement. Just last week, an tsunami killed nearly 700 people and displaced thousands along a 300-kilometre (185-mile) stretch of the south coast of Java, Indonesia’s most populous island.

It was the latest in a string of disasters to hit Indonesia. MNA/Reuters

Washington may need far bigger police force

WASHINGTON, 28 July — Washington, battling a wave of homicides and other violent crimes this summer, may need to expand its police force by up to 34 per cent to keep its streets safe in the long term, Mayor Anthony Williams said on Wednesday.

Williams said he wants to conduct a comprehensive study of the city’s police force to determine whether it should be expanded from 3,800 officers to 5,100, its level in the early 1980s.

“We may have to go up to some higher number. I mentioned as an aside 5,100 because we were once there,” Williams said.

Eighteen people have been murdered in Washington, DC, this month. The spike in the murder rate and an increase in robberies, car thefts and other crimes, prompted the city’s police chief to declare a “crime emergency,” allowing suspension of some union rules to put more officers on the streets through six-day workweeks and mandatory overtime. On 31 July, the city will institute a temporary 10 pm curfew for youths younger than 17. The current curfew is midnight. Police officials have said a significant portion of recent crimes have involved juveniles.

An emergency crime bill passed by the city council also gives police access to some confidential juvenile records and allows the city to install surveillance cameras in residential neighbourhoods for the first time.

Williams said he believes the measures will help quell the current crime wave, but the city needs a longer-term solution to put more officers on the streets. MNA/Reuters

A motorcyclist rides on a flood-damaged road after tropical storm Kaemi, in Shangyou County, East China’s Jiangxi Province on 25 July, 2006.—INTERNET

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Nosenko said the first stage of the rocket failed to separate on time and “that is why the engine was shut down in the emergency mode”. The crash dealt a fresh blow to Russia’s space programme, which has suffered a series of mishaps since last year.

Heroin dependence can be treated in doctor’s offices

NEW YORK, 28 July — People dependent on heroin, cocaine or prescription opioids may not need to go to specialized drug addiction centres to get treatment. Help can be as close as their regular doctor’s office, clinicians at Yale University School of Medicine report in this week’s New England Journal of Medicine.

Dr David A Fiellin and his colleagues in New Haven, Connecticut, conducted a 24-week clinical trial that included 166 opioid-dependent patients who were treated in a primary care setting using brief counselling and a medication regimen.

Treatment involved taking Suboxone tablets, which contain a combination of buprenorphine and naloxone known to combat drug cravings, along with weekly counselling by a primary care nurse.

In the counselling sessions, discussion included efforts to achieve or maintain opiate abstinence, the use of self-help groups, and results of weekly analysis of urine specimens. Standard sessions lasted 20 minutes, while enhanced counselling sessions were 45 minutes with more in-depth drug counselling. MNA/Reuters

Washington may need far bigger police force

WASHINGTON, 28 July — Washington, battling a wave of homicides and other violent crimes this summer, may need to expand its police force by up to 34 per cent to keep its streets safe in the long term, Mayor Anthony Williams said on Wednesday.

Williams said he wants to conduct a comprehensive study of the city’s police force to determine whether it should be expanded from 3,800 officers to 5,100, its level in the early 1980s.

“We may have to go up to some higher number. I mentioned as an aside 5,100 because we were once there,” Williams said.

Eighteen people have been murdered in Washington, DC, this month. The spike in the murder rate and an increase in robberies, car thefts and other crimes, prompted the city’s police chief to declare a “crime emergency,” allowing suspension of some union rules to put more officers on the streets through six-day workweeks and mandatory overtime. On 31 July, the city will institute a temporary 10 pm curfew for youths younger than 17. The current curfew is midnight. Police officials have said a significant portion of recent crimes have involved juveniles.

An emergency crime bill passed by the city council also gives police access to some confidential juvenile records and allows the city to install surveillance cameras in residential neighbourhoods for the first time.

Williams said he believes the measures will help quell the current crime wave, but the city needs a longer-term solution to put more officers on the streets. MNA/Reuters

A motorcyclist rides on a flood-damaged road after tropical storm Kaemi, in Shangyou County, East China’s Jiangxi Province on 25 July, 2006.—INTERNET
**Schnyder, Golovin book semifinal showdown**

**STANFORD, 29 July—** Second seed Patty Schnyder defeated American Jill Craybas 6-4, 7-5 to reach the semifinals of the Bank of the West Classic on Friday.

The Swiss will meet French teenager Tatiana Golovin, who upset fourth seed Anna-Lena Groenfeld of Germany 6-4, 7-6.

"I was very up and down," Schnyder said. "I was surprised at how well she hit her down the line forehand, but I served really well and feel pretty good about how I got through." The 18-year-old Golovin continued her superb week, pounding to victory from the back court.

Golovin sustained a serious ankle injury in March that had her out of action for more than two months, but believes her recovery is now complete.

"She made a lot of winners and mistakes so it was tough to get a rhythm," Golovin said. "I adapted pretty well to her. In the tiebreaker she broke down mentally and that's good for me." Third seed Nicole Vaidisova overwhelmed Australian Samantha Stosur 6-4, 6-2 to reach the last four. The 17-year-old Czech hammered Stosur with big serves and blinding groundstrokes.

**Arsenal confirm Chelsea talks over Ashley Cole**

**LONDON, 29 July—** Arsenal said on Friday they had held informal talks with fellow Premier League side Chelsea over the possible transfer of England left back Ashley Cole to Stamford Bridge.

Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein told the club's website: "There have been certain discussions going on but there is not much more I can say at this stage."

"As we speak he is our player and unless something changes he will remain our player." Cole has been linked with a move across London ever since he was involved in the infamous "tapping-up" affair in January 2005 for which he and Chelsea were heavily fined by the Premier League.

**Fans’ group urge FIFA to look at World Cup ticketing**

**LONDON, 29 July—** Germany was the most fan-friendly World Cup ever staged but in future FIFA must act to ensure a greater allocation of tickets go to supporters and not corporate sponsors, an England fans' group said on Friday.

After a meeting to address the highs and lows of the June 9 to July 9 tournament, Mark Perryman, a leading member of the England Fans’ Group, said their only complaint was with the number of tickets given to sponsors and the media.

"It really was the most fan-friendly World Cup ever," he told Reuters. "The reason for that was not just the excellent organization but it was the reception in the streets of very, very friendly German people."

"The one thing that they (FIFA) got wrong was the ticketing. The percentage of tickets going to sponsors was equivalent to twice the number of tickets going to fans which we all found completely unacceptable."

Each country was allocated eight per cent of the available tickets for their side's matches while corporate sponsors were given almost 19 per cent.

Perryman said more and more fans were now travelling to support countries like South Korea, Japan, and Mexico and that the system would need to change.

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Centuries-old Buddhist leaf scriptures to be preserved, catalogued

LHASA, 29 July — Southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region has launched a two-year project to study and preserve a bundle of Buddhist scriptures that were written on leaves more than 1,000 years ago and brought to the region from India.

There are some 4,300 “pages” of the rare tree-leaf Buddhist Sanskrit script in 426 volumes, said Hu Chunhua, a top official of the autonomous region, quoting figures provided by the local cultural heritage administration.

The documents were brought to Tibet from India between the 7th and 13th centuries and have remained quite well preserved, said Cewang Jamme, president of the Tibet Academy of Social Sciences. The scriptures are inscribed on stripes of leaves of the patra tree which is native to tropical climates and similar to a palm tree. The tree’s leaves, which are easily transportable and durable, were used because there was wide access to paper. A steel pen was used to etch the Sanskrit directly onto the leaves, which themselves became a Buddhist symbol of brightness as the scriptures brought enlightenment.

The inscribed strips contain narratives of ancient Indian literature, legal codes and classic Buddhist writings.

MNA/Xinhua

Earthquake jolts southwestern Japan

TOKYO, 29 July — An earthquake measuring at a preliminary magnitude of 5.9 jolted some western islands of southern Okinawa Prefecture in Japan on Friday afternoon, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

No tsunami warnings were issued as at the 4:40 pm (0740 GMT) quake. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. The epicentre of the quake was 40-kilometre under seabed.

The quake measured 3 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in Yonaguni Island, according to the agency.

MNA/Xinhua

A wax figure of actors Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie’s infant daughter Shiloh Nouvel sits on display at Madame Tussaud’s Wax Museum in New York, on 26 July, 2006. The infant figure is the first baby ever produced by the museum. — INTERNET

Flood Warning

(Released at 12:00 hours MST on 29-7-2006)

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Moeing River at Myitkyina is (806) cm. It may reach its danger level (806) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Myitkyina is (806) cm. It may reach its danger level (806) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.

According to the (06:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Hpa-an is (718) cm. It may exceed its danger level (730) cm during the next (24) hrs commencing noon today.
All citizens duty bound to strive for emergence of modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Secretary-1 addresses meeting (5/2006) of National Convention Convening Commission

NAU PYI TAW, 29 July — The National Convention Convening Commission held its meeting (5/2006) at the meeting hall of Nay Pyi Taw this afternoon with an address by NCCC Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

It was attended by NCCC Vice-Chairmen Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsuan and members.

Joint Secretary-2 Director-General of Phyithu Hluttaw Office U Myint Then acted as master of ceremonies.

Speaking to the meeting, the Secretary-1 said arrangements are being made to resume the National Convention. The previous meeting (4/2006) was held at the same venue in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 July. The National Convention, which was adjourned on 31 January 2006, will resume at the end of this year. That’s why both the Commission and Management Committee are to make preparations for convening the National Convention.

He said the NC has laid down 15 chapters that will include in the constitution. At the previous convention, delegates discussed matters related to relationships between Hluttaws, rights and responsibilities of the citizens and the role of the Tatmadaw. And detailed basic principles will be laid down at the upcoming National Convention. Reviewing the progress of work up to now, 75 per cent has been completed, said the Secretary-1. After its adjournment, the NC was reconvened in May 2004. The tasks of the NC were successfully performed. This success could be achieved due to the concerted efforts of the National Convention Convening Commission, the Work Committee and Management Committee and cooperation of members of the Panel of Chairmen and delegates.

It is the duty of all citizens to strive for the emergence of a modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. This factor is to be considered the first and foremost requirement as well as the most important task. To help achieve the goal, the National Convention is adopting basic principles and detailed basic principles to write an enduring constitution. It is very important for the Union of Myanmar to have such an enduring constitution. Hence, government is placing emphasis on the emergence of a constitution that is essential for any country, the Secretary-1 added.

So, members of the Commission, Work Committee and Management Committee are to endeavour for the success of the National Convention. In doing so, they are required to march towards the goal no matter what difficulties they face, he said.

Next, Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe reported on arrangements being made by the committee for the upcoming National Convention. Management Committee Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung reported on damage to the National Convention buildings due to bad weather and their repairs, maintenance of furniture and office equipment and management matters. Afterwards, members of the commission discussed papers presented by work committee members. Later, the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the Secretary-1. — MNA

Results of remote areas to be broadcast

YANGON, 30 July — The Radio Myanmar will broadcast the results of the 2006 matriculation examination for exam centres from remote areas of States and Divisions at 41.75am on 30 July (Sunday) 3am. The exam centres of the remote areas were: Tanai, Machanbaw, Putao, Nagnmon, Phakant, Sumprabun and Chipwe of Kachin State, Papun, Kya-in-Seikhyi and Kamamaung of Kayin State, Kanteptet, Mataps, Mindat and Paletwa of Chin State, Gwa, Kyenthali, Zayetkonkhin and Manaung of Rakhine State, Momeik, Namhsan (North), Mongkai, Kunlong, Mongton, Mongping, Mongyan, Maunmai, Mongyawng, Kehsi, Mahsam, Kunhing, Hopang, Mongkhrot, Mongpan, Mongphyat, Mabein, Mongshu, Tonghon, Mantung and Laukar of Shan State, Palaw, Bokpyin and Pala of Taninthayi Division, Pauk, Htlin, Saw, Laungshay, Kyauktu, Sedoktara and Ngaphe of Magway Division, Nanyun, Leshi and Lahe of Sagaing Division and Cokoyun of Yangon Division. — MNA

Matriculation Examination results announced

YANGON, 30 July — The results of Matriculation Examination held in March 2006 were announced at 6am today. The examination results have been simultaneously announced at the examination centres and schools in respective townships, states and divisions. Besides, the examination results of the states and divisions except Yangon Division will also be announced at No 1 Basic Education High School in Insein Township, No 1 BEHS in Yankin Township, No 3 BEHS in Kamayut Township, No 1 BEHS in Lanmadaw, No 2 BEHS in Dagon Township and No 1 BEHS in Thingangyun Township, it is learnt. — MNA