Education reforms, developments should be in harmony with advancements of nation’s economic, social, health sectors

**Special Refresher Course No 59 for basic education teachers opens**

YANGON, 31 July — Special Refresher Course No 59 for basic education teachers opened at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division, this morning, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Yangon mayor, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy ministers, CSSTB members, the director-general of State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, the rector of CICS and others.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that the government has been laying down and implementing short-term and long-term plans during the period of transition on all political, economic and social fronts for the future nation.

Since eight or nine years ago, academics, management personnel and faculty members in the education field with the government’s leadership have been laying down and implementing education programmes step by step to introduce reforms to be able to face and overcome the future challenges. The nation now is in the process of implementing the 30-year long-term national education promotion plan after successful realization of the initial special four-year plan. Thanks to the collective efforts of the government, the entire nation, academics, administrators, teachers and students in materializing the education reforms, the future education system has taken shape to a certain degree during the period of about nine years. The nation has successfully built education infrastructures and environment that has created opportunities for the people.

During the period of a decade or so, academics and teachers of the old education system have gained valuable experience, while those of the new education system have the advantage in adapting themselves to the new system. They both should use their advantages to become an integrated force to accelerate the education reforms.

Teachers should improve their individual qualifications first and try to uplift the standard of the education sector. The national education promotion programmes are a long-term task generation after generation will have to carry out for the good of the future. The process of education reforms and developments should be in harmony with the advance of the economic, social and health sectors of the nation. Similarly, developments in all stages in basic education, higher education and formal and non-formal education should be in harmony with the new education system.

All the stages of the education sector should be synchronized changes and developments. Teachers should understand the nation’s changes and developments as they are. They should have trust in the government’s correct policy, national objectives, and work programmes and uphold the

**Thanks to the collective efforts of the government, the entire nation, academics, administrators, teachers and students in materializing the education reforms, the future education system has taken shape to a certain degree during the period of about nine years.**

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Traditional cultural performing arts competitions: milestones of the cultural sector

Myanmar has always existed as a country with its own culture, literature and national character. Myanmar fine arts are thousands of years old and blessed with the four cardinal virtues that have been deeply rooted in Myanmar society and also reflecting the feeling of fear and shame to commit misdeeds.

The government of Myanmar is taking various steps to preserve the national culture with the object of enhancing the national prestige. The holding of Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions is one of the measures taken for safeguarding the cultural heritage and national character.

Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions have been held yearly since 1993 and the 14th Competitions will be held in Nay Pyi Taw this year.

The government of Myanmar is taking various steps to preserve the national culture with the object of enhancing the national prestige. The holding of Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions is one of the measures taken for safeguarding the cultural heritage and national character.

Myanmar traditional cultural performing arts competitions are being held to uphold the fine traditions that depict Myanmar’s higher national integrity and to hand them down to the new generations and to effectively use the might of the fine arts in the interest of the nation and the people. Moreover, as artistes from states and divisions take part in the competitions, the national brethren have a chance to meet with one another and this enables them to promote their friendship and cement their patriotism based on national unity.

Nowadays, there is always the danger of alien culture penetrating our national culture and so it is necessary for the entire national people including artistes to ward off that danger. To be able to do so, they need to equip themselves with nationalist fervour and national unity.

With the encouragement and assistance rendered by the government and active participation of maestros and artistes from various fields of culture and the people, we believe, the 14th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions will be a success and become one of the milestones of the cultural sector.

Minister inspects Vocational Training school

Yangon, 30 July — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe together with responsible persons of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, director-general and deputy director-general of Social Welfare Department today inspected Vocational Training school in Bahan Township.

The minister also met with staffs of the ministry and discussed matters on conduction of school affairs.

On his inspection tour, the minister went to the school for the blind and viewed concert of the students of the school. Next, the minister accepted cash donations from the wellwishers and visited around the school.

More engines for MR

Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and party visit Vocational Training school of Social Welfare Department. — SOCIAL WELFARE.

Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects renovated carriages donated by People’s Republic of China. — RAILWAY.
Chavez to build “Kalashnikov” factory in Venezuela

Caracas, 30 July—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Saturday envisaged his plans for building the first Kalashnikov factory in the Western Hemisphere and exporting weapons to Bolivia and other allies.

Speaking in Qatar, one leg of his Middle East tour, Chavez accused the United States of threatening to stop supplying replacement parts for weapons to Bolivia.

If the United States follows through, “we could supply Bolivia and other friendly countries that also require a minimal level of defence”, Chavez said in comments carried by the state television.

“Maybe in the future we’ll become an (arms) exporting country,” Chavez envisioned. Before travelling to the Middle East, Chavez signed in Moscow with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin contracts to buy 24 Su-30 fighter jets, 53 Russian helicopters, and set up Kalashnikov rifle and ammunition plants in Venezuela.

Venezuela has purchased 100,000 AK-103 assault rifles from Russia.

The first 30,000 of those rifles have arrived, with the rest due by year’s end.

Fire smoke blankets city on Sumatra

Jakarta, 30 July—Smoke from raging ground and forest fires has blanketed Pekanbaru, the capital of Riau Province on Indonesia’s Sumatra Island, local meteorology and airport officials said on Friday.

Marzuki, an official of the meteorology agency, said that the visibility had decreased to the range of six to seven kilometres. The normal is from five to ten kilometres.

“This morning the visibility was extremely down to between 30 metres to 50 metres,” Marzuki told Xinhua by telephone.

He predicted that the cause of the smoke was the burning of forest as part of land clearing to begin new plantations.

“If the burning of forest continues, it could significantly decrease the visibility to an extreme level,” he said.

The observer of the weather of the city airport of Syarif Hidayatullah named Tarman Sembiring said that the haze had gradually begun to cover the city since two weeks ago.

EUs unmanned reconnaissance plane crashes in Kinshasa

KINSHASA, 30 July—An EU’s unmanned reconnaissance plane crashed near downtown Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), on Friday afternoon, injuring six residents, a senior officer of EU peacekeeping force said here on Saturday.

The B-hunter unmanned reconnaissance plane belonging to EU peacekeeping forces in Kinshasa crashed near downtown area, five kilometres from EU peacekeeping base, at 4:45 pm local time on Friday, due to loss of contact between the plane and its command headquarters.

Bomb blast wounds 19 in Pakistan’s Quetta city

QUETTA (Pakistan), 30 July—A bomb blast outside a bank wounded at least 19 people in Quetta, capital of Pakistan’s troubled southwest province of Baluchistan, police and doctors said. Two of the wounded were in a critical condition.

The explosives had been planted in a motorcycle parked outside the bank, according to police.

Suspicion fell on the separatist Baluchistan Liberation Army (BLA), though tribal militants have also been in revolt. Just last week Baluch police began a crackdown on Afghan’s living in Quetta without proper documentation. Police said they were targeting Taleban fighters, but analysts doubted whether many of the near 300 Afghans detained belonged to the Taleban.

Strong earthquake jolts Taibei

HONG KONG, 30 July—An earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter Scale hit Taibei Friday, shaking buildings in Taibei, but there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties, according to media reports from Taibei. The quake’s epicentre was located 82 kilometres east of port Nanao, a harbour town some 80 kilometres southeast of Taipei, according to local weather agency. — MNA/Xinhua

Mel Gibson arrested for drunken driving

LOS ANGELES, 30 July—Oscar-winning director and actor Mel Gibson was arrested in Malibu for suspicion of drunken driving, an official said on Friday.

“He was arrested for suspicion of driving under the influence,” said Los Angeles County Sheriff’s spokesman Steve Whitmore.

Gibson, 50, whose 2004 film “The Passion of the Christ” was a smash hit, was stopped at 2:36 am local time on Friday for speeding on the Pacific Coast Highway, and officers smelled alcohol on his breath.

He was given a sobriety test, taken into custody and released later that morning after posting a 5,000-US dollar bail.

Whitmore said Gibson was given a citation, and the matter will be reviewed by detectives to determine if drunken driving charges will be filed at a future date, Whitmore said.

Gibson’s spokesman could not be reached for comment.

The Zhonghua (China) Gate is decorated with 770 thousand paper birds in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 30 July, 2006.
China hopes US-India N-cooperation abides by non-proliferation rules

BEIJING, 30 July — The United States and India should work under the international non-proliferation mechanism in their nuclear cooperation, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao on Saturday. Liu made the remarks in response to a question on the US-India nuclear deal that was approved by the US House of Representatives this week.

According to the deal, the United States will provide India with civil nuclear technology and nuclear fuel on condition that India separates its civil nuclear programmes from military ones.

“Relevant cooperation should abide by international regulations, and contribute to the international efforts of non-proliferation,” the spokesman said.

Spain willing to take part in peacekeeping mission in Lebanon

MADRID, 30 July — Spain is willing to contribute troops to an international peacekeeping operation in Lebanon, but will wait for the final decision made by the UN Security Council and the European Union (EU), a senior government official said here on Friday.

The Spanish Government will take its decision based on the mandate and nature of the peacekeeping mission and in line with the political and military situation in the region, Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega, the first Deputy Prime Minister, told reporters after a weekly Cabinet meeting.

“Spain will be on the side of the decisions taken by the European Union and the United Nations and will continue to play an active role within international organizations to seek a solution,” she said.

The international conference in Rome this week was “cautiously positive”, she said.

Philippine police clash with kidnap gang, nine killed

MANILA, 30 July — Philippine police officers killed nine suspected members of a kidnap syndicate in a gunbattle on Saturday after a brief car chase in a province north of the capital Manila, officials said.

None of the gang survived. Oscar Albayalde, a senior police intelligence official, said the kidnap-for-ransom gang was planning to strike in the Tarlac region when a squad of police officers stopped them near a sugarcane plantation on Saturday morning.

“We got information the group was planning to pull off a job in the province,” Albayalde told reporters. “We’re lucky we got the entire crew. We were alerted to their presence by some people who got suspicious about two cars parked overnight in a highway.”

A small airplane crashes in Poland

WARSAW, 30 July — A small airplane crashed in Wielkopolskie Province in western Poland on Saturday afternoon, killing the two men on board.

The accident took place at the forest near the Bednar Airport, about 30 kilometres from Poznan, spokeswoman of the Wielkopolskie Police Ewa Olikiewicz told the PAP news agency, adding the airplane was probably trying to land when the tragedy happened.

The pilot Maciej, 59 and his student Artur, 29 were killed. Olikiewicz explained that the crashed airplane was a new type in experimental flight. The reason of the accident was under examination by the Flight Accidents Investigation Commission of Poland.

China increases Lebanon appeal tenfold amid crisis

GENEVA, 30 July — The International Committee of the Red Cross on Friday increased its Lebanon appeal tenfold to $81 million US dollars to meet the needs of those homeless, stranded and hurt by fighting between Israeli forces and Hizbollah.

The Geneva-based humanitarian organization said the $81 million Swiss francs (81 million US dollars) would provide medical care, food, clean water and other assistance to civilians caught up in hostilities that showed no sign of waning.

ICRC Director of Operations Pierre Kraehenbuehl said it was unacceptable that thousands of Lebanese civilians have been trapped in villages in the southern part of the country, where they cannot get needed care and supplies.

Israel needs to do much more to ensure civilians are spared in the violence, sparked by the kidnaping of two Israeli soldiers by the Hizbollah militant group, Kraehenbuehl said.

Small airplane crashes in Poland

Summertime vacationers pack a mammoth pool at the Toshimaen amusement park in Tokyo on 30 July, 2006. About 16,000 people flocked to the swimming pool at this amusement park to cool off on Sunday.

 Philippine police clash with kidnap gang, nine killed

Two visitors view a painting during an Italian painting exhibition at the Jiangsu Art Gallery in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 28 July, 2006. The month-long exhibition, opened on 28 July, displayed 49 Italian masterpieces dating back to a period from the 14th to 18th centuries.

Small airplane crashes in Poland

A bull charges at Colombian bullfighter Luis Bolivar during a bullfight at Santander’s bullring on 29 July, 2006. — INTERNET

Philippine police clash with kidnap gang, nine killed

Manila, 30 July — Philippine police officers killed nine suspected members of a kidnap syndicate in a gunbattle on Saturday after a brief car chase in a province north of the capital Manila, officials said.

None of the gang survived. Oscar Albayalde, a senior police intelligence official, said the kidnap-for-ransom gang was planning to strike in the Tarlac region when a squad of police officers stopped them near a sugarcane plantation on Saturday morning.

“We got information the group was planning to pull off a job in the province,” Albayalde told reporters. “We’re lucky we got the entire crew. We were alerted to their presence by some people who got suspicious about two cars parked overnight in a highway.”

A small airplane crashed in Poland on 30 July, 2006. The two men on board were killed. The accident took place at the forest near the Bednar Airport, about 30 kilometres from Poznan, Poland.

The ICRC increased its Lebanon appeal tenfold to $81 million US dollars to meet the needs of those homeless, stranded and hurt by fighting between Israeli forces and Hizbollah.

The Geneva-based humanitarian organization said the $81 million Swiss francs (81 million US dollars) would provide medical care, food, clean water and other assistance to civilians caught up in hostilities that showed no sign of waning.

ICRC Director of Operations Pierre Kraehenbuehl said it was unacceptable that thousands of Lebanese civilians have been trapped in villages in the southern part of the country, where they cannot get needed care and supplies.

Israel needs to do much more to ensure civilians are spared in the violence, sparked by the kidnaping of two Israeli soldiers by the Hizbollah militant group, Kraehenbuehl said.

Small airplane crashes in Poland

Warsaw, 30 July — A small airplane crashed in Wielkopolskie Province in western Poland on Saturday afternoon, killing the two men on board.

The accident took place at the forest near the Bednar Airport, about 30 kilometres from Poznan, spokeswoman of the Wielkopolskie Police Ewa Olikiewicz told the PAP news agency, adding the airplane was probably trying to land when the tragedy happened.

The pilot Maciej, 59 and his student Artur, 29 were killed. Olikiewicz explained that the crashed airplane was a new type in experimental flight. The reason of the accident was under examination by the Flight Accidents Investigation Commission of Poland.

China increases Lebanon appeal tenfold amid crisis

Geneva, 30 July — The International Committee of the Red Cross on Friday increased its Lebanon appeal tenfold to $81 million US dollars to meet the needs of those homeless, stranded and hurt by fighting between Israeli forces and Hizbollah.

The Geneva-based humanitarian organization said the $81 million Swiss francs (81 million US dollars) would provide medical care, food, clean water and other assistance to civilians caught up in hostilities that showed no sign of waning.

ICRC Director of Operations Pierre Kraehenbuehl said it was unacceptable that thousands of Lebanese civilians have been trapped in villages in the southern part of the country, where they cannot get needed care and supplies.

Israel needs to do much more to ensure civilians are spared in the violence, sparked by the kidnaping of two Israeli soldiers by the Hizbollah militant group, Kraehenbuehl said.

Small airplane crashes in Poland

Warsaw, 30 July — A small airplane crashed in Wielkopolskie Province in western Poland on Saturday afternoon, killing the two men on board.

The accident took place at the forest near the Bednar Airport, about 30 kilometres from Poznan, spokeswoman of the Wielkopolskie Police Ewa Olikiewicz told the PAP news agency, adding the airplane was probably trying to land when the tragedy happened.

The pilot Maciej, 59 and his student Artur, 29 were killed. Olikiewicz explained that the crashed airplane was a new type in experimental flight. The reason of the accident was under examination by the Flight Accidents Investigation Commission of Poland.

China increases Lebanon appeal tenfold amid crisis
China tightens exports of biological weapons agents

BEIJING, 30 July — China has strengthened its management over exports of biological agents that could have military uses in response to international threats of terrorism and proliferation, the Foreign Ministry said on Friday.

Fourteen types of viruses, toxins, germs and related items, including the SARS virus, were added to 2002 regulations on “dual use biological agents and related equipment and technologies”.

“This is an important and practical move of the Chinese Government to continuously strengthen prevention of proliferation and management of exports,” spokesman Liu Jianchao said in a statement on the Foreign Ministry’s website (www.fmprc.gov.cn).

China blamed a 2004 resurgence of severe acute respiratory syndrome on a laboratory leak.

It has also been criticised for its lack of ability to enforce export controls on technology used to produce weapons of mass destruction and stop proliferation of weapons to countries such as Iran, which is under international scrutiny over its atomic programmes.

Thailand culls 300,000 chickens after avian-flu outbreak

BANGKOK, 30 July — Thai government authorities on Sunday ordered the culling of 300,000 chickens in the northeastern province of Nakorn Phanom after tests verified an outbreak of avian influenza in the area.

Deputy Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister Adisorn Piengkes confirmed that laboratory tests conducted on 2,000 chickens that had died in Nakhom Phanom last week confirmed the poultry had been infected with the H5N1 virus.

“To prevent a further outbreak, more than 300,000 chickens in 78 farms here must be slaughtered within 24 hours,” Adisorn told the Thai News Agency. — Internet

Diabetes rising among children in Uganda

KAMPALA, 31 July — A lifestyle characterized by inactivity, comfort and overeating among Uganda’s urban school-going youth from wealthy families has made them and their parents prone to diabetes, the capital city on Uganda’s health image. — MNA/Xinhua

Space probe spots foggy lakes on Saturn’s moon

WASHINGTON, 30 July — It has methane rain and white crystalline sand dunes, and now scientists say Saturn’s moon Titan also has many lakes.

The lakes are probably made up of methane, with a little ethane mixed in, and they are probably the source of the obscuring smog in the frigid moon’s atmosphere, researchers reported on Friday.

“This is a big deal,” said Steve Wall, deputy radar team leader at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. “We’ve now seen a place other than Earth where lakes are present.”

The numerous, well-defined dark patches were seen in radar images of Titan’s high latitudes taken during a flyby Saturday by the Cassini-Huygens spacecraft, a cooperative project among NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency.

Titan’s flat surface is very cold, with a temperature of minus 180 C, and scientists believe its thick atmosphere may occasionally rain methane.

Another team reported on Wednesday that the rain includes a persistent drizzle that keeps the surface of Saturn’s largest moon damp. Fierce storms could produce huge droplets of methane.

Saturn has at least 47 moons. Titan, the largest, has geological features similar to those on Earth. — MNA/Reuters

A model walks on the runway at the 2006 Bollywood Fashion Awards at Roseland Ballroom in New York City, on 29 July, 2006. — Internet

Jennie, a two year old orangutan, licks an ice block containing bananas at a promotional event to give animals some refreshment during the hot summer weather at Everland, South Korea’s largest amusement park, in Yongin, about 50 km (31 miles) south of Seoul, on 30 July, 2006. — Internet

Switzerland’s PC7 aerobatic team participate in the RoAS International Air Show at Mihail Kogalniceanu Airport, 240 km (149 miles) east of Bucharest, on 30 July, 2006. — Internet

Philippine authorities warn against forestfires around Mayon Volcano

MANILA, 30 July — The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) warned on Saturday about forest fires in the path of lava flows from Mayon Volcano.

Lava flows from Mayon’s crater had spread 5.4 kilometres to the southeast. The burning rocks threatened the forest and villages in the area, Phivolcs said.

Phivolcs reported that lava’s absolute elevation reached 320 meters. At least 394 tremors and four low-frequency volcanic quakes were monitored in the last 24 hours. Sulphur dioxide emission was at about 6,089 tons per day.

The authorities maintained Alert Level 3 over Mayon and warned residents around the area against going into the six-kilometres permanent danger zone. — MNA/Xinhua

Aircraft crash kills two in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, 30 July — Two men were killed in a light aircraft crash near Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal Province about 550 kilometres south of Johannesburg, on Saturday.

The two men died when their Cessna crashed at about noon on a farm in Baynesfield outside Pietermaritzburg.

Netcare 911’s Chris Botha said both occupants, the pilot and his passenger, died. The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said that the cause of the light aircraft crash is still unknown. — MNA/Xinhua

Death toll in “Kaemi”-hit areas rises to 35

BEIJING, 30 July — The death toll from Typhoon Kaemi has risen to 35 on the Chinese Mainland including six at a military barracks in east China’s Jiangxi Province, with at least 72 others missing, low flood control sources said on Friday evening.

Officials with the Jiangxi office of flood and drought relief have announced that the civilian death toll in the province has jumped to 20, with Kaemi provoking floods and landslides.

The number of people missing in Jiangxi is now 22. This does not include the 38 soldiers who went missing when their military barracks was swept away. The whereabouts of the soldiers is still not known. Typhoon Kaemi, the fifth typhoon of the year, has also killed four people in Anhui and five in Guangdong since making landfall in southeast China’s Fujian Province at 3:50 pm Tuesday.

Five people were reported missing in Anhui and seven in Hunan. — MNA/Xinhua
**Over 4,000 tourists a day take train to Tibet**

LIHASA, 30 July — A daily average of 4,400 tourists have travelled to Tibet by train since 1 July, when the history-making Qinghai-Tibet Railway went into operation, said a local tourism official.

Tibet had a total of 301,000 stay-over tourists in the first 20 days of the month, an increase of 42.5 per cent or 88,000 entered last year, announced Zhang Tian'en, deputy head of the plateau region’s Tourism Bureau, at a news briefing.

According to the official, the plateau region handled 391,200 tourists and raked in 516 million yuan (about 64.5 million US dollars) from January to June, up 9.2 per cent and 9.1 per cent, respectively.

**At least 10 workers wounded in bomb blast in Baghdad**

BAGHDAD, 30 July — At least ten workers were wounded when a bomb went off in central Baghdad on Saturday morning.

An explosive charge detonated in the morning in the Tayaran Square, where workers gathered waiting for daylong jobs, the police said.

Ambulances and Iraqi security forces rushed to the scene to evacuate the wounded people, they added. In separate incidents, gunmen in two cars opened fire at two Sunni mosques early Saturday in the capital’s western districts, causing slight damages to the mosques, the police said.

Violence and sectarian reprisal attacks mounted in the war-torn country as power vacuum has continued despite the formation of a new government in late May.

**Syria denies shooting down Israeli scout**

DAMASCUS, 30 July — A Syrian Air Force official on Friday denied reports that Syrian Air Defence Force had shot down an Israeli scout, the independent Syria news website reported.

The official was quoted as saying that an Israeli Air Force had shot down an Israeli scout, the independent Syria news website reported.

The official was quoted as saying that an Israeli Air Force had shot down an Israeli scout, the independent Syria news website reported.

**Arab countries provide aid to Lebanon**

BEIRUT, 31 July — Relief aid provided by Egypt, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Jordan arrived in Lebanon on Saturday.

An Egyptian military plane carrying 14 tons of food and medicines provided by the Egyptian Government arrived at Rafik Hariri International Airport in Beirut on Saturday morning. It was the second time Egypt had airlifted relief goods to Lebanon in two days.

A plane from the UAE carrying 40 tons of food and medicines landed at the airport shortly afterwards, followed by another aircraft from Jordan. Jordan has offered seven planeloads in relief aid to Lebanon in four days.

More than 600 people have been killed, over 1,000 others wounded and more than 700,000 have fled their homes since Israel launched air raids on Lebanon earlier this month.

**Nepali central bank profit reaches over $28m in 50 years**

KATHMANDU, 30 July — Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB), the central bank and monetary authority of the country, has registered a distributable profit of 2.01 billion Nepali rupees (28.71 million US dollars) in the 50-year period since its inception, governor of NRB said here Saturday.

“In the initial period, NRB had only 5,157 Nepali rupees (76.67 US dollars) under distributable profit but it reached to 2.01 billion Nepali rupees (28.71 million US dollars) by the close of 15 July, 2005,” Bijay Nath Bhattachari, governor of NRB, told reporters.

NRB’s assets and liabilities under the Note Department registered 54.9 million Nepali rupees (794.285.71 US dollars) while under Banking Department, assets and liabilities amounted to 51.4 million Nepali rupees (734,285.71 US dollars) totalling to 106.3 million Nepali rupees (1.52 million US dollars).

**Tomb of first Chinese Emperor’s grandma unearthed**

XI’AN, 30 July — Chinese archaeologists believed, after over a year’s excavation and research, a large tomb in northwest China’s Shaanxi Province, belonged to the grandmother of Qinshihuang, the country’s first emperor.

The tomb was chronologically the closest to the mysterious mausoleum of Qinshihuang, probably built under the order of the first emperor, Zhang Tian’en, an expert with the Shaanxi provincial archaeology institute, told Xinhua on Saturday.

“So, the excavation of the grandmother’s tomb hopefully will help unravel the mystery about the first emperor’s mausoleum and contribute to the research on the burial culture of the Qin Dynasty,” Zhang said.

The tomb, located in southern outskirts of Xi’an, provincial capital of Shaanxi, is the second largest ancient tomb that China has ever excavated, next only to that of King Jinggong of the State of Qin (897-221 BC), said Zhang.

Under the new campus of the Xi’an Business College, the tomb is about 30 kilometres southwest of the famous mausoleum of Qinshihuang, who united seven warring states and founded the Qin Dynasty in 221 BC.

The cemetery covered an area of 17.3 hectares, with a length of 550 metres and a width of 310 metres. Archaeologists unearthed two carriages that were designed to be driven by six horses, which could be used only by kings and queens in the State of Qin.

**A performer is seen among flags at the Singapore National Stadium, on 29 July, 2006 in Singapore during a full dress rehearsal for the nation’s upcoming Independence Day celebrations in August.**

**A UN armoured car is parked near rubble after an Israeli air raid in Qana, 6 km (4 miles) from the port-city of Tyre (Soura), in south Lebanon, on 30 July, 2006.**

**Photo taken on 28 July shows unique wedding candy packages shown at an exhibition on wedding necessaries in Jinan, capital city of east China’s Shandong Province on 28 July, 2006.**
World Breastfeeding Week is celebrated every year from 1 to 7 August, on the anniversary of the adoption of the “ Innocenti Declaration” at the WHO/UNICEF Policy Makers’ meeting in 1990.

In order to act on the “Innocenti Declaration” on the Protection, Promotion and Support of breastfeeding, the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) was formed with a global network of individuals and organizations worldwide. As part of its action plan to facilitate and strengthen social mobilization for breastfeeding, WABA envisioned a global unifying strategy. Suggestion was made for a day to be dedicated to breastfeeding in the calendar of international events. The idea of a day’s celebration was later turned into a week.

This has become to be known as ‘World Breastfeeding Week’ (WBW) celebrated every 1-7 August to commemorate the “Innocenti Declaration”. WBW was first observed in 1992. Now it involves over 120 countries and is endorsed by UNICEF, WHO and FAO. The major aim of WBW is to spread awareness and support of other responsible people like health personnel, NGO volunteers and others to give any assistance necessary for the improvement of this practice in their communities. According to UNICEF Director, Carol Bellamy, more must be done to support breastfeeding which protects children’s lives in communities around the world, and also reduces maternal illness.

As we all know, adequate nutrition during infancy and early childhood is fundamental to the development of each child. Experts say that especially the first two years of life in a child represents a critical “window of opportunity” to promote its growth, health and mental development.

Breastmilk, nutrient-rich, energy-rich and easy to digest, is a ‘high quality food’, ideal for infants and young children over six months of age. Recommendations are therefore made for mothers to exclusively breastfeed their babies for the first six months and continue breastfeeding together with giving other foods and drinks, up to two years or more, as long as mother and baby want to. In fact, those complementary food should be provided along with continued breastfeeding after the age of six months to sustain the child’s healthy growth.

Breastfeeding benefits both mother and child. Breastmilk offers all the nutrients needed for the child to be healthy and grow and at the same time gives a boost to the immune system to fend off such problems as diarrhea, acute respiratory infections, ear infections and deficits in mental development. Moreover, anti-infective factors in breastmilk provide protection against illnesses and reduce the severity of those that occur. Another important advantage is the strengthening of the bond between mother and child through breastfeeding. A special mother-baby relationship can develop from emotional nurturing, which is invaluable and enjoyable for both parties.

Breastfeeding also greatly contributes to mother’s health by reducing the risk of ovarian and pre-menopausal cancer and helps them to return to their normal weight after pregnancies. Besides, it is noted as one of the most effective preventive interventions available to prevent child mortality, which is one of the Millennium Development Goals.

World Breastfeeding Week urges mothers to systematically breastfeed their babies by highlighting the importance of breastfeeding. The special week also plans for more awareness and support of other responsible people like health personnel, NGO volunteers and others to give any assistance necessary for the improvement of this practice in their communities. According to UNICEF Director, Carol Bellamy, more must be done to support breastfeeding which protects children’s lives in communities around the world, and also reduces maternal illness.

One intervention for breastfeeding improvement already in existence is the implementation and the monitoring of the WHO International Code of Marketing of breastmilk substitutes. As the message conveyed in the theme for this year, people especially mothers should be fully aware of the details with regard to the breastmilk substitutes, which can never stand equal to breastmilk in terms of physical and mental health and growth for infants.

Let’s all try to help mothers to breastfeed their babies!
Education reforms, developments should...

(from page 1)

lofty aims of the education promotion programmes. Only then will they be able to discharge their duties with new vigour. Teachers’ duty also involves the tasks of helping develop the region and traditions and culture of the region they are assigned to.

The government has been building infrastructures in all sectors for transport, health and human resources development of all the places in the Union. It has built education infrastructures all over the nation to increase and improve learning opportunities for all the youths of the Union.

He quoted Senior General Than Shwe as saying that with regards to uplift of the education standard of local national races efforts are to be exerted to ensure sustainable development for bringing about quality of life and to nurture national races in the region to become qualified human resources. Only when there is sustainable development will the entire society develop.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, a number of education infrastructures have already been built in the states and divisions. Making better use of those development infrastructures, all the teachers are to make continued efforts in nurturing and training students to become qualified human resources. In the meantime, they are to strive for regional development and improvement of the standard of local people through the might of those human resources.

Thanks to concerted efforts of all the teachers, marked progress has been made in the basic education sector, and those from the states and divisions are enjoying the fruits of the development.

Only when the nation has possessed concrete foundations of education, health, social and economic sectors will it be possible to turn itself into a discipline-flourishing democratic state.

At present, there are altogether 40,525 basic education schools including 5,545 post-primary schools across the nation. There were only 33,747 basic education schools in 1988, therefore the increase is nearly 7,000. And there are 1,660 basic education schools fully equipped with multimedia classrooms. Moreover, the primary school enrollment has increased to 97.58 per cent.

Thanks to concerted efforts of the government and the people, the adult literacy rate has increased to 94.1 per cent. He urged all the teachers to make relentless efforts for successful realization of the objectives of the education sector. Only when all the citizens including children are educated well, will the socio-economic life of the people improve, he said. And it will lead to development of rural areas which is vital for the national development. The teachers are also needed to teach children in order to promote their health education and cultivate the habit of healthy lifestyle, he stressed. Consequently, the children would be equipped with the knowledge of personal hygiene and environmental conservation as well as consideration, helpfulness, ethics, honesty and integrity. Thus, the teachers are to nurture their pupils carefully to become all-round developed ones, he said.

In the higher education sector, opportunities as there in the country to pursue various subjects of science & technology of international standard. Specialized institutions and colleges as well as universities have also been opened throughout the nation. Thus, the teachers are to teach and train their pupils to be able to pursue education according to their respective tastes, ability, zest and talent. The teachers are to teach their pupils to enable them to pursue higher education efficiently.

At a time when efforts are being made for the emergence of a new nation, the promotion of education level of the people will lead to better quality of life. Only when the nation has possessed concrete foundations of education, health, social and economic sectors will it be possible to turn itself into a discipline-flourishing democratic state. In the international sphere, every race or nation is vying for achieving prosperity and promoting national interest. At such a time, all the national people are required to make earnest efforts steadily in union without losing sight of the national interests.

The students must also make relentless efforts for development of the nation and the people as well as for their own based on patriotism, nationalism and Union Spirit. Instead of harboring suspicion, prejudice and ego or wasting the national strength, cooperative efforts are to be made with honesty to build up the nation into a new one.

It is known to all that the State is on its way to emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. So, the people on their part are urged to unite and actively participate in achieving the goal while overcoming all difficulties. All the teachers are also urged to strive for the promotion of national education by regarding it as a prime duty for the development of the State, as a vehicle for realizing the State’s objectives and as a guiding light for showing the people the right way to a new modern and developed nation, said the Secretary-1. Later, he urged the teachers to strive with patriotism and Union Spirit for enabling the Union of Myanmar to stand tall among the international community as a sovereign nation and to perform duties of the education sector in order to promote national education and thus to develop their own regions and the State.

After the opening ceremony, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted the trainee teachers. A total of 1,514 teachers from the states and divisions in Lower Myanmar are attending the course which will last five weeks. — MNA

No 38 BEPS designated as mosquito free school in Thakayta

Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai presents mosquito nets to Pre-primary school in Thakayta Township.

YANGON, 31 July — A ceremony to designate No 38 Basic Education Primary School of Thakayta Township as a mosquito, tobacco and rubbish free school was held at the school in Thakayta Township this morning.

Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai attended the ceremony and made a speech.

Next, Daw Mar Mar Wai accepted cash donations from the well-wishers. She presented sanitary equipment to the headmasters of the schools and Ward MCWAs in the township.

Chairperson of Town- ship MCWA Daw San San Yi handed over membership applications to Daw Mar Mar Wai.

Later, Dr. Hla Myint, Secretary of Yangon Division MCWSC presented the educative paintings on dengue haemoragic fever for the schools in the township to the responsible personnel.

At the ceremony, the chairperson of township MCWA elaborated on the designation of the schools as mosquito, tobacco and rubbish free one.

Daw Mar Mar Wai unveiled the signboards that say mosquito, tobacco and rubbish free school and planted a tree to mark the ceremony.

The chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC visited the Pre-primary School of Town- ship MCWA and presented food and the mosquito nets to the school. She inspected health care services for the aged and feeding to the children. — MNA

YANGON, 31 July — A ceremony to designate No 38 Basic Education Primary School of Thakayta Township as a mosquito, tobacco and rubbish free school was held at the school in Thakayta Township this morning.

Chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC Daw Mar Mar Wai attended the ceremony and made a speech.

Next, Daw Mar Mar Wai accepted cash donations from the well-wishers. She presented sanitary equipment to the headmasters of the schools and Ward MCWAs in the township.

Chairperson of Town- ship MCWA Daw San San Yi handed over membership applications to Daw Mar Mar Wai.

Later, Dr. Hla Myint, Secretary of Yangon Division MCWSC presented the educative paintings on dengue haemoragic fever for the schools in the township to the responsible personnel.

At the ceremony, the chairperson of township MCWA elaborated on the designation of the schools as mosquito, tobacco and rubbish free one.

Daw Mar Mar Wai unveiled the signboards that say mosquito, tobacco and rubbish free school and planted a tree to mark the ceremony. The chairperson of Yangon Division MCWSC visited the Pre-primary School of Township MCWA and presented food and the mosquito nets to the school. She inspected health care services for the aged and feeding to the children. — MNA
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects development tasks in …
(from page 16)
He also inspected Thitgyitaw Dam and viewed the thriving cultivation in Myaing.
Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to the vocational training school for women and the 25-bed hospital in Myaing. At the hospital, he comforted the patients and fulfilled the requirements.
During his tour, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with departmental officials and members of social organizations in Myaing.
At the meeting, he called for double and mixed cropping in the region in a bid to increase the region’s agricultural produce and to improve the living standards of the local people.
Not only seasonal crops but also perennial crops are to be grown in the region in vacant land with a view to serving long-term interests of the region, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said. Despite being a dry region, construction of dams, reservoirs, river water pumping projects resulted in the increasing acres of paddy cultivation.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets township departmental officials, social organizations and townsenders at Nanthamyaing Hall in Myaing. — MNA

In his address, Lt-Gen Ye Myint also urged departmental officials to make efforts for meeting the region’s target of physic nut cultivation while protecting natural environment and to carry out irrigation tasks joining hands with local people.
After the meeting, Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented exercise books for schools in Myaing Township to Township Education Officer.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint also inspected Twinma Dam in Pakokku Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions to officials of Magway Division’s Irrigation Department.

Yangon, 30 July — Shwelinban Bridge built by Bridge Construction Project Special Group-1 of Public Works was commissioned into service at the archway of the bridge on Tabinshwehti Road in Hlínethaya Township this morning.
Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win said that today’s ceremony is to inaugurate Shwelinban Bridge measuring 208 feet built in Hlínethaya Township. The Government is giving priority to better transport in the entire nation. The transport sector plays an important role in prevailing of peace and stability and development of economic, education and health sectors.
He added that Shwelinban Bridge links industrial zones in Hlínethaya Township. Construction of the bridge contributes much towards smooth and speedy flow of commodities from Ayeyawady Division and products of the industrial zone to Yangon and other states and divisions. The bridge above 180 feet long is the 218th of its kind in the nation, and it is the 28th major bridge in Yangon Division. In conclusion, the commander thanked employees of the Ministry of Construction for their participation in the construction of the bridge and urged those present to safeguard the bridge for durability.

Next, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun gave a speech.
A local spoke words of thanks.
Next, the commander and the minister formally opened the bridge. The commander unveiled the stone plaque. The commander and the minister sprinkled scented water on it.

Shwelinban Bridge crossing Shwelinban Creek was built on Tabinshwehti Road, linking Kasin Village and Shwelinban Village in Hlínethaya Township. The bridge is 208 feet long. It has 44 feet wide motorway flanked by three feet wide pedestrian ways. Its clearance is 48 feet wide and three feet high. The bridge can withstand 60-ton loads. It is a reinforced concrete bridge spending K 389 million.
Shwelinban Bridge is the 28th bridge in Yangon Division, and it is the 218th bridge above 180 feet long built in the entire nation by the Tatmadaw Government after 1988. — MNA

Shwelinban Bridge contributes to smooth and speedy flow of commodities from Ayeyawady Division to Yangon, other regions

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Htay Win made an address at the opening ceremony of Shwelinban Bridge. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets township departmental officials, social organizations and townsenders at Nanthamyaing Hall in Myaing. — MNA

Shwelinban Bridge (Hlínethaya). — MNA
Lt-Gen Myint Swe donates offerings to a Sayadaw. — MNA

Stake driven for construction of Kyunong bridge in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 31 July — A stake was driven for construction of Kyunong Bridge linking Waka Township and Einme Township, Myaungmya District, Ayeyawady Division at the pandal on the bank of Einme Township this morning, and it was attended by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, senior military officers, local authorities, officials of Public Works, those from social organizations, local people and others.

At the auspicious time, 9 am, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun drove the stake at the designated places and sprinkled them with scented water.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung drove the stand pipe with the vibro hammer at the site of No 3 Stake and the commander and the minister sprinkled it with scented water.

The construction of the bridge will be carried out by Public Works of the Ministry of Construction.

The 500 feet long suspension bridge is of bailey type with a 11 feet and 13 inches wide motorway. It can bear 18-ton loads. — MNA

Meiktila District’s MCWA opens basic organizing course

YANGON, 31 July — A basic organizing course of Meiktila District Maternal and Child Welfare Association was opened on 27 July at Meiktila Education College with an opening address by Chairperson of Mandalay Division Women’s Affairs Organization Member of Mandalay Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Kye Mon Oo.

It was attended by Patron of Meiktila District WAO Daw May Soe Thu, Chairperson Daw Yi Yi May, instructors and trainees. At the opening ceremony, Chairperson of Mandalay Division WAO accepted 4,000 membership applications of Mahlaing, Thazi, Wundwin in Meiktila District.

Members of Mandalay Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee also attended the educative talks on health at Kandawingyala Hall in Meiktila. They also went to Midwifery Training School and gave instructions. — MNA

Deputy Health Minister inspects station hospitals in Yangon Division

Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo delivers a speech in meeting with members of township health committee, health staff and members of social organizations at Twantay People’s Hospital. — HEALTH

NAY PYI TAW, 31 July — Secretary of National Health Committee Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, accompanied by officials yesterday met with members of township health committee, assistant surgeons, nurses, staffs and social organizations at Twantay People’s Hospital.

Next, the deputy minister inspected the hospital and fulfilled the requirements.

After the meeting, the deputy minister went to the station hospital in Kawhmu and met with members of township health committee, staffs and social organizations. The deputy minister briefed prevention on malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. The deputy minister also visited Kungyangon station hospital. — MNA

Aungtagon Football Team, which clinched the Second Division Cup for 2006-2007 football season seen with the coaches. — NLM

Objectives of the 14th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions

— To vitalize patriotism and nationalism
— To preserve and safeguard Myanmar cultural heritage
— To perpetuate genuine Myanmar music, dance and traditional fine arts
— To preserve Myanmar national character
— To nurture spiritual development of the youths
— To prevent influence of alien culture and
— To strengthen national unity and Union Spirit.

Minister inspects containers at Thilawa

NAY PYI TAW, 31 July — Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin together with officials on 28 July went to Thilawa Port in Thanlwin Township and inspected containers consisting of steel structures for multi diesel engine factory Project (Thagaya) of Myanma Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries.

Managing Director U Soe Thein reported on arrangements for transportation of containers to the project areas and the minister fulfilled the requirements. — MNA
Thailand for faster Tamiflu use to fight bird flu

NEW DELHI, 31 July — Thailand, which saw its first human death from bird flu after an eight-month lull, will push for the use of the drug Tamiflu in suspected cases rather than wait for lab results, a Thai official said on Friday.

The proposal, which follows the death of a 17-year-old boy this week, would apply to seven provinces where the H5N1 virus is endemic, said That Surintragaran, Director-General of Thailand’s Department of Disease Control.

“We have to revise our clinical practice guidelines and the criteria to start Tamiflu,” he told Reuters on the sidelines of an Asian bird flu conference in New Delhi.

“If we have unusual deaths of chickens, even in the backyard, and a patient gets fever, even if not severe as in pneumonia, doctors have to start Tamiflu without any results of the laboratory,” he said.

Tamiflu, produced by Roche Holding AG, is the most commonly used anti-bird flu drug.

Doctors initially suspected the teenager in the northern province of Pichit was suffering from dengue haemorrhagic fever and was not given Tamiflu, despite his known close contact with poultry, Thawat said.

The teenager could have had both dengue fever and bird flu, he said.

Thousands of Thais get dengue fever every year and it has killed 22 people in the past seven months, he said. — MNA/Reuters

Zambian Govt to buy all surplus maize from farmers

KITWE (Zambia), 31 July — Zambia’s President Levy Mwanawasawas directed Saturday the Food Reserve Agency (FRA) to double their efforts and purchase all the surplus maize from farmers countrywide before the onset of the rainy season.

The President also mandated the agency to export about 100,000 tons of maize in order to raise money to offset the debt owed to commercial banks for purchasing the maize.

Speaking at a rally of his ruling party in Kitwe he said he was not pleased that the FRA had not managed to buy most of the maize from small-scale farmers countrywide.

Mwanawasa said the state-funded FRA had been given 20 billion kwacha (5.71 million US dollars) for maize purchase, and had borrowed another 20 billion kwacha from commercial banks.

He said the government would give the FRA an additional 30 billion kwacha (8.57 million dollars) to purchase all the surplus maize from the farmers.

Mwanawasa said though he had allowed FRA to export maize, the agency should ensure that they stock up enough maize in strategic reserves for national consumption. — MNA/Xinhua

Poll shows Dutch fear terror attack due to Afghan mission

AMSTERDAM, 31 July — More than half the Dutch fear their country’s military presence in Afghanistan increases the risk of a terrorist attack in the Netherlands, a survey showed on Saturday.

The survey by Tangram pollsters, published by the Algemeen Dagblad daily, found that about 57 per cent of those polled see a growing risk of a possible attack by Islamist fundamentalists because the Netherlands has troops in Afghanistan.

The Netherlands sent some 1,400 troops earlier this year after being pressed by NATO allies to join a deployment in the country’s volatile south and allow some US forces to withdraw.

NATO is to take over military operations in southern Afghanistan from US-led forces on Monday at a time when the country is going through its bloodiest phase since the Taliban’s overthrow.

More than 1,700 people have died in militant-linked violence this year. — MNA/Reuters

Iran rejects terms of UN resolution on atomic work

TEHERAN, 31 July — The people of Iran are entitled to produce their own nuclear fuel, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Sunday, rejecting the terms of a draft UN resolution that demands Iran give up its nuclear work.

France on Friday issued a draft resolution to the Security Council demanding Iran suspend nuclear activities by 31 August or face the threat of sanctions if it refuses. A vote is expected this week.

“The people of Iran, in accordance with international norms and laws, have the right to take advantage of peaceful nuclear technology,” Ahmadinejad told a news conference in Teheran, sticking by Iran’s right to produce its own fuel.

Earlier in the day, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi also said Iran would stop considering international incentives aimed at ending its uranium enrichment programme if the UN Security Council passes a resolution against its atomic programme.

The United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia, China and Germany approved a package of commercial and technical incentives aimed at getting Teheran to stop a nuclear programme, which the West fears will be used to make nuclear bombs.

But Iran, which insists it is enriching uranium only for use in power stations, gave itself until 21 August to reply. — MNA/Reuters

Indonesia oil well explodes, thousands evacuated

SUARABA (Indonesia), 31 July — An explosion at an oil well in East Java Province triggered an evacuation and more than 200 people were treated for breathing problems after some lost consciousness, officials said on Saturday.

The well, located in the Bojonegoro area, is operated by state oil company Pertamina and PetroChina and officials said the fire was now out.

“Suddenly, residents saw a big fire ball in the sky with a thunderous sound,” Rumhadi, a local police chief, said by telephone.

One child killed in landmine blast in eastern Turkey

ANKARA, 31 July — A child was killed and three more injured in a landmine explosion in eastern Turkey on Sunday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

A mine planted by the militants of the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) exploded in Genc Town of Bingol Province.

A military helicopter flew the injured children to the Bingol State Hospital for medical treatment.

The explosion came a day after a landmine planted by the PKK went off on a road in Kulp Town of the southeastern province of Diyarbakir, killing a village guard. — MNA/Xinhua

A Filipino worker returning from Lebanon waves as they arrive at Manila’s International Airport on 30 July, 2006. — INTERNET

Pakistani jeep plunges into ravine, killing at least 10

ISLAMABAD, 31 July — At least 10 people were killed when a passenger jeep plunged into a deep ravine in a hilly area in Pakistan’s North West Frontier Province on Sunday, the private GEO Television reported.

Several people were also injured in the accident at Nathiagali, a resort town about 50 kilometres northeast of the Pakistani capital Islamabad, when the jeep skidded off the road while taking a turn, according to GEO.

Nathiagali is a scenic hill resort lodged in the sylvan slopes of the lower Himalayan range at an altitude of 8,035 feet above sea level.

The report said more than 20 people were travelling in the jeep when the accident occurred.

The road condition in the area is said to be in bad condition and heavy rains had also damaged roads in several parts of the area.

Since the end of June, many parts of the country have been witnessing torrential rains which caused floods and landslides, killing people and damaging houses. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesians walk past tourists sunbathing on Kuta Beach at the Indonesian resort island of Bali on 29 July, 2006. — INTERNET
US boat brings aid for Lebanon war displaced

BEIRUT, 30 July—A US boat carrying the first American aid delivered to Lebanon by sea arrived in Beirut on Saturday with supplies for people displaced by fighting. The HSV-Swift, a high-speed military catamaran, brought in 20,000 blankets, 2,000 tarpaulins and seven one-ton medical kits which can support 10,000 people for three months.

The supplies were destined for the Chouf mountains southeast of Beirut where 100,000 people have taken refuge from Israel’s bombardment of Hizbollah targets in southern Lebanon.

Three US medical kits were ferried in earlier in the week by helicopter.

“Blankets are very important, as are the tarps, especially looking ahead in a few weeks because it’s very cold in the mountain areas, and the people may be there for some time,” David Holdridge, emergency coordinator in Lebanon for Mercy Corps, a US relief agency.

The 18-day-old war has forced about 750,000 people to flee their homes in Lebanon and at least 462 people have been killed. Others remain trapped in southern border villages.

UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland has asked for a 72-hour truce to enable relief workers to evacuate elderly, young and disabled from the south and to deliver aid.

“There is something fundamentally wrong with a war where there are more dead children than armed men,” he said on Friday. MNA/Reuters

US immigration protesters scuffle in New York

New York, 30 July—US immigration activists clashed at the site of the World Trade Centre on Wednesday when an anti-immigration demonstration called for secure borders. About 50 immigrant protesters scuffled with Minuteman supporters.

“Two sides will bridge or negotiate, but the 72-hour cease-fire is increasingly unlikely,” Corsi said at their event at Ground Zero to dedicate their book to the families of the 11 September victims.

About 50 immigrant rights advocates waved placards reading, “New York is an immigrant town...” and “Minuteman not welcome,” while about 30 anti-immigration protest held banners that said, “Stop the invasion” and “US jobs for US citizens”.

Polls show immigration reform is an important issue to many Americans, but negotiations over immigration reform have stalled in the US Congress.

The House of Representatives and the Senate have passed vastly different bills and it is increasingly unlikely the two sides will bridge differences ahead of the November congressional elections.

Senate legislation would give the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants a chance to earn US citizenship, while the House bill that would criminalize illegal presence.—MNA/Reuters

Israel bombs Gaza weapons factory, border tunnel

GAZA, 30 July—Israeli aircraft bombed a suspected Hamas control center near Rafah on Saturday.

No casualties were reported in the early morning attacks, part of Israel’s month-long assault on Gaza to recover a captured soldier and end cross-border rocket attacks.

At least 150 Palestinians, around half of them women and children, have been killed in the offensive.

An army spokeswoman said one of the targets overnight was a factory in Gaza City used by the Islamic militant group Hamas, which controls the Palestinian Government, to manufacture and store arms.

The army said it also bombed a tunnel along the Israeli-Egyptian border near Rafah.

Israel has rejected demands for a prisoner exchange by the government which captured Corporal Gilad Shalit by tunneling under the border on 25 June. Some of the gunmen came from Hamas. MNA/Reuters

Drive with care

claims day notice

MV sea merchant voy. no (691) has arrived on 1.8.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

shipping agency department

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES (PTE) LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TERAU VOY. NO (145) has arrived on 1.8.2006 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

shipping agency department

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES (PTE) LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Israel bombs Gaza weapons factory, border tunnel

GAZA, 30 July—Israeli aircraft bombed a suspected Hamas weapons factory and border tunnel in the Gaza Strip on Saturday, the army said.

No casualties were reported in the early morning attacks, part of Israel’s month-long assault on Gaza to recover a captured soldier and end cross-border rocket attacks.

At least 150 Palestinians, around half of them women and children, have been killed in the offensive.

An army spokeswoman said one of the targets overnight was a factory in Gaza City used by the Islamic militant group Hamas, which controls the Palestinian Government, to manufacture and store arms.

The army said it also bombed a tunnel along the Israeli-Egyptian border near Rafah.

Israel has rejected demands for a prisoner exchange by the government which captured Corporal Gilad Shalit by tunneling under the border on 25 June. Some of the gunmen came from Hamas. MNA/Reuters

Drive with care
Official says China backs Margaret Chan as WHO chief

BEIJING, 30 July — A senior Chinese official said on Friday that the central government endorses Margaret Chan from Hong Kong in her bid to become Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO).

“China’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said. A resume posted on the WHO website said that Chan obtained her medical degree from the University of Western Ontario in Canada. She joined the Hong Kong Department of Health in 1978 and was appointed Director of Health in 1994. MNA/Xinhua

Death toll in China factory blast rises to 22

BEIJING, 30 July — The death toll from an explosion at a chemical plant in eastern China has risen to 22 but more than 7,000 people evacuated after the blast have now gone home, Xinhua news agency said on Saturday.

The blast, which occurred on Friday morning when a chemical reactor exploded during a test run, injured 28 others, including the chairman and general manager of the company, the report said. “Preliminary investigation showed improper operation by workers was mainly to blame for the accident,” Xinhua said of the incident, which happened in Shuyang in Jiangsu Province. MNA/Reuters

Ex-Worldcom CEO Ebbers’ conviction affirmed

NEW YORK, 30 July — A federal appeals court in New York on Friday affirmed the conviction of former WorldCom Inc. Chief Executive Bernard Ebbers for orchestrating an 11-billion-US-dollar accounting fraud that led to the largest US bankruptcy.

The ruling by a three-judge panel of the US Second Circuit Court of Appeals may clear the way for Ebbers to begin serving his 25-year prison sentence. Ebbers, 64, had been convicted by a jury in March 2005 of nine counts of conspiracy, securities fraud and other crimes that led to the telephone company’s July 2002 bankruptcy. He had remained free on bail while pursuing his appeal. His sentence means he could spend the rest of his life in prison.

“I never thought his appeal was particularly strong,” said Jonathan Turley, a Law Professor and white-collar crime expert at George Washington University in Washington, DC. “There was a mountain of evidence against Ebbers, a pattern of corruption, so it would have been surprising if his appeal succeeded.” MNA/Reuters

Cosplayers dressed up as characters from the movies ‘Star Wars’ and ‘Batman’ pose during the Ani-com Hong Kong, an animation and comic fair in Hong Kong, on 30 July, 2006. —INTERNET

British airport handles US “dangerous goods” flights to Israel

LONDON, 30 July— A US plane carrying “dangerous goods” on route to Tel Aviv refuelled at a British airport on Saturday, a day after Washington apologized to London for breaking rules on Israel-bound flights with bombs onboard.

“A cargo flight operated by a commercial cargo operator flew to Tel Aviv today via Prestwick and there’ll be a second flight tomorrow,” said the spokesperson for the aviation regulator.

“We’ve provided exemptions from dangerous goods regulations,” he said. He was unsure of the precise nature of the hazardous materials being transported.

The Foreign Office declined to comment on the flights but said Britain would grant permission for flights carrying arms defence equipment provided proper procedures were followed.

Menzies Campbell, leader of the opposition Liberal Democrats, said the new flights added insult to injury.

“Who can tell if some of this equipment may be used to continue Israel’s disproportionate attacks on Lebanon?” he said. “The British Government should be pursuing an active policy of denying weapons of any kind to anyone in the Middle East who may be assisting the conflict in any way.”

Reports of the Israeli-bound US flights have added to widespread criticism of Blair’s support for Bush over the Middle East crisis and his failure to call for Israel immediately to stop its bombing campaign.

British media reported on Wednesday that aircraft carrying “bunker-busting” bombs from the United States to Israel refuelled at Prestwick. British officials have not commented on the flights in detail but do not dispute those accounts. MNA/Reuters

A woman demonstrates Kazak nomadic custom at the 16th “Aken” concert held beside the scenic Hongshan Lake in Ablay, northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 29 July, 2006. —INTERNET

World Boxing Council (WBC) champion Takashi Koshimoto (R) collapses in the seventh round of his featherweight title bout against Rudy Lopez of Mexico at Mario Messe Fukauka in Fukuoka, southern Japan on 30 July, 2006. WBC champion Koshimoto failed in his first world title defence, losing to challenger Lopez by technical knockout in the seventh round on Sunday, local media reports. MNA/INTERNET

Reports of the Israeli-briefed US flights have added to widespread criticism of Blair’s support for Bush over the Middle East crisis and his failure to call for Israel immediately to stop its bombing campaign.

British media reported on Wednesday that aircraft carrying “bunker-busting” bombs from the United States to Israel refuelled at Prestwick. British officials have not commented on the flights in detail but do not dispute those accounts. MNA/INTERNET
Zambia U-17 soccer squad defeats Mozambique 2-0

LUSAKA, 31 July— Zambia Under-17 soccer squad sailed the first round of the Africa junior championship with a 2-0 victory over Mozambique in Lusaka Saturday.

Morgan Kaoma was the first of the mark 10 minutes into the second half when the Lusaka City Council striker finished off in move started deep in the Zambian area by inspirational skipper Richard Kabwe.

The angle looked too tight for Kaoma when he ducked two defenders to find some space on the right flank, but the way he bundled the ball past a stranded Jossias Uamassie in the Mozambican goal left many, including himself, stunned.

Five minutes on the first goal had barely settled when Steven Sakala completed his double over the junior Mambas with the Nchanga Rangers player easily bunching home from a Tom Bakala corner kick in the 61st minute.

Zambia won over Mozambique 4-1 on aggregate. MNA/Xinhua

Calleri upsets compatriot Chela to take Kitzbuhel crown

KITZBUEHEL (Australia) 31 July— Argentina's Agustin Calleri picked up the second ATP title of his career on Sunday by beating his higher-ranked compatriot Juan Ignacio Chela 7-6, 6-2, 6-3, in the final of the 925,000-US-dollar Kitzbuehel Open.

Despite being 15 places below Chela in the world rankings, Calleri was arguably the slight favourite going into the match, having won the last three meetings against his Davis Cup teammate.

Once in front, the ninth seed never looked in danger of surrendering his lead, however, storming through the second set with two breaks of Chela's serve and just three dropped points on his own.

After taking a 2-0 lead at the start of the third set, Calleri suffered his first major lapse of concentration, double-faulting to hand his opponent a break back. MNA/Reuters

Kawabuchi reappointed as Japan Football Association chief

TOKYO, 31 July— The Japan Football Association (JFA) reappointed Saburo Kawabuchi on Sunday to a new two-year term as its president.

Kawabuchi, 69, will serve the third and final term as head of the country's soccer body as the association limits terms for its post to under 70 at the time of appointment.

According to the release of the JFA, Kozo Tashima became the JFA's new general secretary. MNA/Xinhua

China wins Women's Asian Cup

ADELAIDE (Australia), 31 July— China won the AFC Women's Asian Cup here Sunday after beating Australia 4-2 on penalties at the final.

China also won the Fairplay Award and Ma Xiaoxu was named the Most Valuable Player.

This is China's eighth time to lift the AFC Women's Asian Cup trophy and the first time to win the cup after being defeated by North Korea in the semifinals and final respectively in 2001 and 2003.

In the first half, Australia's Caitlin Munoz scored the first goal on 28 minutes and Joanne Peters made it 2-0 on 33 minutes.

But the match was forced into the extra time after China's Han Duan (68) and Ma Xiaoxu (73) pulled back two goals in the second half.

In the penalty kick, Australia's Collete McCallum and regular time score Joanne Peters missed from the spot. For China, Ma Xiaoxu, Bi Yan, Li Jie and Han Duan were on the mark.

Ma Liangxing, the Chinese national coach, said that while the team was left behind in the first half, he never lost confidence that the team would win.

Ma said winning championship did not mean everything as there were more teams better than China in Asia, such as Japan, Australia and North Korea. MNA/Xinhua

China's Han Duan (L) celebrates after she made the final penalty shoot in the AFC Asian Women's Cup final in Adelaide, Australia, on 30 July, 2006. China won Australia a penalty shootout 4-2 to lift the AFC Asian Women's Cup. —INTERNET

Enyimba held to 1-1 draw by Orlando Pirates

ABA (Nigeria), 31 July— Nigeria's Enyimba failed to enforce their overwhelming dominance and were held to a 1-1 draw by South Africa's Orlando Pirates in their African Champions League Group B match on Sunday.

Chidozie Johnson equalized in the 66th minute to spare Enyimba the embarrassment of defeat in a match in which they totally dominated but were unable to create any real scoring opportunities.

Pirates, who rarely ventured near their Nigerian hosts' penalty area, took a surprise lead with a goal from Lucky Lekgwathi in the 33rd minute.

The fullback rifled home a long-range free kick to put Pirates into the lead at half-time.

Pirates goalkeeper Francis Chansa made an instinctive save just four minutes later to stop an Akueke header from less than a metre out.

Pirates coach Francis Chansa hit the crossbar as Pirates showed the first glimpses of the rickety defence that would have them on the back foot for the rest of the game.

It was their failure to clear from a set piece that allowed Johnson to score the equalizer with a half volley from the edge of the penalty area.

Enyimba were denied the first goal in the seventh minute when Emeke Akueke hit the crossbar as Pirates showed the first glimpses of the rickety defence that would have them on the back foot for the rest of the game.

It was their failure to clear from a set piece that allowed Johnson to score the equalizer with a half volley from the edge of the penalty area.

Pirates goalkeeper Francis Chansa made an instinctive save just four minutes later to stop an Akueke header from less than a metre out. MNA/Reuters

A woman kisses the trophy after winning the Women's Golf Masters in Evian on 29 July, 2006. —INTERNET

China claims men's 78kg at junior Taekwondo worlds

HONG KONG, 31 July— Chinese Chen Yu and Zhu Lin were crowned in men's and women's singles at Thailand Badminton Open here on Sunday as the South Koreans grabbed all the other laurels.

Chen Yu won the title by beating his teammate Chen Jin in a close match by 21-17, 21-23 and 22-20 while their women's teammate Zhu Lin overpowered South Korean rival Hwang Hye Youn by 21-13, 21-18 and 21-15.

South Koreans swept the remaining three trophies, with Lee Yong Dae and Jae Sung winning the men's doubles, and Lee Yong Dae and Hwang Yu Mi were crowned at the mixed doubles.

Suiket Prapatkamol and Saralee Thongthongkam of the hosts Thailand were runners-up for the mixed doubles. Saralee also joined teammate Satinee Jankrajangwong to take the second place of the women's doubles event. MNA/Xinhua

China's Han Duan (L) celebrates after she made the final penalty shoot in the AFC Asian Women's Cup final in Adelaide, Australia, on 30 July, 2006. China won Australia a penalty shootout 4-2 to lift the AFC Asian Women's Cup. —INTERNET

Argentina's Augustin Calleri celebrates his win over compatriot Juan Ignacio Chela in the final match at the ATP Generali Open tennis tournament in Kitzbuhel, on 30 July, 2006. Calleri won 7-6, 6-2, 6-3. —INTERNET

China takes men's, women's singles in Thailand Badminton Open

BANGKOK, 31 July— Chinese Chen Yu and Zhu Lin were crowned in men's and women's singles at Thailand Badminton Open here on Sunday as the South Koreans grabbed all the other laurels.

Chen Yu won the title by beating his teammate Chen Jin in a close match by 21-17, 21-23 and 22-20 while their women's teammate Zhu Lin overpowered South Korean rival Hwang Hye Youn by 21-13, 21-18 and 21-15.

South Koreans swept the remaining three trophies, with Lee Yong Dae and Jae Sung winning the men's doubles, Lee Yong Dae and Hwang Yu Mi were crowned at the mixed doubles.

Suiket Prapatkamol and Saralee Thongthongkam of the hosts Thailand were runners-up for the mixed doubles. Saralee also joined teammate Satinee Jankrajangwong to take the second place of the women's doubles event. —MNA/Xinhua

Cuba's Neldys Truffir (rear) fights for the ball against Puerto Rico's Amanda Ortiz during the final of the women's waterpolo competition at the 20th Central American and Caribbean games in Cartagena, Colombia, on 29 July, 2006. —INTERNET

China's Han Duan (L) celebrates after she made the final penalty shoot in the AFC Asian Women's Cup final in Adelaide, Australia, on 30 July, 2006. China won Australia a penalty shootout 4-2 to lift the AFC Asian Women's Cup. —INTERNET

Enyimba held to 1-1 draw by Orlando Pirates

ABA (Nigeria), 31 July— Nigeria's Enyimba failed to enforce their overwhelming dominance and were held to a 1-1 draw by South Africa's Orlando Pirates in their African Champions League Group B match on Sunday.

Chidozie Johnson equalized in the 66th minute to spare Enyimba the embarrassment of defeat in a match in which they totally dominated but were unable to create any real scoring opportunities.

Pirates, who rarely ventured near their Nigerian hosts' penalty area, took a surprise lead with a goal from Lucky Lekgwathi in the 33rd minute.

The fullback rifled home a long-range free kick to put Pirates into the lead at half-time.

Pirates goalkeeper Francis Chansa made an instinctive save just four minutes later to stop an Akueke header from less than a metre out. MNA/Reuters

China claims men's 78kg at junior Taekwondo worlds

HONG KONG, 31 July— Chinese Chen Yu and Zhu Lin were crowned in men's and women's singles at Thailand Badminton Open here on Sunday as the South Koreans grabbed all the other laurels.

Chen Yu won the title by beating his teammate Chen Jin in a close match by 21-17, 21-23 and 22-20 while their women's teammate Zhu Lin overpowered South Korean rival Hwang Hye Youn by 21-13, 21-18 and 21-15.

South Koreans swept the remaining three trophies, with Lee Yong Dae and Jae Sung winning the men's doubles, Lee Yong Dae and Hwang Yu Mi were crowned at the mixed doubles.

Suiket Prapatkamol and Saralee Thongthongkam of the hosts Thailand were runners-up for the mixed doubles. Saralee also joined teammate Satinee Jankrajangwong to take the second place of the women's doubles event. —MNA/Xinhua

China takes men's, women's singles in Thailand Badminton Open

BANGKOK, 31 July— Chinese Chen Yu and Zhu Lin were crowned in men's and women's singles at Thailand Badminton Open here on Sunday as the South Koreans grabbed all the other laurels.

Chen Yu won the title by beating his teammate Chen Jin in a close match by 21-17, 21-23 and 22-20 while their women's teammate Zhu Lin overpowered South Korean rival Hwang Hye Youn by 21-13, 21-18 and 21-15.

South Koreans swept the remaining three trophies, with Lee Yong Dae and Jae Sung winning the men's doubles, Lee Yong Dae and Hwang Yu Mi were crowned at the mixed doubles.

Suiket Prapatkamol and Saralee Thongthongkam of the hosts Thailand were runners-up for the mixed doubles. Saralee also joined teammate Satinee Jankrajangwong to take the second place of the women's doubles event. —MNA/Xinhua
McCartney’s first guitar sold for 330,000 pounds

London, 31 July — An American collector has bought Paul McCartney’s first acoustic guitar for 330,000 pounds (614,000 US dollars) at auction. The guitar used by the former Beatle was bought by Craig Jackson at an auction at the Abbey Road Studios late on Friday. “This is such an important piece of rock history, and I am an extremely happy man tonight,” Jackson said in a statement. “Without this guitar, The Beatles may never have existed, and it is a fantastic acquisition.” A spokesman for the auction house Cooper Owen said the auction had attracted bidders from Europe, the US and Russia. He had expected the instrument to fetch around 100,000 pounds. McCartney learned to play his first chords on the guitar which belonged to his friend Ian James. James sold the guitar to help fund his retirement and the deal included a letter from the former Beatle confirming the guitar was authentic. Jackson heads an auction company specialising in collector cars, based in Arizona. MNA/Reuters

Net closes on British sport of conger cuddling

London, 31 July — An English fishing town has banned the sport of conger cuddling after an animal activist complained. The tradition, once described as the most fun a person could have with a dead fish, involves one team trying to hit another with a conger eel tied to a rope. It was popular in Lyme Regis on England’s south coast and used as a fund-raising event for the local lifeboat. MNA/Reuters

Radio Myanmar

Tuesday, 1 August

Tune in today
8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music: -Anytime (Tik & Tak Friends)
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music: - Kiss the rain goodnight (Billy Myers)
8:50 am National news/ Slogan
9:00 am Music: - Be your self (Enrique Iglesias)
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music: - There goes my baby (Trisha Yearwood)
1:30 pm News/Slogan
1:40 pm Lunch time music
- It’s over (Marth Carey)
- Love oh love (The Commodores & Lionel Riche)
- Let it rain (Jennifer Paige)
9:00 pm English speaking course level (Unit )
9:10 pm Article
9:20 pm Article
9:30 pm Music for your listening pleasure
- She’s always good (RobbieWilliams)
- Make it good (Al)
- I’ll be there (Westlife)
9:45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm EFL

WEATHER

Monday, 31 July, 2006

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in lower Sagon and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in upper Sagon, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States, Yangon, Ayeawady and Tanintharyi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Gwa (4.41) inches, Mawlamyine (4.06) inches, Dawei (3.54) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (3.43) inches, Pyapon (3.26) inches, An (2.84) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (2.49) inches, Thandwe (2.32) inches and Nay Pyi Taw (0.32) inch. Maximum temperature on 30-7-2006 was 80°F. Minimum temperature on 31-7-2006 was 63°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 31-7-2006 was (100%). Total sunshine hours on 30-7-2006 was (6.6) hours approx.

Rainfalls on 31-7-2006 were (2.49) inches at Mingaladon, (3.43) inches at Kaba-Aye and (2.24) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2006 were (54.65) inches at Mingaladon, (66.46) inches at Kaba-Aye and (71.61) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (18) mph from Southwest at (21.00) hours MST on 30-7-2006.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hours MST today, low pressure area over North-west Bay has become unimportant. Monsoon in strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Benga.

Forecast valid until evening of 1-8-2006: Rain will be isolated in lower Sagon and Magway Divisions, scattered in upper Sagon and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin, Shan, Chin and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Rakhine and Mon States, Ayeawady and Yangon Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough sea are likely in off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 1-8-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 1-8-2006: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 1-8-2006: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 12:00 hr MST on 31-7-2006)

According to the (06:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madalan is (1122) cm. It may remain above its danger level (1070) cm during the next (72) hrs commencing noon today.

Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 2230 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newslight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 296115, Manager 392226, Circulation 297093, Advertisement 392223, Accounts 392224, Administration 392225, Production/Press 297028
Growing of seasonal crops plus perennial crops stressed
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects development tasks in Pakokku, Myaing Townships

NAY PYI TAW, 31 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence on 27 July inspected regional development tasks in Pakokku and Myaing townships in Magway Division.

During his inspection tour of Pakokku, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected Myakantha Recreation Centre, School for Development of National Races, Vocational Training School and Pakokku University along with Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Chairman of Magway Division PDC Col Phone Maw Shwe.

A total of 50 trainees are attending the basic tailoring course of the vocational training school. Afterwards, he went to Pakokku University and inspected the university’s main building. At the convocation hall of the university, Rector U Soe Myint reported on administration and academic matters of the university.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party also inspected the 58-acre cultivation of pigeon peas at Kaing Village-tract on Pakokku-Myaing Road. According to a farmer, 87,000 plants of pigeon peas are grown on an acre. Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged farmers to carry out double cropping and mixed cropping cultivation to get more extra income.

On the inspection tour of the 50-acre groundnut cultivation near Mile Post No 14/6 in Myaing Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint stressed the need for farmers to carry out the mixed cropping of pigeon peas and groundnut.

Inbat Dam is constructed on a creek in Inbat Village in Pakokku Township. It is 3,650 ft long and 43 ft high and can store 1,140 acre ft of water. Upon completion, the earthen dam is expected to irrigate 150 acres.

Waso robes offered to Tipitaka Maha Gandayon Monastery

YANGON, 30 July — The Waso robe offering ceremony was held at Kaba Aye Tipitaka Maha Gandayon Monastery on 2nd East Wireless Street in Mayangon Township this morning.

It was attended by Presiding Nayaka of the monastery Tipitakadhara Dhammahambadaganka Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhamma Pali Paragu Bhaddanta Sumangalalankara (PhD) and members of the Sangha.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, wellwishers and guests.

Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Sijjanabhivamsa of Sagaing Hill administered the Five Precepts.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and officials donated robes and alms to the Sayadaws.

No longer wish to remain as party members due to loss of interest in NLD
Six members of Sagaing Township NLD quit

YANGON, 31 July—Members of Sagaing Township National League for Democracy of Sagaing Division—U Chi Pe of Maletaw Village-tract, U Nyunt Shein, U Pho Nyan, U Tin Shwe and U Sein Paing of Kyawzayar Village, and U Tun Hlaing of Marletaw Village—resigned from the NLD of their own accord on 8 July.

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

In their letters sent to Sagaing Division Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-commission, they said they no longer wished to remain as the party’s members due to loss of interest in the NLD and that was the reason why they resigned from the NLD of their own accord.

The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

YANGON, 30 July — The Waso robe offering ceremony was held at Kaba Aye Tipitaka Maha Gandayon Monastery on 2nd East Wireless Street in Mayangon Township this morning.

It was attended by Presiding Nayaka of the monastery Tipitakadhara Dhammahambadaganka Agga Maha Pandita Abhidhamma Pali Paragu Bhaddanta Sumangalalankara (PhD) and members of the Sangha.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, wellwishers and guests.

Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Sijjanabhivamsa of Sagaing Hill administered the Five Precepts.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe and officials donated robes and alms to the Sayadaws.

Breastfeeding also greatly contributes to mother’s health by reducing the risk of ovarian and pre-menopausal cancer and helps them to return to their normal weight after pregnancies. Besides, it is noted as one of the most effective preventive interventions available to prevent child mortality, which is one of the Millennium Development Goals.