Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses opening of three-storey main building of Lashio Technological University

Being able to produce human resources in one’s own region creates opportunities to build infrastructures for one’s own development

National races to safeguard and promote prevailing peace, unity and progress, harmoniously striving for perpetual existence of the Union

NAY PYI TAW, 1 July — A new three-storey main building for Technological University (Lashio) of the Ministry of Science and Technology was opened in Lashio, Shan State (North) this morning in the presence of Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein unveiled the bronze plaque of the university. It was also attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win, Chairman of Shan State (North) PDC Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut, the ministers, the deputy ministers, military officers of the Lashio Station, officials of the SPDC Office and departmental heads, members of State/District/Township PDCs, members of social organizations, the acting principal of the university, heads of department, faculty members and students, the principals of University of Computer Studies (Lashio) and Lashio University and faculty members, national race leaders of special regions in Shan State (North), guests, nurses, members of national races dance troupe, members of Shan traditional dance troupe and local people.

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

Monday, 2 July, 2007

Strive for promotion of socio-economic lives of national people

The government has been making concerted efforts for harmonious and equitable development in all parts of the Union after laying down development plans systematically.

Under the border area development project, 852 primary schools, 90 middle schools and 92 high schools have been built. Under the development programme for townships in far-flung areas, altogether 507 schools were built and 598 schools were renovated in Kachin, Chin, Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States.

Moreover, 27 national race youth development training schools have been opened for children in border areas to enable them to have access to free education.

At present, the government is nurturing national race youths to become qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia capable of applying modern science and technology. Separate plans for youths in the border areas are being undertaken.

Nowadays, there prevails peace and tranquillity across the nation including border areas. At the same time, better economic and social foundations have improved year after year. The people now enjoy the fruits of development and peace.

The new graduates of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College also need to try to improve the socio-economic lives of the national races and development of border areas while performing their duties in the respective regions with full strength.

Officials urged to supervise collection of fixed fare in buses

YANGON, 1 July — The Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport organized the coordination meeting at the hall of Yangon Command Headquarters here, on 29 June.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Hay Win instructed the officials to install milometers at CNG taxies. Supervise collection of the fixed fare in buses, submit progress of installation of NGV-1 nozzles and 6mm pipes at NGV buses, coordinate with Public Works and YCDC to maintain roads and provide educative talks on traffic rules to drivers and conductors.

Departmental officials, officials of universities and colleges, personnel of bus lines reported on their respective sectors.

After attending to the needs, the commander gave concluding remarks. — MNA

Minister inspects construction of Bwetgyi Bridge

MINISTER Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspects construction tasks of Bwetgyi Bridge. — MNA

YANGON, 30 June — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun together with officials of Public Works inspected extension of Pyinmana-Taunggyo-Taungdwingyi Road at mile post No 58/0 yesterday. At the briefing hall of Bwetgyi Bridge construction project site, the minister heard reports on progress of work and future tasks, and gave necessary instructions to the officials.

The total length of the new Bwetgyi Bridge is 1,770 feet and the motor road is 28 feet long flanked by 3 feet footpaths. The bridge will withstand 60 tons of load.

The bridge is now under construction. — MNA

PBANRDA Minister attends AGM of Sibin Tharyar Yay Bank Ltd

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 June — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt made an address at the Annual General Meeting for 2006-07 of Sibin Tharyar Yay Bank Ltd held at the auditorium of the ministry, here, on 25 June.

It was attended by Deputy Minister Col Tin Ngwe, members of the Board of Directors, officials concerned and share holders from States and Divisions.

Managing Director U Myo Min of the bank presented the reports and sought the approval of the meeting. Deputy Managing Director U Kyaw Zaw announced the dividends for 2006-07 financial year.

Next, a member of the BOD read out the audit report and share holders took part in discussions on banking services. Later, a three-member audit committee was formed and the meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the minister. — MNA
US image at all-time low in Germany

BERLIN, 30 June — Germany, which was amongst the first nations in the world to express solidarity and sympathy with the United States (US) following the terrorist attacks of 11 Sept, 2001, now seems to have made a 180 degree turnaround as far as the overall US image is concerned.

Public perceptions of the US in Germany have changed radically in the past six years. Indeed, the latest public opinion poll conducted by an American research institute called Pew suggests that the standing of the US in the eyes of the Germans has taken a battering and nosedived to an all-time low.

Only 30 per cent of the people questioned in the survey said they had a positive opinion of the US, while 66 per cent said they had a negative one. Four per cent of those questioned were undecided.

Indeed, in no other country in Europe is the US image as bad as in Germany.

More than 45,000 people were polled in the survey conducted in 46 countries as well as the Palestinian territories.

Spanish Airport evacuated after warning; no bomb found

MADRID, 30 June — The airport on Spain’s Ibiza island in the Mediterranean was evacuated Saturday after an anonymous bomb threat was called into a newspaper office that often receives such calls from the Basque separatist group ETA, but police later determined that a suspicious package was empty, CNN partner station CNN Plus reported.

The caller to the newspaper office reportedly did not mention ETA in this instance.

There was confusion as to whether there had been a police controlled explosion of the suspicious package or not. Some people outside the airport said they had heard what sounded like an explosion, but Interior Ministry sources told CNN Plus that there was no explosion.

There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Suicide bombing in Iraq’s Diyala Province; at least 15 civilians, police recruits dead

BAGHDAD, 30 June — At least 15 civilians and police recruits were killed in Iraq on Saturday when a suicide bomber detonated in a Diyala province town, the Iraqi Interior Ministry said.

The incident took place in Muqdadiya, one of the restive towns in Diyala Province which sprawls north and east of Baghdad and borders Iran.

Twelve people were wounded as well in the incident, which occurred in an outdoor market and near a police station. The incident occurred at 12:15 pm.

The US military has been conducting an offensive in the Diyala provincial capital of Baquba called Operation Arrowhead Ripper.

Muqdadiya is northeast of Baquba.

Two border patrol police shot in southern Thailand

BANGKOK, 30 June — Two Thai Border Patrol police officers were ambushed and severely wounded in southern Thailand’s province of Narathiwat on Friday.

Uaychai Suwanwisut and Prasit Putdam were ambushed as they returned home after finishing their duties. The two were attacked on a road in Sri Sakhon District, according to the Thai News Agency.

Shot in the head, Uaychai was airlifted by helicopter to a hospital in Songkhla while Prasit was shot in the shoulder and taken to a local hospital for treatment.

British pop sensation Lily Allen has been charged and bailed over an alleged assault on a photographer outside a London club, according to media reports on 29 June, 2007. — INTERNET

A US soldier was killed in southern Baghdad on Wednesday, while 66 per cent said they had a negative one. Four per cent of those questioned were undecided.

Indeed, in no other country in Europe is the US image as bad as in Germany.

More than 45,000 people were polled in the survey conducted in 46 countries as well as the Palestinian territories.
Poll shows most Poles oppose deploying US missile base

WARSAW, 30 June — Sixty per cent of Poles are opposed to the deployment of the US anti-missile shield in their country, according to the latest survey conducted by the Polish CBOS polling centre.

Only 26 per cent of those questioned expressed support for placing such an installation in Poland, the Polish News Agency (PAP) reported Friday. The percentage of opponents against the shield grew to 60 per cent in June from 55 per cent in February.

The number of Poles without an opinion on the issue has been steadily decreasing due to ongoing discussions about the proposals. CBOS said, adding that most Poles are concerned over Russia’s possible protests and reactions.

The recent short visit by US President George W Bush to Poland did not disperse those fears, it said.

The poll was conducted on 1-4 June.

MNA/Xinhua

Dog helps Israeli criminal slip short leash

JERUSALEM, 30 June — An Israeli criminal slipped away from house arrest by putting his electronic ankle monitor on his dog, police said on Thursday.

It was not until police came to take Nabil Farumi, convicted of attempted murder, to a sentencing hearing, that he was gone without a trace.

“After we searched the house we saw that he somehow managed to take the monitor off his leg and place it around the neck of his dog, who continued to walk around the house,” said Yoram Danieli, a police commander in northern Israel. — MNA/Reuters

Five die in hiking accident in French Alps

PARIS, 30 June — Five hikers died in the French Alps after one man in the group seemed to have slipped and fallen, dragging the rest of the roped party along with him, officials said on Thursday.

The accident near the village of La Chapelle-en-Valgaudemar in southeastern France occurred on Wednesday afternoon, as the group was trying to climb the 3,400-metre high Cime du Vallon summit, local officials said. — MNA/Reuters

US border cops seize parrots hidden in duffel bag

PHOENIX, 30 June — US border police found ten Amazon parrots stuffed in the duffel bag of a man crossing from Mexico, authorities said on Thursday.

Customs and Border Protection officers at the San Ysidro Port of entry, south of San Diego, California, found the small, green birds hidden in a bag in a pickup truck on Tuesday, and arrested the driver, a US citizen. CBP spokesman Vince Bond said the birds were placed in agricultural quarantine and transferred to the Department of Agriculture’s veterinary services. — MNA/Reuters

US soldiers kill four Afghan civilians

KABUL, 30 June — US soldiers killed four civilian members of the same family during a raid on Friday in Afghanistan’s eastern province of Nangarhar, an Afghan rights body said.

The soldiers also arrested 15 civilians during the pre-dawn raid in Khogiani District which lies in the foothills of the provincial capital Jalalabad, the head of Afghanistan’s Human Rights Group said.

MNA/Reuters

UN shuts down Iraq weapons inspection unit

UNITED NATIONS, 30 June — As the United Nations officially disbanded its weapons inspections unit for Iraq on Friday, the United States again defended faulty intelligence it had cited to justify its 2003 invasion of the country.

Despite US and British suspicions and assertions that Saddam Hussein was developing weapons of mass destruction, no evidence of active programmes to make chemical, biological or nuclear arms has been found.

In a final report on Thursday, the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, or UNMOVIC, said its on-the-ground inspections had proven better than intelligence assessments by individual countries.

After the UN Security Council approved a US-British resolution to shut down the inspection unit, the US ambassador to the United Nations conceded Washington had overestimated Iraq’s weapons capability before the invasion.

But Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said that should be set against the fact that Iraq’s capabilities were underestimated before the 1991 Gulf War.

“In the events leading to the liberation of Iraq and subsequently, there of course was a mistake — assessments, projections that went in the other direction, overestimating what existed,” Khalilzad told reporters.

“We’ve all learned lessons in hindsight. One would have hoped to have had in both cases more precise information.”

Critics of the invasion accuse the Bush Administration of being selective with prewar intelligence and of falsely linking Saddam to Islamic militants from al Qaeda.

MNA/Reuters

The 21st China Lotus Show with nearly 400 varieties of lotus on display opens in the Liberation Park in Wuhan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province, on 30 June, 2007.

XINHUA

Hong Kong singer Aaron Kwok performs during the Grand Variety Show in Hong Kong on 30 June, 2007. The show is part of a series of events celebrating the 10th anniversary of Hong Kong’s handover to China.

INTERNET

A train moves through a flooded track after heavy rains in Mumbai on 30 June, 2007.

INTERNET
Abe hopes Japanese rice fit
Chinese diet

Tokyo, 30 June —
Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe participated on Friday a ceremony marking the start of Japanese export of rice to China and expressed his hope that the agricultural product fit the diet of Chinese people.

Abe said he is happy about the export, which he proposed during his visit to China shortly after taking office last year, and is grateful for the assistance by the Chinese side over the process which make the export come true. The first batch of 24 tons of rice is for Beijing and Shanghai.

The export of rice is a new opportunity to further develop the mutually beneficial cooperation between Japan and China, Abe added.

Chinese Ambassador to Japan Wang Yi said in his part that the export is the fruit of mutual efforts under the general background of an improved China-Japan relationship. He regarded the prospect for bilateral agricultural cooperation as broad and expected promotion of related trade and exchanges.

Japanese Parliament members, farmers and representatives from agricultural organizations participated the ceremony in a hotel in central Tokyo.

Bangladesh to exempt 127 items
from import duties

DHAKA, 30 June —
Some 127 items, including industrial raw materials and few essentials, will be completely exempted from import duties as Bangladesh approved budget for the fiscal 2007-08, private news agency UN reported.

Under a duty restructuring, the new budget proposed on 7 June will make 127 items duty-free and also reduced the import duty on some items. The fortunate ones which will enjoy the duty-free import facility includes raw materials for food, pharmaceuticals and other industries, cotton, general items and essentials including lentil, medicine and medical equipment.

According to an official of National Board of Revenue (NBR), import duty on telecommunication equipment will now be 10 per cent instead of the 15 per cent proposed earlier.

Moreover, advance income tax and value added tax (VAT) will not be applicable at the import stage for the equipment.

Import duty on capital machinery will be reduced from 10 per cent to 5 per cent while milk powder from 25 per cent to 15 per cent, SIM card from 60 per cent to 20 per cent and computer from 10 per cent to 5 per cent.

Newspaper import will be made duty-free, but the newspapers will have to get utilization declaration from the ministries of Information and Commerce.

The ministries will provide consumption certificates considering the circulation of the newspapers concerned.

28 countries join
Dar International Trade Fair

DAR-ES-SALAM, 30 June —
Twenty-eight countries joined the host Tanzania in the 31st Dar-es-Salaam International Trade Fair which went underway here on Thursday.

Exhibitors are displaying products ranging from heavy-duty machinery to light industrial goods.

A total of 560 local and foreign companies from around the world participated in the trade fair, which opened on 26 June and will continue until 8 July.

China inaugurates
free-trade harbour area in Dalian

DALIAN, 30 June —
China inaugurated a harbour area with preferential tax rates on Thursday in the northeastern city of Dalian, a major step towards forming a free trade zone between China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK). The Dalian Bonded Harbour Area, located at the Dagu-Shan Peninsula in the northeastern part of Dalian, enjoys preferential taxation and foreign exchange policies, said Zhang Shikun, director of the Dalian Bonded Area Administrative Committee.

“It will remove tariffs for foreign cargo and offer tax rebates for domestic cargo. It will also exempt businesses from value added taxes and consumption taxes if they trade with each other,” Zhang said.

Analysts predict the efficiency of logistics will be raised by 20 per cent after the port is put into operation. The first phase of the area covers 3.06 square kilometres and includes warehouses, cold storage facilities, a container terminal and processing and logistics services. About 230 million yuan (25 million US dollars) has been spent on the construction of the area since 31 August last year, when the State Council approved its establishment.

Hundreds lined up on Friday outside the Apple store hours before the iPhone, a combination widescreen iPod, cellphone and pocket Internet device, went on sale at Apple’s 164 stores and nearly 1,800 AT&T stores. — Xinhua

A trader discusses the price of a traditional Afghan woman’s burqa with a US soldier from the NATO-led coalition force at the Kandahar Air Field on 30 June, 2007. Afghan traders are allowed onto the base on Saturdays for a few hours to sell products ranging from DVDs and jewellery to carpets and old military paraphernalia. — Xinhua

Cars for sale sit in flood waters in Toll Bar, northern England, on 30 June, 2007. Parts of Britain hit by flooding this week prepared for more downpours at the weekend, with up to 50 mm of rain forecast for some areas. — Internet
Cuban Parliament says Bush wants Castro eliminated

HAVANA, 30 June — Cuba’s National Assembly accused US President George W Bush on Friday of wanting to eliminate Fidel Castro, a day after Bush mused on the eventual death of the convalescing Cuban leader.

“The Bush Administration’s conduct clearly shows its intention to continue employing execrable methods against Cuba,” the assembly said in a resolution approved unanimously by the 527 deputies present at a meeting of the one-party state’s Parliament.

The resolution was passed one day after Bush openly anticipated the death of the 80-year-old Castro, who has not been seen in public since health problems forced him to cede power temporarily to his younger brother Raul 11 months ago.

“One day, the Good Lord will take Fidel Castro away,” Bush said on Thursday during a question-and-answer session at the US Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

Then he went on to imagine what Cuba would be like after Castro, saying: “You’ll see an interesting debate. Some will say all that matters is stability. I think we ought to be pressing hard for democracy.”

Castro, whose seat was left vacant at the assembly meeting, fired back with irony in an editorial published on Friday in the ruling Communist Party newspaper Granma.

Pakistan, India conclude talks on promotion of friendly exchanges

ISLAMABAD, 30 June — Pakistan and India Friday concluded without any agreement two-day of talks on promotion of friendly exchanges in various fields here, officials said.

“The secretary-level talks on Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in Various Fields under the Fourth Round of the Pakistan-India Composite Dialogue were held in Islamabad on 28-29 June 2007,” a joint statement said.

The Pakistan delegation was led by Salim Gul Skeikh, Secretary of the Ministry of Culture and the Indian delegation was headed by Badal K Das, Secretary of Department of Culture, Ministry of Tourism and Culture.

“The two delegations reviewed the implementation of various proposals exchanged during the Third Round of talks in New Delhi in 2006.”

Both sides also made a number of proposals for promoting cooperation in the fields of art and culture, archaeology, sports, youth affairs, traditional systems of medicine, information and media, tourism and visits and religious shrines, it added.

The two sides discussed a programme of friendly exchanges between the two countries for the period 2007-2009, and agreed to work towards its early implementation.

Bangladesh Biman may face shortage of pilots

DHAKA, 30 June — Senior pilots of Biman Bangladesh Airlines are leaving the airlines seeking jobs in foreign airlines, as the government has planned to turn the problem-ridden airline into a public limited company (PLC).

Senior pilots are leaving because they are suffering from uncertainty: They do not know what will happen to their fate in the future, one of the senior pilots Imran Mazid told Xinhua Friday.

He said, many of his colleagues are looking for jobs in airlines of other countries. This may put Biman into serious trouble in future, as junior pilots are not able to fly the wide-bodied crafts.

In this case, Biman might face the shortage of pilots to fly the fleets, Mazid said.

The current caretaker administration has planned to make Biman a PLC from 1 July as the airlines suffers loss of billions of taka annually.

But Adviser of Civil Aviation MA Matin said this week it will take more time to convert Biman to a PLC.

Over 2,000 Biman staff have already opted to go for voluntary retirement as they consider their future will be uncertain after Biman is turned into a PLC.

At present Biman has a fleet of only 13 aircraft, Matin said new aircraft will be bought for the airlines after Biman’s turning into a PLC.

US Democrats to renew battle over Iraq war

WASHINGTON, 30 June — US Democratic leaders vowed Friday to keep up the pressure on President George W Bush to end the Iraq war with more votes next month on withdrawing US troops.

House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she would seek a vote on legislation instructing the Pentagon to begin pulling out US troops within 120 days, similar to a provision Bush vetoed in the first version of a war spending bill Congress sent to him in May.

A comparable provision also is expected to come to the floor of the Senate in July. So far this year, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said of clearing the 60-vote hurdle. “We’re going to keep pushing, because it’s the right thing to do,”— MNA/Reuters

A chef performs his craft of pulling the noodles during the Chinese Food Festival held in Tianjin, east China, on 30 June, 2007. Over 300 kinds of snacks or featured food were introduced to local citizens during the Chinese Food Festival on Saturday. — XINHUA
Hailing Myanmar Women’s Day

Rapturous applause of Yogyi Village

Khin Oo

We members of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization and Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association made a field trip by car to Yogyi Village in Hmawby Township through Insein Township and Shwepyitha Industrial Zone at about 5 am.

Along the way by the Hlme River, we saw stubble of paddy, factories, mills and paddy fields in the sunshine at early dawn. That reflected the implementation of one of the four economic objectives—Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well.

It was very encouraging to see stockpiles of teak logs, the nation’s valuable forest resource. Separate houses and buildings well-organized in row showed the high living standard of local people of Yangon Division.

Seeing farmers threshing paddy in the fields on both sides of the road, I thanked the farmers braving the cold weather to produce rice.

On arrival at Leingon Village in Shwepyitha Township, we proceeded on foot with the accompaniment of the chairperson and members of Hmawby Township WAO in Yangon North District. When we left Leingon Village, we saw paddy fields. From the village, we saw hazily a groove of trees, our destination, in the horizon. Ten bullock carts were awaiting to fetch us.

Myanmar people have a lovely tradition of hosting their guests with generosity, and they show warm welcome, hospitality, good volition and friendship to the guests.

When we arrived in front of the monastery of the village, we received a warm welcome from many villagers of all ages, women and men including children. After offering alms to the abbot of the monastery, we held a meeting with the local people. Chairperson of Yangon Division WAO Daw Khin Myo Thu extended greetings and presented facts about the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation. Leaders of working groups also clarified the tasks for social well-being of women and public services being carried out by the association. Dr Daw Lay Khaung of Yangon Division WAO and Dr Daw Nwe Ni Ohn of Yangon Division MCWA gave educative talks on health.

At the ceremony, women of Yogyi Village submitted 211 membership application forms. We donated 330,000 kyats for improving living conditions for local women, 300 along with different kinds of publications, 20 uniforms of Women’s Affairs Organization, 20 uniforms of Maternal and Child Welfare Association, a sewing machine, and 10 commodities to local women. Thiri Thudhamma Thengi Daw Tin Nwe Oo of Hmawby Traditional Medicine House also donated traditional medicines worth about 240,000 kyats.

At the signal given by the chairperson of Yangon Division WAO, saying, “It’s time we made donation”, we collectively donated cash and kind to 21 elderly persons of the village. Being surprised and pleased with our generous donation, the senior villagers said prayers for our well-being. Then, a respect-paying ceremony followed.

We repeatedly expressed thanks to village elders for organizing the ceremony.

In the close and cordial discussions, we briefed local women on notable facts about women’s affairs, and answered their queries. We learnt that young women of Yogyi Village engage in embroidering with the use of sewing machines. Entrepreneurs lease out machines to the workers at the rate of 500 kyats a month for a machine. A skilled worker can complete three sets of the material in two days, and a normal worker, a set of dress in a day. They earn 800 kyats for a set.

Finished dresses of various designs are available at the price of only 10,000 kyats a set.

We members of the group made a decision to set up funds for purchasing some sewing machines for young women who engage in embroidery for a living. We also attended the opening of the library of the village and the office of Yogyi Village MAO.

We enjoyed Mohinga (traditional snacks) served by the villagers. On our way home, we were thinking of providing sewing machines for the village so as to gain heartfelt applause of local people again.

Translation: MS

Myamma Alin:
29-6-2007
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses...

(from page 1)

Firstly, Commander Maj-Gen Aung Than Htut, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung and Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min formally opened the new three-storey main building.

Next, Chairman of MEC Secretary-1 of SPDC Lt-Gen Thein Sein and members accompanied by guests, the principals and faculty members posed for a documentary photo.

Later, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Lt-MEC Secretary-1 of SPDC Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address.

First of all, I would like to say that the emergence of a three-storey main building of Lashio Technological University that meets the characteristics of an international university, is a great honour for the students of this alma mater as well as for the whole Shan State (North). This splendid building and modern teaching aids plus its pleasant environs will enable the students to promote their mental ability and get motivated to learn. It is also a great opportunity for the local youths to be able to learn in their own region although they had to go to far regions such as Yangon and Mandalay in the past for studying the subjects of arts and science, universities and universities of computer science and computer.

Being able to produce human resources in one’s own region creates opportunities to build infrastructures for one’s own development. In striving for development of a nation and its people and being able to stand tall among the international community, it is necessary for that country to ensure peace and stability, national economic growth and high technology, and universities and universities of computer studies in the 24 special development regions and nurturing the national races of various regions to become intellectuals and intelligentsia.

The whole northern Shan State has been witnessing significant development in the transport sector as a network of roads is reaching the far corners of the nation. Border trade is developing with greater momentum and border towns have become modern cities.

United Nations organizations have warned that armed conflicts, the evil legacy of the past, that broke out due to doubts and disagreements between national races have ended in every part of northern Shan State. Local people do not need to live in fear anymore. They are running their businesses freely as they have the peace of mind.

The greatest success is the freeing of national races from cultivating poppy to produce opium and drugs that posed as menace to them in the past. They can now develop their farming and production businesses.

Development in regional economic and social infrastructures helps uplift moral conduct and public social standard leading to produce sound results — further strengthening national unity and regional peace.

National races will have to safeguard and promote the prevailing peace, unity and progress, while harmoniously striving for perpetual existence of the Union and to catch up with world nations in terms of development.

(See page 9)
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein ...
(from page 8)
At present, the entire nation is witnessing the further prevalence of stability and peace and economic, social, health and education development.
He said transition toward a new nation is making a success and the final session of the National Convention will resume soon. The success of the National Convention is the State Constitution that safeguards the interest of each and every national race fairly. He said, the delegates of national races and all walks of life unitedly laid down basic principles and detailed basic principles for bringing about the national interest. The weakness of the old constitutions will not be included in a new constitution and the new one will strengthen consolidation of the Union for ever.
He urged the people to make continued efforts for success of the National Convention and transitional process for the emergence of the State Constitution.
In conclusion, he urged the faculty members to nurture the students to become qualified engineers, architects, computer scientists, intellectuals and intelligentsia who can promote already-achieved peace and tranquility, unity and better economic foundations in the regions.
Acting Principal of Technological University (Lashio) Dr Khin Huuik Htaik reported on progress in education sector of the nation, construction of three-storey building of the university and academic and management matters.
On behalf of the students, second year BTech student Ma Ei Mon Phyo thanked the government for opening universities to enable the youth of the regions to have the opportunities to pursue education.
After the opening ceremony, the Secretary-1 and party visited the computer room, language lab and drawing room on the second floor, the project room and e-library on the first floor and cordially conversed with students.
Technological University (Lashio) is located on 535.36 acres of land near Hopeik Village, seven miles from Lashio, east of Lashio-Hsenwi Road. It was a three-storey RC building.
The three-storey building is 513 feet long, 358 feet wide and 66 feet high. Asia Metal Co Ltd started construction tasks on 1 May 2005.
Altogether 216 students are attending the AGTI diploma course, 109 at BTech course, 23 at BE course, 14 at MEng course and 78 at basic skills module course, totalling 413. The university has nurtured 93 BTech graduates, 142 BE graduates and 494 AGTI diploma holders. — MNA

Energy Minister attends MOGE's meeting

NAVPYITAW, 1 July — The Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy held its work coordination meeting at the Yadana Hall of the Ministry’s Office here on 29 June morning with an address by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi.
Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, directors, general managers, officials and others.
In his address, Minister Brig-Gen Lan Thi spoke of the need for officials concerned to explore more oil and gas to meet the local demand as prices of oil are on the increase in the world, to minimize loss and wastage and to put an end to the malpractice.
After that, the minister laid down future tasks on drilling of new oil fields.
Next, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay reported on oil production, followed by a general round of discussions.
Managing directors and directors of MOGE and managing director of Energy Planning Department gave supplementary reports.
The meeting came to an end with the concluding remarks by the minister. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Lan Thi speaks at work coordination meeting of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise for 2007-2008 fiscal year.— ENERGY

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo addresses the work coordination meeting of Myanmar Correctional Department.— MCD

YANGON, 1 July — Myanmar Correctional Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs held its work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of the department on 30 June with an address by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo.
It was attended by directors-general of the Correctional Department, the General Administration Department, the Special Investigation Department and the Myanmar Police Force, deputy directors-general, directors, staff officers and those from prisons and work camps.
Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo stressed the need to implement the political, economic and social objectives, to strictly abide by laws and bylaws, to exert more efforts in agriculture, livestock breeding and productions, to ensure cooperation among departments under the ministry, and to serve the interest of the State and the people putting an end to colonialism.
Next, Director-General U Zaw Win and directors reported on cultivation of perennial and seasonal crops, raising of poultry, pigs, fish and goats, quarry and other income generation works to the minister who attended to the needs. The Department produced 400,000 baskets of paddy in 2006-2007 paddy cultivation season. — MNA

Deputy Commander of Yunnan Provincial Command concludes visit after sightseeing in Yangon

YANGON, 1 July — Deputy Commander of Yunnan Provincial Command Maj-Gen Lin Tinggui and party of the People’s Republic of China, together with Chinese Military Attaché Senior Colonel Fan Lian Feng and officials, arrived here from Nay Pyi Taw by air yesterday afternoon.
They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Commander of Yangon Command Col Kyaw Kyaw Tun and officials.
The Deputy Commander of Yunnan Provincial Command and party visited the Myanmar Gems Emporium on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Kandawgyi Gardens.
This morning, the Chinese delegation paid homage to Shwedagon Pagoda and the Union National Races Village of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in Thakayta Township.
At 3.30 pm, the Deputy Commander of Yunnan Provincial Command and party left for Lashio. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Commander Col Kyaw Kyaw Tun, military officers, Chinese Military Attaché Senior Colonel Fan Lian Feng and officials. — MNA

Myanmar Correctional Department holds work coordination meeting

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo addresses the work coordination meeting of Myanmar Correctional Department.— MCD

Col Kyaw Kyaw Tun sees off Maj-Gen Lin Tinggui, Deputy Commander of Yunnan Provincial Command, at Yangon International Airport.— MNA

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Monday, 2 July, 2007 9
The event was attended by State Minister for Religious Affairs, Local Authorities, wellwishers and Sayadaw of Insein Ywama U San Thin Hlaing.

Next, Lt-Gen Myint Swe shared a sermon, and the Tilokabhivamsa delivered Pariyatti Monastery Agga Sayadaw of Insein Ywama U San Thin Hlaing.

Joint-Secretary of SSMNC Administrator Sayadaw of Insein Ywama Pariyatti Monastery Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Tilokabhivamsa delivered a sermon, and the congregations led by Lt-Gen Myint Swe shared merits gained. Also present were State Minister for Religious Affairs, local authorities, wellwishers and guests. — MNA

YANGON, 1 July — A ceremony to present cash for the Vipassana Pagoda being built in Mumbai, India was held at the Dhammajoti Vipassana Yeikha on Ngahtatgyi Pagoda Road in Bahan Township here this morning, attended by Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung.

The ceremony was opened with the recitation of Namo Tassa three times.

Next, Meditation Instructor U Thein Aung of the Dhammajoti Vipassana Yeikha explained salient points of the pagoda. After that, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and officials accepted K 34,232,856 plus US$ 2,064 donated by well-wishers and presented certificates of honour to the well-wishers. — MNA

Ministry of Hotels and Tourism team playing against Ministry of Defence team. — MNA

A ceremony to present cash for the Vipassana Pagoda being built in Mumbai, India was held at the Dhammajoti Vipassana Centre, London.

Presiding Abbot of Aung San Tawra TatU Monastery Mogok Vipassana Branch (77) in Insein Township Patron of Mogok Vipassana Missionary Sayadaw Maha Kammathantha Caritya Bhaddanta Sadhamma Kittisara, accompanied by U Soe Aung, left here on 29 June for England to carry out missionary work. — NLM

STI Education Sponsoring Seminar-cum-Information Session on 8 July

YANGON, 1 July — STI Education in collaboration with London Teacher Training College, UK, Association of Managers and Administrators, UK, Queensfield International Business School, Singapore, Auston Institute of Management and Technology, University College Sedaya International (UCSI), Malaysia is offering the following courses: Diploma in English Language and Communication Skills, English to go, IELTS Preparation Program, Certificate in Conversational English, Double Certificate in Hospitality & Tourism Management, Diploma in Supply Chain Management, Certificate in TEFL, Certificate in Tourism Management, Diploma in Electric Power No 1, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Religious Affairs blanked out their opponents in the 1st Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament, here today.

The Sayadaw will deliver sermons in London up to the first week of August and in the United States up to the third week of August and arrive back here before 28 August.

Those who complete the courses at STI will benefit the exemption of courses and tuition fees at the overseas institutions and many graduates have been holding satisfying jobs overseas.

With a view to exposing recently matriculated students to a wide variety of learning opportunities, STI Education is conducting an information session and everyone is welcome and invited to attend free of charge.

STI Education’s chief mission is to equip the students with employable skills and to be marketable in the job market with minimum cost and time.

Seminar-cum-Information Session will be on 8 July 2007 (Sunday) at 1 pm, at Tagaung Hall of Ministry of Electric Power No 1, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Religious Affairs edged out Ministry of Electric Power No 1 in the morning, and Ministry of Defence routed Ministry of Hotels and Tourism with a 11-0 result in the afternoon at Paunglaung Sports Ground in Pyinmana.

At Lewe Township Sports Ground, Ministry of Religious Affairs blanked out Ministry of Energy 1-0 at 4 pm. Among the spectators were Minister for Energy Brtg-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Mynint, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brtg-Gen Thura Aung Ko.

Ministry of Sports will meet with Attorney-General’s Office and Ministry of Rail Transportation will play against Ministry of Construction at Paunglaung Sports Ground in the tomorrow morning and afternoon.

At Lewe Township Sports Ground, Ministry of Electric Power No 2 will play against Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

Ministry of Hotels and Tourism team playing against Ministry of Defence team. — MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepts cash donation from well-wishers. — MNA

NLM
**Venezuelan President visits Iran for boosting cooperation**

**TEHERAN, 1 July** — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez arrived in Teheran late Saturday for a two-day visit which officials said was aimed at boosting political and economic cooperation between the two countries. This is Chavez’ third visit to Iran since Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadi-nejad took office in 2005.

Chavez was greeted at the airport by Iranian Minister of Industries and Mines Ali-Reza Tahrmihi, Iranian television reported.

Chavez’ visit was aimed to boost their “cooperation in economic, industrial and political fields”, Venezuelan Ambassador to Iran Arturo Anibal Gallegos Ramirez told Iran’s official IRNA news agency.

The exchange of visits by leaders of the two countries proved that their bilateral ties “are at the best possible level”, he said.

During Chavez’ visit, he is expected to hold talks with Iranian officials on international, regional and bilateral issues, local media reported.

He is also expected to visit Iran’s South Pars gas field in Asaluyeh and address Teheran’s Science and Industry University.

**Indonesia, ICAO to sign agreement on flight safety**

**JAKARTA, 1 July** — Indonesia and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) will sign a joint declaration on the country’s commitment to improve flight safety and security in a summit scheduled for 2-3 July.

“The ICAO’s support to increase flight safety is very strategic especially to coordinate cooperation with relevant parties in implementing the global aviation safety plan and the global aviation safety roadmap,” Transportation Ministry’s spokesman Bambang Ervan was quoted Friday by the national Antara news agency as saying.

His remarks came a day after the European Commission said all Indonesian airlines and several from Russia, Ukraine and Angola will be banned from flying to the European Union due to increased flight safety concerns.

**Mother’s Water Cellar benefits 1.3 million Chinese**

**KUNMING, 1 July** — Almost 1.3 million people have gained access to drinking water in the past seven years thanks to the Mother’s Water Cellar national charity project.

More than 100,000 water cellars and 1,200 water supply facilities have been built in 23 provinces, said officials with the All-China Women’s Federation.

The Mother’s Water Cellar scheme was launched by the All-China Women’s Federation and the China Women Development Fund in 2000.

Last year China built almost 30,000 new water cellars to ease water shortages in the country’s poor and arid areas.

About 270 million yuan (35.5 million US dollars) has been invested in the project.

In China’s northwestern regions, the annual precipitation is about 300 millimetres, only half the national average. Building cellars to collect rainwater has been a long-standing practice. A decent water cellar costing around 1,000 yuan can guarantee drinking water supplies for a family.

**Glasgow airport attack linked to London car bombs**

**GLASGOW (Scotland), 1 July** — Two men rammed a petrol-filled, four-wheel-drive vehicle into Glasgow airport on Saturday in what police called a terrorist attack linked to a car-bomb plot foiled in London the previous day.

“I can confirm that we believe the incident at Glasgow airport is linked to the events in London yesterday,” the chief constable in the Glasgow area, Willie Rae, told reporters.

“There are clearly similarities and we can confirm that this is being treated as a terrorist incident.”

Rae said the vehicle, a green Jeep Cherokee, was driven at speed into the main, glass door entrance to the airport terminal and then exploded in flames. Two men were arrested after the attack, one of whom was taken to hospital in critical condition.

Rae said the badly burnt man was found to have a “suspect device” hidden on his body, but it would not confirm it was a suicide vest. The hospital briefly had to be evacuated while the device was inspected.

The attack, which Scotland’s first minister described as a “terrorist incident”, came barely 36 hours after police thwarted a possible al-Qaeda plot in London in which two cars loaded with fuel, gas canisters and nails were left on a busy street in the centre of the capital poised to detonate.

**Thirty five bodies found in mass grave in Iraq’s Anbar Province**

**BAGHDAD, 1 July** — The US military said on Saturday it had uncovered 35 to 40 bodies in a mass grave south of Fallujah, in Iraq’s Sunni dominated Anbar Province.

A Fallujah hospital source said 35 bodies had been retrieved and were being finger-printed to establish their identity.

The military said the killings were relatively recent and the bodies had been bound and bore gunshot wounds.

The mass grave was found late on Friday near a place called Ferris, roughly 35 kilometres (22 miles) south of the city of Fallujah, after a tip-off from a local, it said.

The site was cordoned off for closer examination, the military said.

Anbar Province to the west of Baghdad was the hotbed of the anti-American Sunni insurgency. But it has become much calmer in recent months after local tribes turned against al-Qaeda militants operating on their turf.

**A boy stands on a damaged rooftop after a raid by the US military in Baghdad’s Sadr City on 30 June, 2007. The US military said it killed about 26 militants believed to have ties to “Iranian terror networks” in the early hours of Saturday in the Baghdad Shia stronghold of Sadr City.**

**INTERNET**
UNICEF contributes emergency supplies to Pakistan flood victims

ISLAMABAD, 30 June — The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has provided emergency supplies of tents, food, medicine and hygiene supplies and equipment to floods affected in southwestern Pakistani province of Baluchistan, a statement said Friday.

It is estimated that over 300,000 people in Baluchistan have been affected by the floods. The province was hit by cyclone Yemyin which hit the province’s coastal areas on 26 June, the UNICEF statement said.

Officials said dozens of villages were inundated, and thousands have been made homeless in the floods, which also caused damage to roads and bridges.

According to the statement, UNICEF supplies handed over to Baluchistan provincial government comprise 740,000 water purification tablets, 33,600 blankets, 4,000 jerry cans as well as water bladders, tents, emergency medicines and 50 tons of Unimix, a nutritious food supplement for children and women.

13 Years in Fond Remembrance

Dr. Maung Maung (Retd.) President
(deceased on 2-7-1994)

* Grant me …
the courage to change what can be changed,
the patience to endure what cannot be changed,
and the wisdom to know the difference.

Daw Khin Myint
Sons, daughters, grand-sons, grand-daughters
and great grand-sons

Dengue fever cases double in Costa Rica in first half of 2007

SAN JOSE, 30 June — The number of dengue fever cases in Costa Rica has doubled to 6,870 in the first half of 2007, compared to the same period of last year, the Health Ministry said on Thursday.

Meanwhile, 69 people, including two fatalities, contracted the deadly dengue fever in the first six months of this year, only three cases short of the figure recorded in the whole of last year, according to the ministry.

Dengue fever, a viral infection spread by the Aedes Aegypti mosquito, is a serious health problem in many Central American and Caribbean countries. Its symptoms include high fever, nausea, rash, backache and headache.

Most mainstream dengue cases are not fatal, but the haemorrhagic variant, which causes severe internal bleeding as blood vessels collapse, kills one in 20 of the infected.

Health Minister Maria Luisa Avila said the increase of dengue cases was mainly due to the advent of monsoon and the ubiquitous bodies of water.

The official urged people to fight dengue by stamping out mosquitoes, which reproduce in bodies of water from puddles to lakes and reservoirs.

Some 50 million people are infected with dengue each year, most of them in tropical regions.

MNA/Xinhua
**Report says new virus discovered in Malaysia**

**Kuala Lumpur, 30 June** — A new virus, likely carried by bats, has been discovered in the state of Malacca, local press reported on Saturday. The virus named “Malacca Virus” was isolated from a 39-year-old soldier, his wife and two children, who developed high fever accompanied with headache, cough, sore throat and flu, Malaysian Health Minister Chua Soi Lek was quoted as saying by the *New Straits Times*. The soldier fell sick a week after a bat flew into his house in March last year and blood samples from him and his family showed that they had contracted the virus, according to the newspaper. Local virologists said that the virus could cause tissue damage similar to the Nipah virus, but adding whether the new virus could cause death remained unknown.

**Oldest European human fossil found in Spain**

**Madrid, 29 June** — An excavation team has discovered in northern Spain the oldest human fossils confirming mankind’s presence in Europe over more than 1 million years ago, local media reported on Friday.

The fossil, discovered in the Atapuerca Sierra in the northern province of Burgos, is a human tooth. Jose Maria Bermudez de Castro, co-director of research at the Atapuerca site, was quoted as saying the tooth could be as old as 1.2 million years. The fossil, which gives a new perspective to human history, was found in the entry to Sima del Elefante, a Pleistocene deposit that was the last to be systematically excavated in Atapuerca. Initial findings suggested it was the remains of an ancestor of Homo antecessor. Fossils discovered previously included those of bison, deer and bear as well as birds and a mouse. In Atapuerca, several Homo antecessor fossils were discovered in 1994 at the nearby Gran Dolina site, suggesting human occupation of Europe around 800,000 years ago. In the past decade, 500,000-year-old Homo heidelbergensis fossil remains were also found in these fossil deposits.

**Los Angeles campaign to recycle plastic bags**

**Los Angeles, 30 June** — Los Angeles on Thursday launched the city’s first plastic bag recycling campaign, urging all retail and grocery stores to recycle plastic bags.

The campaign coincided with the introduction of a new law in California that takes effect on Sunday.

The law limits the use and littering of plastic bags and enforces the recycling of used bags. Bins will be placed inside stores to encourage shoppers to recycle plastic bags. Some grocery stores are also giving away reusable cloth bags to shoppers. “We are intent on capturing these plastic bags, not only at major retail stores and supermarkets, but at mom-and-pop stores, homes and even our schools,” said City Councilman Ed Reyes, who oversaw the citywide effort. — *MNA/Xinhua*

**Chilean teenagers find trove of whale fossils**

**Los Maitenes, (Chile), 30 June** — Chilean teenagers on a field trip have found what experts say could be a treasure trove of fossils from whales which died millions of years ago.

Teenagers from a school in Concon, a town on the Pacific coast, found the fossils last month in the hills near the village of Los Maitenes, nearly four miles (six kilometres) from the sea and 100 miles (160 kilometres) from the capital Santiago.

They found fossilized jawbones, backbones and ribs of four whales which scientists say likely died five million years ago.

Geologists expect to find more whale fossils in the area. “What we have to work out is whether we’re dealing with a few examples that have washed in on the tide or whether we’re talking about a real whale cemetery,” said Hernan Vergara, a marine geologist studying the find. — *MNA/Xinhua*

**“Girl power” back as Spice Girls reunited for tour**

**London, 30 June** — The Spice Girls, who burst on to the music scene with “girl power” and attitude in the 1990s, said on Thursday they had reunited for an 11-city world tour starting in Los Angeles this December.

Ginger, Sporty, Posh, Scary and a heavily pregnant Baby Spice told a packed Press conference in London that the tour would take place in December and January and would be accompanied by a greatest hits album and a television documentary about the band.

“Girl power is back, we’re going on the road, we’re touring the world,” Emma “Baby Spice” Bunton said in a promotional video shown to the Press before the five girls appeared on stage at London’s 02 Arena.

Their Website www.thespicegirls.com provided a link for fans to buy tickets to the shows in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, New York, London, Koln, Madrid, Beijing, Hong Kong, Sydney, Cape Town and Buenos Aires.

When asked why she had dropped her previous resistance to a reunion, Melanie “Sporty Spice” Chisholm replied: “A girl’s allowed to change her mind.

This is something that we’ve only seriously started discussing this year.” “For me it’s about celebrating the past, enjoying each other, it’s about our fans. It felt the right time — it’s kind of now or never,” Gerri “Ginger Spice” Halliwell said.

The Spice Girls boasted album sales of $5 million during their brief career, and hits including “Wannabe” and “Say You’ll Be There” topped charts across the globe. — *MNA/Reuters*
Australia grind out 3-0 friendly win over Singapore

SINGAPORE, 1 July — Mark Viduka scored a second-half double and Harry Kewell also got on the scoresheet as Australia ground out a 3-0 win over Singapore in a friendly in the city state on Saturday.

Australia, using the game as a tune-up for the Asian Cup, started slowly and it was the hosts who came closest to scoring in the first half. Australia goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer had to be sharp to stop Indra Sahdan in a one-on-one in the 38th minute and the Singapore striker came even closer five minutes later when his header crashed off the crossbar with Schwarzer beaten.

Australia stepped up the pace in the second half and it was not long before the Socceroos took the lead, with Newcastle forward Viduka heading home in the 50th minute. Singapore pushed forward for an equalizer and Kharul Amni came close to scoring when his curling left-foot shot came back off the post. — MNA/Reuters

Venezuela beat Peru to clinch second Copa win

SAN CRISTOBAL (Venezuela), 1 July — Copa America hosts Venezuela notched-up only their second win in the tournament's history on Saturday after a heated 2-0 victory over 10-man Peru.

Second-half goals from defender Alejandro Cichero and substitute Walter Cichero sent Venezuela top of Group A with four points from only their second victory in three matches to put the visitors ahead.

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The Peruvians were furious after midfielder Ricardo Paez sent off late in the second half and Cichero had a free kick given against him in stoppage time, apparently for playing keepy-up.

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Their only previous Copa America win was against Bolivia on their debut appearance in 1967.

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Japan’s Ai Fukuhara returns the ball against China’s Guo Yue during the women’s singles quarterfinals at the China Open Table Tennis tournament in Nanjing, the capital city of east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 30 June, 2007. Fukuhara lost the match 2-4. — MNA/Reuters

New Zealand All Black’s Rico Gear (C) is tackled by Australia’s Adam Ashley-Cooper (L) and Matt Giteau during their Bledisloe cup rugby match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on 30 June, 2007. — INTERNET

Serena sweeps into fourth round

LONDON, 1 July — Twice champion Serena Williams overpowered Venezuela’s Milagros Sequera 6-1, 6-0 on Friday to reach the fourth round at Wimbledon.

Seventh-seeded Williams utterly dominated the Centre Court against a demoralized opponent, who knew exactly what to expect after losing to the American at the French Open. Williams, holder of eight Grand Slam titles, meets either Slovak Daniela Hantuchova or Katarina Srebotnik of Slovenia in the fourth round on her way to a possible quarterfinal clash with top seed Justine Henin. — MNA/Reuters

Wales striker Earnshaw joins promoted Derby

LONDON, 1 July — Wales striker Robert Earnshaw has joined promoted Derby County from Second Division Norwich City for 7.01 million pounds ($11.01 million US dollars), the Premier League newcomers said on Friday.

“We are delighted to have a new striker on board with a fantastic track record in terms of goals scored at every level he has played, including the Premier League and internationally,” manager Billy Davies told the club’s website (www.dcfc.premiumpv.co.uk). — MNA/Reuters

Olympic sand arrives

BEIJING, 1 July — Curious locals are intrigued by the sand – 1,400 tons carried in 59 trucks -- which has been offloaded at a construction site in Beijing's Chaoyang Park.

It appears white from a distance, but a closer look shows yellow granules too.

“It feels good, very thin and clean – not sticky -- and it runs quickly through your fingers,” a passer-by said after feeling the sand.

At a total cost of 10 million yuan (1.28 million US dollars), each shipment will spend 12 days aboard a boat from the south China island of Hainan to Tianjin Port and then a further two hours at least being trucked to Beijing. — MNA/Reuters
Cyprus hit by disastrous forest fire

Nicosia, 1 July — A disastrous forest fire broke out on Friday afternoon in central Cyprus forced the eastern Mediterranean island to appeal for foreign help.

One fire fighting aircraft from Italy is arriving Friday night. A second Italian aircraft and one from Israel are expected to arrive Saturday morning, the semi-official Cyprus News Agency reported.

The fire, which is described as the one of the worst in decades, broke out at around 3000 local time (1000 GMT). It has destroyed holiday homes and forced the evacuation of at least five villages located on the pine-covered Troodos Range.

A high column of smoke could be seen in the afternoon from the capital city of Nicosia, some 60 kilometres northeast of the mountainous area.

Cypriot President Tassos Papadopoulos went to the Crisis Management Centre set up in the affected areas. He was joined by Parliament speaker and other high-ranking officials to supervise the efforts to contain the blaze.

According to the island’s Forest Department, the fire was caused by high tension cables. — MNA/Xinhua

Two Finns jailed for taking bribes in Afghanistan

Helsinki, 1 July — Two Finnish peacekeepers have been jailed for taking bribes during their service in Afghanistan.

The peacekeepers were sentenced by Helsinki district court Friday to 15 and 18 months respectively.

The offences happened between 2004 and 2006 while the defendants were serving in the war-torn state, one as a project engineer, the other as a translator.

The two took bribes from an Afghan businessman, to whom the peacekeepers granted construction projects.

The court said their behaviour severely weakened the credibility of their posts. The court ordered the two to forfeit the profits of their crimes, totalling 47,000 euros, to the state.

The maximum possible sentence for aggravated bribery is four years.

Mayuko Kamio of Japan receives the gold medal in the violin competition of the International Tchaikovsky Competition of classical music in Moscow on 30 June, 2007. Over 200 young pianists, violinists, cellists and singers from 34 countries performed during the two-week competition before a jury of top musicians in Moscow’s conservatory.

WEATHER

Sunday, 1 July, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Magway Division, rain have been scattered in Shan, Chin and Kayah States, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavy fall in Rakhine State and isolated heavy fall in Ayeyawady Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thandwe (8.90) inches, Gwa (6.18) inches, Kyaukpyu (5.63) inches, Sittway (5.47) inches, Maungtaw (4.66) inches, Pathein (3.86) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (2.64) inches, Pyay and Myeik (2.56) inches each.

Maximum temperature on 30-6-2007 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 1-7-2007 was 73°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 1-7-2007 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 30-6-2007 was (1.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 1-7-2007 was (2.64) inches at Mingaladon, (1.97) inches at Kaba-Aye, (2.08) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (52.64) inches at Mingaladon, (56.93) inches at Kaba-Aye and (54.13) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southwest at (14:30) hours MST on 30-6-2007.

Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 2-7-2007: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State and Magway Division, scattered in each, Shan and Chin States, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavy fall in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coast. 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 2-7-2007: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 2-7-2007: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 2-7-2007: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).
**Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends ceremony to honour religious title holders two members of the Sangha, two laypersons**

**Myanmar women costume show and variety dance staged**

**One member resigns from Myaung Tsp NLD party**

**INSIDE**

We enjoyed Mohinga and Mohletsaung (traditional snacks) served by the villagers. On our way home, we were thinking of providing sewing machines for the village so as to gain heartfelt applause of local people again.

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

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**Yangon, 1 July —** A ceremony to honour Abbot Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Sobhana of Nyaungdon Pali Takakkho Monastery of Bahan Township, Bhaddanta Garuvamsabhivamsa of Dhammawiha Monastery and Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery of Thingangyun Township and two laypersons was held at Dhammawiha Monastery in Thingangyun Township this afternoon.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Pecae and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and party took the Five Precepts from Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Ngwekyaryan Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Revata.

At the ceremony, responsible persons read the biographies of two Sayadaws and Agga Maha.

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It was attended by members of the panel of patrons of MWAF, Vice-Presidents of the federation.

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**Yangon, 1 July —** Member U Aung Kyi of Myaung Township National League for Democracy of Sagaing Division resigned from the party of his own volition on 24 June, sending his resignation letter to NLD Headquarters and local authorities.

In his resignation letter sent to Sagaing Division Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-committee, he said that he no longer wished to stand as a member of the party and lost confidence and respect in the party and its leaders. That was why he resigned from the party of his own volition, he said.

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It was attended by members of the panel of patrons of MWAF, Vice-Presidents of the federation.

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**Yangon, 1 July —** A ceremony to honour Abbot Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Sobhana of Nyaungdon Pali Takakkho Monastery of Bahan Township, Bhaddanta Garuvamsabhivamsa of Dhammawiha Monastery and Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery of Thingangyun Township and two laypersons was held at Dhammawiha Monastery in Thingangyun Township this afternoon.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Division Pecae and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and party took the Five Precepts from Vice-Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Ngwekyaryan Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Revata.

At the ceremony, responsible persons read the biographies of two Sayadaws and Agga Maha.