Minister for Electric Power No 2 inspects paddy husk-fired generator and gas engine factory, Yangon concrete lamppost factory

YANGON, 5 July — Minister for Electric Power No 2 Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and officials arrived at paddy husk-fired generator and gas engine factory of Myanmar Inventors Cooperative Ltd in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone on 3 July.

Chairman of the Cooperative Ltd U Soe Tint Aung reported on production process of paddy husk-fired generators and arrangements for environmental conservation.

The minister and party viewed machines manufactured at the factory.

At Hlinethaya Township Electrical Engineer’s Office, the minister heard reports on supply of power through six power lines and use of transformers at industrial zones by officials.

Secretary of Yangon City Electric Power Supply Board U Maung Maung Latt and Managing Director U Tin Aung of Electric Power Supply Enterprise gave supplementary reports.

At Yangon Concrete Lamppost Factory, Factory Manager U Min Thaw and Manager of Marga Concrete Lamp-post Factory U Toe Hlaing reported on endurance of the concrete lamp-posts against natural disasters.

They proceeded to the office of South Okkalapa Township Electric Power Supply Board at the corner of Parami and Thumingala Roads, Township Officer U Soe Kyaw Aung reported to the minister on supply of electricity and condition of power lines.

After hearing the reports, the minister stressed the need for meter readers to discharge their duties conscientiously and he urged officials to supply electricity to respective areas on schedule. — MNA

Development tasks carried out in Mandalay Division

NAV PSI TAW, 5 July — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thien Nyunt inspected upgrading the district-to-district Road No 1 in Mandalay Division on 3 July.

The road No 1 linking TadaU Township and Kyaukpadaung Township is being upgraded by township Development Affairs Departments in Mandalay Division. The road section is 82 miles and three furlongs long. So far, over 39 miles of the road have been tarred in the 2006-2007 fiscal year. The remaining 42 miles and seven furlongs is scheduled to upgrade in 2007-2008 fiscal year.

In the meeting with officials concerned, Minister Col Thien Nyunt called for timely completion of the road section meeting the set standards. He also met with residents and members of Union Solidarity and Development Association and called on them to participate in maintenance of the road.

Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee constructed 21-mile and 6-furlong road section in urban areas and 94-mile and 6-furlong road in rural areas, and 42 bridges in urban areas and 15 bridges in rural areas. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Work hard for emergence of firm gems market at home

Myanmar gems earn a global reputation for their excellent quality. Due to the improvement in the gem mining and production, various kinds of Myanmar precious stones are in high demand in the international market, and the State and national gem entrepreneurs are benefiting from the gem industry.

The Central Committee for Organizing Myanmar Gems Emporium has launched the Myanmar Jade, Gem and Pearl Special Sales for 2007 since 4 July at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yangon and at the Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township, and it continues till 16 July.

So far, more than 2900 local and foreign gem merchants have arrived at the special sales.

Indeed, gems are natural resources that are exhaustible based on the rate of exploitation. So, gem entrepreneurs are to tap such valuable natural resources systematically for sustainable interests of the State and their own. Greater benefits will be gained if gems are sold as value-added products rather than being sold in raw.

Now, the government is rendering all necessary assistance to those engaging in the gem industry. So, gem entrepreneurs have to strictly abide by Gems Law and regulations in mining and selling their products in order that the nation can see a firm gems market.

Commander, CEC member attend physic nut growing ceremony of Mon State USDA

YANGON, 5 July — Patron of Mon State Union Solidarity and Development Association Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win, USDA CEC member Mon State in-charge Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint attended the rainy season physic nut growing ceremony of Mon State USDA at Taungwang physic nut farm on 2 July.

The CEC member also attended the ceremony to donate desks and present USDA membership applications at Basic Education Primary School of Zingyak Village in Paung Township. He also attended a similar ceremony at Pawdawmaw Village Post-Primary School. In Bilin, the CEC member presented 50 dozens of exercise books to the Township Education Officer at the purpose of organizing the tree planting ceremony. — MNA

Over 3,500 trees planted in environs of H & T Ministry

Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing delivers an address at the monsoon season tree planting ceremony of Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 July — As a gesture of hailing Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism organized a monsoon season tree planting ceremony in front of the ministry here on 3 July.

Over 300 volunteers including Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing and wife, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu and officials of the departments under the ministry took part in the ceremony, and over 3,500 shady trees and perennial trees were planted in the environs of the ministry.

First, Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing explained the purpose of organizing the tree planting ceremony, and the minister and wife planted trees at designated places.

Afterwards, the minister, the deputy minister and employees of the ministry released 20,000 fingerlings into a small dam and fish ponds of the ministry.

Cash donation for monastery in Paris on 13 July

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At a similar ceremony at Kyundaw Village BEPS in Kyauktar Township, the CEC member accepted membership applications from four village-tracts and attended to the needs of the local people.

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**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**Heathrow terminal evacuated after suspect bag found**

**LONDON, 5 July —** Terminal 4 at London’s Heathrow Airport was evacuated on Tuesday after a suspicious package was found, passengers said.

Officials at the airport confirmed a suspect bag had been found and said all passengers were now being searched.

“In response to a suspect bag in Terminal 4, secondary searches are now being carried out on departing passengers,” BAA, which manages the airport, said in a statement.

A Reuters witness at the airport said the whole of the departure area of Terminal 4 had been evacuated and passengers were being told to go to the arrivals section.

“Several thousand people are now out in the car park and security staff are saying that all baggage is going to have to go through checks again,” a passenger said.

After about two hours airport authorities began letting people back into the terminal but continued to carry out body searches.

“It looks like they are looking for someone,” an eyewitness told Reuters.

MNA/Reuters

**UK bomb suspect, another doctor, seized in Australia**

**CANBERRA, 4 July—** An eighth man — another doctor — suspected of links to the suspected al-Qaeda plot to detonate car bombs in London and Scotland was detained in the Australian city of Brisbane, officials said on Tuesday.

The 27-year-old man, described by his Gold Coast Hospital colleagues as a “model citizen”, was seized by counter-terrorism police at Brisbane Airport late on Monday as he was trying to leave the country, Queensland State Premier Peter Beattie said.

“We understand that the man that had been detained at the airport last night has some connections to the incidents in the UK,” he told reporters.

A second man who was employed at the same hospital south of Brisbane, was being questioned, officials said.

Although he was not linked to the bomb plot, Beattie said.

In the four days since two car bombs loaded with fuel, gas canisters and nails were found in central London, seven suspects have been arrested in Britain, including at least two doctors.

The nationalities of the two men were not disclosed.

Beattie said the 27-year-old had trained as a doctor in India. He was recruited to Australia from Liverpool, England, in 2006 through an advertisement in the British Medical Journal and started work there as an emergency registrar last September.

One of the seven held in Britain was detained in Liverpool.

MNA/Reuters

**US troops kill 23 gunmen in western Iraq**

**BAGHDAD, 4 July—** US and Iraqi troops have killed 23 gunmen near the city of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar Province in western Iraq, the US military said on Tuesday.

Based on reports saying that significant number of insurgents linked to al-Qaeda network gathered on the outskirts of Ramadi to stage a series of large-scale attacks in the city in an attempt to regain their presence in the region, the military said in a statement.

The battle occurred on Saturday night in an area, some four kilometres south of Ramadi when insurgents attacked a US position with small arms fire from two trucks, the statement said.

MNA/Xinhua

**BBC Gaza reporter Johnston freed**

**GAZA, 4 July—** Alan Johnston, the BBC journalist held hostage in the Gaza Strip since March, was handed over to his Islamist captors to ruling Hamas officials in the early hours of Wednesday, Reuters journalists who saw him said.

They saw the 45-year-old British being embraced by BBC colleagues after he arrived by car at the home of Hamas’s local leader in Gaza, Ismail Hanjeh. He was smiling and looked well despite nearly four months in captivity.

Khaled Mashaal, the exiled leader of Hamas said Johnston’s release showed his Islamist movement was bringing order to the coastal enclave since seizing control last month after fighting with the Western-backed Fatah faction. The BBC in London also confirmed Johnston was free.

MNA/Reuters

**Hamas, Jihad attack Israel with mortars, rockets**

**GAZA, 4 July—** Both the armed wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad (Holy War) movements claimed responsibility on Tuesday for firing mortars and homemade rockets from Gaza into Israel.

Izz-el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades, Hamas’ armed wing, said in a statement that its militants fired four mortar shells at Israeli Army posts stationed on the borders between northern Gaza Strip and Israel.

Hamas al-Quds, Jihad armed wing, said in two separate Press statements that its militants fired three mortar shells at Israeli Army posts to the east and south of the Gaza Strip. The group said it militants fired three mortars at an Israeli Army post, which was used to fire tank shells at central and northern Gaza Strip.

It added that another group of militants had also fired a Russian-made Grad missile at the Kerem Shalom border crossing on the borders between Israel and Egypt. Saraya al-Quds said attacks on the Kerem Shalom crossing were aimed to foil the Israeli plan to operate it while keeping close the Rafah crossing on the borders between the Gaza Strip and Egypt.

**Jamaican singer Sean Paul performs on stage during a concert in Tirana, Albania on 5 July, 2007.**

INTERNET
Two journalists killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 5 July — Two Iraqi journalists working for a Sunni television network were kidnapped and killed separately last month, an international media watchdog reported on Wednesday.

The victims were Mohammed Hilal Karji and Sarmad Hamdi al-Hassami, both working for Baghdad TV which was owned by the Iraqi Islamic Party, headed by Vice President Tariq al-Hashimi, the Reporters Without Borders said in its report posted on the Internet.

Karji, was kidnapped outside his home as he was leaving to work on 8 June. His body was found in the morgue the next day, the watchdog said.

Sarmad Hamdi al-Hassami, 43, was kidnapped in Baghdad’s western neighbourhood of Jami’a on 27 June. His body was also found in the morgue the next day, it added.

Baghdad TV channel in western Baghdad has been a favoured target for insurgents in the past few months, in which several workers were killed or wounded.

The attacks had forced the channel to move to Sulaimaniyah Province in Iraq’s northern Kurdish region.

NASA finds hydrocarbons on Saturn’s moon Hyperion

WASHINGTON, 4 July — NASA’s Cassini spacecraft has revealed for the first time surface details of Saturn’s moon Hyperion, including cup-like craters filled with hydrocarbons that may indicate more widespread hydrocarbons — including keys to understanding the moon’s origin and evolution over 4.5 billion years. This is the first time scientists were able to map the surface material on Hyperion.

“Of special interest is the presence on Hyperion of hydrocarbons combinations of carbon and hydrogen atoms that are found in comets, meteorites, and the dust in our galaxy,” said Dale Cruikshank, NASA’s planetary scientist, and the paper’s lead author.

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The grey whale is one of the largest and oldest mammals on earth — it can grow larger than a city bus and the species is thought to be 30 million years old.

But environmentalists say there are only 100 grey whales left off the Asian Pacific coast, with another 300 off the North American coast.

Now construction work at a Russian gas project is forcing them away from their natural habitat.

“We feel the vibration and hear the low, hollow rumble,” said Natalia Illarionova, who monitors the whales from a camp on the island of Sakhalin for the WWF.

She said the whales were disappearing from the area she was monitoring because of the noise, putting more pressure on other feeding grounds. — MNA/Reuters

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School bombing in Thai south wounds five policemen

BANGKOK, 4 July — A bombing at a school wounded five police officers in Thailand’s far southern province of Narathiwat Tuesday morning, media here reported.

A remote-controlled bomb hidden in the ceiling of a teacher’s room at the Bannamwon school in Narathiwat’s Chanae District exploded, wounding five policemen guarding the school, according to Thai News Agency.

The school was closed immediately after the incident.

Schools and teachers have been frequently targeted in violent attacks that have been taking place on daily basis in Thailand’s three southernmost provinces — Narathiwat, Pattani and Yala, where insurgent violence has prevailed in more than three years and claimed over 2,300 lives.

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— MNA/Xinhua
ECONOMIC NEWS

Thailand unaffected by strict US rules on tuna imports

BANGKOK, 4 July — The strict American rule imposed on tuna imports will not negatively affect Thai tuna exporters as Thailand still maintains more than half the world’s tuna export, Thira Sutabutr, Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister said Monday.

After meeting US congressman Eni Faleomavaega, Thira said Washington focused on food safety standards and harmful residues in food such as mercury contamination.

Thailand affirmed to the American authorities that food safety is part of Thailand’s national agenda, including agricultural products to be exported to the US which are certified by food standards agencies both to boost confidence among consumers and competitiveness in the world market.

Thailand is the world’s largest canned tuna exporter, with over 50 per cent of total market share. The country earns 600 million US dollars annually. In 2006, Thai tuna exports to the US were recorded at 106,297 tons, worth 287.9 million US dollars.

During the past five years, the US imported most of its tuna products from Thailand. However, the US tuna imports slowed in the past three years because health conscious consumers were afraid of mercury residue in canned products.—MNA/Xinhua

Foreign automobile brands penetrate French car market

PARIS, 4 July — Foreign automobile manufacturers sustained their assault on the French car market, whose new car sales continued to fall in June with a new two-figure decline registered by the French auto-maker Renault, according to figures published on Tuesday by the French Automobile Manufacturers Committee (CCFA).

In June 2007, brand new car market registered a drop of 3.2 per cent compared with the same period in 2006. Foreign brands progressed by 3.2 per cent, while the French ones had an overall decline of 8 per cent.

Car sales by the Renault group stood at 13.5 per cent in June, while its flagship Renault brand recorded a decline of 15 per cent. PSA Peugeot Citroen group lost 1.4 per cent in June, after having registered an impressive recovery of 4.5 per cent in May. Over the first six months of the current year, sales of foreign vehicles progressed by 2.7 per cent with a market share of 46.6 per cent, whereas the French brands slipped by 6.8 per cent with a market share of 53.4 per cent.

Venezuela gives MERCOSUR three months to approve membership

CARACAS, 4 July—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said on Tuesday that the Common Market of the South (Mercosur) must approve Venezuela’s membership in three months or he will withdraw the nation’s application.

Speaking to the government he said Venezuela is keen to join, it changes can be made to the elites and business groups operating within it.

Mercosur “was created in the heart of neoliberalism and ended up becoming one more way for elites and businesses to come together. The people’s integration has been relegated to bottom priority,” Chavez said.

“Until now there does not seem to have been a real willingness to make changes in Mercosur’s structure, and because of this, Venezuela does not rule out abandoning one model of integration, which is not real integration,” he said.

Venezuela was allowed in 2006, as a member with a voice, but without a vote, until the nation could agree on the adoption of a common external tariff, and the opening of its markets.

Argentina and Uruguay’s legislatures have already accepted Venezuela’s application, but Brazil and Paraguay have yet to do so.

“Ayera has passed since we signed the protocol of accession and right now there is no ideological, political, economic or any other reason that prevents us from being part of MERCOSUR,” Chavez said.

Chavez said that he did not rule out Venezuela’s return to the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) even though he had withdrawn the nation from the bloc in April, 2006.

S Korea, Vietnam to cooperate commercial N-reactors

SEOUL, 4 July—South Korea and Vietnam agreed on establishing a joint committee to push forward the building of commercial nuclear reactors in Vietnam, South Korea’s Yonhap news agency reported on Tuesday.

The agreement was reached at a meeting between Minister of Commerce, Industry and Energy Kim Young-ju and his Vietnamese counterpart in Hanoi, the report said. The two sides also concurred on a plan for South Korea to provide nuclear policy training for Vietnamese experts this year, and to carry out joint research that can help Vietnam build parts for nuclear-related facilities, it said.

The bilateral committee will hold its first meeting in the later part of this year, in a follow-up to the nuclear cooperation memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in 2006, the report said. In addition to the nuclear cooperation scheme, Seoul and Hanoi signed MoUs to expand ties in export insurance, industrial technology exchange, energy, and agriculture, the report said.
Pakistan denies change in nuclear scientist’s status

ISLAMABAD, July 4 — Pakistan on Monday rejected a mediareport that restrictions on the country’s nuclear scientist Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan had been eased.

“There is no change in his status, (and) he continues to live a quiet life with his family,” Foreign Office spokes-
person Tasnim Aslam told a weekly media briefing.

She was commenting on a media report quoting the US State Department that AQ Khan network had completely vanished and that the Pakistan Government had eased restrictions on Dr Khan.

Khan has been under house arrest since 2004 after he confessed involvement in nuclear technology export.

The spokesman said that there was no change in the restrictions on Dr A Khan. However he was allowed to meet with his near ones, she added. “He meets his friends, talks to people. It has been happening before this news report.”

Answering a question, she said Pakistan’s engagement with the United States or at any other bilateral or multilateral level on nuclear issue has to be consistent with Pakistan’s sovereignty and security. “It has to be non-intrusive,” Aslam said.

“Pakistan is open to multilateral or bilateral cooperation which en-
hances its own ability to reinforce security of its facilities and materials by inducting necessary new technologies and best practices,” she said.

Seven bomb makers nabbed in Thai Muslim south

BANGKOK, 4 July—Thai police said on Tuesday they have arrested seven “top bomb makers” in the rebellious Muslim far south and charged them with terrorism. “This raid has saved a lot of innocent people’s lives,” said Army spokesman Colonel Atthadej Mathanom after a joint police and Army raid on a religious boarding school.

Police said the men, aged between 16 and 34, were “top bomb makers” responsible for attacks on infrastructure and troops in Narathiwat, one of three provinces where more than 2,300 people have been killed in three years of separatist insurgency.

Five of the seven were on the wanted list, southern police chief Lieutenant-General Jettakorn Naphitabhata told Reuters by telephone.

The raid, involving 200 police and soldiers who took two hours to get through a cordon of 700 students around the school on Monday, found gunpowder, wristwatches, batteries, mobile phones and a gas tank, the likes of which are often used in bombs, police said.

The raid followed a report by a villager who found blood stains and shrapnel at his rubber plantation near relics of which are often used in bombs, police said.

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France suspects H5N1 bird flu virus in swans

PARIS, 4 July—Three swans found dead in eastern France may have been killed by the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus, the French Agriculture Ministry said on Tuesday.

“The first results show a suspicion of bird flu. These tests are in the process of being con-
firmed at the reference laboratory of the French food safety agency AFSSA (...) to determine whether it was the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain,” the ministry said in a statement.

It had already put protection measures in place in the surrounding area and the results of the tests were expected by Thursday, it said.

France, Europe’s biggest poultry producer, had increased its precautions against bird flu in June, saying the risk of the disease hitting the country had gone up after it was found in a number of wild birds in Germany.

The disease was also found in the Czech Republic last month.

Last year, some 13 European Union member states had confirmed cases of bird flu — Germany, Austria, Denmark, Italy, Greece, Britain, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, France and Hungary. — MNA/Reuters

US helicopter crashes south of Baghdad, two pilots rescued

BAGHDAD, 4 July— A US helicopter crashed in an area south of Baghdad after attacked by enemy fire on Monday, two pilots on board survived the attack, the US military said on Tuesday.

The two pilots received minor injuries in the crash and were rescued by another AH-64 Apache helicopter after “enemy fire brought down their OH-58D Kiowa attack helicopter south of Baghdad”, the US military said briefly in a statement.

After evacuation of the two pilots, a US warplane dropped two large laser-guided bombs to destroyed the crashed helicopter, said the statement.

The exact location of the crash was not given out by the statement, which only said the investigation into the incident is underway. — MNA/Xinhua

12 killed, dozens injured in Egypt tour bus crash

ISMAILIA (Egypt), 4 July — At least 12 Egyptians were killed and 58 others injured when a tour bus collided with a bus carrying labourers on a highway near the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on Tuesday, a medical source said.

The buses crashed head-on along a dangerous bend in the Sinai Peninsula, the source said.

Reckless driving, lax traffic rules and poor road conditions cause many road crashes in Egypt. A series of road and rail accidents in the past few years triggered a public outcry over the government’s handling of road and transport safety.

— MNA/Xinhua

Car bomb kills at least 16 in Baghdad’s market

BAGHDAD, 4 July — Up to 16 people were killed and 35 other injured when a car bomb exploded in a popular market in northeastern Baghdad Tuesday evening, a police source told Xinhua.

“A car bomb ripped through a busy market in Shaab District in northeastern Baghdad, killing at least 16 people and wounding 35 others,” the source said on condition of anonymity, without giving more details.

Earlier Tuesday, two people were killed and 10 others injured in a car bomb attack targeted police patrol in Kirkuk City, north of Baghdad, local police source said. — MNA/Xinhua

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Seven bomb makers nabbed in Thai Muslim south

BANGKOK, 4 July—Thai police said on Tuesday they have arrested seven “top bomb makers” in the rebellious Muslim far south and charged them with terrorism. “This raid has saved a lot of innocent people’s lives,” said Army spokesman Colonel Atthadej Mathanom after a joint police and Army raid on a religious boarding school.

Police said the men, aged between 16 and 34, were “top bomb makers” responsible for attacks on infrastructure and troops in Narathiwat, one of three provinces where more than 2,300 people have been killed in three years of separatist insurgency.

Five of the seven were on the wanted list, southern police chief Lieutenant-General Jettakorn Naphitabhata told Reuters by telephone.

The raid, involving 200 police and soldiers who took two hours to get through a cordon of 700 students around the school on Monday, found gunpowder, wristwatches, batteries, mobile phones and a gas tank, the likes of which are often used in bombs, police said.

The raid followed a report by a villager who found blood stains and shrapnel at his rubber plantation near the school after an overnight explosion, Atthadej said.
Interview with outstanding Myanmar women

Eleven outstanding Myanmar women were honoured at Myanmar Women’s Day observed at Diamond Jubilee Hall on Pyay Road in Kamayut, Yangon, on 3 July 2007.

In her interview with Kyemon daily, Daw Kyan, one of the outstanding women said, “I was conferred on Excellent Performance in Arts Field in 2006. This year, I won National Literary Award in general knowledge genre (arts) for my works “Early Colonial Village Administration (1886-97)”. It’s a great pleasure for me to be honoured at this Myanmar Women’s Day commemorative ceremony.”

Daw Kyan has already won National Literary Award for four times for her papers on historical research. She was conferred on Pakokku U Ohn Pe Life-Long Literary Award in 2004.

Another outstanding woman Kyemon interviewed was Daw Yin Yin Nu (Writer Yin Yin Nu-Mandalay) who won National Literary Award for 2005 in the collected short stories category for her second book “Mudita Birds return to the nest”. She has been writing short stories portraying the parental love. “I am glad to attend the ceremony as an honoured guest. The focus of my works will be on teaching young women to be clever and civilized,” she told Kyemon.

The third interviewee was Daw Myint Myint, the leader of the gang that sold over 200 Myanmar young women in the other country. “I have been cooperating with Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation in curbing human trafficking. I thank MWAF for honouring me,” she expressed pleasure.

Daw Myint San and other Red Cross members daringly saved the lives of passengers when Chit Thaung vessel capsized in March 2007. She has been with the Red Cross for 36 years since 1971. A primary school head by profession she is a deputy commanding officer of a Red Cross battalion.

“I joined the Red Cross since I was 16. I always won prizes at Red Cross courses and workshops and I am now helping produce prize-winning Red Cross trainees. I am very happy to participate in the Red Cross activities. I feel immense pleasure to receive honour at this ceremony,” she said.

“The most important thing is to have full concentration on lectures,” Daw Myint San wishes to serve welfare task more.

Ma Ei Ei Hlaing, a six-district winner in the 2006 matriculation examination told Kyemon. “You need to learn your lessons whenever you arrive back home. I regularly do my exercises and learn my lessons every day. I am now a first year MB student,” she added. A former student of No 2 Basic Education High School, Latha Township, Yangon, she passed the 2006 matriculation examination with highest marks all over the nation.

By honouring the outstanding women and girls MWAF has acknowledged the high proficiency of Myanmar women and girls. Women mass represents half the nation’s population of over 55 million.

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Outstanding women and girls

MWAF honoured this year

--- Daw Kyan, winner of National Literary Award in general knowledge genre (arts) for 2005.
--- Daw Yin Yin Nu (Writer Yin Yin Nu-Mandalay) who won National Literary Award for 2005 in the collected short stories category.
--- Daw Nan Mya Kay Khaiing, winner of National Literary Award in the field of general knowledge literature translation.
--- Ma Ei Ei Hlaing, a first-year MB student who passed 2006 matriculation with highest marks.
--- Police Capt Mi Ni Oo, an outstanding leader of Muse Special Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, Myanmar Police Force.
--- Deputy Commanding Officer of a Red Cross battalion Daw Myint San, who have actively taken part in social welfare activities.
--- Outstanding woman weightlifter Ma Yar That Pan.
--- Outstanding disabled woman athlete Ma Thein Thu Thu Lin.
--- Sgt Maythi Khaing, an outstanding firewoman of Central Fire Services Training School, PyinOoLwin.
--- Daw Myint Myint San, a record woman blood donor at 94 times.
Korean Ambassador calls on Ministers

NAY PYI TAW, 5 July — Korean Ambassador to the Union of Myanmar Mr Park Key Chong called on Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi separately at the respective ministries here, today, yesterday and on 3 July.

Also present at the calls were deputy ministers, directors-general, managing directors and officials of the ministries concerned.—MNA

Myanmar hosts 8th ASEAN Electronic Forum

NAY PYI TAW, 5 July — The opening ceremony of 8th ASEAN Electronic Forum hosted by Myanmar was held at Royal Kumudra Hotel, here this morning, attended by Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, departmental heads, officials of UMFCCI, Presiding Chairman of the forum, Chairman of the Board of Investment of the Philippines Mr Francisco I Ferrer, senior officials of the ASEAN member countries and guests.

Director-General Daw Myo Nwe of Foreign Economic Relations Department delivered an address and Mr Francisco I Ferrer extended greetings at the ceremony.

In the evening, Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs hosted a dinner to the participants. —MNA

CPT, Commerce, Home Affairs easily overcome opponent teams

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 July — Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs ousted Civil Service Selection and Training Board 13-0 in the 1st Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament at Paunglaung Sports Grounds in Pyinmana this morning.

While Ministry of Commerce crashed Ministry of Mines 4-0 at Paunglaung Sports Ground at 4 pm today, Ministry of Home Affairs trounced Ministry of Foreign Affairs 7-0 at Lewe Township Sports Ground.

Among the spectators were Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, CSSTB Chairman Dr Than Nyun, CSSTB members and responsible persons of Myanmar Olympic Committee and Myanmar Football Federation.

Ministry of PBANRDA will play against Ministry of Finance and Revenue, and Ministry of Hotels and Tourism against Energy at Paunglaung Sports Ground tomorrow morning and afternoon.

At Lewe Township Sports Ground, Ministry of Defence will meet with Ministry of Information in the group match. The first round of the tournament will conclude on 15 July. The second round matches will be held from 17 to 29 July. —MNA

Chairman of CSSTB Dr Than Nyun and spectators enjoy football match of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Team and CSSTB Team. —MNA

8th ASEAN Electronic Forum in progress at Royal Kumudra Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. —MNA
Mandalay Division WAO organizes Myanmar Women’s Day for 2007

YANGON, 5 July — Mandalay Division Women’s Affairs Organization organized a ceremony to commemorate Myanmar Women’s Day at National Theatre in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Division on 3 July.

First, members of Mandalay Division WAO opened the ceremony singing a song to mark Myanmar Women’s Day. Next, Chairperson of Mandalay Division WAO Daw Kye Mon Oo made a speech on the occasion. Afterwards, members of the patrol group, Daw Moe Thida presented medals and prizes to Daw Sein Sein Yi and Daw San San Tin (a) Daw Ye of Chanayethazan township, Daw San San Wai, Daw Nwe Nwe San and Daw Myint Myint Nwe of Mahaungmye township, Daw Lone Tin of Mogok township, Daw Hnin No and Daw Khin Lay of Kyaunkpadaung township, who won Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi titles, Daw Hnyi Hnyi Thein of Chanayethazan township and Daw Sein Sein of Pyigyiadagun township, who won Thudhamma Theingi title and Ma Thaza Win of Chanmyathazi township, who won medal for excellent performance in social field (Third Class).

Next, the Chairperson handed prizes to second year student Ma Lwin Lwin Thein of University of Veterinary Science (first), Ma Aye Myat Thein of University of Nursing (second) and third year student Maung Thein Zaw Moe of University of Agriculture (third) in university/college level essay competition; ninth standard student Ma Swe Zin Kyi of Kyaunkpadaung Township (first), Ma Aye Mi Thein of Aungmyethazan township (second) and eighth standard student Ma Su Hnin Wai of Aungmyethazan township (third) in the high school level essay competition and seventh standard student Ma Khin Tin Zin Tin of Aungmyethazan township (first), seventh standard student Ma Aye Nyein Paing of Aungmyethazan township (second) and seventh standard student Ma Ei Mon Han of Meiktila Education College (third) in middle school level essay competition.

Afterwards, officials concerned gave away prizes to outstanding women. A total of K 1,415,200 was awarded to 73 prize winners. — MNA

Lucky Bird granted permission to open Toshiba i Shop, becomes Authorized Service Provider

YANGON, 5 July — Lucky Bird was granted a permission to open Toshiba i Shop and Authorized Service Provider.

Officials of the Lucky Bird and Toshiba Singapore Pte Ltd jointly organized a press conference at Traders Hotel here yesterday.

Responsible personnel of Toshiba Singapore Pte Ltd and Lucky Bird explained the services to be provided by Lucky Bird. General Manager Mr Junichi Ishikawa of Toshiba Singapore Pte Ltd and Managing Director U Htin Aung Khine of Lucky Bird signed an agreement on appointment of Authorized Dealer and Service Provider.

Responsible personnel of Toshiba and Lucky Bird replied to the queries raised by those present.

General Manager Mr Junichi Ishikawa extended greetings and gave the appointment of Authorized Dealer to U Htin Aung Khine and Authorized Service Provider to Daw Maw Phyu Thwe.

They explained Toshiba products and services. Lucky Bird was appointed as Authorized Dealer and Service Provider of Toshiba due to its good services.

Those wishing to buy Toshiba brand note books, and accessories may contact Lucky Bird Computer Show Room No-355, Room 106 on Thenbyyu Road (Tel- 248167, 379875). — MNA

General Manager Mr Junichi Ishikawa of Toshiba Singapore Pte Ltd extends greetings. — MNA
Russia says to respond if US snubs missile offer

MOSCOW, 5 July — Russia will take steps to ensure its security if Washington rebuffs its offer of cooperation on missile defence, local media quoted First Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov as saying on Wednesday.

“If our proposals are not accepted — and I cannot rule that out — Russia will continue to persistently and patiently explain its position on this issue,” ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Ivanov as saying.

“But at the same time, we will take adequate measures to ensure security, we are already taking these measures, an asymmetrical and effective response has been found,” Ivanov did not say what that response involved. At a meeting with US President George W Bush this week, Russian President Vladimir Putin proposed an expanded plan for missile defence cooperation that would involve Russia and NATO sharing data about missile launches from “rogue states”, Putin said his proposal would remove the need for the United States to proceed with its plan to locate elements of a planned missile shield in Poland and the Czech Republic. Washington says the shield is needed to protect from possible missile attacks from states such as North Korea and Iran. Moscow has argued the shield is a threat to its own national security.

MNA/Reuters

Quake hits Iran, some buildings damaged

TEHERAN, 5 July — A 5.1 magnitude earthquake shook the central Iranian province of Yazd on Wednesday, causing the collapse of a few roofs but no casualties, official media said. The quake struck in the area of Behabad, a town of 10,000 people 160 kilometres (100 miles) east of the city of Yazd, the IRNA news agency said. The area is not close to Iran’s main oil producing areas.

In an old neighbourhood of Behabad, the roofs of three houses collapsed and cracks appeared in the walls of dozens of buildings, a senior provincial official said. — MNA/Reuters

Tornado kills 14, injures 146 in east China

NANJING, 5 July — Altogether 14 people were killed and 146 others were injured in a tornado that hit two east China provinces on Tuesday, the local governments said.

Seven of the deaths were reported in Gaoyou, a city in Jiangsu Province, where the worst tornado in 50 years also injured 53 people in 11 villages and toppled 715 houses, the city government said on Wednesday.

It said 12 of the injured were in serious condition, and estimated the city’s direct economic losses at around 55 million yuan (7.2 million US dollars).

“The tornado ravaged the Huxi areas of Gaoyou for about an hour,” the government said in a Press release. “High winds and heavy rain cut off power and telecommunications, ripped roofs off buildings and uprooted thousands of trees.”

Sixteen local companies were closed down after the tornado destroyed their workshops and equipment.

MNA/Xinhua

India, Pakistan agree to fight terrorism

NEW DELHI, 5 July — India and Pakistan agreed to take effective and sustained measures to combat terrorism and deal effectively with terrorists and criminals during the talks held between home secretaries of the two nations here, an Indian Government statement said here on Wednesday.

The statement said that during talks held on Tuesday, the two nations also agreed to enhance the cooperation between Indian Central Bureau of Intelligence and Pakistan’s Federal Investigation Agency in the areas of human traffickig, illegal immigration and counterfeit currency.

The talks were held in cordial atmosphere, the statement added.

Another issue that figured was that of fishermen. India and Pakistan agreed to release fishermen captured in each other’s waters by 14-15 August this year.

On the issue of prisoners, the two sides said efforts would be made to reconcile the number and identities of prisoners in each other’s jails.

Prisoners who have completed their sentences will also be released by both sides by 14-15 August.

MNA/Xinhua

Smoke from a forest fire billows near the city of Mandeuleu-La-Napoule (foreground) on 4 July , 2007. Hundreds of firemen have been mobilized to fight blazes expected in southern France during the driest months of the year.

INTERNET

Woman police officers parade in formation recently. The People’s Liberation Army is to become a chic symbol of national pride and sophistication as China gives its military uniforms a latest fashion upgrade. — INTERNET

Al Gore’s son busted for drugs in hybrid car

LOS ANGELES, 5 July — The 24-year-old son of former vice-president Al Gore was arrested for drug possession Wednesday after he was stopped for allegedly speeding in his hybrid Toyota Prius, a sheriff’s official said.

Al Gore III — whose father is a leading advocate of policies to fight global warming — was driving his environmentally friendly car at about 100 miles (160 kilometres) per hour on a freeway south of Los Angeles when he was pulled over by an Orange County sheriff’s deputy at about 2:15 am.

A subsequent search yielded a small amount of marijuana, along with prescription drugs including Valium, Xanax, Vicodin and Adderall, said sheriff’s spokesman Jim Amormino. There were no prescriptions found, he said.

Gore was arrested on suspicion of drug possession and booked into the Inmate Reception Centre in Santa Ana, about 34 miles (55 kilometres) south of Los Angeles, on 20,000 US dollars bail, he said.

It was not Gore’s first brush with the law. He was arrested in 2003 for marijuana possession and in 2002 for suspected drunken-driving.

Gore was still in custody as of mid-morning and was sharing a holding cell with an unknown number of people, said Orange County Sheriff’s spokesman Jim Amormino.

“There are no special privileges,” he told Reuters.

Gore cooperated with law enforcement as soon he was pulled over and quickly identified himself as the son of the former vice president, Amormino said.

A spokesman for the elder Gore said he was travelling and could not immediately be reached for comment. — MNA/Reuters

Minta, the 31-year-old orangutan female, and the Minta, the 31-year-old orangutan female, and the

INTERNET

INTERNET
N-W China man killed in cell phone battery explosion

LANZHOU, 5 July — A young northwest China man died when the battery in his cell phone exploded, according to local public security authority.

The accident, said to be the first such case in China, occurred at noon on 19 June, when welder Xiao Jinpeng was working at the Yingpan Iron Ove Dressing Plant in Jinta County, Gansu Province.

The cell phone, a genuine Motorola, in his chest pocket suddenly exploded and Xiao, 22, died at a local hospital after emergency treatment failed, said Bai Shixiong, commissar with the public security bureau of Jinta County.

The initial investigation showed the phone battery exploded after being exposed to a high temperature, breaking Xiao’s ribs which penetrated his heart, according to police officers.

“We haven’t ruled out quality problems with the battery induced the tragedy, but other causes remain possible,” said Bai.

So far, no information about the battery is available.

Local police and work safety officers are still trying to ascertain the model of the phone and the battery, and whether they had any quality problems.

An investigation report is expected to come out in a couple of days, according to Bai.

Many Chinese handset users, who are familiar with fake or low-quality accessories, are demanding an immediate reply from relative departments and Motorola about whether the explosion was caused by battery defects or improper use of the phone.

— MNA/Xinhua

Circus lion, tiger roam south China park, one worker mauled

BEIJING, 5 July — Two circus animals, a tiger and a lion, escaped from their cage on Sunday and raced the grounds of a south China park for three hours, mauling a park worker.

The apparently more docile tiger decided it had caused enough trouble for the day and returned to its cage at around 10:00 pm.

But the lion became irate and mauled a park worker Xu Zhaobin who was standing in its way, said Lu Weijian, a director of Yinxian Resort, a holiday resort in Dongguan City in Guangdong Province that boasts acres of parkland, hospitality services and circus shows.

Police shot and killed the lion to prevent further attacks, he said.

Park worker Xu, 20, from central China’s Henan Province, refused to meet the Press at Changping Hospital where he was hospitalized on Sunday night.

Doctors said Xu had several lacerations to his back but his life was not in danger.

His boss Lu Weijian said he suffered more of a psychological than a physical trauma.

— MNA/Xinhua

Russian military helicopter crashes, one hurt

MOSCOW, 5 July — A Russian military helicopter crashed on Tuesday in north-western Russia hurting one passenger, an Emergencies Ministry spokeswoman said.

She said there were 13 people on board, according to preliminary information.

ITAR-TASS news agency quoted an Emergencies Ministry spokesman as saying the Mi-8 helicopter caught its rotors on the ground on take-off and flipped over.

The Ministry of Defence was not available for comment.

In April, a military helicopter with troops on board went down in the volatile province of Chechnya. It was unclear if there were casualties or what caused the crash.

— MNA/Reuters

A woman sprays foam after the graduation ceremony in the University of Kerbala, 110 km (68 miles) south of Baghdad on 1 July, 2007.
Moscow, 4 July—Russia is to draw up a blacklist of European airlines it considers unsafe, an aviation official said on Tuesday, six days after the European Union imposed restrictions on ten Russian carriers on safety grounds.

The Russian blacklist was not intended as “revenge” on the EU but a response to serious safety problems detected in European aircraft, Gennady Loshenov, deputy head of Russia’s state aviation agency, told reporters.

“Right now we are checking foreign carriers more intensively. Checks show that there are certain complaints, and serious complaints … Among these are carriers from European countries.”

“We need to create a so-called blacklist in which we will include those foreign carriers that have distinguished themselves the most,” he said.

“These steps are not intended to take revenge on the European Union for halting our air companies.” The EU’s executive arm, the European Commission, on 28 June unveiled an updated blacklist of foreign carriers banned from flying in EU airspace.—MNA/Reuters

The Russian blacklist included foreign airlines that failed to report safety violations or were detected on the following grounds:

2. Both aircraft grounded and unserviceable.
3. Sales include all ground equipment, tools and spare parts.
4. Selling condition: “As is where is” condition.
5. Location of Aircraft: Myanma Airways Maintenance Hanger, Yangon International Airport, Yangon, The Union of Myanmar.
6. Date for pre-bid inspection: From 12th July 2007 to 15th July 2007 during office hours.
7. Tender closing date: 25-7-2007 11:00 am.
8. Tender opening date: 7-8-2007 12:00 am.
9. Further details are available at: Myanma Airways 104, Kama Road, Yangon, The Union of Myanmar.

Email: MYANMA AIRWAYS @mptmail.net.mm

MYANMAR IVANHOE COPPER COMPANY LIMITED

TENDER NOTICE

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Myanma Airways of Ministry of Transport, The Union of Myanmar is inviting International tenders for the sale of two SA 330F (PUMA) helicopters as follows—

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Tel:+95-1-252202, +95-1-246452
Fax:+ 95-1-371120

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Email: MYANMA AIRWAYS @mptmail.net.mm

Three feared dead in Kenya plane crash

Narok (Kenya), 5 July—A small plane flying to Kenya’s Masai Mara game reserve crashed on Tuesday and three people were feared dead, police said.

The aircraft took off from Nairobi’s Wilson Airport, which serves many tourists flying out for safaris, before disappearing from the radar shortly afterwards, police said.

“Three people are feared dead. The plane crashed into the Loita Hills, near the Masai Mara game reserve,” Narok District police boss Patrick Wambani told Reuters. “The plane was headed to the reserve.”

Accident investigators were on their way to the scene to recover the wreckage, he said.

Wambani said he had no details on the nationalities of those aboard, nor who owned the plane.

The road from Nairobi to the Masai Mara, home of lions, cheetahs, elephants, zebra and wildebeests, is in poor condition and many tourists opt to fly there rather than drive. —MNA/Reuters

Malaysia introduces travel protection plan

KUALA LUMPUR, 4 July—The Malaysian Tourism Ministry said here on Monday that it has begun to enforce the Basic Travel Protection Plan, requiring all licensed travel agents to offer travel insurance to their customers.

Malaysian Tourism Minister Adnan Tengku Mansor said the move was to ensure that all travellers, including inbound foreigners and outbound locals, are protected and covered by insurance.

The measure, which took effect from 1 July, is advisabley required travel-lers to take it up, but they also had the flexibility to refuse it, Adnan said.

Under the plan, travellers can expect a refund in such cases as that the participating travel and tour company is unable to render its services, due to abrupt business closure, Adnan said. Local media reported that the plan was endorsed by the ministry to ensure travellers to get the basic coverage and protection against travel risks.

It is managed via a joint venture between Timeless Vocation Sdn Bhd and Pemphen Sdn Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Tourism Ministry, with Tahan Insurance Malaysia Bhd as the underwriter. Local or outbound travellers will need to pay 15 ringgit (3.315 dollars) premium for coverage while inbound travellers are required to pay 15 US dollars for which coverage is for the whole period of travel.

MNA/Xinhua
Study shows modified mushrooms may yield human drugs

LOS ANGELES, 4 July — Mushrooms could be used as “biofactories” for the production of various medicines beneficial to humans, a new study has shown. This could be achieved by inserting new genes into commercially valuable mushrooms, said Charles Peter Romaine, professor of plant pathology at the Pennsylvania State University.

Romaine and his colleagues have developed a technique to genetically modify Agaricus bisporus — the button variety of mushroom, which is the predominant edible species worldwide.

One application of their technology is the use of mushrooms as factories for producing vaccines, antibiotics, and hormones like insulin, as well as antibodies, and hormones for producing vaccines. Romaine said on Tuesday.

“Mushrooms could make the ideal vehicle for the manufacture of biopharmaceuticals to treat a broad array of human illnesses. But nobody has been able to come up with a feasible way of doing that.”

“Right now medical treatment exists for about 500 diseases and genetic disorders, but thanks to the human genome project, before long, new drugs will be available for thousands of other diseases. “We need a new way of mass-producing protein-based drugs, which is economical, safe and fast. We believe mushrooms are going to be the platform of the future.” Romaine said.

Researchers pointed out that making a single vaccine or drug by conventional biotechnology requires expensive infrastructure set up by major drug companies, he added.

The findings appeared Monday in EuroAlert, a website of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Pair found alive after Cornwall sea cave rescue

LONDON, 4 July — A lifeguard and a woman friend trapped in a sea cave in Cornwall for more than 10 hours were rescued after a major search, the Coast Guard said on Tuesday.

The pair were caught by rising tides on Monday as they explored the cave a few miles north of Newquay, the Maritime and Coast Guard Agency said.

A rescue helicopter, three lifeboats and two life guard jet-skis were sent out to search for the pair after the alarm was raised. The lifeguard, from New Zealand, was pulled from the sea just before midnight after swimming in the darkness to the mouth of the cave where rescuers had been shining lights. His companion was found at the back of the cave. She was taken by helicopter to hospital suffering from hypothermia.

“The suspect is probably part of a wider group active in the Corinth area, as the artefacts seem to come from illegal digs in the region,” police said.

“The confiscated artefacts are not very valuable as they are mostly small items, but all such activity is illegal.” Police confiscated more than 1,300 items including small ancient clay idols, urns, pottery shards and bronze rings, dating from between the 6th and 4th Century BC, police said.

UN calls for coordinated action on global warming

HAVANA, 4 July — The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Achim Steiner said on Wednesday called for coordinated action to fight global warming.

Speaking at the International Environment and Development Conference which runs until Friday in Cuba’s capital Havana, Steiner said the effects of global warming are not only felt in developed nations, but also have a global impact.

“We should work as a family within the United Nations to tackle the technological and human challenges and fight climate change,” he said.

Last Harry Potter book sets online pre-sale record

LONDON, 4 July — The seventh and final book in JK Rowling’s Harry Potter series has become online retailer Amazon’s most pre-ordered product, with almost 1.6 million copies bought globally ahead of the book’s release on 21 July.

Amazon said on Monday that demand for Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows passed the previous record of 1.5 million copies ordered online before the release of the previous book in the series, Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince.

The retailer predicted that the number of orders for the seventh book would rise by “many more hundreds of thousands of copies”. The figures underline the huge international demand among readers for the final adventures of the boy wizard, which has been heightened by speculation over which characters Rowling will kill off at the end.

She has said that at least two characters will die in Deathly Hallows, but has been careful not to name them.
Torres bids farewell to Atletico

MADRID, 5 July — Fernando Torres has said the decision to leave Atletico Madrid and join Liverpool had been his own and that he had opted for the Merseysiders because they offered him a greater chance of winning trophies.

Torres completed the move on Wednesday, with Liverpool announcing he had signed a six-year contract.

“There comes a moment in your sporting life when you have to look for new challenges and this was it,” the 23-year-old told a news conference at Atletico’s Vicente Calderon stadium on Wednesday.

“The decision was mine. We received the offer and I asked the club to listen to it. It was difficult to leave, but I couldn’t reject the Liverpool offer... It was a unique opportunity.”

“Every sportsman wants to win things and Liverpool are a club that aspire to winning everything. That was an important factor in my decision.

“They have become a major force again in Europe in recent years and I want to add something new to the club. They were the team I wanted to play for... but I hope that this will be an “hasta luego” (see you later) and that one day I will return.”

Harrington says Australian Open should be fifth major

STRATHFORD (Ireland), 5 July — The Australian Open should be the fifth golf’s major championships but will never get the chance to achieve that status, world number 10 Padraig Harrington said on Wednesday.

“You only have to look at the Australian Open, running 100 years, it has all the heritage and is played on great courses,” the Irishman told a news conference on the eve of the European Open.

“That tournament should be the fifth major and that struggles. Players find it hard to get down there and play.”

“There are a lot of events out there like that but that’s probably the best example of an event that should be of high priority.”

Greater prize money and world ranking points, plus the new FedEx Cup, have heavily tipped the scales towards golf events in the United States, where three of the four majors and all the world championships are played, observers say.

The European Open itself is suffering a dearth of top players, with only six of the world’s top 50 in Ireland this week, even though it is only two weeks away from the British Open.

— MNA/Reuters

Scoring not a priority for stingy Uruguay

BETHESDA (Maryland), 5 July — Tiger Woods bemoans lack of sleep

BERNHEIM (Maryland), 5 July — The Sky Blues played out a dismal goalless draw against Venezuela on Tuesday to qualify for the Copa America quarter-finals despite scoring a paltry one goal in three games.

They failed to muster a single shot on target as they sneaked the point they needed to go through as one of the best third-placed teams. Uruguay and United States have been the notable exceptions in a tournament where all the other sides have tried to attack and which has produced an impressive average of 3.35 goals a game.

“Tennis the tendency at this Copa America is that the teams which have taken the game to their opponents have lost, as Brazil and Ecuador did in the first round,” said Tabarez.

“When football is so even, not conceding a goal is a great help in getting results.”

— MNA/Reuters

Henin marches into semifinal past Serena

LODZ, 5 July — Justine Henin won the latest battle in the most fierce rivalry in women’s tennis with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 quarterfinal victory at Wimbledon on Wednesday.

The Belgian top seed is chasing her third Grand Slam title of the year after winning the French Open and the Australian Open.

The American, sporting a bandage on her forehead, bemoans lack of sleep on the eve of the European Open.

“I’ve been sleeping badly for the last few weeks, Woods told a news conference on Tuesday. “Yeah, whatever, I don’t really sleep much,” he would respond.

Thinking about those ominous conversations over the past few weeks, Woods quipped, “Well, I definitely don’t sleep now.”

— MNA/Reuters

New father Woods bemoans lack of sleep

BERNHEIM (Maryland), 5 July — Tiger Woods says everything he has heard about new fathers being too busy to sleep is true.

The world’s top-ranked player said he had received a wealth of advice about fatherhood but the “one common thread” about the experience was a lack of sleep.

“They say, ‘Oh, yeah, get your sleep now.’” Woods told a news conference on Tuesday. “Yeah, whatever, I don’t really sleep much,” he would respond.

— MNA/Reuters

Score out the experienced Santiago Canizares after completing his move to Valencia on Wednesday.

“It will be difficult but I came here to fight it out and this is the sort of challenge I was looking for,” the former VfB Stuttgart keeper told a news conference after signing a three-year deal with his new club.

Canizares, 37, has been first-choice keeper at Valencia for the last nine seasons and has kept players of the calibre of Andres Palop and Ludovic Butelle out of the team during that time.

The 28-year-old Hildebrand arrives at Valencia on a free transfer after finishing his contract with German champions Stuttgart. — MNA/Reuters

Hildebrand aiming to oust Canizares at Valencia

MADRID, 5 July — Germán international goalkeeper Timo Hildebrand said he would fight hard to...
Office-goers use boats in rain-ravaged Indian city

KOLOKA (India), 4 July — Office workers used life boats to cross flooded streets on Tuesday in India’s eastern city of Kolkata as monsoon floods and storms ravaged parts of South Asia.

The death toll from more than a week of bad weather across India, Pakistan and Afghanistan approached 700.

Torrential rains accompanied by strong storms over large parts of the subcontinent have brought down houses, uprooted trees and disrupted power to hundreds of villages. Floods have swamped cities and huge swathes of agricultural land.

In eastern India’s biggest city, Kolkata, at least seven people died in roof collapses while train and flight services were disrupted because of flooding of rail tracks and poor visibility.

Thousands of people had to wade through filthy brown water to get to work, with buses and cars staying off flooded roads.

A meteorological official warned of more heavy rains and advised fishermen not to venture out to the high seas.

MNA/Reuters

Flash floods leave 2,500 homeless in Sudan

KHARTOUM, 5 July — Flash floods in the Sudanese town of Rabak have made at least 2,500 people homeless with more rain expected, the Sudanese Red Crescent said on Tuesday.

“They have no shelter. There is real risk of disease outbreaks,” said Afaf Bukhari from the Sudanese Red Crescent.

Hundreds of houses have been destroyed and the road to Rabak, south of Khartoum, was submerged due to heavy rains.

“The forecasts say that it is going to get worse,” Bukhari added. “We are expecting more floods in many areas.”

Reports of further flooding were already coming in from Sennar along the Blue Nile, Kassala in east Sudan, North Kordofan and Jazeera State.

MNA/Reuters

**WEATHER**

Thursday, 5 July, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagar Division, rain have been isolated in Kayah State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin and Shan States and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States, Bago, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and isolated heavy falls in Kayin and Ayeayawady Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Ye (8.66) inches, Gwak and Dawlaminyine (7.68) inches each, Thanby (7.21) inches, Thatto (7.08) inches, Lantin (6.14) inches, Dawei (6.02) inches, Kyauktaw (5.83) inches, Kayan (5.16) inches, Yangon (Central) (5.11) inches, Maungtaw (5.00) inches, Patha (4.72) inches, Hpa-an (4.53) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (4.45) inches, Kyaukyu (4.29) inches, Thaton (3.90) inches, Bago (3.77) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (3.66) inches and Mawlamyine (3.11) inches.

Maximum temperature on 4-7-2007 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 5-7-2007 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 5-7-2007 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 4-7-2007 was Nil.

Rainfall on 5-7-2007 was (3.66) inches at Mingaladon, (4.45) inches at Kaba-Aye, (5.11) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (60.47) inches at Mingaladon, (64.60) inches at Kayin, (61.09) inches at Kaba-Aye and (62.83) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (16) m/s from South at (13:30) hours MST on 4-7-2007.

Bay inference: According to the observations at 19:30 hrs MST today, the tropical depression over Northeast Bay is centred at about (90) miles Northwest of Koluta (India). It is forecast to move to North-Northwestwards. Monsoon is vigorous in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Special feature: According to the observations at 06:30 hrs MST today, yesterday’s tropical depression over South China Sea has further intensified into a Tropical Storm “TOKAGE” and is centred at about (200) miles Southeast of Hanoi (Vietnam). It is forecast to move Northwestward.

Forecast valid until evening of 6-7-2007: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State and lower Sagar Division, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Kachin and Shan States and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Kayin, Mon and Rakhine States, Bago, Yangon, Ayeayawady and Tanintharyi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough sea will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (50) m/s.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of rain in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 6-7-2007: Some rain which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 6-7-2007: Some rain which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 6-7-2007: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).
YANGON, 5 July — At the Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales for July-2007, the sales of pearl lots commenced through tender at the Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, yesterday. Foreign gem merchants bought 78 lots of pearl. The sales of pearl lots continues tomorrow, and gem lots will be sold through tender and competitive bidding at the same venue on 8 July. Local and foreign gem merchants are permitted to observe jade lots from 4 July to date at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township. Jade lots will be sold through tender and competitive bidding system from 6 to 16 July.

A total of 3,716 gem merchants — 1,492 local and 2,224 foreign merchants — have arrived at the special sales till today. More gem merchants are expected to arrive at the sales.

MNA

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78 lots of pearl sold at special sales

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NLD (Headquarters) has no exact political course

Fledging, incompetent party leaders sticking to seizing power

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Five party members quit

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Storm News

(Issued at 16:00 hr MST on 5-7-2007)

According to the observations at (15:30) hr MST today, the tropical depression over Northeast Bay has crossed the Bangladesh Coast and persists as a land depression.