Established 1914

Senior General Than Shwe plants sal, gum-kino, star-flower and Gangaw trees in rainy season tree planting ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 15 July — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe attended the rainy season tree planting ceremony for greening Nay Pyi Taw in the precinct of Datuça Pagoda here at 9.30 am today and planted sal, gum-kino, star-flower and Gangaw (Mesua ferrea) trees.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, members of SPDC, the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, the ministers, the director-general of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, service personnel, members of Pyinmana District and Township Union Solidarity and Development Associations, members of Women’s Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association.

First, Senior General Than Shwe grew a sal tree at the designated place in the east of the pagoda and watered it and sprinkled scented water on it. The Senior General also planted gum-kino, star-flower and Gangaw trees.

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye plants a tree to mark the rainy season tree planting ceremony. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
**In the best interest of the people**

The government has laid down short-term five-year plans and is implementing them and this year is the second of the fourth five-year plan.

In 2006-2007 fiscal year, the first year of the five-year plan, performance in the agricultural, industrial and service sectors improved.

In comparison with 1988, production of paddy increased two times, that of beans and pulses 11 times, that of oil crops three and half times, and that of fish and meat four times.

The volume of export and import services has risen year after year owing to the increased production of agricultural produce and industrial products. In 2002-2003, the volume of foreign trade was over US $5.3 billion beginning to show surplus and it reached over US $8 billion in 2006-2007.

Considering the increased volume of export every year, the merchants and entrepreneurs are allowed to import goods as they need. The government on its part encourages the development of Myanmar trade sector with a view to promoting the skills of the national entrepreneurs in trading that Myanmar products can penetrate the foreign markets.

The entrepreneurs are urged to better serve the national interest through the export of quality products and import of quality goods.

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**Peoples’ Desire**

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

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**Commander, Secretariat Member drive stakes for construction of building at Maha Thondarayama Pariyatti Monastery in Pyigiyadagu**

NAV Pyi Taw, 14 July — A ceremony to drive stakes for construction of a two-storey building at Maha Thondarayama Pariyatti Monastery (Maha Gandayon Monastery branch) of Amarapura Township was held in Dagundaing Ward of Pyigiyadagu Township, Mandalay Division, this morning.

It was attended by Patron of Mandalay Division Union Solidarity and Development Association Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, USDA Secretariat Member Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brg-Gen Phone Zaw Han, departmental heads and wellwishers.

Next, the commander, the minister, the mayor and wellwishers donated Waso robes to the Sayadaw of the monastery.

The commander accepted K 50 million for construction of the two-storey building donated by Daw Aye Mi and family. The Secretariat Member also accepted K 10 million and donations for the monastery from wellwishers.

Afterwards, the minister inspected manufacturing of physic nut oil stoves at Kyaukkyes Factory Region.

At Pharmaceutical Factory (Inyaung), the minister looked into production of eye drops and other medicines.

In Wundwin, the minister inspected production process of Wundwin Textile Factory.

— MNA

**Minister for Mines meets GMs of Marubeni Corporation**

YANGON, 15 July — Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint met General Managers of Marubeni Corporation of Japan Mr Mutsurni Ishizuki and Mr T Nakao and party at Maykha Hall of Myanmar Convention Centre, here, on 13 July.

Also present at the call were directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry.

— MNA

**75th birthday of Dr Htilar Sitthu and paper-reading session held**

YANGON, 15 July — A paper reading session to mark the 75th birthday of writer Dr Htilar Sitthu (PhD, D Litt and FDMU, Dublin-Ireland) was held at Thiri Yadana Hall of Hninzigon Home for the Aged in Bahan Township on 12 July.

In commemoration of the 75th birthday of Dr Htilar Sitthu, messages sent from abroad and at home were read.

Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), President of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Sciences U Than Oo and other scholars and writers read the papers. Writer Dr Htilar Sitthu presented his books and the papers of scholars as gifts to those present. Artistes sang songs. Later, writer Dr Htilar Sitthu spoke words of thanks.

— MNA

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Jonathan Sjuman and Manyar Kartika of Indonesia donate 100 bags of rice worth K 2.6 million to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Chairman of Executive Committee of the Home Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Retd).— MNA
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US and UK ‘no longer inseparable’

LONDON, 14 July—One of Gordon Brown’s new ministers has said the UK and the United States would no longer be “joined at the hip” on foreign policy.
Lord Mark Malloch Brown told the Daily Telegraph it was time for a more “impartial” foreign policy and to build relationships with European leaders. Some analysts may consider the Foreign Office minister’s remarks evidence of Labour distancing itself from the US.
Earlier, Downing Street denied another minister had criticised the US.

International Development Secretary Douglas Alexander warned in a speech against unilateralism and called for an “internationalist approach” to global problems.
Lord Malloch Brown’s newspaper interview was his first since being appointed Foreign Office minister. —Internet

Chinese firm sues Google over name

BEIJING, 15 July — Google Inc is being sued in China by a Beijing company that claims the owner of the world’s most popular Internet search engine is using the Chinese business’s name.
“We want Google to change their commercial name, and are not suing for any damages,” Tian Yunchan, company secretary for Beijing Guge Science and Technology Co, told Bloomberg News in a telephone interview yesterday. The case against Google’s Chinese unit has been accepted by a Haiyin district court in Beijing on 29 June, he said.

Mountain View, California-based Google said in April 2006 that its Chinese name, “Gu Ge”, which means “harvesting grain”, to capture more users. “As early as January 2006, Google filed trademark applications in a variety of areas to register “Gu Ge” with China’s Trademark Office of State Administration for Industry & Commerce,” Google China said yesterday in an e-mail.
China had 144 million Web users as of September 2006, according to government data. The United States could have a second-biggest online user base in the world’s largest Web market, according to Internet World Stats.

Google China does not comment on ongoing lawsuits, Marsha Wang, a spokeswoman for Google China, said in an e-mail.

General says US could draw down in north Iraq next year

WASHINGTON, 14 July— The United States could begin withdrawing troops from northern Iraq in January, the commander of US forces for the region said on Friday, as pressure mounts on the Bush Administration to end the war. Army Major-General Benjamin Mixon said a drawdown could take place over 12 to 18 months if US and Iraqi forces continued to make progress in establishing security in his area. But he cautioned against any reduction of forces in northern Iraq this year.

“I think that over time in a very methodical and well thought-out way—and I’m only speaking for Multinational Division North—that we could have a reduction of forces that could begin in January of 2008,” Mixon said.

Mixon’s area of responsibility includes Iraqi cities such as Kirkuk, Tikrit and Mosul as well as the volatile province of Diyala, the scene of a major US military operation in recent weeks against the militant group al-Qaeda in Iraq.

A brigade normally has around 3,000 to 5,000 troops. As Iraqi forces took over more security duties, US forces would concentrate on providing logistical support, air power and medical assistance, Mixon said.

President George W. Bush is under pressure from lawmakers in his own Republican Party, Democrats and US public opinion to pull troops out of Iraq. — MNA/Reuters

Strong typhoon hammers southern Japan

SYDNEY, 15 July— A powerful typhoon has lashed Japan’s southern main island of Kyushu, forcing thousands to flee their homes and killing two people, reportedly including an 11-year-old boy. Forecasters said Typhoon Man-yi, the worst storm to hit Japan since records began in 1951, would continue to wreak havoc as it moved north-east towards Tokyo and Osaka on the main island of Honshu.

The young boy and a 76-year-old man were reported dead after the typhoon made landfall on southern Kagoshima prefecture Saturday, and two others have been reported missing.

The elderly man was found unconscious after apparently falling into an irrigation ditch, while 11-year-old Keita Kamimura drowned after falling into a river.

“He apparently fell in the river as he tried to retrieve a ball, while playing with a cousin,” a local police officer said.

The Japanese weather agency warned of torrential rain, forecasting up to 80 millimetres per hour pounding almost all of Kagoshima prefecture.

The typhoon, which packed winds of up to 216 kilometres per hour and made landfall on the Osumi peninsula of southern Kyushu, was expected to move along the Pacific coast of the archipelago towards the Tokyo region.

The Japan Meteorological Agency forecast Man-yi would arrive in the Tokyo region on Sunday, warning of torrential rain, flooding and landslides.

Moderate earthquake jolts eastern Indonesia

JAKARTA, 15 July — An earthquake with magnitude of 5.1 jolted easternmost of Indonesia on Saturday, no report of casualty or damages, according to Meteorology and Geophysics Agency.

Two people, reportedly including an 11-year-old boy, were reported missing.

Typhoon Man-yi, the worst storm to hit Japan since records began in 1951, would continue to wreak havoc as it moved north-east towards Tokyo and Osaka on the main island of Honshu.

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A staff member of the Google Inc shows a billboard proclaiming the Chinese name of Google, in Beijing on 13 April, 2006. Google Inc has given itself a Chinese name, “Gu Ge”, which means “song of the harvest of grain”, to capture more users. — Internet

A roadside tree and bicycles are knocked down by strong winds on Japan’s southernmost main island of Kyushu on 14 July, 2007. — Internet

Russia’s President Vladimir Putin (C) chairs the session of the State Security Council at the presidential residence in Novo-Oganyovo outside Moscow, on 14 July, 2007. Putin has suspended Russia’s participation in a pact limiting conventional forces in Europe, the Kremlin said in a statement on Saturday. — Xinhua

A young boy is found unconscious after falling into a river. — MNA/Reuters

A 76-year-old man was reported dead after the typhoon made landfall on southern Kagoshima prefecture Saturday. — MNA/Reuters

A 76-year-old man was reported dead after the typhoon made landfall on southern Kagoshima prefecture Saturday. — MNA/Reuters
Twenty-four die in Nepal landslides

KATHMANDU, 14 July — At least 24 people have died and several others injured in landslides in two western districts Thursday night and Friday morning, local media reported on Friday.

According to a leading website, nepalnews.com, 14 were killed and 17 others injured Thursday night after 16 houses were buried under landslide in Gwalichowk Village in Baglung District, some 180 kilometres west of Kathmandu, the police said.

Three others have been missing. Over a dozen people were wounded in the landslide. A police team has been mobilized in the area for rescue work.

Meanwhile, at least 10 people were killed in a landslide in far-western in Bajura District Friday morning. — MNA/Xinhua

Heavy rainfalls in Colombia affect 100,000

BOGOTA, 14 July — Heavy rainfalls in Colombia caused two rivers to overflow in Cordoba Province in northwest Colombia, forcing some 100,000 people to leave home, local officials said on Friday.

The downpours will continue on Friday with the risk of more floods, the Hydrology, Meteorology, Environment Studies Institute (Ideam) stated.

Some 15,000 families living near Cordoba’s Sinu and San Jorge rivers were evacuated since 16 of the 28 municipalities were flooded. The current rainy season began in March and has already left 58 dead, over 600,000 displaced and 107 injured, Colombia’s Red Cross said. — MNA/Xinhua

Bush admits administration officials leaked identity of CIA agent

WASHINGTON, 14 July — US President George W Bush admitted publicly on Thursday that administration officials might have leaked the identity of a covert Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agent.

“I’m aware of the fact that perhaps somebody in the administration did disclose the name of that person,” Bush said at a new conference. “I’ve often thought about what would have happened if that person had come forth and said, ‘I did it.’ Would we have had this endless hours of investigation and a lot of money being spent on this matter?” he said of the CIA leak case.

The leak case started in the summer of 2003, when the identity of Valerie Plame Wilson, then a secret CIA operative, was disclosed in a newspaper column, days after her husband, Joseph Wilson, a former diplomat, criticized the Bush Administration for “twisting” intelligence to justify the Iraq war.

Wilson had said administration officials leaked Plame’s identity to retaliate for his public criticism of the President’s rationale for war.

The disclosure set off a chain of events that culminated in the appointment of special prosecutor Patrick J Fitzgerald and a grand jury’s indictment of I Lewis “Scooter” Libby, Vice-President Dick Cheney’s former chief of staff, for lying to investigators about his own conversations with reporters regarding Plame. — MNA/Xinhua

US forces kill six Iraqi police in Baghdad raid

BAHGDAD, 14 July — US soldiers killed at least six Iraqi policemen and seven suspected militants during a dawn raid in east Baghdad on Friday to arrest an Iraqi police lieutenant accused of militant links, the US military said.

A US war plane made an airstrike during the fighting after US soldiers were attacked with “heavy and accurate” gunfire from an Iraqi police checkpoint, rooftops and a nearby church, the military said in a statement.

The police lieutenant was detained in the raid. The US said he was suspected of planning roadside bomb and mortar attacks on US forces, and of close ties with Iranians accused by Washington of fomenting violence in Iraq. US and Iraqi forces have launched a major clampdown in Baghdad to try to thwart sectarian violence between minority Sunni and majority Shiite Arabs. — MNA/Reuters

A replica Viking ship made by Robert McDonald of the US from 15 million ice-cream sticks is seen doing a test sail on the Markermeer in Lelystad on 13 July, 2007. — INTERNET

Visitors watch water gushing out from the Nagarjunasagar Dam, about 160 km (99 miles) south from the southern Indian city of Hyderabad on 14 July, 2007. — INTERNET

A forest official holds a rescued two-month-old leopard cub at a wildlife rescue centre on the outskirts of the northeastern Indian city of Siliguri on 12 July, 2007. — XINHUA

A Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao (L, front) shakes hands with villagers in a tent at a temporary shelter in Yingxian Township of Linquan County, on 13 July, 2007. — XINHUA

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**ECONOMIC NEWS**

**Changchun Int’l Auto Fair opens in N-E China**

CHANGCHUN, 14 July — The Fifth China Changchun International Automobile Fair opened Friday in the capital of northeast China’s Jilin Province, with about 100 auto companies from home and abroad displaying 323 brands of vehicles.

International auto-makers including Volkswagen, Audi and General Motors, as well as major Chinese auto companies such as China First Automobile Works (FAW) Group Corp, will attend the 10-day event, organizers said.

Concept cars, trucks, buses, special purpose vehicles and vehicles for military use will be on display at the fair, which occupies an exhibition area of 40,000 square metres. Changchun is a major base of China’s auto industry. The international automobile fair is a biennial event which was first held in 1999.

As the fair opened, the Changchun-based FAW-Volkswagen joint venture saw its two millionth sedan roll off the production line.

**Foreign ownership of British shares on the rise**

LONDON, 14 July — Investors outside Britain owned 40 per cent of UK shares listed on the London Stock Exchange at the end of 2006, up from 36 per cent in 2004, official data showed on Friday. Foreign ownership has risen sharply over the past decade, reflecting the pace of cross-border merger activity and the flotation by foreign companies of British subsidiaries. In 1994, overseas investors held just 16 per cent of UK shares.— MNA/Reuters

**India launches first open sea cage**

NEW DELHI, 14 July — India has set up its first open sea cage in the near-shore sea off the south Indian city of Vishakhapatnam for culturing of Asian Sea Bass, the Indian Agriculture Ministry said Thursday.

The sea cage is expected to attract entrepreneur-ship development and market and open up a new era in the development of marine fisheries and mariculture in India.

The cage has been designed, fabricated and installed indigenously. The cage net is stocked with about 6,000 fingerlings of the highly priced sea bass, which are fed twice daily. A production of two tons of fish is anticipated within four to five months of grow out period from the cage.

The open sea cage is not only a productive venture to ensure high yields but also an eco-friendly and sustainable mariculture technology which has attracted aquaculturists as well the attention of local public.

Similar cages are being set up by the Agriculture Ministry under a pilot project implemented through the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) in Cochin of south India.

**ROK trade with China to top $200b in 2012**

JINAN, 15 July — The Republic of Korea’s Ambassador to China Kim Ha Joong said his country’s trade with China will top 200 billion US dollars by 2012, when the two countries will celebrate 20 years of establishing diplomatic relations.

The ROK and China have maintained close cooperation in political, economic, trade and cultural sectors since they forged ties in 1992, Kim said at the China (Shandong)-ROK Friendly Week in Jinan, capital of coastal Shandong Province.

Bilateral trade, he said, has soared from an annual five billion US dollars in the early 1990s to 134.3 billion US dollars last year.

China is the ROK’s largest trading partner and investment destination, he said.

By the end of last year, ROK businesses had invested nearly 35 billion US dollars in China. ROK’s electronics giant Samsung alone had invested more than five billion dollars.

Shandong Province is a key destination for ROK investment with many Korean-funded companies located in Jinan, Qingdao, Yantai and Weihai.

Closer exchanges in recent years have caused a craze among Chinese for ROK barbecues, clothing, cosmetics and soap operas.

**Oil surges to new 11-month high above $77**

NEW YORK, 15 July — Oil rose on Friday, hitting an 11-month high above 77 US dollars a barrel on speculative buying as North Sea production problems and forecasts for rising demand tightened the supply outlook. Oil has gained more than six US dollars in two weeks on a wave of buying by funds during the US summer vacation season, when demand for gasoline peaks in the top-consuming country. Global benchmark crude London Brent settled up 1.17 US dollars to 77.57 US dollars a barrel. Earlier, it reached an 11-month high of 77.68 US dollars, — a dollar short of last August’s 78.65 US dollars all-time record. US crude gained 1.43 US dollars to 73.93 US dollars a barrel.

Prices were boosted by news UK North Sea oil and gas production could be affected for weeks after a ship’s anchor damaged a pipeline needed to export associated gas to Britain.— MNA/Reuters

**An iPod is displayed at a store in California. A 37-year-old Canadian man who was struck by lightning while jogging and wearing his iPod suffered more severe injuries due to the metal electronic device, according to a report published on Thursday.**

*INTERNET*

**MNA/Xinhua**

**The Fifth China Changchun International Automobile Fair opened on 13 July, 2007.** — XINHUA

**ROK President of NV Investments Vivi Nevo (C) rides his bike as Yahoo president Sue Decker (1st L) and actress Zhang Ziyi (1st R) look on as they arrive for the second session of the Allen and Co conference at Sun Valley Resort in Idaho on 12 July, 2007.** — INTERNET

**MNA/Xinhua**
Rainy season tree planting ceremonies for 2007 held in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 15 July — Rainy season tree planting ceremonies for 2007 were held at the respective ministries, Supreme Court, Attorney-General’s Office, Auditor-General’s Office and Civil Service Selecting and Training Board here this morning.

The ceremonies were attended by the ministers, the deputy ministers, members of CSSTB, the directors-general, the managing directors, officials and service personnel concerned and they planted flowers and trees at the designated places.

The departments of the Ministry of Forestry established forest plantations for greening Nay Pyi Taw and its environs. In addition, the plan is under way to establish 200 acres of forest and crops in the watershed area of Paunglaung Dam, eastern part of Pyinmana. Small dams are being constructed in Nay Pyi Taw region for implementing the water supply project.

Ministry of Information holds rainy season tree planting ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 15 July — Rainy season tree planting ceremony of the Ministry of Information for 2007 was held at the respective ministries, Supreme Court, Attorney-General’s Office, Auditor-General’s Office and Civil Service Selecting and Training Board here this morning.

Staff of the Ministry’s office, Information and Public Relation Department, News and Periodicals Enterprise and Printing and Publishing Enterprise planted mahogany, star-flower and tamarind trees collectively.

10th Waso robes offering ceremony to be held at Chanmye Myaing monastery

YANGON, 15 July — The 10th Waso robes offering ceremony will be held at Chanmye Myaing monastery Laydaunkkan Ward, Mingaladon Township on 22 July.

Organized by Chanmye Myaing’s religious association, wellwishers Col Tin Shein and wife Daw Aye Mon Shein will provide cash donations for offering Waso robes and alms to 50 monks. Wellwishers have been invited to donate Waso robes and alms to members of the Sangha in person.

Foodstuff and personal goods provided to inmates

YANGON, 15 July — Mon State Union Solidarity and Development Association, Women’s Affairs Organization, Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee and Correctional Department on 26 June provided foodstuff and personal goods worth K 328,750 to inmates of Mawlanyine Jail.

Waso robes offering ceremony of Pantapwint Taung Monastery on 22 July

YANGON, 15 July — The 10th Waso robes offering ceremony of Pantapwint Taung Monastery will be held in conjunction with a ceremony to honour the donors of the Pantapwint Taung monastic education school in Pantapwint Taung Tawya religious area in Taikkyi Township, Yangon North District, on 22 July at noon. At the ceremony, Waso robes will be offered to Pantapwint Taung Sayadaw Siddhamma Jotika Dhaja Bhaddanta Pannasara and members of the Sangha. Those wishing to donate Waso robes and contribute to the funds of the monastery may contact Pantapwint Sayadaw (Tel - 0951-93845), U Myint Soe (Tel - 503993), U Kyaw Win (Tel - 642625), U Kyaw Lwin (Tel - 690139), Daw Tin Tin Win (Tel - 643581), Daw Htet Htet Aye (Tel - 579805), Daw Khin Moe Lwin (Tel - 690139), Daw Tin Tin Win (Tel - 643581), Daw Htet Htet Aye (Tel - 579805), Daw Khin Moe Lwin (Tel - 503993). Wellwishers can donate K 3,000 for a set of Waso robes and K 10,000 for meals and medicine for monks and monastic education purposes.
Paddy, 400,000 acres of summer paddy, 1.6 million acres of pea and 550,000 acres of edible oil crops. To increase the sown acreage of edible oil crop, cultivation of pulses and beans are to be mixed with sunflower.

He continued to say that Pyay District is to take responsibility to distribute quality strains of crops to other districts and townships. In addition, arrangements are to be made for growing of physic nut to meet the target. Likewise, all are to strive for development of livestock breeding sector. It is necessary to extend agricultural and livestock breeding tasks as much as possible. Officials are to make field trips to grass-roots level for undertaking five rural development tasks. In conclusion, he urged departmental personnel to join hands with local people to keep Pyay clean and tidy possessing town characteristics.

Next, they attended the opening ceremony of new Pyay Industrial Zone in Nawade Ward in Pyay. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than unveiled the signboard of the zone and sprinkled scented water on it.

Chairman of the Supervisory Committee U Aung Khin reported on the purpose of setting up the industrial zone, allotment of 303 plots for entrepreneurs, manufacturing of machine parts, auto parts and vehicles and arrangements for supply of water and power. The commander and officials gave supplementary reports.

After giving necessary instruction, Lt-Gen Maung Maung Than cordially greeted those present.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met servicemen and family members.

Afterwards, they attended the opening ceremony of Pyay Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee U Aung Khin formally opened the new industrial zone. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than unveiled the signboard of the zone and sprinkled scented water on it.

F & R Minister attends tree-planting ceremony

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No confidence and respect in party and its leaders due to its fruitless acts

In their resignation letter sent to Lubutta Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Subcommission, they said that they no longer wished to stand as NLD members and lost confidence and respect in the party and its leaders due to fruitless acts of the NLD. That was why, they resigned from the party of their own accord, they said.

A & I Minister receives Senior Energy Coordinator of FAO

Next, Manager U Win Myint of MPCE gave a supplementary report. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Maung Bocalled on officials concerned to provide necessary assistance to entrepreneurs who can help boost cultivation and production of palm oil, produce good strains of oil palm saplings for Taninthayi Division, arrangements to be made for manufacturing of edible oil from crude palm oil for regional edible oil sufficiency. Mon State has already cultivated 1,608 acres of oil palm and managed to produce 2,896 tons of palm oil.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected production of crude palm oil at 2.5-ton crude palm oil factory and then they were conducted by Factory Manager U Zaw Lin Oo and officials round there.

In connection with the reports, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions on measures to be taken for boosting per acre yield for regional edible oil sufficiency and stopped for the night in Thaton. — MNA

A & I Minister meets Japanese guests

Also present at the call were Japanese Ambassadors to the Union of Myanmar Mr Nobutake Odano, Directors-General, Managing Directors and General-Managers under the ministry.
Emergence of the State constitution, the national duty

Kyaw Soe (Kyaikmaraw)

The sovereignty of national people resides in the State constitution. The State sovereignty derives from the people. In this regard, the existence of the soul of the State sovereignty depends on the State constitution. The three sovereign powers of the State enumerated in the State constitution are to be adopted according to the wishes of the people. This reflects the sovereignty of the people.

After regaining independence, the Union of Myanmar became the Republic of Myanmar under the 1947 constitution, and the Socialist Republic of the Union of Myanmar under the 1974 constitution. Both the 1947 constitution and 1974 constitution featured the foundation of democracy that the people vested the powers in the representatives they had elected in accordance with the State constitution. It is also said that the State constitution is drawn by the people and vested in the people.

In fact, the people’s government system, which is the nature of democracy, is practised by the people for the people, is very good practice of social relations. Therefore it is said that democracy is not to be publicised but it is put into practice. In other words, it is a code of conduct and a technique; it is not a goal. It is a vehicle to be used for realization of a goal. It will be safeguarded with the sense of duty by the leaders. The people are responsible for safeguarding it with awareness. By doing so, they will enjoy the results of democracy which they deserve.

However, the parliamentary democracy period ended together with the 1947 constitution after 14 years from 1948 to 1962. Likewise, the 1974 Constitution and socialist democracy period came to an end after 14 years from 1974 to 1988. We should take lessons from these incidents.

The government organizations led by the State failed to prescribe the law of amendment concerning the weaknesses of the constitution in conformity with the situations in those days. They applied the constitution to gain power as they wished without abiding by the provisions of the existing constitution. These are the causes of the end of the constitutions.

For example, in 1958, the ruling AFPFL government split into two. Clean AFPFL government led by U Nu formed the Cabinet with over eight more votes in the Pyithu Hluttaw. According to the Article 125 (1) of the constitution, the Government shall prepare estimates of receipts and estimates of expenditure of the Union for each financial year, and shall present them to the Chamber of Deputies for consideration and approval. However, Clean AFPFL government dissolved the Chamber of Deputies and approved the State budget by the ordinance of the President. The reason for securing such approval was that the government might have to step down if the motion on the budget lost. That was why Clean AFPFL government dissolved the Chamber of Deputies and promulgated the State Budget by the ordinance of the president. The opposition Sae-Nyein AFPFL criticized that Clean AFPFL government violated the traditions of parliamentary democracy and assumed the constitution to be just a paper for gaining power. Moreover, in the constitution it was stated, every State shall have the right to secede from the Union after ten years. Sticking to these provisions, Shan Saw bwa feudalists and extremist national political parties that would not wish to relinquish their powers demanded the secession of Shan State from the Union. They also made a plot to break up the Union by joining the South East Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO). It was the weak point of the 1947 Constitution. According to the article 21/1 of that constitution, the Pa-ha-sa (Union) government substituted the expression, the State recognizes the special position of Buddhism as the faith professed by the great majority of the citizens of the Union, with the expression, Buddhism is the State religion as it was professed by the great majority of the citizens. They applied the religion for political purpose. As a result, racial and religious conflicts occurred and they harmed the national solidarity.

Drafting of the constitution is a task of national concern. This task cannot be undertaken through discussion with a party organization or an individual. If a party or an individual believes otherwise, that party or individual may be out of mind under the influence of the strong wish to grab power.

The NC reflects the wishes of the people and the entire nation. It carries national essence. It undertakes the nation-building task, a noble one. The delegates, representing the political parties, national races, different strata, rich and poor, regardless of social status and religious faith, are laying the foundation for a new nation for the future after due coordination and consultation in unity and togetherness. This is national political development required by the historical trend of Myanmar; no one can hinder or oppose the process. If an individual or a party tries to do so, the person or the party will be documented as a culprit in the history of the nation.

Although the 1974 Constitution was adopted through a referendum it was drafted by the Lanzin party in line with the single party system. This is the main weak point. Moreover, in exercise of the executive, administrative and legislative powers under the Constitution to be in line with the provisions, some party members themselves were meddling in such affairs and this was like breaching the Constitution. And the prohibition of those who were not party members from standing for election in order to discharge the State duties although the provisions stated that anyone who is a party member or not has the right to stand for election if he meets the prescribed qualification is against the Constitution and amounts to total disregard of the rights of a citizen.

The worst of it was that partiality and wielding of influence in the sharing of organizing and administrative powers among the township party units of Lanzin party which was adopted by the State constitution as a sole leading political party of the State. Consequently, there had emerged rivalries among parties and the trust and support of the people eroded. In the meantime, banknotes were demonetized three times in order to freeze black money in the hands of unscrupulous businessmen and insurgents. The move was a great blow to both unscrupulous businessmen and insurgents as well as the people including those who live from hand to mouth and the needy.

One of the reasons that caused such incidents is the weakness of those who did not practise rules and regulations in accordance with the provisions of the State constitution. The society and the system built on such faulty and defective laws could not exist.

Having reviewed the weaknesses of the 1947 constitution and the 1974 constitution and that of the world constitutions, the Tatmadaw government is making all-out efforts for the writing of a new State constitution, drawing lessons from the prevailing and past political, economic and social conditions of the State.

The 1947 Constitution was drafted by 111 persons in 108 days under the colonial rule. As the 1947 Constitution had to be drawn under the British government by a handful of people in a short period of time based on the wishes to regain independence as soon as possible and with the desires of the entire national people to march forward in unison believing that they would be able to foster trust and understanding among them in ten years, it hadn’t become a complete and enduring constitution. In addition, the inclusion of only four states under the Constitution had caused mistrust and suspicion among some national races that Bamar were trying to influence others. Those mistrust and suspicion had turned out to be the best opportunity for colonialists to sow discord and dissension among national races. (See page 9)
In consequence, armed insurgencies of some national race groups erupted. Feudal Sawbwas fearing to relinquish their powers and privileges in collusion with extremist political parties of national races and foreign spy organizations forcibly demanded the federal principle. The Union was on the brink of collapse as secret operations were launched. And as a result, the 1947 constitution became null and void.

Similarly, the 1974 constitution came into being when one party system was in practice. After commissions at central, state/division, township and ward levels had been formed, public opinion was sought to draw the first and second drafts of the constitution. Then the constitution became effective after a national referendum was held in 1974.

However, it is the undeniable fact that when the 1988 disturbances occurred, that constitution also became null and void and as it could not protect the public interest in practical daily life. If a constitution failed to serve and protect the interests of the State and the people, the following measures would have to be taken:

(a) A new constitution shall have to be drawn in democratic way by calling a new Hluttaw or referendum.

(b) When the State’s administrative machinery breaks down due to civil unrest, new administrative machinery is usually adopted by the people.

(c) There were the times when national forces like the Tatmadaw that were responsible for national security and defence had to take over State responsibility when the nation’s situation deteriorated.

The above-mentioned incidents happened not only in Myanmar but also in other parts of the world. And these are indeed a natural phenomenon.

The Tatmadaw had to take over State power for two times — the first on 2 March 1962 and the second on 18 September 1988. Reviewing that, the Tatmadaw government believed that an enduring constitution was necessary as it did not want to intervene any more. That was why the government convened the National Convention on 9 January 1993 after inviting delegate groups of political parties, representatives-elect, national races, workers, peasants, intellectuals and intelligentsia, State service personnel and other invited guests. During the period from 1993 to 1996 the National Convention was held for six times and 104 basic principles and detailed basic principles regarding the seven chapters were laid down.

Nonetheless, the NLD party that started attending the National Convention in 1995 walked out by order of Daw Suu Kyi, who was already dismissed from the party as general secretary. This situation caused the National Convention to adjourn temporarily and a standstill in political progress. The NLD turned its back on the National Convention in disregard of national cause and national interest but in favour of party interest while following the wishes of an individual and the colonialist bloc.

Be that as it may, the Tatmadaw government has not lost sight of the transition to democracy desired by the people although the NLD veered off the democratic process. With a view to serving the interests of the nation and the people, the Tatmadaw government reconvened a session of the National Convention from 17 May 2004 to 9 July 2004. A total of 1086 delegates representing political parties, representatives-elect, national races, peasants, State service personnel, the 17 national race armed groups that had returned to the legal fold, and other organizations attended and took part in the discussions. The delegates discussed and gave suggestions on the detailed basic principles concerning legislation on the power sharing in 11 sectors and five other matters.

The delegates organized the NC to serve as a forum of the people and the entire nation. It carries national essence. It undertakes the nation-building task, a noble one. The delegates, representing the political parties, national races, different strata, rich and poor, regardless of social status and religious faith, are laying the foundation for a new nation for the future after due coordination and consultation in unity and togetherness. This is national political development required by the historical trend of Myanmar; no one can hinder or oppose the process. If an individual or a party tries to do so, the person or the party will be documented as a culprit in the history of the nation.

The peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing new democratic nation is the national goal. To realize the goal, the seven-step Road Map has been laid and the National Convention is in session as the first step.

The National Convention will surely build a future state that will shape the people’s socio-economic environment guaranteeing discipline-flourishing social relations.

Successful convening of the National Convention is laying the foundation for the realization of one of the four political objectives calling for the building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution. Hence the entire mass of the people are urged to ward off and crush all the schemes such as political intrigues, racial discrimination and exercise of religious influence and mobilize the united and consolidated strength of mass of people in order to bring about successful completion of the National Convention and emergence of the State Constitution as a national task.

Translation: NY+TS+ST+ AK
Myanma Alin & Kyemon (15-7-07)
Information Minister meets former and new CECs of MMPA

YANGON, 15 July—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan this morning met with the newly elected Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon executive committee and executives, former Chairman of MMPA U Kyi Soe Tun and executives, those from journals and magazines, correspondents and others.

In his address, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the former executive committee of MMPA led by U Kyi Soe Tun was formed on 4 June 2005 and the new executive committee of MMPA led by U Myint Thein Pe was reconstituted on 24 June 2007. As the term of the MMPA and basic strata was designated for two years they had to be reconstituted like this in accord with rules and regulations, he noted.

The minister thanked former executive committee of MMPA and old members of basic strata for their cooperation in the interest of the film world and those from the film world with genuine affection, putting aside their social, economic and fine arts matters. The five objectives to be implemented by MMPA in the interest of the film world and those from the film world have been laid down, and they are:

(A) To give priority to development and consolidation of the Myanmar film and video world for improvement of socio-economic life of those from the film world
(B) To strive for development of technology for producing Myanmar film and video
(C) To make efforts for ensuring producing of higher standard of Myanmar film and video
(D) To take measures for Myanmar film and video to penetrate foreign markets
(E) To strive for discharging the national duties together with the government

The minister urged MMPA and those from the film world to make concerted efforts for successful realization of those objectives.

To realize those objectives there are 12 basic points to be implemented by MMPA. However, only five points out of the 12 points are to be implemented as all the points are much wider.

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets former and newly elected CECs of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon.— MNA

Labour, Rail Transportation stun opponents by wide margin

NAY PYI TAW, 15 July — The last matches for first round of the 1st Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament were held at the designated places today.

At Paunglaung Sports Ground in Pyinmana, Ministry of Labour whitewashed Ministry of Construction 23-0 in the morning, and Ministry of Rail Transportation trounced Ministry of Electric Power 2-0.

Among the spectators were Deputy Ministers for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin and U Pe Thun, departmental heads, service personnel and family members.

The second round of the tournament will commence on 17 July. Ministry of Industry-1 will play against Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs at Paunglaung Sports Ground in the afternoon.

In conclusion, the minister urged MMPA to successfully implement the tasks during two years and bring about development of the film world, the former MMPA to give a helping hand in this regard in the interest of the film world and those from the film world.

Next, former Chairman of Executive Committee of MMPA U Kyi Soe Tun expressed thanks.

After that, Chairman of Executive Committee of MMPA U Myint Thein Pe reported on remedial measures to be taken on the basis of strengths and weaknesses and making concerted efforts with goodwill in the interest of the people.

Later, Secretary of MWJA Dr Tin Tun Oo and U Win Nyein of Alindan Journal reported on assistance to be provided for development of the film world and those from the film world.

The minister urged MMPA to successfully implement the tasks during two years and bring about development of the film world, the former MMPA to give a helping hand in this regard in the interest of the film world and those from the film world.

After the meeting, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan greeted those present on the occasion.

MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flat-tered
* Do not be softened whenever appealed
YANGON, 15 July— A total of 4093 local and foreign merchants attended the Jade, Gems and Pearl Special Sales for 2007 which continued for the 10th day at Myanmar Convention Center on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township today. They purchased gems and jewelry through tender and competitive bidding systems and 45 lots of jade were sold today.

Gem merchants bought 42 jade lots through competitive bidding system today. From 6 July to date, as many as 4261 jade lots have been sold. The sales of jade lots continues tomorrow.

Patron of Myanmar Gem Emporium Central Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and members visited the special sales this afternoon.

YANGON, 15 July — Panasonic and Advanced Vision Co Ltd jointly organized the Thinking Big? Think Plasma! Viera Flat Panel TV Product Seminar at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road, here, this evening.

Assistant Manager Ms Joanne Ng of Marketing Department of Panasonic (Singapore) gave an opening speech. Sales & Marketing Manager Mr Philip Chua of FPTV Division explained Panasonic Viera Plasma TV. Next, Managing Director U Tun Wai of Advanced Vision Co Ltd spoke words of thanks.

As part of sale promotion programme, Ocean City Mart Gift Vouchers worth K 50,000-K300,000 will be given to customers up to end of August.

Sole agent Advanced Vision Co Ltd distributes Panasonic TVs at its salesroom at 263 at the corner of Maha Bandoola and Theinbyu Streets, YMCA Building, Botataung Township, Tel: 296578, and at 227, room 208-A, 78 Shopping Mall, between 78th and 38th Streets, Maha Aungmyay Township, Tel: 02-71470-76, extension-117, the Service Center at 263, YMCA Building, Botataung Township, Tel: 294565 and 200557. — MNA

YANGON, 15 July — The signing ceremony of Advanced Diagnostics Products Trading Co Ltd and ROCHE Diagnostics (Thailand) was held in conjunction with new product introduction ceremony at the Traders Hotel this morning.

First, Managing Director Dr Andrew Phan of Advanced Diagnostics Products Trading Co Ltd and Managing Director Mrs Arirat Banpavichit of ROCHE Diagnostics (Thailand) Co signed on sole distribution in Myanmar. Next, Professor Col Myo Nyunt (Retd) extended greetings at the ceremony.

Later, Dr Narpun Charuraks of Bangkok Bumrungrad Hospital, Mrs Arirat Banpavichit and Dr Andrew Phan gave educative talks and explained functions and services of the company.

Advanced Diagnostics Products Trading Co Ltd is a sole distributor of diagnostic products and point of care testing meter of ROCHE Diagnostics (Thailand) Co. MNA
Annan says US more willing to work with other nations

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 July — The United States is now more willing to work with other nations to achieve its global aims than when it led an invasion of Iraq in 2003, former UN chief Kofi Annan, who opposed the move, said on Friday.

Relations between the United States and the United Nations deteriorated after the UN Security Council refused to endorse the invasion and Annan agreed with the Council.

Annan has described the failure to prevent the Iraq war as the worst moment of his 10 years as UN leader. The invasion led to a series of clashes with the administration of George W Bush over the appropriate role of the United Nations.

During a visit to Malaysia on Friday, Annan said it was important for the United States to work together with other member states of the United Nations to make the body as strong as possible.

"Let me say that the UN needs the US and the US needs the UN," Annan told reporters in the Malaysian capital, where he delivered a talk on development issues.

"There is no doubt about that, and I think that has become patently clear."

He added, "I sense a shift in Washington where even this administration is becoming more multilateral than it was two years ago, more multi-lateral than it was in 2003, before the war, and I suspect the next administration will continue this trend."

On Thursday, Bush put off changing course in Iraq for at least two months and killed over 2,300 people since it erupted in early 2004— the worst reviews in meeting with other members of the Iraqi Government a mixed review in meeting political and security goals — providing more ammunition for war opponents demanding that Bush start ending US military involvement.

An Iraqi journalist working for a US newspaper was killed by gunmen on Friday, an Interior Ministry source said. Nameer Noor al-Deen (R), 22-year-old photographer and his driver Saeed Shmigh (L), 42. — XINHUA

UN says border maps may mean Israeli-Lebanon talks

JERUSALEM, 14 July — A UN survey of the disputed Shebaa Farms on the borders of Israel, Lebanon and Syria should be complete by September, paving the way to talks on the fate of the Israeli-controlled area, a UN envoy said on Thursday.

A UN cartographer under special envoy Michael Williams’s supervision has been working on the area for more than six months, using documents and maps, some of which date back to the French colonial period from the 1920s to 1940s.

Williams said the cartographer’s role was limited to mapping the area using both old maps and documents and a physical survey. But it was not meant to determine which state has sovereignty over the Shebaa Farms.

Syria and Lebanon say the roughly 40-square-kilometre (15-square-mile) patch is Lebanese. The United Nations has long held that the Shebaa Farms were inside Syrian territory that was occupied by Israeli forces in their 1967 war.

The Lebanese guerrillas of Hizbollah, which fought a war with Israel a year ago, has said Israel’s occupation of the Shebaa Farms is one reason for the group to keep its arms.

"The question of ownership and sovereignty is not something that the cartographer is specifically looking at," Williams told Reuters in an interview. — XINHUA

Russian strategic aircraft fire missiles in Arctic exercise

MOSCOW, 14 July — The Russian Air Force said on Thursday a group of four strategic missile aircraft achieved their objectives in a major Navy and Air Force exercise off Russia’s Arctic coast. "Four Tu-22M3 strategic missile aircraft made over 20 sorties, firing air-to-surface missiles and successfully hitting their targets in the Barents Sea," Colonel Alexander Drobyshevsky, an Air Force spokesman, was quoted by the RIA Novosti news agency as saying.

The spokesman said NATO air surveillance activities increased in the area. "Right now, we see two to three Orions, or Atlantics, or RS-135s every day where we have normally detected only one such (surveillance) plane," Drobyshevsky said.

According to the Defence Ministry, the Tu-22M3 (NATO code name Backfire-C) is a strategic aircraft carrying one to three (NATO code name Kitchen) air-to-surface missiles with a range of up to 500 kilometres. — MNA/Xinhua

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China develops home-grown electric vehicle engines

BEIJING, 15 July — China has developed its own electric vehicle engines after more than a decade’s research, a scientist with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) announced here on Saturday.

China has proprietary intellectual property rights for the synchronous drive motors and the permanent magnet synchronous motors for electric vehicles, according to Wen Xuhui, top researcher of the electric vehicle project of CAS’ Institute of Electrical Engineering.

"Some of the newly-developed motors have been used in electric vehicles produced by major Chinese automobile manufacturers," Wen said.

Four electric buses driven by alternating current motors are being piloted on Beijing’s No 121 bus line ahead of the upcoming 2008 Olympics.

“A dozen or so electric buses will hit the road soon,” Wen said.

Wen said the current motorization systems are principally for use in buses. “Electric cars have more demanding motor requirements.”

Chinese scientists have worked out technological standards for the engine systems to guide development of the electric vehicles, according to Wen.

Scaled production of the environmentally-friendly hybrid vehicles, including the fuel-cell bus, the hybrid-electric bus and a bus that runs purely on electricity, has been listed as a key task in China’s 11th Five-Year Programme from 2006 to 2010. — MNA/Xinhua

Melting ice drives mother polar bears to land

WASHINGTON, 14 July — Melting sea ice is driving mother polar bears onto dry land to give birth in northern Alaska, US Geological Survey scientists reported on Thursday.

They found that just 37 per cent of polar bear dens were built on sea ice between 1998 and 2004, compared to 62 per cent between 1985 and 1994.

“Right now, pregnant females foraging offshore in summer must wait up to a month longer than they did even 10 years ago for new sea ice to form so they can travel to denning areas on land,” USGS researcher Steve Amstrup said in a statement.

“Alternatively, they must swim ever greater expanses of open water to reach suitable land denning habitat or they must den on ice that may not be stable enough to survive the winter.”

Eventually, the researchers predicted, the ice will freeze so late that bears will be stranded at sea too far away to reach land safely.

Pregnant polar bears must create dens to protect new cubs from the Arctic winter. Arctic seas are warming and the ice is melting as global temperatures rise. — MNA/Reuters

France to boost cooperation in agri research with Algeria

PARIS, 14 July — France on Thursday signed a cooperation agreement in the field of agricultural research with Algeria, within the framework for reinforcing cooperation between the two countries, French Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) has announced.

The agreement, which was signed on behalf of France by INRA and the International Cooperation Centre of Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD) and by the National Institute for Agricultural Research of Algeria and the National Forestry Research Institute on behalf of Algeria, covers research in the domain of agriculture, forestry and environment, according to the statement. — MNA/Reuters

Nigerian pupils work on computers at the LSA primary school in Abuja in this 30 May, 2007 file photo. Intel Corp said on 13 July, 2007, it will support the Massachusetts Institute of Technology researcher’s project to put computers in the hands of poor children around the world, reversing its long-standing opposition to the proposal. — INTERNET

Rainforest World Music Fest begins in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 July — The award-winning Rainforest World Music Festival (RWMF) launched its 10th anniversary edition at Malaysia’s Sarawak Cultural Village on Friday, promising to deliver on stage splendid performances, exotic sounds and a colourful mixture of indigenous music from all continents. The RWMF, which started in 1998, has earned wide international acclaim for its cultural uniqueness.

The three-day festival starts with daytime mini shows and workshops which include interactive sessions, ethno musical lectures, and dance workshops while, in the evening, the festival would feature shows under a canopy of trees and the night sky. The evening show on Friday began with a performance by a band from Sarawak. Other bands to perform at the festival are from Canada, Zimbabwe, England, the United States, Britain, and Lebanon.

In view of the festival’s 10th anniversary this year, the Sarawak Tourism Board (STB) has brought the best groups from the 130 that had performed here since the start of the festival in 1998 for a “reunion concert”. Randy Raine-Reusch, who was actively involved in the running of the festival in 1998 when he came to Sarawak to look for ethno-musical instruments to add to his collection, said the festival had become a grand one following its humble start.— MNA/Xinhua

A band performs at the Rainforest World Music Festival at the foothills of Mount Santubong near Kuching in the eastern Sarawak state, July 2004. This year, thousands of revellers will be jamming in the jungle on Malaysia's Borneo island this weekend at the annual festival once again, to promote going green, according to organizers. — INTERNET

A polar bear sow and two cubs are seen on the Beaufort Sea coast within the 1002 Area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in this undated handout file photo. — INTERNET

The three-day Rainforest World Music Fest begins in Malaysia.
Mexico take third spot as Lugano’s misery continues
CARACAS, 15 July — Uruguay defender Diego Lugano, whose missed penalty led to the semifinal defeat against Brazil, was sent off and gave away a penalty as his side lost 3-1 to Mexico in the Copa America third-place match on Saturday.

Sebastian Abreu put Uruguay ahead in the 21st minute when he headed in Maximiliano Pereira’s header at the far post but the game turned in the 37th minute when Lugano elbowed Gerardo Torrado in the penalty area. — MNA/Reuters

Williams beats Petrova, US, Russia tied
BOSTON, 15 July — Wimbledon champion Venus Williams beat Russian Nadia Petrova 7-6, 0-6, 6-4 in the second singles on Saturday to level the Fed Cup semifinal between the United States and Russia at 1-1 in Stowe, Vermont.

Williams, who claimed her fourth Wimbledon singles crown last week, took the first-set tiebreaker 8-6 and then roared back after being blanked in the second set to improve her career Fed Cup singles record to 13-2.

“After all the matches I played at Wimbledon, that stress level, I don’t get nervous any more,” Williams, who was down a break in the third set, said about rising to the task of evening up the semifinal.

In the opening singles, Anna Chakvetadze beat Vania King 6-1, 6-3 to give Russia a 1-0 lead in the task of evening up the semifinal.

Australia’s Mark Woodforde and Hewitt
BOSTON, 15 July — Australians Hewitt and Woodforde, the third-seed, needed three sets to outlast qualifier Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi of Pakistan 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, to advance to the semifinals of the 416,000-dollar New England Open tennis tournament. Spadea put up a better show in the next round.

Santoro, Mahut in storming Bastille Day win at Newport
BOSTON, 15 July — Fabrice Santoro and Nicolas Mahut celebrated Bastille Day in style by setting up the first all-French final in the 31-year history of the Hall of Fame Championship on Saturday.

Fourth seed Santoro defeated South Africa’s Wesley Moodie 7-6 (7-2) 6-3 after the fifth-seeded Mahut had come through 6-4, 6-7 (7-2) 6-2 against Belgium’s Dick Norman to advance to Sunday’s final. “A good day for the French. A good week so far,” Santoro told reporters after moving into his first final since winning his fourth ATP title in Dubai in 2002. — MNA/Reuters

Participants take part in the opening ceremony of the Pan American Games at Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on 13 July, 2007. —XINHUA

Mickelson makes splash in more ways than one
LOCH LOMOND (Scotland), 15 July — An outrageous birdie four at the Scottish Open’s third hole on Saturday boosted Phil Mickelson’s hopes of claiming only his second victory outside the United States.

The world number three found a greenside pond in contrast failed to capitalise on any of his six break opportunities.

Moodie booked a showdown with fourth-seeded Fabrice Santoro of France. Santoro advanced with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over German Mischa Zverev.

Belgian Dick Norman needed three sets to outlast qualifier Aisam-U Haq Qureshi of Pakistan 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.—MNA/Xinhua

British tennis player Kim Clijsters returns a shot to Russia’s Svetlana Kuznetsova during their women’s singles match of the 2007 US Open tennis tournament at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York, US, 14 July, 2007. —AFP

Moodie upset second-seed Spadea at Newport
WASHINGTON, 15 July — South African Wesley Moodie shocked second-seeded American Vincent Spadea in straight sets here Friday to reach the semifinals of the 416,000-dollar Hall of Fame Tennis Championships.

Moodie converted two of his six break chances en route to the 6-4, 6-4 victory in the grass court tournament. Spadea in contrast failed to capitalise on any of his six break opportunities.

Moodie booked a showdown with fourth-seeded Fabrice Santoro of France. Santoro advanced with a 6-4, 6-3 victory over German Mischa Zverev.

Belgian Dick Norman needed three sets to outlast qualifier Aisam-U Haq Qureshi of Pakistan 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.—MNA/Xinhua

Sampras, Sanchez-Vicario inducted into Hall of Fame
BOSTON, 15 July — Pete Sampras, winner of a record 14 Grand Slam crowns, and four-times Grand Slam winner Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario were inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island on Saturday.

Sampras held the world number one ranking for a record 286 weeks, including a streak of 102 weeks between 15 April, 1996 and March 30, 1998 and held the year-end number one ranking a record six consecutive years (1993-98). —MNA/Reuters

Knost eyes Masters after winning US public links title
CHICAGO, 15 July — American Colt Knost earned a possible invitation to next year’s Masters by winning the US amateur public links championship in Wheaton, Illinois on Saturday.

The 22-year-old from Dallas, Texas eased to a 6 and 4 victory over 18-year-old Cody Palaudio in the 36-hole final at Cantigny Golf. A graduate of Southern Methodist University where he earned third-team All-America honours this season, Knost won the first three holes against his opponent to set the tone for the rest of the day. — MNA/Reuters

T-Mobile team rider Linus Gerdemann of Germany cycles to win the seventh stage of the 94th Tour de France cycling race between Bourg-en-Bresse and Le Grand-Bornand, on 14 July, 2007. — INTERNET

Answers to yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

C S B S J E R R Y
H A T T R I C K X E
I A I O A C U T E
V I G I L A N T H A
E E L C H A R R Y
S O P H I E N D
S T O K E R O R G I E S
R L Y W E D
D I V A N E W A C
D H O F F E N D E R
R E N O M I T I E
N M G R I V E
S T O A T Y D U L

Beckham 23

Long jumper Salim Said of France is carried away by paramedics after he was hit by a javelin during the Golden Gala IAAF Golden League at the Olympic stadium in Rome on 13 July, 2007. — INTERNET

MNA/Reuters
Most Americans think Bush’s “surge” strategy for Iraq a failure

WASHINGTON, 15 July — Nearly two-thirds of Americans believe that President George W Bush’s troop “surge” strategy for Iraq has been a failure, at a time when the President was trying to rally support for the strategy, according to a new poll released by Newsweek on Friday.

The poll, conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International for Newsweek, also found broad public support for cutting the number of US troops deployed on the battlefield in Iraq. But less than 20 per cent favoured immediate withdrawal.

Sixty-eight per cent of those surveyed disapproved of the way the President is handling the war in Iraq, and the public approval of Bush’s handling of Iraq has remained below the 30-per-cent mark since January, when he announced his plans to increase the number of troops deployed there.

Sixty-four per cent of Americans feel the surge into Iraq has been a failure, while 22 per cent deem it a success. Bush’s overall approval rating is 29 per cent, up three points from a Newsweek poll earlier this month.

Out of four possible options in the poll, 19 per cent of the respondents chose immediate total withdrawal, 13 per cent do not want any cutbacks at all, and 24 per cent would implement a gradual withdrawal plan that would start in the fall and extend until the spring. Forty per cent favour keeping a substantial number of troops on the ground there, on the condition that they fall back to their bases and focus solely on training Iraqis and targeting al-Qaeda.

The poll was conducted with 1,003 adults on Wednesday and Thursday and has the overall margin of error at plus or minus four percentage points.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukpyu (5.05) inches, Sittway (5.08) inches, Gwa (4.33) inches, Thandwe (3.26) inches, Mawlamyine (2.68) inches, Dawei (2.20) inches and Kayan (2.09) inches.

Maximum temperature on 14-7-2007 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 15-7-2007 was 72°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 15-7-2007 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 14-7-2007 was (3.1) hours approx.

Rainfall on 15-7-2007 was (1.57) inches at Mingaladon, (1.61) inches at Kabu-Aye, (1.77) inches at Central Yangon. Total rainfall from 1-1-2007 was (73.11) inches at Mingaladon, (77.44) inches at Kabu-Aye and (77.20) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from West at (15:30) hours MST on 14-7-2007.

Bay influence: Monsoon strong to vigorous in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 16-7-2007: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Mandalay and Magway Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan State and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (45) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong Monsoon.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 16-7-2007: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 16-7-2007: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 16-7-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

* MNA/Xinhua
NAY PYI TAW, 15 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division PDC Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Vice-Chairman Col Sein Myint and Col Maung Maung Aye of Inma Station, met departmental personnel, social organization members and local people at Thiri Khittaya Yadana Hall in Pyay on 13 July.

Chairman of Pyay District PDC U Aung Khin reported on progress of the district.

In his address, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that Pyay District is a reliable region for Bago Division in agricultural sector. The district has surplus rice and sufficient edible oil and grows pulses and beans. Moreover, Pyay District is to carry out the agricultural tasks for exceeding the target so that Bago Division can meet its agricultural target of 3 million acres of monsoon.

(See page 7)

Lt-Gen Maung Bo of Ministry of Defence visits Pyay Industrial Zone. — MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo looks into regional development tasks in Mon State

NAY PYI TAW, 15 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence together with departmental heads left here for Mon State by car on 12 July in order to inspect regional development tasks there.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party were welcomed by Chairman of Mon State PDC Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and senior military officers and departmental heads on their arrival at Sittoung Bridge linking Bago Division and Mon State.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and party went on an inspection tour of Oil Palm Research and Reproduction Farm (Ingapo) of Myanma Perennial Crops Enterprise.

At the briefing hall, Farm Manager U Kyaw Htay briefed Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party on location of the farm and its background history, cultivation of 1,677 acres of oil palm and 486 acres of other crops in the farm, production of 1,375,121 viss of plums exceeding the target of 1,245,000 viss in 2006-2007 and Crude Palm Oil Factory Manager on production process of crude palm oil, production of 288.79 tons of crude palm oil exceeding the target of 264 tons in 2006-2007 and arrangements to be made for boosting production of crude palm oil in 2007-2008.

(See page 7)

Emergence of the State constitution, the national duty

National Convention reflects the wishes of the people and the entire nation. It carries national essence. It undertakes the nation-building task, a noble one.

KYAW SOE (KYAIKMARAW)