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Lt-Gen Ye Myint visits paddy fields in Mayangon Village on Shwebo-Myitkyina Road as farmers broadcast fertilizer into the fields. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint explains regional development in Mohnyin, Hopin, Mogaung

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspects development of Mongphyat, Tachilek, meets local entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurs urged to grow rubber and physic nut in addition to doing business

NAY PYI TAW, 21 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, met servicemen and family members at the local battalion in Mohnyin on 17 July morning. (See page 10)

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of Ministry of Defence presents gift to an outstanding exporter. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (East) PDC Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Min Aung Hlaing left Kengtung for Mongphyat on 19 July. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party inspected thriving monsoon paddy plantations and development of Mongphyat. In the evening, they arrived in Tachilek. On 20 July, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspected physic nut (See page 10)

Collection of suggestions of NC delegates on Provisions on State of Emergency to be published

Yangon, 21 July — The collection of the suggestions made by NC delegates on laying down detailed basic principles for the chapter on “Provisions on State of Emergency” to be included in drafting the State Constitution at the plenary session of the National Convention at the Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, yesterday, will be published in dailies.

MNA

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

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win of Ministry of Defence presents gift to an outstanding exporter.
Dunban Bridge contributing regional development

Kachin State, located in the far north of Myanmar, is rich in natural resources. Kachin State lagged behind in economic, social, education, health and transport sectors in the past, since there was no peace and tranquillity then.

With peace and stability in the region new roads have been constructed, the old ones renovated and Myitkyina-Mandalay Road upgraded. Moreover, Myitkyina, Bhamo and Putao Airports were also upgraded. As a result, transport and communication services have improved much.

The 216-foot Dunban Bridge on Myitkyina-Tanai-Panhsaung-Ledo Road was inaugurated the other day.

The bridge was built at a cost of K 285.5 million and it is an important bridge on Myitkyina-Namt-Tanai-Panhsaung-Ledo Road.

Beginning 1988, the Ministry of Construction built altogether 207 bridges which are 180 feet and above nationwide.

For the effective use of the bridges, the entire people are to help maintain them and make the most beneficial use of the facilities for regional and national development.

Six members quit Kyimyinde, Insein NLDs Political activities of NLD deviating from their beliefs

YANGON, 21 July — Member Daw Chit Tin of Kyimyinde Township National League for Democracy and members U Khin Maung Myint, U Tun Tun Naung, U Kyaw Moe Win, U Soe Win and Daw Myint Myint of Insein Township NLD on 11 July resigned from the NLD of their own volition, and sent letters of resignation to the NLD Headquarters and local authorities.

In the letters of resignation sent to Kyimyinde and Insein Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Subcommissions, they said that although they joined the NLD with the convince to carry out party politics only and serve the interest of the local people, the political activities of the NLD are deviating from their beliefs. That is why they resigned from the party of their own accord, they said.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries offers Waso robes

NAV PYI TAW, 21 July — Under the auspices of Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and wife Daw Myint Myint Aye, staff families of the Ministry held the 2nd Waso robes offering ceremony at the ministry here yesterday.

Member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Pali Takkatho Mingalazeyon Monastery Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi invested the congregations with the Five Precepts. Next, the Sayadaws recited the Parittas. Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Managing Directors Do.

PPE holds Waso robes offering ceremony

NAV PYI TAW, 21 July — Under the patronage of Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win, families of Printing and Publishing Enterprise held a Waso robes offering ceremony at Gainghtauk Monastery in Ywakauk Village in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinnmana this morning.

It was attended by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Presiding Sayadaw of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinnmana Pali Takkatho Sarthinta Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanna Vimala Buddha, Presiding Sayadaw of Gainghtauk Monastery Bhaddanta Utama and invited members of the Sangha, Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Aung Nyein, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Soe Win and officials.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimalavuddhi administered the Five Precepts to the congregations and members of the Sangha recited Parittas. Later, Managing Director U Aung Nyein and officials donated Waso robes and provisions to the Sayadaws and monks.

Waso robes offering ceremony of Printing and Publishing Enterprise in progress. — MNA

MRTV, IPRD (Yangon Div Office) offer Waso robes

YANGON, 21 July— Under the auspices of Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and wife Daw Kyi Kyi Win, Myanma Radio and Television and the Information and Public Relations Department (Yangon Division Office) held the 10th Waso robes offering ceremony at NanU (Parahita) Monastery in Ward 5 of Mayangon Township here this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of MRTV, Managing Director U Aung Myo Myint of Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise and departmental officials.

NanU (Parahita) Monastery Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Dhammasetha administered the Nine Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited the Parittas.

Director-General U Khin Maung Htay and the congregations donated Waso robes and alms to the Sayadaws.

Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vannissara of the monastery delivered a sermon, and the congregations gained merit.
Peres calls for peace talks with Syria

JERUSALEM, 20 July — Israeli President Shimon Peres called on Thursday for Syrian and Israeli leaders to meet and resume long-stalled peace talks between the two countries.

He told a visiting Chinese envoy that “if Syria wants real peace, there is no alternative to holding direct negotiations with Israel,” a statement from the President’s office said.

Peres, who pledged to campaign for Middle East peace when he was sworn in as head of state on Sunday, said the leaders of Israel and Syria should meet to “symbolize mutual recognition as an opening stage” to negotiations. The presidency is a largely ceremonial post in Israel. While politically influential, Israeli presidents have no authority to set government policy.

Talks between Syria and Israel collapsed in 2000 without resolving the fate of the Golan Heights, a plateau occupied by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, and annexed in 1981 in a move not recognized internationally.

Both sides have signalled a readiness to resume talks in recent months, largely in messages passed through envoys, though each has set conditions the other has balked at meeting.

The concept Chevrolet Volt automobile is driven on the streets of Washington, on 19 July, 2007. —INTERNET

UN says poor countries need technology to prosper

GENEVA, 21 July — The world’s poorest countries need technology and know-how to prosper and donors should shift aid towards science and research, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said on Thursday.

It said international donors needed to boost contributions to technology and training to help economically weak nations move away from raw commodities and low-skill manufacturing.

In its Least Developed Countries Report 2007, the agency said agricultural techniques to boost crop yields and quality were vital in poor countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia, where increasing numbers of farm workers were moving to urban areas.

Less than four per cent of the World Bank’s overall lending has gone to science and technology projects in the last 25 years, UNCTAD said.

“There is a lack of balance between the governance and social issues and technological issues,” UNCTAD Secretary-General Supachai Panitchpakdi told a news conference.

He said while poor countries in Asia, such as Bangladesh, Laos, Nepal and Cambodia, were beginning to shift towards more technologically-focused development projects, many African nations had lagged.

Two US soldiers charged with murder in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 20 July — Two US soldiers have been charged with murdering an Iraqi last month near the northern oil city of Kirkuk, the military said on Thursday.

Sergeant 1st Class Trey Corrales, from San Antonio, Texas, and Specialist Winder, Georgia, were charged with one count each of murder, the military said in a statement. The offense was alleged to have taken place on or around 23 June near Kirkuk. The men were assigned to the 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division.

In addition, their battalion commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Browder, while not a suspect in the case, was relieved of his duties because of a lack of confidence in his ability to command effectively, the military said.

The charges are the latest brought against US forces in Iraq. On Wednesday, a military jury in California found a US Marine guilty of conspiring to kidnap and kill an Iraqi grandfather, who was shot dead last year.

Two cars are left stranded after torrential rain caused flash flooding on a road in Wallington, South London, on 20 July, 2007. A band of severe weather hit the UK last 25 July.

Surprise: Elderly drive better than teens

NEW YORK, 20 July — It’s official: Teens are the worst drivers, new research shows.

Drivers 65 and older are just one-third as likely as drivers 18 to 25 to cause auto accidents, and not much more likely than drivers 26 to 64 to cause accidents, according to a RAND Corp study issued this week.

While driving ability declines with age for most people, those seniors who continue to drive appear to be safer drivers than the general public might think,” said David Loughran, a RAND senior economist and professor at the Pardee RAND Graduate School, in a news release. “By far, it is the youngest drivers who pose the greatest risk to traffic safety.”

Researchers found that in 2001, people 65 and older accounted for about 15 percent of all licensed drivers but caused only about 7 percent of all accidents in the United States. By contrast, people ages 18 to 25 accounted for just 13 percent of all licensed drivers, but caused 43 percent of all accidents.
Clinton criticizes Bush on Iraq

WASHINGTON, 20 July — Former president Bill Clinton on Thursday criticized President George W Bush’s Administration for failing in Iraq, saying there was no evidence of much-needed political or diplomatic progress.

“The point is, that there is no military victory here,” he said in an interview on ABC’s Good Morning America.

Clinton’s wife Hillary is running for the Democratic nomination for president and she has been calling on Bush to pull troops out of Iraq.

“There is no evidence that, whether we have a good day in a particular community or region in Iraq, that we have either the political reconciliation process within the country working or any diplomatic process that’s got a chance to help with the neighbours,” the former Democratic president said. Washington has been urging Iraq for months to pass important laws aimed at reconciling majority Shiites and minority Sunnis Arabs. So far only one of the draft laws aimed at drawing Sunnis more firmly into the political process has reached the Iraqi Parliament.

Bush, who has been under pressure to change the course of the increasingly unpopular war, has said he is waiting for a September progress report from his US commander in Iraq, General David Petraeus.

“I believe that General Petraeus is a very able man and I don’t have any doubts that they’ll win some battles,” Clinton said. “I hope this works. I think every American hopes this works. But it can’t work beyond winning a few battles. It has to be accompanied by ... progress on the political front.”—MNA/Reuters

Brazil vows to act after air crash

LONDON, 20 July — Brazil’s president has promised to take all measures needed to prevent further air disasters after the crash in Sao Paulo that killed nearly 200 people.

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was making his first public comments since the Tam Airlines jet crashed in flames after landing at Congonhas on Tuesday.

He said air traffic would be reduced at the airport and that a new one would be built to ease the pressure. There has been intense speculation but no confirmation on the crash’s cause.

Tam Airlines said on Friday that one of the two thrust reversers on the Airbus 320 - which help jets slow down on landing - had been deactivated on the plane during maintenance checks. —Internet

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Massive steam explosion hits Manhattan

NEW YORK, 19 July — A steam pipe exploded in central Manhattan in New York on Wednesday, sending plumes of steam roaring into the sky and throwing debris nearby.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg attributed the blast to a “failure of infrastructure”.

One woman died of heart attack in the aftermath of the explosion and about two dozen were injured, some seriously, Bloomberg told a news conference amid wailing sirens.

Blocks near the site were evacuated and several subway lines diverted as a result of the blast, which struck shortly before six o’clock in the afternoon.

People are advised to stay away from the site of the rush-hour blast as tests are conducted about the possible presence of asbestos.

Bloomberg said a steam pipe, 24 inches in diameter, ruptured, possibly caused by cold water, from raining or otherwise. The pipe was installed in 1924, he added.

The underground steam pipes, which heat and cool buildings in New York, have been turned off, and a gapping crater could be seen in the middle of the street. A red pickup truck sat in the crater.

Some described the spewing steam and debris as “tornado rising from the ground”. Some windows were blown out in buildings adjacent to the site of the explosion. Fire trucks and emergency crew are working at and near the site, which is located near 41st Street between 3rd and Lexington Avenue.

MNA/Xinhua

UK troop reserves ‘almost gone’

LONDON, 20 July — The head of the Army has warned that British troops are so stretched that the nation’s military reserves are “almost non-existent”.

In the memo, leaked to the Daily Telegraph, General Sir Richard Dannatt said the Army was underranked because of operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

He also said vital equipment was being used “at the edge of sustainability”.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said the forces were working hard but the current situation was “manageable”.

General Dannatt also said the Army has “almost no capability to react to the unexpected”.

He said: “It is difficult to predict the long-term effect of this level of pressure on people. It is critical that we improve manning as quickly as we can.”

There is reportedly just one battalion of 500 troops, called the Spearhead Lead Element, available to be used in an emergency, such as a major domestic terrorist attack or a rapid deployment overseas.

The MoD conceded that if “operations continue at this pace, we will have to revisit our planning assumptions”.—Internet
ECONOMIC NEWS

China warns US against “smear attacks” on imports

WASHINGTON, 20 July — China warned the United States on Thursday against “groundless smear attacks” against Chinese products and said it was working responsibly to address concerns over a spate of recent food safety scares.

“The Chinese Government has not turned a blind eye or tried to cover up. We have taken this matter very seriously, acted responsibly and immediately adopted forceful measures,” said a statement by China’s Embassy in Washington. “Blowing up, complicating or politicizing a problem are irresponsible actions and do not help in its solution,” the Chinese mission said in a rare policy pronouncement.

“It is even more unacceptable for some to launch groundless smear attacks on China at the excuse of food and drug safety problems,” it said.

Echoing the Beijing Government’s complaints about US media reports, the embassy said food safety concerns were not unique to China, 99.2 per cent of whose food exports to the United States in 2006 met quality standards.

Problematic US imports from China — including toxic ingredients mixed into pet food and recalls of toy trains and toothpaste — were isolated cases and “hardly avoidable” amid huge and rapidly growing bilateral trade, the statement said.

“IT is unfair and irresponsible for the US media to single China out, play up China’s food safety problems and mislead the US consumer,” it added. MNA/Reuters

EU to hit some digital cameras with import duty

BRUSSELS, 19 July—Some top-end digital cameras entering the European Union could become more expensive after trade experts decided their advanced video functions meant they should be classed as video recorders, which attract import duties.

Digital cameras are imported into the 27-nation EU tariff-free but videocamcorders are subject to duties starting at 4.9 per cent. The Tokyo-based Camera & Imaging Products Association (CIPA), whose members include Nikon Corp, Canon Inc, and Sony Corp, has previously said it was concerned about a possible EU Customs duty on digital cameras.

In 2006, shipments of Japanese digital cameras to Europe were worth about five billion US dollars. An EU official said on Tuesday the change was unlikely to affect ordinary consumers as it related to the more expensive models that have good video recording capability. —MNA/Reuters

Brazil’s Petrobras spends over $100m on gas compressors

RIO DE JANEIRO, 19 July—Brazil’s state energy company Petrobras is to purchase 17 compression system units for a total of 75 million euros (about 103 million US dollars) to be used in Brazil’s gas facilities, said a statement from the company on Tuesday.

Petrobras is to buy the system from German company Siemens, which will also install and sustain the system.

Six units will go to Cacimbas in the country’s southeastern state of Espirito Santo, which processes fuel from offshore platforms.

The remaining 11 units will go to Gasene Transport System in northeastern Brazil. Gasene will be made up of three gas pipelines, which are currently under construction and will begin operations in 2009. —MNA/Xinhua

Macao’s light rail project to create 3,000 jobs

MACAO, 20 July—Construction of the first phase of the Macao Light Rail Transit (LRT) System will create over 3,000 job opportunities, according to an official Press release issued Thursday.

The release from the Information Bureau quoted Lau Si Io, secretary for Transport and Public Works, as saying that the government estimated that construction of the proposed first phase of the system might cost 4.2 billion patacas (525 million US dollars).

The scope of the first phase would cover communities of about 200,000 people, serving more people than other transport routes, the official were cited. The city has a population of 500,000. —MNA/Xinhua

Airports host record number of passengers in 2006

GENEVA, 20 July — The number of passengers passing through airports worldwide reached a record of 4.4 billion in 2006, up 4.8 per cent over the year before, the airports body ACI said on Wednesday.

ACI, the Geneva-based Airports Council International, said the 1.640 airports operated by its members in 178 countries also processed 85.6 million tons of cargo last year — up 3.6 per cent on 2005.

Atlanta in the United States remained the world’s busiest passenger hub with nearly 85 million travellers passing through, followed by Chicago O’Hare with 77 million and London’s Heathrow with 67.4 million.

“The statistics tell a great story — growth and stability,” ACI Director-General Robert J Aaronson said in a statement issued with the figures. “Three-quarters of airports worldwide reported positive passenger growth.” Earlier this year, the global airlines body IATA reported that passengers on international flights rose by 5.9 per cent year-on-year in 2005, with freight traffic growing at 4.6 per cent.

The ACI figures offer a broader reflection of the state of the air travel and cargo industries since they cover hundreds of smaller airports handling purely domestic traffic as well as the big international hubs. MNA/Reuters

Many Russian students are coming to China to sharpen their Chinese language skills for better jobs back home.—INTERNET

The first Airbus A380 for Singapore Airlines is watched by Airbus employees as it rolls out for take off from the Airbus plant in Hamburg on 19 July, 2007. The aircraft will receive its last finish at the Airbus plant in French city of Toulouse before it will be delivered to Singapore Airlines in October 2007.—INTERNET

Collection of facts explained by the Work Committee Chairman are appropriate for long-term existence of political parties and to become a national force serving the interest of the nation and the people.

Yangon, 21 July — The following is the collection of suggestions made by NC delegates on “Political Parties” submitted to the Plenary Session of the National Convention held at the Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungshapin Camp in Hmaubw Township yesterday.

Political Parties

National Convention delegates,

At the plenary session of the National Convention held on 30 October 2006, the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman said, “Concerning political parties, a detailed basic principle “the State shall enact necessary law for systematic formation of political parties for flourishing of genuine multiparty democracy system” has already been adopted. In accord with the adopted detailed basic principle there should be a law to systematically establish political parties for flourishing of discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democracy system and emergence of political parties that will correctly lead the citizens. Only if the Constitution has the provisions, that are in accord with the political, security, economic and social conditions and traditions and customs of the nation, for political parties, can the respective laws that are enacted as necessary be observed. It is necessary for the National Convention to lay down detailed basic principles in connection with political parties to be prescribed in the Constitution.”

The Work Committee Chairman then said: A collection of detailed basic principles concerning the Chapter “Political Parties” will be presented as follows:

1. Political parties set the objective — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty.

2. A political party shall:
   (a) accept and practise discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democracy.
   (b) abide by the Constitution and the existing laws.
   (c) be legally registered as a political party.
   3. In accord with the law, a political party shall have the right to:
      (a) organize freely;
      (b) to stand for the elections.
   4. The continued existence of a political party shall not be permitted if —
      (a) it has been declared as an unlawful organization in accord with the existing law;
      (b) it makes connections with or provides support and assistance to insurgent groups waging an armed rebellion against the State, organizations or persons the State has announced as the ones committing terrorist acts or organizations the State has declared unlawful;
      (c) it directly or indirectly receives financial, material and other assistance from the government or a religious organization, or any other organization or an individual person of a foreign country;
      (d) it abuses religion for political purpose.
   5. If the body having the authority to register political parties finds that a political party is connected with any one of the points stated in the above-mentioned para (4) and subparagraphs (a), (b), (c) or (d), the party’s registration shall be revoked.

6. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall enact necessary laws concerning the political parties.

National Convention delegates,

The NUP finds that a collection of facts concerning the chapter explained by the Work Committee Chairman is appropriate for the long-term existence of parties and to become a national force serving the interest of the nation and the people.

The NUP finds the para (6) “The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shall enact necessary laws concerning the political parties” appropriate. But we would like to suggest that serious consideration should be made to the inclusion of the proper rights of political parties in enacting the laws concerning their rulers.

In building a modern and developed democratic state through multiparty democracy system, the continued existence of political parties has connections with the task of serving the interest of the people and the nation. Hence, the members of the parties should be the qualified ones.

As the parties are formed with the aim of realizing the public wishes and desires, they should have the right to correctly exercise democratic practices and truly represent the people. Based on the past experiences, the present multiparty democracy system should be a prestigious one. The parties play an important part in serving the interest of the nation and the people.

Hence, the state should recognize the parties and render assistance to them for the parties to play their part significantly.

Union Pa-O National Organization agreed to the adoption of the six points of the Chapter “Political Parties” as detailed basic principles.

Shan State Kokang Democratic Party in its suggestion said, the Work Committee Chairman said that as all citizens should keep in the fore Our Three Main National Causes with conviction so do the political parties. Hence, the para 1 — Political parties set the objective — non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty — should be adopted.

The para 2 and subparas (a), (b) and (c) concerning rules and regulations for parties, para 3 and subparagraphs (a) and (b) in connection with the organization and the permission to stand for election, para 4 and subparas (a), (b), (c) and (d) concerning the continued existence of a political party and the para 5 should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization said that as the six points explained by the Work Committee Chairman are appropriate and comprehensive, they should be adopted as detailed basic principles.

In building a modern and developed democratic state through multiparty democracy system, the continued existence of political parties has connections with the task of serving the interest of the people and the nation. Hence, the members of the parties should be the qualified ones.

Lahu National Development Party agreed to the adoption of the six points explained by the Work Committee Chairman.

Union Kayin League expressed belief that the points explained by the Work Committee Chairman will surely lead to flourishing of multiparty democracy system, emergence of parties that will correctly lead the people, systematic formation of parties in accord with the political, economic, security and social situation and traditions and customs of an all-round developed nation. Hence the six points should be adopted.

Kokang Democracy and Unity party said the clarification saying that parties should be the ones able to strive for the flourishing of genuine discipline-flourishing multiparty democracy in the whole Union and in all Regions and States in accord with political, security, economic and social conditions and traditions and customs is appropriate and in accord with the nation’s prevailing situation. They are also in accord with the party’s stance. The points also state that administrative system of the future state and existence of parties. They should be adopted.

Wa National Development Party agreed to adopt all the six points. It also presented a separate suggestion, saying, “We would like to present a suggestion concerning the chapter “Political Parties”. Political parties should be the organizations capable of heading towards flourishing of discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democracy in the entire Union in accord with the nation’s political, security, economic and social conditions and traditions and customs. And it is a must. The parties will have to launch organizational campaigns to strengthen themselves in all aspects. But the parties will face a problem and obstacles if there is a prescription saying that all matters and functions should be free from politics. Such prescription is also against the objective — flourishing of genuine multiparty democracy system — of the six objectives of the National Convention. We would like to suggest that there should be no such prescription in our nation that will practise multiparty democracy in the future.”

National Convention delegates,

Of the four papers presented by representatives-elect group, the papers presented by the representative of NUP and the representative of Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization are the same as the papers presented by the respective parties.

(See page 7)
Collection of facts explained by the Work Committee...

(From page 6)

Independent representatives-elect Dr Hmu Htuin of Thantlang Township Constituency in Chin State, U Aung Thein of Ywangan Township Constituency in Shan State (South) and U Tun Kyaw of Namkhan Township Constituency in Shan State (North) in their suggestions said they are in support of the clarifications made by the Work Committee Chairman concerning the chapter “Political Parties”.

As a separate suggestion they said, “Myanmar has already witnessed the weaknesses and loopholes of the parliamentary democracy when she practised the system after regaining Independence. A study of those weaknesses and loopholes shows that they were the results of the lack of democracy experiences in history, the single party governance in real terms in the name of parliamentary democracy, the public intellectual progress that had not reached the level of defining and exercising the rights and duties of democracy with correct conviction, the political parties’ insufficient ability to train, educate and lead the people to exercise democracy rights with a sense of duty, and the lack of development in infrastructure that would help realize the essence of democracy more fully, the declining situation of democracy in the parties, and the growing centralized system. It is found that it is required to lay down detailed basic principles concerning the qualifications of political parties as necessary, after taking the experiences Myanmar had faced as lessons, for the flourishing of genuine multiparty democracy in the nation”.

“To ensure that there will be no disputes in the future, we would like to suggest that the point “The Union Hlutaw shall designate and prescribe the qualifications of political parties” should be added to the points already explained by the Work Committee Chairman.”

The parties should as a bridge between the government and the people for the emergence of a multiparty system benefitting the people. They should be the organizations that are able to lay down policies in conformity with the nation’s political, security, economic situations, customs and public interest. They should have the directives, fundamental policies and economic situations, customs and public interest. They should have the directives, fundamental policies and
culture is appropriate and in accordance with the nation’s political, security, economic
situations and traditions and culture is appropriate and in accordance with the nation’s prevailing situation. They are also in accord with the party’s stance. The points also state that administrative system of the future state and existence of parties. They should be adopted.

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It is not too late to mend (2)

Wunna Min Khaung

This time I am not referring to and any person in particular. But I am referring to groups made up of internal and external destructive elements opposing the government.

As regards politics, scholars and political leaders of different periods defined it variously. Of them, the definition I like best is that politics doesn’t depend not only on the wish and resolution of a leader but also on his efficiency in formulating the policy and implementing it.

Nowadays, there is internal and external instigation, drawing conclusions from different angles and putting blame on the government in connection with democracy transition. I would not like to say much about them but I would like to discuss the acts of those longing for saviors and pushing the nation into abyss.

Whatever government comes to power or whatever system is practised in whatever nation there can always be those who are against and those who are in favour of the government or the system. It is not strange.

With regard to the process of transition to democracy in Myanmar those who do not clearly know the tactics and global strategies of big nations are trying to attach the nation’s destiny to their tail. I view such acts to be totally senseless.

The so-called opposition politicians will be in no position to understand those tactics and strategies of the big nations. The so-called experts and analysts are expressing views and comments through foreign radios but theirs carry no substance.

Every government has its own strategy and tactics to respond to the changing trend in the world. Gathering intelligence between one country and another is for this purpose.

The government of each and every nation is always keeping an eye on tendency of the world and applies diplomacy concerning the major conflicts of the world. Here I would present some salient points of US diplomacy I have studied.

If we study the address of the US Secretary of State made at George Town University on 18 January 2006 ulterior motives of the US can vividly be seen. Let’s study the salient points of US diplomacy named transformational diplomacy in the address of the US Secretary of State.

— Diplomacy of today has changed a lot. It is time to bravely ponder how to change the world and how to seek ways and means for that rather than presenting facts on what is happening in the world in a conventional way.

— Our (Americans’) procedures are not paternalism (as criticized by international community) but are partnership.

— With regard, we are to establish an Internet.

— As regards politics, scholars and political leaders of different periods defined it variously. Of them, the definition I like best is that politics doesn’t depend not only on the wish and resolution of a leader but also on his efficiency in formulating the policy and implementing it.

— The so-called opposition politicians will be in no position to understand those tactics and strategies of the big nations. The so-called experts and analysts are expressing views and comments through foreign radios but theirs carry no substance.

— Every government has its own strategy and tactics to respond to the changing trend in the world. Gathering intelligence between one country and another is for this purpose.

— The government of each and every nation is always keeping an eye on the changing trend in the world and applies diplomacy concerning the major conflicts of the world.

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— Our (Americans’) procedures are not paternalism (as criticized by international community) but are partnership.

— We would have to transform the line of diplomacy. Our diplomats are to open the American presence posts in different parts in order to give the thoughts and value of democracy rather than living in the environs of the cities they are assigned to and consulates. In that regard, we are to establish an Internet.

— A reconstruction and stabilization centre under the US State Department is to be opened, and civil service such as police officers, medical staff, lawyers, engineers, bank employees, education staff and those in charge of elections are to be recruited for the centre.

— Arrangements are to be made for them to cooperate with the US servicemen in time of emergency.

— Those from the centre would have to cooperate with the US servicemen in time of emergency in whatever places of the world. The US military alone is incapable of handling such emergency cases.

Only after we have observed the address of the US Secretary of State we realize the answers as to why some officials from the US Embassy in Myanmar frequently visit the NLD Headquarters and how they meet with those related to the NLD members. Furthermore, it can be calculated as to how dangerous it is to sovereignty of the nation concerned provided that such schemes are launched under the pretext of diplomacy.

Another statement that should be studied is the one made by the US Representative to the United Nations, and it is:

— Even though ten storeys of the UN building are demolished it does not matter. The only permanent member (USA) should be in the UN Security Council. The role the United Nations plays in the security of the US is insignificant. As a matter of fact, there should be no such law as the International Law. The US government would not be bound by the International Law. It was his happiest day when the US revoked as signatory to the International Court of Justice. When the need arises the US does not require the approval of the UN Security Council.

When some anti-government groups heard about such remarks, they clapped their hands with joy thinking that as if the celestial king himself would be coming down for the cause of Myanmar’s democracy.

However, true political experts studying the international affairs have revealed publicly that the
It is not too late to mend (2)

Winna Min Khaung

With regard to the process of transition to democracy in Myanmar those who do not clearly know the tactics and global strategies of big nations are trying to attach the nation’s destiny to their tail. I view such acts to be totally senseless.

Whatever government comes to power or whatever system is practised in whatever nation there can always be those who are against and those who are in favour of the government or the system. It is not strange.

(From page 8) US sought only its self-interest, always attempting to dominate the entire globe.

Most of actual events conform to the assaassments of those political experts. The glaring examples are that the US and some big powers are taking control of international economic organizations such as WTO, IMF and WB.

Using these organizations, America forced other nations, especially developing ones, to conduct reforms to help serve its interest. Shouting free market, it forced the markets open. Yet, it sets up barriers in its market making US’s markets open. Yet, it forced other developing countries became poorer and poorer, unable to get out of a whirl of debts. The actions the US usually takes against the weak nations when they do not accept its political and economic models are applying various kinds of pressure, aiding and abetting national traitors, imposing economic sanctions, making instigation to cause public misunderstanding with the ruling governments on the pretext of democracy and human rights, helping topple the ruling governments and initiating military interventions.

The US military interventions in the name of democracy and human rights do not discriminate between military and civilian targets. The innocent people are the ones who suffer a lot. Just look at the situation in Iraq. The Iraqis who disliked the rule of Saddam regarded the US as a saviour first when it invaded their country. But now all can witness their sufferings. May all discriminate between global strategies of big nations and Americanization.

Therefore, those from inside and outside the country opposing the government in connection with democracy transition don’t need to rely on alien forces if they really wish to serve the interest of the State and the people. I believe that there is no better way than the way in which the internal problems of Myanmar should be solved in our own country.

There, however, is one thing to be considered. Myanmar’s political transformation should not be reviewed in comparison with the situation of 1988. It is important to realize the root causes of the conflicts that occurred in the post-independence period. There are some persons in the internal and external anti-government groups who have directly or indirectly involved in the long-lasting conflicts of the country. We should be aware that those persons have their own views and opinions about the impacts and results of those conflicts.

Such persons may also have their one-sided views on the conflicts and problems that they themselves created in order to protect their present stand and status. So, their views and opinions will always be self-supporting for them as they are living in support of their operational activities and circles. However, these are contrary to the objective conditions in the country.

If they (anti-government groups) want to overcome the present impasse, they should not ignore the public opinion and at the same time they will have to cooperate with authorities concerned.

All in all, for the sake of national reconsolidation, the time has come for such anti-government groups to reconsider whether they will stick to the adversarial way with negative view on the ruling government and whether they, reviewing their acts, will participate in national development tasks by doing their bit instead of putting the nation’s destiny as a pawn on the chessboard by siding with global strategies and tactics of big powers.

Translation: TS+ST

Myanma Alin: 21-7-2007

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Lt-Gen Ye Myint explains...

They viewed thriving rubber plantations of private entrepreneurs along Mohnyin-Miyikya-Shwebo Road. Mohnyin Township grew 1,215 acres of land under rubber in 2006-07, and has put 1,407 acres under rubber against 1,897 acres in 2007.

At Government Technological College (Mohnyin), they were welcomed by Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and officials. After greeting faculty members, Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented K 200,000, clothes and gifts to the faculty and students. A total of 439 students are pursuing education at the college. Since its establishment, the college has turned out 164 AGTI diploma holders and 87 BST Certificate holders.

At Seinle Yadana Hall in Mohnyin, they met departmental officials, social organization members and local people and explained regional development. The commander and the minister clarified development of the township and for better communications.

In his speech, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that local people in Mohnyin region relied on the railroad alone in the past. At present, they enjoy fruits of road developments through Mandalay-Sagaing-Shwebo-Miyikya Road, Mandalay-Thanbyuzayat-Tagong-Shwegu-Sinham-Bhamo-Miyikya Road and the No. 5 village-to-village road. Thanks to construction of the roads, development of economic, education, health and social sectors will contribute to the narrowing of the gap between urban and rural areas. Next, he instructed officials to grow rubber, mango, sugarcane and physical nut to meet the targets.

The organizer of Township Union Solidarity and Development Association presented 2,332 membership applications to Secretary of Township USDA U Sein Win Tun. Lt-Gen Ye Myint presented medicines to Dr San San of District Hospital and exercise books to District Education Officer Daw Khin Nge.

The commander and Secretariat Member of USDA Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw gave foodstuffs and uniforms to local organizations and USDA members.

Next, they presented prizes to outstanding students of the township.

After inspecting Mohnyin District Hospital, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party met with faculty members at Mohnyin Degree College and gave necessary instructions. A total of 83 faculty members of Mohnyin Degree College are teaching 995 undergraduate and postgraduate students and 2,333 students of distance education.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party viewed a model paddy plot in Mayangon Village near Shwebo-Miyikya Road. At Hopin General Administration Department, Lt-Gen Ye Myint explained regional development to local people and heard reports on progress of the town's development. While in Hopin, they inspected installation of equipment at the operation theatre and the X-ray room at Hopin Hospital. They also viewed thriving monsoon paddy plantation in Kyagyikwin Village. Hopin has grown 22,613 acres of monsoon paddy against the target of 33,323 acres in 2007.

After looking into monsoon paddy plantation between Taungni and Kanyinmyaing villages in Mogaung Township, they attended the physics nut planting ceremony of the local battalion near Kanyinmyaing Village. They viewed thriving monsoon paddy and rubber plantations along Shwebo-Miyikya Road and the two-year old rubber saplings at the local battalion.

At the hall in Mogaung, Lt-Gen Ye Myint met with departmental officials and local people and explained regional development matters.

On 18 July, they met with servicemen and family members at Mogaung Station Hall and instructed them to carry out rural development tasks and agricultural and livestock breeding tasks on a manageable scale.

In Dunban Village, they visited the Women's Vocational Training School.— MNA

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win inspect...

Later, they attended a ceremony to grow physic nut plants at Mayphalar Field. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win presented physic nut seedlings to members of social organizations and he put physic nut seeds into the bags.

Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and the commander took part in physic nut growing ceremony and viewed cultivation of physic nut by local residents.

In Tachileik, a total of 7,726.15 acres of physic nut have been cultivated in 2006-2007 and 838.01 acres of physic nut have been sown.

Next, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and party met with entrepreneurs, departmental staff, members of social organizations and local residents at Aung Myat Hall in Tachileik. Lt-Gen Kyaw Win heard reports on trade and seven kinds of export goods from Myanmar.

There are three ways to import and export goods. The first way is to transport China-made items to another country through Tachileik, the second is to export goods to another country through Tachileik, the third is to export rubber and other agricultural goods, which are in great demand at present to another country.

In addition, departments concerned are to fulfill requirements of local entrepreneurs to seek wider market. Entrepreneurs, on their part, are striving for boosting more export of rubber and other goods, he added.

Present on the occasion were Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Deputy Attorneys-General Dr Tun Shin and U Tun Tun Oo, officials and staff.

They offered Waso robes to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhammapiya of Maha Razikayon Monastery of Sangyoung Township and members of the Sangha. Later, they shared merits gained.

Chairman U Kyi Myint of Tachileik Entrepreneurs Association spoke words of thanks.

After that, Lt-Gen Kyaw Win cordially greeted local entrepreneurs and residents. He also met with Tatmadawmen of Tachileik Station and provided assistance for them.— MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung attends FREDA annual meeting

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Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung delivers an address at 10th meeting of Forest Reserve Environment Development and Conservation Association (FREDA) held at International Bessiness Center today with an address by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung. President U Sein Maung Wint gave an opening speech, CEO members submitted annual report and financial statement. On behalf of the PERDA General Secretary U Nay Min Tun presented cash for Environment Development activities to president U Sein Maung Wint. The meeting came to an end with the concluding remarks by the president.— MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung delivers an address at 10th meeting of Forest Reserve Environment Development and Conservation Association.— FORESTRY
Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends 11th Waso robes offering... (from page 16)

First, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party received the Five Precepts from the chairman Sayadaw and members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Next, the Secretary of the board of trustees of the monastery explained the missionary task of the Sayadaw Bhaddanta Paññajota.

Later, Lt-Gen Myint Swe offered Waso robes and provisions to the Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara. After that U Hla Myint Oo, senior military officers, officials and wellwishers offered Waso robes and provisions to the member Sayadaws of the committee and members of the Sangha. Wellwishers provided offertories to the members of the Sangha and nuns through Sayadaw Paññā Tiloka. Later, the chairman Sayadaw delivered a sermon and Lt-Gen Myint Myint Swe and party shared the merits gained.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party offered day meal to the members of the Sangha. — MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo participates in tree planting ceremony... (from page 16)

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party went to Kyainkmaraw Township in Mon State and attended the ceremony to broadcast fertilizer and to release fingerlings to paddy fields.

First, they visited the ceremony to broadcast fertilizer in the 80-acre paddy fields. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party released fingerlings into the fields.

Out of 1,008,830 acres of monsoon paddy in Mon State, 612,312 acres have been put under rain-fed paddy this season, said an official of the Myanmar Agriculture Service in his report to Lt-Gen Maung Bo. He also praised Mon State for its success in cultivation of double-crops last year. Although Mon State has enjoyed surplus of food, the state is to grow more rain-fed paddy to supply rice to other states where food is not sufficient for their needs, he added.

He also urged farmers to use conventional methods in farming and to grow physic nuts in vacant land to extract bio-diesel from physic nut seeds.

During his tour of Mon State, Lt-Gen Maung Bo also visited University of Computer Science (Mawlamyine) and presented cash assistance to faculty members of the university.

Afterswards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party proceeded to Mawlamyine Industrial Zone in Kyainkmaraw Township and met with industrialists.

At the meeting, he urged local authorities to make efforts for development of the industrial zone. The government established 18 industrial zones across the country and provided assistance to the zones for development of the industrial sector. Industrialists are to participate in the drive for the development of the State, he said.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party visited private-owned vehicle assembly workshops and foundry workshops in the zone. — MNA

Buddha images, artifacts handed over

Director-General U San Win accepts Buddha images unearthed in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 July — A ceremony to hand over Buddha images and artifacts uncovered at the Tharawhan village in Kyidaung village-tract, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana to the Ministry of Culture through Nay Pyi Taw Command was held at the Ministry of Culture, Office No 35, here, this afternoon.

Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana District Peace and Development Council U Khin Maung Zaw and officials handed over Buddha images and artifacts to Director-General U San Win of Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects runway at Magway Airport. — TRANSPORT

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspected the airport building, the runway and the compound of the airport.

The minister viewed thriving physic nut plantation of Department of Agriculture Service in Magway. At Magway Airport, the minister inspected the airport building, the runway and the compound of the airport.

At the office of Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, the minister met with departmental personnel under the ministry and heard reports on progress of departments concerned. He instructed them to practise thriftiness by minimizing loss and waste in tasks, and emphasize on education, health and social affairs of the staff families.

While in Magway Township, the minister proceeded to Myinkin River Water Pumping Project in Magway, and looked into maintenance of the water way and running of pumps, and left necessary instructions. — MNA

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects runway at Magway Airport. — TRANSPORT

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspected the airport building, the runway and the compound of the airport.

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Police warn Filipinos against bomb jokes on buses

MANILA, 20 July — Filipino commuters face jail and large fines if they crack jokes about bombs on buses after a spate of deadly attacks, the police warned on Thursday.

Andres Caro, a regional police chief, said they would start enforcing a law banning bomb gags on public transport after two men on a bus caused panic five days earlier this week when they joked about carrying a bomb in their luggage.

“I wanted to remind everyone that we have a bomb joke law since the 1970s,” Caro told reporters. “We only have to enforce the law strictly in the interest of public safety.”

Seven commuter buses have been bombed on the troubled southern island of Mindanao since April, killing nearly 15 people and wounding close to 50. Most of the attacks, including Wednesday’s, were related to extortion activities but suspected Islamic militants were blamed for an attack on a bus in June that killed 10 people.

Caro said people convicted of cracking bomb jokes face a five-year jail term and fine of 40,000 pesos (880 US dollars). The offence is a non-bailable crime.

The Filipinos already strictly enforces the bomb joke law in airports, arresting foreign tourists and local movie stars after their ill-advised quips caused flight delays and even cancellations.

37 dead, 14 missing in rainstorms in S-W China

BEIJING, 20 July — Thirty-seven people have been killed and 14 are missing following fierce rainstorms that hit southwest China’s Chongqing Municipality, the Ministry of Civil Affairs reported on Thursday.

More than 6.13 million people were affected by the rainstorms, and 28,6200 people were evacuated, according to the ministry.

More than 29,500 houses were destroyed, and 183,000 hectares of crops were damaged, with direct economic losses exceeding 2.4 billion yuan (315 million US dollars), said the ministry.

The rainfall in Chongqing has begun to ease and the municipal government has allocated 10 million yuan (1.31 million US dollars) to disaster relief efforts.

By Wednesday, the rain had triggered landslides in 29 counties and districts in Chongqing.

Four US soldiers killed in Baghdad bomb blast

BAGHDAD, 20 July — Four US soldiers and their Iraqi interpreter were killed by a roadside bomb in Baghdad on Wednesday, the military said on Thursday.

The attack on their patrol happened in the east of the capital, the military said in a statement.

US commanders have launched a major security clampdown in and around the capital targeting militants and have warned that casualties could rise as troops fan out into riskier neighbourhoods.

Since the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, a total of 3,626 US military personnel have been killed, including 47 so far this month. The previous three months was the bloodiest quarter for American forces since the start of the war.
Armed men rob 33 kilos of gold from mine in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 20 July — Four armed men robbed 33.3 kilograms of gold from a mine in northeastern Mexico early Wednesday morning, the mining company Granmin told reporters on Thursday.

The men, wearing camouflage clothing and with their faces covered, seized the manager of the mine and a technician. Using them as hostages, they managed to tie up workers and security guards before forcing the manager to open the safe. They fled, taking one hostage with them who they freed around two kilometres from the mine.

This was the second robbery in 41 days at the mine in Trincheras, a town in the northeastern Mexico state of Sonora. A total of 54 kilograms of gold worth 1.7 million US dollars has been lost in the attacks.

Mine spokesman Miguel Angel Marin Payan said that the mine had reinforced security after the first robbery, but it had been proved insufficient. Granmin, a Canadian Mexican company, condemned the attack and called on the authorities to speed up investigations and catch those responsible.

Old Stone Age artifacts found in UAE

ABU DHABI, 19 July — Some stone artifacts from the Old Stone Age, the first period in the human development, were found in the western province of Abu Dhabi, the largest emirate of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), local newspaper Gulf News reported Wednesday.

The discovery, which was identified by a team from Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage (ACH) and two visiting scholars, included stone artifacts made of the Levallois technique, which was known during the Old Stone Age.

A number of flint cores and flakes of Levallois technique were collected from the site, Dr Waild Yasin, manager of the archaeology division of the ACH, was quoted as saying. “The significance of this major discovery lies in the fact that it alters our understanding of the beginning of first human activities in Abu Dhabi which seem to go back to the Old Stone Age.”

Some 7,500 years ago,” Yasin said.

The dating of Abu Dhabi artifacts is estimated to fall in the Middle Paleolithic (150,000-35,000 years ago), said Dr Ganim Wahida from Cambridge University, who specializes in this period.

Artifacts made of this technique were first discovered in the 19th Century at the archaeological site of Levallos near Paris.

Memory loss linked to sleep ills in aged women

BEIJING, 19 July — A US study finds older women with memory loss are more likely to have problems falling asleep and staying asleep than those without cognitive decline, according to media reports on Wednesday.

The study included almost 2,500 women, average age 69, with no signs of memory problems at the start of the study. They underwent cognitive tests over 15 years and were assessed for sleep problems at the end of the study in the journal Neurology. The study found the nearly 25 percent of women who experienced cognitive decline were twice as likely as women without memory problems to experience sleep disturbances.

“For women who declined on either cognitive test, they were nearly twice as likely to have difficulty staying asleep and one-and-half times as likely to have problems falling asleep and being awake for more than 90 minutes during their sleep cycle,” said study author Dr Kristine Yaffe, of the University of California, San Francisco.

“Women who declined on one of the tests were also nearly twice as likely to nap more than two hours a day,” Yaffe added.

There was no association between cognitive decline and total sleep time, said the study.

Man steals car from showroom in Malaysia

KUALALUMPUR, 20 July — A smartly-dressed man sped off in a Mercedes Benz E200 worth 500,000 ringgit (147,059 US dollars) from the Naza World showroom located in Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur, local media reported on Friday.

The man got into the car after a salesman had moved it out of the showroom, leaving the key in the ignition, the New Straits Times said.

The thief then drove away. Several security guards tried to stop him but he sped off and missed hitting the guards by centimetres in the incident happened on Thursday.

The showroom did not have closed-circuit television cameras, said district police chief ACP Mazlan Mansor, adding that police were investigating whether the theft could have been an inside job.

Japanese toymaker Tomy Company’s ‘OmniBot17u i-SOBOT’, listed by the Guinness Book of Records as the world’s smallest humanoid robot in production, are displayed during a news conference in Tokyo on 20 July, 2007. The 16.5 cm (6.496 inches)-tall robot, powered by Sanyo Electric’s eneloop nickel-metal hydride rechargeable batteries, is able to talk about 180 vocabularies and has about 200 different types of action patterns. The robot will go on sale in Japan for a price of 29,800 yen (about $243), the company said. — XINHUA

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Internet
Manchester United beat FC Seoul 4-0

Seoul, 21 July — Manchester United were convincing 4-0 winners against FC Seoul in a friendly on Friday on the second leg of their promotional tour of Asia. A sell-out home crowd, many of them clad in United's colours, saw Cristiano Ronaldo, Wayne Rooney, Chris Eagles, and Patrice Evra score a goal apiece for the Premier League champions.

But the loudest cheers were reserved for injured South Korean player Park Ji-sung, the noise levels rising every time his image flashed across the big screens as he sat on the United bench.

Ronaldo made an early break-through for the visitors, scoring on six minutes with a low, powerful shot from outside the penalty box.

Eagles made it 2-0 in the 18th minute after receiving a pass from Ronaldo and firing in from the edge of the box.

United's third goal came just three minutes later courtesy of Rooney, as the England forward went past a Seoul defender and shot in off the hands of the goalkeeper.

The home side failed to test Edwin van der Sar in the first period but stepped up a gear after the break, coming close when a header by Kwak Tae-hwi, from a free kick, went narrowly wide.

But it was United who struck again on the hour when second-half substitute Ryan Giggs advanced into the Seoul penalty box to set up Evra for an easy finish.

United manager Alex Ferguson declared himself "delighted" at the reception the club has received and even appeared willing to give North Korea a shot.— MNA/Reuters

Woods in positive mood despite sliding

Carnoustie (Scotland), 21 July — Tiger Woods was in positive mood despite sliding to a three-over 74 in the British Open second round on Friday. "I could easily have shot myself right out of the tournament but I kept myself in there," he added after trailing leader Sergio Garcia of Spain by seven strokes at the halfway stage of the third major of the year.

The 12-times major champion made the worst possible start when he double-bogeyed the par-four first after duck-hooking his drive into the water. "It was such a poor shot because the commitment wasn't there," said Woods.

The 31-year-old American birdied the second before leaping to the turn in 39 after bogeys at the fifth and eighth.— MNA/Reuters

Mickelson, Senson, Montgomerie miss halfway cut

Carnoustie (Scotland), 21 July — World number two Phil Mickelson was the most high-profile casualty of the halfway cut at the British Open on Friday. The 37-year-old American slumped to a double-bogey six at the infamous closing hole at Carnoustie to finish with a six-over 77 and 148, six over par.

Mickelson also lost a shot under penalty at the second hole after a wild swipe into the dunes.

The triple major champion attempted to get a free drop because his ball was unnegligible but was denied relief.

"It was an embedded ball and this is the only week of the year that it has got to be in a closely-mown area to get relief," Mickelson told reporters.— MNA/Reuters

Manchester United's Wayne Rooney (L) shoots the ball as FC Seoul's Lee Jung-youl challenges him during their friendly soccer match at the World Cup Stadium in Seoul on 20 July, 2007.— INTERNET

Andreas Seppi of Italy hits a return against Gilles Muller of Luxembourg during their Davis Cup tennis match in Alghero, on the Italian island of Sardinia, on 20 July, 2007.— INTERNET

Dudek says chance to play for Real too good to miss

Madrid, 21 July — Former Liverpool goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek said the chance to play for Spanish champions Real Madrid was an opportunity he could not let pass, as he was presented as their new player on Friday.

“When I left Liverpool I thought I would never get the chance to play for a big team again. First I was surprised when Real approached me, but then I thought I’ll do it because they might need an experienced goalkeeper to compete with Iker Casillas,” Dudek told a news conference. “Everyone told me you can’t say no to Real Madrid.”— MNA/Reuters

Manchester United winners against FC Seoul in a friendly on Friday on the second leg of their promotional tour of Asia.

The home side failed to test Edwin van der Sar in the first period but stepped up a gear after the break, coming close when a header by Kwak Tae-hwi, from a free kick, went narrowly wide.

But it was United who struck again on the hour when second-half substitute Ryan Giggs advanced into the Seoul penalty box to set up Evra for an easy finish.

United manager Alex Ferguson declared himself “delighted” at the reception the club has received and even appeared willing to give North Korea a shot.— MNA/Reuters

Al Ahli win steers closer to semifinals

Cairo, 21 July — Holders Al Ahli maintained their 100 per-cent record in the group phase of the African Champions League when they beat Tunisia’s Esperance 3-0 in Cairo on Friday. Goals from Mohamed Aboutirka, Flavio and Osama Hosni took the Egyptian side to nine points in Group B, six ahead of second-placed Al Hilal, who have a game in hand.

Aboutirka’s strike in the 14th minute set the Egyptians on their way to their third win of the campaign. The Egyptian international cleverly chipped the ball over Esperance goalkeeper Hamdi Kasraoui after a fortunate deflection off the legs of defender Zied Derbali.

Angolan striker Flavio doubled the lead 12 minutes from time, rising first to head home an in-swinging free kick from his compatriot Gilberto, whose runs down the left flank tormented the Tunisian visitors.— MNA/Reuters

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 22 July, 2007

Caroline Burckle (C) of the US, Patricia Castaneda (R) of Mexico and Sanvannah King of Canada stand with their medals after the women’s 800m free-style swimming race at the Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro, on 20 July, 2007. Burckle won the gold medal, Castaneda the silver medal and King the bronze medal. — INTERNET

Andreas Seppi of Italy hits a return against Gilles Muller of Luxembourg during their Davis Cup tennis match in Alghero, on the Italian island of Sardinia, on 20 July, 2007. — INTERNET

Andreas Seppi of Italy hits a return against Gilles Muller of Luxembourg during their Davis Cup tennis match in Alghero, on the Italian island of Sardinia, on 20 July, 2007. — INTERNET

Manchester United winners against FC Seoul in a friendly on Friday on the second leg of their promotional tour of Asia.
Guangzhou to become China’s cartoon town

BEIJING, 20 July — Guangzhou is seeking global cooperation to boost its cartoon industry and become a major animation and comic industrial production base in the country.

A new cartoon industrial park has been established in the city’s Panyu District, where many cartoon companies already operate.

The capital of Guangdong Province expects more foreign cartoon companies to set up production facilities in the park in upcoming years. Covering an area of more than 20 hectares, Panyu State Cartoon and Cyber Games Industrial Park is also expected to become home to many famous cartoon experts and comic artists from around the world in the years ahead, according to Xu Zhibao, Guangzhou’s vice-mayor.

More than 500 million yuan has so far been invested in the park in the district’s Donghuan Street. It is the largest cartoon industrial park on the mainland.

The park will become a major training center for special cartoon personnel as well.

Xu is hoping more foreign companies will set up their China headquarters and research and development centers in the park in the near future. Although Guangzhou’s cartoon industry got off to a late start in late 1980s, its development has been rapid in the past few years. — Internet

Space shuttle Endeavour crew (L-R) pilot Charles Hobaugh, mission specialist Rick Mastracchio, commander Scott Kelly, mission specialist’s Tracy Caldwell, Barbara Morgan and Canadian Space Agency astronaut Dave Williams walk out of crew quarters during a launch dress rehearsal at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 19 July, 2007. — XINHUA
Lt-Gen Maung Bo participates in tree planting ceremony in Hpa-an, releases fingerlings into fields in Mon State

NAV Pyi Taw, 21 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence participated in the tree planting ceremony at Hpa-an University in Kayin State on 17 July.

Members of Kayin State Union Solidarity and Development Association, Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee, Women’s Affairs Organization, War Veterans Organization, Hpa-an District Fire Brigade and Red Cross Society, staff of Hpa-an Township Peace and Development Council, departmental officials and local people took part in the tree planting ceremony and Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min distributed trees to participants of the tree planting ceremony.

About 1,000 shad trees were planted on the university campus during the ceremony.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met with faculty members of Hpa-an University and Hpa-an College at the university. At the meeting, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said the government is building a modern and discipline-flourishing democratic nation with the participation of intellectuals and intelligentsia.

Faculty members are to teach students so that they can become intellectuals and intelligentsia. Development of students could lead to the emergence of a new modern democratic nation. Faculty members are to teach students to preserve national prestige and integrity.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo, accompanied by Commander Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and Col Zaw Min, met with senior military officers of Hpa-an Station and gave instructions to them. (See page 11)

Lt-Gen Myint Swe attends 11th Waso robes offering ceremony of Bangladesh Monastery

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 July — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the 11th Waso robes offering ceremony of Bangladesh Monastery at Maha Zeya Mingalar Thein Kyuang of the monastery in Natchaung ward, Tamway Township this morning.

It was also attended by member Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee led by Chairman of the committee Magway Sayadaw Abdidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abdidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammamajotika Bhaddanta Kumara, Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of the monastery Maha Saddhamma Jotikadha Bhaddanta Paññajota and members of the Sangha, member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Hla Myint Oo, senior military officers, officials and wellwishers. (See page 11)

The US military interventions in the name of democracy and human rights do not discriminate between military and civilian targets. The innocent people are the ones who suffer a lot. Just look at the situation in Iraq. The Iraqis who disliked the rule of Saddam regarded the US as a saviour first when it invaded their country. But now all can witness their sufferings. May all have the ability to distinguish between globalization and Americanization.