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

Four economic objectives
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

General Thura Shwe Mann attends 80th Anniversary of Founding of People’s Liberation Army of China

YANGON, 31 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence attended a ceremony to mark the 80th Anniversary of Founding of the People’s Liberation Army of China held at the Traders Hotel here at 6.30 pm today.

On his arrival, the General was welcomed by Military Attaché of Office of the Military Attaché of the People’s Republic of China to the Union of Myanmar Senior Colonel Fan Lian Feng and the deputy military attaché.

Also present on the occasion together with General Thura Shwe Mann were Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence and wife, Lt-Gen Myint Hlaing and wife, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tha and wife, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Charges d’Affaires of Chinese Embassy Mr Wang Zong Yi and wife and embassy staff, ambassadors and military attachés of foreign embassies to Myanmar and their wives and invited guests.

Before and during the celebration, the military band of Yangon Command played military songs and varieties of Chinese cultural dances were performed. — MNA

World Breast-feeding Week

This year’s theme is based on issues revolving around the first hour of baby’s life with a forceful message for mothers to breastfeed their babies within an hour of birth. This step alone is projected to be able to save one million babies.

PAGE 7 AYE PYUYU
**PERSPECTIVES**

**Wednesday, 1 August, 2007**

**Exert concerted efforts for emergence of new democratic nation**

The government is striving together with the entire national people for the emergence of a modern, developed and democratic nation.

The democratic nation that Myanmar is formulating will not be the same in terms of the form of the Western democracy. However, its aspired democratic system will cover the international norms such as liberty, justice, equality and the rule of law.

The emerging new democratic nation will preserve and promote the cultural heritage and uphold the Myanmar way of thinking and concept, social norms and national character.

At present, the seven-step Road Map is being implemented in the process of transition to democracy. In this regard, the ongoing National Convention, the first phase of the Road Map, is finalizing the basic principles and detailed basic principles.

A peaceful, modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation aspired by the entire national people has now come into shape and it is in sight.

The entire national people are responsible for safeguarding the already-achieved developments which are the results of earnest efforts. At a time when a new democratic nation is beginning to take shape the entire national people are to make concerted efforts in warding off the destructive acts of saboteurs in order to safeguard the nation.

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**SME Criteria and Productivity Awareness course ends**

**Yangon, 31 July** — The course on SME Criteria and Productivity Awareness in Myanmar organized by Educational Affairs Committee of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and JPC-SEC of Japan was concluded at the UMFCCI Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Educational Affairs Committee of the Union of Myanmar and Productivity Awareness in Myanmar organized by wards of thanks.—

Koichi Hiratsuka and MR Shigetugu NAMIKI of Japan SME Criteria and Productivity Awareness course ends.

**YANGON**

**Waso robes offered**

**Yangon, 31 July** — Waso robes offering ceremony of Shwetaungkon Monastery was held at the monastery in Mawlamyine on 29 July.

Present were Col Myo Win, Lt-Col Min Chit Win of South-East Command, and wellwishers.

The congregation took the Eight Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimala and 400 Waso robes and provisions were donated to members of the Sangha.—MNA

**YANGON, 31 July** — The 5th Waso robes offering ceremony organized by Mon State Peace and Development Council was held at the State hall on 27 July with an attendance by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of the entire national people has now come into shape and it is in sight.

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**MCWA organizes community based door-to-door care services**

**YANGON, 31 July** — Mayangon Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association organized community based door-to-door care services for HIV, AIDS, TB and chronic disease patients at social welfare training school in the township today.

Chairperson of Yangon Division MCW Supervisory Committee Daw Mar Mar Wai accepted 500 membership applications.

Daw Mar Mar Wai also accepted traditional medicines worth K 50,000 donated by Joint Secretary Daw Tin Nwe Oo of district MCWSC, K 50,000 by Daw Than Nu of district MCWSC member, K 200,000 by U Aye Myint and Daw Hla Thida Shwe and K 880,000 by wellwishers. Secretary of Yangon Division MCWSC Heed of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint and Daw Aye Aye Mar briefed on community based door-to-door care services.

Afterwards, Daw Mar Mar Wai and party provided cash and kind to patients in No 4 Ward in the township.—MNA

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**People's 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

**Dokeyawyywa Journal comes out**

**Yangon, 31 July** — Vol 4, No 15 of Dokeyawyywa Journal will come out tomorrow. The journal has covered articles on agricultural and farming and health, short stories, jokes, tales, cartoons, poems and news. The journal is available at the offices of Information and Public Relations Department in the townships, Sarpay Beikman Bookshop and Warmoeraung Bookshop in Yangon.—MNA

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**YANGON, 31 July** — Leader Daw Po Po Kyi of yang women group presents K 30,000 to Headmaster U Aung Kyi of No 1 BEHS in Insein township on 28 July.—MNA
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Iran says US not in position to get into new military conflict

Berlin, 30 July — Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki has told a German magazine that the United States has too many problems in Iraq to become involved in armed conflict with Iran.

Military action is sometimes discussed in Washington as an option in trying to derail what it sees as Iran’s drive to develop nuclear weapons.

The United States “is not in a position to get into a new military conflict”, Mottaki was quoted as saying in an excerpt of an interview to be published in Focus magazine.

“170,000 American soldiers can guarantee neither their own safety nor the security of Iraq,” he said.

The United States and its allies say Iran’s nuclear fuel enrichment programme is aimed at developing nuclear weapons. Iran insists it is purely for peaceful power generation.

Coffee and exercise ‘save skin’

United States, 30 July — A cup of coffee could help protect your skin from the sun, US scientists say. A combination of exercise and caffeinated water reduces the skin-damaging effects of ultraviolet radiation in experiments on mice.

The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences study found the mice’s natural defence against pre-cancerous cells was boosted by up to 400%.

But a UK expert warned against coffee was “definitely not a substitute” for sun protection.

The relationship between caffeine and cancer cells is under close scrutiny following evidence that it can increase a process called “apoptosis”, in which the body gets rid of damaged or even cancerous cells by killing them off.

The most dramatic and obvious difference between the groups came from the caffeine drinking runners.

The latest research supports this, but found that adding exercise to the mixture produced a far greater benefit than expected.

Test subjects were exposed to lamps generating UVB radiation similar to the type found in sunlight.

British soldier killed in Afghanistan

London, 30 July — A British soldier was killed in a rocket attack in southern Afghanistan, British Ministry of Defence confirmed on Saturday.

“It is with much sadness that the MoD must confirm that a soldier from 14 Signals Regiment was killed whilst providing support to operations with Task Force Helmand in southern Afghanistan on 27 July,” the ministry said in a statement.

The soldier was working in a compound between Heyderabad and Mirmandab when he was fatally wounded in a rocket attack, said the ministry.

The UN has imposed sanctions on Iran for failing to stop enrichment, but Mottaki reiterated that Iran had no intention of curtailing the programme.

“The United Nations has some mention of plans for further talks between Iran and the United States on Iraq,” he said.

There was no mention of plans for further talks between Iran and the United States on Iraq.

Insects invade paddy fields in flood-ravaged Sichuan

Chengdu, 31 July — Plant hopper insects have invaded 347,300 hectares of paddy fields in flood-swamped Sichuan Province in southwest China, local authorities report. A spokesman with the provincial department of agriculture said 4,667 hectares of paddy fields have been ruined by the pests, which have a predilection for rice plants.

The insects have been reported in 85 counties of the province, 19 of which have been subject to large outbreaks.

The province has sent 100,000 plant-protection professionals to the pest-stricken areas and prepared 6,000 tons of pesticides, said Shen Li, a senior agronomist with the agriculture department.

Continuous heavy rainfall since the beginning of this month has created favourable conditions for the invasion and propagation of the plant hoppers, Shen said.

The provincial government has vowed to allocate more funds, buy more sprayers and keep a close eye on the pest situation in a bid to minimize losses.

A large outbreak of plant hoppers caused Sichuan to lose 350,000 tons of rice in 1991.

Two women inspect their flooded allotment plots at the Osney Allotments in Oxford, central England, on 27 July, 2007. Residents in flood-hit areas of England have breathed a sigh of relief after overnight downpours failed to raise water levels and hamper the clear-up.

Insects invade paddy fields in flood-ravaged Sichuan

The Tall Ships’ Races fleet sail on their way from Stockholm to Sandhamn, Sweden, on 30 July, 2007. The Sandhamn to Szczecin race starts on Tuesday. Each summer, usually between 70 and 100 vessels from 20 countries or more take part in The Tall Ships’ Races in Europe.—INTERNET

The Tall Ships’ Races fleet sail on their way from Stockholm to Sandhamn, Sweden, on 30 July, 2007. Each summer, usually between 70 and 100 vessels from 20 countries or more take part in The Tall Ships’ Races in Europe.—INTERNET

Britain pledges £15m to support the privatisation of distribution systems in the UK

London, 30 July — Britain has pledged £15 million to support the privatisation of distribution systems in the UK.

The UK has been a leader in the privatisation of distribution systems, with the UK Post Office being the only major distribution system remaining in public ownership.

The £15 million will be used to support the privatisation of distribution systems in the UK, which will help to improve service levels and reduce costs for customers.

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Beware of online fraud

DOHA, 30 July — Beware! Hackers are not only on the prowl but after big money as well.

A surprised photographe from The Peninsula yesterday received an e-mail from a long time friend in Doha, seeking urgent financial aid.

The mail, purportedly written by said friend, a director of a media relations company here, stated he was stranded in Nigeria after he lost his money, passport, other travel documents and valuables.

The mail read: “I am facing a hard time here because I have no money. I owe a hotel bill of $1,550 and they wanted me to pay them immediately else they will hand over me to the hotel management. I quickly came the reply requesting the money be sent by MoneyGram or Western he claimed was the number of his friend here only to find out that he has been flooded by calls from friends and family members since early morning.

In a bid to fix the impostor, the photographer shot back a reply offering the money he needed and so wanted him to send a contact number and how money should be sent to him. Quick came the reply revealing that the number was one in Nigeria.

Further inquiries revealed that the number here”. Supposedly, he had travelled to Nigeria to take part in a major conference related to social issues. He said he was sending the mail from the city library in Lagos and he had only 30 minutes‘ time to wait for the cash.

The photographer, smelling a rat, immediately tried the mobile number of his friend here only to find out that he has been flooded by calls from friends and family members since early morning.

In a bid to fix the impostor, the photographer shot back a reply offering the money he needed and so wanted him to send a contact number and how money should be sent to him. Quick came the reply requesting the money be sent by MoneyGram or Western he claimed was the number of the hotel where he stays. Further inquiries revealed that the number was one in Nigeria.

Internet

Russian subs make test dive on way to North Pole

MOSCOW, 30 July — Two Russian deep-sea submarines made a test dive in polar waters on Sunday ahead of a mission to be the first to reach the seabed under the North Pole, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

TASS said it took an hour for Mir-1 and Mir-2, each carrying one pilot, to reach the seabed at a depth of 1,311 metres (4,301 feet), 47 nautical miles (87 kilometres) north of Russia’s northmost archipelago, Franz Josef Land in the Barents Sea.

TASS said Mir-1 resurfaced at around 1030 GMT after five hours underwater while Mir-2 spent some more time on the seabed collecting samples.

“It was the first time a submarine worked under the icecap and it proved they can do this,” TASS quoted Anatoly Sagalevich, the pilot of Mir-1, as saying after he left the sub.

As the Arctic icecap thins as a result of global warming, a race is looming to claim ownership of the rich energy resources under the North Pole. The Russian mission involves a nuclear-powered icebreaker smashing through the ice to clear a path to the Pole for the command ship Akademik Fedorov. This will launch the submarines to scoop samples from the seabed for research.

The mission will also plant a flag on the seabed under the Pole to symbolically claim the territory for Russia.

Soviet and US nuclear submarines have often travelled under the polar icecap, but no one has so far reached the seabed under the Pole, where depths exceed 4,000 metres (13,100 feet).

“These test dives were not planned, but we decided to make them to double-check everything,” TASS quoted the head of the mission, Artur Chilingarov, as saying on board the Akademik Fedorov.

INTERNET

Celebratory gunfire kills two Iraqis, wounds 40 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 30 July — Two Iraqis were killed and 40 others wounded in Baghdad on Sunday when soccer fans fired weapons into the air to celebrate their team’s win in 2007 Asian Cup, an Interior Ministry source said.

“According to our reports, Baghdad hospitals received two bodies killed by random shootout and some 40 others were wounded,” the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Thousands of Iraqi fans took to the streets celebrating a 1-0 win over Saudi Arabia in the 14th Asian Cup final in Jakarta, Indonesia, defying vehicle curfews and gunfire ban.

INTERNET

Briton killed in drive-by shooting in Manchester

LONDON, 30 July — A 23-year-old was killed and another man injured in a drive-by shooting in Manchester, police said on Saturday.

The man was shot in the Chorlton on Medlock District of central Manchester, close to the city’s university, just before midnight.

He died soon afterwards in hospital.

Police said the shots were fired from a green Honda Legend and another car towards a group of people on the street.

A 33-year-old was hit in the leg and is in a stable condition in hospital.

A 14-year-old boy was shot in a second shooting in nearby Hulme a few minutes later. He was taken to hospital where his injuries were not said to be life-threatening.

There have been a series of shootings in Manchester in recent months, but police denied that gun crime was out of control in the city.

“Occasionally it does flare up, but we’ve dedicated an awful lot of resources into this problem,” said Chief Superintendent Dave Keller, of Greater Manchester Police.

INTERNET

Floods at Char Kazla in the Bogra district, about 230km (144 miles) from the capital Dhaka, on 30 July, 2007. With floodwater pouring in through their windows, thousands of people affected by South Asia’s deadly deluge are being forced to share the limited high ground with venomous snakes, surrounded by filthy water.

INTERNET
Chavez says Venezuela increases military strength to defend oil

CARACAS, 30 July—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said Sunday that his country, as a world energy power, is increasing its military strength to defend its wealth and resources.

“Venezuela has the biggest oil and gas reserve in the world, and our country is developing an energy model attacked by the government of the United States,” Chavez said in his weekly radio and television show “Hello President.”

Venezuela is no longer a colony of the United States, he said in the programme broadcast from the eastern state of Anzoategui in the Orinoco Oil Strip. “The US is like Dracula and it is desperate because it does not have reserves. That is why we are strengthening the economic and military power so nobody dares to come and rob us,” Chavez said.

The President said his government has brought in a series of new laws and policies aimed at taking back Venezuela’s oil fields from foreign companies.

“Those adjustments (policies) have made the (US) empire and international companies nervous, triggering the coup d’état against my government in April 2002 and followed by oil stoppages in late 2002 and early 2003,” Chavez said.

“In the forthcoming decades news stories will inform that certain countries’ oil reserves are exhausted and the only reserves that will be available will be those in the Middle East, Russia and Venezuela,” he added.

In a fresh effort to nationalize its oil industry, the Venezuelan Government signed contracts with seven foreign oil companies on 26 June that will give the country the bulk of profits.—MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to make biofuel mandatory

JAKARTA, 31 July—The Indonesian Government mulls a regulation that will make the use of biofuel mandatory, particularly in the most crowded islands of Java and Sumatra, local Press said on Monday.

The National Biofuel Development Committee is conducting a study to determine how the regulation could be applied. Producers of biofuel have long demanded the government make the use of biofuel compulsory to boost the eco-friendly fuel business.

State-run oil and gas firm PT Pertamina has said it might scrap its biofuel business by the end of this year, as its biofuel products—BioSolar and BioPremium—caused the company to suffer 16.9 billion rupiah (1.8 million US dollars) in losses last year due to the high prices of raw materials, namely ethanol and crude palm oil, reported English daily The Jakarta Post.

Sun Microsystems exceeds profit target

NEW YORK, 30 July — Sun Microsystems, Inc, a leading US IT firm, reported on Monday its results for its fourth quarter and full fiscal year, which ended 30 June, 2007, exceeding its operating margin target.

Revenues for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2007 were $3.835 billion dollars. For the full fiscal year, the company reported revenues of $13.873 billion dollars, an increase of 6.2 percent over fiscal year 2006. Net income for the quarter was $329 million dollars, or 9 cents per share, on a diluted basis. For the full fiscal year, net income was $473 million dollars, or 13 cents per share, on a diluted basis, as compared with a net loss of $864 million dollars, or 25 cents loss per share, for fiscal 2006. “With a solid strategy and consistent execution, we delivered on our commitment to achieve at least 4 percent operating margin in the fourth quarter,” said Jonathan Schwartz, president and CEO of Sun Microsystems.

“After the significant progress toward our longer-term growth plan of at least 10 percent operating margin for the full fiscal year 2009,” he added. —Internet

Saudi Arabia’s oil production reaches 10.8 m bpd

RIYADH, 31 July—Saudi Arabia’s crude oil production capacity has reached 10.8 million barrels per day (bpd), the country’s state oil company Saudi Aramco announced Monday.

The company is sparing no efforts to raise its oil production to meet the market demand, said Armaco’s Mid-Year Accountability Report.

The Khursaniyah field is expected to start operations in December 2007, with a capacity of 500,000 bpd of Arabian light crude, said the report, noting the company will boost its exploration of non-associated gas fields.

During the first half of 2007 the company discovered two oil fields, Daivazah and Mabrook, adding the number of oil and gas fields under Saudi Aramco’s management to 102, it said.

Saudi Arabia is the world’s largest oil producer and exporter and plans to raise its production capacity to 12.5 million bpd in 2009.—Internet

Street vendors arrange cactus fruit on a stand set up on the side of a street in Amman, Jordan, on 28 July, 2007. Jordan was hit by a heat wave for last three days, with temperature rising to above 40 degrees Celsius.—INTERNET

The rescue operation goes on after 69 miners were trapped in a coal mine in central China’s Henan Province on 29 July 2007.—INTERNET

A weather report is viewed on a Sprint mobile phone in an undated file photo. Sprint Nextel Corp said on Thursday it would develop with Google Inc a new mobile Internet portal using WiMax wireless technology to offer Web search and social networking.—INTERNET
Bangladeshi train on trial-run leaves for Kolkata

DHAKA, 30 July — A Bangladeshi train named friendship express carrying a 35-member Bangladeshi official delegation left Dhaka on Sunday morning for Kolkata, capital of India’s West Bengal State, on a cross-border trial run. The Bangladeshi delegation expected to reach Kolkata from 5 pm to 6 pm will discuss some unresolved issues with their Indian counterparts about resumption of regular train service between the two neighbouring countries after 42 years.

The train service between Dhaka and Kolkata was suspended during India-Pakistan war in 1965 when Bangladesh was east wing of Pakistan.

India and Bangladesh will finalize the date of regular service, frequency of service and immigration and Customs clearing points during a two-day meeting which begins on Monday.

The Bangladeshi delegation led by Additional Secretary for Communications Ismail comprises high officials from home, communications and foreign affairs ministries.

AE Ahmed, additional secretary of the Indian Home Ministry, will lead the Indian side in the talk.

Earlier this month, a similar Indian trial train carrying a 30-member Indian official delegation visited Dhaka for talks to launch the Dhaka-Kolkata train service. After talks, the two sides said the regular passenger trains will be operational ahead of the month of Ramadan with two running from Dhaka and Kolkata a week.

Use your computer printer to make polymer solar cells

BEIJING, 30 July — Imagine being able to print inexpensive solar cells on paper using your computer printer or painting them on plastic sheets that can stick to a roof or wall to collect energy supplied by the sun’s rays.

Not only did scientists at the New Jersey Institute of Technology imagine the new polymer-based technology, they invented it because purified silicon, a core material for making conventional solar cells, is too expensive to produce on a consumer level.

“Developing organic solar cells from polymers, however, is cheap and potentially simpler alternative,” said lead researcher Somenath Mitra. “Imagine some day driving in your hybrid car with a solar panel painted on the roof, which is producing electricity to drive the engine. The opportunities are endless.”

The “paintable” solar-cell coating developed at NJIT is made of carbon nanotubes that function like electric wires but are about 50,000 times smaller than a strand of hair. Just one nanotube can conduct current better than typical electrical wiring.

Actually, nanotubes are significantly better conductors than copper,” Mitra added. Mitra and his research partner, Cheng Li, also at NJIT, encased the carbon nanotubes in “fullerenes,” protective compounds that can trap electricity and keep it from escaping.

Cargo plane crashes in Russia, killing eight

MOSCOW, 30 July — A cargo plane crashed in Russia early on Sunday, killing at least eight people on board, ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

The plane hit the ground just after it took off from southeastern Moscow’s Domodedovo Airport at 04:16 Moscow Time (0016 GMT), ITAR-TASS said, citing a spokesperson of the Emergencies Ministry.

The An-12 cargo plane, belonged to the Atran Company, fell down four kilometres away from the runway and went on fire with eight people onboard, said spokesperson Viktor Beltsov.

“The plane left Domodedovo for Bratsk at 04:16 Moscow Time and was supposed to make an interim landing in Omsk.

There were eight people on board, including five crewmen and three passengers,” Beltsov was quoted as saying.

Protesters shout slogans during a rally against imported US beef in front of an outlet in Seoul on 30 July, 2007. The sale of US beef was suspended temporarily at outlets in Seoul on Saturday as two materials presumed to be bone pieces were found, local media reported. The banner reads: “Press conference denouncing the detection of bone pieces in US beef”: — INTERNET

Six wounded in Baghdad bomb attacks

BAGHDAD, 30 July — A mortar round attack and a roadside bombing have wounded six people in the Iraqi capital on Sunday, an Interior Ministry source said.

A roadside bomb went off near a US patrol while it passed near a parking lot in Baghdad’s southern neighbourhood of Baiyaa, wounding three people, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

However, the US military did not confirm the incident yet.

Separately, a mortar round landed near an empty building of the old French embassy in the Marshah area in the Karrada neighbourhood in central Baghdad, wounding three guards, the source said.

The blast caused minor damages in the building, the source added. Violence continued in the capital despite more than five months of US and Iraqi security plan aiming at putting rampant violence under control.
World Breastfeeding Week
Projected to save ONE Million babies

Aye Phyu

World Breastfeeding Week (August 1-7) is celebrated every year on the anniversary of the adoption of the “Innocenti Declaration” at the WHO/UNICEF Policy Makers’ Meeting held at Spedale degli Innocenti, Florence, Italy in 1990.

In order to act on the Innocenti Declaration on the Protection, Promotion and Support of breastfeeding, the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) was formed with a global network of individuals and organizations worldwide. WABA envisioned a global unifying strategy by suggesting, in the calendar of international events, a day to be dedicated to breastfeeding. The idea of a day’s celebration was later turned into a week.

This has become to be known as World Breastfeeding Week to commemorate the Innocenti Declaration. World Breastfeeding Week was first observed in 1992 and since then it has become “the greatest vehicle” for the breastfeeding movement, being celebrated in over 120 countries.

The major aim of World Breastfeeding Week is to spread information globally about the importance of breastfeeding for maternal and child health and to facilitate and strengthen social mobilization therefor.

Breastfeeding is universally accepted as the best way of feeding infants, with a vast array of benefits not only to the children but also to mothers and society at large. According to UNICEF, an estimated 63 percent of children under 6 months of age in the developing countries are still not adequately breastfed so that millions of children start their lives at a disadvantage. Even at present, it is also not uncommon to see women including working mothers opting for infant formula for a variety of reasons.

World Breastfeeding Week offers the opportunity to advocate and increase breastfeeding practices throughout the world. A theme is usually selected every year and countries observe the week in different ways with special events and activities.

The theme for World Breastfeeding Week 2007 is:

Breastfeeding : The 1st Hour
Save ONE Million babies!

This year’s theme is based on issues revolving around the first hour of baby’s life with a forceful message for mothers to breastfeed their babies within an hour of birth. This step alone is projected to be able to save one million babies.

Breastmilk, a high quality food with an ideal balance of nutrients, that the infant can easily digest is the perfect source of nutrition for infants. It contains all the things that infants need to survive and grow—the various nutrients and vitamins in addition to the valuable antibodies that help them to resist infections. Infants not breastfed tend to run great risks including diarrheal disease, acute respiratory infections, ear infections and deficits in mental development. UNICEF also stated that in a developing country, a child who is breastfed is almost three times more likely to survive infancy than a child who is not.

It is said that under the influence of the hormones prolactin and oxytocin, women produce milk after pregnancy to feed their babies. The initial milk produced is often referred to as colostrum, a substance that helps to protect the newborn until its own immune system is functioning properly. Mothers are urged by health personnel to breastfeed their babies as early as possible within the first hour of birth in order for the baby to enjoy the benefits of the colostrums.

Breastfeeding in the first hour of birth, therefore, is a ‘must’ for every mother. It also paves the way for the ideal infant feeding practice of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of baby’s life, followed by the introduction of appropriate and adequate complementary foods, along with continued breastfeeding until the child reaches age 2, or beyond.

One of the Millennium Development Goals we have pledged, aims to reduce under-5 child mortality rate by two-thirds by 2015. To achieve this goal, we should all try to promote breastfeeding in our respective community since it is recognized as one of the most effective preventive intervention to reduce child mortality.

As is conveyed in the message on the World Breastfeeding Week advocacy calendar, everyone should be aware of the importance of “breastfeeding within the 1st hour of birth as the first and most vital step towards reducing infant and under-five mortality, by reducing the overwhelmingly high neonatal mortality rate.”

Let’s “Save ONE million babies beginning with ONE action, ONE hour support and ONE message: begin breastfeeding within ONE hour of birth!”

Poem

Breastfeeding is the Best

* Human or breast milk
* Brings a vast array of benefits
* With protein, vitamins and minerals in it
* Plus protective factors and fatty acid

* Coming straight from mom’s breast
* For infants, easy to digest
* Helps them to fight many illnesses
* And raises their level of intelligence
* Breastfeeding mothers

From childbirth and pregnancy, quickly recover

Get lifelong health advantages
With savings in time, labour and expenses

* Breastfeeding’s best part
* Holding baby close to mom’s heart
* The time just starts
To get a special love string knotted fast

* Breastmilk Substitutes
As a last resort to be used
None is proved as an equal drink
To a mother’s breastmilk

Myanmar Fish Entrepreneurs Association holds Annual General Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 31 July—The Myanmar Fish Entrepreneurs Association of the Myanmar Fish Federation held its first Annual General Meeting at Thiriannawa Hall of MFF on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township yesterday morning with an address by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein.

Vice-President of MFF U Han Tun, Chairman of MFEA U Maung Maung Soe and adviser U Moe Thwin extended greetings on the occasion.

Next, they presented the annual report and financial statement and sought approval.

Later, Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Director-General of Fisheries Department U Khin Maung Aye and responsible persons from MFF accepted cash donations and presented the certificates of honour to the well-wishers.—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein addresses 1st annual meeting of Myanmar Fish Entrepreneurs Association.— l. & r

Poem

Breastfeeding’s best part

* Human or breast milk
* Brings a vast array of benefits
* With protein, vitamins and minerals in it
* Plus protective factors and fatty acid

* Coming straight from mom’s breast
* For infants, easy to digest
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* Breastfeeding mothers

From childbirth and pregnancy, quickly recover

Get lifelong health advantages
With savings in time, labour and expenses

* Breastfeeding’s best part
* Holding baby close to mom’s heart
* The time just starts
To get a special love string knotted fast

* Breastmilk Substitutes
As a last resort to be used
None is proved as an equal drink
To a mother’s breastmilk

Myanmar Fish Entrepreneurs Association holds Annual General Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 31 July—The Myanmar Fish Entrepreneurs Association of the Myanmar Fish Federation held its first Annual General Meeting at Thiriannawa Hall of MFF on Bayintnaung Road in Insein Township yesterday morning with an address by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein.

Vice-President of MFF U Han Tun, Chairman of MFEA U Maung Maung Soe and adviser U Moe Thwin extended greetings on the occasion.

Next, they presented the annual report and financial statement and sought approval.

Later, Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Director-General of Fisheries Department U Khin Maung Aye and responsible persons from MFF accepted cash donations and presented the certificates of honour to the well-wishers.—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein addresses 1st annual meeting of Myanmar Fish Entrepreneurs Association.— l. & r

Poem

Breastfeeding’s best part

* Human or breast milk
* Brings a vast array of benefits
* With protein, vitamins and minerals in it
* Plus protective factors and fatty acid

* Coming straight from mom’s breast
* For infants, easy to digest
* Helps them to fight many illnesses
* And raises their level of intelligence
* Breastfeeding mothers

From childbirth and pregnancy, quickly recover

Get lifelong health advantages
With savings in time, labour and expenses

* Breastfeeding’s best part
* Holding baby close to mom’s heart
* The time just starts
To get a special love string knotted fast

* Breastmilk Substitutes
As a last resort to be used
None is proved as an equal drink
To a mother’s breastmilk
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects paddy rice... (from page 16)
Afterwards, they went to Hinthada Township and inspected construction of the three-storey building of Hinthada Technology University. On his inspection tour, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and his wife and party inspected the local battalion and met with local people. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the paddy cultivation of the battalion.

Minister inspects Dagon Bridge construction

MNA

YANGON, 31 July — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by officials, visited the Dagon Bridge construction site in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township here this afternoon.

At the briefing hall, project in-charge senior engineer U Tin Lwin reported on progress in the bridge construction work. Next, the minister and party were conducted round the project by officials. Then, the minister attended to the requirements. Dagon Bridge is reinforced concrete type with RCD foundation. It is 4540 feet long and 72 feet wide and can withstand 75 tons of loads. The bridge construction is nearing completion.

MoH conducts community home based care in Pakokku

NAY PYI TAW, 31 July — Ministry of Health conducted community home based care for AIDS, TB and chronic disease patients in Pakokku Township in cooperation with social organizations in the township here on 28 July.

First, the medical superintendent of Pakokku People’s Hospital, health employees and officials of social organizations discussed health care services. They provided medical care to five AIDS patients, four TB patients, three leprosy patients and ten chronic disease patients in Nos 7 and 10 wards in the township.

Flood victims in Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions evacuated

YANGON, 31 July — Low-lying areas in Singaing, Amarapura and Thaebikkyin townships of Mandalay Division and Sagaing Township, Sagaing Division, were flooded due to overflowing of Ayeyawady River on 28 July.

Residents in Tekmyaw, Paleik and Myaydaw villages in Sagaing Township, six wards in Shwekyetyat Village-tract, east Indine Ward and Shangalaykyin village of Amarapura township and Wards 1 and 2 of Tagaung in Thapeikkyin township were evacuated to high-land areas.

The flood victims in Sagaing were also evacuated due to overflowing of river water into some wards. The authorities concerned provided assistance to the victims.
Special Refresher Course No 9 for faculty...

Myanmar and heads of department, course instructors and trainee teachers.

In the address, Dr Than Nyun said only when there is progress in the education sector will the gap between rich and poor as well as development gap among the global nations be narrowed. As a result, there will emerge a peaceful and fair world. With this concept, all the nations of the world are striving with their own resources for promotion of their education.

At a time when globalization is in progress only those who are educated with a sense of national outlook will be able to serve the national interest and stand tall among the international community.

Today is the time when efforts are being made with own resources for the nation to keep abreast of the international community.

In the process, human resources such as intellectuals and intelligentsia like teachers, engineers, computer scientists and physicians are badly in need.

The achievements in which the nation is making progress in all spheres without foreign assistance can be attributed to the efficiency of the people including intellectuals and intelligentsia.

This being the case, the intellectuals and intelligentsia capable of shaping the future of the State and the national are to contribute their shares in the drive for development of the education sector.

The government is striving to build political, economic and social foundations in consistency. Therefore, all the teachers are not only to learn constantly and conduct research but also to train their pupils to raise their education standards and then apply their skills when they enter their professions.

Only then can a constant learning society be built.

Nowadays, as the State’s education vision has met with success to a certain extent, the nation is well on the way of reaching its national education goal.

At such a time like this, faculty members are to work hard by making use of educational opportunities in order for the State to develop in all its aspects.

Later, on behalf of Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Thein Sein, Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun presented awards to the outstanding trainees and completion certificates to the trainee teachers through respective group leaders. Then, he cordially greeted the trainees.

Altogether 430 faculty members and colleges in upper Myanmar attended the four-week course.

Dr Than Nyun presents a prize to an outstanding trainee. — MNA

Relief provided for flood victims in Thandwe District

YANGON — 31 July — Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Shein, USDA CEC member (Rakhine State In charge) Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo and officials attended a ceremony to provide relief aid for flood victims of Thandwe District at the hall of Thandwe Township yesterday morning. The minister and the deputy minister made speeches.

The minister provided K 5 million, 100 bags of rice, 80 dozens of exercise books and clothings. Social organizations also donated cash and kind to the victims. The commander and party next attended a ceremony to provide relief for flood-hit households held at Mahte Aungmyay Monastery in Andaw Village, Thandwe Township. Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe donated K 500,000, clothing and 20 dozens of exercise books and clothings. Today’s donations for the flood victims amounted to more than K 14.89 million. — MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe donates cash and assistance to flood victims in Thandwe District through an official. — TRANSPORT

Basic training course for women staff of Customs Department opened

YANGON, 31 July — The basic training course for women staff of the Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue was opened at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Phaunggyi) on 30 July with an address by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun. Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, member of Civil Service Selection and Training Board U Hla Myint Oo, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Maung Maung Win, Director-General of Customs Department U San Thaung, directors-general, managing directors, the Rector of CICS (Phaunggyi) and course instructors, and trainees.

In his address, Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun said that the basic training course is being conducted with the aim of training women staff who are to discharge duties in the department; adding that the course will teach them objectives and duties, laws and regulations and procedures of the department. The minister stressed the need for trainees to try their utmost in their studies in order that they can discharge duties straightforwardly when they are in the department.

The 16-week training course is being attended by 59 women trainees.

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The 16-week training course is being attended by 59 women trainees.
Minister inspects maintenance of Sittoung-Myitkyo-DaikU railroad section

**Nay Pyi Taw, 31 July**—Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min yesterday inspected the stockpiling of raw materials in Pyontaza, Bago Division and gave necessary instructions to officials.

After hearing a report presented by Manager of Concrete Sleeper Factory U Myo Htwe Win, the minister spoke of the need to meet the target of producing sleepers and timely arrival of sleepers and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the minister looked into the production process of sleepers and gave instructions on meeting the set standard and minimizing loss and wastage.

On arrival at the Sittoung-Myitkyo-DaikU railroad section, the minister inspected the maintenance of the road section and earth work along the section, construction of spillway and retaining wall and growing of physic nut plants. After inspecting the maintenance of Nagapaung Creek Bridge, the minister arrived at Myitkyo Station where he greeted passengers and looked into the staff quarters.

Next, he proceeded to Sittoung Bridge and heard a report presented by Project Engineer U Zaw Min Oo on the maintenance of the bridge and gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at Satthwagon Station, the minister inspected the station and the growing of shade trees and perennial crops in its environs.

The minister looked into the unloading of imported steel railway tracks onto the tracks at the jetty yesterday.

**MWAF conducts educative talks on fitness**

Yangon, 31 July—Young Women Sub-Working Group under the Working Group for Prevention of Violence against Women of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation organized educative talks and demonstration of physical activities at No 1 Basic Education High School in Insein Township on 28 July. It was attended by Secretariat Member of MWAF Daw Khin Myo Myint, Leader of the Rehabilitation and Reintegration Group Daw Kyi Kyi Mya, members of the sub-working group, members of Yangon North District and Insein Township Women’s Affairs Organizations, the headmaster and students of the school.

First, Leader of Young Women Sub-Working Group Daw Po Po Kyi delivered an address and Member of the sub-working group Daw Sabei Win gave talks on technique for leadership. Dr Maw Li Chit of the sub-working group also gave talks on fitness.

Afterwards, youth athletes of Myanmar Woshu Federation demonstrated their skills. Daw Po Po Kyi handed over cash donated by the sub-working group to the school through Headmaster U Aung Kyi.

**Information hammers Culture 7-0**

Yangon, 31 July—Information hammertime over Culture in the group-BB match of the second round of the 1st Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament for 2007 jointly organized by the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Football Federation, held in Paunglaung Sports Ground of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana at 4 pm today. Among the spectators were departmental heads of Ministry of Information and Ministry of Culture, officials of Myanmar Olympic Committee and MFF, staff families and fans.

The referee was U Win Kyaw Oo (MFF). The linemen were U Myo Myint Thaun, U Win Naing and U Ko Ko Naing of (MFF).

Ministry of Rail Transportation takes on Ministry of Sports in Paunglaung Sports Ground of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana at 4 pm tomorrow.

**Mayor attends opening of new tarred road and concrete bridge**

Yangon, 31 Aug—With the sponsorship of Yankin Township Union Solidarity and Development Association, a ceremony to open the newly-tarred Kyaukkon Road in Ward-14, Yankin Township and the concrete bridge on In-gyn Maing Street in Ward-9 was held at the designated sites this morning.

At 7 am, CEM member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (Yangon Division In-Charge) Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and member of the Road Repaving Committee U Kyaw Myint formally opened the tarred road at a ceremony held at the corner of Aungzeya Road and Kyaukkon Road and looked into it.

After that, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and member of the Bridge Construction Committee U Than Win formally opened the concrete bridge at a ceremony held in Ward-9 and inspected it.

Next, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin accepted 702 USDA membership applications and presented 100 dozens of exercise books for the Wasohmi Monastic Education School.—MNA

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**Lightning kills 5 S Korean climbers**

SEOUL, 31 July — Five South Koreans were killed by lightning in mountains near the capital on Sunday, while six other climbers were injured, KBS news said. Two men and two women were struck and killed near a hill at Bukhan Mountain, northeast of Seoul, when heavy rains swept through the area, the report said, citing police and rescue workers.

Scores of other climbers have been struck by lightning in the same area in the past. A 46-year-old man was also killed by lightning when he was climbing Surak Mountain bordering Seoul, the television said on its website.

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**Chinese drink 35 million tons of beer in 2006**

SHENYANG, 31 July— Chinese people consumed more than 35 million tons of beer in 2006, according to the China Alcoholic Drinks Industry Association (CADIA).

China produced 14.4 million tons of beer in the first five months this year, up 16.7 per cent from last year’s same period, according to Xiao Derun, an official with CADIA. China’s total beer output hit 35.15 million tons last year, an increase of 14.7 per cent over that of the previous year. China overran the United States to become the world’s largest beer producer in 2002, and since then its beer output has kept growing by 10 per cent annually.

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**Malaysia sets $31.5 billion plan to transform northern belt**

ALOR SETAR (Malaysia), 31 July — Malaysia is aiming for investment of 51.2 billion US dollars in mostly private funding over 18 years to turn its mainly agricultural north into a logistics, food-processing and tourism powerhouse by 2025.

The measures are part of the Prime Minister’s gameplan to bolster support in the country’s ethnic Malay heartland as expectations grow that his government plans to call snap general elections, perhaps as soon as early next year.

“The government is finalizing various incentive packages and they will be announced soon,” said Najib Razak, the second-in-command to his predecessor-turned-rival Mahathir Mohamad. Other projects being planned include an oil refinery and a mammoth oil pipeline.

Besides, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication, and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment will be restructured.

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**Vietnam expected to have two more deputy prime ministers**

HANOI, 31 July — Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung on Monday proposed the National Assembly (NA) of Vietnam, the country’s top legislature, increase the number of deputy prime ministers of the 12th government to five, from three in the 11th tenure.

The five deputy prime ministers will include a permanent one, one cum foreign minister, one cum minister of planning and environment, and one cum permanent member of the Central Anti-Corruption Committee, Dung said at the ongoing first session of the NA.

Under the Prime Minister’s proposal, the number of ministries and agencies equivalent to ministries will decrease to 22 from current 26. The Fisheries Ministry is expected to merge into the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; the Industry Ministry and the Trade Ministry into the Ministry of Industry and Commerce; and the Sports and Physical Culture Committee.

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**69 trapped in coal mine flooding in central China**

ZHENGZHOU, 31 July — Sixty-nine miners were trapped after a coal mine flooded in central China’s Henan Province, rescue headquarters said Sunday night.

The flooding occurred at around 8:40 a.m. Sunday at the Zhijian coal mine in Shaxian County, about 200 kilometres west of Zhengzhou, capital of Henan, when 102 miners were working underground, the rescue headquarters said.

Thirty-three managed to escape but 69 others were trapped, it said after checking the numbers. The mine reported earlier that 70 miners were trapped because of miscalculation.

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**People are seen using Johnson and Johnson products in an undated publicity photo. Johnson and Johnson said on Tuesday it planned to eliminate 3 percent to 4 percent of its global work force of about 120,500 people as part of a plan to improve its cost structure. — Internet**

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**Palestinians pray by a grave that was uncovered during an Israeli military operation near the West Bank town of Dura, west of Hebron, on 31 July, 2007. The Israeli army said on Tuesday troops were searching for weapons and accidentally unearthed the remains of a Palestinian. Internet**

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**69 trapped in coal mine flooding in central China**

BEIJING, 31 July — Chinese researchers say they have discovered a large amount of stones believed to be the relics of the Quaternary period glaciers (about 2.5 million years ago) in the suburbs of Beijing.

The stones, many measuring several metres high and with one to three levelled surfaces, were discovered in a two-kilometre-long valley in Miaofengshan Town in Mentougou District, about 100 kilometres west of downtown Beijing.

“They should all have been the floating gravels of the Quaternary period,” said discoverer Wang Hongjie, a senior engineer with the Beijing Municipal Hydrological and Geological Team.
Three men arrested in HK for drug trafficking

HONG KONG, 30 July—Three men aged between 19 and 37 were arrested for trafficking drugs, Hong Kong police said Sunday. The arrest was made following the seizure of two kilos of suspected methamphetamine ("Ice") worth over 870,000 HK dollars (about 110,000 US dollars) at the Hong Kong International Airport Saturday, according to the police.

Police said that following extensive investigations, officers of the Narcotics Bureau mounted an anti-dangerous drug operation and intercepted three men who were about to enter the Departure Hall of the Hong Kong International Airport at about 7pm local time on Saturday.—MNA/Xinhua

Deadly cocaine batch hospitalized 17 in Italy

ROME, 30 July—A batch of cocaine cut with a lethal chemical has sent at least 17 people to hospital and may be linked to one death in a northern Italian province, police said on Saturday in a reminder of Italy’s cocaine problem.

Police said they had arrested three people in connection with peddling cocaine cut with atropine, a potentially deadly chemical used by hospitals in eye and heart treatments.

The victims in the northern Bergamo area arrived at hospital in the past few days complaining of hallucinations and chest problems after taking the cocaine.

It was unclear if the death of a 20-year-old girl in a nearby town from a cocaine overdose was due to the same batch.

The incident comes as Italy battles a sharp surge in cocaine, especially among its youth.—MNA/Xinhua

CARECARECARECARECARE

TRIPOLI, 30 July—The Czech Republic, Qatar and Bulgaria contributed to an international fund to support hundreds of children who contracted HIV at a Libyan hospital in the 1990s, Libya said on Saturday.

"I thank Qatar for its role in the nurses’ case. European countries including Bulgaria and the Czech Republic contributed to the fund for the infected children," Libyan Prime Minister al-Baghdadi Ali Al-Mahmoudi told reporters in Tripoli. “France pledged to equip Benghazi Hospital and provide trained personnel for five years. It also agreed to train some 50 Libyan doctors.”

The Benghazi International Fund has already given one million US dollars to the family of each infected child under a deal to secure a pardon for six foreign medics who were jailed in Libya for eight years on charges of deliberately contaminating the children.

The money came from a 460-million-US-dollar loan due to be repaid as and when donors make resources available, a humanitarian body said on Friday. In a subsequent deal, the European Union promised closer ties with Libya in exchange for custody of the five Bulgarian nurses and one Palestinian doctor, who were flown to Bulgaria this week and immediately pardoned and freed by the President.—MNA/Reuters

Madagascar arrests politician on corruption charge

ANTANANARIVO, 30 July—Malagasy authorities have arrested a politician on corruption-related charges after he criticized the management of the ruling party, his wife said on Saturday. Roger Zara, who is trying to reform the President’s Tiako-i-Madagasikara (TIM) party, was a TIM deputy in the national assembly. The party, he said, was immediately taken to prison,” his wife, Colette, said by phone. “In the summons, my spouse is reprimanded for indulging in corruption, abuse of position, and tribalism.” She added. Her husband was a deputy for the northern island of Nosy Be.—MNA/Reuters
Study says eye problems could mean earlier death

BEIJING, 30 July — Older men and women with cataracts or age-related macular degeneration (ARMD) are at increased risk for suffering an early death, relative to older people without these two types of visual impairment, a study suggests.

While a number of studies have found visual impairment boosts mortality risk among older people, research on the relationship between cataracts or ARMD and mortality has yielded mixed results, Sudha Cugati of the University of Sydney and colleagues note in the Archives of Ophthalmology.

To better understand how ARMD and cataracts might relate to mortality, Cugati and colleagues looked at 3,654 people 49 and older who were participating in a long-term study of eye health.

Fifty-four percent of people with any type of visual impairment died during the study’s 11-year follow-up period, the researchers found, compared with 34 percent of those with no cataracts.

Once the researchers used statistical techniques to adjust for other factors linked to mortality risk, the increased risk of death with cataracts remained significant, while the increased risk of mortality with ARMD was significant only for people younger than 75.

Hungary’s bathers set Guinness Record in plaster cast

BUDAPEST, 30 July — The Guinness record “the most people in casts to bathe together” was set in Lake Balaton recently, local media reported.

As many as 146 people wearing special Scotch casts bathed in the lake at the same time in Balatonfured, said Gabor Xantus of 3M Hungary, the company that supplied the special cast in place of a plaster cast. Around 30 of them even participated in the 3.5-kilometres cross-Balaton swim being held concurrently.

Men and women were in equal numbers, and more than two thirds had broken arms, while the others had broken legs, Xantus said.

All the participants had to present an up-to-date x-ray of their injured limb, and, once they were admitted in the event, their plaster cast was replaced with the Scotch cast.

Fake toe on mummy may be world’s oldest prosthetic

BEIJING, 30 July — An artificial wood and leather big toe discovered on the foot of an Egyptian mummy could be the world’s earliest functioning prosthetic body part, researchers at University of Manchester announced on Friday.

The fake toe from the Cairo museum in Egypt was found in 2000 in a tomb near the ancient city of Thebes. Archaeologists speculated the 50- to 60-year-old woman the prosthetic came from might have lost her toe due to complications from diabetes.

The wood and leather prostesis dates from 1069 to 664 BC, based on artifacts it was found with in the mummy’s burial chamber. This means it predates what was previously thought of as the earliest known functioning prosthesis, the Roman Capua Leg, a bronze artifact dating from about 300 BC. The leg was once at the Royal College of Surgeons in London but was destroyed by bombing during World War II.

Volunteers who have lost their right big toe are now being recruited to see how effective replicas of the prosthesis are.

Replicas of a second false Egyptian right big toe on display at the British Museum in London, albeit without its mummy, will also be tested. This artifact, named the Greville Scotch cast. It is made from cartonnage, a sort of papier maché made using linen, glue and plaster. Based on the way the linen threads were spun, it dates from 1295 to 664 BC. — Xinhua

40th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting opens

MANILA, 30 July—The 40th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Ministerial Meeting (AMM) opened here Monday morning.

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo greeted foreign ministers at the Philippine International Convention Centre (PICC) before the opening of the meeting. Then the President and foreign ministers posed for a group photo.

Speaking at the opening of the meeting, Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said the Philippines is proud to host the AMM and is committed to the continued success of the ASEAN. Romulo said the Philippines is proud to host the AMM and is committed to the continued success of the ASEAN.
**Qatar awarded 2011 Asian Cup hosting rights**

**Jakarta, 31 July —** Qatar has been confirmed as the host nation for the 2011 Asian Cup, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) announced on Sunday. The Gulf state was the only country to submit a formal bid to host the event but had to satisfy the AFC of their ability to stage the tournament before being confirmed as hosts. India and Iran had initially indicated they would bid but pulled out before the final deadline in May.

**World’s largest soccer tournament opens in Norway**

**Stockholm, 31 July —** The Norway Cup, known as the world’s biggest soccer tournament, unveiled in Oslo on Sunday. A total of 30,000 young boys and girls from the age of six to 19 from 45 nations will fight for a place in the prestigious finals at Bislett stadium on Saturday, Norwegian Broadcasting (NRK) reported.

It is the 35th time the tournament has been held, a tournament known for bringing people from around the world together for a week of fun and sportsmanship.

This year, more than 1,500 teams participate in the Norway Cup, coming from as far away as Uruguay, China, Vietnam, Brazil, United States, South Africa and Zimbabwe. — MNA/Xinhua

**Stockholm rings with Iraqi celebrations**

**Stockholm, 31 July —** Members of Europe’s largest Iraqi population celebrated their team’s Asia Cup victory over Saudi Arabia on Sunday by honking their car horns and cheering in the centre of the Swedish capital.

Housewife Donna Munem, 26, sported a miniature rendition of an Iraqi flag on her cheek and waved a full-sized version at drivers who cruised past on one of the city centre’s main thoroughfares.

“It’s a great moment because of the problems in my country, we just need a little bit good so we can be happy,” Munem said with an ear-to-ear grin.

She said everyone was very proud of the team and appreciated the sense of pride they had brought to Iraqis everywhere.

“They are great. They are great. We just love them all.” — MNA/Reuters

**Atletico agree deal for Spain Winger Reyes**

**Madrid, 31 July —** Atletico Madrid have agreed to sign Spain winger Jose Antonio Reyes from Arsenal on a four-year contract, the Primera Liga club said on Monday.

Atletico said Reyes would have a medical on Tuesday morning.

If the reports are accurate, the move takes Atletico’s close season spending up to 70 million euros following their purchases of striker Diego Forlan, winger Simao Sabrosa, and midfielders Cleber Santana, Luis Garcia and Raul Garcia. — MNA/Reuters

**Partizan Belgrade to appeal against UEFA ban**

**Belgrade, 31 July —** Partizan Belgrade will appeal against their one-year ban from European competition imposed by UEFA after crowd trouble in their UEFA Cup match at Bosnia’s Zrinjski Mostar earlier this month. The Serbian club’s spokesman Marko Vjetrivic said: "We have received the formal grounds for our suspension in writing and we have decided to appeal against the verdict within the three-day deadline.

Partizan’s decision came as a surprise after the club’s general secretary Gordan Petric said last week it was unlikely they would appeal the ban and a fine of 50,000 Swiss francs.

European soccer’s governing body expelled Partizan from the competition after their fans rioted during the first qualifying round, first leg match at Zrinjski, which the Serbian side won 6-1.

Trouble erupted in the first half and 36 people were injured as rival fans clashed with each other and with riot police. — MNA/Reuters

**Beckenbauer backs England to host 2018 World Cup**

**London, 31 July —** FIFA member Franz Beckenbauer believes the 2018 World Cup should be held in Europe and that England is the best candidate to host the finals.

Beckenbauer, a member of FIFA’s 24-strong executive committee, which decides the World Cup hosts, said the quality of England’s league and stadia made the country the favourites.

"2010 is South Africa, then because of the FIFA rotation in 2014 it will be South America, probably Brazil, and then it’s the end of the rotation," Beckenbauer told BBC Five Live radio on Sunday.

"It has to come back to Europe and then England, of course, is the first choice to host the World Cup in 2018."

Beckenbauer, a World Cup winner as a player and manager who headed the organizing committee of last year’s finals in his native Germany, said: "There is no better country in Europe to host it in 2018."

"The Premier League at the moment is the best league in Europe, the stadiums are outstanding and the new Wembley Stadium, and the club stadiums, are in the best condition ever."

"So it’s logical to bring the 2018 World Cup to England." Beckenbauer added: "England is the favourite...Germany is out because we hosted the 2006 World Cup, Italy is not in a very stable condition, France was in 1998 and Spain I don’t know."

England won the 1966 World Cup as hosts and the government, led by new Prime Minister Gordon Brown, has firmly backed an English bid.

However, England’s Football Association still have a very long way to go. — MNA/Reuters

Los Angeles Galaxy’s David Beckham of Britain walks off the pitch after sitting on the bench during a match of the Superliga soccer tournament against Mexico’s Club Deportivo Guadalajara in Los Angeles on 28 July, 2007. Beckham, in a surprise move by Los Angeles Galaxy coach Frank Yallop, was named as one of the substitutes for Saturday’s SuperLiga match against Mexican side Chivas de Guadalajara at LA Coliseum. — INTERNET
China’s third-generation tank among world’s most advanced

The combat ability of the tank is greatly enhanced by an electro-optical countermeasures suite, which includes a device using high-power laser to attack the enemy weapon’s optics and damage the eyesight of the enemy gunner, said Yang.

“...a powerful engine enables the tank to run three times faster than previous models, while advanced armour materials and an automatic defence system doubles its defence capability...”

China’s third-generation main battle tank is among the most advanced in the world, Yang Hafeng, an armoured regiment commander in the Beijing Military Area Command, has claimed.

The China-made tank represents a significant improvement over older generations in terms of its ammunition, fire control, defence, telecommunications and rapid-attack capabilities, said Yang, speaking at an event at which his regiment showed the tank to a group of Chinese reporters for the first time, ahead of the 80th founding anniversary of Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA).

But he did not disclose the tank type or how many such tanks are currently in service.

His regiment is the only one in the PLA where all platoons are armed with the tank, which was unveiled at the National Day parade in Beijing in 1999 and entered service in 2001.

“...The tank, equipped with thermal imaging and night vision systems, has a strong target-tracking capability, which ensures a 90-per-cent-first-hit probability at a long range even when the tank is moving...” said Yang.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 12:30 hr MST on 31-7-2007)

According to the (06:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Hkamti (1419) cm is exceeded (59) cm above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level (1360) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.

According to the (06:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Mawlaik (1407) cm, Kalewa (1657) cm and Monywa (1038) cm are exceeded (177) cm at Mawlaik, (107) cm at Kalewa and (30) cm at Monywa above their respective danger levels. The water levels may remain above their respective danger levels of (1230) cm, (1550) cm and (1000) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.

According to the (06:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Katha (1051) cm, Mandalay (1297) cm, Sagaing (1187) cm and Hinthada (1352) cm are exceeded (11) cm at Katha, (37) cm at Mandalay and Sagaing and (10) cm at Hinthada above their respective danger levels. The water levels may remain above their respective danger levels of (1040) cm, (1260) cm, (1150) cm and (1342) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.

According to the (06:30) hr MST observation today, the water level of Dukkadaw River at Myitnge (905) cm is exceeded (35) above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level (870) cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.

Weather

Tuesday, 31 July, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hour MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Magway Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Rakhine State, lower Sagona and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Kayah State and upper Sagona Division, fairly widespread in Yangon Division and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfall in Kayin State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.20) inch, Kawkayek (3.13) inches, Kayhan (1.89) inches, Namsam (1.69) inches, Hkamti (1.57) inches and Shwegyin (1.37) inches.

Maximum temperature on 30-7-2007 was 90ºF. Minimum temperature on 31-7-2007 was 75ºF. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 31-7-2007 was 88%. Total sunshine hours on 30-7-2007 was (0.7) hour approx.

Rainfall on 31-7-2007 was (1.34) inches at Mingleladaw, (1.14) inches at Kaba-Aye and (0.67) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (79.82) inches at Mingleladaw, (82.48) inches at Kaba-Aye and (82.91) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from NorthWest at (13:30) hours MST on 30-7-2007.

Bay influence: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 1-8-2007: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in lower Sagona, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Rakhine and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Chin State, upper Sagona, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30) to (35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon in the Andaman Sea.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 1-8-2007: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 1-8-2007: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 1-8-2007: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Earthquake report

(Issued at 06:30 hours MST today)

An earthquake of moderate intensity (5.5) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside of Myanmar about (200) miles North of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory, was re- ported by (MNA) on 31 July 2007.

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**Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects paddy, physic nut plantations in Ayeyawady Division**

**NAY PYI TAW,** 31 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, went to Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Division, yesterday and inspected model paddy fields in the township.

On his inspection tour of the 100-acre paddy field in Nyaungdon Township, officials of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Myint Aye reported on use of natural and chemical fertilizers, establishment of modal plots in 52,000 acres of paddy fields in 26 towns in Ayeyawady Division, dissemination of agricultural knowledge to farmers and efforts for boosting per acre yield in the division.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected a pilot plantation of paddy in Thazinyekyaw Village-tract in Nyaungdon Township and cordially greeted local farmers.

They also inspected thriving paddy fields in a motorcade on their way to the physic nut plantation of government departments in Nyaungdon Township. According to the report of an official concerned, a total of 3,186 acres have been put under physic nut in Nyaungdon Township and there are 60 acres of physic nut grown by departments in the township.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged authorities concerned to grow 500,000 acres of physic nut within three years.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than also visited the 18-acre physic nut plantation of the township police force. During his tour of Ayeyawady Division, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected preventive measures against flood in Danubyu Township and gave instructions to officials concerned.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the 100-acre paddy field in Zalun Township. At the briefing hall, the chairman of the Zalun Township Peace and Development Council U Yin Htwe reported on cultivation of monsoon paddy for 2007-2008, use of natural and chemical fertilizers and efforts for meeting the target of 100 baskets per acre yield in the township. After hearing reports, they viewed broadcasting of fertilizer on the 1000-acre paddy field.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party visited Man Aung Myin Buddha Image in Zalun and made cash donation at the pagoda.

On his tour of Zalun, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental officials, members of social organizations and town elders.

At the meeting, Chairman of Zalun Township Peace and Development Council U Yin Htwe reported on matters related to the administration and economy of the township.

In his address, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said Zalun Township has exceeded the target cultivation of 10 major crops and has enjoyed sufficiency of edible oil. However, Ayeyawady Division does not have a surplus of edible oil. A plan for extended cultivation of oil crops, peas and beans has been drawn, and officials are to make efforts for meeting the target cultivation of oil crops and peas and beans in the township, he said. As Ayeyawady Division sets its target of 500,000 acres of physic nut, Zalun Township is also to contribute to planting physic nuts in the division.

(See page 8)

**Special Refresher Course No 9 for faculty members of universities and colleges in upper Myanmar concludes**

**NAY PYI TAW,** 31 July — The conclusion ceremony of the Special Refresher Course No 9 for faculty members of universities and colleges was held at the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, yesterday.

On behalf of Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Then Sein, Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board Dr Than Nyun made a speech on the occasion and presented conclusion certificates to the trainees.

Also present on the occasion were ministers, deputy ministers, members of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, departmental officials, the rector of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in PyinOoLwin Township, Mandalay Division, yesterday.

The achievements in which the nation is making progress in all spheres without foreign assistance can be attributed to the efficiency of the people including intellectuals and intellectuals.

Chairman Dr Than Nyun of CSSTB delivers an address at conclusion of Special Refresher Course No 9 for faculty members at CICS in Upper Myanmar. — MNA

**First Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Football Tournament**

Results of group-BB match of the second round

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| Culture     | 0 |

Fixtures on 1 August

Ministry of Rail Transportation vs Ministry of Sports

— MNA