

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XII, Number 94

3rd Waxing of Second Waso 1366 ME

Monday, 19 July, 2004

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing welcome back Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe

YANGON, 18 July — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt of the Union of Myanmar, accompanied by wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, arrived back here by flight of Myanmar Airways International at 4 pm today, after paying an official visit to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Mr Wen Jiabao.

The Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe



Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing welcome back Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe at the airport.— MNA

Win and wife Daw Than Nwe, Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council and wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Yangon Command Commander, Minister for Information, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, senior military officers, Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Amba-

sador of Brunei Darussalam HE Pehin Dato Haji Hussin bin Haji Sulaiman and heads of foreign missions in Yangon, the UN Resident Coordinator, the chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China Mr Yu Boren and

officials and departmental heads.

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo and wife Daw Khin Lay Myint, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister

for Industry-1 U Aung Thauang, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and wife Daw San Yone, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and departmental heads also arrived back on the same flight.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe being welcomed back by diplomats and UN officials.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 19 July, 2004

Uplift national prestige and integrity

Throughout history, Myanmar has been living under its own monarchs with pride, and international community acknowledge Myanmar's preservation of culture.

As Myanmar people are civilized and polite ones, they are to value own land, race and culture above all else. The people are to guard against the penetration and influence of alien culture and it is incumbent upon all the national people to preserve own national culture.

Taking advantage of today's globalization process, some big powers are trying to overwhelm developing countries politically and they are trying to influence the youth of the developing countries by introducing their culture, music, lifestyle and thoughts.

At such a time, the Government is making all-out efforts to uplift the national culture with the aim of enabling the nation and its people to stand tall among the nations of the world and arrangements are being made to preserve the national character.

The Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions have been held yearly since 1993 with a view to preserving and elevating Myanmar traditional cultural arts, enabling traditional cultural arts to catch up with the development of international level arts without damaging own styles and the youths to love and cherish national traditions, culture and custom.

The Leading Committee for Organizing the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions held its first meeting at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township on 16 July with an address by Chairman of the Leading Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

On the occasion, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe urged those from the leading committee, the committees and sub-committees and maestros to make suggestions for holding the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions this year on a grand scale.

Panel of Patrons of the Organizing the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, the Leading Committee and the sub-committees are to try their best for successful holding of the competitions.

At a time when the Government is paying serious attention to uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character, all the national people are urged to actively participate in the Government's endeavours.

National Basketball Championship continues

YANGON, 18 July —The 2004 National Basketball Championship sponsored by the Myanmar Basketball Federation and Mikko Co continued at Aung San Gymnasium here at 9 am today.

In the men's junior event, the LSK team beat the Industry-1 (B) team 57-39 points. In the men's senior event, the Navy team beat the Aungmye team 74-42 points.

In the women's event, the Agriculture & Irrigation team beat the Industry-1 (B) team 100-36 points and the Home Affairs team beat the Yangon Division team 76-31 points.

The Championship continues tomorrow. — MNA

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

F&R Minister tours Sagaing Division

YANGON, 18 July — Minister for Finance & Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, together with Myanmar Economic Bank Managing Director Col Hsan Tun, Internal Revenue Department Director-General U Win Naing and officials, left Yangon by air on 16 July morning and arrived in Sagaing. He met with employees of the ministry in Sagaing District at the Sagaing District Peace and Development Council Office. Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and division and district level departmental personnel were also present at the meeting.

In the afternoon, the minister went to Myinmu and inspected Township MEB and Township Myanmar Small Loan Enterprise. The minister and party proceeded to ChaungU and inspected the newly built Township Bank Branch. In the evening, the minister met with staff of the ministry at Myathalla Hall of the Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Office in Monywa. Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and division and district level departmental personnel were also present at the meeting. The commander and the minister gave necessary instructions.

On 17 July, the commander, the minister and party left Monywa and inspected MEB branches in Budalin and Dibayin townships. They also inspected the construction site of MEB branches in YeU and KhinU townships. They next met with staff of the ministry in Shwebo District at Yanggyaung Hall in Shwebo. Later, the minister inspected the construction of Shwebo District MEB branch.

On 18 July, the minister met with staff of the ministry at the Divisional Internal Revenue Department Office in Mandalay and gave necessary instructions. — MNA

Commander, Home Affairs Minister on tour of Shan State (North)

YANGON, 18 July — Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, accompanied by officials concerned toured Hsenwi, Kunlon, Hopan, Chinshweh and Laukkai Townships in northern Shan State from 14 to 16 July.

On 14 July, the minister inspected opium substitute agricultural and livestock breeding farm of Shan State Police Force in Namton village of Lashio Township. He also opened the healthcare clinic of Hsenwi Police Force. He also met with local authorities, officials and personnel of social organizations in Kunlon and Hopan Township Peace and Development Council Offices. In the evening, the minister met with national race leaders in Laukkai. He presented certificates of honour to national race leaders for their active participation in drug abuse control activities in Kokang Special Region-I and fulfilled their requirements.

On 15 July, North-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Minister Col Tin Hlaing inspected the construction site of Shwepyithit Youth Rehabilitation Camp at Tima village in Kutkai Township. In the evening, they inspected Hsin Shweli special high-yield paddy fields in Lontain, Fikyaung and Nawngloon villages in Namkham Township. They also inspected General Administration Departments and police stations in Namkham and Muse Townships. They met with officials concerned of Muse, Namkham and Kutkai Townships at Shweli Yadana guest house in Muse.

On 16 July, they inspected the 1000-acre Hsin Shweli paddy plantation of Shan State (North) Police Force in Humon village in Lashio Township. Officials reported the success met in producing pedigree seeds F-1 of Hsin Shweli special high-yield paddy. — MNA

K 2.95m donated for tree planting at Shwedagon

YANGON, 18 July — Under the arrangements of the Shwedagon Pagoda All-round Renovation Work Committee, shady trees and flowering plants are growing in the environs of Shin Upagupta Arahata Lake in the Theingoktara Gardens of the Pagoda. Wellwishers U Thein Win, Daw Ni and family of Shwe Thanlwin Co today donated K 2.95 million for growing trees and plants. The cash donation centre is kept open at the northern entrance of the pagoda from 7 am to 6 pm daily till 31 August. — MNA

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 18 July — The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce.

One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000. — MNA



Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt on 16 July attended the closing ceremony of the Basic Engineering Course No 6, the Advanced Tailoring Course No 6 and the Training Course Nos 31 and 32 for clerical staff at the Central Training School of the Education and Training Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in ward 51, Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon. (News reported) Minister Col Thein Nyunt, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Tun and directors-general inspect the training of mosaic for enabling domestic science trainees from Chin State to conduct multiplier courses.

PBANRDA

Myanmar delegation attends World AIDS Conference

YANGON, 18 July —The 46-member Myanmar delegation attended the 15th World AIDS Conference at Impact Convention Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, from 11 to 16 July. AIDS/STD Control Project manager Dr Min Thwe of the Health Department, Dr Ei Mon Mar Si of UNAIDS, youth representative Ma Thaw Zin Aye and representatives of FXB submitted three papers to the conference. In addition, the poster of U Maung Maung Kyaw of UNDP, the booth of the Ministry of Health at ASEAN Exhibition and Care Myanmar and WVI booth were displayed.

Moreover, Ashin Chetinda and three members of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University attended the AIDS and Religious Affairs Meeting and three persons participated in the discussions of the World HIV/AIDS Patients Conference.

On 10 and 11 July, project manager Dr Min Thwe and one representative attended the HIV/AIDS Project Manager Meeting and Dr Pe Thet Tun of the Ministry of Health and one representative attended the Senior Officials Meeting held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand on 10 July. — MNA

Suicide bombs kill six in Iraq, minister survives blast

BAGHDAD, 17 July — Two suicide car bombs in Iraq killed six people and injured 36, but Iraq's 83-year-old justice minister, target of one of the blasts, escaped injury.

Also Saturday, a US soldier was killed and another injured by a roadside blast, and a second street bomb injured three policemen and five people were wounded in an attack on a police station.

In Iraq's serial hostage drama, there was fresh hope for an Egyptian whose abductors telephoned his Saudi employer to say he would be released on Sunday, but there was no word on the fate of a

Filipino and a Bulgarian, both threatened with beheading.

The car bomb that targeted Justice Minister Malek Dohan al-Hasan's motorcade was claimed by al-Qaeda-linked militant Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi.

Hasan emerged from the attack unscathed, three of his bodyguards, including a nephew, were killed along with two civilians, officials said.

Eight people were also wounded in the blast which hit Hassan's motorcade as it was taking him to work from his home in the west of the capital.

A driver in a white Toyota approached the minister's convoy and blew himself up, said interior ministry spokesman Colonel Adnan Abdul Rahman.

Three policemen were wounded less than an hour later when a bomb planted

on the side of the road exploded close to their vehicle.

Hassan, a seasoned lawyer and politician, assumed a high profile earlier this month with the unveiling of a new national security law giving the government emergency powers in its battle against the 15-month-old insurgency.

He is also one of the key players in the process of trying to depose dictator Saddam Hussein and 11 of his lieutenants, after their first appearance in the dock on 1 July.

Internet

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Iraq calls off campaign against gunmen

BAGHDAD, 17 July — Iraq's Justice Minister Hazem al-Shaalan has reportedly ended a planned military campaign against gunmen controlling Samarra.

The Iraqi *al-Sabah* newspaper quoted the minister as saying the military operation has been delayed upon the recommendation of the prime ministry in order to give time for the gunmen to peacefully surrender their weapons.

Two weeks ago, about 200 armed men, identified as belonging to various religious extremist groups, took control of Samarra, 60 miles (100 kilometres) north of Baghdad after destroying a number of government buildings.

Al-Shaalan told the newspaper the suspension of the planned military campaign came in "respect to the holy shrines in the city," adding intensive efforts were being carried out to end the siege peacefully.

Internet

Roadside bomb blast kills US soldier in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 July — Guerillas killed a US soldier and wounded another in a roadside bomb blast in northern Iraq on Saturday, the US army said.

In a statement, the army said the attack was near Baiji, 110 miles north of Baghdad, at 7 am (2300 EDT Friday) on Saturday morning.

The death brought to 655 the number of US soldiers killed in action in Iraq since the invasion last year. —Internet

India's "IT" enabled services BPO sector grows by 54%

NEW DELHI, 17 July — India's IT enabled services-Business Process Outsourcing (ITES-BPO) sector has emerged as a key driver of growth for the Indian software and services industry during 2003-04, according to an official report on Friday.

The ITES-BPO industry is estimated to have grown by about 54 per cent with export revenue of 3.6 billion US dollars during 2003-04, indicating that the sector is showing upward spiral growth on service lines like customer care, finance, administration, billing and payment services, the *Press Information Bureau of India* reported.

According to the annual report of the Department of Information Technology (DIT) for the year 2003-04, the Indian IT software and services industry is expected to account for about 2.6 per cent of India's gross domestic product (GDP) and 21.3 per cent of exports during 2003-04 and is projected to grow to 7 per cent of nation's GDP and 35 per cent of exports by 2008.

The software and services industry continued to be the dominating factor in the overall growth of country's IT industry during 2003-04, the report said.

The total value of software and services exports is estimated at 12.2 billion US dollars, showing an increase of about 20 per cent in rupee terms and 28 per cent in dollar terms.

India's IT software and services industry has been projected to reach an export potential of 57-65 billion US dollars for the software and services sector by 2008.

This implies a share of 6 per cent of the relevant global market. The ITES-BPO sector exports are likely to reach 21-24 billion US dollars by 2008.

The annual report indicates that India has become one of the most preferred destinations for sourcing software and IT-enabled services.

The number of professionals employed in the country by IT and ITES sec-

tors is estimated at 813,500 by March 2004, of which 260,000 were in the IT software and services export industry, nearly 245,500 in ITES-BPO sector, 28,000 in the domestic software market and over 280,000 in user organizations.

In recent times, various nations are increasingly recognizing India's achievements in the IT sector.

MNA/Xinhua



Part of the convoy of the Iraqi Justice Minister Malik Dohan al-Hasan burns after a car bomb attack in Baghdad, Iraq on 17 July, 2004. —INTERNET

Chinese govt to send more staff on poverty relief missions

BEIJING, 17 July — China's central authorities will continue to send staff to aid poverty relief efforts in designated areas, Chinese Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu said here Thursday.

Hui made the remarks at a meeting for summing up experience in such efforts, which was attended by representatives of 272 departments of the central government. Under this project, which started in 1986, functionaries dispatched to backward areas are asked to adopt various measures to help lift local people out of poverty and usually take temporary positions in local governments.

Measures they take include helping those regions to raise funds and attract investment, organizing the construction of roads, schools, hospitals and other infrastructure facilities, helping those areas to form strong and effective leadership teams and helping those areas to formulate scientific development strategies.

Hui said direct involvement of the central authorities constitutes an important component of the Chinese-style poverty-relief work. This arrangement will not only facilitate the implementation of policies of the Communist Party of China and the state at the grass-roots level, but also help the cadres to gain first-hand understanding of the real situation of the state and improve their capability.

Hui urged departments of the central au-

thorities to attach greater importance to poverty-relief work in their designated areas and make further efforts to address the basic needs of the poor population, improve living and production conditions and the comprehensive quality of poor population in those areas.

Hui said poverty-relief work in designated areas participated in by central authorities has made great achievements. Effective experience and practices in these efforts should be summed up and carried forward. Hui said poverty relief is an important job that must be done well. It has bearings on China's goal of building of a well-off society in an all-round way, pursuing the scientific viewpoint of development, and solving the problems of farmers, agriculture and rural areas.

He said China has made great progress in poverty relief since it started reform and opening to the outside world. Poor population in rural areas has dropped dramatically, the poverty rate has dropped significantly and the living and production facilities in poverty-stricken areas have been improved markedly.

However, there are still tremendous tasks ahead. Greater efforts are needed to push poverty-relief work to a new height, said Hui.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore's non-oil exports rise in June

SINGAPORE, 17 July — Singapore's non-oil domestic exports (NODX) grew by 20.9 per cent to 11 billion Singapore dollars (about 6.5 billion US dollars) in June this year, according to figures released by the International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore) on Friday.

Total exports rose 30.3 per cent to 25.91 billion Singapore dollars (about 15.2 billion US dollars) in June while imports rose 23.6 per cent to 22.94 billion Singapore dollars (about 13.4 billion US dollars). — MNA/Xinhua



A US Army soldier arrives at the scene of a roadside bomb explosion in southern Baghdad, on 16 July, 2004. An improvised explosive device went off on the airport highway as a US Army convoy was driving past, injuring one soldier according to officers on the ground. —INTERNET

Tory leader regrets supporting Blair on Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 July—The leader of Britain's major opposition party says he would not have supported the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, in a parliamentary vote in favour of war in Iraq had he known about flaws in British intelligence.

"If I knew then what I know now, that would have caused a difficulty. I couldn't have voted for that resolution," Michael Howard, leader of the Conservative Party, said in an interview with *The Sunday Times* newspaper.

However, Howard said he could have voted for military action if the resolution had not been based on British claims that Saddam Hussein had stockpiles of chemical

and biological weapons ready to use.

An official inquiry led by Lord Butler reported on Wednesday that Iraq had no such weapons, but Butler's panel said the Government had not deliberately exaggerated the threat in its intelligence dossiers.

Butler's report criticised the Government for not revealing the sketchiness of its intelligence, and for not making it clear that a claim that

Iraq could use chemical and biological weapons on 45 minutes notice - which later proved false - referred only to battlefield weapons.

Howard was not leader of the Conservative Party at the time the House of Commons authorised Blair to join in the US-led invasion. The leader at the time, Iain Duncan Smith, and most of the Conservatives in Parliament, supported the war.

"If you look at the terms of

the actual resolution put to the House of Commons on March 18, it placed a very heavy emphasis on the presence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq," Howard was quoted as saying.

"So I think it is difficult for someone, knowing everything we know now, to have voted for that particular resolution."

Howard's party finished an embarrassing third in two special elections to the House of Commons on Thursday. The Liberal Democrats, the only major British party to oppose the war, won one of the seats, previously held by Blair's Labour Party. Labour won the other. —Internet



A member of Muqtada al-Sadr's militia guards in the Sadr City neighbourhood of Baghdad, Iraq on 16 July, 2004. —INTERNET

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US soldiers, Iraqis targeted on deadly day in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 July—Gunmen have killed an Iraqi police chief as he drove to work today south of Baghdad. It's the latest in a series of attacks against Iraqis seen as collaborating with US forces.

Also today, an American soldier was killed by a roadside bomb in northern Iraq. Another soldier was hurt.

Earlier, a suicide car bomber hit the Iraqi justice minister's convoy as he left home. He escaped unharmed — but five of his bodyguards were killed.

In a second suicide bombing, attackers hit an Iraqi National Guard headquarters south of Baghdad, killing two people and wounding 47.

The attacks were the latest in a series that have targeted high-level government officials. They could be an effort by insurgents to mark the anniversary of the coup that brought Saddam Hussein's political party to power in 1968.

Internet

UN warns increasing carbon dioxide in world's oceans

UNITED NATIONS, 17 July — Increasing carbon dioxide absorbed by the world's ocean may threaten the long-term survival of many marine species, according to a UN report released here Friday.

The abnormal level of carbon dioxide in world's oceans may increase their acidity and threaten the lives of corals, shellfish and phytoplankton, said the report, which was presented at the symposium organized by the Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Council for Science's Committee on Oceanic Research. This development in turn

could disrupt marine food chains and alter ocean bio-geochemistry in ways that are not yet understood or predictable, according to the report. It said that by the middle of this century, the accumulating burden of carbon dioxide entering the ocean will lead to changes in acidity of the upper layers that are three times greater in magnitude and 100 times faster than those experienced between ice ages. —MNA/Xinhua

Wu Bangguo stresses parliamentary exchanges with Mali

BEIJING, 17 July—China is ready to cooperate with Mali in legislation — leading the way for further friendship and cooperation between the two countries, said China's top legislator Wu Bangguo here Friday.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress (NPC), made the remark at a meeting with visiting Malian President Amadou Toumany Toure, who arrived here Thursday on a five-day state visit to China at the invitation of President Hu Jintao.

Wu pointed to the sound relationship between the NPC and the Malian Parliament, saying that exchanges and cooperation between legislative bodies of the two countries constitute an important part of the bilateral relationship. The tie promotes the understanding and friendship between the people of the two countries.

Mali is China's friend and, since the two countries established diplomatic ties over four decades ago, they have witnessed smooth growth of bilateral relations, Wu noted. They have enhanced mutual trust, increased cooperation in various fields and cooperated in international organizations.

Wu expressed his appreciation for the Malian Government's one-China policy. He said China and Mali shared common experiences

and face the common task for development. Continuously strengthening the Sino-Malian relations is in the common interest of both sides.

The Chinese side treasures friendship with Mali and will make joint efforts with Mali to expand cooperation, promote bilateral relations and safeguard the rights and interests of developing countries in international affairs.

Toure said this visit is bound to push forward the all-round development of Malian-Chinese cooperation. Malian parliamentarians hope to enhance exchanges with the NPC to learn from China's experience, he noted.

This is Toure's first China tour since he assumed presidency in 2002.

Besides Beijing, Toure and his colleagues, including some ministers from Malian Cabinet in charge of foreign affairs, agriculture, commerce, education and investment, will visit Shanghai municipality in east China and Guangdong Province in south China.

The trade volume between China and Mali reached 63.59 million US dollars in 2003.

MNA/Xinhua

Over 100 million e-mails in circulation per day in China

SHANGHAI, 17 July—China's Internet users send 46 million e-mails and receive 67 million each day, according to the latest figures provided by CCID Consulting, a think tank for the Ministry of Information Industry.

But nearly half of the e-mails in circulation are junk mail, according to CCID Consulting, also one of the leading domestic IT market research bodies.

By the end of last November, China's Internet servers had received altogether 150 billion spam e-mails, according to the Internet Society for China (ISC). This accounted for 30 percent of the country's total e-mail.

In order to curb spam proliferation in China, the ISC and some leading domestic Internet service providers (ISP), including Sina, Netease, 263 and ZJ, are working on new screening technologies to stop junk e-mails at the source and to safeguard network safety.

Many domestic ISPs have upgraded their free e-mail storage since Google announced in April its plan to test an e-mail service offering one gigabyte, or 1024 MB, of free storage, followed by Yahoo which upgraded its free e-mail storage to 100 MB, 25 times more than its prior free offering.

Netease and Sina, two leading portals in China, expanded their freemail storage capacity to 260 MB and 30 MB

respectively from the previous 25 MB and 5 MB.

China, the world's most populous nation, reported 79.5 million netizens and 30.89 million computers connected to the Internet by the end of 2003.

Both figures are rising steadily, according to statistics provided by China Internet Network Information Centre, or CNNIC.

By the end of last year, China's netizens had subscribed 111 million mailboxes, 15 million of which charged service fees ranging from a few US dollars to about 20 US dollars a year, according to CCID.

CCID statistics also indicate that global netizens were sending 35 billion e-mails a day at the end of last year.

MNA/Xinhua

China to inaugurate scientific research station in Arctic

SHANGHAI, 17 July—A team of 12 Chinese scientists will head for the North Pole next week to carry out research in the Arctic region and inaugurate the country's first scientific research station there.

The team will leave Beijing for Svalbard Island, Norway on Monday. Another two teams of government officials and journalists will follow in a week, said Wei Wenliang, an official for polar expedition affairs with the National Bureau of Oceanography.

Wei did not disclose the name of China's Arctic station, which had already been decided but was still subject to approval.

Yang Huigen, deputy head of China Polar Research Centre based in Shanghai, has been appointed first chief of the station, according to Wei. —MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi police officer lifts a piece of a Volkswagen Beetle after a bomb exploded targeting an American military convoy, injuring four civilians in Baghdad, Iraq on 16 July, 2004. —INTERNET

Blair facing further Iraq pressure

BAGHDAD, 18 July — There have been fresh calls from senior Tories for Tony Blair to resign and to explain why he was not told about the withdrawal of key intelligence on Iraq.

Former Foreign Secretary Sir Malcolm Rifkind said Mr Blair should resign because he had taken the UK to war based on false intelligence.

Lord King of Bridgewater wanted to know why Mr Blair was not told intelligence had been discredited in July 2003.

Downing Street said the PM did not find out until last week's Butler report.

Two reports on alleged chemical and biological weapons production were withdrawn by MI6 because the source was no longer considered reliable.

The move, weeks before the Hutton inquiry, was made

known to the Foreign Office and Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC).

But Mr Blair had not been informed by the time he gave evidence to Lord Hutton in August, Downing Street said.

The prime minister's official spokesman said the intelligence in question "was only one issue" and "not relevant" to the Hutton inquiry, which focused on the death of Dr David Kelly and the separate claim that Iraq could launch WMD within 45 minutes. —Internet

Iraqi higher council of oil and gas formed

BAGHDAD, 18 July — Iraqi higher council of oil and gas has been formed and Prime Minister Ayad Allawi would head the council, *Al Sabah* newspaper reported Saturday.

"Because of the strategic importance of the natural resources, especially the oil and gas, which are property of the people, and to draw a general policy to administer those resources, the council was founded," an official at the Iraqi Ministry of Oil was quoted as saying.

He said the council would look into the strategic issues sent to it by the head of the council or by the

Iraqi Minister of Oil, especially the medium-term and long-term plans and the following of their implementation.

It would also look into the investments and big projects and method of financing them, in addition to the contracts and agree-

ments signed with the foreign sides and drawing marketing policies for the crude oil, he added.

He pointed out that the council would set the tariff of the main local consumption oil products and the share of the Finance Ministry. —MNA/Xinhua

Two killed in car bomb blast south of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 18 July — A car bomb exploded outside an Iraqi National Guard barracks south of Baghdad on Saturday, killing two people and wounding 25, the Health Ministry said.

A ministry spokesman said the blast occurred in front of the National Guard building in Mahmudiya, about 25 miles south of Baghdad. He said the two dead and most of the wounded

were National Guardsmen.

There has been a spate of car bombings and assassination attempts in Iraq in the past few days, following nearly two weeks of relative calm. —MNA/Reuters



A US soldier stands under a defaced sign which calls for Iraqis to support their new security forces, in Baghdad on 16 July, 2004. —INTERNET

China hopes Austria to further push forward bilateral ties

BEIJING, 17 July—China hopes that the Parliament of Austria will continue efforts for pushing forward Sino-Austrian ties and listen to and understand China's stance on Taiwan and Tibet, a senior Chinese official said here Friday.

Jia Qinglin, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), told Barbara Parammer, second president of the National Council of Austrian Parliament, that China appreciates Austria's adherence to the one-China policy.

Jia, also chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said China is satisfied with the growth of the relationship between the two countries.

China and Austria established full diplomatic relations 33 years ago. Jia said China considers Austria an important partner of China in Europe. China is willing to strengthen ties on the basis of mutual benefit and respect.

In addition, Jia said the exchange between the Austrian Parliament and the National People's Congress (NPC) of China and the CPPCC have helped consolidate the friendship between the two countries.

Parammer said the Parliament and government of Austria hope to expand its relationship with China, considering that China plays an ever greater role in world affairs. She hopes the two sides will further cooperation in culture and other areas. On Thursday, Austrian President Heinz Fischer said in Vienna when meeting Wang Zhaoguo, vice-chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, that his country is willing to further strengthen relations with China, especially in scientific and cultural cooperation. —MNA/Xinhua

China, Thailand join forces on Yunnan power projects

KUNMING, 17 July—China and Thailand have announced a joint venture to build and operate two power stations on the Lancang-Mekong River. China will hold 75 per cent of the stake.

According to sources with the Yunnan provincial power department, China Huaneng Group and GMS Co. of Thailand will pool capital to build the Jinghong and Nuozhadu power stations on the Lancang River, which connects China by water to five southeast Asian countries.

The Nuozhadu Power Station, with a designed installed capacity of 5.85 million kilowatts, will be the fifth of eight power stations planned along the Lancang River in the province.

The sixth, Jinghong Power Station, will be located in the northern suburbs of Jinghong in Yunnan Province with an installed

capacity of 1.5 million kilowatts.

Kou Wei, general manager of the Huaneng Group, said construction on Jinghong Power Station will start this year while that on Nuozhadu is scheduled to begin next year. The project is expected to cost nine billion yuan (1.093 billion US dollars).

Upon completion, the two power stations will deliver electricity to energy-short Guangdong Province and to Thailand in accordance with practical needs.

Originating in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau in western China, the Lancang-Mekong River is called Lancang in the Chinese ter-

ritory and runs through Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam before entering the South China Sea. It is the only river in Asia that flows through six nations.

The section of Lancang River in Yunnan Province, totalling 1,240 kilometres in length, has exploitable water sources of 22.59 million kilowatts. The total installed capacity of the eight planned stations is expected to be 16.05 million kilowatts.

Currently, the province has power stations at Manwan and Dachaoshan, with construction underway on another at Xiaowan.

MNA/Xinhua

Man beaten by Los Angeles police seeking compensation

LOS ANGELES, July 17 — A US car thief suspect videotaped being beaten by Los Angeles policemen has filed a claim with the city to seek 25 million US dollars in compensation, local media reported Friday.

Stanley Miller alleged in the claim that his brain was damaged during the June 23 beating, which also caused "spinal injuries, trunk-torso injuries, internal injuries, emotional distress, and bruises and contusions."

If the city rejects the

claim, Miller said he could seek damages through a lawsuit.

Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) spokeswoman Mary Grady said the department would not comment on "pending litigation."

LAPD Chief William

Bratton told the City Council two weeks ago that Miller's injuries appeared to be minor scrapes and bruises. But Miller's attorney claimed that a neurologist determined that Miller suffered brain damage, causing "ongoing dizziness, blurred

vision, vertigo, the onset of sleeplessness, nausea and depression."

Miller led LAPD officers on a 30-minute chase in South Los Angeles on June 23 when he refused to stop in a reportedly stolen car.

MNA/Xinhua



South Korean youths cover themselves with mud during the first day of the mud festival at Daechon swimming beach recently. —INTERNET

Saudi firm says it has quit Iraq to save hostage

DUBAI, 17 July — A Saudi transport company said it had pulled out of Iraq to save the life of an Egyptian truck driver taken hostage by kidnappers who demanded the firm leave the country, Al-Jazeera satellite television reported on Friday.

"We no longer have vehicles in Iraq. All our vehicles were pulled out of Iraq on Wednesday, July 14, to ensure the safety of the hostage," the firm said in a statement sent to the channel.

The Faisal al-Neheit Transport Company had promised on Wednesday it would pull out to meet the

demands of kidnappers who threatened on Tuesday to kill Egyptian truck driver Mohammed Gharabawi within 72 hours.

Al-Jazeera reported on Thursday that a new statement by the kidnappers had given the firm another deadline of 48 hours "to be sure before carrying out the just

verdict".

The group, calling itself "the 1920 Battalions, the military wing of the National Islamic Resistance", also said that after that time it would not deal lightly with those who did business with "infidel occupiers" and fell into its hands, Jazeera said.

The Saudi firm has offered the kidnappers 15,000 US dollars for Gharabawi's release but said it was unable to pay a one million US dollars ransom initially demanded by the kidnappers.

Gharabawi, who has worked for the firm for eight years, was seized while transporting Saudi fuel to Iraq about two weeks ago. The company is one of about 50 subcontractors operating with 1,400 trucks from Saudi Arabia to Iraq.

Iraq has relied on fuel imports from neighbouring

countries since US-led forces toppled Saddam Hussein last year in a war that destroyed much of the country's infrastructure.

Several militant groups have kidnapped foreigners in Iraq and have either released or killed hostages in recent months.

Iraqi police found a headless corpse in the Tigris River on Thursday suspected of being that of a Bulgarian truck driver taken hostage.

The Tawhid and Jihad Group of suspected al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has killed the Bulgarian, an American and a South Korean hostage.

MNA/Reuters

မြန်မာ့သတင်းစာ
ထုတ်ဝေခြင်း

Explosion targeting US convoy rocks central Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 17 July — An explosion targeting a US military convoy rocked central Baghdad on Friday, police sources and witnesses said.

A police officer said that at least four Iraqi civilians were injured in the blast, who have been taken to a nearby hospital. The blast occurred at about 1.05 pm (0905 GMT) at a residential neighbourhood in central Baghdad, said the witnesses, without giving more details.

On Thursday, at least three Iraqi policemen and seven civilians were killed and some 40 others wounded when a suspected car bomb exploded near the main police building in Haditha northwest of Baghdad.

The blast damaged a municipal building, a bank and some shops surrounding the area.

Guerillas in Iraq have launched one after another bombing attacks on US forces as well as Iraqi police and civilians who are being accused of collaborating with the occupation of the country. — MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian FM defends Philippine troops pullout decision

MANILA, 17 July — Visiting Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar Friday defended the Philippines' pullout of the troops from Iraq as a "sovereign decision".

During the 5th Philippines-Malaysia Joint Consultative Meeting, Albar said that the Philippine Government has "taken into account what they need to take into account" since the pullout is a sovereign decision.

Malaysia has refused to be part of the US-led coalition during the Iraqi war.

The Malaysian Foreign Minister also reiterated in a statement his government's appeal to the kidnappers to resolve the matter in a

"human" way.

"We are saddened by the hostage taking and holding of the hostage truck driver. Malaysia has always taken the view of question on humanity, on human life," Albar said.

"On this basis of humanitarian consideration and in the name of our religion Islam that we have appealed to the parties concerned so that it can be resolved in the most humane and bring happiness to all," he added.

Apart from the hostage crisis, the Philippines and Malaysia also vowed to pursue the peace talks between the Philippine administration and the rebel group Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Albar said that the peace talks would proceed once the terms of reference for the deployment of an international peace monitoring team to the southern islands of Mindanao, where the MILF's base lies, is finalized.

"Malaysia fully supports the initiatives of the Philippine Government and the MILF to create a conducive environment for peace talks to be held between the two sides," Albar said.

On the other hand, the Philippine counterpart, Delia Albert, thanked the Malaysian Government for providing assistance to the Philippines by serving as facilitator of peace talks with the MILF.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi National Guard, (ING), doctor checks an x-ray from an injured ING soldier after a car bomb exploded outside an ING headquarters in Mahmudiyah, 20 miles south of Baghdad, Iraq on Saturday, 17 July, 2004. INTERNET

Chinese leader on China-ASEAN free trade area

BEIJING, 17 July — A senior Chinese leader said here Friday that the formation of a free trade area between China and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) offers an important channel for both sides to enhance cooperation, promote development and create a win-win situation.

Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), an advisory body, said the plan to set up the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area is a major decision made by the Chinese and ASEAN governments from a long-term and strategic viewpoint.

Addressing representatives who attended the ongoing third forum of the Chinese people around the world, Jia said that the setup of the Free Trade Area (FTA) will provide great opportunities for overseas Chinese in ASEAN nations and elsewhere in the world.

Jia described the 20 million overseas Chinese lived in ASEAN nations as an important bridge between China and those countries for economic cooperation and friendly exchanges.

He called on the overseas Chinese to push forward the cooperative relations, complement and help China and their countries of residence,

and play a positive role in enhancing the good neighbourly friendship and political trust between China and member states of ASEAN.

China and ASEAN began talks on a free trade accord in early 2002 and signed a framework agreement in November that year aimed at phasing out tariffs. The two sides have agreed to work faster toward a free trade agreement in 2010, thus creating the world's most populous marketplace with over

1.7 billion consumers and a combined gross domestic product of two trillion US dollars. Also present at the meeting was Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan.

The forum, hosted by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council and the China Overseas Exchanges Association, is focused on China-ASEAN FTA as well as challenges and opportunities faced by Chinese business people.

MNA/Xinhua

UNSC urges moves to improve security in Afghanistan

UNITED NATIONS, 17 July — The UN Security Council has called on Afghanistan's authorities to make decisive moves to secure the country for the scheduled presidential poll on October 9 and parliamentary elections next April.

In a presidential statement issued Thursday after an open meeting, Council president Mihnea Motoc said the Council urged Afghanistan to accelerate the disarmament of ex-combatants, strengthen the country's Army and police and do more to cut opium production.

Describing the elections as "a new milestone in the process of constructing a democratic, stable and prosperous Afghanistan", the Council said the remaining time before the polls must be used to ensure they are free and fair.

MNA/Xinhua

30 persons feared drowned as boat capsizes in east India

NEW DELHI, 17 July — At least 30 person were feared drowned Thursday when their boat capsized on Sitamarhi-Muzaffarpur Road in flood-hit Muzaffarpur District of Bihar State in East India.

"The boat carrying about 50 persons capsized due to overcrowding in the Bagmati River on way to Sitamarhi," the *Press Trust of India* quoted local official sources as saying.

While around 20 persons either swam to safety or were rescued by the locals, 30 were feared to have met their watery grave.

MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier looks on while another washes a humvee stained with blood in camp Saint Michael after it was hit by a roadside bomb in Mahmudiyah, some 60kms south of Baghdad recently. —INTERNET

Communication facilities serving the interests of the people



A post office built in Alon Station of Monywa District for the convenience of local people. —MYANMA ALIN

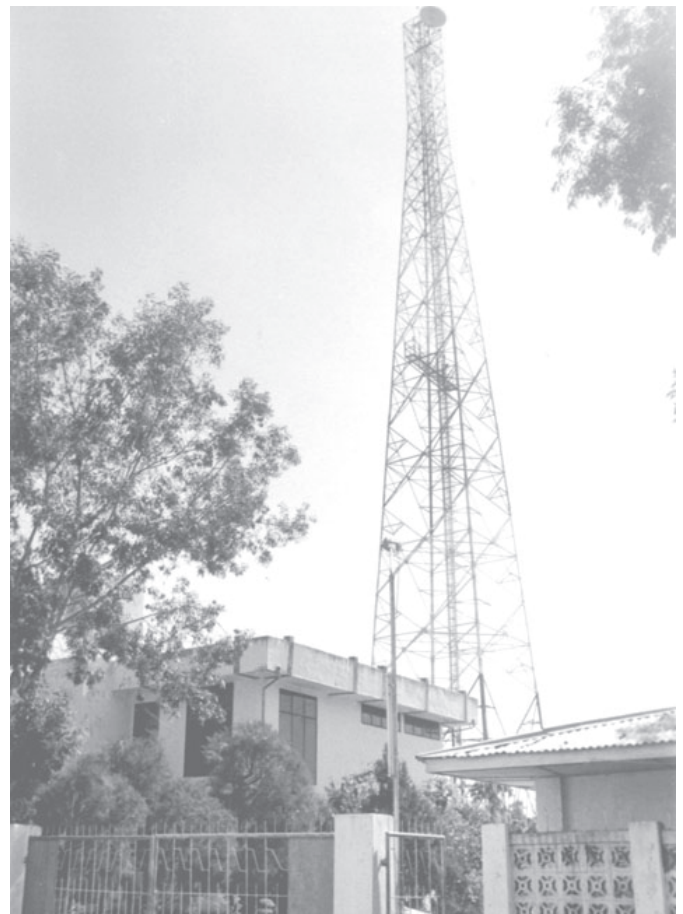


*TV retransmission station in Kyaunggon, Ayeyawady Division helps raise the knowledge of local people.
KHIN MAUNG WIN
(KYEMON)*

For the convenience of rural people, the government is making all-out efforts to improve the communication system. Photo shows the telephone exchange built in Swa, Yedashe Township, Bago Division. — IPRD



To disseminate knowledge to the rural public, TV retransmission station was built in Konggyan region of Shan State (North). —MYANMA ALIN



Microwave Station in Loikaw serves the people for their convenience in communication. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe arrive in Beijing on official visit to China

YANGON, 18 July —Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo and wife Daw Khin Lay Myint and members on 11 July left Yangon International Airport on an official visit to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of Premier Wen Jiabao of the State Council of the PRC. The Prime Minister and party arrived at Kunming International Airport in Yunnan Province at 11 am local time.

The Prime Minister and wife and members of the delegation were welcomed by Governor of Yunnan Province Mr Xu Rong Kai, Vice-Governor Mr Shao Qiwei, departmental officials, Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thein Lwin, Military Attaché Col Sein George, Consul-General in Kunming U Thein Zaw and wife and families.

The Prime Minister and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe stopped over at the airport lounge and cordially met Governor Mr Xu Rong Kai.

The Prime Minister and party left Kunming and arrived at the Capital International Airport in Beijing at 3.15 pm local time. They were welcomed at the airport by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the PRC Mr Wang Yi, members of welcoming party led by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and wife, staff of Myanmar Embassy and the office of military attaché. The Prime Minister and party went to Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing where they would be staying. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe being welcomed by Chinese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Wang Yi and officials at Beijing International Airport.— MNA



Staff of Myanmar Embassy welcome Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe at Beijing International Airport. — MNA



A boy of Myanmar Embassy presents a bouquet to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at Beijing International Airport. — MNA



A girl of Myanmar Embassy presents a bouquet to Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe at Beijing International Airport. MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe being welcomed by Yunnan Province Governor Mr Xu Rong Kai and officials at Kunming International Airport. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe cordially converse with Yunnan Province Governor Mr Xu Rong Kai and officials at Kunming International Airport.— MNA



A boy presents a bouquet to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at Kunming International Airport. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and party being welcomed by the Myanmar Ambassador, staff and families at Kunming International Airport. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe pay official visit to the People's Republic of China



Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao greets Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe at the welcoming ceremony.— MNA



Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao presents Chinese officials to Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.— MNA



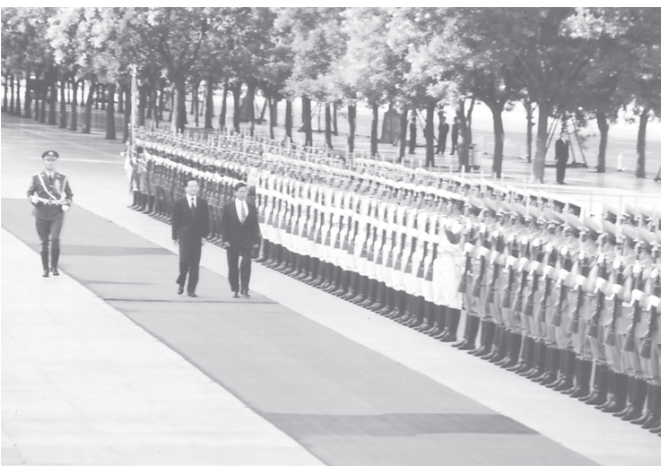
Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents his entourage to Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao.— MNA



Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe being welcomed by Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao at the dinner.— MNA



Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao hosts dinner in honour of Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao inspect the Guard of Honour.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao meet at the Great Hall of the People.— MNA



CPT Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Chinese Minister of Information Industry Mr Wang Xudong sign MoU between Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs of Myanmar and Ministry of Information Industry of China in the field of Information and Communications.—MNA



Deputy Minister for F & R Col Hla Thein Swe and Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Mr Yu Guangshou sign Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation, Exchange of Notes on Project of International Convention Centre, Exchange of Notes on Master Plan for Hydropower Projects in Myanmar, Exchange of Notes on Master Plan for Thanlyin-Kyauktan Industrial Zone and Exchange of Notes for provision and shipment of rails.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Finance & Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and Chairman and President of Export-Import Bank of China Mr Yang Zilin sign Agreement on Financing Plan for No 4 Urea Fertilizer Factory at Taikkyi.—MNA



Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation President Mr Tang Ruoxin sign Debt Rescheduling Agreement in the presence of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao.—MNA

PRC Premier Mr Wen Jiabao welcomes ...

from page 16)

China wants the two countries to further maintain efforts in deepening friendship through exchange of visits by leaders of the two countries; that China will provide aids to the best of her ability for economic development in Myanmar; and that the two countries will take measures for promotion in every sector under bilateral cooperation.

A ceremony to sign Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding and Exchange of Notes were held after discussions between the two Prime Ministers at He Bei Hall of the Great Hall of the People.

Present on the occasion were Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, ministers, deputy ministers, the Myanmar Ambassador to China and heads of department, Premier of the PRC Mr Wen Jiabao, ministers, deputy ministers, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar and high-ranking officials.

First, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and Vice Minister of Commerce Mr Yu Guangshou signed the Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Government of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Exchange of Notes on the Project of International Convention Centre, the Exchange of Notes on the Master Plan for Hydropower Projects in Myanmar, the Exchange of Notes on the Master Plan for Thanlyin-Kyauktan Industrial Zone and the Exchange of Notes extending 50 million RMB Yuan interest-free loan for the provision and shipment of rails for the Myanmar Government and exchanged the documents.

Next, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Minister of Information Industry of PRC Mr Wang Xudong signed the MoU between the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs of the Union of Myanmar and the Ministry of Information Industry of the People's Republic of China in the field of Information and Communications and exchanged the documents.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank of China Mr Yang Zilin signed the Agreement on the Financing Plan for No 4 Urea Fertilizer Factory at Taikkyi between the Export-Import Bank of China and the Ministry of Finance & Revenue of the Union of Myanmar and exchanged the documents.

Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe and President of China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation Mr Tang Ruoxin signed the Debt Rescheduling Agreement between China Export & Credit Insurance Corporation and the Ministry of Finance & Revenue of the Union of Myanmar and exchanged the notes.

General Manager U Tha Oo of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and Chairman of ZTE Corporation Mr Hou Weigui signed the Supply Contract for Myanmar National Telecommunication Network Construction Project between Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and ZTE Corporation and exchanged the notes.

Managing Director U Khin Oo of Myanmar Gems Enterprise and President of China Non-ferrous Metal Mining & Construction Co Ltd Mr Zhang Jian signed the Tagaung Taung Nickle Mineral Exploration and Feasibility Study Agreement between No 3 Mining Enterprise and China Non-ferrous Metal Mining & Construction Co Ltd and exchanged the notes.

Director-General U Kyaw Myint of Directorate of Industries and Chairman of China Metallurgical Construction (Group) Corporation Mr Yang Changheng signed the MoU between the Ministry of Industry-1 of the Union of Myanmar and China Metallurgical Construction (Group) Corporation for Extension of 200 TPD Pulp Plant (Thabaung) and Proposed 500 TPD Plant (Rakhine) and exchanged the notes.

PRC Premier Mr Wen Jiabao hosted a dinner in honour of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and delegation members at the western hall of the Great Hall of the People in Beijing at 7.30 pm.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo and wife, the ministers, the deputy ministers, the Myanmar Ambassador to PRC and heads of department and the Chinese ministers and vice-ministers, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar and high-ranking officials.

After the dinner, the Myanmar delegation arrived back at Diaoyutai State Guest House.—MNA



Director-General U Kyaw Myint of Directorate of Industries and Chairman of China Metallurgical Construction (Group) Corporation Mr Yang Changheng sign MoU for Extension of Pulp Plants. (News on page 16) — MNA



Managing Director U Khin Oo of Myanma Gems Enterprise and President of China Non-ferrous Metal Mining & Construction Co Ltd Mr Zhang Jian sign Tagaung Taung Nickle Mineral Exploration and Feasibility Study Agreement. (News on page 16) — MNA



General Manager U Tha Oo of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications and Chairman of ZTE Corporation Mr Hou Weigui sign Supply Contract for Myanma National Telecommunication Network Construction Project. (News on page 16) — MNA

Foundation laid for construction of Mt Popa Tower in Kandawgyi Gardens

YANGON, 18 July — The foundation-laying ceremony for construction of Mt Popa Tower was held in the Central Forest Zone (Elephant Hill) in Kandawgyi Gardens this morning. Chairman of the Work Committee for All-round Upgrading of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens

Environs and Zoo (Yangon) Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin attended it and laid the foundation.

Also present on the occasion were YCDC Vice-Chairman Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Secretary Col Myint Aung and committee members, military region commanders, Yangon East District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein and officials. Situated on 130-foot Elephant Hill in

the Central Forest Zone in Kandawgyi Gardens, Mt Popa Tower will be 99 feet in height. The tower with five decks will be equipped with two elevators and spiral staircase. The tower is being built by the Engineering Department of YCDC.

MNA

Efficient use of electricity

- * Use daylight as the main source of light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- * Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint attends the 15th World AIDS Conference. — MNA

Health Minister arrives back from World AIDS Conference

YANGON, 18 July — Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint arrived in Bangkok on 10 July to attend the second Health Ministers' Meeting of Asia and the Pacific Region countries and the 15th World AIDS Conference.

The opening ceremony of the second Health Ministers' Meeting of Asia and the Pacific Region countries was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand on 12 July. The Thai Prime Minister and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan delivered opening speeches.

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint explained anti-AIDS activities in Myanmar, implementation of the tasks in cooperation with the people and non-governmental organizations, cares for AIDS patients, use of condom, preventive measures, wide education among the people and the government's combating against AIDS as a national task.

The ministers approved the resolutions of the meeting.

On 11 July, the opening of the 15th World AIDS Conference was held at Impact Arena at 7 pm. Minister Dr Kyaw Myint attended it.

On 12 July, the minister attended the paper submitting session and observed blood-checking devices and medicines at the booths of UN Agencies and NGOs. He also observed discussions on cooperation with religious organizations in the fight against AIDS on 13 July.

On 14 July, the minister observed posters of international organizations, anti-AIDS tasks in Ghana, Indonesia and Swaziland by UN Agencies and NGOs. STD Project Manager Dr Min Thwe of Health Department of Myanmar took part in the discussions.

On 15 July, the minister visited small booths of ASEAN countries. He met Mr Tom Hurley of AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis Control Fund and Resident Representative of UNDP Mr Charles Petrie and discussed accepting fund for combating tasks on AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis through UNDP and implementation of them.

In the evening, the minister met with Mr Jean-Marc of Francois Bagnaud Xavier (FBX) and discussed matters on raising the momentum in AIDS control activities.

The closing ceremony of the 15th World AIDS Conference was held on 16 July evening. The Myanmar delegation headed by Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint arrived back here on 17 July evening. The minister and party were welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Settlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, officials and WHO Resident Representative Dr Agostino Borra.

MNA

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Meeting held to promote sales of CPC-published newspapers

SHANGHAI, 17 July— An on-the-spot meeting was held Friday in Shanghai by the Publicity Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the State Post Bureau, aiming to promote sales of CPC-published newspapers.

According to the meeting, a series of newspapers published by the CPC's departments, such as *People's Daily*, have been put on ordinary news stands nationwide since June in an effort to intensify Party newspapers' influence in society and to further spread advanced culture. Previously, CPC-published newspapers were only issued within the Party and the state-owned units.

The meeting required the CPC publicity departments at all levels and postal bureaus at different places to do their best to promote the sales of Party-published newspapers.

Participants to the meeting held that joining market competition will help journalists and editors better understand ordinary Chinese people's opinions and requirements for Party-published newspapers and force journalists to further go down to the grassroots life and write articles close to ordinary people's lives.

MNA/Xinhua



Flamingos pictured in Fuente de Piedra, Spain. More than 10,000 flamingoes have died at Tanzania's Lake Manyara National Park and rangers are not sure why.—INTERNET

Senior Chinese party official meets Danish guest

BEIJING, 17 July— China is committed to furthering China-Denmark ties, vowed a senior Chinese party official here Friday.

Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remark when met with a visiting Danish Social Democratic Party delegation headed by the party's chairman Mogens Lykketoft.

Li said China and Denmark witnessed an increase in cooperation in political, economic, trade, scientific and technological, cultural, education, communication and tourism fields ever since the two countries forged diplomatic relations.

The successful mutual

visits between Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen and Chairman of Chinese National People's Congress Standing Committee Wu Bangguo laid a solid foundation for the future development of bilateral ties, Li said.

Li said that China values its relationship with Denmark and hopes that ties could be further improved in a spirit of mutual respect and seeking common grounds in differences.

Li pledged that the CPC is willing to strengthen communication and cooperation and promote mutual understanding and friendship with

various Danish parties, including the Social Democratic Party.

Lykketoft expressed agreement with Li's views on the current bilateral ties between the two nations and two parties.

He said that Denmark is one of the first countries to recognize the People's Republic of China and the two nations have remained in close contact since a long time ago.

Danish Social Democratic Party is willing to expand exchanges and communication with the CPC, Lykketoft said.

MNA/Xinhua

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Israeli, Palestinian doctors join hands to fight AIDS

BANGKOK, 17 July— Israeli and Palestinian doctors came together this week to forge an alliance against HIV/AIDS at a global conference on the killer disease.

In a first for the biennial AIDS gathering, health experts from Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Syria and several North African nations attended a session on the disease, which has infected nearly half a million people in the region.

"Arabs and Israelis were in a room together and no one walked out," said Dr. Sandy Sufian, a University of Chicago professor and founder of a new global network bringing together AIDS researchers and doctors from

the Middle East and North Africa.

"We were fortunate to have people who put politics on the back burner to look at this human tragedy," said Sufian, who founded the Global Network of Researchers on HIV/AIDS in the Middle East and North Africa.

They swapped meagre data on the scope of the disease and debated ways to overcome the conservative cultures and government complacency hampering the fight against HIV/AIDS in their region.

About 480,000 people are believed to be living with the disease in the Middle East and North Africa, with 75,000 new infections last

year, according to UNAIDS, the United Nations AIDS body. The region's 0.2 per cent prevalence rate in the adult population is low compared to harder hit areas such as sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia.

But experts say governments are too complacent and that HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, can spread easily from neighbouring regions.

"The Middle East is a crossroads between Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia, so when you hear about a growing epidemic there, it's not that far away," said Inon Schenker, a senior HIV/AIDS prevention scientist at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. —MNA/Reuters

UN says Darfur children in Chad acutely malnourished

GENEVA, 17 July— More than one in three Sudanese children who have fled Darfur for Chad are suffering from acute malnutrition, the United Nations refugee agency said on Friday.

A nutrition survey, carried out among some 1,000 children in three camps in northeastern Chad, underscored the need for more feeding programmes for children under age five and pregnant and nursing women, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said.

"The survey found global acute malnutrition levels indicating a serious crisis with 36 to 39 per cent of refugee children under age five malnourished," UNHCR spokesman Ron Redmond told a news briefing.

"High levels, some 35 per cent, of malnutrition were also found among the local Chadian population, many of whom are sharing their meager supplies with the refugees," he added.

An estimated 200,000 Sudanese from the troubled western region of Darfur have fled to Chad, including 130,000 staying in nine refugee camps.

Fighting between Sudanese rebels and government-backed Arab militia has up-

rooted some 1.2 million people within Darfur, triggering what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Senior officials from the UNHCR and UN World Food Programme (WFP) are to meet in Rome next Wednesday to discuss the "critical situation" in Chad, according to Redmond.

The WFP plans next week to make its first air drop of 1,400 tons of food supplies into areas of Western Darfur already cut off by heavy seasonal rains which have flooded roads, spokesman Simon Pluess told a briefing.

The Rome-based agency announced on Thursday that Libya had agreed to open a humanitarian corridor through its territory for relief supplies bound for Darfur and Chad.

The international community has been pressing the Sudanese Government to lift restrictions on humanitarian access to the displaced and Khartoum says it is complying.

MNA/Reuters

US utility loses track of spent nuclear fuel

LOS ANGELES, 17 July— Pacific Gas Electric said on Friday that it has lost track of three pieces of spent nuclear fuel it last used in the late 1960s, although the utility said there was no threat to public safety.

The San Francisco-based utility, a unit of PGE Corp. said the nuclear fuel was from the now closed Humboldt Bay nuclear plant near Eureka in northern California.

Pacific Gas Electric said there was a discrepancy in its records related to the movement of the used nuclear fuel more than 34 years ago.

The used nuclear fuel consisted of three, half-inch diameter by 18-inch long segments, weighing a total of about four pounds, which were cut from a single, seven-foot fuel rod in 1968.

"You could use that kind of material for a dirty bomb but it was probably lost long before 9/11 and they are just now accounting for it," said David Lochbaum, nuclear safety engineer for the Union of Concerned Scientists, an environmental advocacy group.

"It is likely it was mistaken for something else and shipped off-site. It is not likely that someone took it off-site either maliciously or inadvertently," he added, noting it may have been removed during a site clean-up some years ago.

MNA/Reuters

Chopper crash adds misery to South Asia flood chaos

PATNA (India), 17 July— A helicopter carrying more than a dozen Indian medical students crash-landed on Friday in a submerged field after rescuing them from a flooded hostel.

None of the 13 women students were hurt in the crash near the hostel in eastern Bihar State, but the incident underscored the misery of weeks of flooding in parts of South Asia and the huge task in feeding and rescuing millions marooned by the deluge.

"It was a nightmare for the last five days with the ground floor of the hostel

under five feet of water," said student Sneha Gupta in Bihar.

"There was no power and limited food and drinking water available," she told Reuters. The 13 were the final group of 60 students who were rescued late on Thursday from the hostel. Villagers helped the 13 students and crew to safety.

About 12 million people

in Bangladesh, India and Nepal have been affected by torrential rains that are the worst in 15 years, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

At least 320 people have died across the region, rail, road and communication links have snapped and millions of hectares of fields are under water.

MNA/Reuters

ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပုံနှိပ်စနစ်တစ်ခု နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်ခဲ့

First juvenile science technology exposition in China

BEIJING, 17 July — Chinese youngsters receive free access to the country's first juvenile science and technology exposition when it opens Friday in Beijing.

The 2004 Beijing Juvenile Science and Technology Exposition, with the theme "Youth; Science and Technology and Future", is designed to enrich youngsters' life during summer break and raise their interests in modern science and technology.

MNA/Xinhua



Global sales of personal computers grew at a stronger-than-expected pace of 13 per cent to 15 per cent in the second quarter, two market research firms said.—INTERNET

Study finds American diet too heavy on meat

WASHINGTON, 17 July — Despite warnings from the government, health groups and doctors, more than 70 per cent of Americans still eat too much meat and fat and too few vegetables, cancer researchers said on Thursday.

They published a survey showing 72 per cent of Americans still centred their meals around animal fats, leaving little room for the vegetables that prevent not only cancer but heart disease and perhaps a range of other diseases, too.

"Every time we sit down to a meal we are presented with a fresh opportunity to bolster our bodies' natural defences," said Melanie Polk of the American Institute for Cancer Research.

"Today, the overwhelm-

ing majority of us routinely squander that opportunity."

The AICR, which funds research aimed at showing links between nutrition and cancer, commissioned a survey of 1,000 adults. They were asked what they had eaten the night before and how much.

The survey, with a margin of error of three points, showed that only 27 per cent were eating the recommended proportion of plant food to animal food.

"This survey shows that Americans have got the proportions of food on their plates reversed... Most are cutting themselves off from the protection afforded by the vitamins, minerals and cancer-fighting phytochemicals found in vegetables, fruits, whole grains and beans," Polk told a news conference.

The US Department of Agriculture, the American Heart Association, the American Cancer Society and many other groups routinely advise Americans to eat a plant-based diet, adding only a little meat and low-fat dairy products.

Even when the people surveyed ate vegetables, they had too few and often the least nutritious kinds, the AICR said. Only 6 per cent said they had eaten a salad the night before.—MNA/Reuters

Hong Kong braces as storm nears China coast

HONG KONG, 17 July — Millions of people in Hong Kong rushed home on Friday, schools shut and most offices closed as tropical storm Kompasu swept towards the South China coast.

Phone lines were jammed as worried parents tried to arrange transport for their children and stores were filled with people stocking up on food and water.

By midday, the centre of the storm was about 37 miles southeast of Hong Kong, and moving northwest or west-northwest at about 20 kilometres per hour. Maximum wind speeds near the centre were estimated at 75 kph.

The Hong Kong Observatory issued signal No 8 — the city's third-highest storm warning — indicating that winds of 39-73 mph were expected and prompting the closure of schools, financial markets and most businesses.

Kompasu, which means "compass" in Japanese, will be very close to Hong Kong in the afternoon and bring gale force winds, the Observatory said.

Cathay Pacific Airways, Hong Kong's largest carrier, said services had not been disrupted as of midday but most ferry services in the port city were expected to stop in the afternoon.—MNA/Reuters

US nuclear lab temporarily halts classified work

SAN FRANCISCO, 17 July — The Los Alamos National Laboratory, a key US centre for nuclear weapons research, has temporarily ceased all classified work after vital data was reported missing last week from a research area, lab officials said on Thursday.

Such a precaution at Los Alamos, the New Mexico birthplace of the first atomic bomb during World War II, has not occurred in recent memory, lab officials said, highlighting the seriousness of the breach.

The lab said it learned of two missing data storage discs on July 7 during an inventory check. At a news conference, the lab director and other officials declined to detail the nature of the data, citing national security concerns.

"Until such time as we are confident that we are addressing this issue, then all activi-

ties with respect to classified materials have been put on hold," said Gerald Parsky, chairman of the Regents of the University of California which manages Los Alamos. "These breaches of national security will not be tolerated."

The case of the missing discs is the latest in a series of security shortcomings at US nuclear weapons labs in recent years. Just last month a set of keys to a sensitive nuclear area at Los Alamos went missing for most of a day.

"This is a big deal, but it is certainly a necessary step," Danielle Brian, Director of

the Project on Government Oversight, a watchdog group in Washington DC, said of the Los Alamos halt of classified work. The missing data was on two zip disc drives, she said, adding: "They need to change the way they handle classified media and move to what's called a media-less system so that there isn't the capacity for a scientist to just walk off with a disc or a zip drive." Los Alamos spokesman Kevin Roark said "fewer than 20" staffers have had their lab access suspended pending the results of the inquiry.

MNA/Reuters

Art curiosities produced to commemorate 100th birthday of Deng

SHANGHAI, 17 July — To mark the 100th birthday of Deng Xiaoping, a set of art curiosities, consisting of a gold book, silver chopsticks, bronze mirror and a flat jade plate, made its debut in Shanghai on Friday.

These art curiosities are carved with inscriptions highlighting Deng's outstanding achievements, thought and the air of a great master.

August 22 this year marks the 100th birthday of Deng, who launched China's

reform and opening-up drive in the late 1970s.

Only 500 sets of the art curiosities will be produced.

Also on Friday, a golden sheet titled "Great man Deng Xiaoping" made its debut in Shanghai. Only 5,000 such golden sheets

will be produced.

One of the sets of art curiosities will be housed in the Memorial Hall of Deng Xiaoping, located in Deng's hometown Guang'an in southwest China's Sichuan Province.

MNA/Xinhua

Global trade talks making progress

KUALA LUMPUR, 17 July — Nations are moving closer to a global trade deal although divisive issues remain to be resolved, Malaysian Trade Minister Rafidah Aziz said on Friday.

"Things have moved forward. But as people say, the devil is in the details," Rafidah told a news conference, referring to the extent and speed of tariff cuts on traded goods.

"I am confident that as we go on maybe beyond July even, there would be convergence of the details in the key areas of agriculture and non-agriculture products," she said.

Negotiators are scrambling to reach a framework agreement by the end of July to put World Trade Organization trade talks back on track after a failed meeting last September in Cancun, Mexico.

Trade officials from the United States, the European Union and about 40 other countries will meet in Geneva next week for a final attempt at reaching a framework agreement this year, before campaigning for US

presidential elections stalls the process.

There has been hope that talks, blocked by issues such as the EU's refusal to commit to phasing out farm export subsidies, would make some headway after a potentially divisive meeting of developing countries on Tuesday threw up no new hurdles.

Malaysia, an electronics manufacturing power largely dependent on trade, has been a vociferous critic of efforts led by Europe, Japan and South Korea to write new rules in four areas — investment, competition, transparency in government procurement and trade facilitation.

It has urged more emphasis in talks on improving the terms of trade for developing countries.

The World Bank estimates that a successful round of negotiations to lower or eliminate tariffs on imported

goods and services could add more than 500 billion US dollars a year to global incomes by 2015 and lift 144 million people out of poverty. — MNA/Reuters

Santana Lopes sworn in as Portugal PM

LISBON, 18 July — Conservative Pedro Santana Lopes was sworn in as Portuguese Prime Minister on Saturday and vowed to pursue the previous government's policies, including holding down a budget deficit and looking to export-based growth.

"Rigour is the only course possible. We know that the task we face is going to be difficult," said Santana Lopes, head of the ruling Social Democratic Party (PSD).—MNA/Reuters

Forest fires threaten Canadian Gold Rush town

CALGARY (Alberta), 17 July — Forest fires have nearly surrounded Dawson City, Yukon, hub of Canada's Klondike Gold Rush more than a century ago, prompting officials to plot an evacuation plan, a government spokesman said on Friday.

The blazes, ranging in size from 23 to 350 square miles, are still a safe distance from the historic town, but dense smoke is believed to be the only thing slowing their advance, Yukon public information officer Michael Hale said.

"We've been working on an evacuation plan but the fire doesn't present imminent risk

to Dawson at the moment. It's just doing the necessary work at this point," Hale said.

The closest blaze was about 9 miles from town, but the smoke, which has blanketed the area for the past two days amid hot, dry weather, was hampering efforts to gauge the size and movement of the fires.

"We haven't been able to get any planes off the ground and we've only had two helicopters off the ground each day out of a total of nine," he said.

Dawson City, 334 miles northwest of the territorial capital Whitehorse, is home to about 2,000 people

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Levante rule out Zagorakis signing

MADRID, 17 July — Newly promoted Spanish side Levante have called off talks to sign Greek captain Theodoros Zagorakis and blamed the failure of the negotiations on the player's agents.

"The talks to sign Zagorakis have broken down because of a lack of seriousness and professionalism on the part of the player's representatives," the Primera Liga club said on its website on Thursday.

Zagorakis, named player of the tournament at Euro 2004 after leading his country to a shock victory over Portugal in the final, was released from his contract with debt-laden AEK Athens on Wednesday.

The 32-year-old former Leicester City midfielder had also been linked with a move to Italian club Bologna.

Levante, comfortable winners of the second division title, have recruited Ireland left back Ian Harte from Leeds United and Sweden defender Johan Mjallby from Celtic as they prepare for their first season in the Primera Liga for 39 years.

MNA/Reuters

Scotland to face Spain in friendly

GLASGOW, 17 July — Scotland have arranged an away friendly against Spain less than a week before their opening 2006 World Cup qualifier with Slovenia in September.

The match has been provisionally scheduled for September 3 at the home of newly-promoted Spanish First Division side Levante in Valencia, the Scottish FA said on Friday. The Scots — who have not qualified for a major tournament since the 1998 World Cup finals in France — last faced Spain 16 years ago when they drew 0-0 in a friendly in Madrid.

Berti Vogts' side also have a home friendly with Hungary on August 18 before they host Slovenia at Glasgow's Hampden Park on September 8.

Scotland's other rivals in qualifying Group Five include Italy, Norway, Belarus and Moldova. — MNA/Reuters



Michael Campbell of New Zealand drives from the sixth tee during the second round of the 133rd British Open Troon, Scotland. — INTERNET

Spanish fan owes Beckham a favour for penalty miss

MADRID, 17 July — The Spanish football fan who claimed the ball that David Beckham launched into the stands during England's Euro 2004 penalty shootout defeat by Portugal says he now owes the Real Madrid player a favour.

"His error is going to help me realize some of the dreams that I've had for many years," Pablo Carral told Spanish sports daily AS on Friday.

"I thought he'd score for sure and couldn't believe it when the ball came towards me. How was I to know he was going to take the penalty like a rugby conversion?"

"I don't know why people criticize him so much because he seems like a good bloke to me. If I get to meet him in a bar I'll certainly pay for the round."

Carral, a 25-year-old Deportivo Coruna fan, has put the ball up for sale on the Spanish site of Internet auctioneers eBay

(www.es.ebay.com), where it has attracted a top bid of close to 24,000 euros (29,640 US dollars).

At one stage the ball, which Carral caught while sitting in Row Q of the Luz stadium in Lisbon, had reached the astronomical price of 10 million euros but the bid was found to be fake after security checks.

"For a while I believed it," said Carral. "I saw myself buying beers for all my friends and then travelling around the world, but I'm not going to complain as I now have an offer of 24,000 euros. 'I've still got until July 22 for that sum to triple and I'm not going to come out of it too badly.'" — MNA/Reuters

China's striker dropped before Asian Cup

BEIJING, 17 July — China coach Arie Haan has dropped bad-boy striker Zhang Yuning on the eve of the Asian Cup, accusing him of having a poor attitude.

Hosts China take on Bahrain in the opening match in Beijing on Saturday with Li Yi now likely to start alongside Hao Haidong in attack.

"In four or five weeks Zhang has done three or four days training," Haan said on Friday.

"His attitude in training has become bad. He does not work for the team — only for himself. I don't want players like that."

While a crowd favourite in China, Shanghai Shenhua forward Zhang has earned a reputation for squabbling with coaches.

Haan, who reached two World Cup finals with the Netherlands in the 1970s, insisted he had no room for prima donnas.

"Zhang acts like a star, but he has not trained enough to play in this squad."

Haan vowed, however, that China were

still capable of lifting the Asian Cup for the first time.

"This is a very hardworking team and we are ready," said the Dutchman. "We will do everything possible to go as far as possible. We have to believe that we can win."

But Haan acknowledged there was enormous pressure on the Chinese team playing in front of an expectant public.

"We are at home so of course there is a lot of pressure. It is better we don't talk about it," he said. "I hope the Chinese fans can be the 12th man for us. But I ask that they be a little patient. All that you want, most of the time you don't get it — so be careful."

Qatar and Indonesia, also drawn alongside China and Bahrain in Group A, play on Sunday. The tournament runs until August 7.

MNA/Reuters

Ex-world chess champion Fischer detained in Japan

TOKYO, July 17 — Former world chess champion Bobby Fischer, the only US citizen to ever hold the title, has been detained in Japan by immigration authorities, officials said on Friday.

A brilliant but volatile player, Fischer became world champion in 1972 after beating Boris Spassky of the then-Soviet Union in a match considered something of a Cold War propaganda victory for the United States.

Fischer, 61, was taken into custody on Wednesday on suspicion of holding an

invalid passport when he tried to leave from Tokyo's Narita Airport for the Philippines, Kyodo News agency said, quoting Japanese chess officials.

It said immigration officials were investigating how Fischer entered Japan and planned to deport him soon.

A spokesman for the Im-

migration Department at Narita confirmed Fischer had been detained but declined to give details.

Fischer's victory over Spassky in what was billed as the "Match of the Century", held in Reykjavik, Iceland, in 1972 brought chess tremendous publicity in the United States and made him an instant celebrity.

A number of the games were even broadcast on television, with his win regarded as a propaganda victory because chess had been dominated by the Soviets since World War Two.

In 1975 he resigned his title after demanding a number of strict conditions for a match against Anatoly Karpov, also of the then-Soviet Union. Chess officials refused to accept Fischer's demands, and Karpov became champion by default.

Fischer then disappeared from sight until 1992, when he played in a match in Yugoslavia, a move that brought him into conflict with US authorities since economic sanctions against Yugoslavia were in force at the time.

He again dropped out of sight, although Kyodo said he was discovered living in Japan in 2001 by a Japanese chess player.

MNA/Reuters



Tommy Haas, of Germany, returns a ball at the Mercedes-Benz Cup at the Los Angeles Tennis Center in Los Angeles on Thursday, 15 July, 2004. Haas defeated Kenneth Carlsen of Denmark, 6-2, 6-0. — INTERNET

Cole aims to repay debt to Mourinho

WEST DRAYTON (England), 17 July — Chelsea midfielder Joe Cole says he is determined to repay the trust new coach Jose Mourinho has shown in him by helping his side to trophy success next season.

Cole, whose ball skills have been admired since he was a teenager, believes Mourinho already has more faith in him than either his Chelsea predecessor Claudio Ranieri or England boss Sven-Goran Eriksson.

Determined to impress Chelsea's new Portuguese coach, Cole began training a week early and is anxious to draw a line under a mixed first season at Stamford Bridge.

"It would have been nice if I'd have played more last year," Cole told reporters on Friday.

"I felt my performances warranted it and when I did get a run in the side at the back end of last season I think I showed a few people that I can play for Chelsea."

As for his early return to training, Cole,

22, said: "I just wanted to come back and start the season early, try and get myself as fit as I can and impress the manager."

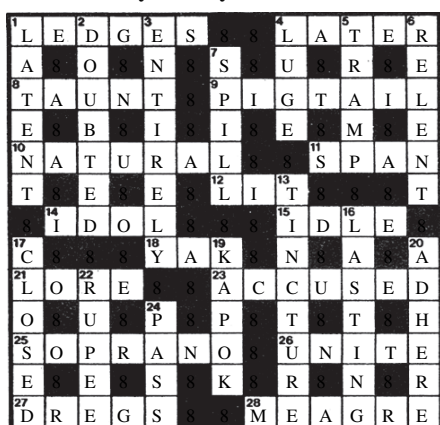
"It's always nice to have a manager who trusts you. I just want to repay him with some good performances and help the team to be successful."

Mourinho's act of faith was made in Manchester last month when the two men met during England's warm-up matches for Euro 2004.

Cole was told his position was secure, despite speculation linking Chelsea with Deco, a key member of Mourinho's Champions League-winning Porto side last season.

"Joe knows that I trust him, and that I do what I say," Mourinho told reporters near the team's training ground. — MNA/Reuters

Answers for yesterday's Crossword Puzzle



MRTV-3
19-7-2004 (Monday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Ancient Buddha Images Carved On Stone Walls (Akauk Mountain)
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 A Trip to Naga Land
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 Production of Dry-Prawn in Myeik
- 9:25 Auspicious Glory
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 Myanmar Ancient Ornaments Showroom
- 9:40 Myanmar Modern Song "This Rain"
- 9:42 The Pindaya Natural Cave
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 Lacquerware in Bagan
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

19-7-2004 (Monday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 15:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-

- rama & Myanmar Sentiment"
- 15:36 Ancient Buddha Images Carved On Stone Walls (Akauk Mountain)
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 A Trip to Naga Land
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:50 Production of Dry-Prawn in Myeik
- 15:55 Auspicious Glory
- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 Myanmar Ancient Ornaments Showroom
- 16:10 Myanmar Modern Song "This Rain"
- 16:12 The Pindaya Natural Cave
- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 Lacquerware in Bagan
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-IV)
- 16:40 National Races Village (Chin, Mon, Rakhine)
- 16:45** **National News**
- 16:50 Butterfly Garden In Yangon
- 16:55 Lon Yuu Festival Dance
- 17:00** **National News**
- 17:05 Music for Your Ears (A Sweet Sounding Musical Piece)
- 17:08 Myanmar Modern Song "A Country like that of a golden painting"
- 17:15** **National News**
- 17:20 Quality Rice Production in Myanmar
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

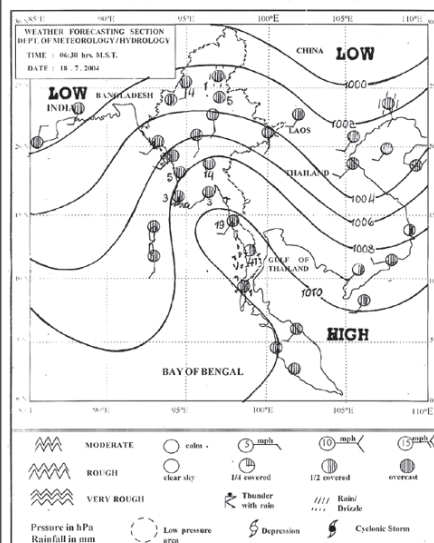
Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 19:36 Export Prawn
- 19:40** **Headline News**
- 19:42 Waso Chinlone Festival
- 19:45** **National News**
- 19:50 Myanmar Movie Impact
- 20:00** **National News**
- 20:05 Popa Flat-topped Hill (Taung Ka Lat)
- 20:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Aristocratic Beauty"
- 20:12 Art in Glass Bottles
- 20:15** **National News**
- 20:20 Soap Factory (Yamethin)
- 20:25 Song "Secret Love"
- 20:30** **National News**
- 20:35 Pickled Featherback
- 20:40 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-III)
- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:50 Bagan Archaeological Museum
- 20:55 Dance of the Konbaung Era
- 20:58 The Great Bell of King Sintgu
- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 Ornamental Jewellery of Outstanding Designs
- 21:10 Myanmar Modern Song "To Golden Mandalay"
- 21:15** **National News**
- 21:20 Fabulous Bagan (V)
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanmar Pano-

- rama & Myanmar Sentiment"
- 21:35 Ancient Buddha Images Carved On Stone Walls (Akauk Mountain)
- 21:40** **Headline News**
- 21:42 A Trip to Naga Land
- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:50 Production of Dry-Prawn in Myeik
- 21:55 Auspicious Glory
- 22:00** **National News**
- 22:05 Myanmar Ancient Ornaments Showroom
- 22:10 Myanmar Modern Song "This Rain"
- 22:12 The Pindaya Natural Cave
- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 Lacquerware in Bagan
- 22:25 Myanmar Modern Song "Flowers Alike"
- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 Unique Biodiversity of Indawgyi Lake (Part-IV)
- 22:40 National Races Village (Chin, Mon, Rakhine)
- 22:45** **National News**
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- 23:15** **National News**
- 23:20 Quality Rice Production in Myanmar
- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Rainfall on 18-7-2004

- (0.08 inch) at Yangon Airport,
- (0.12 inch) at Kaba-Aye and
- (0.67 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1449 mm (57.05 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1400 mm (55.12 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1406 mm (55.35 inches) at central Yangon.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**WEATHER**

Sunday, 18 July, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions and Kayah State, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Mandalay Division, Shan and Chin States scattered to widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Hpa-an (2.60) inches and Kyauktaw (1.89) inches.

Maximum temperature on 17-7-2004 was 32.2°C (90°F). Minimum temperature on 18-7-2004 was 21.6°C (71°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18-7-2004 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 17-7-2004 was (3.4) hours approx. Rainfall on 18-7-2004 was (0.08 inch) at Yangon Airport, (0.12 inch) at Kaba-Aye and (0.67 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1449mm (57.05 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1400 mm (55.12 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1406 mm (55.35 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 7 mph from West at 16:30 hours MST on 17-7-2004.

Bay inference: Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 19-7-2004:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in upper Sagaing Division, Kachin, Chin, Shan and Rakhine States, scattered Kachin and Mon States, Mandalay, Ayeyawady, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Increase of rain in Southern Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-7-2004:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-7-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Flood Warning

(Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 18-7-2004)

The Ayeyawady River water level at Myitkyina, Bhamo and Katha may rise 80 cm (about 2.5 ft), 100 cm (about 3 ft) and 30 cm (about 1 ft) and reach their respective danger levels 1200 cm, 1150 cm and 1040 cm within the next 48 hrs commencing noon today.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 18-7-2004)

The Ayeyawady River water level at Mandalay and Sagaing may remain above their respective danger levels of Mandalay 1200 cm and Sagaing 1150 cm during the next 48 hrs commencing noon today.

The Chindwin River water level at Monywa may remain above its danger level of 1000 cm during the next (48) hrs commencing noon today.


Monday, July 19
View today:

- 7:00 am**
1. Recitation of Parittas by
Missionary Sayadaw U
Ottamathara
- 7:25 am**
2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am**
3. Morning news
- 7:40 am**
4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am**
5. Songs of national races
- 8:10 am**
6. Cute little dancers
- 8:20 am**
7. ခေတ်ရီဆုတောင်းချီးဆို
- 8:30 am**
8. International news

- 8:45 am**
9. Let's go
- 4:00 pm**
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm**
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit
- 4:30 pm**
3. Practice in reading
- 4:45 pm**
4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm**
5. အဆောင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ
- ဒုတိယပိုင်း (ရုက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု)
(ရုက္ခဗေဒ)
- 5:15 pm**
6. Dance variety
- 5:30 pm**
7. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစာတေး
- 5:45 pm**
8. Song and dance of
national races
- 5:50 pm**
9. Musical programme (The

Radio Myanmar Modern
Music Troupe)

- 6:05 pm**
10. Discovery
- 6:15 pm**
11. နိုင်ငံခြားကဏ္ဍမှစာတိုလမ်းစဉ်
"ဆူပူပူပူ" (အပိုင်း-၇)
- 6:30 pm**
12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm**
13. Weather report
- 7:05 pm**
14. Industrial achievement
- 7:15 pm**
15. Musical programme
- 7:30 pm**
16. ဆေးလက်ဆေးသတိပေးအလှူဆင်
- 8:00 pm**
17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. နိုင်ငံခြားကဏ္ဍမှစာတို
"တစ်ခုံရာအခါ"
(အပိုင်း-၇)
19. The next day's
programme


Monday, July 19
Tune in today:

- 8:30 am** Brief news
- 8:35 am** Music: My love is for real
- 8:40 am** Perspectives
- 8:45 am** Music: Mysterious girl
- 8:55 am** National news/Slogan
- 9:05 am** Music: Crazy little party girl
- 9:10 am** International news
- 9:15 am** Music: We love to love
- 1:30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1:40 pm** Lunch time music
-Sweet bisses
-There, you'll be
-Anyman of mine
- 9:00 pm** Spotlight on the star
- 9:15 pm** Article
- 9:25 pm** Women's Affairs
MWAf dutifully
preserving traditional
cultural heritage
Vocal Gems
-Listen to your heart
-Only you
- 9:45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm** PEL



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party and Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao and party seen at the discussions at the eastern hall of the Great Hall of the People. — MNA

PRC Premier Mr Wen Jiabao welcomes Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe Two Prime Ministers discuss mutual interest matters

YANGON, 18 July — A ceremony to welcome Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe by Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Mr Wen Jiabao was held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing at 5 pm on 12 July.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe arrived at the Great Hall of the People from Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing in a motorcade to attend the welcoming ceremony. They were welcomed there by Premier of the People's Republic of China Mr Wen Jiabao.

Next, the Chinese Premier presented ministers, deputy ministers and senior officials to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. Similarly, General Khin Nyunt presented Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo and other Myanmar delegation members to the Chinese Premier.

Afterwards, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao took the salute of the Guard of Honour. At that time, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was accorded a 19-gun salute. Next, the State Band played national anthems of the two countries.

After inspecting the Guard of Honour, General Khin Nyunt and the Chinese Premier took the places on the dais. Next, the two Prime Ministers took the salute of the Guard of Honour.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met PRC Premier Mr Wen Jiabao at the Great Hall of the People.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and Myanmar

Ambassador to PRC U Thein Lwin. The Chinese Premier was accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Li Zhaoxing, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Wang Yi and high-ranking officials.

At 6 pm, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and PRC Premier Mr Wen Jiabao held a discussion at the eastern hall of the Great Hall of the People.

Also present on the occasion were Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Hotels and Tourism and for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe, Myanmar Ambassador U Thein Lwin, Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein, Director-General U Soe Tint of the Prime Minister's Office and departmental heads.

Present on the occasion together with Premier Mr Wen Jiabao were Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Li Zhaoxing, Minister of Communications Mr Zhang Chunxian, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Wang Yi, Vice-Minister of Commerce Mr Yu Guangzhou and high-ranking officials.

In his discussion, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that friendship and cooperation between Myanmar

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

and China is encouraging; that efforts have been made for further strengthening friendship and economic cooperation between the two countries and cooperation in all sectors; that Myanmar wants to cooperate with China on a mutually beneficial basis in energy, mining, hydel power, agriculture, communication, industrial and trade investment sectors for boosting economic cooperation between the two countries; that there are many fields to invest in agriculture, industrial, oil, natural gas, mining and forestry sectors of Myanmar; that he thanked China for providing assistance for economic development; that Myanmar and China have been cooperating in international affairs; that Myanmar has pledged to adopt One China Policy in the international sphere; that there have been no problems although the two nations share long borders; that the two nations are cooperating in the fight against drugs and in preventing and exposing crimes in border areas; and that Myanmar donated two jade Buddha images to be kept at the Tooth Relic Pagoda; and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt invited the Premier of China to pay a visit to Myanmar.

In his response, Premier Mr Wen Jiabao said that he expressed his thanks for the invitation to Myanmar; that he would pay a visit to Myanmar at opportune time; that the People's Republic of China will pay attention to Myanmar in dealing with neighbouring countries; that he thanked Myanmar for her support to One China Policy; that China wants to promote cooperation in energy, mining, communication, agriculture and forestry sectors; that China has been providing assistance for economic plans proposed by Myanmar; that it is important to make cooperation in border regions between the two countries; that

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and PRC Premier Mr Wen Jiabao taking the salute of the Guard of Honour. — MNA