"Continued efforts are required to substitute local raw materials for foreign ones in manufacturing machinery", said Head of State Senior General Than Shwe during his tour of Indagaw Industrial Zone in Bago Division.

"Machinery produced by the factories of the zone are to be adapted to the prevailing market trend to win customer satisfaction and to enhance their quality", he added.

Senior General Than Shwe was accompanied by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt and other dignitaries of the State in inspecting the zone run by the Ministry of Industry-2.

The Head of State’s inspection of the zone on 14 June covered a wide array of industries in operation, under construction and in planning stage.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspects Blanket Factory this morning. The minister inspected weaving of socks, quality control, ironing, sewing, dyeing and weaving of blankets.

He gave instructions on boosting production of blankets and mass production of socks. The minister also inspected shawl factory of Myanma Textile Industries on Kanyeiktha Road in Mayangon Township.

In giving guidance to the officials, the Senior General said, that for the products to become highly marketable, systematic research and development programmes were required to gradually improve their quality year by year.

The Head of State also stressed the need to set up electrical industries and produce skilled technicians for the industrial sector.

The Indagaw Industrial Zone at present is producing spare parts and machinery including radiators, metal bearings, ball bearings, inlet and exhaust valves, power-tillers, power cables, wires, batteries, gear parts, Mazda Jeeps, gear boxes, gas cylinders and others.

Under the guidance and support of the Head of State and the government, the zone will implement its future projects to extend its operations and will boost its production capacity in order to serve the national interest.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected factories under the ministry, the Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Defence. Human resources development endeavours and research programmes and projects of the zone that was producing spare parts and new machinery for the Ministry of Rail Transportation, the Ministry of Electric Power, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Industry-1, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Defence.

Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin reported to Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe on the industrial projects including the strength of blue and white colour workers at the zone, the number of industries in operation, under construction and in planning stage at the zone, research programmes and human resources development endeavours.

The officials of the enterprises under the ministry also presented reports on the operating industries and future projects of the zone that was producing spare parts and new machinery for the Ministry of Rail Transportation, the Ministry of Electric Power, the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of Industry-1, the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Mines and the Ministry of Defence.

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Towards emergence of e-Government

In the world today, information technology is experiencing rapid development and becoming a towering sway over every sphere of life. What happens in any part of the world is known to the other parts of the globe within minutes and even seconds. Therefore, we metaphorically call the world today a global village.

This being the case, we are in a situation where we cannot dispense with IT knowledge and technology. To spell the development of IT technology and the emergence of e-Government in the Union of Myanmar, computer scientists and national entrepreneurs of computer industry, with the support of the Government, are working hard in concert.

A ceremony to clarify the tasks of the e-National Task Force on e-Government was held at the MICT Park in Hline Township on 20 July and Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt, also Chairman of Myanmar Computer Science Development Council, attended the ceremony.

In his address on the occasion, the Secretary-1 stressed that it is out of the question for those without IT knowledge to gain access to other fields of education and the emergence of e-Government is indispensable for Myanmar to be able to keep abreast with other nations of the world.

Due to the support of the Government and the active participation of IT scientists and industrialists, IT infrastructures like international-level MICT Park and Bagan Teleport have emerged in so short a time. And we owe the development of information technology to young Myanmar computer scientists and entrepreneurs of high calibre.

In the software sector, there are now many companies that are cooperating with their counterparts at home and abroad. Myanmar IT companies have also created the IT programmes that can effectively be used in government departments and economic, education, health and banking services.

Therefore, we would like to urge all the ministries to coordinate and cooperate with the relevant IT companies and organizations for the emergence of e-Government.

Transport Minister inspects Pansodan Jetty, waterway of Yangon River

YANGON, 21 July — The fourth national malaria control activities carried out in Basic Education High School, Talay, in Tachileik on 11 July morning. Educational talks on malaria control were held. Moreover, Health staff made blood tests on the students to find out whether they were infected malaria or not. — MNA

preventive measures against malaria undertaken

YANGON, 21 July — The Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Pe Than, Managing Director U Thein Htay of Myanmar Port Authority and officials, today morning inspected construction of the ticket booth of Pansodan-Dalla ferry and the passenger lounge.

Next, the minister inspected the compound of Pansodan-Nanthida Wharf and gave instructions on keeping the area pleasant. Afterwards, the minister, the deputy minister and party saw over the berthing of water craft in Hline River, waterway for ocean-going vessels from Yangon River mouth to Myaing Island and keeping of booms.

The minister went to Thalinyin Glass Factory and inspected building of the jetty at the factory. — MNA

Public Works opens Training Courses

YANGON, 21 July — The ceremony to open the Junior Engineer-2 Sewerage Course and the Financial Supervision level-2 Course of Public Works of the Ministry of Construction was held at the hall of Central Training School (Thuwunna) this morning.

Present were Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Minister U Tint Swe, directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises, Principal U Saw Kyaw Waw Mu and course instructors and trainees.

Next, the minister and party inspected the computer room and gave necessary instructions.

Altogether 48 trainees are attending the Junior Engineer-2 Sewerage Course which will last four weeks and 26 trainees the Financial Supervision Level-2 Course which will last five weeks. — MNA

PABANRDA Minister addresses work coordination meeting

YANGON, 21 July — The Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt addresses coordination meeting of Development Affairs Department. — PABANRDA

Chemical liquid used in producing drugs seized

YANGON, 21 July — Members of local intelligence unit and Muse Special Anti-drug Squad, acting on information, searched a place near Malein-Kaungwaing old village to the south-west of Namoud Village in Muse Township on 24 June afternoon and seized Saw Hla together with chemicals used in drug refinery.

Muse Police Station filed Saw Hla, son of U Shwe Kyaw of Manhaung Village in Namoud village-tract in hydrochloric acid.

The fourth national malaria control activities carried out in Basic Education High School, Talay, in Tachileik on 11 July morning. Educational talks on malaria control were held. Moreover, Health staff made blood tests on the students to find out whether they were infected malaria or not. — MNA
General sees more anti-US attacks in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 21 July —Resistance to US forces in Iraq will grow in coming months as progress is made in creating a new government to replace the dictatorial regime of Saddam Hussein, the top commander of American and international troops in Iraq predicted Sunday.

General John Abizaid, the commander of Central Command, said he is establishing an Iraqi “civil defence force,” or armed militia, to help US forces combat the violence and sabotage that Abizaid and others believe is being spear- headed by remnants of Saddam’s regime.

Speaking with a small group of reporters over lunch at a Baghdad hotel, Abizaid said that the establishment earlier this month of a Governing Council of Iraqi political leaders was an important step that improves the outlook for getting the country back on its feet.

“But in the short run it creates great anxiety among our enemies, and they’ll increase the level of resistance,” Abizaid said. “So I’m enormously optimistic about our opportunity for success, as long as we don’t lose our nerve.”

The ambush death of two soldiers Sunday in northern Iraq brought to 151 the number of US troops killed in action since the March 20 start of war — including 36 since May 1, when President Bush declared major combat over.

Abizaid was joined at the lunch by Paul Wolfowitz, the deputy secretary of defence, who has made a point of insisting that the attackers not be called “resistance.”

Iraqi reconstruction efforts facing huge challenges

WASHINGTON, 21 July —The Iraqi reconstruction ef-forts are facing huge challenges, and safety and jobs are top issues for the Iraqis, an advisory panel of the Penta-gon said in a report.

The report also said the Iraqi Provisional Authority, whose members were appointed by the United States, is “isolated and cut off from Iraqis”, The New York Times reported Friday.

“The Iraqi population has exceedingly high expecta-tions, and the window for cooperation may close rapidly if they do not see progress on delivering security, basic serv-ices, opportunities for broad political involvement and eco-nomic opportunity,” the report said.

The report said that “the next 12 months will be critical to the success or failure of the Iraq reconstruction effort” and that “the next three months are crucial to turning around the security situation”. The five-member panel was sent to Iraq by US Defence Secretary Donald H Rumsfeld and travelled to Iraq between June 27 to July 7. The panel was headed by John Hamre, former deputy secretary of defence and now President of the Centre for Strategic and International Stud-ies, a Washington think tank.

The panel also concluded that “the United States will need significant international assistance” to succeed in postwar Iraq and the Bush Administration must give the provisional authority “more resources, personnel and flexi-bility” — MNA/Xinhua

Two more US troops killed in Iraq as political row deepens

BAGHDAD, 21 July —Two more US troops fighting Sunni Muslim protesters in Iraq were killed as occupa-tion forces faced an unprecedented new backlash from the country’s Shiite majority.

The political fallout from the war continued to threaten US President George W Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, with sliding sup-port in the United States and a crisis in Britain following the suicide of a key witness in the row over weapons of mass destruction.

Meanwhile, US civil ad-ministrator Paul Bremer said it could be at least a year be-fore Iraq had a sovereign gov-ernment in place, as he ad-mitted that deposed dictator Saddam Hussein was prob-ably still alive and hiding out in the country.

Bremer said the in-surgency in Iraq may have been part of a deliberate strategy by Saddam to begin military resistance against US forces only after they had occupied the country.

The two US soldiers were killed in an ambush in north-ern Iraq by rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire west of Mosul, in the normally quiet Kurdish-dominated north, a US military spokes-man said, pushing US combat deaths during the Iraq cam-paign above 150. — Internet

Papers highlight central gov’t’s firm support for HK SARS

HONG KONG, 21 July —Major Hong Kong newspapers Sunday highlighted Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HK SAR) Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa’s duty visit to Beijing Saturday and the central government’s strong support for the Tung Chee Hwa-led HK SAR government.

Wen Wei Po said in its editorial, entitled “The Central Government Firmly Sup-ports Hong Kong’s Stabili-ty,” that Chinese President Hu Jintao, Premier Wen Jiabao and several other Chinese leaders met with Tung Chee Hwa.

The high level meetings and the important speeches made by the leaders of the central government indi-cated to the world that the central government firmly supports Hong Kong’s im-plementation of the “one country, two systems” prin-ciple, supports the chief ex-ecutive’s administration by law and Hong Kong’s sta-bility, and encourages Hong Kong’s economic recovery.

The newspaper also stressed Tung’s pledge that he is ca-pable for maintaining Hong Kong’s stability.

The Hong Kong Com-mercial Daily News carried an editorial entitled “Hu, Wen’s Sincere Words, Ear-nest Wishes Calling for Hong Kong’s Stability, Develop-ment,” saying the Chinese mainland’s experience and lessons indicate that in order to seek economic development, it is very important to maintain political stability.

It said if without economic development, it is very hard to maintain political stability, while without political and social stability, economic de-velopment could hardly be achieved. — MNA/Xinhua

Old Lhasa City proper opens to visitors

LHASA, 21 July —The famous Bargaor Street in the old city proper of Lhasa, capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region in northwest China, opened to visitors Saturday after a face lift of its major roads and drainage system.

The old Lhasa city proper centres on Jokang Monastery, which dates back over 1,300 years, and covers an area of one square kilometres. The area, especially Bargaor Street, is widely regarded as a tourist attraction featuring traditional Tibet cultural flavour. The central and Local governments have allocated 169 million yuan (20.4 million US dollars) to surface the formerly bumpy roads and outdated drainage system.

The streets have been lined with granite and more public lavatories built. Meanwhile, sewage and garbage processing stations have also been constructed.

The renovation project is aimed at improving the living conditions of local residents and maintaining the traditional Tibet cultural flavour characterising the region, said an official in charge of the project.

MNA/Xinhua

A man of the Lisu ethnic group performs a stunt barefoot on a flame in Tengchong County, southwest China's Yunnan Province on 18 July, 2003. There has been a traditional sport called "Climb A Mountain of Knife and Plunge Into a Sea of Flames" in Tengchong County. The main performance in only part of the traditional sport. — Xinhua/Photo
**Amnesty accuses US of rights abuses in Iraq**

**BAGHDAD, 21 July** — Amnesty International accused US troops on Sunday of “very severe” human rights abuses in Iraq and complained that it had been denied access to thousands of prisoners held without charge in “appalling” conditions.

Amnesty spokeswoman Judy Arora, visited Iraq in an interview in Baghdad.

One detainee was shot dead by US soldiers during a prison riot last month, she told Reuters in an interview in Baghdad.

“We are disappointed that human rights were used as an excuse to go to war in Iraq and now the human rights of Iraqis are being violated,” she said, condemning conditions at among other sites Saddam Hussein’s once notorious Abu Ghraib prison.

US military officials declined immediate comment. A team from the London-based independent rights watchdog is visiting Iraq to take testimony from those held and released by US forces and to try and speak to some of those still held.

It is also investigating abuses under Saddam, although most of those imprisoned by him are now free. While some Iraqis detained by invading troops have been released, many remain in prisons without access to a lawyer or families, Licea said.

**Shanxi Province records fast mid-year growth**

**TAIYUAN, 21 July** — North China’s Shanxi Province reported rapid economic growth during the first half of this year with its gross domestic product (GDP) up 11.6 per cent year on year, official figures show.

Figures released by the Statistical Bureau of Shanxi Provincial government show GDP reached 102.7 billion yuan (12.5 billion US dollars), exceeding the 100 billion yuan (12.1 billion US dollars) for the first time.

The inland province harvested 2.59 billion kilogrammes of cereals, up 5.7 per cent over the same period last year, despite a 10-per-cent drop in the acreage under summer grain crops, the bureau said.

The industrial sector reported 22.5-per-cent growth in output value to 50.16 billion yuan (6.13 billion US dollars). The province recorded 31.92 billion yuan (3.89 billion US dollars) in fixed asset investment during the first half, up 35.9 per cent. Investment by state-owned enterprises jumped 74.5 per cent to 18.6 billion yuan (2.26 billion US dollars).

**Russian peacekeepers to Iraq not on agenda**

**MOSCOW, 21 July** — The issue of sending a Russian contingent to participate in the international peacekeeping force in Iraq is not on the agenda, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said Friday.

“This issue has not been considered yet, as the main thing is absent: a United Nations Security Council resolution,” Ivanov was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying.

“Many countries will decide on their position after the corresponding legal foundations, first of all a UN Security Council resolution, have been developed,” Ivanov added.

“Earlier on Friday Russian Foreign Minister spokesman Alexander Yakovenko said Russia was ready to consider sending peacekeepers to Iraq if the UN Security Council approved such an action. ‘I admit such a possibility if there is a corresponding decision by the UN Security Council,’ the Interfax news agency quoted him as saying.

Yakovenko reiterated the statement made by Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov Thursday that Russia would not examine the possibility of joining the current US-led coalition forces in Iraq.

Fedotov also suggested adopting another resolution of the UN Security Council which would broaden the UN’s participation in Iraqi affairs.

He hinted at Russia’s possible participation in a peacekeeping mission in Iraq under a UN flag.

**Senate Democrat wants Bush affirmation that war evidence accurate**

WASHINGTON, 21 July — A Democratic senator says President Bush could make the Iraq intelligence controversy go away by telling Americans whether or not he exaggerated.

Jay Rockefeller says the question is, “was it right, or was it wrong?”

The West Virginia senator is vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee. Appearing on “Fox News Sunday,” Rockefeller said “facts really do matter.”

On the same program, House Speaker Dennis Hastert defended the Bush administration.

He said “intelligence is not an exact science.”

Hastert says the allegation that Iraq sought to buy uranium in Africa came from intelligence sources that were thought to be reliable.

When he made the allegation in his State of the Union speech, Bush said the information had been provided by the British government.

**Peruvian police arrest Dutch woman with drug**

LIMA, 21 July — Anti-drug agents captured at the Lima International Airport a Dutch woman with 48 kilograms of basic cocaine paste valued at 2.5 million US dollars, the national Anti-Drugs Direction (Dinandro) of the National Police of Peru said Saturday.

The woman, identified as Francesca van Minen, became nervous and was noticed by the Dinandro agents who checked her luggage while she was waiting for the flight to the German city of Hanover, the Dinandro said.

The agents found 46 rectangular packages in four knapsacks of synthetic can-vas and thus arrested Van Minen. Meanwhile, at a post office near the airport, 12 four-kilo packages containing high-purity cocaine, valued at 500,000 dollars, were found.

**Foreign investment rises in suburban Shanghai**

**SHANGHAI, 21 July** — Shanghai suburbs are becoming a magnet for foreign investment as the metropolis seeks coordinated development of both the 600-square-kilometre city proper and the vast 5,700-square-kilometre suburban area.

According to statistics provided by the municipal agricultural committee, contractual foreign investment in Shanghai’s suburbs signed in the first half of the year totalled 4.52 billion US dollars, accounting for 74 per cent of the municipal total for the same period.

Actually used foreign investment here totalled 1.3 billion dollars in the first six months, up 30 per cent year-on-year. By the end of June, a total of 5,018 foreign-funded enterprises have gone into production in Shanghai’s suburbs.

The photo taken on 10, July 2003 shows a corridor bridge in Yang’an village of the Dong Nationality, one of the minority nationalities in southwest China’s Guizhou Province. Some 800 people live in the village, which has a history of more than 700 years. The village, which has well preserved the original custom of the Dong Nationality, was named in December, 1999 as a Dong ecological museum, one of the four built and protected jointly by China and Norway.

**The  NEW  LIGHT  OF  MYANMAR** Tuesday, 22 July, 2003
Bremer says he believes Saddam still in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 21 July — The US civilian administrator in Iraq said on Sunday he believed Saddam Hussein was still in the country, probably hiding in the area where most of the attacks on Americans are being organized.

Paul Bremer, in a series of television interviews, also said US forces were putting together an Iraqi civil defence corps made up of Iraqis under US military command “to help us basically with the armed part of the work we’re doing.”

“By having Iraqis help us, we’re likely to get better intelligence on who it is we’re fighting,” Bremer told “Fox News Sunday.” “We’ve got to know who these people are and then we’ve got to seek them out and either capture or kill them.”

Bremer, who is overseeing the US effort to establish civilian control in Iraq, acknowledged on CBS’ “Face the Nation” there had been “an uptick” in attacks on US forces who ousted Saddam in April.

Thirty seven US troops have been killed since President Bush declared an end to major combat on May 1. Since US-led forces invaded Iraq in March, 151 Americans soldiers have been killed in hostile action.

Blair won’t resign over adviser’s suicide

LONDON, 21 July — Prime Minister Tony Blair said he would take full responsibility if an inquiry finds the government contributed to the suicide of scientist David Kelly, identified Sunday by the British Broadcasting Corp as its main source in accusing the government of hyping weapons evidence to justify war in Iraq.

Blair, dogged on his trip through east Asia by angry charges about the Ministry of Defence adviser’s death, said he has no intention of resigning over the dispute, as some critics at home have demanded.

He welcomed the BBC’s announcement, which temporarily shifted the angriest public criticism from his administration to the broadcaster, whose credibility came under attack.

“In the end, the government is my responsibility and I can assure you the judge (heading the inquiry) will be able to get to what facts, what people, what papers he wants,” Blair told Sky News.

The prime minister also said at a joint news conference with South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun in Seoul that he would testify in the investigation.

Kelly’s suicide has visibly shaken Blair, who learned of it at the start of an exhausting Asian trip after flying first across the Atlantic to give a speech to the US Congress.

He appeared tense and preoccupied during appearances Saturday in Japan, and his characteristic wide grins were replaced by a withering glare when a reporter shouted: “Have you got blood on your hands, prime minister?”

Blair’s government and the state-funded BBC have been embroiled in a bitter, drawn-out battle over a May 29 radio report by journalist Andrew Gilligan.—Internet

Sterling falls to 3-month low against dollar

SINGAPORE, 21 July — Sterling fell to a three-month low against the dollar and six-week low against the euro on Monday on uncertainty over the political fallout from the apparent suicide of British scientist.

The pound was quoted around $1.5776 in early Asian trade, its lowest since April 23, before edging back above $1.5800. Against the euro it weakened to 71.39 pence, its weakest since June 9, before steadying.

“There’s talk that (Prime Minister Tony) Blair is in trouble. I think that is what people are pointing to as the main reason,” a senior dealer at a Singapore bank said of sterling’s fall.

While sterling was weak, the yen and euro were little changed against the dollar after posting gains on Friday. Japanese markets are closed for the Marine Day holiday, which will limit volumes until the European open.

Friday’s US consumer sentiment report caused markets to check some of their optimism on the dollar, even though the headline number came in slightly above expectations.

Traders said sterling ran into some early selling in Asia after British police on the weekend confirmed that the body of scientist and former weapons inspector David Kelly had been found. Kelly became embroiled in a row over whether the Blair government exaggerated the case for war against Iraq.

The potential political fallout added to the economic pressures on sterling that has seen it fall about 6.5 percent from a 4-1/2-year high of $1.6903 on June 17.

Blair sets target to halve spending of frozen Iraqi assets

A tourist takes a picture of the column-shaped joints by the effect of volcanic movements in Tengchong County, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 18 July, 2003. With more than 90 volcanoes, the county is known as “a volcanic geology museum,” which has attracted scholars and tourists.—Xinhua

Investment continues to pour into E-China city

Gaoyou (Jiangsu Province), 21 July — Despite the risks of flood, the investment environment and enthusiasm of foreign investors in Gaoyou City in east China’s Jiangsu Province have remained unchanged.

Lin Kang, deputy director of the Gaoyou Economic Development Zone, said Saturday the zone signed a major investment project on Friday. According to the contract, a real estate development company from Hong Kong would invest $12 million US dollars to develop and operate a four-star hotel, department store, office buildings and residential buildings in the zone.

Construction would start in August. Established in 1991, the zone is now home to 200 enterprises, including 26 foreign-funded ones. Liu said the zone has given enterprises inside the zone every support in the face of floodings, while businesses had reciprocated by making donations for the city’s flood control work. MNA/Xinhua

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago.

The second best time is now.
Citing an internal briefing on the conflict by the senior allied air war commander, the Times said the plan named “Southern Airforce” called for attacks on the network of fibre-optic cable that Saddam Hussein’s government used for transmitting military communications, as well as airstrikes on key command centres, radars and other military assets.

The strikes, conducted from mid-2002 into the first few months of this year, were publicly justified as a response to Iraqi violations of a no-fly zone that US and British officials established in southern Iraq, but Lieutenant-General T. Michael Moseley, the chief allied war commander, said the attacks also laid the foundations for the military campaign against Baghdad.

“It provided a set of opportunities and options for General Franks,” Moseley, in an interview, told the Times regarding the strikes and referring to General Tommy Franks, who was head of US Central Command.

While there were indications the United States was trying to weaken Iraq air defences in anticipation of a possible war, the scope and detailed planning that lay behind the effort were not generally known before, the Times report said.

One reason it was possible for US forces to begin the ground campaign without preceding it with extensive airstrikes was that 606 bombs were dropped on some 391 carefully chosen targets under the plan, Moseley said.

The disclosures were contained within an assessment by Moseley on the lessons of the war with Iraq, the paper said, which he presented at an internal briefing for US and allied military officials at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada on Thursday.

Among other disclosures were that there was not a bunker in the Dora Farms area near Baghdad where US intelligence initially believed Saddam was meeting with aides and which was attacked by F-117 stealth fighters and cruise missiles at the outset of the war; and that commanders were required to obtain the approval of Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld if planned strikes were thought likely to cause more than 30 civilian deaths. More than 50 such strikes were proposed, and all were approved.

MNA/Reuters

**Three killed in helicopter crash in Britain**

**London, 21 July**—Two adults and a child were killed after a helicopter crashed Saturday in a field in Kent, eastern England, shortly after take-off.

The Hughes 500 aircraft took off from Biggin Hill airport and came down in nearby Cudham Lane South at about 0950 BST, according to a BBC report.

A London Ambulance Service spokeswoman said that all the three on board were pronounced dead at the scene by a doctor who arrived by air ambulance.

The bodies were not taken to hospital but were left at the scene in the care of police, as was the normal procedure when fatalities are involved, she added.

MNA/Xinhua

**Departure of Iraqi refugees from Saudi Arabia delayed**

**Kuwait City, 21 July**—Return of Iraqi refugees from a Saudi camp has been delayed for 10 days due to technical reasons, a UN official was quoted by the KUNA news agency as saying on Saturday.

The first batch comprising 244 Iraqi refugees in Rafha camp were supposed to return home immediately on their volition on Monday, but this move was delayed until end of this month, Mamoon Muhsen, external affairs officer of the Gulf regional office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said.

These refugees will return to the southern Iraq city of Basra via the Saudi and Kuwaiti territories after notifying the British command there, Muhsen said.

He added that both states are making all efforts through cooperation with the UNHCR to secure the return of the Iraqi refugees to their homeland.

So far, 2,200 Iraqi refugees have voiced their intent to return home, but the UNHCR does not encourage them to do so now for three reasons, namely absence of security and stability in Iraq, non-availability of basic services as well as absence of a specific team to shoulder the task of supervising their conditions, Muhsen said.

Earlier in the day, the UNHCR said in a statement issued in the Saudi capital of Riyadh that the return of those refugees will be voluntary and very limited due to the insecure situation in Iraq. Any wide-scale action to take back Iraqi refugees to their country would not start before the beginning of next year as the security and humanitarian situation there normalizes, it added. More than 5,000 Iraqi refugees are living at Rafha camp, some 10 kilometres from the Iraqi border. A majority of them fled Iraq after Saddam Hussein’s forces crushed a Shiite revolt in southern Iraq in March, 1991.

The camp, 20 kilometres north of the town of Rafha, was initially set up for more than 33,000 Iraqis who fled the crushing of the rebellion.

In another development, High Commissioner of the UNHCR Ruud Lubbers is due in Kuwait on Tuesday for a three-day visit. He will talk with senior Kuwait officials on making more relief aid to the refugees and their return to their country.

MNA/Xinhua

**Annan calls for quick handover of power to Iraqis**

**United Nations, 21 July**—In his first major report on postwar Iraq, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Iraqis did not want democracy imposed on them by outsiders and rated lawlessness as their primary concern.

Annan, who sent the report to UN Security Council members on Friday for discussion on Tuesday, also envisioned an ambitious UN role in Iraq in the political transition to help form a new Iraqi government. He made clear that role would exclude responsibility for law and order. He said Iraqis were lining up to tell his special representative, Brazillian Sergio Vieira de Mello, that creating an interim government quickly was their “central concern”.

It is important that Iraqis are able to see a clear timetable leading to the full restoration of sovereignty, Annan said.

“There is a pressing need to set out a clear and specific sequence of events leading to the end of military occupation.”

Annan wrote the report as the US death toll in Iraq surpassed that of the 1991 Gulf War and Washington was considering additional UN involvement to try to persuade nations to contribute troops or help with finances.

Iraqis speaking to UN officials “expressed deep concern about the precarious, some believed deteriorating, security situation, particularly in Baghdad,” Annan said. “Daily living conditions have not improved, at least not at those living in urban areas, and may have got worse,” the report said.

The disclosures were contained within an assessment by Moseley on the lessons of the war with Iraq, the paper said, which he presented at an internal briefing for US and allied military officials at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada on Thursday.

Among other disclosures were that there was not a bunker in the Dora Farms area near Baghdad where US intelligence initially believed Saddam was meeting with aides and which was attacked by F-117 stealth fighters and cruise missiles at the outset of the war; and that commanders were required to obtain the approval of Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld if planned strikes were thought likely to cause more than 30 civilian deaths. More than 50 such strikes were proposed, and all were approved.

MNA/Reuters

**Three killed in helicopter crash in Britain**

**London, 21 July**—Two adults and a child were killed after a helicopter crashed Saturday in a field in Kent, eastern England, shortly after take-off.

The Hughes 500 aircraft took off from Biggin Hill airport and came down in nearby Cudham Lane South at about 0950 BST, according to a BBC report.

A London Ambulance Service spokeswoman said that all the three on board were pronounced dead at the scene by a doctor who arrived by air ambulance.

The bodies were not taken to hospital but were left at the scene in the care of police, as was the normal procedure when fatalities are involved, she added.

MNA/Xinhua

**French Riviera forest fire contained**

**Paris, 21 July**—The two-day forest fire along France’s Cote d’Azur was contained on Saturday morning, but some 1,300 firefighters remained mobilized on the ground, officials said.

The blaze, the largest one in France’s Var region since 1990, began on Thursday near Vidauban, about 60 kilometres east of Toulon. It has devoured more than 10,000 hectares of picturesque Mediterranean trees and forced more than 9,000 people to evacuate.

French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin arrived in the ravaged region on Saturday morning. He is scheduled to inspect firefighters in the afternoon.

Fire devatates forests in the French Riviera backcountry each summer. — MNA/Xinhua

The picture taken on 20 July, 2003 shows a high voltage electrical equipment is being installed in a power plant on the left side of the Three Gorges Project on the Yangtze River, China’s largest water conservancy project. —Xinhua photo
COMMANDER INSPECTS BHAMO REGION DEVELOPMENT TASKS

YANGON, 21 July — Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe on 13 July morning met with local people in Bhamo Township at Theinhin Village according to requirements for agriculture, rural education and health sectors and presented K1 million for construction of a BEPS.

COMMANDER DISCUSSES CULTIVATION OF TEN MAJOR CROPS IN PINDAYA

YANGON, 21 July — Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint met local people of Taunggyi District and Pindaya Township at ZawgyiOo Hall in Pindaya Township on 16 July.

After the ceremony, the commander discussed cultivation of ten major crops with the use of modern methods and fertilizer. Township Executive Officer of Pindaya Township attended the ceremony.

COMMANDER ATTENDS WASO ROBES OFFERING CEREMONY

YANGON, 21 July — Bago Division Peace and Development Council and departments concerned offered Waso robes to members of the Sangha at Okthathiri Sathintak in Bago on 18 July morning attended by State Sangha Mahayaka Committee member Sayadaw, members of the Sangha led by Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Dhammalinika Kyauktaung in Bago Abhijaha Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Visudhida, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko and wife, Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, Commander of No 77 LID Brig-Gen Than Htay and local authorities.

Energy Ministry offers robes

YANGON, 21 July — The Ministry of Energy held the 13th Waso robes offering ceremony at Energy Dhammayon on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning. Present were Kyimyindine Thadu Pariyatti Monastery President Nayaka Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavayaka Pandita Bhaddanta Panthavatma and members of the Sangha, Sayadaw Minnayaka Sayadaw Bhaddanta Visudhida, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Ko Ko and wife, Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, Commander of No 77 LID Brig-Gen Than Htay and local authorities.

Buddhist Summit

YANGON, 21 July — The Information and News Communication subcommittee held a work coordination meeting on organizing the fourth World Buddhist Summit at the meeting hall of Myanmar military and civilian officers and wives, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thii and wife Daw Khin Mar Aye, Deputy Minister U Tin Tun, officials and staff.

After the ceremony, the commander went to Sinkhin Bridge construction site and inspected the work site. On 14 July, the commander also inspected cow breeding farm, pineapple plantation and layer breeding farm, and nursing and midwifery training school construction site in Bhamo.

The commander inspected the work site. After hearing reports, he gave instructions on work. Afterwards, Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe inaugurated Sitta model Village and its village library. Next, he met with local farmers and urged them to extend cultivation using quality strain and modern cultivation methods.

The commander proceeded to Paung Creek Dam construction site and urged them to extend cultivation using quality strain and modern cultivation methods.

After the ceremony, the commander fulfilled them.

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Merits being shared at the Waso robes offering ceremony of Ministry of Energy — UNFADV
(Continued from yesterday)
We shall be back home when the time comes

The members of our group led by Auntie Suu were quick in hitting out at others, with fists, feet and stones along the way from Madaya to Mandalay. But our elders had not made any effort to stop or forbid the youth members of Yangon or the local NLD members. So it was like giving their silent approval and unspoken instruction "to carry on since this is the best way to solve problem." It was almost 5:30 in the evening, when our group entered Mandalay. As soon as we entered the city, we behaved most offensively shouting and being disorderly to cause disturbances. They were shouting randomly with raised fists as many others had done in the 1988 unrest. At about 6 in the evening, we arrived in front of the Mandalay Division NLD party office at Plot 654, on 38th Street, between 79th and 80th streets, in Maha Aungmye Township. Auntie Suu got off the car. Mandalay is as generally known as a city where there are people out on the streets round the clock. It is busy and bustling with people occupied with their own jobs. The situation however became worse with our arrival in the city. As about 200 party members were trying to cause disorder, a lot of people came out to find out what was happening and a crowd had gathered. More often than not, the roads in Mandalay are always hectic with traffic. But if any kind of disturbance occurs, they at once become congested and blocked with traffic and people. A gathering of a large crowd people for whatever reason causes apprehension and alarm in the people living in the houses and apartments on both sides of the roads. They are apt to hurriedly close their doors and shops in anxiety. Thus, it is standard practice for the authorities concerned to do their duty to control the situation and clear the streets and thus prevent occurrence of undesirable incidents. Soon after we arrived at the Division NLD Party office, 38th Street was blocked as the party members were using Auntie Suu as a lure to entice and incite the people at the same time. The authorities on a light truck could be heard requesting the people to avoid blocking of roads with a loudspeaker.

"...Attention please! As you are blocking the road, kindly move to the roadside to prevent a traffic jam." When the Dyna truck turned into the 78th Street and parked at the curbside, some youth members of the Yangon NLD together with some local members smashed its windshield to pieces. As for Auntie Suu, she was still having a good time giving speeches from the second-floor balcony of the division office. The situation on the road returned to normal when it was past 10 p.m. While we were preparing to go to bed, we heard Tin Htet Oo on the phone conveying a directive to circulate a news report which in effect said that a vehicle with traffic police in it had driven at high speed through the crowd of people listening to the Auntie Suu’s speech and as a result the people had smashed the windshield of the police car.

May 27
Auntie Suu spent the whole day visiting and making speeches at the township party offices in Mandalay and Tada-U. We went everywhere in a procession with motorcycles as escort and it was almost certain that many of the townspeople were cursing us as a nuisance. And for the authorities concerned it was an extra burden to clear the roadblocks. 27 May We put up a notice board in front of the division office. The notice carried a brief account of our activities on 27 May, and an announcement that the group would take a rest on 28 May 2003. Accordingly no one left the divisional headquarters that day. But there was a continuous stream of visitors to the division office entering it from the front door as well as the back door and up till that night, there were many comings and goings. I got into bed but did not sleep soundly because of my apprehensions for the trip next day. It was a worry, as I knew that Auntie Suu was making preparations to travel to Monywa and commence her campaign all along the way with a strong force. I had also learned in accordance with Auntie Suu’s directive the division NLD chairman U Bo Zan had summoned the chairmen, vice-chairmen and the secretaries of the four townships in Mandalay city, telling them to supply one car from each township and to recruit all volunteers with division organizers as the core. In addition, Auntie Suu had added inflammatory statements in her speeches in Mandalay to stir up the hate and antagonism of the party members. During her speech in front of the North-West Township NLD party office, she said: "...In doing politics, there are times when we have to move forward or backward depending on the situation. And we will have to make sacrifices if necessary..." Such words were meant to incite party members to reckless acts. Thus, I was speculating that a lot of confrontation and conflict could flare up along the way.

May 29
We left Mandalay. We passed through towns and villages along the road from Mandalay to Monywa seeing many who welcomed us as well as crowds that opposed us. A significant incident was that a motorcycle from our convoy accidentally keeled over on the roadside just beyond Pe-gado checkpoint between Kyaukse and Kan-ya Village. Our group led by Auntie Suu arrived at Monywa after six in the evening. The venue of the signboard raising ceremony was to be held at the house of U Tin Lwin in Plot 117/ka, on Thazi Street, Chammy Thazi Ward. It was not more than three miles from the town entrance. Normally, it would have been a 20-minute drive for the convoy to reach it. But we were travelling like a lama duck and arrived at the house only at nine in the late evening. More cars and motorcycles had joined us along the trip from Mandalay to Monywa and the convoy now consisted of over 30 cars and about 200 motorcycles approximately. As it was evening, most of the people were on their way home from the work or taking a stroll in the town. The timing was just right for our tactics to cause disorder in the town. The shouting of slogans by the party members of the convoy had now disrupted peace and stability in Monywa. The sound of our slogans had also frightened the people of the town. Is this democracy? One thing sure is that it is an unruly democracy. Though we had arrived late at night to the designated venue we at once held the signboard erection ceremony. There were no disturbances at all. It may be that Auntie did not know or was pretending not to know but we heard a bit of news when we arrived at the house of U Kyi Soe. It was that the personnel concerned of the (See page 9)
Daw Suu Kyi...

(from page 8)

Monywa NLD party had not, up till now, asked for authorization for the ceremony from the township officials concerned.

In Monywa, I made inquiries among the local party members about the incident in which vice-chairman of the Monywa Township NLD Daw Khin Than was overrun by a motorcycle driven by someone.

I wanted to know whether it was an accident or not. The news report broadcast by foreign radio stations, based on information given by party spokesman Granduncle U Lwin, implied that it was a plot of the USA. But what a local party member told me was quite clear. On 27 May, Daw Khin Than was waiting in front of her house on Kyaukka Street, Sule Gon Ward, to travel to Dahayin together with chairman of Sagang Division NLD party U Ba Ba. It was in the morning and was not light. Just then U Ba Ba’s car arrived and stopped opposite her house. When U Ba Ba sounded the car horn to signal his arrival, she had heedlessly crossed the road looking neither to left or right. It was while she was crossing the road that a motorcycle driven by someone whose identity is unknown, accidentally hit her.

Daw Khin Than was taken to a private clinic but was soon transferred and warded at Monywa People’s Hospital. She had given a false report at the hospital because she was injured when she slipped in the bathroom. The traffic police acting on information went to the hospital and made inquiries to find out what really happened, but Daw Khin Than, herself had signed the statement at the hospital because she did not wish to press charges.

May 30.

We left Monywa about ten in the morning. In other towns, there were local party members who joined our convoy part of the way between towns but none of the Monywa party members accompanied us. However, not a single untoward incident occurred along the road, so that my depression lifted and I felt light-hearted.

We entered Butalin at about two in the afternoon. Soon after we arrived there, Auntie Suu swiftly held the shadow raising ceremony, and gave speeches. We left Butalin at about 4 pm.

It was almost sunset when we arrived at Sai-kyin. It was getting darker and when we arrived at Kyi Village night had already fallen. We saw the light of a car coming from the other direction on the road, so we stopped our convoy. And while members of our group were inquiring in loud voices what was the matter, we began to hear slogans in protest against our group. This time again the guys in our group who had had a taste of being the aggressor shot at them with catapults under cover of darkness. Raised voices “Ah, they are shooting at us!” came through together with the slogans.

The demonstrators as well as the local onlookers were lit hard by our surprise attack. But not long after they began to counter-attack. Rocks and pebbles were flying towards us. Both sides were attacking each other, and the whole area was noisy with shouts and abusive words.

As it was dark, it was impossible to differentiate between friend and foe. As the situation became more dangerous, we quietly scrambled into the nearest cars to make a quick escape. But one of the cars could not start quickly enough. It was the car (Ba/2762) with the NLD youth in charge Tin Htut Oo and the car I had climbed into. Auntie Suu’s car made a dash for it through the crowd. The car with Dr Hla Soe Nyn and group of Mandalay also drove away from the scene along the car track by the roadside. Daw Win Mya Mya’s car tried to do the same. But unfortunately a person fell off from a motorcycle in front of the car. When the driver tried to turn the car to avoid running over him, it hit a big kok teak tree at the roadside.

We tried to make an attempt to help them, but there was no way. There was total confusion. So our car was obliged to drive away blindly and escape. We were driving along the car track at the side of the road but soon got stuck in the sand.

While the car was still struggling to get out of the sand we saw a group of people running towards us. As we did not know whether they were coming to help us, hit us or just running away, we took no chances and got off the car to flee from the area.

As far as I remember, the guys from Auntie Suu’s car had also got into our group which had been nearest to them; there were, Khin Oo, Than Soe, Kyaw Zin Win and Toe Lwin. While we were running away we met with the security personnel who were coming to take control of the situation and last we were safely in their hands. Than Soe and Khin Oo afraid of being arrested, steered clear of the security personnel and fled the area. Later, we were sent to Ye-U Police Station. We were so happy for now we were not out of danger.

Ye-U Police Station was crowded. I saw guys from our group with gloomy faces. We heard a junior police officer reporting to his superior near us. According to what he said four 2-inch by one-inch rods and one catapult were found on Auntie Suu’s car. But I was now free from anxiety. For I knew that I was in a safe place. And I knew that at the right moment I would soon be back home.
Pearl Exhibition will make Myanmar pearls known to the world

The Myanma Pearl Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines will put on sale its pearls in local currency through sealed tender system and competitive bidding at Pearl’s Emporium and Design Competition, which will take place at Thiri Yadana Hall of the ministry on Kanbe Road, Yankin Township, here, from 26 to 28 July. Managing Director of the MPE U Maung Toe, General Manager U Sein Lwin and officials oversaw the pearls on display at the exhibition on 18 July afternoon.

The purposes of the exhibition are: to promote the sale of Myanmar pearls; for the citizens to wear pearl ornaments; to produce pearl ornaments in modern and attractive designs; and to develop and modernize Myanmar handicraft. The MPE has undertaken the pearls marketing since 1992. In the past, pearls were sold only in emporiums and even national gem merchants had no access to the emporiums. Since the 33th Myanma Gems Emporium in 1996, national entrepreneurs have been allowed to attend the emporiums.

Previously, the gems emporium was held once a year because priority was given to the sale of gems in foreign currency. But now, the local demand for the pearls is on the increase, and so is the production of pearls. Therefore, pearls are put on sale twice a year so that the penetration of foreign pearls of the same kind can be prevented. The sale of pearls in jewelry form fetches more money than that in pieces. However, though the demand for pearls is on the rise in the local market, they have not found their way to foreign markets. As a pearl-producing country, Myanmar will earn more foreign exchange should the pearl ornaments attract foreign markets.

At this exhibition, 95 lots of pearls will be sold at the floor price of K 193,550,000.

Pearl lots worth less than K 2.5 million will be put on sale through sealed tender system, and those worth more than K 2.5 million each through competitive bidding. Pearl lots will be on display at the exhibition from 10 am to 4 pm on 26 and 27 July. Sealed tenders will be opened and announced at 10 am on 28 July, followed by the pearl sales through competitive bidding.

Arrangements have been made to present prizes to the best buyers and awards for the best pearl designs. Pearl is included in nine gems and it is generally accepted that, when worn, it not only makes the wearer smarter but also gives health, youth, wealth, and happy married life.

Translation: KTY

Paunglin Dam (Modulating Tank) in Hlegu Township

Water is essential to cultivate paddy and other crops all the year round for greening a 30-mile perimeter of Yangon City.

If the water supply system can be implemented, 440,000 acres of sown acreage will be extended and will contribute much towards development of national economy.

With regard to water supply system, already completed Ngamoeyeik, Kwinbyin, Alaingni and Tabuhla Dams are located in the north of Yangon City. Likewise, Paunglin Mahuya Dam to support Ngamoeyeik Dam will be constructed. In the western part, Kankalay and Bowle river water pumping projects will be implemented. Similarly, other river water pumping projects are under construction in Dalla, Twantay, Kawkhmu, Kungyangon and Hinethaya townships. Three water supply systems will be employed. The first is to supply water from Moeyunyi Lake to the townships in the east and south of Yangon City through the canal; the second is to prevent the inflow of salty water and danger of floods in the rainy season through Kyaw Thinewa Gate and to supply water to Kyaw Thinewa townships through the canal in summer; and the third is to supply water from Ngamoeyeik Dam to these regions along Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge-2 through the concrete canal. Ngamoeyeik Dam is situated near Phaunggyi Village, Hlegu Township. A total of 640,000 acre-feet of water flows into the dam annually and the dam has 160 acres of watershed area. The dam, 75 feet high and 15,500 feet long, can store 180,000 acre-feet.

The dam has a 320 feet long RC conduit built with three 6’ by 4’ valves and a 150 feet wide spillway. The dam has one main canal and two tributary canals to irrigate 58,971 acres of farmlands.

Ngamoeyeik Dam flows 200,000 acre-feet of water through the spillway annually, though the dam supplies water to 200,000 acres of croplands and 327 acre-feet of water per day to Yangon City. As such, feasibility survey was conducted for building the modulating tank in the upper watershed area of the dam. The feasibility survey was conducted in 1998 and the geological survey in 2002-2003. Paunglin Dam damming Paunglin Creek is located four miles from Ohlineshin Village, Hlegu Township. The dam which can store 106,560 acre-feet will be situated on the 34.8 square miles of watershed area with over 100 inches of rainfalls.

The dam will have a reinforced concrete conduit with two 4’ by 6’ valves. It is estimated that the project will cost K 550.92 million. The main embankment, the conduit and the control tower are under construction. At present, Paunglin Dam Project is being implemented for cultivation of paddy and other crops all the year round and to green a 30-mile perimeter of Yangon City.

Translation: TTA

Myanmar Alin 19-7-2003

Preperations made to build a spillway at Paunglin Dam. — Irrigation.

Progress of work in building a spillway at Paunglin Dam— Irrigation.
Accomplishments for equitable development of regions in the country

In its efforts for the Union of Myanmar to stand shoulder to shoulder with the nations of the world, the State Peace and Development Council has been laying down plans for border area development, designating 24 Special Development Regions and carrying out the five rural development tasks and is implementing development projects with a view to bringing about equitable development of all regions in the Union.

Dams and reservoirs, roads and bridges and factories are being built across the nation to narrow the gap between one region and another. Photos on this page show tangible results of sustained efforts of the Government for national development.

Padonmar Soap Factory of Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited. The factory was built near Thephyung Village in Paung Township, Mon State.

Welaung Dam in Taungtha Township, Mandalay Division. The dam was inaugurated on 13 July 1998.

Kissapanadi Bridge on Yangon-Sittway Road in Rakhine State.

No 12 Sugar Mill (Nawade) in Pyay Township, Bago Division.

Hinywet Dam in An Township, Rakhine State. The dam was opened on 29-10-2002. With 750 feet in length and 70 feet in height, the dam was built at a cost of about K 100 million to supply water to about 100,000 people.
Natural disasters kill 100,000 in Latin America in last 30 years

SAN SALVADOR, 21 July—More than 100,000 people have been killed in Latin America due to natural disasters over the last three decades, according to a report released on Saturday by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (CEPAL).

The report, Manual on the Assessment of the Socioeconomic and Environmental Impact of Disasters, said natural disasters have also caused losses of 65 billion US dollars and affected some 150 million people in the area in the period.

The heavy casualties and material losses caused by natural disasters have been mainly in smaller and less developed countries, especially in the Andean region, Central America and the Caribbean area, according to CEPAL.

The report said that as natural disasters mostly hit poorer and more vulnerable countries, the damage is “socially more important and more irreversible.”

Experience from developed countries shows that it is possible to diminish the impact of natural disasters by reinforcing the response and aid system, CEPAL said.

CEPAL, a UN organization, also said it had concluded a study on the socioeconomic impact of the January 21, 2003 earthquake in the Mexican state of Colima.

The quake killed 28 people and injured hundreds of others. The government of Colima has requested CEPAL to assess the damage, originally estimated at 90 million dollars.

Anti-drug war in schools declared in Kenya

NAIROBI, 21 July—The Kenyan Government and teachers union have embarked on a joint initiative to combat drug abuse in schools with a call to declare all learning institutions no smoking zones, the People Daily said here Saturday.

The initiative was made at a press conference in Nairobi Friday by Kenyan National Union of Teachers (KNUT) and the National Agency Against Drug Abuse (NACADA) which observed that addiction to various drugs begins at schools.

Leaders of the two organizations further expressed concern that students are easily accessing illicit drugs, even at shops located within their institutions, the newspaper said.

“Besides cigarettes, now pupils are buying glue across shop counters,” said Joseph Kaguthi, NACADA national coordinator at his office.

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Egypt, Spain agree to help push forward M-E peace process

Cairo, 21 July—Egypt and Spain on Saturday agreed to help advance the stalled Mideast peace process by setting in motion a roadmap peace plan.

Speaking to reporters after meeting with his visiting Spanish counterpart Ana Palacio, Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher said the two countries stressed the need to push forward the Palestinian-Israeli peace process. It is also important to restart Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli peace tracks, Maher said, adding he and Palacio discussed how to achieve peace and stability in the region.

On her part, Palacio said that she will later travel to Syria to mull ways to push forward the Mideast peace process, adding the European Union should have a bigger role to play in Mideast issues. Palacio arrived here Friday night for a two-day visit to Egypt. The roadmap, worked out by the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia, requires reciprocal steps toward peace from both Israel and the Palestinians and envisions a full Palestinian statehood by 2005.
“Popo” volcano coats Mexico City in white ash

MEXICO City, 21 July — Popocatépetl volcano exhaled a plume of ash on Saturday morning and layered Mexico City in white volcanic dust, sending surprised residents seeking cover and coating cars and buildings.

“It was like rain. Our eyes were burning,” said Isabel Hernandez, who was caught outside with her two children when the ash fell on the city. All three covered their mouths with wet pieces of cloth.

Popocatépetl, known as Popo, 40 miles southeast of the capital, sent up a 1.8-mile high plume of ash and incandescent fragments at 9:20 am local time (1420 GMT).

Hours later, winds carried the cloud of ash to Mexico City, turning the sky dark and raining down fine dust.

Residents rushed into pharmacies to buy bright blue surgical masks to cover their mouths, while radio programmers warned people to keep their heads covered and wash the ash off their cars carefully, as the fine volcanic particles can scratch paint.

“The dust was especially thick in the south of the city, with radio reporting low visibility in those neighbourhoods.

“Everything got dark here, as if it were raining. Some people were scared,” said Alfredo Rosales, who was in the southern part of the city when the ash fell.

“In the south you can’t even see anything,” said taxi driver Rene Pena, 31. Authorities said the ash was not a health threat.

Disaster prevention officials at Cenapred said the amount of ash that fell on the city was minimal and the volcano was stable.

“The volcano is very calm. The winds brought the ash toward the city but that’s something we expect,” an official said.

Mexico’s International Airport reported little ash had fallen there and remained open, with one flight delayed for 15 minutes and another landing at a different airport.

MNA/Reuters

65 passengers treated for smoke inhalation in NY subway fire

New York, 21 July — At least 65 passengers were treated in hospitals for smoke inhalation after the subway train they rode in, caught fire early Saturday in Brooklyn, one of the five boroughs of New York City.

None of the cases is considered life-threatening, while more than 30 others received treatment, fire department officials said.

About 100 people on the west-bound F train headed for Coney Island were evacuated from the York Street station after a fire broke out beneath a train, knocking out power and causing the tunnel to fill with smoke.

Firefighters had put out all visible fire in about one hour and the situation was brought under control. The cause of the blaze was still under investigation, but transit officials said a mechanical problem might be to blame.

“I don’t feel in any way unsafe due to this,” said a man who was on the train. “It just happens every once in a while.”

According to local TV reports, people used lighters and cell phones to light up the tunnel as they made their way down the tracks to an emergency exit.

The York Street station has closed for several hours. The Manhattan-bound F train is bypassing the York Street station.

As of noon, F trains are running on the A line between West 4th Street and Jay Street. —MNA/Xinhua

Bidders fail to bite at Elvis tooth auction

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 July — A tooth said to have been pulled from Elvis Presley after an injury failed to attract the minimum 100,000 US dollars selling price on the eBay web site by the time a 10-day auction ended, officials said on Saturday.

Frenzied, but ultimately fraudulent bidding briefly pushed the price above two million US dollars before eBay required potential buyers to register if they wanted to place bids, according to Anthony DeFontes, who represents hairdresser Flo Briggs of Antique Mall in Seaview, Washington, told Reuters on Saturday from her home in Vancouver, “we thought it was 2,200 US dollars, not 22,000 US dollars”.

Vlach said she immediately e-mailed Hantman’s to inform them of her error, asking if there was any way to correct it. She added that she had intended to put the notebook in her shop, “but it might be a little expensive for my customers”.

MNA/Reuters

SARS death toll in Canada climbs to 41

TORONTO, 21 July — A 58-year-old female nurse, who worked at a Toronto Health Care Centre and contracted SARS during the first cluster of cases, died at William Osler Health Centre on Saturday, bringing to 41 the number of persons who have succumbed to the flu-like disease in Canada, health officials said.

“My sympathies go out to the family and friends of this individual and to all health care workers, who continue to respond to the challenge of SARS,” said Health and Long-Term Care Minister Tony Clement, in a Press release.

There were 14 active probable cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome on Friday, down from 18 one week ago. Some 13 patients are hospitalized and 6 are in critical condition, said the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

MNA/Reuters

Mexico seizes 600 kilos of cocaine

MEXICO City, 21 July — The Mexican military have seized 600 kilos of cocaine on board an airplane and arrested 11 people involved in drug trafficking in the southeastern state of Campeche, the Defence Ministry said in a communiqué on Saturday.

The twin-engine Cessna light plane came from Colombia and its entry into Mexico was traced by the Air Force, said the ministry. Forces sent by the Army to the area where the aircraft landed, near the rural estate of Vista Alegre, in Campeche, found the drugs in the aircraft and arrested 11 people waiting for the plane.

Besides the drugs and the airplane, the military also confiscated two small-calibre bear arms and two pickup trucks, the authorities said, without mentioning when the anti-drug operation took place.

MNA/Xinhua

JFK inaugural address, boxer shorts auctioned

NEW YORK, 21 July — A pair of President John F Kennedy’s Navy boxer shorts sold for 5,000 US dollars at auction on Saturday, while an on-line bidder for a personal notebook used during the 1960 presidential campaign thought her winning bid was for 2,250 US dollars, not the actual high bid of 22,500 US dollars.

The auction featuring personal, campaign and other items of President Kennedy and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis was conducted by Maryland-based Hantman’s Auctioneers & Appraisers.

The items were consigned for sale by Mrs Kennedy’s personal secretary between 1957 and 1964, Mary Gallagher, and her personal assistant between 1959 and 1965, Providencia Paredes.

The campaign notebook is black and contains 22 pages of lists, speech ideas and campaign notes. It was used by then Senator Kennedy during the 1960 presidential campaign.

Suzanne Vlach, proprietor of Seaview Antique Mall in Seaview, Washington, told Reuters on Saturday from her home in Vancouver, “we thought it was 2,200 US dollars, not 22,000 US dollars”.

Vlach said she immediately e-mailed Hantman’s to inform them of her error, asking if there was any way to correct it. She added that she had intended to put the notebook in her shop, “but it might be a little expensive for my customers”.

MNA/Reuters

The picture taken on 20 July, 2003 shows a technician from the French ABB company discusses with Chinese staff members on installing a high voltage electric equipment in a power plant on the left side of the Three Gorges Project on the Yangtze River, China’s largest water conservancy project. —Xinhua photo

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 22 July, 2003
Ronaldinho signs five-year contract with Barca

MADRID, 21 July—Brazilian World Cup-winning midfielder Ronaldinho has signed a five-year contract with Barcelona, the Spanish First Division club confirmed on their website on Saturday.

Ronaldinho will have a medical on Sunday before being officially unveiled on Monday.

Barca had earlier agreed a fee with his French club Paris St. Germain. We can confirm we have signed an agreement with Barcelona for the transfer of Ronaldinho, known as Ronaldinho, who will join the Catalan club for the next five seasons,” PSG president Francis Graille told the French club’s web site.

Ronaldinho received a warm welcome at El Prat Airport from Barca vice-president Sandro RosSELL, who conducted the negotiations with Paris St. Germain, when the Brazilian arrived on a flight from his homeland earlier on Saturday.

RosSELL escorted the midfielder through the crowds and the player was clearly delighted with the reception he was given as he flashed his trademark smile and signed autographs for the fans on his way out of Terminal B.

He was then whisked away to the club’s offices to negotiate the terms of his contract and just a few hours later put pen to paper on a five-year deal. The longest running chase for his signature that involved Manchester United and Real Madrid.

Ronaldinho follows in the footsteps of Romario, Ronaldo and Rivaldo as he becomes the latest high-profile Brazilian to play for Barcelona.

His arrival is a triumph for Barca president Joan Laporta, who faced stiff competition from English champions Manchester United for the talented midfielder.

Laporta was helped to victory in Barcelona’s recent presidential election by the McBride-Dixon partnership.

Centeno hat-trick puts Costa Rica in Gold Cup semis

OXBORO, (Massachusetts), 21 July—A hat-trick by Walter Centeno helped Costa Rica earn a 5-2 second-round victory over El Salvador on Saturday, and a place in the last four of the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

Centeno opened his account in the first half injury time and converted two penalties in the second period to set Costa Rica up for a semifinal clash with Mexico or Jamaica in Mexico City on Thursday.

The two Central American rivals treated a pro-Costa Rican crowd of 15,627 at Gillette Stadium to an open, attacking match.

Centeno first found the back of the net in the 20th minute after Cory Gibbs had a shot cleared off the line by Adriani Faife and two minutes later Walton’s diving header was well saved by Osvaldo Melo.

But within a minute the US had opened the scoring as midfielder Eddie Lewis put Brian McBride through on the left side and he slid a perfect pass to the unmarked Donovan who slotted home easily from eight metres.

Donovan doubled the lead on 26 minutes when the San Jose Earthquakes forward volleyed home a Lewis cross from 10 metres and he almost completed his hat trick four minutes later only to see his awkward shot from eight metres flash wide.

Resigned to playing on the counter-attack, Cuba failed to shut down the Americans and were reduced to 10 men as Fernandez scored on 59 minutes when Centeno slammed in a shot from the edge of the penalty area.

El Salvador struck again nine minutes into the second period when Alfredo Pacheco fired a left-footed free-kick into the top corner from 25 metres.

Ronaldinho affirms 2003 to be his best year

MEXICO CITY, 21 July—Brazilian international Ronaldinho, Real Madrid’s striker, said Friday in Guatemala, where he is in a three-day visit, that 2003 will be his best year as soccer player. According to reports dispatched from Guatemala City, capital of Guatemala, Ronaldinho said: “I’m sure this will be my best year ever as player” and promised to multiply the number of goals he has scored.

Ronaldinho arrived Thursday night in Guatemala City.

Four-goal Donovan leads US through at Gold Cup

FOXBORO (Massachusetts), 21 July—Landon Donovan struck four times as the United States reached the CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinals by thrashing 10-man Cuba 5-2 on Saturday.

Cuba scored twice in each half and Steve Ralston found the net in between to give the Americans an easy win over Cuba, who had Reizander Fernandez sent off just before halftime.

The US will play on Wednesday in Miami against the winners of the Colombia-Brazil quarterfinal starting later on Saturday.

The Americans, having failed to finish a number of early chances in their final group match against Martinique on Monday, proved to be much sharper against the hapless Cubans.

In the 20th minute, Cory Gibbs had a shot cleared off the line by Adriana Faife and two minutes later Ralston’s diving header was saved by Osvaldo Melo.

But within a minute the US had opened the scoring as midfielder Eddie Lewis put Brian McBride through on the left side and he slid a perfect pass to the unmarked Donovan who slotted home easily from eight metres.

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Ronaldo affirms 2003 to be his best year

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Ronaldinho arrived Thursday night in Guatemala City.

Experts estimate that Ronaldinho’s transfer from Barca to Manchester United is worth $63 million. The transfer, which was completed after Manchester United paid the players agent a commission, will help Ronaldinho to become one of the highest paid players in the world.
16:45 National News
16:50 Production of A Deli-
16:55 Kachin Dance
16:56 Myanmar Moon
17:00 National News
17:05 Myanmar Pana-
17:10 Songs on Screen “The
17:15 Signature Tune
17:20 Rope Painting
17:25 Songs of Myanmar
17:30 Myanmar Moon
17:35 Myanmar Pana-
17:40 Headline News
17:42 Beauty Cooked Tasty
17:45 National News
17:50 Maungmaung, The
17:55 Dance of the Royal
18:00 National News
18:05 Myanmar Antique
18:10 Conservation of Sea-
18:15 National News
18:20 Myanmar Antique
18:25 “To Silver Seagull”
18:30 National News
18:35 A Trip to Inlay Lake
18:40 Myanmar Cuisine
18:45 National News
18:50 Myanmar Pana-
18:55 Vrm Naga Harvest
19:00 National News
20:00 National News
21:00 National News
21:10 Myanmar Modern
21:15 National News
21:20 Myanmar Traditional
21:25 Songs of Myanmar
21:30 Intricate Art of Silver-
21:40 Headline News
21:42 Easy Cooked Tasty
21:45 National News
21:50 Golden Mandalay Hill
21:55 The Solo Dance
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06:30 National News
06:35 Myanmar Moon
06:45 National News
06:50 Production of A De-

Weather Forecast valid until evening of 22-7-2003: Rain or thunderstorms will be widespread in Kachin, Chin, Shan and Kayin States, Sagaing Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions and isolated to scattered in the areas along riverbanks and in low lying areas near the coast. According to the 06.30 hr MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Mawlaw (1240) cm. It will fall below its danger level of (1120) cm during the next (24) hours commencing tomorrow noon.

Tuesday, July 22

MRTV-3

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YANGON, 21 July — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi and departmental officials, went to Yangon Division Vegetable Cultivation and Poultry and Fish Breeding Special Zone near Nyaunghnapin Village, Hmawby Township, this morning.

They met with departmental officials and private agriculturists and breeders and attended to their needs.

First, the commander and party inspected dredging of silt and repair of the embankment along the main canal of Nyanwuyek Dam, and repair of the entrance road to Hnakhanhmway Thak Village in Hlegu Township. Officials reported on tasks being carried out. The commander gave necessary instructions. On arrival at the Poultry and Fish Breeding Special Zone-3, the commander and party were welcomed by Chairman of the Special Zone Supervisory Committee Commissioner of Yangon Division General Administration Department U Hla Soe and officials.

At the briefing hall, In-charge of the zone-1 Yangon Division Manager of Myanna Agriculture Service U Aung Hsan, In-charge of the zone-2 District Commissioner of Yangon North District GADU Thein Naing and In-charge of the zone-3 Head of Yangon Division Settlement and Land Records Department U Nyaw Thin reported on land preparation in rainy season, cultivation of vegetables and breeding of broilers, layers and fish. Next, Commissioner U Hla Soe and officials briefed the commander and party on cultivation and livestock breeding tasks and maintenance of laterite roads in the special zones, Myanna Posts and Telecommunications Division Manager U Saw Mu Du on the arrangements being made for installation of telephones in the special zone-3 and Director of Yangon Division Irrigation Department U Kyaw Thin on the digging of the main canal for supplying water from Kalithaw Dam to the croplands.

National entrepreneurs also reported on agriculture and livestock breeding tasks and requirements. Next, the commander and party inspected progress of the special zone-3. Later, the commander viewed thriving vegetable patches of private entrepreneurs in the zone-3 area and fulfilled their needs. — MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects Vegetables Cultivation and Poultry and Fish Breeding Special Zone in Hmawby Township — YANGON COMMAND

YANGON Division Vegetable Cultivation and Poultry and Fish Breeding Special Zone inspected

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Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects regional development work in Momeik Township

YANGON, 21 July — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Local Tactical Operations Commander Col Aung Nyein and officials, on 17 July, arrived at Pabbayon Monastery in Momeik. The commander and party paid homage to Presiding Sayadaw U Hla Soe and officials briefed the commander and party on cultivation and livestock breeding tasks and maintenance of laterite roads in the special zones, Myanna Posts and Telecommunications Division Manager U Saw Mu Du on the arrangements being made for installation of telephones in the special zone-3 and Director of Yangon Division Irrigation Department U Kyaw Thin on the digging of the main canal for supplying water from Kalithaw Dam to the croplands.

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Reminder to drivers

YANGON, 21 July — There has been some decrease in accident of bus-lines in Yangon City, thanks to strict supervision of officials. But, there occur more accidents of vehicles including private vehicles, departmental vehicles and city taxis, due to weaknesses in abiding by the traffic rules and regulations.

Various measures have been taken to reduce the occurrence of traffic accidents. So, drivers are to abide by the traffic rules and regulations. The Traffic Rules Supervisory Committee will take effective action against those breaching the traffic rules. — MNA

Tawa Sluice Gate is built at the fork of Bago River and Bago-Sittaung Canal near Tawa village on the eastern bank of the Bago River. The concrete sluice gate has 336-ft by 12-ft outlets. It can benefit 32,000 acres of land. The sluice gate was built with the aim of preventing flood in the rainy season and summer. It was commissioned into service on 30 December 2002. — MNA

* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four political objectives

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

Four 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