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Senior General Than Shwe and wife attend Waso robe offering ceremony of Ministry of Defence

NAY PYI TAW, 16 July — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing attended the Waso robe offering ceremony of the families of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air Force) of Ministry of Defence here today and donated Waso robes to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha.

It was also attended by Sayadaws led by Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Magway Sayadaw Maha Withutayama Taikthit Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kumara, 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 of the Ministry of Defence and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, Members of the State Peace and Development Council and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, the ministers and their wives and members of Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air Force). First, the congregation led by Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing received the Nine Precepts. After Sayadaws had recited the parittas, Senior General Than Shwe and wife

(See page 16)

The congregation led by Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing take the Nine Precepts from a Sayadaw. — MNA

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 17 July, 2007

Preserve and protect forests and wildlife

Ceremonies to collectively plant trees to mark the World Arbour Day are being held the length and breadth of the nation. Local organizations together with the public are actively participating in such activities as planting trees for region-wise greening, planting teak, extended establishment of watershed plantations and conservation of forests and bio-diversity as well as protecting endangered wildlife and rare trees.

The thriving of trees regulates the weather. Therefore, staff of the Forest Department and local people are making concerted efforts in the growing of trees, nurturing of the already-grown trees and conservation of forests.

The successful implementation of the 13-district greening project has turned the arid zones of Upper Myanmar into the lush and green ones.

The government is building dams and reservoirs while implementing river water pumping and underground water tapping projects across the nation. The move has contributed a lot to boosting the agricultural production as well as greening the regions.

In the meantime, steps are being taken for conservation of forests, protecting of wildlife and wildlife sanctuary under the forest law and the wildlife and sanctuary protection law.

At a time when efforts are being made for environmental conservation the entire national people are to participate in the drive for greening the regions and conserving the forests.

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**

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and wife being welcomed by Brunei Ambassador Pehin Dato Mohamad Yusof Abu Bakar and wife at the reception to mark 61st Birthday of the King of Brunei Darussalam.

MNA

KOICA assists Taekwondo level test & referee training

YANGON, 16 July— Forty-five Myanmar Taekwondo players who passed Taekwondo level (Dan in Korean) promotion test and 38 referees who completed the basic judge training courses were awarded course completion certificates at a ceremony jointly organized by Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and Myanmar Taekwondo Federation yesterday.

Present on the occasion at Yuzana hotel, here, were the President of MTF, the director-general of Sports and Physical Education Department, the KOICA resident representative and Taekwondo coaches and players.

Taekwondo master Mr Yu Ung-Cho sent by KOICA organized the level promotion test in cooperation with Korea's level approval authority (Kukkiwon), and the tests were held December, January and in July.

Such level promotion tests and referee training might contribute to increment of more talented and skilled Taekwondo instructors in Myanmar and promotion of competition capabilities of the players in international games.

H

A ceremony to present Taekwondo course completion certificate in progress. — H

In memory of late Tang Hwa Hoke (a) U Than, Daw Ohn Kyi and family of Lanmadaw Road in Latha Township donate K 100,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged through Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Home Major Aung Than (Rtd). — H

People look down upon NLD party members as idle good-for-nothings

Forty members of Myaung, Sagaing, Mawlamyinegyun and Einme Township NLDs resign

YANGON, 16 July— Altogether 17 members of Myaung Township National League for Democracy including U Kyi Soe, U Kyi Win and U Maung Khine, eight members of Sagaing Township NLD including U Kan Nyunt, U Tun Shwe and U Tun Ngwe of Ywahtaung Ward, 14 members of Mawlamyinegyun Township NLD including U Soe Hla, U Ohn Min and U Hla Tin on 6 July, and member of Einme Township NLD U Khin Hlaing on 4 July resigned from the parties of their own volition, sending letters of resignation to the NLD Headquarters and local authorities concerned.

In the letters of resignation sent to the Myaung Township, Sagaing Township, Mawlamyinegyun Township and Einme Township Multiparty Democracy General Election Subcommissions, they said that they fed up with the activities of the NLD as it does not stick to party politics only; that the local people looked down upon them as idle good-for-nothings, and that they would like to cooperate with the government in the national development tasks. Therefore, they resigned from the parties of their own volition.

MNA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US food products seized containing excessive selenium

BEIJING, 16 July—China's quality watchdog Sunday announced they found protein powder imported from a US company contained too much selenium.

China's quality watchdog on Sunday announced they found protein powder imported from a US company contained too much selenium.—INTERNET

The Shanxi Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau has discovered selenium in the protein powder imported from the US-based Jarrow Formulas Inc exceeded Chinese food safety standards, said sources with the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine.

Selenium, which is essential to life, could be poisonous when taken too much. All the powder has been returned.

Details of the quantities of the powder seized or the names of the importers are unavailable.

The administration asked importers to specify food safety requirements when importing US food products, in an effort to lower trade risks.

Internet

14 Tesco stores closed in UK after threats

LONDON, 15 July—Fourteen Tesco supermarkets across Britain were closed by police on Saturday after a security alert.

Police in the county of Hertfordshire, where Tesco has its headquarters, refused to give precise details of why the stores had been closed, but said no one had been hurt.

In a statement, the force said: "Police in Hertfordshire have launched a criminal investigation following a series of threats made to 14 Tesco stores across the country that occurred today.

"Police were alerted immediately and have liaised with Tesco throughout the day.

Public safety has been of paramount importance to all involved.

"No-one has been injured and Tesco plan to open their stores as soon as possible today or tomorrow. While the public are advised to remain vigilant we have no reason to believe that the incidents are linked to extremism of any kind."

MNA/Reuters

Japan earthquake leaves four dead

LONDON, 16 July—A strong earthquake in north-western Japan has killed four people and injured more than 400.

The quake of preliminary magnitude 6.6 struck off the coast of Niigata, some 260km (160 miles) north-west of Tokyo, Japan's meteorological agency says.

A number of houses were damaged, and a fire started at the Kashiwazaki nuclear plant. But officials said there was no risk of a radiation leak.

Waves up 50cm (20 inches) high were reported to have hit the coast.

The tremor also swayed buildings in Tokyo. The earthquake hit the country at 0113 GMT, the meteorological agency says. The epicentre was about 60km (37 miles) south-west of Niigata.

The quake destroyed a number of houses in the area.—INTERNET

Some wooden buildings in the Niigata area collapsed, injuring and trapping more than 100 people, Japan's media said. Black smoke was seen billowing from the Kashiwazaki nuclear power station, after a fire started at an electricity transformer building.

But the reactor —like several others—shut down automatically, and there was said to be no risk of any radiation leak. One of the worst-hit areas appears to be the city of Kashiwazaki — close to the quake's epicentre.

"I was so scared — the violent shaking went on for 20 seconds. I almost fainted through fear of the shaking," local resident Ritei Wakatsuki told the *Associated Press* news agency.

Water and gas was cut off to the city's 35,000 households, and in Niigata 27,000 houses were without power. A tsunami warning was issued, but it was later lifted. In Tokyo, buildings swayed and bullet train services were briefly suspended.—*Internet*

EUROPE

France's President Nicolas Sarkozy waves as he leads the Bastille Day parade on the Champs-Elysees on 14 July, 2007.— XINHUA

"Reuters" translator shot dead in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 15 July—Gunmen shot dead an Iraqi who worked as a translator for *Reuters* in Baghdad this week, his family said on Saturday.

Family members said they did not want the name of their son, who was 30, mentioned in this report.

He was killed on Wednesday along with two of his brothers while they were in a car near the Diyala Bridge in the capital, an area known to be rife with Shiite and Sunni militants.

It appears the killing was one of the dozens of executions carried out every day in Baghdad by sectarian death squads that roam the city despite the presence of some 100,000 US and Iraqi security forces in the city.

Reuters staff in Baghdad became concerned about their colleague when he did not show for work on Saturday. He came to the office four days a week, always taking Thursday and Friday off, and had worked for *Reuters* since March.

MNA/Reuters

Robot sedan-carriers liven up education expo

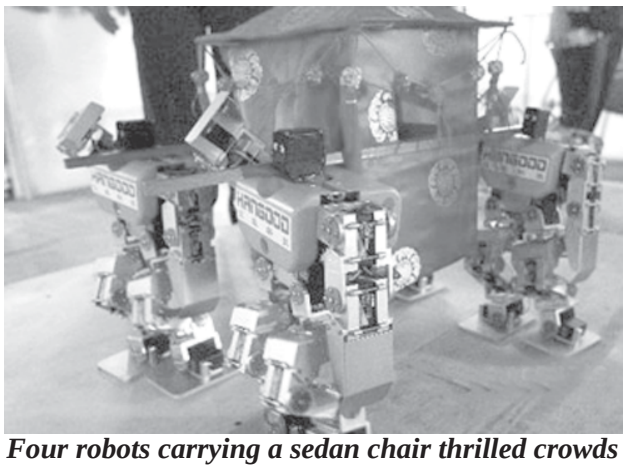
BEIJING, 15 July — Four robots carrying a sedan chair have thrilled crowds at the Beijing International Education Expo 2007. The robots were developed by Beijing Hangood Science & Technology Co.

The three-day expo, now in its fourth year, is organized by the Beijing Municipal Education Commission and will finish on Sunday at the China International Exhibition Centre.

It displays educational achievements of institutions and enterprises which focus on science and technology products from China and around the world.

Some 391 educational institutions, government organizations and associations from 30 countries and regions including the US, Britain, France, Russia, and Canada have participated.

The Beijing International Education Expo is one of the biggest education fairs in China.—*Internet*



Four robots carrying a sedan chair thrilled crowds at the Beijing International Education Expo on 14 July, 2007. —INTERNET

French President meets with EU foreign policy chief

PARIS, 14 July — French President Nicolas Sarkozy on Thursday met with European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana, at the French presidential office, to discuss European and international issues, according to presidential spokesman David Martinon.

The two leaders discussed the problem of Darfur, notably with regard to the deployment of the joint UN-AU peacekeeping force in the Sudanese region, according to the spokesman.

Currently, discussions between the various parties involved in the matter are taking place within the framework of the United Nations Security Council.

The meeting also examined other matters such as the Iranian nuclear issue and European defence, according to the same source.

At the end of discussions with the French President, Solana said he will meet with Ali Larijani, Iran's chief negotiator on the nuclear issue in coming weeks. —*MNA/Xinhua*

IAEA, Iran agree how to resolve plutonium issues

VIENNA, 14 July — The UN nuclear watchdog said on Friday it had agreed with Iran on how to resolve remaining issues regarding the country's past plutonium experiments following two days of talks in Teheran.

The agency also said it had agreed with Iran a visit of its inspectors to Iran's heavy water research reactor by the end of July and how to deal with safeguards at the Natanz uranium enrichment plant by early August.

In June, Iran and the agency agreed to draw up an "action plan" on how to resolve questions about the country's disputed nuclear programme. Western powers suspect that its nuclear programme is a front to obtain nuclear arms. Teheran says it wants nuclear technology only to generate power.

MNA/Reuters

စတုဗ္ဗဓိဘာသာ ဒေတာကျိတ္တိများ

***Bolivian women compete in the Miss Cholita 2007 beauty pageant in La Paz, on 13 July, 2007.* — INTERNET**

***A woman sells pickled cucumbers during the Cucumber Day festival in the ancient Russian town of Suzdal on 14 July, 2007. Pickled cucumbers are a popular cold snack in Russia and often eaten to chase vodka.* — INTERNET**

Ten killed as Guatemala bus plunges off cliff

GUATEMALA, 14 July — A bus plunged off a cliff edge into a ravine some 1,000 feet (300 metres) deep in Guatemala on Friday, killing 10 people and injuring 36, emergency workers said.

The bus was packed with poor farmers travelling to the small village of Beleju in the highlands of El Quiche, a remote department in northern Guatemala, when it skidded off the cliff as it tried to round a bend on a narrow mountain pass.

"We are still looking for people in the area but the chasm is so deep," said Miguel Rafael, a spokesman for the municipal fire department helping with the rescue effort. "There were bodies thrown everywhere".

Twelve of those injured were in a serious condition at a nearby hospital, he said.

In rural Guatemala poor peasants frequently travel long distances on overcrowded, rickety school buses to work as day labourers on large agricultural plantations, and deadly accidents are common on the dangerous, badly maintained roads.

MNA/Reuters

***A pirate's sand sculpture is seen on display during the fourth annual New England Sand Sculpting Festival, on 14 July, 2007 at Revere Beach in Revere, Mass. The centrepiece sculpture will not compete for prizes.* — INTERNET**

204 kilos of hashish seized in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, 14 July —Police team from Nepali Narcotic Drug Control and Law Enforcement Unit Friday seized a truck with 204 kilos of hashish in the capital city of Kathmandu.

According to a leading website, eKantipur.com report, six persons along with the truck carrying the hashish were arrested.

The hashish was packed in eight sacks and hidden in the truck, according to the police.

Further investigations over the seizure of drugs are still underway, the police said.

MNA/Xinhua

Two killed by lightning in N-W Bangladesh

DHAKA, 14 July — Two people were killed and two others injured Friday in lightning in Bangladesh's Panchagarh District, 360 kilometres northwest of capital Dhaka, private news agency *UNB* reported.

Local sources said the thunderbolt struck a man aged 35 when he was working in his paddy field in the morning. A girl aged nine was struck by thunderbolt when she was on the way to her sister's house.

Besides, two men who were working in the field were also seriously injured in lightning.

They were admitted to a nearby hospital. — *MNA/Xinhua*

***Smoke billows from the bombarded Nahr al-Bared refugee camp during Lebanese Army shelling, in north Lebanon on 13 July, 2007. Lebanese troops pounded a refugee camp in north Lebanon on Saturday where barricaded al Qaeda-inspired militants clashed with them and fired at least two Katyusha-type rockets.* — INTERNET**

ECONOMIC NEWS

Vodafone activists target US shareholders

WASHINGTON, 16 July — US investors in Vodafone are being targeted by rebel shareholders who want to force the mobile phone company to spin off its US business and increase its debts to return more cash to investors.

With Vodafone's annual meeting set for next Tuesday, the activist shareholder Efficient Capital Structures (ECS) has welcomed backing from American investor group Glass Lewis for its proposals. About 30% of Vodafone shares are US-held and ECS — backed by former Marconi executive John Mayo and Glenn Cooper, the City banker who floated Manchester United — has been focusing on investors in America to back its four resolutions.

Glass Lewis, which advises 80% of US funds, has recommended that Vodafone shareholders support all but one of those — rejecting ECS's suggestion that any deal over £1bn require shareholder approval. The group has also advised investors to reject Vodafone's remuneration report.

At last year's annual meeting, investors expressed their anger at a decision to relax targets on the executive bonus scheme, with more than 20% who voted refusing to support the policy. For this year, Glass Lewis flagged up the company's move to soften performance targets once again and raised concerns it may "signal that the remuneration committee will now allow executives to be excessively rewarded for less-than-superior performance".

ECS, wants the company to release up to £38bn by handing its 45% stake in American joint venture Verizon Wireless back to shareholders and increasing its debts in order to return cash to investors. Vodafone has rejected this idea — which it has considered in the past —as undermining its ability to maximise the value of the Verizon Wireless holding. It also reckons that increasing its debt by £34bn through a massive bond issue would hinder its ability to invest in its businesses. — *Internet*

***The 10th Beijing International Art Expo kicked off on 14 July, 2007, attracting many visitors. Many famous artists and gallaries from all around the world take part in the expo, bringing both modern and classical masterpieces here on display.*— INTERNET**

US meat products banned

BEIJING, 16 July— China has suspended the import of tainted meat products from seven US companies, including Tyson Foods Inc, the world's largest meat processor.

The products that included the main ingredients of some Chinese delicacies such as pig ears and chicken feet contained salmonella, feed additives and veterinary drugs, says the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) website (www.aqsiq.gov.cn).

The other US companies on the ban list are Sanderson Farms Inc, Intervision Foods, AJC International Inc, Cargill Meat Solutions Corp, Van Luin Foods USA Inc and "Thumph Foods", which most likely is Missouri-based Triumph Foods.

The last three firms have been given 45 days to get their products in order. But the suspension period for the other companies has not been specified.

In late June, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said it would not allow three types of farm-raised fish, as well as shrimp and eel, from Chinese suppliers to enter its market till the companies prove they didn't contain any harmful residue.

AQSIQ chief Li Changjiang called the move "unacceptable", saying China, too, detects many substandard food products from the US every year.

The AQSIQ yesterday said the local entry-exit inspection and quarantine department in North China's Shanxi Province had found excessive amounts of selenium in protein powder imported from US-based Jarrow Formulas Inc. The products have been sent back.

Excessive amounts of selenium could lead to gastrointestinal disorders, hair loss, neurological damage, cirrhosis of the liver and even death.

Internet

Survey: Nation's gas prices rise 6 cents

CAMARILLO, 16 July — US gas prices on average rose about six cents in the last three weeks, according to a national survey released Sunday.

Regular gas prices averaged $3.06 a gallon, mid-grade was $3.17 and premium was $3.29, said oil industry analyst Trilby Lundberg.

The lowest price was in Tucson, Ariz, where a gallon of regular cost $2.80. The highest was in Chicago at $3.46, according to the Lundberg Survey of 7,000 stations nationwide.

Internet

China's trade deficit with East Asia hits $87.5b in 2006

BEIJING, 15 July — Although China has an overall foreign trade surplus, it had a deficit of 87.5 billion US dollars in 2006 with East Asian countries, said Liao Xiaoqi, vice-minister of commerce, on Saturday.

Liao said at the 3rd East Asia Investment Forum that economic and trade exchanges between China and East Asian countries have been growing very fast, with the combined trade volume reaching 502.4 billion US dollars in 2006, accounting for 32.5 per cent of China's foreign trade for the year.

He said that China mainly imports raw materials and parts from East Asia, and exports the processed or assembled products to European and American markets.

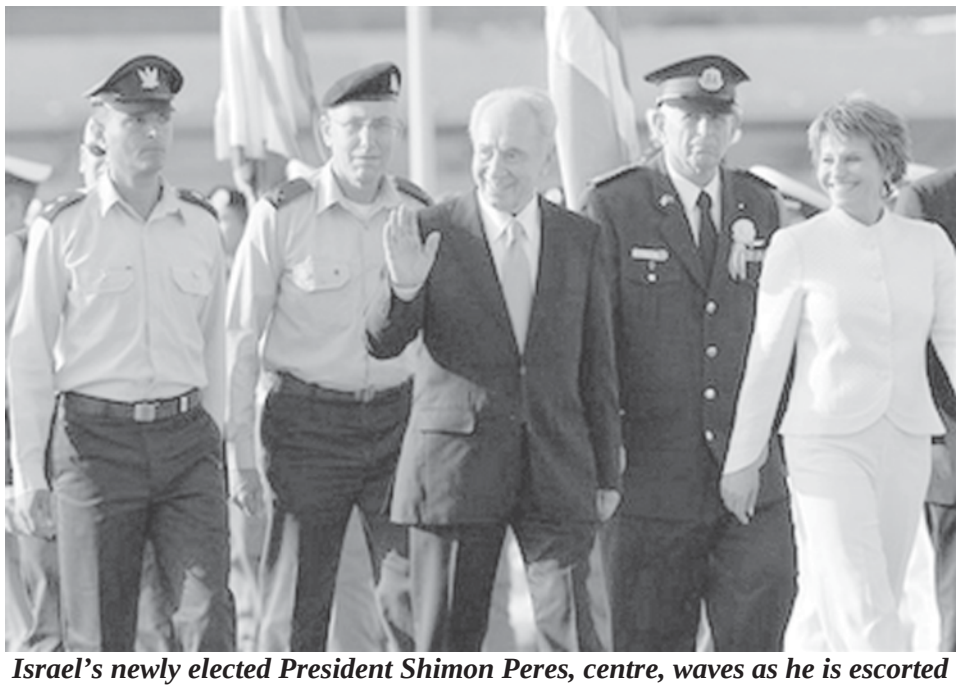
China has become the largest export market for the Republic of Korea, the No 2 export market for Japan, the No 3 export market for Thailand, and the No 4 export market for Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines and Malaysia.

"China's development has brought about growth opportunities for East Asian countries," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Performers from 18 countries including the US, Russia, and Spain give a joyous and vigorous performance at Wangfujing Street, the famous commercial area in Beijing, on 13 July, 2007, to celebrate the sixth anniversary of Beijing's successful bid for the 2008 Olympic Games. — INTERNET

A shopper loads shopping bags into a trolley at a Tesco supermarket in Liverpool. All 14 outlets of the Tesco supermarket chain which were closed on Saturday after nationwide threats have reopened on Sunday. — INTERNET



Israel's newly elected President Shimon Peres, centre, waves as he is escorted to a ceremony prior to his inauguration at Israel's Parliament in Jerusalem, on 15 July, 2007. — INTERNET

Putin says relations with China growing steadily

MOSCOW, 15 July — The relations between Russia and China are growing steadily in recent years, Russian President Vladimir Putin said here Friday.

A "very high degree of trust" has been built between the two countries, he said when meeting with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi.

The successful theme years of Russia and China have brought along exchanges in all areas and at all levels, he said.

The economic and trade cooperation is moving faster, Putin said, adding that bilateral border trade has become more active with the trade structure improving.

The Russian President said he is looking forward to a meeting with the Chinese President at the next summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) due in August.

Yang echoed Putin's views, saying the Sino-Russian strategic partnership of cooperation has improved greatly in recent years.

The strategic initiative of the heads of state of Russia and China to hold the theme years has helped promote bilateral relations, he said.

The two countries are exchanging frequently with each other on major international and regional issues and have become significant factors for sustaining international strategic balance and stability, he added.

MNA/Xinhua

16 rescued from China's coal mine blast, four still trapped

TAIYUAN, 15 July— Sixteen people have been rescued from a coal mine in north China's Shanxi Province where a gas blast happened Saturday morning, but four others are still being trapped underground.

Most of the 16 people walked out of the shaft by themselves and were in good physical condition, nevertheless, local authorities have sent them to hospital for medical check, a spokesman with the Shanxi Provincial Administration of Coal Mine Safety said.

Rescuers are searching for the other four people trapped underground.

Altogether 20 people, including 16 miners, two first-aid workers and two safety inspectors, were cleaning up the pit which was flooded in an accident in June when the blast occurred at 5:00 am at the Yuanzigou Coal Mine in *Xiahua* Village in the small city of Hejin.

The ill-fated mine was flooded at 9:40 pm on June 24 — an accident that killed nine people but was covered up by its managers until the victims' families lodged a complaint with the local government.

Police have detained 11 people who have been held accountable for the disaster and its cover-up, including mine owner He Yingze and four security personnel.

MNA/Xinhua

Women dance while dressed in traditional folk costumes during a wedding ceremony in the village of Galicnik, some 150 km (93 miles) west of Macedonia's capital Skopje, on 15 July, 2007. — INTERNET

Romanian police seize 45 kilos of cocaine at airport warehouse

BUCHAREST, 15 July — Romanian border police on Friday seized 45 kilos of pure cocaine at a warehouse at the capital's international airport and arrested a major suspect.

Police found in the warehouse eight carbon boxes containing 77 suits of men's clothes with hangers shipped from Venezuela early this month.

Receiver of the goods was an Italian man married to a Romanian woman.

Further examination showed that all hangers of the clothes were made of pure solid cocaine, which weighed 45 kilos of cocaine and was worth about 4,500,000 euros.

MNA/Xinhua

24 missing after wooden ship sunk in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 15 July— Twenty-four people went missing and six others were safe after a wooden ship sunk in the waters of eastern Indonesia on Wednesday, an official said on Saturday.

The ship belonging to a fisherman was capsized after leaving Kalukua Island in the west Makassar the capital of South Sulawesi Province, toward Galesong in the province, said an official of the administration of the port in Makassar Butar Boge.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Dengue fever kills 182 in Cambodia this year

PHNOM PENH,15 July— Dengue fever has killed 182 Cambodians so far this year and the crisis will continue to worsen unless concerted community action is taken, the government and World Health Organization said on Saturday.

"This year is particularly severe and, if present trends continue, it will be the most serious to date," the WHO and the Health Ministry said in a joint statement.

"Community-based larval control and elimination of mosquito breeding sites are currently the only sustainable methods of outbreak prevention and the only effective method of reducing the risk of infection," the statement said.

Health officials had been working hard in anti-mosquito breeding campaigns in high risk areas since the outbreak, but the results were not very satisfying, Ngan Chantha, head of the country's anti-dengue programme, told *Reuters*.

"It's hard to change our people's behaviour. Health workers can't do all the work, and villagers have to help themselves, too," he said, telling Cambodians to clean containers every 10 days to stem mosquito breeding.

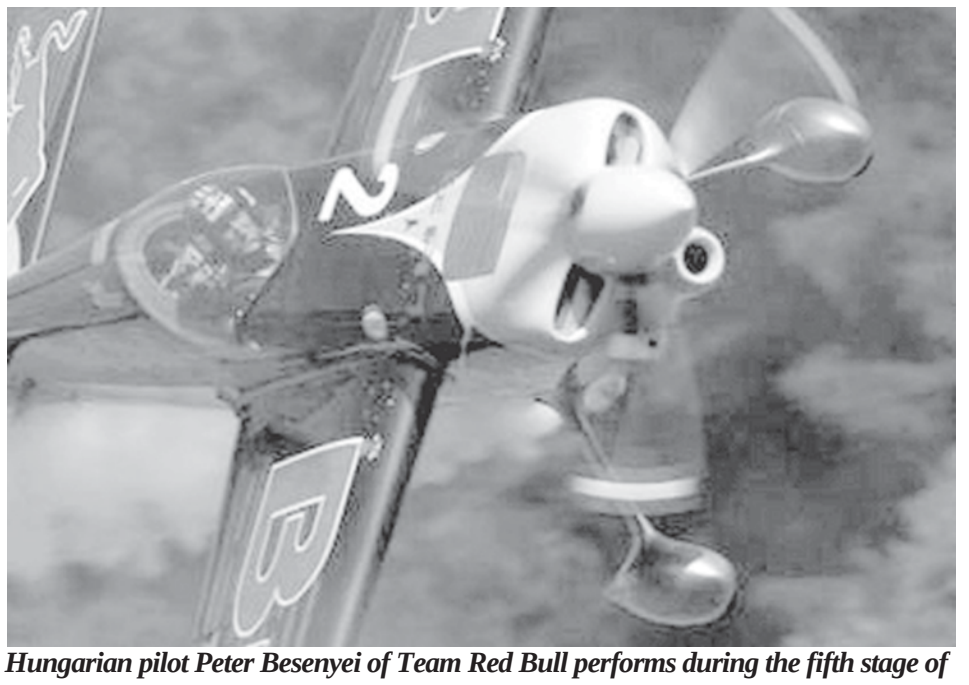
The virus was expected to reach its peak during the late August-September heavy rainy season, Ngan Chantha said.

"I am asking all to join hands to fight dengue.

We must kill the mosquito-borne disease before it kills us," he said.

Dengue had killed 182 out of 14,986 infected so far this year compared with 116 deaths from 12,300 infected in the whole of 2006, Ngan Chantha said.

MNA/Reuters



Hungarian pilot Peter Besenyei of Team Red Bull performs during the fifth stage of the "Red Bull Air Race World Series" in Interlaken on 15 July, 2007. — INTERNET

Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer day meal to Sayadaws.

MNA

***General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet donate Waso Robes and provisions to a Sayadaw.*—MNA**

Senior General Than Shwe and wife attend Waso…

(from page 16)

Development Council, senior military officers from Ministry of Defence (Navy) and (Air Force), the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and ministers donated Waso robes and offertories to Sayadaws.

Nyaungdon Sayadaw Bhaddanta Osada Bhivamsa delivered a sermon and the congregation shared merits gained.

The ceremony ended with three times recitation of Buddha Sasanam Ciram Titthatu. After the ceremony, Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party offered soon (a day meal) to Sayadaws. — *MNA*

***Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win present Waso Robes and provisions to a Sayadaw.*— MNA**

Wellwishers donate blood

YANGON, 16 July — A total of 305 wellwishers and USDA members from Myinmu Township led by Theinkyaung presiding Shwehtihsaung Sayadaw Ashin Ariccalankara from Htihsaung Village, Myinmu Township, Sagaing Division collectively donated blood at Theinkyaung No 2 Monastic Education school.

Medical Superintendent Dr Maung Win of Mandalay General Hospital, National Blood Bank In-charge Dr Khin Sein Win, assistant doctor Dr Khin Sein Win and nurses, staff, the secretary of Sagaing Division USDA and executives and members provided necessary assistance to the blood donors.

Next, the medical superintendent and officials donated Waso robes and alms to Shwehtihsaung Sayadaw. Afterwards, the congregation shared merits gained. After that, Medical Superintendent Dr Maung Win of Mandalay General Hospital and National Blood Bank In-charge Dr Khin Sein Win presented certificate of honour to Shwehtihsaung Sayadaw.

MNA

Blood donors led by Shwehtihsaung Sayadaw donate blood to No 2 Monastic Education school in Theinkyaung, Myinmu. — MNA

MEA invites applications to CAFEO-25

YANGON, 16 July — Myanmar Engineering Association invited applications from its members to attend the 25th Conference of ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (CAFEO-25) to be held in Cebu, the Philippines from 27 to 29 December.

They are urged to contact the association in Hline Township not later than 25 July and more information is available at Ph 516973, 516974, 516975, 516976. — *MNA*

The transition, seems to be easy but difficult to realize

U Swe (Bahan)

President Jacques Chirac was taking the final salute of the guard of honour. At the foot of the stairs of the Presidential House Mr Sarkozy was standing on the red carpet. After the ceremony, the president walked right up to him and greeted with open arms. When an automobile arrived, the president got in the car and Mr Sarkozy himself closed the door of the car and waved him. As soon as the automobile left, the guard of honour played the tune of slow walk. All staff of the Presidential House waved Mr Chirac. The people waiting along the road bid farewell to the outgoing president. It was part of the ceremony to hand over power from President Mr Chirac to Mr Sarkozy, as the 22nd President of France.

I have never seen the systematic transfer of power peacefully in my country during my fifty years of age. In 1962 parliamentary democracy ended. The 1962 transfer of power was the one that the Tatmadaw took up the State duties due to the prevailing situations in the country. It was not a systematic transfer of power. Twenty six years later, the single-party system ended. There occurred anarchic acts nationwide. For the sake of the Union, the Tatmadaw took up the State duties. It was not a peaceful power transfer either. I did not know the 1962 transfer of power well. I knew well that the Tatmadaw took up the duties of the State in 1988. I was a 30-year-old government servant then. Before the fall of the Myanmar Socialist Programme Party the then party Chairman U Ne Win said in an extraordinary meeting that the people would have to choose the single-party system or multiparty system at a referendum. From that time I had come to know about the multiparty system, which, however, did not materialize. During the state of emergency at the time, Dr Maung Maung, the president of the State, declared that multiparty democracy system would be practised. However, the people could not wait.

Disturbances broke out nationwide. The loudest voice was democracy and the people demanded merely for democracy. In fact, it was not that there was no democracy under the single party socialist system. The expression, "socialist democracy, our country", was in the songs of those days. I did not understand why the group of people shouted and demanded for transfer of power. Finally, the government became defunct. Therefore, the Tatmadaw assumed the duties of the State. The situations during the disturbances looked like those of Afghanistan in 1979 after the withdrawal of the Russian troops. Local ethnic insurgent leaders marched to Kabul and finally captured it. It can be said that the Tatmadaw's taking over the State duties was not democratic and systematic. History stands witness to the fact that there was no other way to save the State and the Union.

After the end of one party system, time has come to build a new developed nation through multi-party system.

However, if we review the 1988 situation, it can be deduced from the fact that fifty-somethings in the then government's administrative machinery were not familiar with the administrative machinery of parliamentary democracy. They had only knowledge of socialist programme and one-party system during their work experience of 26 years. At that time, about-30-year-old departmental employees like me accepted only one-party socialist system and its administrative machinery. The service personnel who took an oath of 'marching towards the ultimate goal of socialist society' every day lost their way and did not know what they would have to do in the new system. Likewise, the mass of people who had been accustomed to political, economic and social affairs and administrative machinery of one-party system had to suffer great difficulties in the era of new administrative machinery.

In reality, a nation's transition from one system to another is a complicated process that seems to be easy but difficult to realize. It takes time in adopting a new administrative system in accordance with the characteristics of a nation such as boundary, race, government and sovereignty and history, affairs of national races and traditional cultures of that nation. Even though the people are united among themselves for transitional process, they will have to wait for a certain time frame. If there were rows and disagreements among the people, it would be a long way to reach the goal. And this is the point to be considered. In order to adopt the administrative machinery of multi-party democracy, some reforms need to be carried out. For instance, personnel from civil service are to adapt their office procedures and formalities of single-party administrative system to those of multi-party administrative system. The same applies with the office procedures and formalities of personnel from other respective fields.

Therefore, **the Tatmadaw government has been implementing the 12 State political, economic and social objectives since 1989 to march towards the goal of a modern and developed democratic nation. During half a decade, a network of facilities such as roads, bridges, dams, hospitals and schools emerged, thereby developing all parts of the country including border areas. As a result, the nation's GDP and per capita income increased by many times. Due to the adoption of market economy, foreign investments increased significantly. Likewise, the National Convention was convened beginning 1993 to write a constitution, the lifeblood of the nation, in conformity with the new political system.** At the time, all the people got exhilarated in anticipation of reaching the goal of a new developed nation with multi-party democracy system. However, their expectation and exhilaration were short-lived. The NLD turned its back on the National Convention in protest against some sectors of the NC as a pretext. Consequently, the National Convention that would shape a constitution essential for the emergence of a developed democratic nation was temporarily adjourned in 1996.

The NLD party walked out of the National Convention. But it did not stop there. It went on so far as asking the international community not to invest inMyanmar. It went on constantly committing

(See page 9)

The NLD is still strongly opposed to the laying down of the basic principles and detailed basic principles at the NC. Furthermore, the so-called "88 generation student group" has also been committing acts to hinder the process. The party and the groups have been obstructing the sustained efforts of the Tatmadaw government to build a modern, developed democratic nation. Time has passed but we see no reason why they are doing it. NLD is part of the public desirous of democracy. So, NLD should be of one mind with all the people wishing to see soonest completion of the period of transition. If they go on committing acts to obstruct the democratic process like this just because they could not get power, it would gradually have negative impact on the nation and the people in the long run. They should realize this.

The transition, seems to be easy but difficult to realize

U Swe (Bahan)

(from page 8)

improper acts relying on the external elements. Asia at the time was facing monetary crisis and the nation and the people were subject to a lot of hardships. It employed all possible means, by hook or by crook, internal and external elements working hand in glove to topple the Tatmadaw government, that had been striving for the introduction of multi-party democracy, in its attempt to grab power through short-cut as soon as possible. The people, not the Tatmadaw government, had to suffer a great deal due to its acts. It had done it although it knew the fact. NLD delegates walked out of the National Convention that was the first step towards transformation of the administrative machinery and the NLD even opposed it. This was an attempt to grab power instantly while ignoring the majority attitude of the delegates attending the NC in unity. It is quite obvious. As it had pledged to strive for drafting a constitution and emergence of a developed and democratic state, the Tatmadaw government laid down the seven-point Road Map. Accordingly, it reconvened the NC in succession as the first step from 2004 to 2006. This year in 2007, the NC will be held as the final session at which the remaining detailed basic principles will be adopted.

As the NC is due to be reconvened as the final session, all should know what points have already been agreed to be included in the new constitution. In this connection, the State structure and the legislature of the future State and the essence written by author Soe Mya Kyaw has been explained in detail. The State is to be delineated and constituted with the seven regions and seven states, one self-administered division and five self-administered zones for which there will be specific requirements. There will be the sharing of legislative powers of the Union Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, region/state Hluttaw and self-administered division leading body and self-administered zone leading bodies. The 440-member Pyithu Hluttaw comprises 330 representatives elected according to the population and 110 representatives representing the Tatmadaw. In the Amyotha Hluttaw, there will be 168 representatives elected 12 each from the regions and states. It will include 56 Tatmadaw representatives. Similarly on the formation of the region/state Hluttaws and division/zone leading bodies, detailed basic principles have been laid down. Moreover, basic principles on the national defence and security sector and exercise of the sovereign powers in future as well as the economic system beneficial to national construction, border area development and emergence of sound financial system have also been discussed and coordinated in the NC. Points on the constitution discussed and coordinated at the NC reflect the significance and importance at a time when we are marching ahead to the desired goal, modern, developed, new democratic nation.

However, the NLD is still strongly opposed to the laying down of the basic principles and detailed basic principles at the NC. Furthermore, the so-called "88 generation student group" has also been committing acts to hinder the process. The party and the groups have been obstructing the sustained efforts of the Tatmadaw government to build a modern, developed democratic nation. Time has passed but we see no reason why they are doing it. NLD is part of the public desirous of democracy. So, NLD should be of one mind with all the people wishing to see soonest completion of the period of transition. If they go on committing acts to obstruct the democratic process like this just because they could not get power, it would gradually have negative impact on the nation and the people in the long run. They should realize this. In this connection, I remember political analysts suggesting "Exit Strategy" two months after the Americans invaded and occupied Iraq in March 2003.

In the strategy it was proposed that international coalition forces should be sent to take control of the situation in Iraq as in the case of Bosnia crisis, local administrative councils should be established to manage the affairs of the Iraqis, the Iraqi army should be maintained, the UN should be persuaded to play a major role; giving priority to these measures this was the only way out for the US and British troops to get out of Iraq, instead of sending more troops, dissolving the Iraqi army and installing a puppet government there. However, the Bush administration of the US was unmoved. It continued to occupy Iraq resulting in the deaths of thousands of US soldiers till today. The mass of Iraqi people are subject to all kinds of hardships living in constant alarm. This is one of the instances only.

Today, the seven-step Road Map is the only strategy or approach to the modern, developed democratic new nation being implemented by the Tatmadaw government. The first stage is now nearly completed. We should realize the fact that it is the best thing for all to work in unison to complete the remaining stages.

Election of a government through democratic means and peaceful and systematic transfer of power as happened in France I have described at the beginning of this article could take place in our country. We are desirous of a speedy emergence of a new nation blessed with Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives freely elected by the people and an enduring constitution.

I believe this desire is shared by all members of the public in the country. So, **everybody will have to do their bit in the Tatmadaw government's efforts to accomplish the seven-step Road Map stage by stage smoothly and as soon as possible for the best benefit of the new nation and new generation.** Then only will we become a farsighted generation who play a meaningful role in the period of transition to modern, developed and democratic nation and documented so in the history of Myanmar.

Translation: NY+ST+AK

Myanma Alin, Kyemon: 16-7-07

Today, the seven-step Road Map is the only strategy or approach to the modern, developed democratic new nation being implemented by the Tatmadaw government. The first stage is now nearly completed. We should realize the fact that it is the best thing for all to work in unison to complete the remaining stages.

Everybody will have to do their bit in the Tatmadaw government's efforts to accomplish the seven-step Road Map stage by stage smoothly and as soon as possible for the best benefit of the new nation and new generation.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends paddy transplanting ceremony, physic nut planting ceremony in Kachin State

NAY PYI TAW, 16 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence attended the monsoon paddy transplanting ceremony in Waingmaw, Kachin State, on 13 July.

It was also attended by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, departmental officials, chairmen of district/township PDCs, members of social organizations and residents.

In his address, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said the government has been making efforts for development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy so that entire people in states and divisions including Kachin State can enjoy the higher living standard. Large amounts of money were spent on building dams and river water pumping projects.

He urged departmental officials and residents, to grow quality strains of paddy, to use natural fertilizer mixing with chemical fertilizer and to strive for boosting production of rice and for local rice sufficiency.

According to the report of the commander to Lt-Gen Ye Myint, a total of 509,274 acres have been placed under monsoon paddy and a total of 34,058,413 baskets of paddy were produced in Kachin State in 2006-2007 cultivation season. All townships in Kachin State are trying to meet the state's target of 600,000 acres of monsoon paddy in 2007-2008 monsoon season.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint of Ministry of Defence views monsoon paddy transplanting ceremony in Waingmaw.— MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw viewed the transplanting ceremony and presented gifts to participants and cordially greeted them.

The number of monsoon paddy acres in Waingmaw Township for the 2006-2007 monsoon season reached 49,225 acres. The township sets its target of 52,955 acres of paddy for the 2007-2008 monsoon season. So far, 33,678 acres have been put under paddy in this rainy season, and the total number of monsoon paddy acres is expected to reach 50,347 acres at the end of the rainy season.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party attended physic nut planting ceremony at Zilun Nursery in Myitkyina.

They distributed Physic nut seeds, saplings and grafts to members of social organizations and planted the saplings. Service personnel and members of social organizations volunteered for the physic nut planting ceremony.

MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo looks into regional development tasks in Mon, Kayin States

NAY PYI TAW, 16 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence during his tour of Thaton in Mon State together with Chairman of Mon State PDC and Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and senior military officers, heads of the SPDC Office and departmental officials visited physic nut plantation of departments in Thaton Township and inspected regional development tasks on 13 July.

First, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party viewed 27.55-acre physic nut plantation of the departments near a nursery of 100,000 physic nut saplings. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave necessary instructions and viewed a plantation of 100,000 physic nut saplings. Thaton set a target to put 20,000 acres of land under physic nut plants and 10,000 acres have been put under physic nut plants.

Next, they looked into thriving rubber farms and monsoon paddy plantations and development tasks along Thaton-Myaing-kalay-Hpa-an motor road by car. In Hpa-an, Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented souvenirs to national race leaders Phado Aung San, U Saw Tha Hmu He and U Tha Htoo Kyaw who are going to attend the National Convention. On arrival at Technological University (Hpa-an), principal Dr Tun Kyaw Myint reported Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party on matters related to the university. After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that the Government has laid down border areas development project, development projects for 24 special regions and five rural development tasks and is implementing them for equitable development of all parts of the country. Now the people are enjoying fruitful results of the regional development and people have witnessed the emergence of Hpa-an Technological Univer-sity. Regarding the education sector, teachers are to be proficient in their respective subjects, teach the curriculum in line with international level, nurture the students who can follow rules and regulations and laws adopted by the State and guide them to be equipped with patriotic spirit and Union spirit and guard against those committed destructive acts.

Upon arrival at the fertilizer broadcasting ceremony in East Naunglon Model Village in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State Manager U Aye Thein of Myanma Agriculture Service briefed Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party on production of monsoon and summer paddy in Kayin State. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions on cultivation of 550,000 acres of monsoon paddy and sunflower. Kayin State put 516,476 acres under monsoon paddy and 116,458 acres under summer paddy in 2006-2007. Kayin State will cultivate 516,500 acres of monsoon paddy and 129,000 acres of summer paddy in 2007-2008. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party stopped for the night at Hpa-an.

MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo of Ministry of Defence meeting with national race leaders Pado Aung San, U Saw Tha Hmu He and U Tha Htoo Kyaw.— MNA

Departmental officials in Toungoo District urged to join hands with local people in undertaking five rural development tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 16 July — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division PDC Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, met departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people at Khabaung Hall in Toungoo on 14 July.

Secretary of Toungoo District PDC U Thein Swe reported on progress of development tasks in the district.

After hearing the report, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than stressed the need for those present to place emphasis on agricultural and livestock breeding tasks. In addition to monsoon and summer paddy, 10 major crops, new item crops and perennial crops are to be grown in the region.

From now on, the plan is being implemented in States and Divisions to ensure edible oil surplus in the nation by extending sown acreage of edible oil crops.

Bago Division including Toungoo District set the plan to grow 550,000 acres of edible oil crops including 150,000 more acres this year.

He said that it is necessary to cultivate physic nut for producing bio-diesel. If the country has edible oil and fuel sufficiency, foreign exchange will be saved. As a result, the saved money can be spent on the nation-building tasks.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than urged those present to extend breeding of fish and domestic chicken. Furthermore, he called on local authorities and departmental officials to join hands with the local people in undertaking five rural development tasks in addition to their departmental duties.

At Aye Chan Phyo Hall of Southern Command Headquarters, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met servicemen and family members of Toungoo Station and gave necessary instructions.

In Thagara of Yedashe Township, they attended the rainy season physic nut growing ceremony at field No 720. They planted physic nut saplings at the designated places.

At the field No 720, a total of 200 acres of land have been put under physic nut recently.

At present, 160 more acres of physic nut have been grown.

As a result, Yedashe Township had implemented cent per cent cultivation of the targeted 6,500 acres of physic nut in 2006, and 10,500 acres of physic nut against the target of 18,000 acres in 2007. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party left Thagara and arrived back here in the evening.

MNA

***Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of Ministry of Defence waters a physic nut plant at physic nut growing ceremony in Yedashe.*—MNA**

Lt-Gen Myint Swe drives stake for construction of annexe to Yangon Children's Hospital

YANGON, 16 July — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended the stake driving ceremony for the annexe to Yangon Children's Hospital in the compound of the hospital this morning.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe drove a stake at the designated place and sprinkled scented water on it.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win also drove a stake at the designated place.

Likewise, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Deputy Ministers for Health Dr Mya Oo and Dr Paing Soe, Secretary of Yangon Division PDC U Hla Soe, wellwisher U Kyin Wam-Daw Hla Thein (Gyothein Cheroot of Bago) and Medical Superintendent Dr Aung Kyi Win participated in the stake driving ceremony.

***Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence visits collective blood donation of USDA members at Yangon Children's Hospital.*— MNA**

The annexe to the Yangon Children's Hospital will be 200 feet long and 40 feet wide four-storey building. On completion, the hospital will accommodate 200 more beds at the extended building.

After the ceremony, they viewed participation of Lanmadaw Township Union Solidarity and Development Association members in blood donation ceremony at the blood bank of the hospital.

Under the leadership of Yangon Division USDA, Township USDA members will donate blood at Yangon Children's Hospital from 9 to 31 July. — *MNA*

Delegates arrive at Nyaunghnapin Camp

YANGON, 16 July — Delegates to National Convention from Kayah, Shan (North), (East) States and Mandalay Division arrived here today.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport and Yangon Railway Station by Chairman of the sub-committee for invitation and accommodation Col Htein Lin and officials. They were transported to Nyaunghnapin Camp. Similarly, delegates to National Convention from Bago (East), (West) and Ayeyawady divisions and Kayin and Mon states arrived Nyaunghnapin Camp today. — *MNA*

NCC Work Committee organizes coord meeting

YANGON, 16 July — The National Convention Convening Work Committee held a coordination meeting at its hall at Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this afternoon.

It was attended by Chairman of the NCC Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Secretary U Thaung Nyunt, joint secretaries and members.

Joint-Secretary-1 U Khin Maung Myint acted as MC. Chairman of the Committee U Aung Toe, who presided over the meeting, explained tasks carried out for the National Convention. Vice-Chairman U Aye Maung and Secretary U Thaung Nyunt discussed matters related to the NC. Members of the Work Committee took part in the discussions. Later, Chairman of the NCC Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe gave concluding remarks. —*MNA*

***Chief Justice U Aung Toe addresses coordination meeting of National Convention Convening Work Committee.*— MNA**

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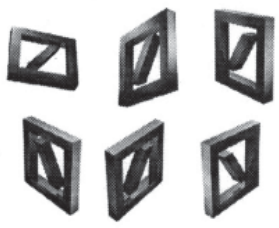

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Malaysia to build first Nuclear Monitoring Facility in ASEAN

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 July—Malaysia will build a Nuclear Monitoring Facility, the first one in ASEAN, at a location in Bukit Ibam near Muadzam Shah, Pahang State, announced by Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak on Saturday.

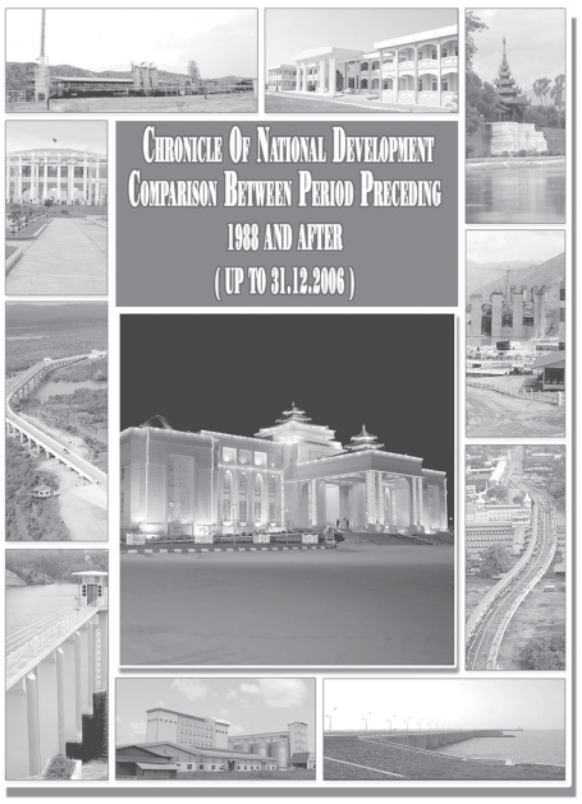
The facility, worth 100 million ringgit (29.41 million), will be the 16th of its kind in the world.

"If all goes well, Malaysia will become the first developing country to have its own nuclear monitoring facility and the first in ASEAN," he said at a "Leaders Meet the People" function.

Also present was Science, Technology and Innovations Minister Auk Seri Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis.

Work on the facility on a 200-hectare site was expected to start by the end of the year and should be completed in three years, Jamaluddin said.

"It will be managed by the Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB) and its main function is to ensure that nuclear energy use in the region is only for peaceful purposes and not for making weapons," the national news agency *Bernama* quoted him as saying.— *MNA/Xinhua*



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Death toll rises to 24 in Pakistan's suicide car blast

ISLAMABAD, 15 July—At least 24 soldiers were killed and 29 others injured in a suicide car blast in northwestern Pakistan's tribal region on Saturday, an Army spokesman said.

The state-run Pakistan Television (PTV) quoted the military spokesman Major-General Waheed Arshad as confirming that 24 soldiers died and 29 others were injured in the attack on a military convoy in Daz Nerai locality of North Wazristan, bordering Afghanistan. Earlier, an Army statement had stated that the incident occurred at 11:30 am (0630 GMT), when a car filled with explosive hit a military convoy moving from Ramzak, a town in North Wazirian to Bannu, a major city in the region.

Arshad said that two vehicles in the convoy were destroyed in the attack, and the injured were evacuated to a military hospital in Bannu by helicopters.

The statement originally put the death toll of soldiers at eight, which later rose to 18 and then to the latest figure 24.

No group has claimed responsibility of the attack, but such attacks are usually blamed on local Taleban.

The attack might be a reaction to the military operation against hardline Lal Masjid or Red Mosque in Islamabad, local analysts said.

Pakistani security forces ended the military action against Lal Masjid on 11 July, and according to officials, a total of 102 people were killed in the clashes. The months-long standoff between the hardline Lal Masjid administration and authorities developed into violence on 3 July, when some religious students of Jamia Hafsa, a seminary affiliated to Lal Masjid, attacked policemen deployed near the Lal Masjid compound.

MNA/Xinhua

Eritrea accuses British envoy of "conspiratorial" acts

ASMARA, 16 July — Eritrea accused a British diplomat on Saturday of "conspiratorial activities", saying the envoy was caught trying to install satellite and communications equipment at the British Council in Asmara.

In a statement on its Information Ministry website, www.shabait.-com, Eritrea's government said it had "permitted" the Ethiopian-based diplomat to leave the Red Sea state following an investigation.

"The Briton working at the British Embassy in Addis Ababa was on a visit to Eritrea, and while here was engaged in conspiratorial activities," the statement said.

"(Eritrea) permitted a British national engaged in dubious activities to leave the country following the necessary investigation ... the British diplomat was caught while attempting to install communications equipment and satellites in the guise of the British Council Library."

Eritrea said on Friday the diplomat had "violated" the country's laws but did not give further details until Saturday's statement. Britain's Foreign Office was not immediately available for comment.

The British Council said on Friday that two of its local employees had been arrested, but one then released. —*MNA/Reuters*

Qatar cement demand put at 20,000 tonnes a day

DOHA, 16 July— The Gulf Cement Company (GCC) said yesterday that the demand for cement in the country was estimated at 20,000 tonnes a day.

This meant that 60 per cent additional capacity needed to be built, the company's General Manager, Dr Omar Ibrahim Yagi, said at a news briefing held to announce half-yearly financials.

Estimates of the additional demand, he said, were based on studies. "Our plant, therefore, comes at the right time when construction activity in the country is booming," he stressed.

Yagi said that all the necessary formalities to launch the project had been completed. The licence had been acquired from the government and studies on raw materials and other technicalities, including the requirement of power and gas, were over.

Internet

Malaria claims 25 lives in East India

NEW DELHI, 16 July—At least 25 people have died of malaria in the last two weeks in East Indian state of Tripura with authorities using helicopters to send medical teams to remote areas, *Indo-Asian News Service* (IANS) reported here Friday. "We are monitoring the situation. Despite 25 people dying of malaria so far, the situation is under control," *IANS* quoted Jagannath Muhuri, the health and family welfare director of Tripura, as saying.

The *IANS* report said that according to unofficial estimates, some 50 people have died of the disease in the last fortnight. The worst hit by the disease is the tribal dominated Amarpur area in south Tripura District where 10 people have died.— *MNA/Xinhua*

13 missing as S Korean-flagged ship sinks off Iran

TEHERAN, 16 July—A South Korean-flagged cargo ship with 23 people on board has sunk off the coast of Iran and 13 people are missing, Iranian officials said.

Masih Momeni, an official with Iran's ports and shipping organization, was quoted by state radio as saying the ship carrying iron from China sank in the Sea of Oman, 110 nautical miles southeast of Iran's port of Chahbahar.

MNA/Reuters

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Human body wonderland in Guangzhou

BEIJING, 15 July — An amazing body adventure exhibition has begun in Guangzhou, south China's Guangdong Province, on Saturday. *Information Times* reports this spectacular exhibition is a health and science education which mainly targets at children and young people between 3 and 16 years old.

Young visitors can explore the wonderland of organs inside the human body by playing games and watching sci-fi cartoons.

The exhibition offers pictorial introductions to each function and health care contents in cartoon modes. Meanwhile, huge models offer real feelings like entering into human bodies. With vivid explanations from staff and magic, acrobatics and puppet show performances, children can obtain systemic physiology and healthy knowledge through happy adventure experiences.

The exhibition was formerly shown in Malaysia, and brought an upsurge in youth health. The exhibition in Guangzhou this year will last until 28 July .— *Internet*

An amazing body adventure exhibition is held in Guangzhou on 14 July, 2007. — INTERNET

Impatient Harry Potter fans to skip to last page

LONDON, 15 July — Nearly a fifth of Harry Potter fans say they will skip straight to the last page of the final book to find out how what happens to the boy wizard, a survey showed on Saturday.

Fans' websites are buzzing with speculation over the possible ending of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, the seventh and final book in the series.

Author JK Rowling has fuelled the intrigue by saying that "more than two" characters will die but she has refused to name the victims or give any more clues.

The wraparound book jacket cover for US edition of the upcoming book "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" is shown in this undated publicity photograph. Nearly a fifth of Harry Potter fans say they will skip straight to the last page of the final book to find out how what happens to the boy wizard, a survey showed on Saturday. — INTERNET

According to the poll of 500 children for the Waterstone's book chain, 17 per cent of readers will flick to the end without ploughing through all 608 pages first.

But a third say they are prepared to stay up all night to finish the book after its 21 July release.

Girls will race through the novel quicker than boys, taking about 30 hours to finish.

Nine out of 10 think it will be sadder saying goodbye to Harry than Prime Minister Tony Blair, the survey said.

"There's no doubt that Harry will be missed, he's a hard act to follow," said Waterstone's spokesman Wayne Winstone.

MNA/Reuters

Russia successfully test fires new missile system

MOSCOW, 15 July — Russia successfully test fired a new air defence missile system, an officer said Friday.

Life fire tests of the *S-400 Triumph* air defence missile system were conducted at the Russian Defence Ministry's testing ground in the Astrakhan Region on 12-13 July.

"The life fire tests have been successful. All targets were hit. The tests were carried out by a regiment that is to assume combat duty using this air defence missile in the Moscow region in the near future," aide to the Air Force commander Alexander Drobyshevsky was quoted by the *Interfax* news agency as saying.

The *S-400* air defence missile systems boast much more advanced jamming resistance features, target engagement channels and capabilities to hit high-speed targets than their predecessor *S300* system, according to specialists.

"Such systems are capable of operating in near space and fulfilling non-strategic missile defence tasks," Colonel General Yury Solovyev, commander of the special-purpose command troops, told journalists earlier.

MNA/Xinhua

South Africa to raise nurses' pay by 20%

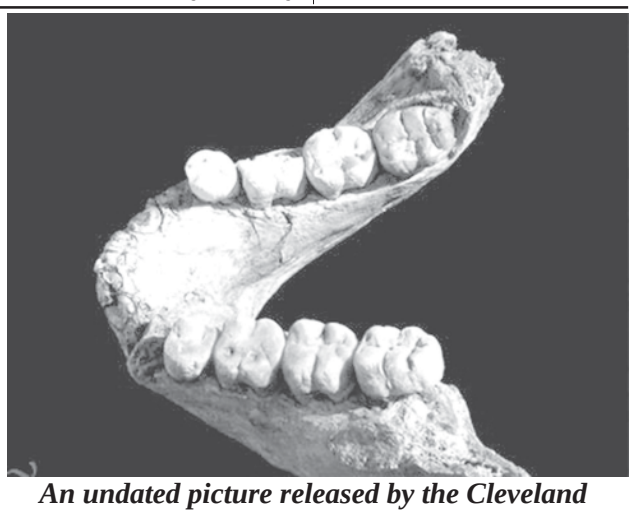
JOHANNESBURG, 15 July — AIDS-hit South Africa, which has seen many health workers leave for better pay overseas, will raise nurses' salaries by around 20 per cent in an effort to keep more at home, the health minister said on Friday.

The announcement followed a pay strike by public servants last month which crippled operations in many public hospitals and schools. That strike ended when public service unions agreed to an increase of 7.5 per cent. Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang said the proposed additional wage increases for nurses were part of a drive to improve working conditions for health professionals.

"Following the lifting of the strike and the signing of the wage agreement by the trade unions, we began the arduous task of rebuilding relationships within the health sector."

MNA/Reuters

A photographer takes a picture of space shuttle Endeavour after it arrived at launch pad 39A after rolling out of the Vehicle Assembly Building at Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 11 July, 2007. Endeavour is scheduled to launch on a mission to the International Space Station on 7 August. XINHUA



An undated picture released by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History shows a jaw bone of a fossil unearthed in the Afar desert at Woranso-Mille, 140 miles (225 km) outside Addis Ababa. Ethiopian scientists said on 10 July, 2007 they have discovered hominid fossil fragments dating from between 3.5 million and 3.8 million years ago in what could fill a crucial gap in the understanding of human evolution. — XINHUA

SPORTS

Mexico's players celebrate their victory against Uruguay after their third place playoff at the Copa America 2007 in Caracas, capital of Venezuela, on 14 July, 2007. Mexico won 3-1.— XINHUA

Zenit beat Rostov to reclaim top spot in Russia

MOSCOW, 16 July — Zenit St Petersburg beat Rostov 2-0 to reclaim the top spot in the Russian Premier League from Spartak Moscow on Sunday.

Argentine striker Alejandro Dominguez put Zenit ahead just before the break and Russian international Alexander Arshavin added a second in the final minute.

Zenit goalkeeper Vyacheslav Malafeyev saved a Rostov penalty in the 40th minute.

The St Petersburg side lead the table on 30 points from 16 matches, with Spartak second, a point behind, after beating Amkar Perm 1-0 on Saturday.

MNA/Reuters

Botafogo unbeaten run ends at Santos

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 July — Brazilian championship leaders Botafogo lost their unbeaten record with a 3-0 defeat at Santos but retained a five-point lead in the title race. With leading goalscorer Dodo suspended, Botafogo lacked attacking punch to complement their midfield creativity in Saturday's match.

Santos were looking to end the poor run of results that has turned the club from possible championship contenders into relegation zone strugglers.

The home side stepped up the pressure in the second half and Marcos Aurelio broke the deadlock with a well-worked goal, Rodrigo Tabata increased the margin with a pinpoint free-kick and Moraes completed the scoreline that lifted Santos out of the drop zone.

Botafogo retained their lead because second-placed Goias lost 2-1 at Cruzeiro and Sao Paulo could only draw 1-1 in the derby with Corinthians.

Cruzeiro goalkeeper Harlei made a string of fine saves to help secure his team's win. "We slipped up here, but we will just have to try and put this right in our next game against Gremio on Thursday," Goias striker Felipe told reporters.—*MNA/Reuters*

Britsih rowers Katherine Grainger, Frances Houghton, Debbie Flood and Annie Vernon, from left, celebrate on the podium after winning the Womens Quadrupple Sculls Final A, at the Lake Rotsee Rowing World Cup in Lucerne, Switzerland, on 15 July, 2007.— INTERNET

Players of Brazil celebrate after the Copa America 2007 final match against Argentina in Maracaibo, Venezuela, on 15 July, 2007. Brazil won 3-0.—XINHUA

Iran battle back to share spoils against China

KUALA LUMPUR, 16 July —Iran fought back from two goals down secure a 2-2 draw with China in a pulsating Asian Cup Group C clash on Sunday.

The battle of the group favourites lived up to its billing with China looking impressive in the first half before Iran's big-name players responded in style to outclass their opponents in the final 45 minutes.

Shao Jiayi and Mao Jianqing gave China a 2-0 lead inside the first 33 minutes before Ferydoon Zandi pulled one back for Iran on the stroke of halftime and Javad Nekounam equalized midway through the second period.

The result leaves China and Iran level on four points at the top of the group with the Chinese ahead on goal difference. Uzbekistan are third on three points with co-hosts Malaysia bottom of the standings following two losses.—*MNA/Reuters*

Irate Indonesians claim foul play led to defeat

JAKARTA, 16 July — Draped in national flags and red soccer uniforms, three busloads of irate Indonesian fans vented their fury at the Asian Football Confederation on Sunday, alleging biased refereeing led to a 2-1 defeat to Saudi Arabia.

The fans, many of whom had travelled hours by bus and train on Saturday for the Group D game in Jakarta, carried banners saying "AFC Go To Hell!" and "AFC Referee Unfair". They claimed referee Ali Al Badwawi from the UAE favoured the Saudi Arabian side.

Two representatives of the supporters met with the AFC to discuss their issues, while the remainder milled around outside the luxury hotel, smoking cigarettes and joking with police and armed guards.

"We felt cheated by the referee," Saiful Baqirok, who had made the 700-kilometre trip from Sidoarjo, East Java, told *Reuters*.—*MNA/Reuters*

*US fighter Tony Thompson lands a punch on German heavyweight boxer Luan Krasniqi (R) during their heavyweight WBO Eliminator boxing fight in Hamburg on 14 July, 2007. Thompson won the fight by technical knock-out in the 5th round.*INTERNET

Mauresmo hits back to give France 2-1 lead

CASTELLANETA MARINA (Italy), 16 July — Amelie Mauresmo overcame some early jitters to beat Italy's Mara Santangelo 6-7, 6-0, 6-4 and give France a 2-1 lead over the holders in their Fed Cup semifinal on Sunday.

The world number six suffered a Bastille Day bashing on Saturday when she went down 7-5, 6-3 to Francesca Schiavone and she again showed her vulnerability on clay against Santangelo, a late replacement for the injured Tathiana Garbin.

Mauresmo, who lost her Wimbledon crown two weeks ago, was a break up after the seventh game of the first set but surrendered the initiative immediately before a wild backhand in the tiebreak helped to condemn her to a 7-5 loss.

MNA/Reuters

Mickelson survives fright to stay one shot ahead of Havret

LOCH LOMOND (Scotland), 16 July — Phil Mickelson survived a scare at the ninth hole to maintain his one-stroke lead midway through the Scottish Open final round on Sunday.

The left-handed American was 14 under through nine holes, one ahead of playing partner Gregory Havret of France on a warm, sunny day at Loch Lomond. Britain's Luke Donald, playing some of the best golf of the day, was sharing third place on 10 under through 17.

On the same mark were fellow countryman Graeme McDowell (14 holes), Swede Pelle Edberg (14) and South African Ernie Els (11). Mickelson made an early birdie at the long third before he attempted to drive the green at the 340-yard, par-four ninth.—*MNA/Reuters*

Battling Bahrain stun South Korea in Asian Cup

JAKARTA, 16 July — South Korea suffered a shock 2-1 loss at the hands of Bahrain on Sunday to leave their Asian Cup dreams in tatters. After taking an early lead through Kim Do-heon, Korea sat back and let Bahrain back into the game. Slack defending allowed Salman Isa Ghuloom to equalize just before half-time.

Worse was to follow for the 2002 World Cup semi-finalists in a second half they completely dominated.

A woeful back pass from Kim Jung-woo was picked up by Talal Yusuf. He danced into the box and the ball broke to Ismaeel Abdullatif who fired past Lee Woon-jae.—*MNA/Reuters*

Members of the US gymnastics team wave after winning the gold medal in the women's team gymnastics competition at the Pan American Games in Rio de Janeiro on 14 July, 2007.—INTERNET

BBC boss orders staff to root out inaccuracies

LONDON, 16 July— BBC boss Mark Thompson has ordered staff to root out inaccuracies after the public broadcaster was hit by two embarrassing blunders and had to apologize to Queen Elizabeth.

The British Broadcasting Corporation was fined 50,000 pounds this week after the results of a competition in the popular children's programme Blue Peter were found to have been faked.

It then had to apologize for a promotional trailer which appeared to show Queen Elizabeth storming out of a photo shoot with American celebrity photographer Annie Leibovitz.

The BBC blamed a production company for sending it clips edited out of sequence which implied the monarch had lost her temper when asked to remove her crown.

Peter Fincham, the BBC One controller who presented the footage to journalists, said he had portrayed the events unaware that they gave a false impression. He said he has no intention of resigning.

After the double blunder, BBC Director-General Thompson put out a memo to staff saying the corporation needed to "put its house in order".

"We cannot allow even a small number of lapses, whether intentional or as a result of sloppiness, to undermine our reputation and the confidence of the public," he added.

MNA/Reuters

Earthquake report

(Issued at 22:00 hours MST today)

A strong earthquake of intensity (6.8) Richter Scale with its epicentre outside of Myanmar about (2700) miles Northeast of Kaba-Aye Seismological observatory was recorded at (20) hrs (54) min (37) sec MST on 16 July, 2007.

ပန်းမန်သစ်ပင်လေသန့်စင်၍
ဥယျာဉ်တောတန်းစိတ်ရွှင်လန်း၏။

Mariela Molinedo (L), winner of the Miss Cholita Pacena 2007 pageant, a popular Bolivian beauty contest for Andean indigenous women, receives the winner's sash from Gabriela Morales, outgoing Miss Cholita 2006, in La Paz on 13 July , 2007. —XINHUA

TV Myanmar

Tuesday, 17 July
View on today

7:00 am
1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်တော်သံဃမဟာနာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ချုပ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဋ္ဌဂုရု၊ အဘိဓမ္မအဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am
5. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်

8:05 am
6. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:15 am
7. Song of yesteryears

8:30 am
8. International news

8:45 am
9. Let's Go

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ –တတိယနှစ် (ရက္ခမေဒအထူးပြု) (ရက္ခမေဒ)

4:45 pm
4. Dance of national races

5:00 pm
5. "ငါးရစ်မျိုးငါး– – – တို့မစား" (ဇရာ၊ ခိုင်သင်းကြည်၊ မေပိုးအိ၊ ညိုညိုစိမ့်၊ မြသက်ထား) (ဒါရိုက်တာ–ရဲဝင်းနီ)

5:10 pm
6. Sing and Enjoy

5:45 pm
7. အလှတွင်အယဉ်ဆင့် အသွင်တင့်နေသည့် မိတ္ထီလာကန်

6:00 pm
8. Evening news

6:30 pm
9. Weather report

6:35 pm
10. "ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ"

6:50 pm
11. "ရေမြင့် – – ကြာတင့်" (ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ဇရာ၊ ငှက်ပျောကြော်၊ ထင်ပေါ်၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊ တက္ကသိုလ်ဂွမ်းပုံ၊ မျိုးမျိုးခိုင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ–ဖုန်းမြင့်အောင်)

7:05 pm
12. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သန်းတစ်ရာရွှေအိပ်မက်" (အပိုင်း–၁၇)

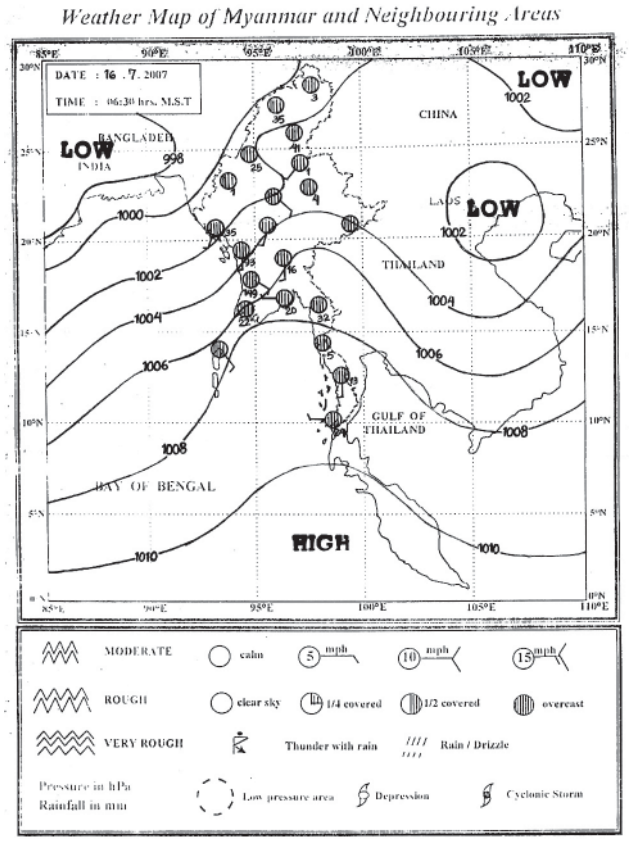
8:00 pm
13. News
14. International news
15. Weather report
16. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရေသူမလေး ဒုတိယချစ်ပုံပြင်"(အပိုင်း–၂၈)
17. The next day's programme

Radio Myanmar

Tuesday, 17 July
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music:
-You're best thing (Dream)
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music:
-Tell me how to make you smile (Aaron Carter)
8:50 am National news / Slogan
9:00 am Music:
-Do wah didi (The Blue Melons)
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music:
-What's it gonna be (Samantha Mumba)
1:30 pm News / Slogan
1:40pm Lunch time music:
-All I ever need is you (Kenny Rogers)
-Baby one more time (Britney Spears)
9:00pm English Speaking Course
9:10pm Article
9:20pm Weekly sports reel
9:30pm Listening pleasure
-The only gift (N' Sync)
-Love to infinity (Boy Zone)
9:45 pm News /Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Monday, 16 July, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain have been isolated in Kayah State and Magway Division, scattered in Shan State and Mandalay Division and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Nay Pyi Taw (0.39) inch, Thandwe (5.91) inches, Kyaukpyu (3.82) inches, An (3.77) inches, Maungtaw (2.75) inches, Bago (2.52) inches, Kalay (2.24) inches, Hpa-an (1.93) inches, Machanbaw and Hkamti (1.66) inches each, Myitkyina (1.61) inches, Mawlamyine (1.57) inches and Magway (0.71) inch.

Maximum temperature on 15-7-2007 was 83°F. Minimum temperature on 16-7-2007 was 75°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 16-7-2007 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 15-7-2007 was (Nil).

Rainfall on 16-7-2007 was (0.47) inch at Mingaladon, (0.79) inch at Kaba-Aye, (0.87) inch at Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (73.58) inches at Mingaladon, (78.23) inches at Kaba-Aye and (78.07) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from West at (18:30) hours MST on 15-7-2007.

Bay inference: Monsoon is strong in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 17-7-2007: Rain will be isolated in Kayah State and lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Magway and Mandalay Divisions, fairly widespread in Shan and Kayin States, Bago Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of increase of rain in northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring areas for 17-7-2007: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 17-7-2007: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring areas for 17-7-2007: Likelihood of isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

(from page 1)

Daw Kyaing Kyaing donated Waso robes and offertories to Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara.

Afterwards, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San donated Waso robes and offertories to Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Nyaungdon Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhaddanta Osada Bhivamsa.

General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet and Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win donated Waso robes and offertories to Sayadaws.

Afterwards, members of the State Peace and

(See page 7)

***Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing offer Waso robes and provisions to Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Magway Sayadaw.*—MNA**

***Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San donate Waso robes and provisions to Secretary of SSMNC Nyaungdon Sayadaw.*— MNA**

Senior General Than Shwe and wife attend Waso robe offering ceremony of Ministry of Defence

INSIDE

The transition, seems to be easy but difficult to realize

Tatmadaw government has been implementing the 12 State political, economic and social objectives since 1989 to march towards the goal of a modern and developed democratic nation. During half a decade, a network of facilities such as roads, bridges, dams, hospitals and schools emerged, thereby developing all parts of the country including border areas. As a result, the nation's GDP and per capita income increased by many times. Due to the adoption of market economy, foreign investments increased significantly. Likewise, the National Convention was convened beginning 1993 so as to write a constitution, the lifeblood of the nation, in conformity with the new political system.

PAGES 8+9

U SWE (BAHAN)