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Saturday, 5 June, 2004

Senior General Than Shwe sees off Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt

YANGON, 4 June—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt left here by Myanmar Airways International at 7.30 am today for Bangkok, Thailand, to pay a working visit to Thailand at the invitation of Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra.

The Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, 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, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command, ministers, senior military officers, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassa-



State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe and party see off Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at Yangon International Airport on his departure for working visit to Thailand.— MNA

dor of Singapore Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz and heads of foreign missions in Yangon, the UN Resident Coordinator, the charge d' affaires of the Thai Embassy, officials and departmental heads. Members of the Myanmar delegation were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung,

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and departmental heads.— MNA

Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra welcomes Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt

YANGON, 4 June—Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by ministers and departmental heads, left here by Myanmar Airways International at 7.30 am today to pay a working visit to Bangkok,

Thailand, at the invitation of Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra and arrived at Don Muang International Airport of Royal Thai Air Force, Bangkok, Thailand, at 9.15 am local time. Prime Minister Gen-

eral Khin Nyunt was accompanied by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and departmental heads.

Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint, Director-General Mr Thanarat Thanaputti of the Protocol Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand welcomed Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party on board the aircraft.

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra inspect the Guard of Honour.— MNA

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PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 5 June, 2004

For rural area economic development

After laying down the 12 political, economic and social objectives and upholding Our Three Main National Causes, the State Peace and Development Council is trying its best for the Union of Myanmar to become a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

It can be said that success that has been achieved yearly in economic plans is the result of harmonious efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw.

With economic development, there will be urban as well as rural development. As a result, the development gap between urban and rural areas will be bridged.

In his speech delivered at the Annual General Meeting 2001 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association on 15 September 2001, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe said that during the period of the short-term five-year plan, working programmes which focused on the development of rural areas had been laid down; that the majority of the population live in rural areas, and their chief business is agriculture and livestock breeding and as such the needs of rural population are to be fulfilled in all sectors.

For the success of the five rural development tasks, namely, ensuring better transportation in rural areas, potable water supply, raising the education and health standard of rural people and economic development in rural areas, plans are being laid down and implemented sector-wise.

In extending the cultivation of crops, efforts are to be made to grow edible oil crops such as groundnut, sesamum and sunflower and sugarcane, maize, coffee, tea, cotton which are in good demand in the markets. At the same time, livestock breeding tasks are to be carried out together with agriculture. These tasks are to be carried out from the manageable scale to the commercial scale.

With the aim of raising the living standard of rural people and generating their income, regional organizations, rural people and social groups are urged to reclaim fallow and virgin land and extend the cultivation of new items of crops.

Supply of clean water in Myingyan

YANGON, 4 June — A ceremony to unveil the billboard marking the supply of potable water to the entire Myingyan Township was held at the Mani Kinzana Hall near the clock tower in Myingyan on 3 June morning.

Director-General of the Development Affairs Department Col Myo Myint formally unveiled the billboard. Over K 1,583 million from State funds and over 797.86 million donated by wellwishers totalling over 2381 million have been spent on water supply projects in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Division. So far, 3183 villages out of 4119 in 26 Townships of Mandalay Division have been supplied with sufficient drinking water. — MNA

Deputy Minister leaves for Singapore

YANGON, 4 June — Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and Col Hla Min of the Ministry of Defence left here by air this morning to attend the Third IISS Asia Security Conference to be held in Singapore from 4 to 6 June. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MNA



Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win being seen off at Yangon International Airport. — MNA

People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe delivers an address at the opening of Natural History and Environment Hall. NLM

Natural History and Environment Hall opened

YANGON, 4 June — Hailing the World Environment Day, a ceremony to open the Natural History and Environment Hall of the Forest Department was held in conjunction with holding of quiz at the hall of Yangon Zoological Gardens this morning with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein and heads of department, the Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise and the Director (News), officials of the National Commission for Environmental Conservation, mediamen, students who were going to participate in the quiz and guests.

In his address, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe said that the Natural History and Environment Hall was opened with the aim of enabling the public to easily observe programmes on environmental conservation of international community by screening them through the satellite broadcasting system and of enabling the people to participate in environmental conservation tasks that are keeping pace with changes and developments. In the world today, priority is being given to environmental conservation tasks. Global nations have recognized that environmental conservation is imperative for constant development and organizations for environmental conservation were formed before holding the Earth Summit in 1992. As Myanmar is rich in land and water resources efforts are being made for environmental conservation. The Head of State has given guidance that only when there is environmental conservation will the nation develop as regional development tasks and environment are becoming increasingly interdependent. To carry out greening tasks for Bago Yoma, Taunglon Myaung Dam, Ngamoeyek Dam, Lagunpyin Dam, Kalitaw Dam, Mahuya Dam and Paunglingyi Dam in Hlegu Township, Tabuhla Diversion Weir and Tabuhla Dam in Taikgyi Township, Yangon Division were built. With those irrigation facilities, there are over 33,560 acres of low lying area and about 22,790 acres of watershed area in Yangon North District, thereby

contributing to greening of 30-mile radius of Yangon.

To be able to impart the knowledge on environmental conservation to the people the Natural History and Environment Hall was opened. The main objectives of the hall are: To enable the people to know the evolution of biological diversity in successive eras; To enable the people to know living things and human beings serving the interests of land and forest and the needs for environmental conservation. Efforts are being made for turning Yangon City into a city of world class. In the process, Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoological Gardens (Yangon) are being upgraded as environmental conservation works.

Quiz on environmental conservation was held with the aim of enabling new generation youths to have a sense to study environment and a sense to cherish environmental heritage, of enabling them to be more skilful and well-versed in the use of modern computers and of enabling them to actively participate in the environmental conservation tasks.

Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung said that being aware of the importance of environmental conservation essential for the constant economic growth, the world nations established respective organizations or ministries on environmental conservation before the Earth Summit held in 1992. In this regard, ASEAN nations are putting the ASEAN Vision 2020 and Hanoi Plan of Action into motion, he said. Myanmar's forest coverage ratio stands at over 52%, while world's forest coverage, at less than 30% and that of ASEAN, at over 48%, he said. After forming the National Commission for Environmental Conservation, Myanmar has been taking measures for ensuring constant exploitation of natural resources in accord with the strategy the State adopted in 1997. In addition to that, it has enacted sector-wise laws, he said. Myanmar is following international conventions and agreements on environmental conservation, he said. Under the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, the Ministry of Forestry has taken steps starting from 1993-94 after forming the Arid Zones Greening Department, and success has been achieved. And a project has been launched for greening of Bago Yoma Mountain Range in the interest of posterity, he said. The purpose of the opening of the hall is to ensure participation of the people in environmental conservation tasks. In conclusion, he urged the entire people to take part in the environmental conservation tasks which play an important role in national interest and perpetual existence of the nation.

Next, the primary level quiz to mark World Environment Day, in which A team and B team of Kamayut Basic Education High School No 2 participated was held. The commander and the minister presented prizes to the participant children, and the deputy minister and officials, gifts to those who contributed towards the competition. After that, Director-General U Soe Win Hlaing and officials replied to the queries raised by those present.

MNA



The Japanese Ambassador hands over the donations of consumer goods worth ¥ 10 million for storm victims in Rakhine State to Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa. MNA

Donations for storm victims

YANGON, 4 June — Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa received Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yuji Miyamoto and party at his office at 1 pm today.

Present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura Sein Thang and officials. On the occasion, the ambassador donated consumer goods worth ¥ 10 million for storm victims in Rakhine State. —MNA

Film entertainments to NC delegates

YANGON, 4 June — The Entertainment and Welfare Subcommittee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee organizes entertainment programmes for delegates to the National Convention daily at the gymnasium of Nyaungnapin Camp.

Yesterday evening, the delegates were entertained with documentary films and a picture entitled "Ta-U-tee-thaw Thar" (the only son) directed by Maung Tin Oo and starred by Lu Min and Tun Eindra Bo. — MNA

US Iraq military casualties rise to 813

BAGHDAD, 3 June—As of Thursday, June 3, 813 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 596 died as a result of hostile action and 217 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, four; Poland, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia and the Netherlands have reported one each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 675 US soldiers have died — 487 as a result of hostile action and 188 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers as of Thursday.

The latest deaths reported by the US Central Command:

—No new deaths reported.

The latest identification reported by the Pentagon:

—Marine Cpl Bum R Lee, 21, Sunnyvale, Calif; died Wednesday after being wounded in hostile action in Anbar Province; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Internet



Protesters shout slogans in protest against the visit by US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 3 June, 2004. The banner reads: 'Resist war criminal, resist Rumsfeld.' —INTERNET

Oilfield Co tops China's list of 1,000 biggest industrial enterprises

BEIJING, 3 June—Daqing Oilfield Company Limited topped the list of China's 1,000 biggest industrial enterprises with 85.55 billion yuan (about 10.3 billion US dollars) of sales in 2003, triumphing over other giants in telecom, auto manufacturing and petrochemical industries.

Jiangsu Provincial Electric Power Co ranked second in the list with 59.45 billion yuan (about 7.2 billion US dollars) of sales in 2003.

Petroleum, metallurgy and automobile companies still report the largest amount of profits among the 1,000 industrial companies, according to the latest list of China's 1,000 largest industrial enterprises which was released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

The 1,000 enterprises dominated China's industrial economies with their contribution of about 36.8 per cent

of sales by the country's total large-scale enterprises and about half of their profits, according to the bureau.

State-owned monopoly companies in industries like telecommunication and oil supply stood in the front of the ranks while those fields fully open to competition usually have smaller scale, revealed the list.

NBS deputy director Qiu Xiaohua said at a Press Conference that the list was selected according to the enterprise's annual sales according to international standards. "The 1,000 enter-

prises represent the dominant forces in developing China's industrial economies," Qiu said. "Their roles in supporting China's sustainable development can't be neglected."

The 1,000 largest industrial enterprises account for only 0.5 per cent of China's large-scale enterprises in number, but reported a total sales of about 5.27 trillion yuan (634.8 billion US dollars) in 2003, or about 36.8 per cent of the total by large-scale enterprises, according to the list.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh, Laos agree to enhance economic cooperation

DHAKA, 3 June—Bangladesh and Laos have agreed to sign a Joint Cooperation Agreement between the chambers of the respective countries to enhance bilateral trade and economic cooperation in the private sector, reported the official Bangladesh News Agency on Wednesday.

According to a Press release of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), since there is no direct trade between Bangladesh and Laos, agreements in this regard were reached to initiate direct trade and exchange of visits by trade leaders of the two countries.

The agreements were reached when Khampasong Douangsinh, ambassador-designate of Laos stationed in New Delhi, called on President of the FBCCI Abdul Awal

Mintoo on Wednesday.

They discussed matters relating to expansion of economic cooperation and bilateral trade between the two friendly countries.

During the meeting the Lao ambassador-designate mentioned Bangladesh and Laos have many similarities in their lifestyle and also in their strive to raise the standard of living of the people.

MNA/Xinhua

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Bush faces Italian anger over Iraq on Rome visit

ROME, 3 June—Italians greeted American soldiers as liberators when they marched into Rome 60 years ago but President Bush faces deep anger on his visit on Friday over the actions of a new generation of US soldiers in Iraq.

Authorities fear violent demonstrations during Bush's two days in Rome, and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, worried by the prospect of clashes in the streets, urged Italians to show "maturity and understanding of history."

While Berlusconi has been among Bush's closest allies, most Italians opposed last year's US-led invasion of Iraq and there have been many calls for Rome to withdraw its some 2,700 troops.

During a three-day trip to Italy and France, Bush will seek international support for his Iraq mission and commemorate the June 1944 liberation of Rome and the D-Day invasion of Normandy.

Bush, a born-again Christian, made a special adjustment to the schedule to fit in a meeting with Pope John Paul, who threw the weight of the Catholic Church against the Iraq war and who last month made clear his concern at the scandal over the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US soldiers.

Anti-war demonstrators who gathered in Rome earlier this week recalled the prisoner abuse scandal, re-enacting scenes from the photos of Iraqis being humiliated in a Baghdad jail and covering the faces of statues with hoods. Italians are also concerned about the fate of three Italian hostages held in Iraq for nearly two months.

Internet

UN staff likely to return to Iraq in July

UNITED NATIONS, 3 June—The United Nations would likely send its staff back to Iraq on 1 July, shortly after the end of the US-British occupation, a UN spokesman said on Wednesday.

Fred Eckhardt told reporters that the world body has been preparing for a quick return to Iraq, including looking for premises for its office and talking to certain countries on the establishment of a force to protect UN staff and facilities in Iraq.

But the spokesman insisted that the return of UN staff is "contingent" on the

improvement of the security situation in Iraq.

He also declined to shed any light on possible candidates for UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's special representative for Iraq.

Under a US-British drafted UN resolution on Iraq, the United Nations would play a leading role in helping Iraqis convene a national

conference, organize elections and draft a permanent constitution, among other tasks. But the draft also says the world body would operate in Iraq "as circumstances permit," an allusion to the security conditions.

The resolution proposes creating a force, under the unified command of the US-led multinational force, to provide security for the UN presence in Iraq.

All UN staff left Iraq in late 2003 after the UN office in Baghdad came under two terrorist attacks. The August 19 bombing attack killed 22 people, including Annan's special representative Sergio de Mello.

MNA/Xinhua

Polish firm says employee seized in Iraq for money

WARSAW, 3 June—A Polish construction firm whose manager in Iraq is being held hostage said on Wednesday that money not politics was the most likely motive of the kidnappers. No one has approached Polish firm Jedynta to bargain over the fate of its kidnapped Polish manager Jerzy Kos and no group has claimed responsibility.

Masked gunmen arrived in two jeeps at Jedynta's offices in a flat near Baghdad on Tuesday, seized two

Polish and five Iraqi staff, Polish officials have said.

One of the Poles escaped soon after the incident. The fate of the Iraqi hostages was unclear.

MNA/Reuters

Nine killed in anti-occupation clashes

ROME, 3 June—At least six Iraqis were injured yesterday in an attack against the Italian embassy in Baghdad, Italian defence ministry sources reported Thursday in Rome.

According to the report, no Italians were injured although five to six mortar rounds landed in the embassy courtyard. The Iraqis were hit outside the embassy compound and Iraqi sources said two may have been killed. The compound was also targeted on 12 May but there were no injuries nor damage.

Internet



Two US soldiers walk on the roof of the Italian Embassy in Baghdad, on 3 June, 2004. Several mortar shells were fired at the embassy on Thursday, killing one Iraqi and wounding three others. The Foreign Ministry in Rome said no Italians were hurt in the attack. — INTERNET

US marines jailed for Iraq abuse

BAGHDAD, 3 June—Two US marines have been convicted of giving electric shocks to an Iraqi prisoner, US officials have announced.

The abuse happened at a temporary detention centre south of Baghdad in April - months after the abuses at Abu Ghraib prison, officials said.

Pfc Andrew Sting and Pfc Jeremiah Trefney, both 19, entered guilty pleas at a 14 May hearing in Iraq, the military said on Thursday. Both men have been jailed. Two other marines are awaiting court action.

According to the military statement, Sting, Trefney and two other unnamed marines decided to shock a prisoner at Al Mahmudiya prison, as a punishment for throwing rubbish outside his cell and speaking loudly.

They attached wires to a power converter, which was used to shock the prisoner with 110 volts of electricity, according to the statement from the US 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in Iraq.

Sting pleaded guilty to charges of assault, cruelty and maltreatment, dereliction of duty and conspiracy to commit assault. He was sentenced to a year in prison.

Trefney pleaded guilty to cruelty and maltreatment, dereliction of duty and conspiracy to commit assault. He was sentenced to eight months in prison.

Both men were demoted and discharged from service. — *Internet*



A frame grab taken from Kirkuk TV video footage shows thick clouds of smoke and a large fireball exploding into the sky on late 2 June, 2004, after an ammunition dump caught fire at a nearby US base on the edge of Kirkuk, some 250km (150 miles) north of Baghdad. — *INTERNET*

US Army bars soldiers from leaving units set for Iraq, Afghanistan deployment

WASHINGTON, 3 June—The US Army's order blocking soldiers scheduled for discharge from leaving units heading for duty in Iraq and Afghanistan shows the number of forces deployed there are insufficient, analysts here said.

The "stop-loss" order issued Tuesday by Reginald Brown, assistant army secretary for manpower and reserve affairs, is effective from the time a unit is ordered to deploy to either country until after they return to the United States.

The order is likely to affect thousands of US soldiers—possibly tens of thousands, depending on how long the US military remains in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Continuing personnel losses caused by routine rotational policies have the potential to adversely impact training, cohesion, and stability in future ... deploying units," Brown said in a statement.

"To ensure our formations remain a cohesive element throughout their deployment it is necessary to stop personnel losses from the deploying units until after they return to their permanent duty stations."

Stop-loss orders "are usually considered an emergency measure, because service in the military is supposed to be voluntary," Loren Thompson from the Lexington Institute told *AFP*.

If the stop-loss measure is just a "bridge" to get the army through a difficult period until its ranks increase, then it is defensible, Thompson said.

But if the government of President George W Bush "continues to impose service on those whose tours are completed, it will eventually undermine the whole notion of a volunteer military," he added.

There are currently some 138,000 US military personnel in Iraq and some 13,000 in Afghanistan—the bulk of them army soldiers.

— *Internet*

Thailand selected to host global health promotion meeting

BANGKOK, 3 June—The World Health Organization (WHO) has selected Thailand to host its 6th World Health Promotion Meeting next year, a tribute to Thailand's success in promoting health through exercises, health communities and good nutrition.

Thai Public Health Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan was quoted by the *Thai News Agency* as saying Wednesday that "This is an enormous opportunity for Thailand as a host to gain a good reputation, and will help encourage greater health concern among the Thai public. It will act as a positive factor to help boost the success of domestic health promotion programmes."

The meeting, which will take place on August 7-11 in Bangkok, will address four key issues: the global health situation, sustainable health promotion, control of chronic

diseases and challenges for health promotion developments in a borderless world.

The 700-plus delegates to the meeting, who will include senior politicians, health promotion and disease prevention experts, United Nations representatives and members of the private sector, will be asked to sign the Bangkok Charter for Health Promotion in the 21st Century, the minister disclosed.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

ဝက်မုခ်အား ခေတ်ကျော်သွား

Arms dump blaze extinguished at US base in Iraq

KIRKUK, 4 June—Operations at a major US military base near the northern city of Kirkuk returned to normal on Thursday night after firefighters put out a blaze that sparked a series of huge blasts at an arms dump.

A suspected Katyusha rocket hit the ammunition dump at around 9:30pm on Wednesday night (5.30am Thursday NZT), sending the stash of weaponry up in flames and causing a chain reaction of explosions. Thick clouds of smoke spewed across the city. Firefighters tackled the blaze as the detonations died down, dousing the flames and bringing the inferno under control. A US military spokeswoman said the fires were put out at about 5am on Thursday (1.00pm NZT).

There were no casualties on the base, which is on the edge of Kirkuk, or in the town itself, Iraqi police and the military said. But the explosions caused damage across a wide area, shattering windows and damaging cars.

US officers at the base said a detention facility close to where the explosions went off was evacuated.

"We heard what sounded like a rocket explosion and then there was a series of huge explosions that shook our building and shattered all the windows," said Deshti Khaled, an officer with the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps, based at the military camp.

"The sky was lit up with fire and some of our vehicles were damaged by flying debris." The ICDC garrison is situated about 1.5km from where the ammunition was stored, in an old helicopter hangar. It was not immediately clear if the ammunition was captured from Saddam Hussein-era Iraqi weapons caches or was from US stocks.

— *Internet*

Russia echoes French concerns on Iraq resolution

MOSCOW, 3 June—Russia echoed serious concerns held by France over a new UN resolution on Iraq, hours before Iraq's foreign minister pleads his country's case for full sovereignty at the Security Council Thursday.

In comments likely to further upset opponents of the US-British draft, Secretary of State Colin Powell said Iraq would have no veto over military operations by American-led forces after the occupation formally ends on 30 June. One of the main concerns among council members is that the revised draft does not spell out whether the Iraqi military can refuse an offensive action ordered by the US-led force of 130,000 troops.

The aim of the resolution

is to get international endorsement for the formation of an interim Iraqi government and to authorize a US-led multinational force, which would be empowered to take "all necessary measures" to keep the peace.

France and Russia, veto-wielding members of the Security Council, say the draft is still too vague over what sovereignty means after occupation officially ends.

"Many of our concerns remain. Therefore the text needs serious work," *Interfax*

quoted Yuri Fedotov, a deputy foreign minister, as saying. "It is clear that in order for these forces to act effectively, they must be placed under joint command. As for the details, all this must be foreseen by the UN Security Council and confirmed in the corresponding resolution."

French President Jacques Chirac has said the resolution needed "to affirm and confirm the full sovereignty of the Iraqi government, particularly in the military domain." — *Internet*

Vietnam to increase sugarcane output

HANOI, 3 June—Vietnam plans to raise its sugar production to 1.27 million tons in the 2004-2005 crop, up 3.9 per cent from the previous crop, according to *Vietnam News* on Wednesday.

To this end, the country

will use more high-yield sugarcane varieties, which will account for up to 70 per cent of the total seedlings to be grown in the new crop. Besides, sugar mills will establish seedling nurseries, build more

irrigation works, and provide local farmers with water pumps.

The country's total area under sugarcane cultivation soared to 305,000 hectares in 2004 from 1,500 hectares in 1995. — *MNA/Xinhua*



US Marine Lance Corporal Nathan Delinger mans an observation post near the Iraqi town of Falluja, on 3 June, 2004. Iraq's new government told the United Nations it wanted the right to decide on the future presence of US-led forces and other security issues but in general sided with Washington. — *INTERNET*

US cannot impose democracy

UNITED NATIONS, 3 June— A prominent Iranian said on Wednesday Islam and democracy were compatible but that the United States could not impose a pluralistic society on Iraq or elsewhere in the Middle East.

The 57-year-old shirin Ebadi, a jurist who is touring the United States and Canada, said democracy was a historical process that could not be imposed from the outside and that the new Iraqi government would have to earn its legitimacy.

"It's the performance that we have to watch out for," Ebadi said. "Democracy is not a present to offer a nation. Democracy cannot be imposed when people are dropping bombs on them".

"Therefore if the United States or any other country decides to contribute to the process of democracy, the way to do so is not through a military attack," she added.

She said no country in the world had a perfect human rights record, including the United States, which had not signed key international treaties, such as the rights of the child.

Asked about the US abuse of Iraqi prisoners, she said, "America is a civilized society so I ask myself — how can tolerate these actions and justify them?"

MNA/Reuters

Three Filipino humanitarian contingent personnel injured in Iraq

MANILA, 3 June— The Philippine Government confirmed Wednesday that three members of the country's humanitarian contingent to Iraq had been injured in a terrorist attack there.

Roy Cimatu, Philippine special envoy to the Middle East, told the Department of Foreign Affairs that a seven-vehicle convoy with 14 Filipino personnel were on their way to Talayyi Village in Babil Province for a civic project when fired

upon by terrorist on Tuesday afternoon.

"It is unfortunate that some terrorists undermining the effort of the contingent at this point in time when there is hope around the corner," Cimatu told a Press briefing.

He also said that the injured had been already out of danger after receiving treatment in a US military hospital in Kerbala, north of Babil.

Despite the incident, the special envoy maintained that the 51-strong Filipino troops, including 43 soldiers and eight policemen, would still stay in Iraq.

The Armed Forces of the Philippine (AFP) announced last month to send at least 45 military and police to Iraq as reinforcement to the government's humanitarian contingent there.

The AFP's vice-chief of staff and spokesman Rodolfo Garcia said that the reinforcement of 27 soldiers and 18 policemen would replace health and social workers, who had returned several months ago because of the unstable Iraqi situation.

He also said that the government will not pull out its humanitarian contingent in Iraq, which was stationed there as early as last August, despite resurging attacks by Iraqi militants in the past months.

"Our government has already made very categorical statement on this matter that we stand fast in our commitment to the coalition," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi man rests under the hot sun as he and crowds of others wait to visit family members held inside the Abu Ghraib prison outside of Baghdad, on 3 June, 2004.

INTERNET

Official says Iran will not give up NPT membership

TEHRAN, 3 June — Iranian Supreme National Security Council Secretary Hassan Rowhani said on Wednesday that the Islamic Republic does not intend to give up its membership of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the official IRNA news agency reported.

Iran has announced to continue cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and it does not think about stopping it, Rowhani said.

"Iran has had no problem with its cooperation with the IAEA within framework of additional protocol to NPT and the Agency experts have been

able to inspect Iranian nuclear sites and facilities whenever they intended," Rowhani was quoted as saying.

However, Rowhani added that Iran was going to issue a statement on a recent report of the IAEA, pointing to special problems of the report.

On Tuesday, two mem-

bers of the Parliament said that the Parliament would consider withdrawing from the NPT if the country's cooperation on nuclear inspection could not be rewarded justly.

Such an extremist move was also ruled out on last Thursday by President Mohammad Khatami.

MNA/Xinhua

အမေရိကန်တို့ ပြည်ထောင်စု



An Iraqi security man directs US soldiers after several mortars hit the area around the Italian Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq, on 3 June, 2004. Several mortar shells were fired at the Italian Embassy. An Iraqi police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, told that one Iraqi was killed and three were wounded in the attack. — INTERNET

Iraqi FM wants "input" in new UN resolution

UNITED NATIONS, 3 June— Iraq's foreign minister said on Wednesday he expected to help shape a UN Security Council resolution on Iraq's future, which has run into criticism about how much power a new Baghdad government would have.

Hoshiyar Zebari spoke shortly after his arrival in New York and immediately went to a working dinner with US Ambassador John Negroponte and Britain's UN ambassador, Emyr Jones Parry, who hosted the gathering. He meets all 15 Council members on Thursday afternoon.

"This is a very important resolution for us," Zebari told reporters. "And definitely we need to have our own input."

He said it was "very odd for such an important resolution to be discussed in New York in the absence of Iraqi representatives."

The minister did not elaborate on

changes he wanted in a US-British drafted resolution that would endorse an interim Iraqi Government, which takes office on 30 June, and authorize a US-led multinational force to keep the peace.

But Zebari, a Kurd who has been foreign minister since September and will stay on in that post, said he had received instructions from the newly named Iraqi leaders.

However, Negroponte, the new American ambassador in Iraq in July, said it was only a question of "fine-tuning" the resolution, adding he was confident it would be adopted soon. — MNA/Reuters

Iran welcomes establishment of Iraqi interim government

TEHRAN, 3 June — Iran hailed the establishment of Iraqi interim government as a step forward to the transfer of sovereignty to Iraqi people and welcomed the United Nations' efforts to this goal, the official IRNA news agency reported on Wednesday.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi expressed hope that Iraqi people would witness transfer of full power and sovereignty and end of the occupation.

Asefi also expressed hope that the Iraqi interim administration would prepare necessary grounds within the UN plan to hold free elections in the country, to draft a permanent constitution and to establish a

full Iraqi administration.

"We do hope that we will witness free, developed and independent Iraq through people's contribution from various walks of life in Iraq," Asefi was quoted as saying.

The United Nations announced the establishment of the Iraqi interim government on Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua

Cambodian FM meets Chinese Assistant FM

PHNOM PENH, 3 June— Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong Wednesday afternoon held talks with visiting Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Shen Guofang. Both sides expressed their satisfaction over the all-round development of the cooperation between the two countries.

Hor said that Cambodia attaches importance to its ties with China and will push forward the cooperation in the fields of politics, economy and culture between the two countries.

He said that the Cambodian Government highly values and supports the important role played by China in promoting China and ASEAN, as well as the ASEAN plus three (China, Japan and South Korea) relations.

The Cambodian foreign minister said that Cambodia saw China's joining in the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia as a signal of a new height of bilateral ties between China and ASEAN.

He stressed that Cambodia would like to

work closely with China to further deepen the regional cooperation. Shen expressed gratitude for the adherence of the Cambodian Government to the one-China policy and the persistent support on the issue of human rights, adding that China and Cambodia have become the close partnership in the regional and international arena. Shen arrived here Wednesday afternoon with the Chinese delegation to attend the 10th China-ASEAN Senior Officials' Consultation held in Sihanoukville, Cambodia from 3 June to 4.

The consultation was launched in 1995 as an important annual political consultation mechanism for the two sides.

MNA/Xinhua

US Govt sued over records of mily prisoner abuse

NEW YORK, 3 June — Civil-rights and veterans groups on Wednesday sued the US Government for what they said was illegally withholding records about American military abuse of prisoners held in Iraq, Guantanamo Bay and other locations.

The suit, filed in Manhattan federal court, charges that the US departments of Defence, Homeland Security, Justice and State have failed to comply with a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request filed by the groups last year. Other defendants in the suit include the FBI and CIA.

The plaintiffs are seeking records documenting torture and abuse which they said has occurred since the September 11, 2001,

attacks on the United States. They said that after they filed the FOIA request in October, numerous news stories and photographs have documented mistreatment of prisoners held in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"There is growing evidence that the abuse of detainees was not aberrational but systemic, that in some cases the abuse amounted to torture and resulted in death, and that senior officials either approved of the

abuse or were deliberately indifferent to it," the suit said.

The suit was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union, The Center For Constitutional Rights, Physicians for Human Rights, Veterans for Common Sense and Veterans for Peace. The groups said this is the first suit seeking to force the government to disclose these records under FOIA.

They said that the only

information that has been released since their FOIA request was a set of guidelines that State Department employees are to use when answering questions from reporters about the treatment of detainees. An ACLU lawyers said the guidelines emphasized that prisoners were being treated humanely.

The groups are asking the court to order the immediate release of records about the abuse of prisoners held at Abu Ghraib and other overseas detention facilities, the deaths of detainees in United States custody and the policies governing the interrogation of detainees in United States custody.

They also want information about the government's "rendering", or turning over, of detainees to countries known to use torture. The FOIA request cited reports that the United States is using the practice to sidestep domestic and international laws prohibiting such abuse

MNA/Reuters



The area around an ammunition depot lies charred after a rocket attack on the US airbase in Kirkuk, on 3 June, 2004. — INTERNET

HK takes measures for new maritime security rules

HONG KONG, 3 June — Security plans for 22 port facilities in Hong Kong and 595 Hong Kong registered ships have so far been approved for the implementation of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code that comes into effect on 1 July.

Hong Kong Deputy Director for Marine Roger Tupper made the remark while addressing the opening of the Hong Kong Air and Port Security Expo Asia 2004 Maritime Security Seminar here Wednesday. Tupper said: "In Hong Kong there are 31 port facilities under the code. These facilities include the container terminals, oil depots, power stations, cruise and ferry terminals and the Buoys and Anchorages which constitute a single port facility."

So far, he said, Port Facility Security Plan of 22 facilities, including the container terminals in Kwai Chung and the Ocean Terminal at Tsim Sha Tsui, had been approved. Among the 595 Hong Kong registered ships with their security plans approved, 287 had already obtained their International Ship Security Certificates.

He said the department had arranged uploading of the port's security status to the International Maritime Organization web site well in advance of the 1 July dead-

line. Tupper said Hong Kong was taking positive measures to ensure its full compliance with and commitment to the international code before 1 July.

While underlining Hong Kong's full compliance with the code he reminded delegates that vigilance was required as the threat posed by global terrorists was real. "We have been reminded of the threat posed to ports and shipping by such groups in attacks on the tanker Limburg off the Port of

Aden, the attack in the extremely well protected port of Ashdod in Israel and the more recent strike at Yanbu in Saudi Arabia. Sadly yet again at the weekend we saw another savage outrage at Khobar."

He said the Marine Department had developed a database system for maintaining the continuous synopsis records of Hong Kong registered ships required under the code and those were being provided to shipowners on request. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi bomb victim arrives Belgium

BRUSSELS, 4 June — A young Iraqi girl who was seriously injured by a US cluster bomb in Baghdad last year arrived in Belgium on Wednesday for surgery, local media reported on Wednesday. The 14-year-old girl Hiba Kassim was injured last December as she went to buy bread.

If she had stayed in Iraq for treatment she would almost certainly have had to have at least part of a limb amputated, Belgian news agency Belga reported. Belgian doctor Geert van Moorter — who has been in

Baghdad several times already, including during the bombings last year — went to pick her up in Baghdad.

She will get special medical examinations and treatment in Belgium. The Belgian Medical Aid for the Third World, a non-governmental organization, has launched a broad campaign to enlist support, and received a positive response and the collaboration of health workers, hospitals, anti-war activists, migrant workers, well-known personalities, companies and authorities. — MNA/Xinhua

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Four killed as US troops, Shiite militia clash again

KUFA (Iraq), 3 June — At least four Iraqis were killed and 36 injured in clashes between US troops and Shiite militia at Kufa, just outside the holy city of Najaf, on Wednesday, a week after the militia leader offered a truce.

A Reuters correspondent heard occasional gunfire throughout the day, echoing an hour-long firefight the previous evening. Local residents said US tank patrols had come into the town from Najaf, provoking fire from the guerillas.

Hospital sources in Kufa and Najaf said four people were killed and 36 wounded, most of them Iraqi civilians. Many were hurt when a mortar round fired at US forces missed its target, they said. US commanders have said they are sanguine about such incidents and are giving the truce, called by rebel cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, some time to settle down after a two-month uprising across Shiite southern Iraq.

The US-backed governor of Najaf, Adnan Zurfi, told a news conference on Tuesday that Sadr's Mehdi Army militia had agreed to further terms for removing its presence from the city and forecast that the fighters would have withdrawn by Saturday.

Iraqi politicians including Ahmad Chalabi, a prominent Shiite politician, were at Najaf on Wednesday trying to negotiate an end to the skirmishes, local officials said.

US officials, who will hand over sovereignty to Iraq's new government on 30 June, say they have steered clear of direct negotiation with Sadr and are still insisting that he gives himself up to face a murder charge and disband his force fully.

Sadr, a firebrand young preacher, has come under pressure from the Shiite religious and political establishment to end the standoff and to pull his fighters out of Najaf's holy shrines, where he has sought sanctuary from the US-led forces. — MNA/Reuters

US Congress moves to put limits on Iraq funds

WASHINGTON, 3 June — US lawmakers voted overwhelmingly on Wednesday to put controls on the 25-billion-US-dollar reserve fund the Bush Administration wants for the Iraq conflict after lawmakers from both parties criticized it for seeking a "blank cheque".

The Senate, debating a bill that authorizes Defence Department programmes, unanimously passed an amendment backing the reserve fund for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan but broke it into a number of accounts, with tight controls on shifting money and requiring monthly reports on the spending.

The Senate plan, which passed 95-0, would give the White House control over 2.5 billion US dollars from the fund, instead of the discretion over the entire fund it sought.

The Senate has not yet taken up the defence appropriations bill that would provide money for the reserve fund, but this vote put senators on record on the issue.

Joel Kaplan, deputy director of the White

House Office of Management and Budget, backed the Senate plan which he said "strikes a good balance between Congress' legitimate oversight responsibilities and the flexibility the Department of Defence needs to make sure our commanders in the field have what they need when they need it".

Meanwhile an Appropriations subcommittee of the US House of Representatives approved a defence spending bill for next fiscal year that breaks the 25 billion US dollars into 22 separate accounts and demands detailed reporting of how the money is used. It provides a one-billion-US-dollar discretionary fund, and leeway to shift another two billion US dollars with congressional oversight.

MNA/Reuters



An Iraqi man sits on the ground, upset that he was not allowed by the US military to visit his relative held inside the Abu Ghraib prison outside of Baghdad, on 3 June, 2004.

INTERNET

New and fast developments throughout Myanmar



A tubewell was opened in Yone village, Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Division, to supply potable water to rural people.—PBANRDA



Under the programme for better transportation in rural areas, Sankin-Kalawthaw gravelled road was opened in Danubyu Township, Ayeyawady Division.—PBANRDA

Border and rural area developments



Development infrastructures have been built throughout the country. The above photo shows a section on ChaungU-Kalay railroad.—KYEMON



Heavy machinery at work on Matupi-Mindat road at Pakokku-Mindat-Matupi road extension project.—MNA



Auto-exchange station built in Panglong region, Loilem District, Shan State (South).—KYEMON



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra hold special meeting at State House.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra pose for documentary photo at Ivory Room.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra take salute of Guard of Honour.—MNA



Thai Deputy Prime Minister General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh welcomes Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at Don Muang International Airport.— MNA



Thai Deputy Prime Minister General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh presents souvenir to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.— MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party enjoy Thai traditional dances at the luncheon hosted by Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra.— MNA



Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin ... (from page 1)

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was accorded a 19-gun-salute. General Khin Nyunt and party were welcomed there by Thai Deputy Prime Minister General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Thai Minister of Defence General Chetta Thanajaro, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and senior officers in addition to the Guard of Honour. Next, a Myanmar young lady presented a bouquet to General Khin Nyunt.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party were also welcomed there by the wife of Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint, Military Attaché Col Ko Ko Maung

and wife, staff and families of the Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché's Office. General Khin Nyunt and party stopped for a while at the lounge of the airport.

Accompanied by Thai Minister of Defence General Chetta Thanajaro, General Khin Nyunt and party went to the State House in a motorcade to attend the welcoming ceremony held by the Thai Prime Minister.

Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra cordially welcomed Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. The two Prime Ministers took the salute of the Guard of Honour of the Royal Thai Army from the dais on the lawns of Thai Koo Fah Building. Meanwhile, the State Band played national anthems of both countries. Next, the two prime ministers

inspected the Guard of Honour. Afterwards, the Thai Prime Minister presented the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Chief the Secretary, the Supreme Commander of Thai Armed Forces, the commander-in-chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Force, and the Chief of Thai Police Force, who included in the welcoming party, to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. Similarly, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented the ministers, deputy ministers and senior officers to the Thai Prime Minister. Next, General Khin Nyunt greeted diplomats of foreign missions in Thailand who attended the welcoming ceremony. Later, General Khin Nyunt and Dr Thaksin Shinawatra had documentary photos taken at the Ivory Room of the State House.— MNA

Myanmar and Thai Prime Ministers ...

(from page 16)

Minister of Commerce Mr Watana Muangsook, Minister of Home Affairs Mr Bhokin Bhalakula, Minister of Labour Mrs Uraivan Thienthong, Minister of Public Health Mrs Sudarat Keyuraphan, Minister of Industry Mr Pinij Jarucombat, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Suphot Dhirakaosal and senior officials of the host country were also present. The two Prime Ministers discussed matters relating to bilateral relations and cooperation, economic cooperation based on common interest, bilateral cooperation programme of the Ayeyawady, Chao Phraya, Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy laid down by the Bagan Summit held in November 2003, promotion of mutual cooperation in trade and investment, agricultural, fisheries, industrial, energy, electricity, road and transport and tourism sectors, Dawei region development project, human resources development, and narcotic drugs elimination.

Accompanied by Thai Prime Minister, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and delegation proceeded to the Santi Maitri building of the Government House. In the Yellow Room, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt signed in the distinguished visitors' book. The two Prime Ministers exchanged gifts. The Thai Prime Minister hosted a luncheon in honour of the Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt in the Blue Room of the Government House. Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister U Aung Thuang, Minister U Win Aung, Minister Col Tin Hlaing, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Deputy Minister U Tint Swe, Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung, Ambassador U Myo Myint and heads of department were also present. Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand General Thamarak Isarangur, ministers, deputy ministers and the Thai ambassador to Myanmar also attended the luncheon. Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra toasted the health of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing; and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit. The State Band played the national anthems of the two countries. The two Prime Ministers made speeches. Thai traditional dances were performed at the luncheon. After the luncheon, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented a banquet for the Thai traditional dance troupe through its leader.

The Myanmar Prime Minister and delegation then left for Shangri-La Hotel, and from there, they proceeded to the airport in a motorcade. Staff and families of the Myanmar Embassy saw them off at the hotel. At the VIP Lounge, Thai Deputy Prime Minister General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh presented a souvenir to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. The Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt were seen off at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh and party, Myanmar Ambassador U Myo Myint, Military Attaché Col Ko Ko Maung and staff of the Myanmar Embassy and Military Attaché's Office. They left Thailand at 4.15 pm local time, and arrived back here at 4.35 pm Myanmar standard time.

During the visit, Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin discussed with officials of Thai Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives cooperation in cultivation of high-yield soyer bean, custard and corn. Minister U Aung Thuang met with his Thai counterpart Mr Pinij



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets families of Myanmar Embassy.—MNA

Jarucombat and held talks on bilateral promotion in the industrial sector. Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and Thai Deputy Minister of Commerce Pongsak Ruktapongpisal discussed tourism promotion. Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi held talks with President of Thai PTTEPI Mr Maroot Mrigadat and party on matters concerning the increase in the Thai investment in the Myanmar energy sector. Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut also met with his Thai Deputy Minister of Energy Mr Viset Choopiban and discussed cooperation in generating hydroelectric power. —MNA

Development Centre for Pharmaceutical Technology inspected

YANGON, 4 June—Vice-Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win inspected functions of Development Centre for Pharmaceutical Technology and Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory under Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1 this afternoon.

Accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win arrived at the Development Centre for Pharmaceutical Technology in Insein Township where they were welcomed by Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, Managing Director U Myint Oo of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries and officials. In the briefing hall, Deputy Minister for Industry-1 Brig-Gen Kyaw Win reported on location and area of the centre, purposes of establishment, medical research, fermentation research works, research tasks of herbal plants, methodological research and quality control. After giving necessary instructions, the Secretary-1 saw over medicines produced by various units and industrial use micro-organism. The Secretary-1 and party inspected test-running of tablets and vaccine production. Director of the centre Dr Myo Myint and officials conducted the Secretary-1 and party round there. Next, they looked into the pharmacognosy lab and fermentation unit.

On arrival at Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Win reported on medicine production, availability of raw materials and sale and distribution of the factory. Next, the Secretary-1 and party inspected production units and sample products. At the quality control unit, the Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions to officials. The Development Centre for Pharmaceutical Technology was established on 1 March 1982 so as to conduct pharmaceutical and research works with a view to producing medicines with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) system. The centre is undertaking four units of preparation research unit, fermentation research unit, herbal plants research unit and techniques research unit and quality control unit.

The centre handed over the formulas of medicine to Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory. The factory also manufactures and distributes a large amount of the medicines with the permission of the Ministry of Health. Nowadays, the factory manufactures tablet, capsule, liquid, lotion, powder, vaccine and other forms of medicines. It produces 173 kinds of modern medicine and 11 kinds of traditional medicine, totalling 184, till 1997. With efforts of technicians and workers, the factory is taking innovative measures and it produces 200 kinds of medicines—184 items of western medicines and 16 items of traditional medicine.—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects the lab of Development Centre for Pharmaceutical Technology.—MNA

National Convention Convening Work Committee and Management Committee meet

YANGON, 4 June—A work coordination meeting between the National Convention Convening Work Committee and the Management Committee took place at the meeting hall of Anawrahta Yeiktha of Nyaungnapin Camp, Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of NCCC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and commission members, Chairman of National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and work committee members, Chairman of National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and management committee members.

Joint-Secretary-2 of NCCC Director-General of Pyithu Hluttaw Office U Myint Thein acted as mater of ceremonies.

NCCC Chairman Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein gave instructions on making concerted efforts for successful holding of the National Convention, providing assistance to the delegates in their compiling and reading papers and welfare of the delegates.

Next, Secretary of NCCC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan reported on measures being taken to see to the suggestions of delegates keeping pace with the times, presenting special entertainment programmes



NCCC Chairman Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses coordination meeting of NCCWC and NCCMC.—MNA

to the delegates and opening of book shops and book renting shops for the delegates.

Afterwards, Chairman of the Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe reported on matters related to compiling and reading of papers group-wise by the delegates. Next, Chairman of the Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung reported on arrangements being made for the delegates who want to

visit pagodas.

Next, leaders of supporting groups reported on assistance provided for compiling and reading of papers group-wise. This was followed by a general round of discussions. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by NCCC Chairman Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

MNA



Group discussions of national race delegates group in progress at Nyaungnabin Camp. — MNA

Group discussions of NC delegates, coord meetings of panel of chairmen continue

YANGON, 4 June—The proposals presentation of delegate groups of national races, peasants, State service personnel and representatives-elect and coordination meeting of delegate groups of workers and other invited persons were held at the designated meeting halls, Nyaungnabin Camp, in Hmawby Township this morning and afternoon.

Present on the occasions were members of the panel of chairmen and delegates to the National Convention.

Delegate Group of Representatives-elect

The Delegate Group of Representatives-elect held its group discussions at the meeting hall-2 at 10 am today. U Law Hsin Kwam of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party presided over the discussions together with U San Tha Aung of Mro (or) Khami National

Solidarity Organization and U Yaw Aye Hla of Lahu National Development Party. Deputy Director U Maung Maung Phyu Tint and Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Nwe of the working group-4 of the National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as master and co-master of ceremonies. First, the emcee announced the start of the meeting with the permission of the chairman as there were 86.67 per cent of the delegates. Next, Chairman U Law Hsin Kwam gave a speech.

Independent Representatives-elect U Kyi Win of Mingaladon Township Constituency No 1 and U Tin Win of Kyaiklat Township Constituency No 2 read out the combined proposal of Independent Representatives-elect U Kyi Win of Mingaladon Township Constituency No 1, U Tin Tun Maung of

Mingaladon Township Constituency No 2, U Tin Win of Kyaiklat Township Constituency No 2, U Thein Kyi of Taungdwingyi Township Constituency No 1, U Hla Soe of Minbu Township Constituency No 2 and U Mya Hlaing of Twantay Township Constituency No 2 concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of power in legislative, executive and judicial sectors to be included in drawing the State Constitution clarified by the National Convention Convening Work Committee. Next, the chairman gave the concluding remarks and the meeting adjourned at 11.14 am.

Delegate Group of National Races

The proposals presentation ceremony of the Delegate Group of National Races was held at the Pyidaungsu Hall at 9 am. U

Mya Sein of Mandalay Division, together with Duwa Zok Dong of Shan State (North) and U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Taninthayi Division presided over the ceremony. Deputy Director U Thein Tun and Assistant Director U Than Tun of the working group-5 acted as masters of ceremonies.

The master of ceremonies announced the start of the meeting with the permission of the chairman as there were 610 delegates out of 633 listed accounting for 96.37 per cent.

Alternate Chairman U Mya Sein of Mandalay Division gave an opening speech.

U Saw Hu Hu and Daw Mary Yang of Kayah State and U Aung Lin Hlaing and U Kin Sein of Taninthayi Division submitted the proposals of the delegates of national races concerning detailed basic principles to

be laid down for sharing of power in legislative, executive and judicial sectors to be included in drawing the State Constitution clarified by the NCCWC.

Afterwards, U Ein Lin and U Aung Myint Thein of Magway Division and U Kyin Pe and Daw Myint Myint Kyu of Mon State read out the proposals. Later, they handed over their proposals to the chairman.

The discussions chairman gave the concluding remarks and the meeting came to an end in the afternoon. The remaining proposals of the group will be read out at 9 am on 7 June.

Delegate Group of Peasants

The Delegate Group of Peasants held its group discussions at the meeting hall-4 at 9 am. U Tin Maung Kyaw of Magway Division presided over the discussions together with U Mya Aye of Yangon Division and U Kan Nyunt of Sagaing Division. Deputy Director U Myint Thein and Assistant Director U Myint Kyaw of the working group-6 acted as masters of ceremonies.

First, the master of ceremonies announced the start of the meeting with the permission of the chairman as there were 91 delegates out of 93 listed accounting for 97.85 per cent. Next, Chairman U Tin Maung Kyaw of Magway Division delivered an address.

Afterwards, U Chit Than of Sagaing Division read out the proposal compiled by the delegates of Sagaing Division and Kayin State concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of power in legislative, executive and judicial sectors to be included in drawing the State Constitution clarified by the NCCWC; U Maung Lwin of Taninthayi Division, the proposal of Taninthayi Division; and U Aye Kyu of Magway Division, the proposal of Magway Division; U Tin Shein and U Kyaw Myint of Mon

State, the proposal of Mon State. Next, the discussions were recessed at 11.05 am.

At 1 pm, U Kappati El of Chin State presented the proposal submitted by Chin State; U Hla Ngwe of Mandalay Division, the proposal of Mandalay Division; and U Aung Thein Tun of Ayeyawady Division, the proposal of Ayeyawady Division. Later, the chairman gave the concluding remarks and the discussions adjourned in the evening.

Delegate Group of Workers

The panel of chairmen of the Delegate Group of Workers and leaders of the proposal compilation groups met at the meeting hall-5 at 8.30 am.

Present on the occasion were members of the panel of chairmen Dr Myo Thant Tin of Yangon Division, U Kyaw Myo Win of Bago Division, U Bo Thein of Shan State (East), U Khin Maung Aye of Sagaing Division and U Kyaw Win Tun of Mandalay Division and leaders of the proposal compilation groups. They discussed compilation of the proposal of their group to be submitted to the plenary meeting of the National Convention.

Delegate Group of State Service Personnel

The Delegate Group of State Service Personnel held the group discussions at the meeting hall-7 at 9 am.

U Arnt Maung of the Ministry of Religious Affairs presided over the discussions together with Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence and U Ko Ko Kyaw of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Deputy Director U Htay Win and Assistant Director U Htein Min of the working group-9 acted as emcee and co-emcee.

First, the emcee announced the start of the meeting with the permission of the chairman as there were 104 delegates out of 109 listed accounting for 95.41 per cent.

Alternate Chair-man U Arnt Maung gave an opening speech.

(See page 11)



Group discussions of representatives-elect delegates group in progress at Nyaungnabin Camp. — MNA



Group discussions of State service personnel delegates group in progress at Nyaungnabin Camp. — MNA



Group discussions of peasant delegates group in progress at Nyaungnabin Camp. — MNA



Our Blue Planet

Yin Yin Lay

Astronauts who have seen the Earth from the outer space have described it as a blue planet, a reflection of the seas and oceans that cover seventy percent of the Earth's surface. A scientist once jokingly remarked that our planet shouldn't be called "Earth" as it is a water planet.

This year's World Environment Day theme "Wanted! Seas and Oceans: Dead or Alive?" is a caution to all of us that our oceans and seas must be protected as they are increasingly being threatened by humans' reckless actions.

There is a stark contrast between the state of being dead and that of being alive. When something dies, then all the systems that it comprises also cease to function. Similarly, when a sea or an ocean dies, its ecosystems will no longer provide useful ecological services. Fish cannot live in a dead sea. Sea mammals cannot survive and corals and plants cannot grow in dead waters. Pollution and the overloading of wastes can choke seas and oceans to death.

In connection with this year's theme, the United Nations Environment Programme has identified fifty key facts about seas oceans. Some important facts that should be noted include.

- * Death and disease caused by polluted coastal waters costs the global economy US\$ 12.8 billion a year.
- The annual economic impact of hepatitis from tainted seafood alone is US\$ 7.2 billion.
- * Plastic waste kills up to 1 million sea birds, 100,000 sea mammals and countless fish each year.
- * Sea creatures are killed by plastic decompose, not by the plastic. Plastic remains in the ecosystem to kill again and again.
- * Harmful algal blooms, caused by an excess of nutrients—mainly nitrogen from agricultural fertilizers—have created nearly 150 coastal deoxygenated 'dead zones' worldwide, ranging from 1 to 70,000 square kilometers.
- * An estimated 21 million barrels of oil run into the oceans each year from street run-off, effluent from factories, and from ships flushing their tanks.
- * Over the past decade, an average of 600,000 barrels of oil a year has been accidentally spilled from ships, the equivalent of 12 disasters the size of the sinking of the oil tanker Prestige in 2002.
- * Pollution, exotic species and alteration of coastal habitats are a growing threat to important marine ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs.
- * Nearly 60 per cent of the world's remaining reefs are at significant risk of being lost in the next three decades.
- * The major causes for coral reef decline are coastal development, sedimentation, destructive fishing practices, pollution, tourism and global warming.
- * Artisanal fishing communities, who harvest half the world's fish catch, are seeing their livelihoods increasingly threatened by illegal, unregulated or subsidized commercial fleets.
- * More than 70 per cent of the world's marine fisheries are now fished up to or beyond their sustainable limit.

- * Populations of commercially attractive large fish, such as tuna, cod, swordfish and marlin, have declined by as much as 90 per cent in the past century.
- * Destructive fishing practices are killing hundreds of thousands of marine species each year and helping destroy important undersea habitats.
- * Each year, illegal longline fishing, which involve lines up to 80 miles long, with thousands of baited hooks, kills over 300,000 seabirds, including 100,000 albatrosses.
- * As many as 100 million sharks are killed each year for their meat and fins, which are used for shark fin soup. Hunters typically catch sharks, defin them alive and throw them back into the ocean, where they either drown or bleed to death.

Although much of the Earth is covered with oceans, there are many nations that are land-locked with no direct access to seas. Our country is fortunate in that it is bounded by the Andaman Sea in the South and by the Bay of Bengal in the South West. There are rich resources in our seas including many species of fish, sea mammals and corals. Mangrove forests can be found along the Rakhine coast, Ayeyawady delta region and along the Taninthayi coast. There are many beautiful beaches such as Ngapali, Ngwe Hsaung, Chaungtha and Moungmakan, which are unspoilt and in pristine condition.

In order to protect the marine environment, the government has established sanctuaries and a marine park in the country. These are Thamehla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary in the Ayeyawady Division to protect marine turtles; Meinhahla Kyun Wildlife Sanctuary to protect mangroves, crocodiles and sea birds, and Lampi Island Marine National Park to protect coral reefs and other marine life. The government has also issued an order recently, whereby an area between the Don island and Lampi island in Myeik Archipelago is established as Shark Protected Zone, where catching sharks is prohibited. A special task force has also been formed under the Environmental Conservation Committee to protect and conserve the coastal environment.

Myanmar is also a party to several international environmental conventions for protecting seas and oceans. Myanmar acceded to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships in 1978 and the Protocol of this convention in 1988. Myanmar has also ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1996 and has acceded to the Agreement Relating to the Implementation of Part XI of this Convention also in 1996. The Declaration on ASEAN Heritage Park was signed by the 10 ASEAN countries at the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment held in Yangon in December 2003. The Lampi Island Marine National Park is included as one of the ASEAN Heritage Sites.

No one wants to see dead seas and oceans. We need not wish for a better place if we can keep our oceans and seas alive.


Group discussions of ...

(from page 10)

Next, the delegates submitted proposals concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of power as to legislative, executive and judicial sectors to be included in drawing the State Constitution clarified by the NCCWC. In so doing, U Kyin Maung of the Ministry of Construction read out the proposal on defence and security sector and the foreign affairs sector; U Than Nyunt of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue, the proposal on finance and planning sector; U Yan Naing of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the proposal on economic sector; and Dr Daw Swe Swe Aye of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the proposal on agriculture and livestock



The panel of chairmen of other invited persons delegate group meets. — MNA

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ဝင်လယ်နှင့်သမုဒ္ဒရာများ အပျက်လော၊ အကောင်းလော
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- * Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- * Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- * Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

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

Efficient use of fuel

- * Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- * Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US\$ 5.5 million in a year
- * The amount, US \$ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River

All this needs to be known

- * Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- * Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- * Do not be softened whenever appeased

Discussions of the panel of chairmen of workers delegate group in progress. — MNA



breeding sector. The alternate chairman gave concluding remarks and the discussions were adjourned at 1.55 pm. The remaining proposals of the Delegate Group of State Service Personnel will be submitted at 9 am on 7 June.

Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons

The panel of chairmen of the Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons held discussions at the meeting hall-8 at 9 am. Present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman U Sai Aung Tun of Myanmar History Commission, U Aung Hkam Hti of Shan State (South) Special Region-6, Dr Manan Tu Ja of Kachin State Special Region-2, Secretary U Tun Aung Chein of Myanmar History Committee, U Paw Laik Kham of Shan State (North) Special Region-2, Deputy Director U Aung Kyi and Assistant Director U Win Myint of the working group-10. They discussed matters related to compilation of the proposal to be submitted to the plenary session of the National Convention. — MNA

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စက်ရုံမှ

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV "BAGO" Voy No BG 771/N are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving at Yangon port on 6-6-2004 and will be berthing on about 7-6-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanma Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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Kazakhstan, Estonia to strengthen cooperation

ALMA ATA, 3 June — The leaders of Kazakhstan and Estonia agreed Wednesday to step up cooperation between their countries in the fight against terrorism and organized crimes, said a government news release from the Kazakh capital Astana.

Kazakh President Nursultan Abishevich Nazarbayev met with his Estonian counterpart Arnold Fyodorovich Ruutel on Wednesday. Both of them believed that strengthening cooperation in the fight against terrorism, illegal immigration, drug smuggling and other organized crimes will be in the interests of both countries. — MNA/Xinhua

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Survey shows US visa delays have cost \$30b

WASHINGTON, 3 June — Persistent problems in US Government handling of visas for foreign business travellers have cost US exporters more than 30 billion dollars in revenue and indirect costs since July 2002, according to a study released on Wednesday. The survey released by the US National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC) found a loss of 25 billion dollars in direct business losses and another 5 billion dollars in indirect losses between July 2002 and June 2004.

The report highlighted the problems faced by US companies as a result of tightened visa requirements imposed in the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorism attacks in the United States. The survey indicated that, though a wide range of US businesses have been financially affected by visa backlogs, small- to medium-sized exporters experience disproportionately severe losses. — MNA/Xinhua

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Norway cracks down on bullying at work

OSLO, 3 June—Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik said on Tuesday he hopes a new campaign to reduce bullying at work will reduce one of Europe's highest rates of sick leave.

Unions and employer groups will lead the drive against teasing and harassment in a campaign costing an initial 150,000 US dollars to help combat job-related psychological problems.

"Five per cent of the workforce say they are bullied at work," Bondevik told Reuters from the sidelines of the campaign's presentation.

The Norwegian Prime Minister has often promoted openness about psychological problems since he took three weeks off work in 1998 due to depression.

Project manager Hanne Luthen urged cooperation and dialogue to prevent psychological problems as well

as methods such as installing brighter lights in the winter darkness to help relieve depression caused by seasonal change.

"We want less focus on fluorescent lighting and more on how we are interacting with each other," Luthen told Reuters.

Norway's main employers group NHO, a key player in the anti-bullying campaign, also fears that Norway's generous welfare makes it tempting to skive off work.

Workers in Norway begged off sick on average of 8.5 per cent of the time in the fourth quarter of 2003, up from 7.8 per cent a year earlier.

Rich from North Sea oil, Norway has a wide-reaching social welfare system based on an egalitarian theory that the unemployed should have about the same living standard as those holding jobs. Norway is the world's number three oil exporter.

MNA/Reuters

Beckham's "other woman" gets the boot from TV show

AMSTERDAM, 3 June—The woman who said she had an affair with football star David Beckham has lost her job as a television presenter after just two weeks, after failing to boost the ratings of a Dutch showbiz programme.

Dutch private broadcaster SBS 6 hired Beckham's former personal assistant Rebecca Loos as a presenter last month when she was at the centre of a tabloid frenzy after claiming she had a fling with the England football captain.

Beckham has publicly dismissed as ludicrous reports he had an affair with and sent raunchy text messages to Loos.

"We thought that she just wasn't made to be a presenter. She didn't have the necessary skills," the station's spokesman said on Wednesday.

The spokesman dismissed media reports that the 26-year-old Dutch diplomat's daughter lost her job in part because of her heavy English accent.

SBS said Loos's contract had not been a ploy to land the only Dutch television interview with her last month. Loos was reported to have been paid a six-figure sum for her story by British media outlets. — MNA/Reuters

**Drive
safely**

Rainstorm death toll rises to 400 in Dominican Republic

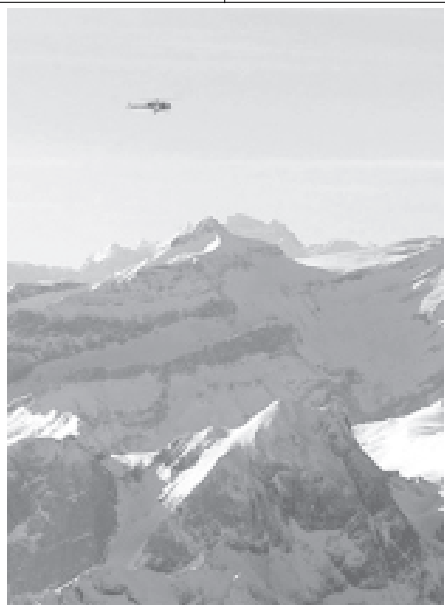
HAVANA, 3 June — The rainstorms that hit the Dominican Republic have killed at least 414 people, the country's Emergency Operations Centre (COE) said Wednesday.

As many as 225 of the 393 people killed in the overflow of a river in the southwestern city of Jimani bordering Haiti have been identified, the COE added.

According to the reports reaching here from Santo Domingo, capital of the Dominican Republic, over 1,000 victims were receiving national and international aid.

The Dominican Government has ordered the building of 300 houses at Jimani and declared the region a disaster zone, where the rainstorms completely destroyed more than 200 houses and left hundreds of families homeless.

A river originated in neighbouring Haiti overflowed in the early morning of 24 May because of the heavy rains that fell in the area. — MNA/Xinhua



A helicopter flies over the Swiss Alps. Heavy rainfall in the Swiss Alps triggered flood warnings in Switzerland and forced authorities to stop barge traffic on the Swiss portion of the river Rhine. — INTERNET

FBI issues alert for two stolen propane tanker trucks

WASHINGTON, 3 June—FBI agents in the southern US state of Texas issued a nationwide alert on Tuesday for two stolen propane tanker trucks in fear that the trucks or the propane could be used as a bomb.

A gas company at San Antonio discovered the trucks, each carrying thousands of gallons of propane, had been stolen after employees returned from the Memorial Day holiday week-

end, the CNN said.

FBI Agent Patrick Patterson said at a news conference that the FBI was concerned about the tankers because propane is one of the elements that terrorists have

been trained on.

But Patterson said there was no indication that the theft was linked to a terrorist plot, adding that propane thefts were common in south Texas. — MNA/Xinhua

Study shows mental illness undertreated globally

WASHINGTON, 3 June—Mental disorders from severe depression to uncontrolled anger are surprisingly common around the world, and most of the worst cases are not being treated, researchers reported on Tuesday.

The biggest concerted study of global mental illness shows that rates vary greatly — with 4.3 per cent of people living in Shanghai showing symptoms of mental disorders in the past year, compared to 26 per cent in the United States.

Even if people are not concealing their histories of mental illness — which many undoubtedly are — the problem is enormous, said Ronald Kessler of Harvard Medical School in Boston, who led the World Health Organization study.

His team's study, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, shows that many people with severe mental disorders are getting no treatment at all, while many others with only mild problems

are being treated.

"It is clear from these results that there is undertreatment of serious disorders," Kessler told a news conference.

More than 60 per cent of people who had serious mental disorders had been treated in Spain and France, and about 50 per cent in Belgium, the United States, Netherlands and Germany.

But fewer than 20 per cent of patients with serious mental illness in Colombia, Mexico, Ukraine and Lebanon had been treated.

In the United States, more rich, suburban patients are being treated for mild mental illnesses than are poor people with serious mental illness, Kessler said.

And 35 per cent of Spaniards with mild mental disor-

ders reported getting treatment and more than 25 per cent in Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands.

Kessler's team includes 100 experts aided by 3,000 interviewers, who are surveying more than 60,000 adults in 14 countries. They include psychiatrists trained to find concealed symptoms of mental illness.

People in some countries were much more likely to report mental disorders such as obsessive compulsive disorder, bulimia, or post traumatic stress disorder, Kessler said.

"We always find rates are highest in the United States. Whether that is true or whether people are more willing to admit it in the United States we don't know," Kessler said.

MNA/Reuters

Chinese athletics team to improve English language

SHIJIAZHUANG (North China), 3 June—The Chinese national track and field team has decided to put more time on their English learning, a top Chinese athletics official said.

"There are more and more international tournaments, where English is always the official language," said Feng Shuyong, head coach of the Chinese athletics team. "If our athletes know nothing about English, it will prevent them from communicating with other athletes or even work against their competition."

Feng said most of the Chinese athletes know nothing about English except one or two words and many are not willing to go abroad alone.

"Actually, due to the language barrier, we really missed chances of international races where we will otherwise gain much more experience," Feng said. He said the athletes will strengthen their English learning step by step.

MNA/Xinhua



Japanese sumo wrestler Chiyotaiaki (C) visits the Great Wall of China on the outskirts of Beijing on 4 June, 2004. A 111-member sumo delegation arrived in the Chinese capital for a two-day performance over the weekend. — INTERNET

Hungary aims for film dollars with big new studio

BUDAPEST, 3 June—Hungary, long an exporter of film talent, wants to attract movie-makers with a giant 150 million euro (184.2 million US dollars) film complex which its backers say will have the biggest studio in the world.

"Film makers are moving to the East," said Hungarian-born Hollywood filmmaker Andrew Vajna, a co-sponsor of the project, and producer of "Evita", the "Terminator" and the "Rambo" series.

The complex will be named after Sandor Korda, who became Britain's first movie mogul as Sir Alexander Korda and taps a tradition which includes Mihaly Kertesz, later better known

as "Casablanca" director Michael Curtiz and Dracula star Bela Lugosi.

While film-makers are drawn to eastern Europe by lower production costs, Hungary has been left behind by Prague and Bucharest in the battle to attract film dollars.

The new complex, to be built in Etyek, 16 miles from the Hungarian capital Budapest, will be completed by 2005 and will cover 26.1 acres. — MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Ireland beat Jamaica 1-0 in international friendly

LONDON, 3 June — A first-half goal from Coventry City's Graham Barrett helped Ireland to a 1-0 victory over Jamaica on Wednesday in the final match of the three-nations Unity Cup international friendly tournament.

In a lively first half, Barrett pounced on a mishit clearance from Jamaica defender Damien Stewart to put Ireland ahead in the 27th-minute with a right-footed shot that spun across goalkeeper Donovan Ricketts and into the far corner.

Jamaica, who were beaten 2-0 by Nigeria on Monday in the tournament at Premier League club Charlton Athletic's south-London ground, played with fluidity in the first half, but were unable to convert their chances.

Both goalkeepers had a quiet second half as shots were reduced to long-distance efforts, though Jamaica's Garfield Reid came closest to scoring when his blast from the edge of the box skimmed just over the bar. Nigeria, who beat Ireland 3-0 on Saturday, won the tournament.

MNA/Reuters



Radamel Falcao Garcia of Colombia, left, and Bekir Irtegun of Turkey battle for the ball during their match for the Under-21 Toulon soccer tournament in Toulon, southern France, on 3 June, 2004. —INTERNET

Turkey beat South Korea 1-0 in soccer friendly

SEOUL, June — Despite a desperate second-half onslaught, there was disappointment for South Korea as they were defeated by their Turkish counterparts at Seoul World Cup Stadium Wednesday evening.

Hakan Sukur, who scored his only goal in the 2002 World Cup against South Korea, was once again his hosts' undoing with a decisive strike midway through the first half.

It was billed as a celebration of South Korea's performance in June 2002. Their opening at least was an improvement on the last meeting between the two sides, when Turkey took the lead 11 seconds into the World Cup third-place playoff. Nihat Kahveci did give the home fans a scare in the second minute with a spectacular effort from just outside the area, but the Real Sociedad player was unable to keep his volley down. The frenetic pace was maintained, but it

was South Korea who had the best of the early period, and the threat posed by Cho Byung-kuk at setpieces was underlined as the centre-half came close with headers from a Lee Eul-yong free-kick and a Chung Kyung-ho corner.

Turkey's confidence on the ball and ability to pick out passes gained them the upper hand, however, with Hasan Sas and Nihat a constant danger. The movement of the Turkish midfield and forwards repeatedly caught the sluggish South Korean defence flat-footed, with the central pairing of Cho Byung-kuk and Choi Jin-cheul unable to keep track of the runs being made.

MNA/Reuters

US beats Honduras 4-0 in soccer friendly

WASHINGTON, 3 June — Brian McBride scored twice as the United States routed Honduras 4-0 in a soccer friendly international in Foxboro, Massachusetts on Wednesday.

McBride, who plays for Fulham in the English premier league, opened the scoring in the 22nd minute with a header off a cross from Steve Cherundolo, and netted again 15 minutes later with a left-footer to beat goalkeeper Hector Medina.

Honduras went down to 10 men in the 39th minute when Amado Guevara was sent off for a foul against DaMarcus Beasley.

Eddie Lewis made the hosts 3-0 in the 77th minute from a goalmouth meleé, and Tony Sanneh headed in the last with nine minutes left. — MNA/Xinhua

Italy stay on course for Olympic spot

BERLIN, 3 June — Italy stayed on course for an Olympic spot by holding on with 10 men for a 1-0 victory over Croatia at the European Under-21 championship on Tuesday. Midfielder Daniele de Rossi hit the winner for Italy 22 minutes into the game in Bochum.

Italy, the winners of four of the last six editions of the tournament, defended their lead despite having striker Simone del Nero sent off for a second bookable offence in the 62nd minute.

The Italians win Group A and advance to the last four. The top two teams from each group of four go into the semifinals.

The two finalists and the winners of the third-place playoff qualify for the Olympics in Athens in August. — MNA/Reuters

Germany beat Swiss in combative Euro warm-up

BASEL (Switzerland), 3 June — Germany extended their long unbeaten run against Switzerland to 16 games when they beat them 2-0 in a combative, high-tempo Euro 2004 warm-up on Wednesday.

The Germans, embarrassed and beaten 5-1 by Romania in April, had not lost to the Swiss since 1956 and needed a confidence-boosting result to lift them in their final preparations for the Euro tournament in Portugal.

Two simple goals by lanky striker Kevin Kuranyi separated the teams as the Swiss, who will also be at Euro 2004, failed to mark striker Stephane Chapuisat's 100th appearance with a memorable result.

Kuranyi struck his first after a misdirected header by Swiss defender Bernt Haas flew across his own goal to Miroslav Klose. His low cross gave Kuranyi an easy volley past the unimpressive Joerg Stiel from 10 metres.

Kuranyi's second came during a rash of substitutions when he headed in unchallenged from a cross by Arne Friedrich with six minutes remaining.

The goals took his international tally to

four in 12 appearances.

Chapuisat was given a standing ovation at the start when he was introduced to the crowd as captain for the night, but it was to be his most telling contribution as both sides made the most of a wet, slippery surface to produce a series of heavy challenges.

As a result, the game was littered with stoppages and errors, with neither side producing a performance that would worry their group rivals in Portugal.

"It was clear that both teams are preparing for Euro 2004," Germany captain Oliver Kahn told German television.

"There were phases during which we lacked fitness. In the first half we had a few problems but overall we can be satisfied. We can build on this."

Germany's best chance in the first half came when Switzerland's Murat Yakin almost headed into his own net, Stiel diving to tip his header over the bar. — MNA/Xinhua

Chile, Peru back in World Cup hunt

RIO DE JANEIRO, 3 June — Bolivia, Chile and Peru put themselves back in the hunt for places at the 2006 World Cup finals with qualifying victories on Tuesday. The results left Chile and Paraguay with 10 points from six games, Venezuela with nine, Peru eight, Uruguay seven and Bolivia six.

Argentina, who lead the qualifying table with 11 points from five games, meet Brazil, who have nine, in Belo Horizonte on Wednesday while Ecuador and Colombia, both on four points, clash in Quito.

The top four teams qualify directly for the World Cup and the fifth play offs against the Oceania region winners. Venezuela, who had enjoyed an unprecedented run of wins, were brought down to earth on a wet night in San Cristobal. They dominated the match, failed to break through Chile's defence and fell victim to a brilliantly-taken 84th minute goal by halftime substitute Mauricio Pinilla. Uruguay's defeat against Venezuela cost flamboyant coach Juan Ramon Carrasco his job but debutant Jorge Fossati fared little better on Tuesday. The hosts made a bright start but were knocked off course by Nolberto Solano's curling free kick for Peru in the 12th minute.

Claudio Pizarro scored on the break seven minutes later, then Uruguay had defender Gonzalo Sorondo sent off for hacking down, treading on and spitting at Roberto Palacios.

MNA/Reuters

Valencia shareholder calls for Ranieri return

MADRID, 3 June — Valencia's leading shareholder Francisco Roig has called for the board's resignation following Rafa Benitez' decision to quit as club coach, saying he has lined up former boss Claudio Ranieri as a replacement.

An outspoken opponent of the board, Roig does not have a majority shareholding nor does he have the power to appoint a new coach on his own. However, he remains a highly influential figure at the club.

"I am disappointed that the incompetence and poor management of the board...have meant that the most successful coach in the history of the club has been forced to leave," Roig said in a statement on Tuesday.

Benitez, who guided Valencia to triumph in the Primera Liga and UEFA Cup this season, resigned earlier on Tuesday, saying events at the club had undermined his personal morale and willingness to continue.

Roig, a former club president, said the board's failure to put together a convincing plan for future development had prompted Benitez' decision.

"This all comes about because of the differences that have emerged over the course of the last year and because of the total absence of a solid sporting project," he said.

Roig, who leads the main opposition group to president Jaime Orti, said he had spoken to Ranieri who "showed a strong desire to return to Valencia as soon as he has resolved his contractual situation with Chelsea". — MNA/Reuters



Sailing boats of the 470 series are seen during the first heat of the European Championships at the Baltic Sea coast off Warnemuende, eastern Germany, on 3 June, 2004. The Championships last through 10 June and are one of the last qualifications for the upcoming Olympic Games in Athens. — INTERNET

Myanmar Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt pays a working visit to Thailand at the invitation of Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra



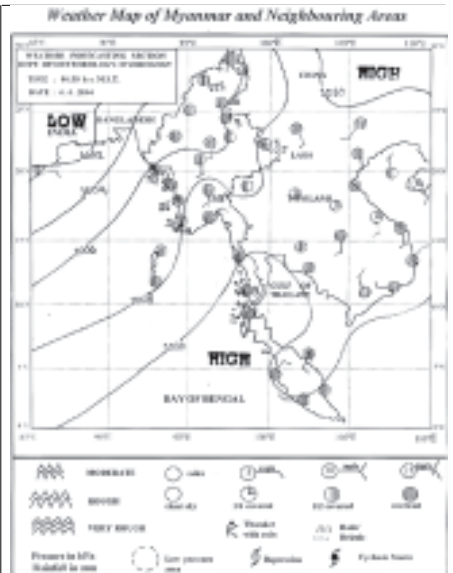
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt signs in the visitors' book at Yellow Room.— MNA



A Myanmar lady presents a bouquet to Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at Don Muang International Airport of Royal Thai Air Force, Bangkok, Thailand.— MNA



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi discusses with President of Thai PTTEPI Mr Maroot Mrigadat and party on issues concerning the increase in the Thai investment in the Myanmar energy sector at Shangri-La Hotel. MNA



WEATHER

Friday, 4 June, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in Kayah and Mon States, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in upper Sagaing Division and Rakhine State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Hkamti (8.74) inches, Sittway (4.61) inches, Maungdaw (2.68) inches and Thandwe (2.17) inches.

Maximum temperature on 3-6-2004 was 30.5°C (87°F). Minimum temperature on 4-6-2004 was 21.0°C (70°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 4-6-2004 was 79%. Total sunshine hours on 3-6-2004 was (1.9) hours approx. Rainfall on 4-6-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 523 mm (20.59 inches) at Yangon Airport and 457mm (17.99 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 567mm (22.32 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 6 mph from Southwest at (12:45) hours MST on 3-6-2004.

Bay inference: Monsoon is generally moderate in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 5-6-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in upper Sagaing Division, Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, scattered in Shan, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in upper Sagaing Division, Chin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Increase of thundery conditions in northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-6-2004: One or two rains or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-6-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather outlook for first weekend of June 2004: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Yangon Division and isolated in Mandalay Division.

ဒေါ်တင်မြင့် အသက် (၈၆)နှစ်

(ဦးတိုးလှိုင်-ဒေါ်လှတင်)တို့၏သမီး၊ (မိုးလှ)ကြီးကျော်ညွန့် (၈၉-၃၃၂၁)ကိုးကိုးကျွန်းစည်ရုံးရုံးကော်မတီဥက္ကဋ္ဌ၏ဇနီး၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့ အမှတ် (၇၂) ကောက်သွယ်လမ်း (၂၉)ရပ်ကွက်၊ သုဝဏ္ဏမြို့နယ်နေ ဦးတင်လှိုင် စာတည်းမှူးချုပ်၊ မြန်မာသတင်းစဉ် (ပြည်တွင်း)-ဒေါ်ခင်ကြည်သိန်း၊ ဦးလှဌေး-ဒေါ်စိန်စိန်ညွန့်တို့၏မိခင်၊ မောင်မျိုးညွန့်လှိုင်-မယုယုသော်၊ မောင်အောင်စိုးလင်း-မမသဲလှိုင်၊ မောင်တိုးညွန့်လှိုင်၊ မယဉ်မေအိတို့၏အဘွား၊ မောင်ကောင်းဆက်လှိုင်၏ဘွားဘွားကြီးသည့်(၃-၆-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့ ကြာသပတေးနေ့နံနက် (၉)နာရီတွင် ကွယ်လွန်သွားပါ၍၊ (၅-၆-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့ စနေနေ့ မွန်လွဲ (၁၃၀)နာရီတွင် ရေဝေးသုသာန်သို့ပို့ဆောင်မီးသင်္ဂြိုဟ်မည်ဖြစ်ပါကြောင်း မိတ်ဆွေသင်္ဂဟများအား သိစေအပ်ပါသည်။

နေအိမ်မှကားများ နံနက် (၁၂:၃၀)နာရီတွင် ထွက်ခွာပါမည်။ ကွယ်လွန်သွားရသည့်(၉-၆-၂၀၀၄)ရက်နေ့ ဗုဒ္ဓဟူးနေ့ နံနက်(၇)နာရီမှ (၁၀)နာရီအထိ ရက်လည်ဆွမ်းသွတ်တရားတော်နာယုမည်ဖြစ်ပါ၍ အထက်ပါနေအိမ်သို့ တရားတော်နာကြွရောက်ကြပါရန် ညွှိငယ်သောစိတ်ထားဖြင့် မိတ်ကြားအပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်ရစ်သူ မိသားစု

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

Senior General Than Shwe welcomes back Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt on his return from Thailand

YANGON, 4 June— Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt arrived back here by flight of Myanmar Airways International at 4.35 pm today after paying a working visit to Thailand at the invitation of Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand Dr Thaksin Shinawatra.

The Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, 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, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division



Senior General Than Shwe and party welcome back Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt at Yangon International Airport.— MNA

Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command, ministers, senior military officers, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Singapore Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz and heads of foreign missions in Yangon, the UN Resident Coordinator, the charge d'affaires of the Thai Embassy, officials and departmental heads.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung,

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung and departmental heads also arrived back on the same flight.

MNA

Myanmar and Thai Prime Ministers discuss bilateral relations, economic cooperation

YANGON, 4 June — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra held a special meeting at the Government House in Bangkok, at 10.15 am local standard time today.

General Khin Nyunt was accompanied by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung; and Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Thai Foreign

Affairs Minister Dr Surakiart Sathirathai.

Later, in the Green Room at 11 am local time, Myanmar delegation led by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt held talks with Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra and party.

On the Myanmar side were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen

Nyunt Tin, Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut, Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Myo Myint, Director-General of Government Office U Soe Tint, Director-General of Protocol Department Thura U Aung Htet, Director-General of Political Department U Thaung Tun, Military Attaché Col Ko Maung, and senior officials.

Minister Dr Surakiart Sathirathai, Minister of Defence General Chetta Thanajaro, Minister of Hotels and Sports Mr Sontaya Kunplome, Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives Mr Somsak Thepsuthin, Minister of Transport Mr Suriya Junggrunreangkit, Minister of Energy Mr Prommin Lertsuridej, (See page 9)



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party meet Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra and party.— MNA

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.