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Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspect Kalewa People's Hospital, Sagaing Division on 12 June. — MNA

Prime Minister inspects developments in Sagaing Division

YANGON, 14 June— Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and party and Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye went to Kalewa People's Hospital after attending the inauguration of Myittha Bridge (Kalewa) in Kalewa Township on 12 June.

Head of Township Health Department Dr Tint Shwan reported on rural health care services, lay out plan of Township People's Hospital, strength of health staff, common diseases in the township, treatment, X-ray room and operational equipment and other supplies.

The Prime Minister then fulfilled the require-

ments.

The Prime Minister and party inspected wards, operation theatre, X-ray room and medical store.

They proceeded to Pale in Sagaing Division where they were welcomed by members of Township Peace and Development Council, departmental officials, social organizations and local people. They visited Pale People's Hospital where they were conducted round the wards, medical store, operation theatre, X-ray unit and laboratory by Medical Superintendent Dr Khin Maung. The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements of the hospital. Next, he met members of Township Peace and Development Council, departmental officials, social organizations and local people at Pale Yadana Hall.

Chairman of Pale

Township Peace and Development Council U Htin Kyaw Aye reported on location and area, set-up of the township, the number of houses and households, cultivation of monsoon paddy and cold season crops, local food and edible oil sufficiency, implementation of education and health and regional requirements.

After fulfilling the requirements, the Prime Minister said that during his tour of townships in Sagaing Division in the past he did not reach Pale Township and thus this time he did come to visit the township despite bad weather and fulfilled the requirements on agriculture, livestock breeding, education and health sectors in the township. He said the government provided the regions with necessary assistance for regional devel-

opment and strong economy. He spoke of the need for local people, service personnel, social organization to work hard in unity.

He said local people are to implement regional development tasks in cooperation with government departments. There are some weaknesses in paddy production in the township for local food sufficiency. Therefore all-out efforts are to be made for boosting production of rice, he said.

He said the committees formed are to implement the tasks for local rice sufficiency, rural development, human resource development and greening of environment through collective efforts. He said development of a township and a district means development of the state and division concerned. Making effective use of better founda-

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

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspect chosen site for building of dam near Shwesaye Village, Buddalin, Sagaing Division on 12 June. — MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 15 June, 2004

Development of ASEAN-China economic linkages — great benefit to the people of both areas

Southeast Asia and China represent 1.7 billion consumers with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of two trillion US dollars. Moreover, the two regions are regarded as among the most economic vibrant areas in the world today.

The growth of their economies, as well as increasing purchasing power, have dramatically increased their trade and economic ties.

ASEAN-CCI and China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) share common goals and are working in close cooperation. In the endeavours for the emergence of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area, the private sector, acting in concert with the policy decisions of the ASEAN and Chinese leaders, will serve as the driving engine. Therefore, it is imperative for both sides to strive for the strengthening of both ASEAN-China Private Sector linkages and networking.

The opening ceremony of the Third Annual ASEAN-China Business Council Meeting, the 16th ASEAN-CCI Conference and the 61st Council Meeting were held at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 7 June and it was attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister said, "It is my belief that this important ASEAN-China Business Council Third Meeting will bring forth practical ways and means for further development of the private sector and business in ASEAN and China within the framework and in the context of ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) and this Third Annual Meeting will positively push forward the follow-up measures to the decisions taken at the last Kunming Meeting."

The Union of Myanmar views ASEAN-CCI as an umbrella Chamber of the ASEAN region, representing and advocating regional business interests, facilitating, helping and leading the ASEAN private sector.

At the Summit Meeting in Bali in October, 2003, the ASEAN leaders agreed on the creation of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) to achieve deeper economic integration of the region, as outlined in the Roadmap for Integration of ASEAN (RIA) and Vision 2020.

ASEAN will become a single market and productive base, with a freer flow of goods, services, investment, labour and capital and the functional role of ASEAN-CCI and the ASEAN Business Advisory Council will become all the more significant. The Union of Myanmar fully support the emergence of the ASEAN Economic Community and believes that the development of ASEAN-China economic linkages is of great importance to Southeast Asia and China as it will bring great benefit to the people of both areas.

A&I Minister inspects river water pumping project in Myinmu Township

YANGON, 14 June — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin on 12 June morning arrived Pyawhywa river water pumping project near Pyawh Village in Myinmu Township, Sagaing District. On completion, the project will irrigate 5,000 acres of farm land throughout the year.

Director-General of the Water Resource Utilization Department U Win Shwe

reported to the minister on tasks being carried out to supply irrigation water with the use of river water and underground water, and the implementation of river water pumping projects.

Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin urged the officials concerned to extend the sown acreage of paddy and gave instructions on greening of the region and development of rural areas. — MNA



Alternate Chairman U Tun Yin Law makes a speech at the coordination meeting of the delegate group of political parties. — MNA



Alternate Chairman Duwa Zokedaung makes a speech at the coordination meeting of the delegate group of national races. — MNA

Delegate Groups meeting continues

YANGON, 14 June — The delegate group of political parties and delegate group of national races to the National Convention read out their proposals to be submitted to the plenary meeting of the National Convention and the members of panel of chairmen of delegate group of representatives-elect and proposal papers compilation group held coordination meeting at the designated meeting halls of Nyaungghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning. The members of panel of Chairmen of respective delegate groups and National Convention delegates attended it.

Delegate group of political parties

The delegates group of political parties held its coordination meeting at the meeting hall-1 at 9 am. Alternate Chairman was U Tun Yin Law of National Unity Party and Deputy Director U Khin Maung Phyu of the working

group-5 under the National Convention Convening Work Committee and Assistant Director Daw Yin Yin Than acted as master of ceremonies and co-master of ceremonies. Master of ceremonies announced that the meeting was attended by 93.10 percent of delegates and the meeting started with the permission of the Chairman. Next, the Chairman U Tun Yin Law delivered the opening address.

U Nyipalope of the Wa National Development Party submitted the proposed paper of the party on detailed basic principles that shall be laid down for power-sharing sectors such as legislation, executive and judiciary over the clarification of the National Convention Convening Work Committee and matters related to compilation of papers.

The meeting ended in 9.55 am after the Chairman's

concluding remarks.

Delegate group of National Races

The delegate group of National Races held its coordination meeting at the Union Hall at 10 am. Duwa Zokedaung of Shan State (North) presided over the meeting together with U Man Ohn Maung of Kayin State and U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Tanintharyi Division as members. Deputy Director U Thein Tun of the group-5 under the National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as master of ceremonies and Assistant Director U Than Tun as co-master of ceremonies. The meeting was attended by 612 out of 633 delegates and started as 96.68 percent of delegates were attended it. Alternate Chairman Duwa Zokedaung of Shan State (North) gave an opening speech and the proposals of delegates of national races regarding the power-sharing sector legislation in

to be included in the framing of the constitution to be submitted to the plenary meeting of the National Convention were read by U Khon Kyaw Thu of Shan State, Daw Enbrandwebu of Kachin State, Daw Nan Ohnma Mya of Ayawady Division, Daw Makhin Win of Rakhine State and U Aung Tun of Mandalay Division. Then the meeting ended in the afternoon with concluding remark of the Chairman.

Delegate group of representatives-elect

The delegate group of representatives-elect held its coordination meeting of members of panel of chairmen and resource persons at the meeting hall-2 at 11 am. Present at the meeting were members of panel of chairmen U San Tha Aung of Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization, U Maung Gyi of the Union Pa-O National Party, U Yaw Aye Hla of the Lahu National Development Party, U Law Sin Kwan of the Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, resource persons and Deputy Director U Maung Maung Phyu Tint of the working group-4 under the National Convention Convening Work Committee and Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Nwe. The members of panel of chairmen and resource persons discussed the executive proposal collectively compiled submitted by 6 independent delegates of representatives-elect group on power-sharing sectors such as legislative, and judiciary over the clarification of the National Convention Convening Work Committee and matters related to compilation of papers. The meeting ended at 3pm. — MNA



Delegate group of representatives-elect holds its coordination meeting of members of panel of chairmen and resource persons. — MNA

US warns of increasing threats in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 13 June—Iraqi leaders will face increasing threats of violence as the 30 June transfer of political power nears, Bush administration officials said Sunday after two assassinations in Baghdad.

Iraq Interim President also said tearing down the infamous Abu Ghraib prison, as President Bush has suggested, would be reactionary and a waste of money, and that Saddam Hussein would go on trial in the summer.

Guerillas and Saddam's loyalists are stepping up efforts ahead "to shake the will" of the new government, the US-led coalition and the Iraqi people, Bush's national security adviser said.

"They're not going to succeed," Condoleezza Rice told CNN's "Late Edition".

The weekend assassinations "are very sad events when Iraqi patriots are gunned down by these traitors and by these terrorists," Rice said. "And indeed, there will con-

tinue to be violence, because these are people who have no future in a free Iraq."

Kamal al-Jarah, an Education Ministry official in charge of contacts with foreign countries and the United Nations, was killed Sunday outside his home.

On Saturday, an Iraqi deputy foreign minister, Bassam Salih Kubba, was killed as he was driving to work.

Secretary of State Colin Powell told "Fox News Sunday" that even with US troops and private contractors aiding Iraqi security forces, "It's going to be a dangerous period."

"It's hard to protect an entire government," he said.

Internet

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One US soldier killed, two wounded in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 June—One US soldier was killed and two others wounded in Iraq on Sunday when guerillas attacked their unit with a car bomb and small arms fire, a US military spokeswoman said.

She said the soldiers returned fire when they came under attack at a spot outside Taji, a town just north of the Iraqi capital, wounding one of the attackers. —Internet



An Iraqi militant, loyal to Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, walks through Iraq district of Sadr City on 5 June 2004 during clashes with US troops. — INTERNET

European voters punish ruling parties over Iraq, other grievances

LONDON, 13 June — European voters punished leaders in Britain, Italy and the Netherlands for getting involved in Iraq, but also turned their ire on the war's chief opponents German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and French President Jacques Chirac over local issues, projections showed Sunday.

The 25-country vote, which was spread out over four days, also revealed anxieties about an issue close to home: the newly expanded European Union itself.

Among the few that did well were Spain's Socialists, who recently withdrew troops from Iraq after a backlash over a 11 March terrorist attack. The Socialists, surprise victors in elections days after the bombings, won a new stamp of legitimacy by emerging on top in the European parliamentary vote as well.

The continent-wide democratic exercise, which ended with 19 countries voting Sunday, came at a crucial time in the development of the bloc. The EU has just added 10 members, largely from eastern Europe and leaders hope to agree on a new constitution later this month.

Across Europe, the outcome highlighted anxieties about the expanding union, with anti-EU parties projected to do well in Bri-

tain, Sweden, and even the Czech Republic and Poland, former communist countries participating in their first EU-wide vote.

"The anti-integration parties won," Czech Prime Minister Vladimir Spidla said.

Overall, centre-right parties won, taking between 247 and 277 seats in the 732-member European Parliament, according to preliminary projections. The centre-left group, which includes legislators from British Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labour Party and Schroeder's Social Democrats, finished second, with an expected 189 to 209 seats.

The 44.6 per cent turnout was the lowest ever in a European Parliament election, and just 28.7 per cent voted in the 10 newest states. Blair's party also came in third in local elections held simultaneously in England and Wales earlier this week. Some party officials said they feared they might lose the next national election, expected next year.

Internet

Kuwait Energy Ministry to update regulations on oil protection

KUWAIT CITY, 13 June—The Kuwaiti Ministry of Energy said it is going ahead with its plan to update regulations on the protection of petroleum resources aimed at maintaining oil installations, Kuwait News Agency reported Saturday.

Bassem Al-Loghani, public relations director of the ministry's oil department, said Saturday that the committee assigned to update protection regulations had held several meetings, including those with companies to execute that task.

The ministerial committee supervising the upgrading of regulations to protect and maintain petroleum resources acknowledges the major responsibility it has undertaken, especially because oil resources are the country's main national income, he said.

The project aims to improve executive regulations of the petroleum resources maintenance law in order for the Kuwaiti oil sector to be as advanced as and in line with the international oil industry. The changes are intended to design inspection systems and supervision on oil installations with consideration to the environment and the safety of workers in the oil sector, Al-Loghani said.

The updating also aims to prepare and train national cadres to professionally carry out inspection and other supervisory tasks, he said.

The tender to upgrade the regulations which was signed last April is divided into three stages, the first of which involves the submittal of a comprehensive study by June 19 on all laws relevant to petroleum work in Kuwait.

The British IHS Energy Group, which won the bid for the first stage, is expected to submit that study which explains the legal aspect on updating the regulations and presents recommendations to reform the oil sector especially regarding environment and labours' safety.

MNA/Xinhua

Putin says no need for "purge" of Russian banks

MOSCOW, 13 June — President Vladimir Putin told Russia's Central Bank chief on Friday that he wanted order to be brought to the country's banking system but warned against any wide-scale action against banks.

"I beg you to act precisely. You are not planning, I hope, any imminent mass purges of the banking system," Russia's Interfax news agency quoted him as telling Central Bank head Sergei Ignatyev on Friday.

The comments come hours after the Central Bank announced moves to push liquidity into the banking

sector, lowering banks' obligatory reserve requirement and cutting the refinancing rate by one percentage point to 13 per cent.

The changes follow concerns about low liquidity last week when the forced winding-up of two small banks sparked fears the Central Bank could be embarking on a drive to clean up Rus-

sia's fragmented banking sector.

The agency quoted Ignatyev as saying the country's banking system was healthy. He also said the long-awaited rise in interest rates in Western countries would not trouble Russia.

"The market is expecting this.

MNA/Reuters

China playing more important role in international affairs

BEIJING, 13 June—Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former secretary-general of the United Nations (UN), said China has become an important world intermediary and is playing a more and more important role in international affairs.

Boutros-Ghali made the remark in reply to reporter's questions in a joint interview with Chinese media Saturday in Beijing.

The former secretary-general said it is very hard to play an intermediary to help solve the complicated and sometimes even conflicting international disputes, expressing his appreciation to

China's constructive role played in the Korean nuclear issue and the two rounds of six-party talks.

The key factor to the peaceful solution of the Korean nuclear issue is how strong of the political will that the concerned parties hold, Boutros-Ghali said, noting that the process is now still facing many diffi-

culties and challenges.

He pointed out that international community is too eager to see positive results from the six-party talks, which is, however, in his view, may takes years after years to bear fruits. What is the most important thing to promote the six-party talks mechanism is patience, he stressed. — MNA/Xinhua



Demonstrators demand that the Japanese government withdraw its troops from Iraq during a protest in Tokyo on 13 June, 2004. About 1,600 demonstrators participated in the rally and demonstration calling for the pull-out of Japanese troops from Iraq, organizers said. — INTERNET

Fourteen die as Iraq is hit by fresh spate of killings

BAGHDAD, 14 June—A suicide car bomber killed up to 12 Iraqis near a United States-Iraqi base in Baghdad yesterday, and gunmen killed a senior Iraqi civil servant and a university professor in a new spate of assassinations.

Police at the scene of the car bombing said their colleagues had tried to stop a vehicle racing on the wrong side of the road towards an Iraqi military college in south-east Baghdad, where many US soldiers are also based.

Abdul Razzak Kadhem, a senior police officer, said that two police cars had intercepted the vehicle, which then exploded.

The US military said the blast killed eight Iraqi civilians and four police, and wounded 13 people.

Two charred bodies could be seen in the burnt wreckage of one police car. All that remained of the bomber's car was a blackened engine in the road. Several civilian vehicles were damaged. Blood stained the driver's seat of a white pick-up.

"One car was blown across the street," said Abdel Hasan al-Jabbar, an off-duty civil-defence worker."

The man inside had blood pouring from the top of his head."

Guerillas detonated another car bomb outside Taji, north of Baghdad, during an attack on US troops, killing one American soldier and wounding two others. One attacker was killed when troops returned fire, an army spokeswoman said.

The Iraqi civil servant, Kamal al-Jarrah, 63, who headed the education ministry's cultural relations department, was shot in his garden in the western Ghazaliya district of the capital.

He died in hospital, an education ministry official said. Mr Jarrah's wife, who was with him in the garden, was unhurt in the shooting.

In a similarly precise attack on Saturday, gunmen in a car killed Bassam Qubba, a senior foreign ministry official.

Internet

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Another Oregon soldier dies in Iraq

PORTLAND, 13 June — A soldier from the Oregon National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 162nd Infantry died, and four others were injured in a bomb attack today in Baghdad, Iraq, military officials said.

The soldier, whose name was not released pending family notification, is the fourth member of the Cottage Grove-based unit to be killed in combat in 10 days.

Two of the soldiers injured today were expected to be airlifted to a military hospital in Germany, said Maj. Arnold Strong of the Oregon National Guard. The other two soldiers' injuries were less severe and they will return to the unit. According to reports, an improvised explosive device was used in the attack. The news came as the Oregon National Guard began a week honouring three other soldiers from the 2/162 killed in a bomb attack on 4 June while coming to the aid of New Jersey National Guard soldiers in Baghdad. —*Internet*



An unidentified helicopter patrols over the Tigris River in Baghdad, Iraq, on 13 June, 2004. Explosions were heard earlier in the Green Zone headquarters area of the American-run occupation authority, seen in the background. — *INTERNET*

MPs urge Blair 'to admit to mistakes on Iraq'

LONDON, 13 June—The Government should seek to win back public trust by admitting its mistakes over Iraq, Labour MPs urged today.

The advice came in a series of "memos" to the Prime Minister in the wake of Labour's mauling in the local council polls.

Four MPs, David Drew, Ann Cryer, Richard Burden and Kevin Brennan, criticised Government policy in relation to Iraq, Europe and the United States, but none called on Tony Blair to stand down.

They instead urged ministers to concentrate on convincing voters that record investment in public services was starting to pay dividends.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's World This Weekend, Mr Drew, MP for Stroud, warned: "We lost heavily on Thursday because voters exacted revenge over Iraq and have yet to be persuaded that public service delivery is right. "On the former we have to put our hand

up to say that we got it wrong, as much as anything so that we convince the wider electorate that intervention on occasions is appropriate."

The Government must also persuade voters that huge investment in public services was paying dividends.

"This is not as easy as it sounds because until and unless we recover the voters' trust in what we say this will be difficult to achieve and the legacy of the strength of the economy will count for nothing."

He added: "Don't also underestimate how unpopular the EU is. We must adopt a slightly more sceptical approach."

Ms Cryer said Britain must stop following US foreign policy. Privatisation of public services must also end. —*Internet*

Poor nations see signs of agreement in trade talks

SAO PAULO (Brazil), 13 June— Developing nations see some signs of agreement in world-trade talks on the eve of an important meeting with rich nations to avert an impasse, Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim said on Saturday.

Reform of farm trade lies at the heart of the informal World Trade Organization talks on Sunday, and Amorim said much work remained to ensure poor nations did not lose gains of recent months.

"There are some indications of more positive convergences. Let us pursue them," Amorim told fellow trade ministers for the G-20 group of developing nations. "Let us build on our achievements so far and make sure that this positive momentum will be maintained."

Trade and foreign relations ministers are meeting in Sao Paulo to get world free-trade talks back on track after they collapsed last September in Cancun, Mexico.

The impasse came as the G-20 pushed to centre stage its demands for the United States and other rich nations to cut export and domestic subsidies and lower tariff barriers for farm products.

The developed world gives its farmers around 300 billion US dollars a year in subsidies, which developing nations say undercut the competitiveness of their products and fuel poverty.

Amorim, who leads the G-20, will meet with ministers from the United States, European Union, India and Australia on the sidelines of the United Nations Conference on Development and Trade in Sao Paulo.

All momentum for the Doha Round of WTO trade talks, which is supposed to be concluded this year, could be lost if a deal is not reached by mid-July, negotiators say.

The European Union has offered to discuss an end to farm export subsidies, provided other rich nations follow suit. Amorim said the G-20 needed assurances that nations like the United States and Canada were prepared to meet the EU demand. — *MNA/Reuters*

French President to visit China in autumn

PARIS, 13 June— French President Jacques Chirac will visit China in autumn to mark the opening of the French Year in China, announced Friday French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin after talks with Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan.

The French President's visit is scheduled at the beginning of October, nine months after Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to France, and will be officially announced later in the day during the meeting between Chirac and Zeng at the Presidential Palace of Elysee.

"It is very important to prepare President Chirac's visit to China in autumn after receiving the Chinese President (in Paris)," Raffarin said.

"If each time we meet we sign as many agreements with so many jobs behind these agreements, I believe our co-operation with China will be very fruitful. It already is," Raffarin said after the signings of nine contracts and agreements worth billions of dollars between Chinese and French companies. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Iraqi diplomat, Lebanese hostage killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 14 June— Gunmen killed a top Iraqi diplomat on Saturday in the first high-profile assassination in Iraq since an interim government took over on 1 June.

Attackers fatally wounded Bassam Qubba, the Foreign Ministry's under-secretary for multinational affairs and international organizations, as he was on his way to work from his home in Baghdad's mainly Sunni Muslim Adhamiya District.

US officials say guerillas, who often target Iraqis seen as cooperating with the Americans, are likely to step up attacks before Iraq's occupation formally ends on 30 June.

In other lawlessness, kidnappers killed a Lebanese citizen, Hussein Ali Alyan, 28, and two of his Iraqi colleagues, after seizing them

in Baghdad on Thursday, a Lebanese diplomat said.

Foreign Ministry sources in Beirut said the bodies of the men, who worked for a Lebanese telecommunications company, had been dumped between Fallujah and Ramadi, west of the capital.

MNA/Reuters



Burnt out vehicles are seen strewn along the main road on 13 June following a car bomb in southern Baghdad. — *INTERNET*

American shot dead in Riyadh

CAIRO, 13 June—An American national was shot dead by suspected militants in the Saudi capital Riyadh on Saturday, news reports said.

Qatar-based al-Jazeera television station reported that an American male was believed to be killed in a shooting attack, quoting US Embassy officials in Saudi Arabia.

Dubai-based pan-Arab television channel Al Arabiya said police were chasing suspected militants in the east of the city. "A resident holding the American nationality was shot dead in Al-Malaz District at 4.00 pm (1300 GMT) Saturday," Riyadh's police chief was quoted by the official Saudi news agency SPA as saying.

He added that the incident was being investigated by Saudi security authorities. The attack was the third of such kind in a week after another American citizen was shot dead in Riyadh Tuesday and an Irish cameraman was killed in another shooting in the city Sunday. —MNA/Xinhua

Seven Turkish hostages released in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 June — Seven kidnapped Turkish construction workers in Iraq are on their way home after being released, the Turkish Embassy here said Saturday.

"They have been released, they are in good health," a diplomat of the embassy noted.

Serdar Adali, a director of the Turkish construction company Serka Limited, confirmed that the seven men were released in Fallujah and were travelling to the northern city of Mosul.

He told CNN-Turk television that all seven were well and would speak to their families as soon as they reached Mosul, where the company had an office.

The Turks were kidnapped in the restive town of Fallujah on 7 June. But it was not clear who had abducted them or why they had been seized.

MNA/Xinhua

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Crew survives crash of Army chopper in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 June—A US Army OH-58 helicopter crashed today north of Baghdad, but the two-member crew was reported in good condition, the US command said.

The military said the observation helicopter came down about 3.30 pm near the Taji air base about 12 miles north of Baghdad.

A statement said there was "no indication" the aircraft crashed due to hostile fire but no reason was given. The cause is under investigation, the command said.

The US Army has lost about 20 helicopters to hostile fire since June 2003. —Internet

US director mulls movie about Blair's role in Iraq war

LOS ANGELES, 13 June — US anti-war filmmaker Michael Moore said that he wants to make a movie about British Prime Minister Tony Blair's role in Iraq war as he has done to US President George W Bush.

In an interview published Saturday, Moore, director of "Fahrenheit 9/11," the controversial documentary which last month won prestigious Palme d'Or award at the Cannes film festival, said he "personally hold Blair more responsible for this war in Iraq than I do George W Bush, and the reason is Blair knows better."

"Fahrenheit 9/11," which will hit US theatres on 25 June, links the family of President Bush and the powerful Saudi Arabian family of Osama bin Laden, the No 1 terrorist being sought by the US Government. The film also contends that Bush pushed the US into the unnecessary Iraq war through a mix of fear and misinformation.

Moore likened Blair, the staunchest supporter of the US-led invasion of Iraq last year, to an older sibling of Bush's. He said that, when two children get in trouble, the parent usually questions the older one as to how he or she could let such a problem occur.

Anticipating increasing attacks from Bush campaign and supporters, Moore said he has formed a group to counter any future attack on

his movie. The group will operate 24 hours a day, monitoring TV newscasts, news reports and other publications for statements discrediting his movie.

Moore said he has hired two political advisers to former Democrat President Bill Clinton's campaign to establish a "war room" that will immediately support any claims made in the movie that come under attack.

Moore, an independent voter, said he does not support Bush, and wants his reelection attempt to fail.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi university professor shot dead in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 14 June — A Baghdad University professor was shot dead Sunday while leaving a college building, Qatar-based al-Jazeera reported.

Sabri al-Bayati, a professor of telecommunications, was killed in the Bab al-Muadham area in central Baghdad, the channel said.

Many academics and intellectuals have been murdered since US occupation troops entered the Iraqi capital in April

2003. More than 2,000 professors and academics have fled Iraq since the US-led war. Academics now fear that a deliberate "brain drain" is being executed through murder as professors from various fields, including science, journalism, political science and even literature, were

believed to be targeted.

On Sunday also, Kamal al-Jarrah, director of cultural relations at Iraq's Education Ministry, was shot dead in front of his house, one day after deputy foreign minister Bassam Qubba was shot dead as he was heading to his work.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi boy looks over the damage to a truck after a suicide car bomb attack in the capital Baghdad on 13 June, 2004. A suicide car bomber blew up his vehicle as police tried to stop him reaching a US and Iraqi base in Baghdad on Sunday, killing at least eight civilians and four police officers, according to the US military. — INTERNET

S Korea eases restriction on foreign films

SEOUL, 13 June — South Korea is considering easing restrictions on foreign movies, the Culture Ministry said on Saturday, which may help remove a hurdle to a free trade agreement with the United States.

Under a "screen quota" law, designed to shield the domestic industry from Hollywood blockbusters, cinemas must show homegrown movies 40 per cent of the time.

The United States wants South Korea to scrap the restriction as part of preparations for an investment treaty aimed at levelling the playing field for investors in both countries.

Minister of Culture and Tourism Lee Chang-dong said the restriction on foreign films was being reconsidered, not because of the treaty with the United States,

but to help the South Korean industry.

"For the future of the South Korean film industry, it is time to consider a cut and change to...the screen quota," Lee said, according to a ministry statement.

Removing the restriction on foreign films would increase the variety of films South Koreans could enjoy and would stimulate creativity in the domestic industry, he said.

The remarks by the former prize-winning film director represented a major turnaround. Lee told Reuters in an interview in March the

restriction on foreign films helped nurture the domestic industry and it should be maintained.

But Lee said there should be flexibility in loosening the quota.

"If there is a sign that a cut and change in the screen quota system brings a severe shrinkage in the South Korean film industry, we need to restore it," Lee said.

The minister asked representatives of the domestic film industry at a Friday meeting to consider the plan, but they balked at the proposal, the ministry said in the statement. —MNA/Reuters

Roman sculpture exhibition staged in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 13 June—An exhibition of Roman sculptures and other cultural items dating back to 100 to 300 AD started Friday in this east China metropolis.

The exhibition "Men and Gods in the Rome of the Caesars" is staged at Shanghai Museum and features effigies of well-known Roman emperors such as Augustus, Hadrianus, Traianus, Commodus and Caracalla and other royal celebrities. Sculpture of human beings constitutes a very important part in the ancient Roman society and many families juxtaposed effigies of emperors and gods to show their royalty to the kingdom.

Another 390 Roman cultural treasures such as coins, diamonds, glassware, pottery, theatrical masks, stone coffins and urns were also put on show at the same time, providing viewers a rich display of the political, economic, cultural, military and religious life in the ancient Roman kingdom. — MNA/Xinhua

Jackie Chan hopes to become "true actor"

LOS ANGELES, 13 June — Chinese movie star Jackie Chan has said that he hopes to become a "true actor" by changing his image as a world-famous action star, US media reported Saturday.

During a promotion of his latest movie "Around the World in 80 Days" in Honolulu, Hawaii, Chan said he wants to shed his action star image in favour of meatier roles that require dialogue and emotion instead of punches and kicks.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi police investigate the scene of a car bombing in the northern city of Mosul on 8 June, 2004. A suspected suicide car bomb killed nine civilians and wounded at least 25 near the mayor's office in the northern Iraq city of Mosul, the US military, Iraqi police and witnesses said. — INTERNET



Iraqi sailors stand to attention during a handover ceremony from the British navy of the naval base in Umm Qasr, Iraq, on 12 June, 2004.
INTERNET

WTO chief still confident of trade deal in July

GENEVA, 13 June—World Trade Organization (WTO) chief Supachai Panitchpakdi expressed confidence on Friday that global trade talks would meet a July deadline for a key deal.

"I am not thinking about any plan 'B'. There has to be an agreement...(and)...I am still confident that it can be done," he told *Reuters* in an interview.

The WTO director-general, who will be attending next week's conference of the United Nations' trade and development agency, UNCTAD, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, said planned talks between ministers on the fringes of that gathering could be crucial for the outcome of current negotiations in Geneva.

They would be "important, if not decisive" for what kind of agreement would be possible in agriculture, the most contentious area of trade reform despite accounting for only a tiny slice of global commerce.

WTO states are racing to complete outline deals, or frameworks in trade parlance, for a number of key areas of the Doha Round of free trade negotiations, in trouble almost from their launch in late 2001. The collapse of a ministerial conference in Cancun, Mexico, last September almost derailed the negotiation, and the July deals aim to put trade liberalization, which economists say could be worth 500 billion US dollars to the world economy, back on track.

Asked the price of failure, the quietly spoken former Thai premier paused: "I want to use the right words....It would really be inadvisable," he said finally.

After July, the United States will be distracted by November presidential elections and the European Union will also see sweeping change in its Executive Commission.

But probably more importantly, all momentum for the talks, which were supposed to be concluded by the end of 2004, could be lost, leaving the timing of any resumption an open question. "I have said it could be years," Supachai added.

From Sao Paulo, Supachai said he hoped to see more from the G-20 developing country alliance, led by Brazil, India and South Africa, on how far they could go on opening their own markets. He applauded the alliance, whose defiance of the richer states contributed to the confrontational atmosphere in Cancun, saying it had since made positive proposals. — *MNA/Reuters*

မြူးမြွေတာ၊ ထိန်းပါလေလွင့်၊ ထုတ်ကုန်မြင့်

Bahrain to host Iraq Reconstruction Conference, Exhibition

ABU DHABI, 14 June—Bahrain will host the Iraq Reconstruction Conference and Exhibition in connection with Power-Gen Middle East 2004 on 13 September to 15, the *menafn.com* web site reported Saturday.

Organized by PennWell Corporation, a global business-to-business information provider, the Iraq reconstruction conference will address the roles of the international petroleum, power, water, fire and safety and telecommunications industries in the largest infrastructure programme since the end of World War II.

The conference will provide an insight for participants who need a clear and balanced view of Iraq's emerging markets. The event also features exhibitors and speakers who will play key roles in the shaping of Iraq's infrastructure. Major exhibitors include Alstom, Bechtel, GE Energy, Black & Veatch, Ansaldo Energia, Hitachi and ABB, the organizer, Bahrain International Exhibition Centre (BIEC), said in a statement.

In the wake of the handover of power to Iraqis in late June, the Iraq reconstruction meeting will be a timely forum for companies wishing to participate in the reconstruction process in Iraq, the BIEC said.

International and regional professionals interested in exploring business opportunities in Iraq will be given the chance to meet influential keynote speakers and newly-appointed Iraqi ministers who will be uniquely qualified to offer insight into ongoing and future needs of the country. Iraq's Ministry of Oil has given its full support to the Iraq reconstruction event in Bahrain and other newly-appointed Iraqi ministers have been invited to speak at the conference, the statement said.

MNA/Xinhua

Rumsfeld approved methods regarded as torture against inmates

WASHINGTON, 14 June—US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, in a memo, had approved various methods of interrogating terror suspects, in a memo under which US military interrogators at Guantanamo Prison could put prisoners in "stress positions" for four hours, hood them and subject them to 20-hour-long interrogations.

The approval, first in December 2002 and later in a January 8, 2003 memo allowed for inflicting "fear of dogs", and "mild non-injurious physical contact", the *Wall Street Journal* reported Thursday.

The list contained in the memo, the paper said, was in effect for about one month until complaints about the severity of the techniques from some military officers prompted Rumsfeld to request a high-level review of interrogation policy on January 17, 2003.

The Defence Department has refused to disclose how many of the methods remain on a new list Rumsfeld approved in April 2003, "a list that officials say is still in use at the offshore prison", the paper said.

It is not clear if the rules were applied in military prisons in Iraq or elsewhere.

"But some of the practices disclosed this year at the Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq, resemble methods on the December 2002 Guantanamo list approved by Rumsfeld," the daily said.

The December 2002 interrogation methods, said the paper, ranged

from "use of direct approach, rewards and cigarettes", to others that required approval from superiors.

"Physical contact such as grabbing, poking in the chest with the finger and light pushing" could be used with approval from the commander of the Guantanamo Prison and with the knowledge of General Hill, who as head of the US Southern Command oversees Guantanamo.

Interrogators faced with uncooperative prisoners could disguise themselves as linked "to a country with a reputation for harsh treatment", according to the list, or yell at them, although "not directly in ear or to the level it would cause physical pain".

Another set of methods required permission of the officer in charge of Guantanamo interrogations. These methods included "use of stress positions (like standing) for a maximum of four hours", "isolation facility for up to 30 days unless (commanding general) approves extension", and "20-hour interrogations".

Other such techniques were "deprivation of light and sound", "use of hood as long as it does not restrict

breathing and under direct observation", "removal of clothing" and "forced grooming" (ie shaving of facial hair).

The interrogation group commander would also have to approve "using individual phobias (eg, fear of dogs) to induce stress" and "removal of comfort items, including religious items".

Mark Jacobson, a former Pentagon official who worked on the interrogation policy, said that "fear of dogs does not mean dogs attacking; it means a properly muzzled dog with a handler".

He said that officials later decided not to remove religious items and that several harsh methods were not included in the April 2003 list.

A military intelligence official said that "humiliation techniques" were a longstanding part of interrogations, where "domination is the name of the game".

Portions of a March 2003 draft of the Pentagon's April interrogation report, disclosed by the *Wall Street Journal* on Monday, also included a legal analysis contending that President George W. Bush had the constitutional authority to disregard laws prohibiting torture if he believed national security was in jeopardy. — *MNA/PTI*

Peru sees trade pact with Thailand by year-end

LIMA (Peru), 13 June—Peru and Thailand hope to sign a free-trade deal by the end of the year, increasing trade flows across the Pacific, the two countries said on Friday.

With three rounds of negotiations left, an accord could be signed as early as mid-November, when Thailand's Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is due to make an official visit to Peru, trade ministers of the two countries said.

But a deal could be delayed until December if differences over agriculture slow talks down, they added.

"This would be the first free-trade pact Peru signs with an Asian nation while for Thailand it would be the first accord in the Ameri-

cas," Peru's Foreign Trade Minister Alfredo Ferrero told a news conference. Ferrero's counterpart, Kantathi Suphamongkhon, who ended a second round of trade negotiations with Peru on Friday, said he hoped to wrap up talks by November. They began in January.

Trade is small between the two countries, but officials hope the agreement will boost commerce. Peru exports some 30 million US dollars worth of goods to Thailand every year, including products such as copper

and fishmeal, a cattle feed.

The Andean nation imports some 60 million US dollars a year from Thailand, notably in machines and capital goods.

"The current figures are not significant but the potential for growth is," said Ferrero. "Thailand exports more than two billion US dollars in cars alone," he added.

"We think that Thailand could serve as a hub from which to start business with the rest of the countries in the Asia Pacific Region," Ferrero said. — *MNA/Reuters*



A South Korean protester, wearing a mask made from a picture of US President George W. Bush, imitates US soldiers' alleged maltreatment of an Iraqi prisoner, at an anti-US rally in Seoul on 12 June, 2004. — INTERNET

New and fast developments throughout Myanmar



*The outpatient ward of
People's Hospital in
Haka, Chin State.*

MNA

*The government's rural
water supply project
ensures potable water
for Pa-O nationals of the
Pinya Model Village in
Kyauktalone region.*

MYANMA ALIN



*Heavy machinery at work to drill tube-wells at Natyegan village, Magway
Township, Magway Division.—PBANDRA*



*Tarring a rural road linking Kyakansu village in Hmawby Township and
Ngazutaung village in Hlegu Township in Yangon Division.—PBANDRA*

Border and rural area developments



Sanepauk Bridge on Yangon-Kyaunkpyu Road in An Township, Rakhine State.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt meets with local authorities, members of social organizations and local people in Pale Yadana Hall, Pale, Sagaing Division on 12 June. —MNA

Prime Minister inspects development in Sagaing...

(from page 1)

They proceeded to the site of Chindwin River (Shwesaye) Dam in Budalin Township.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported on the current speed of Chindwin River, reliability of the river water for agriculture on both banks, the findings of the feasibility study conducted for construction of a dam near Shwesaye region, the type of the dam, and the prospects of generating 600 mega watts of electricity by the dam on completion. Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint also reported on findings of the geological survey conducted at the chosen site for construction of the dam near Shwesaye region and the arrangements for construction of the dam by means of diverting the water from Chindwin River.

After hearing the reports, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gave instructions, and together with his party in-

spected the axis chosen for construction of the dam. The Prime Minister also greeted local people.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party proceeded to Budalin Township. The Prime Minister and party went to Budalin Township People's Hospital, where he inspected the surgical rooms, patient wards and the X-ray unit and fulfilled the requirements of the hospital. At Myawady Hall in the township, the Prime Minister met with local authorities, departmental personnel, members of social organizations, and townselders.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister heard reports on cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, beans and pulses, edible crops, kitchen crops, cotton and other crops; arrangements for extension of paddy-sown acreage and increased output, local food sufficiency, measures for education and health sectors, and water supply tasks.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects progress of work for dam project near Shwesaye village, Budalin, Sagaing Division on 12 June. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party see over Pale Township People's Hospital, Sagaing Division on 12 June. — MNA

After fulfilling the requirements for regional development, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gave an address. He said he came to Budalin as he had never been there although the township was not far from Monywa. He also spoke of the need to cultivate more paddy and produce more rice so as to ensure local food sufficiency. He continued that the projects for local rice sufficiency should not remain only on paper, instead they should be implemented effectively.

Although the country is not rich, the magnitude of investment poured into the development of Sagaing Division is not small. Infrastructures for agriculture, industry, education, health, transport and human resources have been built. Such infrastructures have also been established in other remaining states and divisions.

The harmonious and equitable development between one region and another, between urban and rural areas and between border areas and inland areas will help raise economic and social standards of national races, thereby strengthening national solidarity.

Later, the Prime Minister called upon officials concerned and the locals to work hard with perseverance and volition for their regional development and then for that of the country.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented a TV, a video player and a set of computer for Budalin BEHS through the school head. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party arrived back in Monywa in the evening. — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe attends...

(from page 16)

and Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and wife to members of Sangha.

Today, a total of 23 wellwishers donated cash amounted to K 59 million. A total of K 231.7 million has been received as of 11 June.

After the ceremony, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint, Police Col Win Naing and Project Manager U Tin Ko Ko of Asia World Co Ltd reported on timely completion of the construction work, progress of the construction and future plans, and use of machinery, and fuel respectively.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing attended to the needs.

Afterwards, the tree planting ceremony followed. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, the Commander and officials planted Gangaw trees totalling 80.

Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party proceeded to Hsinshewli 50-bed home for the aged construction project in Lashio. Secretary of Shan State (North) PDC Lt-Col Kyaw Shwe reported on progress of work and future plans.

They then went to Yanaungmyin pagoda where they were welcomed by Committee for Pagoda Renovation Lt-Col Than Tun briefed on renovation work and future tasks. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe urged officials concerned to make efforts for timely completion of work meeting the set standards. — MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for ROK

YANGON, 14 June — Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin left here on 12 June for Seoul, Republic of Korea, to attend a seminar on educational and training aid for money laundering in Asia and Pacific on 14-17 June. Among those who saw the delegation off at the Yangon International Airport were Deputy Attorney-General U Myint Naing and officials.

Dr Tun Shin was accompanied by Director of the Drug Elimination Unit of CCDAC of Myanmar Police Force Police Col Sit Aye, Deputy Director of the Attorney-General's Office U Khin Maung Win and Deputy Director of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Khin Saw Oo. — MNA



Secretary of National Convention Convening Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members and delegates enjoy dances entertained by artistes of Fine Arts Department. — MNA

Delegates entertained with dances

YANGON, 14 June — The entertainment and welfare subcommittee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee is entertaining the delegates to the National Convention with entertainment programmes at the gymnasium in Nyaungnabin Camp in Hmawby Township for their rest and recreation.

Yesterday evening, the delegates were entertained by artistes of Fine Arts Department. Secretary of the National Convention Convening Committee Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Chairman of the Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and committee members also enjoyed the entertainment.

Next, Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung presented cash awards to the performers. — MNA

Next, Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung presented cash awards to the performers. — MNA

Next, Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung presented cash awards to the performers. — MNA

— MNA

Coord meeting of NCCC...

(from page 16)

the NC delegates to the storm victims in Rakhine State and cash and kind donations by well-wishers in honour of National Convention.

Afterwards Chief Justice U Aung Toe reported on progress in group-wise paper compilation, submission of proposal papers to the panel of chairmen and to the work committee. Attorney-general Maj-Gen Lun Maung then reported on measures being taken for health of the delegates and management affairs.

Next, those present participated in discussions, followed by a general round of discussions. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by NCCC Chairman Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein — MNA



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint views booths displayed at the ceremony to mark World Blood Donor Day. — MNA

World Blood Donor Day held

YANGON, 14 June — Jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and Japan International Cooperation Agency, a ceremony to mark World Blood Donor Day, was held at International Business Centre on Pyay Road, here, this morning, with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present on the occasion were directors-general, deputy directors-general and directors of the Departments under the Ministry of Health, rectors, officials of Directorate of Medical Services, those of social organizations at home and abroad, blood donors and guests.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint made a speech. He said that the Ministry of Health has adopted the three tactics—to impart the health education right down to rural regions, to prevent the outbreak of diseases and to give effective treatment in case of outbreak of the diseases.

In giving effective treatment, arrangements are being made for fulfilment of skilled service personnel and experts, fulfilment of modern medical and hospital equipment and construction

of buildings in the suitable places.

With advancement in science and technology, effective treatment can be given effectively by means of blood transfusion. In this connection, blood is imperative in the treatment since artificial blood cannot be made yet. Therefore, blood can be regarded as life.

Loss of blood owing to injury, illness and other diseases can be life-threatening and blood transfusion has to be done inevitably. As life can be saved through blood transfusion, donation of blood amounts to donation of life. Accordingly, blood donors are urged to organize those around them to donate blood.

The Ministry of Health, responding the gratitude of blood donors, has been holding the ceremonies to mark the Blood Donors Day and to honour blood donors. In addition, the government presents medals for outstanding performance in social field to blood donors annually.

The motto of World Health Day which fell on 7 April 2000 is "Safe blood starts with me, Blood saves lives".

This reflected the importance of blood and contributed to increasing the number of blood donors.

Most countries are required to swiftly lay down the national tactics for safe blood transfusion as developing countries are not in a position to guarantee for safe blood transfusion.

In conclusion, the minister, on behalf of those who had a chance to survive through blood transfusion, thanked blood donors. Moreover, the Ministry of Health, he said, also thanked blood donors who saved many lives.

The ceremony to present prizes to award winners of World Blood Donors Day essay competitions followed.

The Minister presented the first, second and third prizes to the winners and Resident Representative of JICA Mr Takahiro Sasaki the consolation prizes to winners.

The Minister and party viewed exhibitions on World Blood Donor Day after the ceremony.

"Blood, a gift for life. Thank you." is the motto for the World Blood Donor Day this year. — MNA

Ibaraki Prefecture of Japan donates 6 fire engines, 5 ambulances

YANGON, 14 June — A ceremony to donate six fire engines and five ambulances by Ibaraki Prefecture of Japan was held at Mayangon Township Fire Services Department at 2 pm today. It was attended by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlements Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlements Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and senior military officers, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yuji Miramoto, officials of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and wellwishers.

First, Mr Usui Heihachio, the representative of Ibaraki Prefecture of Japan, presented documents related to the eleven motor vehicles to Maj-Gen Kyaw Win and explained the purpose of donations.

Next, Maj-Gen Kyaw Win handed over the fire engines for the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlements to Minister Maj-Gen Sein Htwa and the ambulances for the Ministry

of Health to Minister Dr Kyaw Myint.

Then, Mr Nagai Nobuo of Tokyo Myanmar Association presented books on Japanese child tales in Myanmar version to Daw Htay Kyin Khine and Daw Htay Htay of MWCA. Minister

Maj-Gen Sein Htwa spoke words of thanks for the donations.

After the ceremony, the ministers, the vice-chief of military intelligence and officials viewed round the cars.

— MNA



Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win hands over six fire engines donated by Ibaraki Prefecture of Japan to Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa. — MNA

Beautifying tasks implemented

YANGON, 14 June — The Pinlaung Township Development Affairs Committee is implementing the project for beautifying the region such as growing landscaping trees and shady trees, and dredging drains for

proper drainage. On 5 June, personnel of the committee and ward dwellers unblocked and dredged the drain in Zaydan Ward under supervision of the officials concerned.

— MNA



This photo shows altogether 11 vehicles donated by Ibaraki Prefecture of Japan. — MNA

The Tatmadaw's strength and the Union railroad

Yadanasi Sayadaw (Loilem)



The inauguration of Mongseik-Kaunghsai section of Shwenyaung-Namhsan Railroad in Shan State (South). — MNA

(Continued from yesterday)

The master of ceremonies invited the minister for Rail Transportation to deliver an opening speech. First, he wished the commander, departmental heads and townsenders sound health.

Myanmar is a country festooned with loving kindness. No one can deny the fact that Myanmar is becoming a peaceful, modern and developed country, wrapped up with the genuine goodwill of Venerable Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, of other members of the Sangha, of the leadership of the State and of departmental heads and the people.

In his speech, the minister said the railroad reached as far as Shwenyaung in southern Shan State in the past. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on **exerting efforts to bridge the development gap between the rural and urban areas and to implement projects for the emergence of better and secured transport system in border areas that lagged behind in development.**

According to the guidance, railroads were constructed and put into commission. Inaugurated on 24-12-97, the railroad section between Shwenyaung and Taunggyi was 20.81 miles long; Inaugurated on 27-7-96, the railroad section between Taunggyi and Phamon was 6.2 miles long; Inaugurated on 4-6-96, the railroad section between Phamon and Banyin was 27.42 miles long; inaugurated on 30-4-2001, the railroad section between Banyin and Hsaikkhaung was 7.63 miles long; and inaugurated on 27-3-2003, the railroad section between Hsaikkhaung and Pynthaya was 16.8 miles long.

The minister also talked of the role Myanma Railways played in the establishment of a peaceful, modern and

developed nation and in the service of public convenience. He also called upon the local people to help maintain the newly-constructed railroads in cooperation with the employees of MR. After the speech, U Khun Than Htoo, a PaO national from Hsaikkhaung village, spoke words of thanks for the State.

The commander and the minister formally opened Pynthaya-Htiri railroad section. They posed for a group photo together with national races in front of the archway on the occasion. Later, they cordially greeted the local national races and got on the train about to leave to mark the opening ceremony.

With the commander, the minister, the deputy minister, local authorities, departmental heads and local national races on board, the train could be named 'Union Train'.

Construction of 9.3-mile-long Htiri-Htihteito railroad section, 5-mile-long Htihteito-Htamhsai railroad section, 6.8-mile-long Htamhsai-Htukyant railroad section, and 8.4-mile-long Htukyant-Punchaung are under way with the labour of Tatmadawmen.

Despite various obstacles faced in the construction of these railroads, the Tatmadawmen will overcome them in the spirit and strength of the Tatmadaw.

Under the close supervision of the commander, the efforts exerted by officials concerned will result in the emergence of a new railroad of high standard.

The sound of the horn the Union train will reflect and strengthen the bond between the nationalistic fervour and Union Spirit.

(Concluded)

Translation: KTY

Myanma Alin, Kyemon 25-5-2004

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

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

**The best time to plant a tree
was 20 years ago.
Second best time is now.**

Director-General of MRTV leaves for Singapore

YANGON, 14 June— Myanmar delegation led by Director-General of MRTV U Khin Maung Htay left here for Singapore by air this afternoon to attend Communic Asia 2004 Exhibition which will be held from June 15 to 18 in Singapore.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Directors-General of Departments under the Ministry, officials and their families. Deputy Chief Engineer of MRTV U Win Thu accompanied the Director-General. — MNA

Traders Hotel staff donate blood

YANGON, 14 June— The 4th blood donation ceremony of staff of Traders Hotel to mark the World Blood Donor Day organized by General Manager of Traders Hotel Mr Raymond J. Bragg and Head of personnel department Daw Ma Ma Naing was held at

KonBaung hall of Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda road here this afternoon.

Over 50 staff donated blood and medical superintendent Dr Thida Aung of the Ministry of Health accepted blood. The blood donors were given refreshments. — MNA



Pynthaya-Htiri railroad Section ready to serve the interest of travellers. — MNA



President of Myanmar Women Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe makes a speech at coordination meeting for tree planting ceremony to mark Myanmar Women's Day. —MNA

Coordination meeting for tree planting ceremony held

YANGON, 14 June—A coordination meeting for tree planting ceremony to mark Myanmar Women's Day which falls on 3 July 2004 was held at the hall of Myanmar Women Affairs Federation office this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were President of MWAFF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-Presidents Dr Daw May Yi, Daw Khin Lay The, Daw Than Than Nwe, Daw Khin Khin Win, Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win, advisers, Patron of Yangon Division Women Affairs or-

ganization Daw Khin Thet Htay, executives, chairman of tree planting association U Than Swe and officials.

Next, Department of Planning and Statistics of Ministry of Forestry Director-General U Than Swe reported on tree planting of year 2004.

Later, those present at the meeting discussed general matters.

Afterwards, the President of MWAFF fulfilled requirements and the meeting came to an end.—MNA

Cash donated for renovation of Lemyethna pagoda

YANGON, 14 June — Cash donation ceremony was held for the renovation of Lemyethna pagoda of



Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung accepts donations of wellwishers for renovation of Lemyethna pagoda, Tagaung. —MNA

Tagaung City this morning at the Ministry of Culture.

It was attended by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, directors-general, deputy directors-general, directors, the rector and the pro-rector of the University of Culture, officials and donors. At the ceremony, Gelugpa Buddhist Centre (Singapore) presented US \$ 10,000 and other donors including K 5 million by Lt-Col Thein Than (Retd), K 1 million by President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, K 702,000 by

Major Thauung Sein (Retd) and his family, K 500,000 by Cho Zaw Company, K 200,000 by U Zaw Min of Mingalar Garden, K 200,000 by Association of Chinese Traders. Today donation totalled at US\$ 10,000 and K 9,061,510. Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung accepted the donations and gave the certificates of honour to the donors.—MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo tours...

(from page 16)

Taninthayi Fisheries Co Ltd, Asaungkaung Co and

Yuzana Co.

At the briefing hall of the field No 175, in which land reclamation is carried out to ensure local food sufficiency by Myeik Station, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on area of the land, progress of construction of the main embankment and reclamation of land.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions on measures for reclamation of land to ensure local food sufficiency.

As part of the measures, a total of 103.32 acres out of 120 acres of land designated to reclaim have been reclaimed in the region.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party went to the cold

storage factory of Asaungkaung Co Ltd. At the hall of the factory, Lt-Gen Maung Bo heard reports on progress of construction of the factory, test-running of the factory, and the employment condition.

ASK Andaman Ltd General Manager Mr Alvim Tong also reported to Lt-Gen Maung Bo on functions of the fish-meat processing factory. Later, officials of the factory conducted Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party round the factory.

On completion, the factory will export its products, feedstuff.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party arrived back in Yangon in the evening.

MNA

WHO South-East Asia Advisory Committee on Health Research Meeting held

YANGON, 14 June — The Twenty-ninth Session of WHO South-East Asia Advisory Committee on Health Research commenced here this morning with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Among those who attended the opening ceremony of the health research meeting were Dr Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director of the SEARO and officials, Resident Representative of WHO Dr Stephan Paul Jost and officials, committee members of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand, and invited personnel from Switzerland, Egypt and the Philippines.

First, Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint delivered an opening address. In his address, he said the turn of this century witnessed rapid socioeconomic, political and technological changes.

These compelled us to review the existing strategies of health research in South East Asian Region. We know there is a world-

wide mismatch between the burden of illness, overwhelmingly among the poor, and investments in health research which is largely focused on problems of industrialized countries. There is no doubt that all state holders including development agencies as well as the research community should intensify their collaboration in health research, in policy analysis and in building up capacities in Science and Technology. Strategic health research systems should be an integral part of national health development. Health research systems should play

a pivotal role in the development of national health systems in developing countries.

I am very pleased to know that WHO has made significant contributions to research development at the global, regional and country levels, leading to effective means for health protection and promotion. There are still many challenges to meet, many issues to tackle, many new problems to overcome. I am sure that this meeting of distinguished delegates with expertise in research and varied experiences in different

aspects of health systems management will provide further momentum to regional and national initiatives for realizing optimum impact of health research.

The South-East Asia advisory committee on health research meeting has also undertaken reviews and analyses of various health research issues and provided policy advice to WHO and its member states, he said.

Dr Samlee Plianbangchang also made an address and the opening ceremony came to an end.

The meeting continues till 16 June. —MNA



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint addresses 29th Session of WHO South-East Asia Advisory Committee on Health Research. —MNA



ရုရှားပြည်သူများသည် ဆိုဗီယက်ခေတ်၏အဆုံးကို နှစ်သက်စွာ ဖတ်ကြားခဲ့ကြောင်း တည်ဆောက်ဆုံး

Russians mark end of Soviet era

Moscow, 13 June—To Soviet-era music, Russians marked with marches and gun salutes on Saturday the beginning of the end of the Soviet Union 14 years ago, even though many people could not quite recall the event they were celebrating.

Soviet military songs echoed across Moscow and artillery blasts rumbled in a cloudless sky. Hundreds of troops, some in camouflage and some in period uniforms from Russia's imperial past, slow-marched across Red Square past a podium where President Vladimir Putin took the salute.

The Soviet anthem — re-introduced by Putin in 2000 with new words — reverberated across the square in front of the Kremlin walls and dancers from ethnic minorities performed.

The holiday, commonly known to Russians as "Independence Day", marks the adoption by Parliament in 1990 of a declaration of Russia's sovereignty and the affirmation that its laws took precedence over those of the Soviet Union.

A failed coup attempt the following year led to Putin's predecessor, Boris Yeltsin, pushing aside Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and phasing out the Soviet

Union in December 1991.

"This is the day for everyone who has contributed to our country's prosperity and might," Putin, an ex-KGB agent, said in a televised speech.

"We've chosen patriotism, freedom and democracy as our values... We all, hand in hand, are building a free and democratic nation."

Putin's words were greeted by the military's earsplitting "hurrah!" as thousands of government officials, politicians and businessmen seated around Putin's podium clapped.

But Russians on the streets, many waving small flags and sipping beer, were not quite sure what they were celebrating.

"It's a shame but I have no idea what the occasion is," said Dmitry, a 34-year-old Muscovite. "But it's always good to have a party, even a slightly Soviet one."

MNA/Reuters

UN declares 2005 as "Year of Physics"

UNITED NATIONS, 14 June —The United Nations has declared 2005 as "Year of Physics".

The UN General Assembly adopted a unanimous resolution in this regard Thursday asking the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to organize commemorative events.

The Year 2005 is the centennial of Albert Einstein's "miraculous year" when he released groundbreaking papers on the photoelectric effect introducing the concept of photon, Brownian motion and the theory of relativity.

The year will recognize Einstein's enor-

mous contributions to the development of Physics and special impetus will be given to education and research in Physics and the public understanding of the subject.

It is also a recognition of the fact that many emerging fields in science and technology such as nanoscience information technology and biotechnology derive a large part of their bases and tools from fundamental discoveries in Physics and their applications.

MNA/PTI

Two face charges after chewing live mice in Australia

SYDNEY, 13 June — Two men in their 20s are expected to be charged with animal cruelty after chewing live mice in a "jackass competition" in a Australian bar.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said the men engaged in an outrageous act of cruelty by accepting a challenge in front of a cheering crowd to place the mice in their mouths and bite off their tails.

RSPCA chief inspector Byron Hall told ABC TV the

men were then challenged to chew up the mice, and they did.

"(This) would involve... bursting its internal organs and crushing its skull. The animal would have been in extreme amounts of pain and it's just totally unacceptable," Hall said.

For the mice to have been

present, the stunt would have had to have been premeditated, he said.

The men were competing for a 500-Australian-dollar (345-US-dollar) holiday weekend on Queensland's Gold Coast. They now face fines of up to 75,000 Australian dollars or two years in prison.— MNA/Reuters



A Chinese worker feeds giant pandas at Wolong Giant Panda Research Centre, in China's southeastern province of Sichuan, on 10 June, 2004. — INTERNET

HK to establish memorial site for promoting SARS fighting spirit

HONG KONG, 13 June—The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government prepares to establish a memorial site to promote the spirit and values shown by the whole community in the fight against SARS.

The HKSAR Government on Saturday announced the progress made on the activities and programmes recommended by the Advisory Committee on the Promotion of the Fighting Spirit against SARS.

The Advisory Committee suggested the government identify a suitable venue to set up a memorial site to commemorate those who gave their lives in the fight against SARS and promote the values manifested in the SARS crisis. The government has designated a site in Hong Kong Park as the venue for such purpose.

"Any suggestions on the name are welcomed," Ho said.

The government will work with the community

on the building of the memorial site. With the professional assistance of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, the Kowloon Rotary Club will organize an open design competition. The winner's design will be adopted as the theme monument.

Memorial bronze statues cast by the New Century Forum to commemorate several medical professionals who sacrificed their lives during the SARS outbreak will be placed in the memorial site.

Members of the Advisory Committee suggested setting the last Sunday in June every year as the Clean Hong Kong Day. The government proclaimed this year's Clean Hong Kong Day to be held on June 27. Over 5,000 partici-

pants are expected to take part on the day.

Apart from government departments, volunteers including members of the district councils, area committees, rural committees, village representatives, district hygiene teams, mutual aid committees, owners' corporations, building management companies, cleaning contractors, food premises, market stall operators as well as students will participate.

Secretary for Home Affairs Patrick Ho, who is also chairman of the Advisory Committee, said members of the Advisory Committee found that the community had manifested impressive values at personal, interpersonal and community levels.

MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese model poses with a Ford GT sports car at the Beijing Auto Show in China's capital on 12 June, 2004. China's booming economy has led to rocketing car production and sales, with car makers from all over the world seeking a piece of the action.

INTERNET

India, Pakistan to prevent drug trafficking

ISLAMABAD, 14 June—India and Pakistan would hold a series of talks on a wide range of issues next week, beginning with the dialogue between top officials of the two countries to prevent drug trafficking and smuggling.

A high-level Indian delegation headed by Director-General of Narcotic Control Bureau M K Singh would arrive in Pakistan on June 14 to attend the meeting of the Committee on Drug Trafficking and Smuggling to be held here on June 15 and 16, Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesman Masood Khan told a media briefing on Saturday.

The committee meeting will discuss steps to prevent smuggling of drugs and narcotics between the two countries. After that a Pakistani delegation, headed by Additional Secretary of Pakistan Foreign Office, Usman Haider would go to New Delhi to

attend talks on nuclear CBMs to be held there from June 19 and 20. Khan said another Pakistani delegation would go to New Delhi towards the next weekend to attend the official level talks to be held there on June 21 and 22 to resolve differences over the construction of power project by India on the River Chenab at Baglihar in northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The talks will be held at the level of Secretaries of Water and Power to discuss Pakistan's objections over the projects. The Indus Basin Water Commissioners of both countries would also be part of the delegation.—MNA/PTI

Asia-Pacific PC sales to grow 16%

NEW DELHI, 14 June — Shipments of personal computers in Asia-Pacific are expected to increase 16 per cent year-on-year in 2004 as against the 13.5-per-cent growth forecast for worldwide sales.

"Growing exports and high investments in China and other countries should boost growth in Asia-Pacific in 2004 to more than 16 per cent," a study by analyst firm IDC said.

It said worldwide PC shipments will grow 13.5 per cent in 2004 to 175 million units as companies update their ageing systems and consumers adopt PCs for digital entertainment. The growth rates will, however, drop in the coming years.—MNA/PTI

SPORTS

Zidane's late double shatters England

LISBON, 14 June—France captain Zinedine Zidane struck twice in injury-time to ambush England 2-1 in an extraordinary Euro 2004 showdown on Sunday.

England appeared to be holding on for a 1-0 victory before Zidane curled in a free kick in the first minute of added time and converted a penalty with almost the last kick of the game after David James brought down Thierry Henry.

France, who had not conceded a goal in nearly a year, dominated the first half before midfielder Frank Lampard headed a 38th-minute David Beckham free kick past goalkeeper Fabien Barthez.

Beckham, the England captain, should have put the result beyond doubt in the 73rd minute after teenage striker Wayne Rooney won a penalty but Barthez brilliantly pushed the shot away.

Both sides lived up to their billing at the Estadio da Luz with Zidane, the World Player of the Year, and his teammates oozing class while England showed commitment and no shortage of skill.

France applied the early pressure, exploiting the pace and dribbling skills of winger Robert Pires in his battle on the right with Paul Scholes playing in a familiar role on England's left.—MNA/Reuters

French PM hails Zidane, Barthez

PARIS, 14 June—Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin, who was on the losing side in French politics on Sunday, applauded his country's soccer players after their extraordinary, last-gasp 2-1 win over England at Euro 2004.

"He paid tribute in particular to the personal exploits of captain Zinedine Zidane and Fabien Barthez, the authors of two decisive feats," Raffarin's office said in a statement.

Zidane gave France a miracle escape from defeat with two stoppage-time goals to secure his team a winning start to their European title defence in Portugal. Barthez earlier saved a penalty from England captain David Beckham to keep France in the match.

MNA/Reuters



France's captain Zinedine Zidane, left, pats the shoulder of England's captain David Beckham at the end of the Euro 2004 Group B soccer match between England and France at Luz Stadium, in Lisbon, Portugal, on Sunday 13, June 2004. While Beckham missed a penalty, Zidane scored from the penalty spot in the last minute to clinch a 2-1 win for France. Switzerland and Croatia are the other teams in Group B. — INTERNET

Barthez says saving penalty not just about luck

LISBON, 14 June—France goalkeeper Fabien Barthez contributed hugely to France's dramatic 2-1 victory over England at Euro 2004 on Sunday by saving a David Beckham penalty.

"You can say that saving a penalty is just luck but luck doesn't come to you like this," Barthez said. "You have to stir it up, it is the result of hard work."

"In a situation like this the odds are 90 per cent against the goalkeeper but you never know. It's only instinct."

The flamboyant Barthez, who was sent off for a reckless tackle playing for

Olympique Marseille in last month's UEFA Cup final defeat by Valencia, said he had just guessed correctly when faced by his former Manchester United teammate.

"I dived to the right," he said about his 73rd minute save. "I was really focussed on what I was doing. It's just great because going 2-0 down, the story would have been over."

France midfielder Patrick Vieira paid tribute to his goalkeeper. "It's in a great match that you see great players," said Vieira, also mentioning captain Zinedine Zidane, who scored two injury-time goals to seal an incredible victory for France.

"I played my part," said Barthez. "But you must not forget what Zidane did. This is exactly what he is capable of."—MNA/Reuters

Ballack warns team should not rely on one single player

ALMANCEL (Portugal), 14 June—Michael Ballack, the fulcrum of Germany's Euro 2004 team, warned his teammates that one player alone could not do very much.

"I know that a lot is expected from me and I have no problem with that," Ballack, instrumental in Germany's run to the 2002 World Cup final, told reporters on Saturday.

"The team should not

rely on one single player, thinking he will do it," Ballack said before Germany's opening Group D match against the Netherlands on Tuesday. "That would be very dangerous."

The 27-year-old midfielder, whose playmaking skills and record of scoring important goals are vital to the team, said Germany could be ambitious only if every player gave

his utmost during the tournament. Ballack, who missed the 2002 World Cup final through suspension after sacrificing himself with a tactical foul in the semifinal, was cautious about Germany's chances.

"Personally I want to play well and I want the team to be successful but I'm not setting precise goals that we should achieve," said Ballack.—MNA/Reuters

Men-of-the-match to receive beer-style trophy

PORTO, 14 June—UEFA president Lennart Johansson unveiled a draught beer-fort shaped man-of-the-match award for the European Championship which starts on Saturday.

Johansson, clutching the silver trophy on board a sailing boat berthed on the banks of the river Douro, said one player in each of the 31 matches would receive the award from a fan.

"For this championship we have a unique element in that fans cannot only have a say in who wins but will also have the opportunity to present this award to their football heroes," he said.

The winners of 31 competitions held in 18 coun-

tries around the world have been flown to Portugal and

been given the red carpet treatment.

"They will present the award, they will go to the Press conferences and will be behind the scenes as well," an official for award sponsors Carlsberg said.

The solid metal design, standing 52 centimetres tall, and slightly resembling the old UEFA Cup Winners' Cup, will be awarded after an Internet-based vote and a decision by UEFA's technical committee.

MNA/Reuters



UEFA president Lennart Johansson

Figo, Deco put brave faces on Portugal defeat

PORTO, 14 June—Portugal midfielders Luis Figo and Deco tried to put on brave faces after the hosts' shock 2-1 defeat by Greece in the opening Euro 2004 Group A match on Saturday.

"In the first half we tried to counter their system a bit," Figo told Portuguese television.

"We couldn't get the second ball. We were unable to dominate the midfield. In the second half we ended up suffering a goal at the start that upset the game's rhythm. It was very much tougher after that."

"After they had a 2-0 advantage, they positioned themselves well, they defended well. We didn't have any opportunities."

Deco thought the scoreline was unfair. "The goals were not a reflection of the game," he said. "To concede goals in a competition in that way is very difficult to come back from."

"We don't have time to lose heart. Now the job we have to do is going to more psychological than training."

"When we started to play well we suffered the penalty."

MNA/Reuters

Larsson reveals in tournament return

ESTORIL (Portugal), 14 June—Striker Henrik Larsson says it will be an honour to play for Sweden after coming out of international retirement for Euro 2004.

Larsson told reporters on Saturday that a sense of unfinished business prompted his change of heart in April after announcing his retirement in 2002 World Cup.

"I didn't want to have any regrets," said the 32-year-old, who had helped Sweden finish third at the 1994 World Cup is grateful for another chance at the highest level.

"In all I had done before with Celtic, I never regretted turning down other clubs. I still felt that I wanted to do this and I had the opportunity because the coaches still wanted me back, that's why I changed my mind."

The Swede had originally quit because his tournament absences in 2000 and 2002 had upset his young son Jordan. A change of heart by the six-year-old cleared the way for him to reconsider. Celtic's third highest scorer of all time, who has just ended a glorious seven-year stay at the club, is expected to lead the Sweden attack with Zlatan Ibrahimovic in a Group C campaign starting on Monday against Bulgaria.—MNA/Reuters

Ten-man Swiss hold Croatia to goalless draw

LEIRIA (Portugal), 14 June—Ten-man Switzerland battled to a goalless draw with a disappointing Croatia side in an ugly opening Euro 2004 Group B clash on Sunday.

The result was frustrating for both sides as they had set out to claim victory knowing their next games are against the group favourites France and England.

Switzerland were reduced to 10 men when defensive midfielder Johann Vogel was sent off four minutes into the second half for a second bookable offence.

Vogel had been shown his first yellow card after only four minutes for a foul on Niko Kovac and was dismissed when for another infringement in a melee of players just after the break.

The PSV Eindhoven man's yellow card was the sixth in a game that became increasingly disrupted by stoppages, several of them for simulation.

There was very little flowing football from either side with the Croatians seemingly intent on breaking up the rhythm of the game and trying to snatch a goal on the counter-attack.

This produced several ugly individual clashes and plenty of theatrical gestures as the card count rose

steadily.

Swiss keeper Joerg Stiel was cautioned for dissent and Benjamin Huggel for a foul while Dado Prso, for diving, joined Nenad Bjelica, substitute Milan Rapaic and captain Boris Zivkovic who were booked for fouls and Ivica Mornar for diving.

Switzerland looked lively in attack and striker Alexander Frei warned the hands of stand-in keeper Tomislav Butina with a crisp low shot, Tomislav Sokota

relying in kind for Croatia.

Croatia quickened the pace at times, Kovac heading over the bar from a corner and then Ivica Olic clipping the bar from close range after Stiel had beaten out a Josip Simunic effort.

Prso had a half chance with a shot on the turn saved by Stiel and the keeper almost misjudged a bounce from a clearance, but in humid conditions, chances were few and far between.

MNA/Reuters



Croatia's Ivica Olic (18) and Switzerland's Bernd Haas battle for the ball during their Group B Euro 2004 first round match on Sunday. — INTERNET

MRTV-3


**15-6-2004 (Tuesday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
9:06 Arts of Myanmar Traditional Tapestry
9:10 **Headline News**
9:12 Pakokku, the City on the Western Bank of the Ayeyawady River
9:15 **National News**
9:20 Preservation of Myanmar Star Tortoise
9:25 Three Types of Dance
9:30 **National News**
9:35 Precious Myanmar Lacquerware
9:40 Song "Auspicious Day, May 17th (I)"
9:45 **National News**
9:50 Brave and Courageous Myanmar Women
9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**15-6-2004 (Tuesday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"
15:36 Arts of Myanmar Traditional Tapestry
15:40 **Headline News**
15:42 Pakokku, the City on the Western Bank of the Ayeyawady River
15:45 **National News**
15:50 Preservation of Myanmar Star Tortoise
15:55 Three Types of Dance
16:00 **National News**
16:05 Precious Myanmar Lacquerware
16:10 Song "Auspicious Day, May 17th (I)"

- 16:15** **National News**
16:20 Brave and Courageous Myanmar Women
16:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
16:30 **National News**
16:35 Radiance of Love and Beauty
16:40 Myanmar Coffee
16:45 **National News**
16:50 New Vogue Flower Arrangement
16:55 Traditional PaO Dance
16:58 Chin Cultural Museum
17:00 **National News**
17:05 Artist Mg Kyaw Nyunt
17:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Rain, Please Tell My Lover"
17:12 Lei Gaing Monastery with wooden Statuettes
17:15 **National News**
17:20 Spirulina (or) Blue Green Algae
17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)**

- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
19:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
19:36 Papa Mountain Park
19:40 **Headline News**
19:42 Mann Ma-Yway
19:45 **National News**
19:50 A Glimpse at the life of an Artist (Veteran Donmin Musician U Sein Khin Lay)
20:00 **National News**
20:05 Song "Journey Towards A New Golden State"
20:10 World Blood Donor Day
20:15 **National News**
20:20 Around Bagan by Pony Cart (Ananda Temple)
20:25 Myanmar Modern Song "Two, Together"
20:30 **National News**
20:35 Myanmar Traditional Folk Songs
20:40 Fishery Enterprise in Pyapon
20:45 **National News**
20:50 Bamboo Parquet
20:55 Royal Rose
21:00 **National News**
21:05 Tour In Myanmar "Pindaya"
21:10 Song "Speaking through our eyes"

- 21:12 Let's Mail the Lovely Cards
21:15 **National News**
21:20 Myanmar Crocodiles
21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"
21:35 Arts of Myanmar Traditional Tapestry
21:40 **Headline News**
21:42 Pakokku, the City on the Western Bank of the Ayeyawady River
21:45 **National News**
21:50 Preservation of Myanmar Star Tortoise
21:55 Three Types of Dance
22:00 **National News**
22:05 Precious Myanmar Lacquerware
22:10 Song "Auspicious Day, May 17th (I)"
22:15 **National News**
22:20 Brave and Courageous Myanmar Women
22:25 Songs On Screen "Heh! Little Girl"
22:30 **National News**
22:35 Radiance of Love and Beauty
22:40 Myanmar Coffee
22:45 **National News**
22:50 New Vogue Flower Arrangement
22:55 Traditional PaO Dance
22:58 Chin Cultural Museum
23:00 **National News**
23:05 Artist Mg Kyaw Nyunt
23:10 Myanmar Modern Song "Rain, Please Tell My Lover"
23:12 Lei Gaing Monastery with wooden Statuettes
23:15 **National News**
23:20 Spirulina (or) Blue Green Algae
23:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

**15-6-2004 (Tuesday) &
16-6-2004 (Wednesday)
Evening Transmission &
Morning Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)**

- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
23:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"
23:36 Arts of Myanmar Traditional Tapestry
23:40 **Headline News**
23:42 Pakokku, the City on

- the Western Bank of the Ayeyawady River
23:45 **National News**
23:50 Preservation of Myanmar Star Tortoise
23:55 Three Types of Dance
24:00 **National News**
00:05 Precious Myanmar Lacquerware
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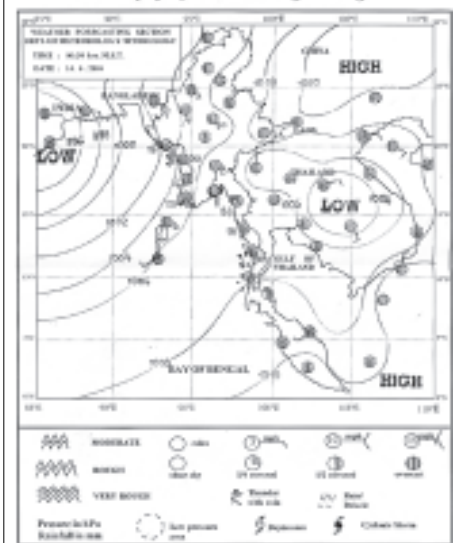
**16-6-2004 (Wednesday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30 - 07:30)**

- 03:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
03:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
03:35 Papa Mountain Park
03:40 **Headline News**
03:42 Mann Ma-Yway
03:45 **National News**
03:50 A Glimpse at the life of an Artist (Veteran Donmin Musician U Sein Khin Lay)
04:00 **National News**
04:05 Song "Journey Towards A New Golden State"
04:10 World Blood Donor Day
04:15 **National News**
04:20 Around Bagan by Pony Cart (Ananda Temple)
04:25 Myanmar Modern Song "Two, Together"
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05:55 Three Types of Dance
06:00 **National News**

- 06:05 Precious Myanmar Lacquerware
06:10 Song "Auspicious Day, May 17th (I)"
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07:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Monday, 14 June, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Kayah States, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan State, Magway and Bago Divisions, scattered in Kayin State and Mandalay Division and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Ye (4.09) inches, Mawlamyine (3.70) inches and Dawei (2.80) inches.

Maximum temperature on 13-6-2004 was 31.5°C (89°F). Minimum temperature on 14-6-2004 was 20.0°C (68°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 14-6-2004 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 13-6-2004 was (5.8) hours approx. Rainfall on 14-6-2004 was 2mm (0.08) inch at Yangon Airport, 5mm (0.20) inch at Kaba-Aye and 23mm (0.90) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 779mm (30.67 inches) at Yangon Airport and 657mm (25.87 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 836mm (32.91 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southeast at (14:20) hours MST on 13-6-2004.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (06:30) hrs MST today, yesterday's depression over Bay of Bengal has crossed Coast, about (280) miles Southwest of Kolkatta, (India) last night. Monsoon is generally strong in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of the 15-6-2004:** Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kachin State, scattered in Shan, Chin and Kayah States, Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Increase of rain are likely in Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-6-2004: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-6-2004:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).



Tuesday, June 15

View today:

7:00 am

1. တေးဂျူးစိုက် မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရား
ဦး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံသယမဟာရာဇာသံဃာ
အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မာ
မဟာရာဇဂူ၊ အဘိဓမ္မာပုဂ္ဂိုလ်သံဃာ
ဇောတိက၊ တိရိစ္ဆာန်ဓမ္မာ၊ ဓမ္မာဗျာ
ဂါရုံက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘုရားစိစိတ္တ
သာရာဘိဝံသစံ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. ကဗျာပရိသုတ္တံ

8:15 am

6. Songs of yesteryears

8:30 am

7. International news

8:45 am

8. Grammar Made Easy

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold

National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. English for Everyday Use

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

5:00 pm

5. အဝေးသံတော်သံဃာ ပညာရေး
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ရိုးစာ ပထမနှစ်
(သတ္တဗောဓါဓမ္မာအကျိုးပြုစာ)
(ရုက္ခဗောဓါ)

5:15 pm

6. Dance of national races

5:30 pm

7. လေ့ကျင့်ရေးစာတော်

5:35 pm

8. စံနားနားဆီတေးစာတော်

5:45 pm

9. ကမ္ဘာတို့နေ့တိုင်ရာ

တိုင်ရင်းသားဇာတ်ရာ

5:50 pm

10. Sing and enjoy

6:30 pm

11. Evening news

7:00 pm

12. Weather report

7:05 pm

13. သားငါးစုံဖြိုး ပြည့်အကျိုး

7:20 pm

14. The mirror images of
musical oldies

7:35 pm

15. "ဆွေ"

7:05 pm

16. တေးဂျူးစိုက်ဆရာတော်ဘုရား

8:00 pm

17. News

18. International news

19. Weather report

20. နိုင်ငံခြားစာတော်စာတို

"အရပ်ရပ်သို့မှာ" (အပိုင်း-၄၈)

10:30 pm

21. Euro 2004 ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ

တိုက်ရိုက်လွှင့်ချက်အစီအစဉ်

(ရက် နှင့် လတ်စီယား)

1:15 am

22. Euro 2004 ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ

တိုက်ရိုက်လွှင့်ချက်အစီအစဉ်

(ရက် နှင့် လတ်စီယား)

23. The next day's

programme



Tuesday, June 15

Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
8.35 am Music: Fast cars (Craig David)
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music: We've got tonight (Lu Lu + Ronan Keating)
8.50 am National news/Slogan
9.05 am Music: Mind machine (ATC)
9.10am International news
9.15 am Music: Walking on the water (Atomic Kitten)
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Lunch time music - Inside my head (Direct)
-That's the way it is (Madonna)
-Crazy for you (N'sync)
9.00 pm English speaking course level- 1 Unit (16)
9.15 pm Article/Music
9.25 pm Weekly sports reel
9.35 pm Music for your listening pleasure
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe accepting cash donations from wellwishers. — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe attends third cash donations presentation ceremony for Yantaingaug Hsutaungpyi MyoU pagoda

YANGON, 14 June — Third cash donations presentation ceremony for construction of Yantaingaug Hsutaungpyi MyoU pagoda to be located on Wizaya Bumi Maha Aungmyin Mingala hill Lashio, Shan State (North) in conjunction with tree planting ceremony was held at Yantaingaug Dhammayon near archway leading to Lashio on 11 June morning. Present on the occasion were State Ovaracariya Lashio Kanmain Kyaungtaik Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Munindha and members of Sangha, Member of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe

of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and wife, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint and senior military officers, local authorities, members of social organizations and local people.

First, the ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of *Namo Tassa* and the congregation received the Nine Precepts from the Sayadaw and members of Sangha.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presented offertories to Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Munindha (See page 8)

Coord meeting of NCCC, Work Committee and Management Committee held

YANGON, 14 June — The Coordination Meeting (No 10/2004) of National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee and Management Committee was held at the meeting hall of Anawrahta Hall, Nyaungnabin Camp, Hmawby Township this morning with an address by Chairman of NCCC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present at the meeting were Secretary of NCCC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members, Chairman of NCCCWC Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members, Chairman of the Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members.

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



Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses Coordination Meeting (No 10/2004) of NCCC, Work Committee and Management Committee. — MNA

First, Chairman of NCCC Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address. In his address, he said that the National Convention has been convened for five weeks. The plenary meeting of National Convention will be soon convened and delegates will submit their group-wise proposals. Now,

compilation papers are being read by delegate groups. So, the NCCCWC is urged to make arrangements for the convenience of the delegates when they submit their proposal papers on legislative, executive and judiciary and power sharing sectors at the plenary meeting of National Con-

vention. Regarding the management affairs, the needs of the delegates have been fulfilled, he said. He also stressed to fulfil the needs for health of the delegates. Next, Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan reported on arrangements for the cash assistance to be rendered by (See page 9)

Lt-Gen Maung Bo tours Myeik, inspects regional development

YANGON, 14 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Coastal Region Command Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials, left Myeik for Lutlut Village by car on 11 June morning.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party arrived at Lutlut sea prawn breeding project, jointly undertaken by the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and Tha Htoo Aung Company. At the briefing hall of the project, officials reported on tasks being carried out. In giving instructions, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that Taninthayi coastal region being a place crucial for marine products, it is therefore necessary to

undertake fish and prawn breeding industries in the region.

With the increasing number of companies coming to the region to make investment in the fish and prawn breeding industries, the job opportunities for local people are on the rise. As a result, the region has become prosperous. Therefore, it is incumbent on local people to provide assistance to these companies.

After cordially greeting those present at the get-together Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected progress of digging prawn ponds in the project.

There will be altogether 48 ponds on 420 acres of land. Among them 18 have been dug; 10 being dug and 20 remaining to be dug.

A total of 10-day-old 300,000 prawns will be bred in each pond. These tasks will be carried out by Tha Htoo Aung Co, USDA, Htoo Htoo Toe Co, (See page 11)



Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects cold storage of Ahsaungkaung Industries Co Ltd in Myeik. — MNA

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.