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More schools opened, existing ones, upgraded to increase number of intellectuals, intelligentsia, educated youths Prime Minister attends ceremony to open new school building in Ayadaw Township

YANGON, 15 June—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and members and Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, left Monywa by helicopter on 13 June morning and arrived at Magyeesauk Village in Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Division at 8.15 am.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by members of the District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people.

Next, the ceremony to open and hand over the new building for Magyeesauk Village Basic Education High School was held at the school at 8.30 am.

It was attended by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Vice-Chairman of MEC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), deputy ministers, officials at the State Peace

and Development Council Office and heads of department, members of the District and Township Peace and Development Councils, members of social organizations, well-wishers U Shan-Daw Khin Than and family of Mandalay, the director-general of No 2 Basic Education Department and officials, members of the School Board of Trustees, the headmaster and teachers, students and guests.

The ceremony to open the new building for the school was held in front of the building and Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt and well-wisher U Shan formally opened the facility.

After that, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt unveiled the stone inscription of the facility.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected computer skills room, audio lab, language lab, computer aided instruction room, domestic science room and others. Later, the Prime Minister and party viewed the skill demonstrations of the students at the music room.

Afterwards, the ceremony to hand over the new building continued at the hall of the building.

Well-wisher U Shan explained the purpose of donation of the school building.

Next, well-wisher U



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects reconstruction of Shwebon Yadana Mingala Palace of King Alaungphaya on 13-6-2004. — MNA

Shan handed over documents related to the new school building constructed at a cost of K 80 million to Director-General of No 2 Basic Education Department Lt-Col Win Htein.

After that, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented a TV set, VCR and a set of computer for the school to Headmaster U Nyunt Wai. Next, well-wisher U Shan presented K 3 million for the trust fund of the school, 1,000 exercise books and 900 pen-

cils to the headmaster.

Next, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win accepted K 500,000 donated by U Maung Kon-Daw Mi Mi and family, K 320,000 by U Aung Soe-Daw Hla Hla Win and family, K 300,000 by U Kyaw Khin-Daw Shu Wa and family, K 100,000 by U Kauk-Daw Yin Shwe and family, K 100,000 by U Kyon Kin-Daw Aung Moe Hlyan and family, K 100,000 by U Tun Wai and Ko Soe Paing, K 300,000 by U Kauk-Daw Saw Khin

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 inspects the chosen site for Ayadaw (2) Magyeesauk Water Pumping Project on 13-6-2004. — MNA

The National Convention is the concern of all our national races.

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 16 June, 2004

Work in concert for the future of the Union

The Kalay Region is at a strategic point between Sagaing Division and Chin State. However, the Kalay Region and other towns, namely, Mawlaik, Kalewa and Kani, on the west bank of the Chindwin river lagged behind in development as they were difficult of access. Therefore, the Kalay Region was designated as a development zone and a 200-bed hospital, a university and colleges were built there so that young people not only in the region but also in Chin State can pursue higher education. Moreover, to improve the transportation in the region, the Kalay airport was extended in order that passenger jets can land there and the Kalay-Gangaw railroad and the Kalay-Gangaw motor road constructed and the Tamu-Kalay-Kalewa motor road upgraded.

The Kalay region is now enjoying all-round development as it is the gateway to Chin State (North) as well as the hub of border trade between Myanmar and India. The Myittha Bridge (Kalewa) on the Kalay-Monywa motor road was inaugurated on 12 June and the opening ceremony was attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt himself. In extending greetings to the local people, the Prime Minister said that, as the entire nation was working hard in concert under the leadership of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, new roads and bridges have been emerging one after another, peace and stability prevailing all over the nation and the economic life of the people becoming stronger. Built across the Myittha river, the Myittha Bridge (Kalewa) is situated on the Monywa-Yargyi-Kalewa motor road. Because of this bridge, we will be able to travel from Monywa to Kalewa direct in a short time. Moreover, transport and trade between the Kalay Region, Monywa Region and Chin State (North) will rapidly develop.

The Monywa-Yargyi-Kalewa motor road was built by the Defence Services Military Engineering Unit. Moreover, the 36-mile Mawlaik-Kalewa motor road is under construction. When it is completed, the people in the Mawlaik Region will be able to travel to Monywa easily in a short time.

New roads and bridges that have appeared together with the Myittha Bridge will not only contribute to the development of the regions on the east and west banks of the Chindwin river, rural development and border area and border trade development but also promote friendship among the national races. We would like to call on the entire national races to lend themselves to all national endeavours made by the Government for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

MoU signed

YANGON, 12 June — A ceremony to sign memorandum of understanding for sending welders of corporate member companies of Myanmar Engineering Society to three-year course in Japan was held at Room 205 of MICT Park here on 8 June morning. The MoU was signed between the MEA and Fund for Construction Industry Promotion (FCIP) of Japan. — MNA

Film entertainments to NC delegates

YANGON, 15 June — The Entertainment and Welfare Subcommittee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee is organizing entertainment programmes for delegates to the National Convention daily at the gymnasium of Nyaungnapin Camp. Yesterday evening, the delegates were entertained with a film entitled "Thukyun Makhon Pyi" (Never fell under servitude) directed by Kyi Soe Tun and starred by Nyunt Win, Kyaw Thu, Lwin Moe, Kyaw Ye Aung and May Than Nu. — MNA

People's Desire

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



Leading Patron of Women Chapter of MMA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe honours a fund-raiser. — MNA

Women Chapter of MMA (Yangon) honours fund-raisers

YANGON, 15 June — A ceremony to present certificates of honour to those who had contributed to the fund-raising film show of Women Chapter of Myanmar Medical Association (Yangon) was held at the hall of the MMA on Theinbyu Street this afternoon. Leading Patron of Women Chapter of MMA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe attended the ceremony and presented certificates of honour. Present on the occasion were Vice-President of MMA Prof Dr U Thein Aung and executives, Leading Patrons the president, vice-presidents and members of Women Chapter of MMA, and officials of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise.

At the outset, President of Women Chapter of MMA Dr Daw Khin Lay Gyi extended greetings on the occasion. Next, Leading Patron of Women Chapter of MMA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented certificates of honour to Director (Production) U Myint Thein Pe who accepted on behalf of Managing Director of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Bo Kyi, a representative for U Sein Tin who was a film donor entitled "Amay-noh-boe", Daw Aye Aye Win of Lucky Seven Film Production who was a film donor entitled "Style", Managing Director of Mingalar Co Ltd U Zaw Min, U Zin Aung who accepted on behalf of Adviser to Market Economy of Mingalar Cinema Hall U Thein Hsaing and U Mya Sein on who accepted behalf of Daw San San Swe of Kyaidagon Film Production and actress Khin Zarchi Kyaw who had contributed to the fund-raising film show. — MNA

MoU signed for fishery JVC

YANGON, 15 June — A ceremony to sign memorandum of understanding for formation of Myanmar PPP Inter Assets Holding JVC Ltd was held at the meeting hall of the Fisheries Department on Hsin Min Road, Ahlon Township, here, on 10 June morning. Director-General of Fisheries Department U Than Tun and Myanmar PPP Inter Assets Holding JVC Ltd President Mr Surachai Na Pombajara extended greetings. Managing Director of Phyto Pyei Phyto Co Ltd U Aung Kyaw Oo and Mr Surachai Na Pombajara signed the memorandum. Mr Surachai Na Pombajara donated K 500,000 for storm victims of Rakhine State. Minister for Livestock & Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein accepted the donation and spoke words of thanks. — MNA



Opening ceremony of the course in progress. — UMFCFI

International Trade Course opens

YANGON, 15 June — The International Trade Course (Programme 2) (batch-3), organized by the UMFCFI (Educational Affairs Committee) was opened at the UMFCFI head office on Bo Sun Pat Road here this morning. UMFCFI Vice-President U Aung Lwin delivered an address. Education Work Committee Chairman U Sein Win Hlaing explained facts about the course. The nine-day course is being attended by 60 trainees. — MNA

POEM:

To those who say they want to see people of Myanmar make progress

- * Only when mother is healthy
The embryo inside the womb
Will be strong and intellectually sound
Completely strong and cheerful
When born surely.
- * If mother who is carrying the embryo
Is not strong, but frail
Child who is weak and not sound
Intellectually, could be born.
- * Physically strong and intellectually sound
Is the breed of child desired
Mother who is carrying child
Must be strong and cheerful
That is first and foremost priority
Consider related matters.

Byan Hlwar (Trs)



Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi being welcomed back at the airport. — MNA

Energy Minister arrives back from Malaysia

YANGON, 15 June — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi arrived back here this morning after attending the 9th Annual Asia Oil and Gas Conference held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, heads of departments under the Ministry and their families. — MNA

Water supply to entire Aunglan

YANGON, 15 June — Deputy Director-General of Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs U Khin Latt attended the ceremony to unveil signboard mentioning the supply of water to the entire Aunglan Township in Magway Division on 14 June morning. Magway Division Peace and Development Council Secretary Lt-Col Zaw Thein formally unveiled the signboard. — MNA

Shooting contest to mark International Olympic Day to be held

YANGON, 15 June — A shooting contest in commemoration of the International Olympic Day for 2004 to be sponsored by Myanmar Shooting Federation will be held from 21 to 23 June at Okkala Shooting Range in South Okkalapa Township.

There will be four categories—air pistol (men), air rifle (men), air pistol (women) and air rifle (women), and four divisions—national, advanced, novice and junior. Those wishing to take part in the contest are to register at the shooting range from 18 to 20 June 2004.

MNA

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Car bomb kills five foreigners in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 14 June—A car bomb tore through a convoy Monday in central Baghdad, including an American and four other foreigners working to rebuild Iraq power plants. A crowd gathered, shouting "Down with the USA!" and dancing around a charred body.

The dead included three employees of Granite Services Inc, a wholly owned, Tampa, Fla.-based subsidiary of General Electric, and two security contractors, said GE spokeswoman Louise Binns in Brussels.

Passions boiled over as the crowd of youths taunted American troops and Western journalists who rushed to the scene near Tahrir Square. American troops beat one man with a stick,

but after failing to restrain the crowd, the troops and police withdrew.

One civilian bystander — missing a finger from the bomb — ran up to Western reporters and shouted at them to leave.

The blast, which destroyed eight vehicles and turned nearby shops and a two-story house to rubble, is the second bombing in as many days to kill a dozen people and comes nearly two

weeks before the formal end of the US-led occupation.

"Nothing is more important than the safety of our employees and those supporting our efforts," Binns said in a statement.

Frantic Iraqis scooped up the wounded and loaded them into private cars to be taken to hospitals.

The US military said the dead included two Britons, one Frenchman, one American and a foreigner of unde-

termined nationality. More than 60 people, including 10 foreign contractors, were injured, the military said.

The bomb went off as three SUVs carrying the contractors were passing through the square. Five other vehicles were also destroyed.

The attack unleashed fresh anger at the United States, with crowds chanting "Down with the USA!" and burning an American flag. — *Internet*

Tunisia to return Iraqi civilian airplanes

BAGHDAD, 14 June — The new Iraqi Transport Minister has announced that Tunisia agreed to return Iraq's civilian airplanes that have been in its airports since 1991, local newspaper *Al Mashriq* reported Saturday.

"The government of Tunisia decided to return the Iraqi airplanes that have been staying in their airports since the second Gulf War of 1991," Luay Hatim al-Ierres was quoted as saying.

"It also decided to obliterate the fees that Iraq is supposed to pay for keeping the airplanes in their airports," he added.

As for the Iraqi airplanes in Iran and Jordan, al-Ierres said that an Iraqi delegation would visit Teheran and Amman to negotiate the possibility of returning the Iraqi airplanes. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Iraqis crowd around a burning vehicle after a bomb attack in the centre of Baghdad on 14 June, 2004. A suicide car bombing in the heart of Baghdad killed at least 12 people on Monday, including five foreign contractors working for Iraq's US-led authorities, whose convoy was the apparent target. — INTERNET

Delays hit US-funded Iraq oil projects

BAGHDAD, 14 June—US-funded projects to repair Iraq oil industry have run into severe delays, damaging efforts to raise output needed to raise funds for postwar reconstruction, according to an internal Oil Ministry report.

So many acronyms, so little time. Take the pain out of managing your music, movies, and photos.

The report, seen by Reuters, shows that work has begun on only 119 out of 226 post-war projects, most of which were awarded to US oil giant Halliburton or its subsidiaries.

No project has been finished and only half the work has been completed in 94 of those under way, the recently

prepared report says.

A senior Iraqi industry insider said many of the problems were not security-related, although violence in Iraq has aggravated them. "These projects were due to be completed between July last year and April," he said.

Halliburton officials in Baghdad and Kuwait were not available for comment.

The projects, jointly identified by US and Iraqi

officials, include water injection plants, surface work, communications, maintenance on oil wells and other facilities.

Iraq's oil sector was in poor shape after last year's US led invasion because of post-war looting, combined with the effects of more than 12 years of UN sanctions and damage suffered in three wars in a quarter of a century.

— *Internet*

G-20 says agricultural negotiations central to Doha Round

SAO PAULO (Brazil), 14 June— Trade ministers from the Group of 20 (G-20) agreed here on Saturday that negotiations on agriculture are central to move the Doha Round to a successful and timely conclusion.

Trade in agricultural products continues to be hindered by all sorts of barriers and distortions and true liberalization in agricultural trade must include reforms to address these problems, the ministers said in a communique.

To this end, the ministers pledged to maintain a high-level coordination of G-20 positions as well as a constant dialogue with other interested groups. The ministers called for an early establishment of modalities capable of ensuring substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support, substantial increase in market access, phasing-out with a view to elimination of all forms of export subsidies. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Uruguay, Iran sign trade accord

MONTVIDEO, 14 June — The governments of Uruguay and Iran have signed in Montevideo, Uruguay's capital, a trade accord seeking to promote bilateral relations.

The agreement was inked Friday by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Didier Operti and Iranian Trade and Industry Minister Mohammad Shariatmadari, who arrived here Thursday.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Britain to court martial four soldiers over Iraq abuses

LONDON, 14 June— Britain is to court martial four soldiers for allegedly beating and sexually abusing prisoners in Iraq, Attorney General Peter Goldsmith's spokesman said Monday.

The Army Prosecuting Authority (APA), which handles such cases independently from the military, had ordered the trial of four soldiers from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers on 11 June.

It is the first legal proceedings ordered against any British soldiers over allegations of mistreatment in Iraq. "The charges against the four include assault, indecent assault which apparently in-

volves making the victims engage in sexual activity between themselves, and a military charge of prejudicing good order and military discipline," the spokesman said. — *Internet*



British soldiers patrol a street in the southern Iraqi city of Basra. British Attorney General Peter Goldsmith revealed that the British military is to court martial four soldiers for alleged abuses committed in Iraq on 14 June, 2004. — INTERNET

Guantanamo interrogators use tea and "mental chess"

US NAVAL BASE (Guantanamo Bay, Cuba), 15 June — In the small, bare rooms where foreign terrorism suspects are interrogated at the US Guantanamo Bay military prison, swivel chairs and cups of tea can be useful tools, the senior interrogator said.

The treatment of the 600 prisoners at Guantanamo has come under scrutiny since the abuse of prisoners in Iraq by US troops was revealed in April, when pictures emerged of bound prisoners being sexually humiliated and threatened by dogs.

The military has acknowledged that the techniques were used in Iraq after recommendations from the former Guantanamo prison chief on ways to get more information from detainees.

Some released Guantanamo prisoners have said they were shackled in "stress" positions for hours while they were questioned

and that threatening dogs, strobe lights, freezing air and other methods were used.

But officials who spoke with reporters visiting the prison this week portrayed the exchanges at Guantanamo more as a battle of wits than a confrontation.

They denied reports of ill-treatment and said that unlike Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq, Guantanamo was tightly controlled and the military police were highly trained. Brigadier-General Jay Hood, commander of the task force that runs the prison operation, said the prisoners were treated in compliance with the Geneva Conventions and that the

camp was run in a "safe, secure and humane" manner.

The camp's senior interrogator, a Marine and Navy veteran who is a homicide detective in civilian life and who spoke on condition he not be identified, portrayed his work as a subtle psychological battle to get prisoners to tell what they might know about terrorist plans. "It's a mental chess game," he said. "About 99 per cent of what we do down here is not even close to the general definition of interrogation — confrontation, adversarial and hostile," he said.

— *MNA/Reuters*

US unit reported mistreatment of detainees at Abu Ghraib

NEW YORK, 15 June — Internal US military documents show an interrogation unit reported mistreatment of detainees at Abu Ghraib Prison in November 2003, two months before military officials have said they learned of prisoner abuses, *The New York Times* reported on Monday.

The newspaper, citing interviews with military personnel who worked in the prison, said the abuse allegations reported to senior officers included the beatings of five blindfolded Iraqi generals.

"We were reporting it long before this mess came out," the newspaper quoted one of several unidentified military intelligence soldiers interviewed in Germany and the United States as saying.

At least 20 accounts of mistreatment were included in the documents, the newspaper cited military personnel as saying.

Some detainees described abuse at other detention facilities before they were transferred to Abu Ghraib, but at least seven

incidents said to be cited in the documents took place at the prison, the newspaper reported.

The abuse allegations were cited by members of the prison's Detainee Assessment Branch, an interrogation unit, in routine weekly reports to military judge advocates and others, the *Times* said.

The unit's reports were to be sent for final approval to a three-member board that included Brigadier-General Janis Karpinski, who was in

charge of US-run prisons in Iraq during the abuse, and Major-General Barbara Fast, the top Army intelligence officer in Iraq, the newspaper said.

Military officials in Baghdad acknowledged on Sunday that lawyers on a magistrate board reviewed the reports, but they could not confirm whether Karpinski and Fast had seen them, or whether any action had been taken to investigate the incidents, the *Times* said. — *MNA/Reuters*



Men dance on a vehicle in front of a building damaged by a car bomb in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 14 June.

INTERNET

Kerry calls on Bush to reverse stem cell policy

PITTSBURGH, 14 June — After a week of political silence to honour Ronald Reagan, Democratic presidential hopeful John Kerry called on Saturday for a White House policy change to allow more research into Alzheimer's, the brain-wasting disease that afflicted the former president.

The Senator from Massachusetts joined a growing chorus, including the voice of Reagan's widow, Nancy, in urging President George W Bush to remove restrictions on embryonic stem cell research that could help combat Alzheimer's.

"We must lift the barriers that stand in the way of science and push the boundaries of medical exploration so that researchers can find the cures that are there, if only they are allowed to look," Kerry said in the Democrats' weekly radio address.

Bush has placed limits on stem cell research and opposes using stem cells from most embryos.

Embryonic stem cells have the ability to produce cells that make any kind of tissue at all, and the hope is to train them to produce tissues and organs on demand.

But their origin is controversial to some people

because they are taken from tiny embryos left over from IVF or test tube fertilization attempts. They can also be made using cloning technology.

A White House spokesman said the President "continues to believe strongly that we should not cross a fundamental moral line by funding or encouraging the destruction of human embryos".

Ending a self-imposed campaign hiatus that began with Reagan's death last Saturday, Kerry said: "We must look to the future not with fear, but with the hope and the faith that advances in medicine will advance our best values."

The presumptive Democratic presidential nominee would overturn the ban on federal funding of research on new stem cell lines and allow the exploration of their full potential with ethical oversight.

MNA/Reuters

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New Zealand troops under fire in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 15 June — At least two British soldiers suffered minor injuries and a New Zealand supply hut was damaged in the early morning attack (about midday New Zealand time yesterday). The mortar attack was targeted at a military base housing 61 New Zealanders in Basra.

The New Zealand Defence Force contingent shares heavily fortified Fortress Lines with engineers from the British Army. No New Zealanders were hurt.

A spokeswoman for Defence Minister Mark Burton said the deployment remained under constant review but no thought had been given to withdrawing the troops.

Commander Sandy

McKie, of the Defence Ministry, said contact with the base was difficult and few details were available.

A portable cabin used by the New Zealanders had been damaged.

Heavy fire was a fact of life in the war-torn region: "It is a high-risk area... Our people are aware of that."

It was the first mortar attack on the base.

In April the base went

into "lockdown" after a series of simultaneous car bombs rocked the southern Iraqi city, killing at least 40 people.

Troops were confined to base during Easter, when Iraqi militants seized a number of foreign hostages and violence intensified against coalition forces.

They are due home in September.

Internet

Anti-American sentiment grows among Kurds in Iraq

IRBIL, 14 June — In the days since the UN Security Council passed a resolution governing the restoration of Iraqi sovereignty that has no overt mention of Kurdish concerns, something has been brewing in the streets here that was unheard of just a few weeks ago: Anti-American sentiment.

While the Kurds note that they are forever indebted to the US for establishing a no-fly zone in 1991, they also say that the Americans have neglected them.

"We have been betrayed by the Americans," said San Karim Mohammed, 32, a law student. "If America doesn't solve these problems now, I don't know how we are go-

ing to make any progress in the future. The Shiite are going to turn Iraq into an Islamist state like Iran."

Iraqi Kurds proudly point out that their army, the peshmerga, fought with the Americans and helped establish a northern front when coalition forces invaded Iraq last year. They also point out that they have long suffered

from being refused nationhood by the British in the 1920s to seeing thousands killed by chemical weapons at Halabja.

"We have such a long history of suffering and waiting," said Ismael Hassen, 40, a history teacher. "That is what makes this UN resolution so difficult to deal with."

Internet

Malaysian minister says ASEAN to create regional companies

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 June — ASEAN is discussing the possibility of creating regional companies as part of the strategy for integration, Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz has said.

The possibility was expected to be realized at the Summit of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Laos in November, she told reporters after launching her ministry's Family Day here on Sunday.

ASEAN, now grouping

10 countries in the region, was set up in 1967 to boost regional cooperation.

The objective of creating regional entities was to enable ASEAN companies to compete with others at the international level, she said, while calling on big companies in the region to

merge with each other into regional entities.

She said there were 11 major sectors that could be developed by regional entities, including the wood, automotive, textile, electronic and cosmetic sectors.

MNA/Xinhua

China to intensify public security work

BEIJING, 14 June — A Chinese senior leader recently highlighted the importance of public security, saying a harmonious and stable social environment is essential to the country's reforms and economic development.

Luo Gan, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made the remark at a national conference on coordinated measures for maintaining law and order, which was held in Hangzhou, the capital city of east China's Zhejiang Province, from Friday to Saturday.

He urged local public security departments to send officials down to the grassroots to help solve problems when they are just burgeoning.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese railway departments increase coal transportation

BEIJING, 14 June — About 400 million tons of coal was transported by rail from January to May this year in China, up 11.7 percent year on year, according to the latest figures from the Ministry of Railways.

Coal shortage has been reported since late last year due to rising domestic demand as the economy has been growing at high speed in China, which relies heavily on coal for energy supply.

Major coal producers are making all-out endeavours to guarantee coal supply for the booming industrial sectors, especially power plants.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi women line up behind razor wire, waiting to find out whether their family members would be among the prisoners released from Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad, Iraq, on 14 June, 2004. Hundreds of prisoners were released on Monday, a day after the US military pledged that as many as 1,400 detainees will either be released or transferred to Iraqi authorities by 20 June. — *INTERNET*

Blair loses again at polls as eurosceptics rise

LONDON, 14 June — Prime Minister Tony Blair suffered further electoral trauma on Monday, losing to his Conservative opponents at European polls as support surged for a fringe party that demands Britain withdraw from the EU.

With results for 68 of Britain's 78 seats in the European Parliament declared, the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) had snatched 12, capitalizing on the British public's traditionally eurosceptic views.

The Conservatives won 25 seats and Blair's Labour Party a paltry 17 — another damaging result for the prime minister, who has already admitted his decision to wage war in Iraq has taken a heavy electoral toll.

Britons voted on Thursday in the first day of a four-day 25-nation poll that ended on Sunday. The remaining 10 seats, for Northern Ireland and Scotland, will be announced later on Monday.

"The results look as

though they are going to be very disappointing, not just for us but for all the main political parties," Blair's Trade Secretary, Patricia Hewitt, told BBC television. She cited Iraq as a major factor. In local government election voting on Thursday, held at the same time as the European polls, Blair received a drubbing.

In terms of share of the vote, Labour was pushed into third place by the Liberal Democrats — an unprecedented reverse for a governing party in Britain. Blair has already called on his followers to hold their nerve as some disaffected Labour members have demanded he stand aside, something he has resolutely refused to do.

Analysts say taken as a whole, this week's elections sound a serious warning to Blair that he cannot take a third general election victory for granted. A vote is expected next year.

But the Conservatives have also failed to show they can overturn Blair's massive majority in Parliament.

"Although this is a bad night for the Labour Party, no question about that, that is not being mirrored by a very good night for the Conservative Party," said Anthony King, professor of government at Essex University. "UKIP is making inroads and it is making inroads mainly into the Conservative vote."

MNA/Reuters



A crowd of Iraqis carry an injured man from a damaged building after a car bomb exploded in central Baghdad, Iraq on 14 June, 2004. A car bomb tore through a convoy Monday in central Baghdad, killing at least 12 people, including three foreigners working to rebuild Iraq's power plants. — INTERNET

Guantanamo cell tapes turned over to US officials

US NAVAL BASE (Guantanamo Bay, Cuba), 14 June — Officers at the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay have turned over to military authorities more than 500 hours of videotape showing guards subduing prisoners and forcibly moving them from cells, senior officials said.

The tapes are expected to be released in a few weeks to Pentagon and congressional investigators examining abuses of prisoners by US troops, and many will likely be made public, the officials told journalists visiting the base in the past week.

Most of the almost 600 prisoners at the base in Cuba were captured in late 2001 during the US-led war in Afghanistan; most have not been charged with a crime.

The tapes show five-member teams of guards subduing prisoners who break camp rules, throw bodily waste at guards or refuse to leave their cells when ordered to, said Colonel Nelson Cannon, who serves as the prison warden.

They document 500 to 600 instances where the teams, called the Immediate

Response Forces or IRFs, were called in to move or restrain prisoners, Cannon said.

"Forty-five per cent of IRFs are ones who don't want to go to interrogations," Cannon said. "Sometimes you've got to carry them all the way."

Some prisoners released from Guantanamo said detainees were beaten during that process and some suffered broken limbs. Guantanamo officials denied that and said they were confident the tapes would show the guards do not rough up the prisoners. They confirmed former prisoners' reports that pepper spray was sometimes used.

The treatment of the prisoners at Guantanamo has come under scrutiny since the abuse of prisoners in Iraq by US troops was revealed

in April, when pictures emerged of bound prisoners being humiliated and threatened by dogs.

"Given events around the world and the great interest in how the detention and intelligence-gathering mission is being conducted, nearly every aspect of our operation here has been reviewed by one group or another," said Brigadier-General Jay Hood, who commands the task force running the prison.

"I have no concerns about providing those (tapes)," he said.

The unarmed IRF team members wear padded suits like police SWAT teams and each of four grabs one of the prisoner's arms and legs. The fifth handcuffs and shackles the prisoner, base officials said.

MNA/Reuters

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Ex-US diplomats say Bush should be defeated in elections

LOS ANGELES, 14 June — A group of 26 former US diplomats and military leaders, upset by US President George Bush's foreign policy, have signed a statement saying that Bush should be defeated in November presidential elections, the *Los Angeles Times* reported Sunday.

The signatories, several of whom appointed to key positions by Republican presidents Ronald Reagan and George H W Bush, plan to issue a joint statement Wednesday arguing that President Bush has damaged America's national security and should be defeated in November, the report said.

The group, which calls itself Diplomats and Military Commanders for Change, will explicitly condemn Bush's foreign policy, according to William Harrop, the ambassador to Israel under President Bush's father and one of the group's principal organizers.

Bush's policy has weakened American security by straining traditional alliances and shifting resources from the war against al-Qaeda to the invasion of Iraq, the statement will declare.

"Unfortunately the tough stands [Bush] has taken have made us less secure. He has neglected the war on terrorism for the war in Iraq. And while we agree that we are in unprecedented times and we face challenges we didn't even know about before, these challenges require the cooperation of other countries. We cannot do it by ourselves," the

statement says.

Those signing the document include 20 former US ambassadors, appointed by presidents of both parties, to countries including Israel, the former Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia.

Others are senior State Department officials from the Carter, Reagan and Clinton administrations and former military leaders, including Joseph Hoar, the former commander of US forces in the Middle East under President Bush's father.

It is unusual for so many former high-level US military officials and career diplomats to issue such an overtly political message during a presidential campaign.

But one senior Republican strategist familiar with White House thinking said he did not think the group was sufficiently well-known to create significant political problems for the president.

The strategist also said the signatories were making an argument growing increasingly obsolete as Bush leans more on the international community for help in Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua

Britain allows some embassy staff to leave Saudi Arabia

LONDON, 14 June — Britain's Foreign Office said on Sunday it had authorized non-essential staff at the British Embassy in Saudi Arabia and their relatives to leave the country if they wish.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the overall travel advice on the kingdom remained that "all but essential travel to Saudi Arabia" should be avoided.

"We have now authorized voluntary departure of non-essential staff and de-

pendants from our missions," he said.

Saudi militants have carried out six attacks on Westerners in the country in six weeks, sending shockwaves through the expatriate community in the world's largest oil exporter and prompting fears of a mass exodus.

The spokesman stressed that travel advice on Saudi Arabia was under constant review and said Sunday's announcement was not due to any particular event.

The Foreign Office travel

advice urges British nationals not to go to the kingdom unless absolutely necessary and states: "Following terrorist attacks in April and May 2004, we continue to believe that terrorists are planning further attacks in Saudi Arabia."

Anyone who does travel there "should maintain a high level of vigilance, particularly in public places frequented by foreigners," it adds. Some 30,000 Britons live in Saudi Arabia.

MNA/Reuters

Mercosur, EU fail to endorse free trade deal

SAO PAULO (Brazil), 14 June — The Common Market of the South America (MERCOSUR) and the European Union (EU) on Sunday failed to reach an agreement aimed at setting up a free trade area between the two regional blocs.

MERCOSUR and EU are still deeply divided over such major issues as agricultural subsidies, services and government procurement, Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim said at a Press conference here after a meeting with EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy.

But he added the two sides are still hoping that a free trade deal will be endorsed by October this year, a deadline agreed by both MERCOSUR and EU.

"The political will exists to reach an accord, and it will not be a superficial accord," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqis burn an American flag at the scene of a car bombing in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 14 June, 2004. — INTERNET



Iraqis survey the scene of destruction after a car bomb explosion in the centre of Baghdad on 14 June, 2004.



Smoke billows from the scene of a car bomb in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 14 June, 2004.



A car bomb killed at least 12 people, including five foreigners, and wounded 50 other people in a busy Baghdad street on 14 June, 2004.



Iraqis rush to the scene of a car bomb attack in the centre of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on 14 June, 2004.



An Iraqi boy who was injured in a car bomb explosion outside the US military camp in Baghdad on 13 June, 2004, seen receiving treatment in a Baghdad hospital.

Images of Iraq



Iraqi rescuers approach a destroyed building after a bomb attack in the centre of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on 14 June, 2004.



An injured man is examined at Al-Kindi Hospital, after a car bomb exploded in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 14 June, 2004.

New and fast developments throughout Myanmar



Rural houses are being built for the convenience of the village people living in Mogaung village, Aunglan Township in Magway Division.—PBANRDA



Part of Mongpan-Kengtawng Road in Shan State, which was constructed for border area development.—MYANMA ALIN



An affiliated high school in Pinya Model Village in Kyauktalone region.
MYANMA ALIN



Township Development Affairs Committee is sinking a tubewell to supply potable water to rural people living in Paukkon village, Moenyo Township, Bago Division.
PBANRDA



New roads are being built in rural areas for better transportation. The photo shows gravelling of roads in Thonekhwayun village, Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Division.
PBANRDA

Border and rural area developments



Lweliyan Bridge on Namti-Tanai Road in Mogaung Township, Kachin State,—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presses the button to unveil the stone inscription of the new building of Magyeesauk Village Basic Education High School (Branch) in Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Division, on 13-6-2004. — MNA

Prime Minister attends ...

(from page 1)

U Kyaw Nyunt-Daw San; U Thaug Sein-Daw Kyi Aye; U Tin Cho-Daw Suu, U Nyunt Way-Daw Pyon; U Kyaw Myint-Daw Win Nu and U Aung Phyo-Daw Nyunt Tin totalling K 1.3 million for the trust funds of the school.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye accepted K 500,000 by U Thein Htaik-Daw Paw Kyi and family of Mandalay for the trust funds of the school. Later, Deputy Chief Justice U Khin Maung Latt accepted K 500,000 by Daw Taw of Mandalay for the trust funds of the school. Next, Deputy Minister U Myo Nyunt accepted K 100,000 by Dr Aung Kyaw Myint-Daw Waing; K 100,000 by U Win Myint Thein-Daw Aye Sanda Win; K 50,000 by U Tint Lwin; K 20,000 by U Tin Ngwe and K 30,000 by U Mya Than-Daw Po totalling K 300,000 for the trust funds of the school. Afterwards, member of the School Board of Trustees U Nyan Kywe spoke of thanks. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a speech, saying that such donation for development of own native or own village as well as for improvement of education standard of children of the village is of high benefits towards education, and the State, on its part, thanked the well-wishers. Next, the Prime Minister and party proceeded to Magyeesauk river water pumping project site.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported on current of Mu river after construction of Thaphanseik Dam in Sagaing Division and implementation of Ayadaw-1, Ayadaw-2 and Ayadaw-3 river water pumping stations based on water volume of Mu river.

Next, Director-General of Water Resources Utilization Department U Win Shwe matters related to Ayadaw-2 river water pumping project, construction of main canal and distributaries, cultivation of 200 acres of summer paddy and arrangements being made for cultivation of 1,000 acres of monsoon paddy, implementation of Ayadaw-3 river water pumping project and potential benefits for Ayadaw region upon completion of Ayadaw-1, Ayadaw-2 and Ayadaw-3 river water pumping stations.

The commander reported on possible water sources for irrigation of more cultivable land in Ayadaw Township. The General gave instructions and inspected the flow of Mu River and the chosen site for building a water pumping station. The General and party proceeded to Ayadaw later in the morning, where they were welcomed by local authorities, departmental officials, members of social organizations and locals.

On arrival at Ayadaw People's Hospital, the General looked into the wards, operation theatre and X-ray room, and attended to the needs. The General held a meeting with local authorities, departmental officials, social organizations and townsenders. Officials reported on output of monsoon paddy, beans and pulses, edible oil crops, kitchen crops, sugarcane, cotton and summer paddy, measures being taken for education and health sectors, and implementation of the work guidelines on regional development given by the Prime Minister in his tour of Magyeesauk village water pumping project in Ayadaw Township on 10 September 2002.

The General fulfilled the requirements, saying that it being a township that has won an award on health presented by the WHO, Ayadaw Township needs to maintain the momentum of community health care concerns. In this regard, officials concerned are to carry out tasks with the concept that health care services are to be provided instantly for the people.

With respect to the township's economy, the region is mainly engaged in agriculture, but up to now, the crops

the region can produce on a large scale are only beans and pulses and edible oil crops. Its paddy output has not met the target of self-sufficiency yet. So, integrated endeavours are to be made for local rice sufficiency, while emphasis is to be placed on maintenance of the momentum of surplus output of edible oil crops.

The government has implemented Ayadaw water pumping project Nos 1, 2 and 3 for promotion of the region's agricultural sector. On completion, the projects will be able to benefit over 70,000 acres of arable land.

Measures are to be taken for boosting agricultural production and rural development through harmonious and combined efforts of those in charge of township GADs, agricultural staff and farmers. Development of rural regions is important for development of a township. So, the five rural development tasks are to be carried out effectively. Respective township development affairs committees are responsible not only for development tasks but for rural water supply and upgrading of rural roads. In conclusion, the Prime Minister called on those in charge of township GADs, service personnel and local populace to make collective efforts for development of the entire township.

The Prime Minister presented a TV set, a video cassette player and a computer set to the school through the principal. The Prime Minister and party went to the project for reconstruction of the Shwebon Yadana Mingala Palace of King Alaungphaya who built Yadana Theinga Palace, in Shwebo. Deputy Director-General of the Archaeology Department U Aung Kyaing and Engineer In Charge of Public Works U Zaw Win reported on work progress, and rebuilding tasks. The Prime Minister gave instructions on keeping the already-rebuilt buildings by respective ministries and adopted future tasks.

The Prime Minister and party paid obeisance to NanOo Aungmye Hsutaungpyi Pagoda and inspected construction of buildings in Shwebon Yadana Mingala Palace.

The Prime Minister, the Secretary-1 and party went to Shwebo People's Hospital where they were welcomed by Medical Superintendent Dr Mya Thein, specialists and doctors. They inspected wards, operation theatre and X-ray room. The Prime Minister gave instructions on renovation of the hospital.

The Prime Minister met members of District and Township Peace and Development Council departmental officials, social organizations and townsenders at Yangyiaung Hall in Shwebo.

Chairman of Shwebo District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Win Naing reported on location and areas, set-up of wards and village-tracts, households and population, cultivation and yield of summer paddy for 2003-2004, harvesting of paddy, cultivation of ten major crops, targets for production of monsoon paddy and crops and cultivation, local rice sufficiency, measures undertaken for education and health and requirements. The Prime Minister inspect the requirements and fulfilled them. He said cultivation in Shwebo District is successful due to better climate of early monsoon. The government built Thaphanseik Dam and launched irrigation system. As a result double cropping increased. There is surplus of paddy after reclamation of new farmlands and Sagaing Division has become a granary of Upper Myanmar, he said.

He said regional authorities and officials are to make efforts for boosting production of paddy and extended cultivation of beans and pulses and edible oil crops after full utilization of the dams, river water pumping projects and sinking water projects. By doing so there will be surplus of crops in the country and the surplus can be exported. Based on agricultural development the country is to be established as a modern developed one.

He urged officials to make efforts for increase of agri-

cultural production, individual income and strong economy. Next, the Prime Minister presented a TV, a video player and a computer each for the three schools in the town. During the air trip from Shwebo to Wetlet, the Prime Minister and party had an aerial view of the thriving crops fields.

In Wetlet, the Prime Minister met with local authorities, departmental personnel, social organizations and local elders. Officials concerned presented reports on the location, area, population, climate and rainfall of the township, road and bridge construction and repair works, crop cultivation including summer paddy, crop yield, agricultural plans, food production, forest conservation, transport, health and education of the township. The Prime Minister presented a TV, a video player and a computer for Wetlet Township Basic Education High School.

The Prime Minister attended to the needs, saying that the State has already used a large amount of finance to implement necessary tasks in Sagaing Division. More schools have been opened and the existing ones upgraded in the division to increase the number of intellectuals and intelligentsia and educated youths. Similarly, hospitals and dispensaries have been upgraded, and their numbers increased. Understanding the State's goodwill efforts for the uplift of the living standard and development of the socio-economy of the people, township level officials should give priority to rural development tasks. They should try to understand the lives of the rural people. Towns will develop, only when there is progress in the rural areas. Collective efforts are needed for development of the township and promoting the living standard of local people. In YeU, the Prime Minister met with local authorities, departmental personnel, social organizations and local elders. Officials reported to him on extension of 150,000 more acres of crops thanks to Kintat and Kabo dams diverting water from the Thaphanseik Dam to the crop fields, monsoon and summer paddy cultivation, cultivation of ten major crops, monsoon paddy cultivation plan for 2004-2005 and health and education undertakings. The Prime Minister presented a TV, a video player and a computer each for the schools in the town.

The Prime Minister said thanks to the Thaphanseik Dam, YeU Township is enjoying more agricultural development than in the past. As Sagaing Division is going to produce more rice to fulfil the food consumption of upper Myanmar, the township will have to strive to increase paddy production, with its favourable soil and other conditions as the base. Efforts should be made for progress of the rural areas, greening the region and conserving forests and planting trees. Collective leadership and responsibility is required for progress of the township. At Khatekkan village in Monywa Township, the Prime Minister, the Secretary-1 and party paid respects to Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Narada. The Prime Minister presented offertories and cash donations for construction of Yok-pwa-daw-myat-gyi Pagoda to the Sayadaw. During inspection of the Government Technological College (Monywa), the Prime Minister and party heard a report on academic matters of the Government Technological College (Monywa) and Government Computer College (Monywa) presented by Minister for Science and Technology U Thaug. Officials concerned presented reports on salient points of the project, and academic affairs, the number of teachers and students of the two colleges. The Prime Minister gave instructions, and inspected the scale model of the project. The Prime Minister and party also paid homage to the Mohynin Thanbode Pagoda and presented cash donations to the pagoda funds.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt makes cash donation for construction of a Buddha image at Maha Bodhi Tahtaung monastery to an official on 13-6-2004. — MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents pedagogical aids to Magyisauk Village BEHS on 13-6-2004 through Principal U Nyunt Wai. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win accepts cash donations for the trust fund of Magyisauk Village BEHS. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects road sections and bridges on An-Sittway road

YANGON, 15 June — State Peace and Development Council member Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence during his inspection tour of Minbya Township of Rakhine State, accompanied by Col Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station and officials, arrived at Ramong Bridge construction project site on 11 June morning. Officials concerned reported to him on progress of work in section (2) of An-Sittway Road (Yawchaung-Myaungbwe road section) construction.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions. The road section (2) of An-Sittway road will be 46 miles 4 furlongs long between Myaybon and Minbya townships.

Along the road, 48

wooden bridges are scheduled to be turned into concrete ones. So far 7 bridges have been turned into concrete ones. Thirteen wooden bridges out of the rest will be built into concrete ones at the end of this rainy season.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected the Ramong Bridge and left necessary instructions. The Ramong bridge is 1,300 feet long and was opened in 1999.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded by car to the 86 mile-7 furlong milepost and inspected paving of the road. Officials concerned reported work progress and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen

Khin Maung Than, together with Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo and officials, arrived at Kyettet Creek Dam near Kanni village of Minbya Township.

The dam is located four miles from Kanni village with watershed area of 0.3 square mile. The earthen dam is 38 feet high and 420 feet long. It can store 20 million gallons of water.

Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the regional battalion of Kya-in Hill and met with Tatmadaw officers, other ranks and families. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than fulfilled requirements in health, social and educational sectors of them. He urged all to undertake agricultural and livestock breeding works on

a manageable scale to increase incomes.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo and party proceeded to Htantin Bridge renovation project site.

Officials concerned reported on the progress of work. The wooden bridge was 20 feet in length in the past and it is being extended to 48 feet.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded by car to Maungchaung Hill at milepost 54/2 and inspected the renovation of the road.

Officials reported on work progress and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions. The road was very steep in the past and now it is being renovated with the use of heavy machinery to decrease the height by 40 feet.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to Yaw Creek bridge construction project site. Officials concerned reported on paving of the road for 13 miles and renovation of 37 medium and small bridges along the road.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung

Than gave necessary instructions.

The Yaw Creek railway bridge is 1,100 feet long and was opened in 1999.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected the Sittway-An road. They arrived at Hsinlan Hill and Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions on renovation of the road.

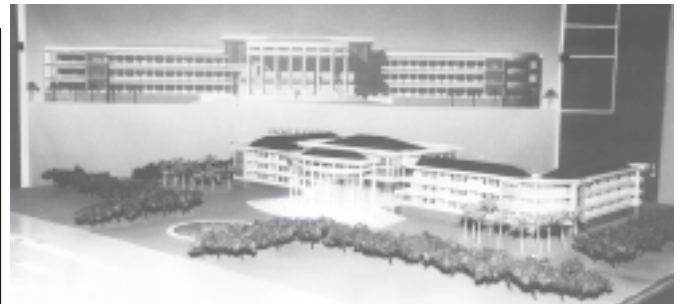
Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded to Kazukaing village of An Township. He met with local people at the primary school of the village. Local authorities reported matters relating to the village.

Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo made supplementary report. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than fulfilled the requirements for supplying potable water and construction of a new school building.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded by car to Yamair Hill Bridge. The wooden bridge is being turned into a concrete one. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party later arrived back in An.



The new building of Magyisauk Village Basic Education High School in Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Division, which was opened on 13-6-2004. — MNA



The scale model of the main building of Monywa GTC. — MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects An-Padekyaw-Maei Road Section. — MNA



Emerging Infectious Diseases: a threat of global health

Prof: Dr Paing Soe

Once many people believed the age-old battle of humans against infectious disease was virtually over, with humankind the winners. The events of the past two decades have shown the fool-hardiness of that position. At least a dozen "new" diseases have been identified (such as AIDS, Legionnaire disease, and hantavirus pulmonary syndrome), and traditional diseases that appeared to be "on their way out" (such as malaria and tuberculosis) are resurging. Globally, infectious diseases remain the leading cause of death, and they are the major cause of death in Myanmar. Clearly, the battle has not been won and infectious diseases have already posed, is posing and will continue to pose a public health threat to the humankind.

There is no simple definition of an emerging infectious disease. In general, it can be a completely new disease or an old disease occurring in new places or new peoples; with new presentations; or is newly resistant to available treatments. Emerging infectious diseases can be defined as diseases that (1) have not occurred in humans and newly appeared in a population (this type of emergence is difficult to establish and is rare); (2) have occurred previously but affected only small numbers of people in isolated places (AIDS and Ebola hemorrhagic fever are examples) but are rapidly increasing in incidence or geographic range; or (3) have occurred throughout human history but have only recently been recognized as distinct diseases due to an infectious agent (Lyme disease and gastric ulcers are examples). Re-emerging infectious diseases are diseases that once were major health problems globally or in a particular country, and then declined dramatically, but are again becoming health problems for a significant proportion of the population (malaria and tuberculosis are examples). Many specialists in infectious diseases include re-emerging diseases as a subcategory of emerging diseases.

Among recent examples of emerging infectious diseases are HIV/AIDS, hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, Ebola hemorrhagic fever, Lyme disease, hepatitis C, Australian bat lyssavirus, haemolytic uraemic syndrome (Escherichia coli 01 57:H7 infection), Vibrio cholerae 0139, *Helicobacter pylori*, Hendra and Nipah virus infections, prion diseases, hand, foot and mouth disease (enterovirus 71), Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-coronavirus) and avian influenza. Among recent examples of re-emerging infectious diseases are malaria, tuberculosis, measles, schistosomiasis and yellow fever.

Factors responsible for infectious disease emergence can be broadly categorized as follows: (1) Demographic factors; (2) Breakdown in public health measures; (3) Ecological and environmental changes; (4) Commercial practices and travel; (5) Microbial changes and adaptations; and (6) Host susceptibility to emerging pathogens. These factors can be grouped conventionally in terms of agent, host and environmental factors with the categories 1 to 4 be environmental factors.

Most emerging diseases are caused by changes in "microbial traffic" that is, the introduction of existing pathogens into human populations from other species or their further dissemination from smaller to larger populations. This process is often precipitated by ecological or environmental changes and is facilitated by population movements and other social factors.

The direct influence of demographic factors is obvious for those diseases that are primarily transmitted from person to person. The prevalence of these diseases may actually increase under conditions of crowding and increased person-to-person contacts. In addition to the effects of increased human contact on disease transmission, demographics may also influence other environmental factors relevant to disease emergence.

Myanmar saw a total of 56 malaria outbreaks in the decade of 1991-2000 with the population migration being the most important factor of those outbreaks. Transmission of malaria and HIV/AIDS along borders can be partly attributed to population movements between Myanmar and neighbouring countries.

Even in the absence of demographic pressure, the breakdown or failure of standard sanitation and public health practices can lead to the emergence of disease. Most cases of cholera outbreaks in Myanmar occurred a result of laxity in food hygiene and water sanitation practices. Another good example showing the seminal role of public measures like epidemic preparedness and response is SARS which spread rapidly in some Asian countries in recent years because its epidemic potential

was not realized in initial stage and necessary responses were not initiated promptly.

Natural environmental events, such as weather changes, influence disease transmission. Such events can especially affect a class of disease referred to as 'vector-borne diseases' in which a part of the life cycle of the infectious agent is typically carried out in an arthropod (e.g., mosquitoes and ticks) or mollusk, such as freshwater snails. The role of the vector is to amplify and transmit the infectious agent. Likewise, environmental changes can significantly affect 'zoonoses' -- communicable disease of animals that may be transmitted to man. An environmental change (natural or manmade) affecting any segment of the natural cycle might lead to the emergence or reemergence of infectious diseases.

The construction of dams and water projects, with consequent alteration of water distribution patterns, often results in changes to mosquito vector populations. Over 30 years ago, there were some instances of malaria outbreaks due to construction of a new dam in central Myanmar. Such consequences can be prevented by early and continuous collaboration between development agencies and health sector.

Deforestation and altered land use associated with the development of new communities also have directly influenced disease emergence. As settlers in developing countries erect new villages and agricultural developments within previously forested regions, they expose themselves to the vectors and hosts of emerging viral, parasitic, and bacterial disease agents. Some 10 years ago, some residents from arid regions of Central Myanmar moved to and resettled themselves in Kabaw valley in north western part of Myanmar where they contracted malaria with some fatalities. Likewise, the extension of gold mining activities into the jungles in the northern part of Myanmar along Chindwin and Ayeyarwaddy basin has contributed to the increase in malaria among the gold miners.

For centuries, the history of disease has documented how changing commercial practices, such as increased international trade, can lead to introduction of a pathogen to new populations or to expansion of the range of vectors, and thus result in the appearance of a new disease in an area. The spread of smallpox and yellow fever by early sailing ships is a well-known example. Recent spread of SARS is a notable example of cross-country rapid transmission of infections as a result of improved international travel.

In addition, commercial changes may indirectly alter the environment in such a way as to influence disease emergence. Commercial refuse (e.g., tires and disposable plastic containers) collect water and may act as breeding sites for mosquitoes. The ongoing reemergence of dengue virus worldwide, including Myanmar, has been due, in part, to increased urban mosquitoes breeding in such containers.

Microbes are constantly changing and adapting to their environment, a fact that makes them formidable adversaries even in this age of modern medicine. As compared to larger organisms, microbes have several advantages that allow them to change quickly and thus evolve to survive under new conditions. For example, new strain of cholera (*Vibrio cholerae* 0139) was isolated in cholera cases in Myanmar since 1993. Microbes' relatively low number of genes means that even a small genetic mutation can have a large impact on their growth and disease causing properties. In addition, they multiply so rapidly that any mutation that conveys an advantage will rapidly become predominant in the population; such an advantage is conferred by mutations resulting in the development of resistance to antimicrobial drugs, for example. Indeed, hospitals worldwide are facing unprecedented crises due to the rapid emergence and dissemination of antibiotic resistant microorganisms. Another mechanism that microbes can use to rapidly change their characteristics is the exchange between microbes of genetic information that codes for properties such as antimicrobial resistance or increased virulence. Microbes may also change in ways that help them evade the host's immune response; for example, the ability to easily change their surface structures helps influenza viruses reappear annually as a widespread public health problem.

Following introduction of cattle feed derived from sheep protein in the United Kingdom, a newly recognized neurological disease appeared in cattle. This disease, bovine spongiform encephalopathy ('mad cow disease'),

infected and killed 150,000 cattle by early 1995.

The reemergence of diseases that had previously been controlled by antibiotics and other drugs may occur in response to selective pressure from overuse of those drugs. Antibiotic resistance is influenced by several epidemiologic factors, including inappropriate usage and prescribing practices, increasing human mobility, and amplification of resistance by person to person and common source transmission in crowded settings such as hospitals or other institutions. Health professionals of Myanmar are concerned that some antibiotics in Essential Drugs may become less effective because of irrational prescribing practice of unscrupulous quacks especially in rural regions and inappropriate use of antibiotics by some patients.

Hospitals worldwide are facing unprecedented crises from the rapid emergence and dissemination of antibiotic resistance microorganisms. Strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* resistant to methicillin and other antibiotics are endemic in hospitals. This scenario is no exception for hospitals in Myanmar.

The widespread availability of a relatively inexpensive drug has contributed to the emergence of chloroquine resistant malaria in most parts of the world. The global situation for treatment and prophylaxis of the most severe type of malaria, caused by *Plasmodium falciparum*, is desperate in malaria-endemic areas like Myanmar. The widespread emergence of chloroquine resistance has rendered these drugs useless for prophylaxis in several regions of the world. According to WHO, by 1994 the only malaria endemic countries that did not report some level of resistance to chloroquine were in Central America. Moreover, there is now documented resistance to second and third generation antimalarial drugs and reduced efficacy of quinine.

Failure to complete a lengthy treatment regimen, combined with the immunosuppression associated with the developing HIV epidemic, led to the emergence of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). Outbreaks of MDR-TB have occurred at several sites in the United States. These drug resistant strains are as contagious as those that cause drug susceptible TB. MDR-TB is more difficult and vastly more expensive to treat, and patients may remain infectious longer due to inadequate treatment.

Microbes may suddenly emerge as disease threats by altering the human host's natural ability to mount an effective immune response. From the perspective of the host, nonspecific factors such as age, general health, innate immune defenses (e.g., defensin peptides, killer cells and phagocytes, normal flora), as well as inherent factors related to host resistance or susceptibility, provide counterpoints to the changing patterns of microbial infectivity and virulence.

Human immunity is suppressed by diseases like HLV infection and chronic use of such drugs as steroids for treatment of arthritis and so on and prevention of rejection of transplanted organs and anticancer drugs. Such immunocompromised individuals are particularly susceptible to certain diseases caused by so-called 'opportunistic' pathogens. Such opportunists may include normal host bacteria from the skin and intestinal tract and fungi such as *Candida*, *Aspergillus*, and *Cryptococcus*.

Chronic helminth infections, such as round worms and hookworms, push the host immune response in a direction favoring antibody production and immediate hypersensitivity. The measles virus manifests a general immunosuppressive effect during the course of infection and disease. In addition, children with heavy worm infestation in developing countries sometime present with intestinal obstruction, requiring urgent surgical management. The ability to colonize specific host tissues may allow a microbe to escape host immunity and thus contribute to virulence responses. Many intracellular pathogens, including TB, shigella, and several protozoal parasites, remain difficult to eradicate because of their protected sites within host cells and the consequent inability of antibodies or antimicrobials to reach them there.

Other microbial antigens (streptococcal M proteins, for example) can induce cross-reactive antibodies to host tissue proteins. The resulting host immune responses may then lead to autoimmune-like diseases such as rheumatic heart disease and arthritis. Rheumatic arthritis is a very common disease in children in Myanmar and rheumatic heart disease is the most prevalent heart disease among Myanmar children.

(To be continued)



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets departmental officials, personnel of social organizations and townsmen in An. MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets officials, townsmen in An

YANGON, 15 June —Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence met officers and other ranks and their families from An Station at An Yoma Hall on 12 June morning. Present on the occasion were Rakhine State PDC Chairman, Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo and officials. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on measures to be taken by officials for fulfillment of education, social, health and welfare needs, boosting family incomes and raising of livestock on a manageable scale. He next cordially greeted those present.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and the commander viewed round An by car, and went to An Township PDC office where they met with departmental staff, members of social organizations and townsmen. The township PDC chairman reported on township education, social, health and economy issues, monsoon paddy cultivation and distribution of paddy strains. In his speech, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said the State is striving for balanced development of the whole country by establishing 24 development regions, border areas development programs and five rural development tasks. In Rakhine State also, measures are being taken to ensure the equitable development in not only urban but also rural areas. Universities, colleges, basic education schools, hospitals, dispensaries and health care centres are also being opened. And, one 100-bed hospital will be opened soon, he said. For the better transport, it has been arranged for An-Maei-Taungup Road to become the all-weather one. Plans are under way to implement Agricultural and livestock breeding tasks. It is needed to cultivate regional crops and extend winter paddy besides summer paddy. Altogether 1 million acres of land will be put under monsoon paddy in Rakhine State. Locals are to extend the cultivation of pepper and Thitseint and the breeding of livestock especially local chickens. Thus, incomes of the local people will rise. As An is the very central township, it is required for officials and townspeople to cooperate in making the township possess characteristics of a city.

Then, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than greeted those present. In An Township, 38952 acres of land will be cultivated including 3500 acres of monsoon paddy. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the 100-bed hospital construction site and gave necessary instructions to officials. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the bypass of Am by car and Minbu-Maei-Swittway Junction. He next looked into paving of gravel road at mile post No 1/0 on An-Padekyaw-Maei Road. Engineers of Public Works reported on construction works. After inspecting the extension of road at mile post No 6/6 and earth works at mile post No 7/4, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than fulfilled the needs.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party drove to the site of Htan Creek Bridge where officials reported on construction tasks. The bridge will be 100

feet long. At mile post No 12/5, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the road with use of heavy machinery. Then, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected earth works on top of Awzage Mountain between mile posts No 19/2 and 20/0. On arrival at Tattaung-Maei-An junction, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than instructed officials to extend the road up to 40 feet. Then, he inspected extension of An-Padekyaw-Maei road at mile post No 23/0 and attended to the needs. The road will be serviceable all weather. They proceeded to the briefing hall of Yangon-Kyaukphyu Project (Maei-Minkyaung section) where officials reported on progress in construction tasks. Then, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than left necessary instructions.

MNA

GAD opens instructor course

YANGON, 15 June — General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs this morning opened the instructor course No 3 at the training school of the department here with an opening address by Home Affairs Minister Col Tin Hlaing.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, the directors-general of the unit and departments under the ministry, responsible officials and trainees.

In his address, Col Tin Hlaing said training courses under the GAD are being conducted for the staff to realize administration and management with firm belief and concepts. The trainees are to conduct multiplier courses in respective States and Divisions where they are assigned duties to turn out qualified and skilled administrative staff. It being the information technology age, the trainees are to make attempts to know well how to apply modern technologies so as to enable the staff of multiplier courses to be equipped with knowledge and invaluable experiences. In conclusion, the minister urged the trainees to make efforts in discharging duties in order to become reliable administrators and organizers. A total of 73 trainees are attending the six-week course. — MNA



The meeting of delegates group of representatives-elect in progress. — MNA



The meeting of delegates group of intellectuals and intelligentsia in progress. — MNA

POEM:

Nyaungnapin Camp — victory venue

* At Nyaungnapin Camp, victory venue

Success is to be made as envisioned

Papers are being compiled.

* For its our Union, our cause

We brethren, with our thoughts

Are deep in decision-making.

* No matter who else may say what

No matter what policies be voiced

Our decision is the main

Interferers move out of our way

* Because those who criticize will be left afar

The success of the Constitution

Let's move toward it, Union citizens.

Tekkatho Tin Kha (Trs)

National Convention delegate groups' meetings continue

YANGON, 15 June —

The delegates group of panel of chairmen representatives-elect and proposal papers compilation group to the National Convention held coordination meeting and the delegate group of intellectuals and intelligentsia read out their proposals to be submitted to the plenary meeting of the National Convention this morning at designated halls of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township.

Delegates group of representatives-elect

The delegates group of representatives-elect held its coordination meeting at meeting hall-2 at 9 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 group-4 under the National Convention Convening Work Committee and Assistant Director Daw Tin Nwe.

The members of panel of chairmen and resource persons discussed the collective proposal by six independent delegates of representatives-elect group on power-sharing sectors such as legislative, executive and judiciary over the clarification of the National Convention Convening Work Committee and matters related to compilation of papers. The meeting ended at 9:40 am.

Delegates group of intellectuals & intelligentsia

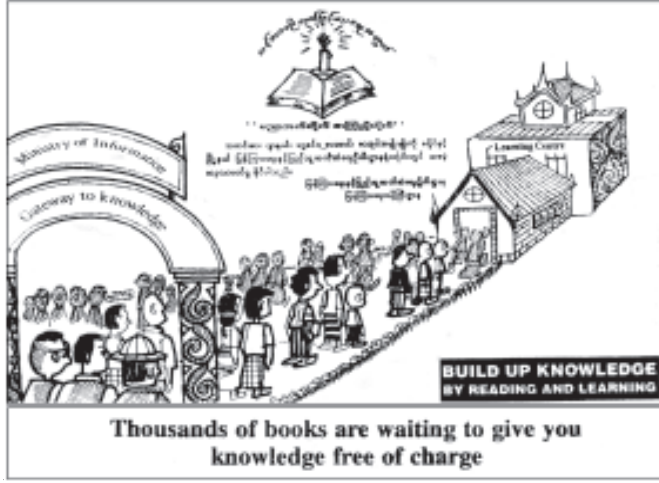
The delegates group of intellectuals and intelligentsia held its coordination meeting at meeting hall-6 at 9 am and Chairman of Myanmar Academy of

Technicians Dr U Boe Thein Saw presided over and Film Director U Khin Zaw and Professor Head of Department Dr Thein Nyunt (Nyunt Wai-Katha) acted as members of the panel of chairmen. Deputy Director U Thein Myint of the group-8 of National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as master of ceremonies and Assistant Director U Thein Win as co-master of ceremonies.

First, the master of ceremonies announced the start of the meeting as there were 55 delegates out of 56 listed accounting for 98.21 per cent. Next, Chairman of Myanmar Academy of Technology Dr U Thein Oo Po Saw made an opening speech. Director-General of the Department of Cottage Industry U Sein Than, CEC member of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science Daw Yi Yi Myint, Movie Actor U Nyunt Win, Vice Chairman of Myanmar Academy of Medical Science Dr Ko Lay and Judge of Bago Division U Win Tin submitted their proposals concerning detailed principles to be laid down for power sharing in legislative, executive and judicial sectors to be included in drawing the State Constitution clarified by NCCWC. NC delegates from delegates group of intellectuals and intelligentsia writer and Supreme Court Advocate U Myat Thu (Tekkatho Myat Thu), Director-General of Department of Medical Science Dr Maung Maung Wint and Rector of Yangon Education Institute Dr Khin Zaw took part in the discussions.

After seeking the approval by delegates group of intellectuals and intelligentsia group, the chairman approved of the papers. Next, the chairman gave concluding remarks and the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.

MNA



ADVERTISEMENTS

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MV BOUGAINVILLE VOY NO (060)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOUGAINVILLE Voy No (060) are hereby notified that the vessel arrives on 16-6-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S PREMIER SPECTRUM

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA MUTIARA VOY NO (111)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA MUTIARA Voy No (111) are hereby notified that the vessel arrives on 16-6-04 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER

LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Peru, Thailand set sights on year-end FTA deal

BANGKOK, 14 June — Thailand is set to sign a free trade area (FTA) agreement with Peru at the end of the year, designed to boost trade between the two regions, Thai Trade Representative Kantathir Suphamongkhon revealed.

Kantathir, who completed a second round of negotiations with the Peruvian Government on Friday, was quoted by the *Thai News Agency* as saying Sunday that negotiations were expected to be finalized between mid-November - when the Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra will pay an official visit to Peru - and De-

cember.

While conceding that trade between Thailand and Peru was relatively low, he expressed hope that the FTA deal would help give bilateral trade a boost.

Peru currently imports around 60 million US dollars worth of goods from Thailand each year, the bulk of these products being machinery and capital goods.

The deal is likely to be the first such free trade agreement signed between Peru and an Asian country, and between Thailand and a Latin American country, the agency said.

MNA/Xinhua

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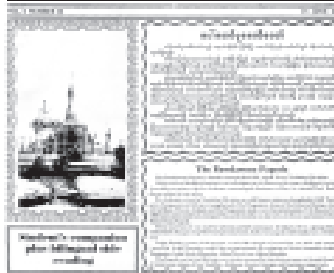
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JUNIOR LEADER



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The New Light of Myanmar

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Read Junior Leader to improve your English.

Car accident kills 6 in Thailand

BANGKOK, 14 June — Six people were killed Sunday in a car accident in Thailand's central Nonthaburi Province, local newspaper *Nation* reported here on Monday.

A speeding truck carrying six people crashed into a 10-wheeled lorry parked on Taling Chan-Suphan Burg Road in Bang Yah district of the province, and all of them were killed, said police.

The driver of the truck, identified as Alongkorn Pumarin, 24, was found to have just watched the live broadcast of the Euro match between Russia and Spain, which ended on early Sunday, according to the police.

They also suspected the driver fell asleep at the wheel since he appeared to have only a little sleep before the group started.

Meanwhile, a 44-year-old male died of breathing problems after he watched the Portugal-Greece opening match.

MNA/Xinhua

BPS says jobs in Indonesia's key sectors drop

JAKARTA, 14 June — The number of jobs in Indonesia's key industries such as manufacturing, construction and trade has contracted significantly as an unfavourable labour environment has prompted companies to hire fewer workers and cancel investment plans, showed the latest government labour data.

The 2003 National Labour Force Survey (Sakernas) report published by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) also suggested that more women quit their jobs, particularly due to rising transportation costs.

The *Jakarta Post* quoted the report on Monday that the number of jobs in the

manufacturing sector shrank by 9.76 per cent to 10.93 million last year from 12.11 million in 2002.

The number of jobs in the construction and trade sectors (retail, hotel and restaurant), declined by 3.90 per cent and 5.34 per cent to 4.11 million and 16.84 million, respectively.

For many years the above sectors have been the main providers of jobs, particularly in the heavily populated island of Java.

According to the labour report, open unemployment in 2003 increased to 9.45 per cent (9.53 million people) from 9.05 per cent (9.13 million) the previous year.

The report, however, said

that the number of jobs in the finance, insurance and real estate sectors increased by 30.67 per cent to 1.3 million jobs. These, particularly banking, started to recover from the impact of the late-1990s economic crisis.

Agriculture, forestry and fisheries created about 1.5 million new jobs last year. Another bizarre development last year, according to the report, is that the workforce in a country of 220 million population declined to 100.32 million from 100.78 million.

This is in spite of the fact that the working-age population increased to 152 million from 148.7 million people. — MNA/Xinhua

UAE launches bond to finance airport expansion projects

ABU DHABI, 14 June — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has launched a 750 million US dollars Islamic Sukuk bond to finance airport expansion projects, the *Gulf News* reported Sunday.

The Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) in Dubai has awarded the world's largest Islamic finance package to Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) to raise funds for the 4.1 billion dollars Phase II of the expansion of the Dubai International Airport.

DIB has been appointed as lead manager, arranger and bookrunner for the Islamic Sukuk which will have

a five-year maturity and is planned to be listed and traded at the Dubai Financial Market.

The DCA has been considering several funding options for Phase II and decided to work with DIB because of its expertise in Islamic finance and ability to work closely with local, regional and international banks.

DCA is committed to finance the project from external sources and repay it from income generated by the airport operation.

This was the first time an Islamic bank has been given the sole mandate to act as lead manager, arranger and bookrunner for a global Sukuk for DCA, an official

source was quoted as saying.

There are many planned projects in UAE and it is hoped that this issue will encourage similar ones and help expand the pool of interested investors.

In recent times Sukuk has been one of the most innovative forms of securities, acceptable to both conventional and Islamic investors, in the global capital markets.

DCA's decision to issue Sukuk should encourage further international deals to help development of mature Islamic capital market.

The total Sukuk market stands at 3.5 billion US dollars to date including DCA's latest announcement.

MNA/Xinhua

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Jordanians improve attitudes towards blood donation

AMMAN, 15 June — Jordanian National Blood Bank Director Janet Merza said people's attitude toward blood donation is improving in the country as the number of blood donors increases noticeably every year, *Jordan Times* reported Monday.

Marking the World Blood Donors Day, Merza was quoted as saying that statistics for 2003 showed that an estimated 135,500 individuals donated blood in Jordan.

So far this year, 40 per cent of blood donors are regular voluntary donors, Merza said, and the remaining 60 per cent fall under family replacement donation; donating in exchange for blood units given to a relative patient.

"We want voluntary blood donation to increase, so that one day we don't have to ask for family replacement donation," Merza added.

Thereby, she insists that the Blood Bank needs a lot of cooperation to get its message across to everyone through advertisements and national campaigns.

The awareness campaigns are concentrated in schools and universities. "We believe we should start with the young generation for the message to be effective," she added.

The first Blood Bank in the country was established in 1957, and the late King Hussein was the first to donate blood at that time.

Currently there are a total of 37 blood banks across the kingdom, all with sufficient daily supplies of blood.

The World Blood Donors Day is celebrated on the birthday of Karl Landsteiner, laureate of the Nobel Prize in medicine in 1930 for his discovery of human blood groups.

This year's theme "Blood... a gift of life" stresses on the importance of voluntary blood donation that is the source of safe blood supply.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaria kills 800 people in Zimbabwe this year

HARARE, 14 June — Malaria has claimed 800 lives in Zimbabwe since January this year, with almost half a million other people falling ill from it, according to the *Sunday Mail* newspaper.

A total of 39 deaths were reported last week, with Lupane and Gokwe North and South districts in western Zimbabwe being the worst affected.

The total number of deaths so far has risen by 74 compared to the number of deaths recorded during the same period last year and at least 450,504 cases of malaria were reported throughout the country and 13,489 of them occurred last week.

Minister of Health and Child Welfare David Parirenyatwa said the government would soon reintroduce the insecticide dichlorodiphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT) to kill malaria vectors in all malaria risk districts to control the outbreak.

MNA/Xinhua

New Zealand to reduce passport validity

WELLINGTON, 15 June — New Zealand wants to cut the time its passports are valid from 10 years to five in a bid to stay ahead of counterfeiters, Internal Affairs Minister George Hawkins said Monday.

Passports would no longer be issued for 10 years under a newly proposed legislation because "counterfeiting techniques have become more and more sophisticated", Hawkins said in a statement.

"The longer a passport has been in circulation, the greater the chance that its security features will become outdated and easily altered and duplicated," Hawkins said.

In general, New Zealand passports are valid for 10 years from the date of issue, or five years if the holder is under 16 years of age.

The move follows Prime Minister Helen Clark's announcement of a passport security review in the wake of the arrest of two Israeli men in April for allegedly trying to obtain a New Zealand passport by fraud.

The newly proposed legislation will also increase to five years from three years the standard period an immigrant must live in New Zealand to qualify for citizenship.

"This will ensure consistency with New Zealand's immigration policy and provide a sufficient basis for assessments of applicants' suitability for citizenship," Hawkins said.

But the legislation would create the new offences of unlawfully issuing a citizenship document and unlawfully altering citizenship records.

These offences would carry a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment or a fine of 50,000 New Zealand dollars (about 31,000 US dollars), according to the minister.

MNA/Xinhua

Tokyo still world's dearest city

LONDON, 14 June — Tokyo is still the world's most expensive city, while London has moved up to second place, according to a lifestyle survey published on Monday. Moscow was third followed by Osaka in Japan and Hong Kong, the survey by Mercer Human Resource Consulting found.

Asuncion in Paraguay was the least expensive of the 144 cities to feature in the survey, for the second year running.

"There have been some dramatic movements in the rankings this year which are largely due to currency fluctuations," said Marie-Laurence Sepede, senior researcher at Mercer.

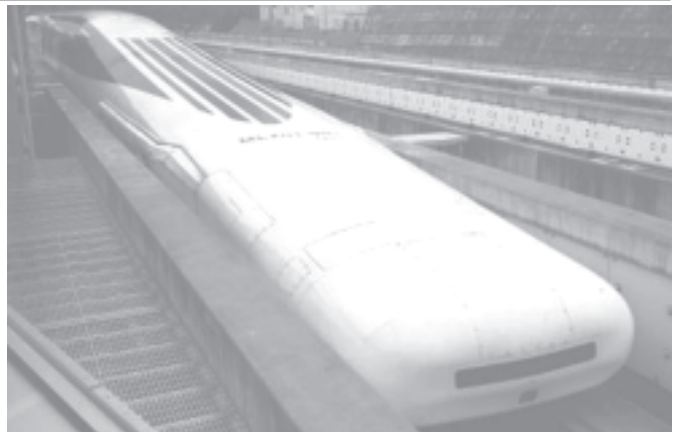
The survey measures the comparative cost of 200 items in each city, including housing,

food, clothing, entertainment and transport.

Using New York as a base city with a nominal score of 100, Tokyo scored 130.7, London 119 and Asuncion just 36.5.

New York was the costliest city in the United States, and 12th overall, followed by Los Angeles, Chicago and San Francisco.

Geneva was the second most expensive place in Europe, ahead of Copenhagen and Zurich. — MNA/Reuters



Central Japan Railway Co's Maglev train, which is levitated and propelled by magnetic forces, at an 18.4 kilometre test track in Tsuru, west of Tokyo, on 10 June, 2004.

Central Japan Railway is pushing for a commercial line between Tokyo and the western city of Osaka, a distance that is about the same as going from Washington to New York.

However, there are no current plans for building a Maglev line despite nearly four decades of research, 15 years of testing and more than \$2 billion invested, including government subsidies. Picture taken on 10 June 2004. — INTERNET

Two Koreas make first military radio exchange

SEOUL, 15 June — Navy ships from the two Koreas made the first radio communication between active military units since the 1950-53 Korean War on Monday, part of an agreement to reduce tensions in disputed waters off the peninsula.

A long-running disagreement over the maritime border off the west coast of the divided peninsula has been the cause of many naval clashes that have killed or wounded dozens on both sides.

South Korean sailors opened radio communications on Monday morning and received a reply from a North Korean vessel sailing north of the disputed sea border.

"The communication went without a glitch," said a South Korean Defence Ministry spokesman.

He also reported successful use of flag signalling between the two navies at a point closer to the Northern Limit Line (NLL), the de facto maritime border between the two Koreas drawn up by the United Nations Command at the end of the Korean War.

The 1950-53 War ended in truce rather than a full peace treaty.

North Korea has never recognized the line as the border and has demanded a new one further to the south.

The line in the Yellow Sea runs through rich fishing grounds that have been

the scene of naval gunfights in past years.

Senior military officers from the two Koreas agreed on June 4 on measures to prevent naval clashes and on stopping propaganda broadcasts along the land border.

High-speed patrol vessels from both sides sailed to about 10 nautical miles from the Northern Limit Line on either side to open communication at a frequency agreed to by working-level officers on Saturday, the

ministry official said.

The militaries will also cease propaganda campaigns beginning at midnight on Tuesday and begin removing loudspeakers and sign boards along the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

All propaganda tools are due to be removed by August 15, the anniversary of Korea's independence from Japanese colonial rule in 1945.

MNA/Reuters

Ugandan Health Ministry estimates over 250,000 people blind

KAMPALA, 15 June — Over 250,000 people in Uganda are blind while an unspecified number have visual impairment, a senior official from the Ministry of Health has said.

Stanely Bubikire, national coordinator of the eye care programme, was quoted by local media on Monday as saying that over 60 per cent of the cases of blindness and visual impairment in the country are caused by cataracts.

"There is a big burden of eye diseases in the country. We don't have exact figures but estimates show that about 1 per cent of the population are blind," the official said.

He said old age is the most common cause of the cataract disease, which also occurs due to hereditary factors and injury.

Bubikire said that trachoma is the second biggest cause of blindness with the highest prevalence in Busoga and Karamoja, adding that "this is another leading cause of blindness but the problem is high in these two regions because of poor hygiene".

MNA/Xinhua



British entrepreneur Richard Branson sets out for Calais, France, in an attempt to break the world record for crossing the English Channel in an amphibious vehicle, on 14 June, 2004. The 75,000 pounds (\$135,000) Aquada amphibious car, which seats three people, can travel at more than 100 miles per hour (160km) on land and 30 miles per hour (50km) on sea.

INTERNET

SPORTS



Gerrard vows to make up for "silly error"

Liverpool midfielder Steven Gerrard

LISBON, 15 June—England midfielder Steven Gerrard has vowed to make amends for his "silly error" which led to France's injury-time winner at Euro 2004.

France's Zinedine Zidane struck twice in stoppage time in Sunday's 2-1 win, curling home a free kick and then converting a penalty after Thierry Henry had latched on to Gerrard's wayward backpass and been tripped by goalkeeper David James.

"I am so disappointed over the back pass, I hadn't seen Thierry Henry. It was a silly error by me," said the midfielder, who missed the 2002 World Cup after groin surgery. "It really hurts because we deserved the victory and had the game wrapped up, but we gave away a silly free kick for the equalizer and then I did what I did."

MNA/Reuters

Larsson double inspires Sweden to 5-0 rout

LISBON, 15 June—Striker Henrik Larsson marked his return to the big stage by scoring twice in two minutes as Sweden crushed Bulgaria 5-0 in their opening Euro 2004 game on Monday.

Larsson, recently persuaded to end two years of international retirement, claimed his double within 71 seconds early in the second half, the first a glorious diving header and the second a sliding lunge at the far post.

Midfielder Fredrik Ljungberg had given Sweden a deserved 32nd-minute lead, Zlatan Ibrahimovic added a fourth from the penalty spot before substitute Marcus Allback completed the rout in stoppage time.

The victory, easily Sweden's biggest in the European Championship and equalling the highest winning margin in the tournament's 44-year history, gave them early control of Group C after Denmark and Italy drew 0-0. It also emphatically ended their curse of not winning an opening game in a major tournament, a run going back through eight competitions to the 1958 World Cup.

The margin was a little harsh on Bulgaria, who had early chances as they sought their first win over the Scandinavians in 10 games going back to 1967.

The breakthrough came when midfielder Anders Svensson sent a long pass into the path of Ibrahimovic who crossed low for Ljungberg to touch in from

point-blank range.

Bulgaria were still very much in it early in the second half as striker Zoran Jankovich and the dangerous Martin Petrov went close but just as their hopes were rising, Larsson left them reeling.

In the 57th minute, full back Erik Edman swung in a tempting cross from the left and the Celtic striker launched himself full length to head an early contender for goal of the tournament.

Just over a minute later Svensson drove a low cross in from the right and Larsson arrived at the far post to steer the ball into the roof of the net.

The Swedish fans roared their team forward to try to match their 4-0 success over Bulgaria in the 1994 World Cup third-place playoff, when Larsson also scored, and their wish was granted 12 minutes from time.

Ljungberg was brought down in the box by Vladimir Ivanov but Larsson turned down the chance of his hat-trick by handing the ball to Ibrahimovic, who lashed in the penalty.

The Swedes were attacking at will by then and capped a memorable night when Allback sprung the offside trap to gleefully lash in the fifth.

MNA/Reuters



Swedish striker Henrik Larsson (R) heads into the net during Sweden's opening match of the Euro 2004 championships. Sweden got their campaign off to a strong start with a 5-0 thrashing of Bulgaria including two goals from Larsson on his international comeback. — INTERNET

Zidane praises quality of England match

LISBON, 14 June—France captain Zinedine Zidane, whose goals sank England in their last-gasp 2-1 win at Euro 2004 on Sunday, said it was one of the best matches he has played in.

In injury-time the French playmaker curled home a free kick from outside the area and scored with a crisp penalty.

"It's certainly one of the best games I've ever played in along with the ones at Euro 2000," said Zidane looking back on the last tournament which France won to become champions.

"We didn't expect such a tough challenge from the English but we proved that nothing is over until the final whistle. Winning like this obviously boosts your morale." Asked how Sunday's goals compared to the double he scored in the 1998 World Cup final when France beat Brazil 3-0, the French number 10 said there were no similarities.

"Tonight we were 1-0 down and we

managed to bounce back to snatch the win. In 1998 we were leading."

The inspirational midfielder proved once again that France can not do without him as they bid to retain their European title.

Zizou only last week slotted home an 88th-minute winner to beat Ukraine 1-0 in a warm-up match in Paris.

"Tonight the game was very close. Both England and us only scored from dead ball situations."

Man of the match Zidane paid tribute to goalkeeper Fabien Barthez who saved a David Beckham penalty in the second half. "Fabien made the difference and allowed us to stay 1-0 down and gave us the possibility to keep believing in our chances.—MNA/Reuters



Italy's Christian Vieri, left, is chased by Denmark's Niclas Jensen, during the Euro 2004 Group C soccer match between Denmark and Italy, at the D Afonso Henriques Stadium in Guimaraes, Portugal, on Monday, 14 June, 2004. The other teams in Group C are Sweden and Bulgaria. — INTERNET

Danish drought continues in draw with Italy



GUIMARAES (Portugal), 15 June—Denmark's European Championship goal drought continued in a 0-0 draw against a disappointing Italy side on Monday but they emerged with credit from their Group C opener.

The Danes had the best of the possession and the chances in the first half against a nervy Italian side with Thomas Helveg twice going close.

The Italians, who will now be under pressure in their second game against Sweden on Friday, were brighter after the break but could not find a way past goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen.

The result means Denmark have now played four European Championship finals matches without scoring after their poor showing in Euro 2000.

Although Italy had the first chance when Francesco Totti's powerful 25-metre free kick was tipped away by Sorensen, it was the Danes who took the initiative, pushing forward on the flanks and getting early control of the central midfield areas.

Italy keeper Gianluigi Buffon was pressed into action in the 16th minute, pushing over a left-foot drive from Helveg who had opened up space by cutting in from the right.

Denmark striker Jon Dahl Tomasson was making himself a nuisance for the Italian defence and, although he was booked in the 29th minute for diving, he went close with a flashing header four minutes later and then set up Helveg who fired just wide.

The best chances for both sides came right on the stroke

of halftime with Sorensen making a great double save to foil Alessandro Del Piero and then Totti, both from close range.

At the other end the Danes could have gone in with a lead they probably deserved when Martin Joergensen's low shot forced a good save out of Buffon after good work from the lively Dennis Rommedahl down the right.

After surviving that scare at the end of a poor first half showing, the Italians were more determined and effective after the interval, creating two good openings straight away.

Totti produced a superb pass to put in Gianluca Zambrotta but the left-back shot harmlessly across the face of goal.

Then Zambrotta, pushing forward with more urgency, found Christian Vieri with a well delivered cross and Sorensen did well to push the striker's firm header over the bar.—MNA/Reuters

Nikolaïdis says Spain are better than Greece

VILA DO CONDE (Portugal), 15 June—Spain have better players, a stronger team and are firm favourites to win Wednesday's Euro 2004 match against Greece, according to Greek striker Demis Nikolaïdis.

"Spain not only have better players than us, they also are a better team and they are the favourites, for sure," he told reporters after a training session on Monday. "But this must be shown on the pitch."

Greece, also considered massive underdogs in their shock 2-1 victory over tournament hosts Portugal on Saturday, top Group A with the Spaniards on three points.

"The work we have done the past two years is now visible and we will play to win," Nikolaïdis said.

"Denmark when they won the European Championship in 1992 did not have a better team than us and they did exceptional things, so anything is possible," he added.

Greece beat Spain 1-0 a year ago on their way to automatic qualification for the tournament leaving Inaki Saez' team to negotiate a two-legged playoff against Norway. Saez said this week that his players want revenge.

"That is fine by us, they are the favourites anyway," Nikolaïdis said. He said he had now fully recovered from a nagging calf injury and was eager to play on Wednesday.

"Now I can finally say I am 100 per cent fit, something which I could not say last Saturday." Greece also play Russia on June 20.—MNA/Reuters

Lisbon calm, England fans stunned by defeat

LISBON, 14 June—Lisbon police who were braced for trouble after England's stunning 2-1 loss to France reported all quiet early on Monday, with just one fan arrested.

England fans crowded Lisbon nightspots and mingled happily with French supporters after the game. One nightclub area was so orderly that a woman wheeled a baby carriage through hundreds of foreign fans and Portuguese nightclubbers. Police arrested one England fan for allegedly punching a venue employee at Lisbon's Light Stadium, site of the Group B England-France match, a spokeswoman said. "Beyond that, we have nothing," she said.—MNA/Reuters

16-6-2004 (Wednesday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

15:30 Signature Tune
 Greeting

15:32 Song of Myanmar
 Beauty & Scenic
 Sights "Mingalabar"

15:36 The Ancient City
 Thirikhitaya

15:40 **Headline News**
 15:42 Greeting of Inlay
 Plate Project

15:45 **National News**
 15:50 Concert of Trompette
 et Piano

15:55 A Dance to the Har-
 vest

16:00 **National News**
 16:05 Unforgettable Traditions
 of PaO National
 16:10 Song "Moonlight
 Flower"
 16:12 Interview on Marquetry
 Painting

16:15 **National News**
 16:20 A Pilgrimage to
 Dhammayangyi



9. Lea

	Evening Transmission (19:30 - 23:30)
19:30	Signature Tune
	Greeting
19:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
19:36	Arts of Myanmar Traditional Tapestry
19:40	Headline News
19:42	Pakokku, the City on the Western Bank of the Ayeawady River
19:45	National News
19:50	Preservation of Myanmar Star Tor- toise
19:55	Three Types of Dance
20:00	National News
20:05	Precious "Auspicious Lacquerware
20:10	Song "Auspicious Day, May 17th (I)"
20:15	National News
20:20	Brave and Coura- geous Myanmar Women
20:25	Songs On Screen "Through My Eyes"
20:30	National News
20:35	Radiance of Love and Beauty
20:40	Myanmar Coffee
20:45	National News
20:50	New Vogue Flower Arrangement
20:55	Traditional PaO Dance
20:58	Chin Cultural Mu- sic
21:00	National News
21:05	Artist Mg Kyaw Nyunt

21:10	Song "Rain, Please Tell My Lover"
21:12	Lei Gaing Monastery with wooden Statuettes
21:15	National News
21:20	Spirulina (or) Blue Green Algae
21:30	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
21:35	The Ancient City Thirikhitaya
21:40	Headline News
21:42	Greening of Inlay Lake Project
21:45	National News
21:50	Concert of Trompette et
21:55	A Dance to the Harvest
22:00	National News
22:05	Unforgettable Traditions of PaO National Song "Moonlight Flower"
22:10	Interview on Marquette Painting
22:15	National News
22:20	A Pilgrimage to Dhammayangyi
22:25	Myanmar Modern Song "Naughty Girl"
22:30	National News
22:35	Dauksamaw Mudcrab Breeding
22:40	The Silk Industry of Inlay
22:45	National News
22:50	Blacksmith of Kayin State
22:55	The Beauty and Grace of the hands
22:58	Dat Taw Gyaik Waterfall
23:00	National News
23:05	National Races Village (Muse)
23:10	Song "Treasure Land"
23:15	National News
23:20	Cruise on Min Kyau Si
23:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
16-6-2004 (Wednesday) & 17-6-2004 (Thursday)	
Evening Transmission & Morning Transmission	
(23:30 - 1:30)	
23:30	Signature Tune Greeting
23:32	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
23:36	The Ancient City Thirikhitaya
23:40	Headline News
23:42	Greening of Inlay Lake Project
23:45	National News
23:50	Concert de Trompette

23:55	et Piano A Dance to the Harvest
24:00	National News
00:05	Unforgettable Traditions of PaO National Song "Moonlight Flower"
00:10	Interview on Marquetry Painting
00:15	National News
00:20	A Pilgrimage to Dhammayangyi Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanmar Panorama & Myanmar Sentiment"
00:30	National News
00:35	Daungumaw Mudcrab Breeding
00:40	The Silk Industry of Inlay
00:45	National News
00:50	Blacksmith of Kayin State
00:55	The Beauty and Grace of the hands
00:58	Dal Taw Gyaik Waterfall
01:00	National News
01:05	National Races Village (Muse)
01:10	Song "Treasure Land"
01:15	National News
01:20	Truise on Min Kyau Si
01:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

17-6-2004 (Thursday)	
Morning Transmission	
(03:30 - 07:30)	
03:30	Signature Tune
03:32	Greeting
	Song of Myanmar
	Beauty & Scenic
	Sights "Myanmar
	Panorama & Myanmar
	Sentiment"
03:35	Arts of Myanmar Tra-
	ditional Tapestry
03:40	Headline News
03:42	Pakokku, the City on
	the Western Bank of
	the Ayeayawady River
03:45	National News
03:50	Preservation of
	Myanmar Star Tor-
	torse
03:55	Three Types of Dance
04:00	National News
04:05	Precious Myanmar
	Lacquerware
04:10	Song "Auspicious
	Day, May 17th (I)"
04:15	National News
04:20	Brave and Coura-
	geous Myanmar
	Women
04:25	Songs On Screen
	"Through My Eyes"

04:30	National News
04:35	Radiance of Love and Beauty
04:40	Myanmar Coffee
04:45	National News
04:50	New Vogue Flower Arrangement
04:55	Traditional PaO Dance
04:58	Chin Cultural Museum
05:00	National News
05:05	Artist Mg Kyaw Nyunt
05:10	Song "Rain, Please Tell My Lover"
05:12	Lei Gaing Monastery with wooden Statuettes
05:15	National News
05:20	Spirulina (or) Blue Green Algae
05:30	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
05:35	The Ancient City Thirikhitya
05:40	Headline News
05:42	Greening of Inlay Lake Project
05:45	National News
05:50	Concert de Trompette et Piano ...
05:55	A Dance to the Harp ...

06:00	National News
06:05	Unforgettable Traditions of PaO National
06:10	Song "Moonlight Flower"
06:12	Interview on Marquetry Painting
06:15	National News
06:20	A Pilgrimage to Dhammayangyi
06:25	Myanmar Modern Song "Naughty Girl"
06:30	National News
06:35	Daungnam Mudcrab Breeding
06:40	The Silk Industry of Inlay
06:45	National News
06:50	Blacksmith of Kayin State
06:55	The Beauty and Grace of the hands
06:58	Dat Taw Gyaik Waterfall
07:00	National News
07:05	National Races Village (Muse)
07:10	Song "Treasure Land"
07:15	National News
07:20	Cruise on Min Kyau Sit
07:25	Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35)mph. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Thundery conditions in northern Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-6-2004:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-6-2004:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).



0.00 pm PEL

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2. Songs to uphold
National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. Practice in reading

4:45 pm
4. Musical programme

5:00 pm
5. အစောဆုံးတက္ကသိုလ် ယဉ်ကျေး
ရပ်မြင်ကြသလဲနဲ့အား
- ဒုတိယနဂါး
(သန့်စုံ၊ စာတုဗေဒ၊ ရုပ်ဗေဒ
အထူးပြုများ) (သန့်စုံ)

5:15 pm
6. Song of national races

5:30 pm
7. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းပေး ဂီတတေး

5:40 pm
8. Classical song

5:55 pm
9. ကရင်တို့နေထိုင်ရာ
တိုင်းရင်းသားကျေးရွာ

6:00 pm
10. ရှုဖွယ်နဲ့လင် အသိအမြင်အစီအစဉ်

6:10 pm
11. Discovery

6:20 pm
12. Musical programme

6:30 pm
13. Evening news
7:00 pm
14. Weather report
7:05 pm
15. Strong and healthy
Myanmar
7:15 pm
16. Musical programme
7:30 pm
17. သမိုင်းဝင်ပြည်ဆေးက ၂ သမ္မတမြန်မာ
7:40 pm
18. ကော့လက်တစ်စွပ်အထူးဆင်
8:00 pm
19. News
20. International news
21. Weather report
22. နိုင်ငံခြားနားလမ်းတွဲ
"အစွန်ဆုံးသည့်မှာ" (အပိုင်း-၄၅)
23. မင်းလုံးခါးဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး ဦးစိန်ရွှေ
သာရာဇ်တော်ဝင်၏ အရုပ်သင်္ချာကို
ဧည့်သည်အများစုမှာမြင်ကစားတော်
10:30 pm
24. Euro 2004 ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ
တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ်
(ဂရိ နှင့် စပိန်)
1:15 am
25. Euro 2004 ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ
တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ်
(ရုရှား နှင့် ဟော်လန်)
26. The next day's
programme



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Mr Kazunori Teraoka and party. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Japanese guests

YANGON, 15 June — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received President of Sojitz Corporation, Mr Kazunori Teraoka and party at Zeya Thiri Beikman on Konmyinthta here this evening.

Present at the call were Minister for Finance & Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Deputy

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of Government Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of Protocol Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thura U Aung Htet. — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe tours Kyaukme District

YANGON, 15 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of the Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of the North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and senior military officers, on 12 June morning arrived in Kyaukme in Kyaukme District.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected threshing of summer paddy and preparations for monsoon paddy cultivation at Konkauk Village, 28 miles from Kyaukme. Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party also inspected ATP tea factory. They proceeded to Mongngot where they were welcomed by departmental officials, townselders, teachers and students.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe met with departmental officials and local people at the Mongngot Basic Education High School and discussed the regional development tasks.

At the meeting, Mongngot Village-tract PDC Chairman U Than Win and Headmistress of BEHS Daw Nan Thein Shin briefed on facts about the village and education sector.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe fulfilled the requirements and gave necessary instructions.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presented teaching aids for the BEHS through the headmistress and inspected the preparations for opening of multi-media classrooms.

Afterwards, they went to Mongngot station hospital. At the hospital, they comforted the patients and presented cash assistance.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing presented K 100,000 for the funds of the hospital.

They then arrived at milepost No 9/0 on Kyaukme-Mongngot-Momeik Road. At the briefing

hall, Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Min Thein reported on renovation of Kyaukme road section and Momeik road section, extension of road, renovation of old bridges and preparation for construction of new ones.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing also reported on arrangements for ensuring smooth and secure transportation and tasks being undertaken.

Next, Chairman of Namtwe Village PDC in Namhsan Township U Kyaw Nwe briefed on the facts about the village including education and health sectors.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe made an address. He said the government is striving with added momentum in all spheres for transforming the nation to a peaceful, modern and developed one. The transport sector plays the main role in doing so.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, it is speeding up implementation of road and railroad projects to ensure a transport network throughout the Union. Thanks to the emergence of village-to-village roads, the national brethren have enjoyed fruitful results of further development and they can travel anywhere they want in convenience at any time, thereby further cementing amicable relationship and fortifying national solidarity.

On completion of the Mongngot-Momeik road, the shortest way linking Momeik and Kyaukme, regional development tasks can be carried out with added momentum and it will raise the socio-economic life of local people. He called for timely completion of the project, worksite safety, meeting the standard set, and erecting road signs.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Shan State Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Min Thein presented cash donations

for water supply of Namtwe village to officials. Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Min Thein also presented gifts of local products to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and the commander.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe also looked into Mongngot-Momeik section and presented cash award to the staff.

He cordially greeted Palaung nationals.

At the meeting with officers and other ranks and their families at the local regiment in Kyaukme, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe elaborated on agriculture and livestock breeding on a manageable scale, growing of seasonal and perennial crops in the compound, welfare services, and education and health sectors.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe also met departmental officials, members of the agricultural supervisory committee, social organizations and local senior citizens at the office of Kyaukme District PDC and dealt with regional development. Officials reported on facts about the region and agricultural matters.

The commander gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe said that the government is endeavouring for equitable development of all parts of the nation and better socio-economic life of the people.

Now, the people have enjoyed fruitful results of development in social, economic, education and health sectors.

He called on officials to make concerted efforts in cooperation with local people for regional development.

Next, members of Kyaukme District Agriculture Supervisory Committee and departmental officials viewed paddy fields of the North-East Command.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party spent the night in Kyaukme.

MNA



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects construction of Mongngot-Momeik road section. — MNA

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.