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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets Senior Vice-President, Global Marketing, Unocal Corporation, Mr Randy Howard of Unocal Myanmar Offshore Co Ltd. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives officials of Unocal Myanmar Offshore

YANGON, 18 June — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received Senior Vice-President, Global Marketing, Unocal Corporation, Mr Randy Howard of Unocal Myanmar Offshore Co Ltd and party at Zeyathiri Beikman at 8.30 am today.

Also present at the call were Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of Government Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of Protocol Department of the Ministry of

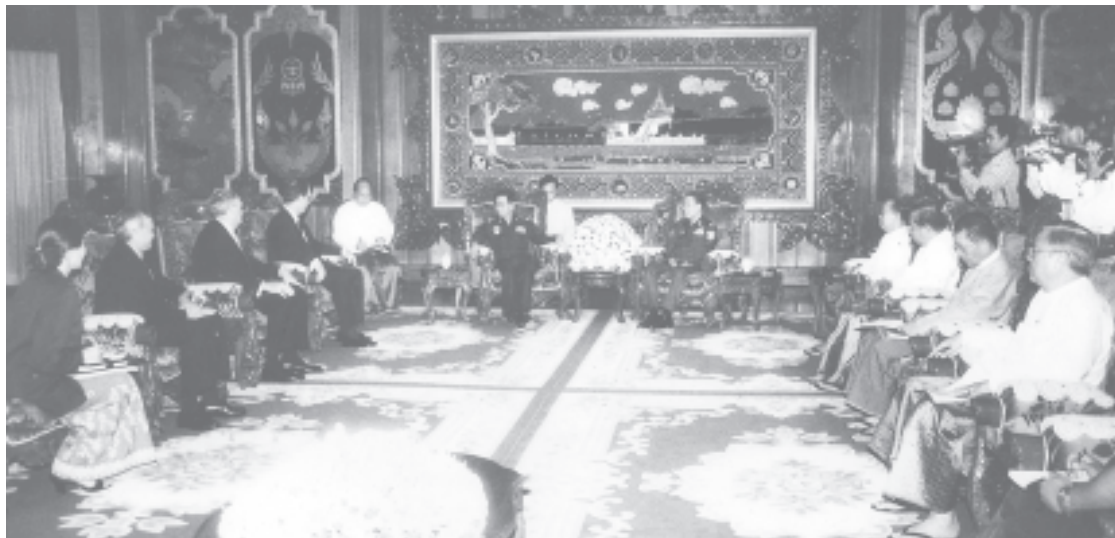
Foreign Affairs Thura U Aung Htet.

The Senior Vice-President of Unocal Myanmar

Offshore Co Ltd was accompanied by Chairman of IEO, South East Asia, (Myanmar, Thailand, Viet-

nam) Mr Steve Green and Unocal (Myanmar) President Mr David C Peters.

MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Mr Randy Howard of Unocal Myanmar Offshore Co Ltd and party. — MNA

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Commander attends Blood Donor Day

YANGON, 18 June — A ceremony to observe World Blood Donor Day was held for the first time in Shan State (East) on 14 June.

The ceremony took place at the Development Committee Hall in Kengtung and it was attended by Shan State (East) Peace and Development Council Chairman Triangle Region Command Com-

mander Maj-Gen Khin Zaw and wife, State, District and Township level officials, members of social organizations, doctors and nurses of Kengtung Hospital, blood donors and invited guests. The commander delivered a speech. Next, the Medical Superintendent of Kengtung Hospital explained matters related to donation of blood.

The commander pre-

sented gifts to those who have donated blood 10 times and above.

Afterwards, the Medical Superintendent accepted blood transfusion apparatuses worth FEC 200 were donated by Myanmar Red Cross Society (Kengtung Health Project) and medicines worth K 60,000 for blood donors by Shan State (East) AIDS/STD Unit. —MNA

Container yards, loading of export items inspected

YANGON, 18 June— Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspected No 2 Forest Products Container Yard this afternoon.

Managing Director U Thein Htay of Myanmar Port Authority and party supervised inspection of export and import containers by officials from the Customs Department and Forest Department.

The minister and party went to Bo Aung Kyaw Container Inspection Camp and supervised inspection of containers. The minister inspected loading of export timbers and beans onto vessels at Sule Jetty and instructed officials to take measures for work site safety and minimize loss and wastage. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 19 June, 2004

Towards development in education sector

In its drive for the nation to become peaceful, modern and developed, the State Peace and Development Council is trying its best for human resource development because only the highly qualified human resource can build a modern nation.

The National Education Promotion Special Four-Year Plan designed to produce highly qualified human resource, launched in 2000-2001 had been implemented successfully in accord with the guidance of the Head of State.

Simultaneously, the 30-year plan is being implemented phase by phase after adopting long-term goals for promotion of the national education standard. Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addressed Meeting No 2/2004 of Myanmar Education Committee held at the Universities Central Council in Kamayut Township on 17 June. In his address, the Prime Minister said that at the basic and higher education levels, seminars are held yearly prior to the opening of the schools, that scholars of the Ministry of Education discuss promotion of education, and that the seminars have laid down future education plans, resulting in effective implementation of tasks.

Thanks to successful implementation of the National Education Promotion Four-Year Plan, border areas and national races development project, project for 24 Special Development Regions and the five rural development tasks, the education gap between urban and rural regions and between border areas and remote regions can be narrowed down remarkably.

During the inspection tours of the Head of State and the dignitaries of the State, educational requirements have been fulfilled many times. Moreover, they also attended to the needs regarding the reports on education presented by local people. That is why fruitful results can be seen in the education sector in a short period.

The active participation of people and wellwishers is one of the key factors for achieving success in the education sector.

At the time when success has been achieved in the education sector, we would like to urge all those concerned to make concerted efforts for maintaining the already-achieved momentum.

Development work inspected

YANGON, 18 June — Director-General of the Development Affairs Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Myo Myint together with Director of Shan State Development Affairs Department U Thauang Sein and officials, inspected development works and tasks for keeping towns and cities green and pleasant in various townships in southern Shan State recently. They first arrived Taunggyi and nurturing of flowery plants and gardening works at the entrances of the town. They next inspected Myakantha water supply pond and tarring of Zawtika 3rd lane in the town. Later, the Director-General and party arrived Hopong and inspected Tharaphy and MyoU Kyauang roads. Tharaphy road is 595 feet long and 12 feet wide. The MyoU Kyauang road is 490 feet long, 12 feet wide. The Tharaphy road was built at a cost of K 636,000 and MyoU road at K 522,000. — MNA

NC delegates entertained

YANGON, 18 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 "Yinkwin Nandaw" (Bosom Palace) directed by Malikha Soe Htaik Aung and starring Nyunt Win, Dway, Nanda Hlaing and Tun Eindra Bo. — 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

"Soon" offered to State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon)

YANGON, 18 June — Sayadaws and members of the Sangha of the State Pariyatti Sasana University were offered "soon" this morning at Mogok Refectory on Kaba-Aye Hill here.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and wife, Deputy Minister U Pe Than, Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung and wife, heads of department and others were present on the occasion.

The minister and party presented offertories to Sayadaws. Next, the minister handed over K 285,000 donated by the Department of Civil Aviation and Myanmar Maritime University for offering "soon" to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha at the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Yangon) to Director of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Khaing Aung. — MNA



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe hands over K 285,000 for alms meal of Sayadaws and members of the Sangha to Director of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Khaing Aung. — MNA

Water purifiers, mosquito nets presented to MCWA branches of Yangon Command

YANGON, 18 June — Patron of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Khin Thet Htay, together with members of the panel of patrons and Secretary Dr Daw Nwe Ni Ohn, visited Pre-Primary Schools opened by MCWA branches at regiments and units under con-

trol of Yangon Command today and yesterday.

On 17 June, Daw Khin Thet Htay went to Pre-Primary Schools opened by MCWA branches at local battalions in Mingaladon and Hmawby Townships and presented water purifiers and mosquito nets to the chairpersons of the respective branches. Daw Khin Thet Htay and party enjoyed skill performance of the children and gave them snacks. She fulfilled requirements of MCWA members who are developing businesses using capital provided by the association. Daw Khin Thet Htay and party proceeded to Hmawby Township MCWA and observed schoolchildren at Pre-Primary School. Daw Khin Thet Htay inspected the delivery room of the Township MCWA. Next, she met the chairperson and members of the Township

MCWA and explained functions laid down by Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central). Secretary Dr Daw Nwe Ni Ohn also explained future tasks of the association and progress. Daw Khin Thet Htay fulfilled requirements. Today, Daw Khin Thet Htay and party went to pre-primary schools of local battalions in South Okkalapa Township and presented water purifiers and mosquito nets donated by Yangon Division MCWA to officials. Then, they watched skill performance of children at the schools and gave them snacks. They inspected herbal plantations of respective MCWA branches at the battalions.

Afterwards, they inspected the multiplier tailoring course at the local battalion and attended to the needs. — MNA

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 18 June — The Nursery Market Festival continued at Myay Padetha Park in Bahan Township here today with the aim of providing necessary assistance to growers and attracting the public to be interested in agriculture, horticulture, livestock breeding and vegetable farming.

Kitchen crops, fruits and saplings of herbal plants are being shown at the festival. Modern and scientific poultry farming as well as fish and prawn breeding are also exhibited at the Nursery Market Festival.

Pamphlets and booklets on scientific cultivation of crops, mechanized farming, utilization of natural and chemical fertilizers are also available there.

The Nursery Market Festival is drawing more and more visitors and attracting people to get interested in agriculture and livestock breeding works. — MNA

ငါးရစ်၊ ငါးသန် ရာသီချိန်တွင် ငါးဖမ်းရန်

ပညာရေးနှင့်ဆက်သွယ် (၁/၉၇)

ငါးရစ်၊ ငါးသန် ဘေးမရန်

ပုံမှန်စားသုံး မျိုးမဟုတ်

မိုးမြိုင်မြိုင်ရွာသော မေလနှောင်းပိုင်းနှင့် ဇွန်၊ ဇူလိုင်လများတွင် မြစ်၊ ချောင်း၊ အင်းအိုင် အနုအပြာ၌ ဥများဖြင့် ပြည့်နေသော ငါးမြေများနှင့် မျိုးရည်ပြည့်ဝသော ငါးထီးကြီးများသည် ဥချရန် နေရာရှာနေ၍ ငါးရစ်တက်ကြပါသည်။ ထိုငါးရစ်ငါးများကို ဖမ်းဆီးလိုက်ပါက ပေါက်ပွားလာမည့် သန်းပေါင်းများစွာသော နယ်လှည့်သားပေါက်ငါးသန်များသည်လည်း သေကျေပျက်စီးကာ တစ်နိုင်ငံလုံး ဇူလိုင် စာသုံးပွဲနှင့် အမျိုးသား စီးပွားရေးဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုကို အထောက်အကူ မပြုနိုင်တော့ဘဲ ငါးမျိုး ပြုန်းတီးသွားစေနိုင်ပါသည်။

မွေးမြူရေးနှင့် ရေလုပ်ငန်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာနက အမိန့်ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ် (၂/၉၂)ဖြင့် ငါးရစ် ငါးသန် ရာသီချိန်များတွင် ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာန၏ ခွင့်ပြုချက်မရှိဘဲ ငါးများ ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်းမပြုရန် တားမြစ်ထားပါသည်။ အဆိုပါ တားမြစ်ချက်ကို ဖောက်ဖျက် ကျူးလွန်ပါက ရေချိုငါးလုပ်ငန်း ပဉ္စမအကြိမ် (၄၄) အမိန့်ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ် (၁/၉၂)ဖြင့် တားမြစ်ထားပါသည်။ အဆိုပါ တားမြစ်ချက်ကို လိုက်နာခြင်းမရှိပါက ရေချိုငါးလုပ်ငန်း ပဉ္စမအကြိမ် (၄၄၊ ၄၄၊ ၄၄)ပါ ပြဋ္ဌာန်းချက်များအရ တရားရုံးဆီ အရေးယူခြင်းခံရမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

သို့ပါ၍ ငါးရစ်တက်ချိန်နှင့် ငါးသန်သားပေါက်သော မိုးရာသီအချိန်များတွင် လွတ်လပ်စွာ ဥချသားပေါက်နိုင်ရန် ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်းမပြုဘဲ ဘေးမလေးကြပါရန် နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာန၊

မွေးမြူရေးနှင့်ရေလုပ်ငန်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ဥကုပ်နေသောရေချိုပုစွန်ထုပ်ကြီးများဖမ်းရန် ပညာရေးနှင့်ဆက်သွယ် (၂/၉၇)

တန်ခူး၊ ကဆုန်၊ နယုန်လများတွင် ဥကုပ်နေသော (သို့) ဥနှင့်ပြည့်ဝနေသော ရေချိုပုစွန်ထုပ်ကြီးများသည် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတစ်ဝန်းလုံးရှိ မြစ်၊ ချောင်း၊ အင်းအိုင်များတွင် ဥချရန် ပြင်ဆင်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။ ၎င်းတို့မှ မကြာမီ ထောင်ပေါင်းများစွာသော ပုစွန်များလည်း ပေါက်ပွားလာတော့မည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အကယ်၍ အဆိုပါဥကုပ်နေသော (သို့) ဥနှင့်ပြည့်ဝ နေသော ပုစွန်ထုပ်ကြီးများအား ဖမ်းဆီး သတ်ဖြတ်ခဲ့ပါက ၎င်းတို့မှ ပုစွန်သားလောင်းများ ပေါက်ပွားနိုင်တော့၍ မျိုးပြန့်တီးရာလည်း ရောက်စေပါသည်။ ရေချိုပုစွန်များ ပေါက်ပြည့်ဝလာစေရန် ယခုကဲ့သို့ ဥကုပ်နေသော ရာသီချိန်များတွင် ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်းမပြုဘဲ ဘေးမလေးမှသာ ထုတ်လုပ်မှုအား မြှင့်တင်လာပြီး အမျိုးသားစီးပွားရေး ဖွံ့ဖြိုးလာမည် ဖြစ်သည်။ ဥကုပ်နေသော (သို့) ဥနှင့်ပြည့်ဝနေသော ရေချိုပုစွန်ထုပ်ကြီးများအား ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်း၊ သတ်ဖြတ်ခြင်း၊ သယ်ယူခြင်း၊ သိုလှောင်ခြင်း၊ လက်ဝယ်ထားခြင်း၊ အရောင်းအဝယ် ပြုလုပ်ခြင်းများ မပြုလုပ်ရန် မွေးမြူရေးနှင့် ရေလုပ်ငန်း ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာနက အမိန့်ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ် (၁/၉၂)ဖြင့် တားမြစ်ထားပါသည်။ အဆိုပါ တားမြစ်ချက်ကို လိုက်နာခြင်းမရှိပါက ရေချိုငါးလုပ်ငန်း ပဉ္စမအကြိမ် (၄၄၊ ၄၄၊ ၄၄)ပါ ပြဋ္ဌာန်းချက်များအရ တရားရုံးဆီ အရေးယူခြင်းခံရမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ ရေချိုပုစွန်ထုပ်ကြီးများ ရေရှည်တည်တံ့စေရန် ယခုကဲ့သို့သော ဥကုပ်သော ရာသီချိန်တွင် ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်းမပြုဘဲ နေရာတိုင်းတွင် ဘေးမလေးကြရန် အသိပေး နှိုးဆော် အပ်ပါသည်။

ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာန၊

မွေးမြူရေးနှင့်ရေလုပ်ငန်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Iraq car bombs kill 41, wound nearly 150

BAGHDAD, 17 June — Car bombers targeted Iraq's security services Thursday, blasting Iraqis hoping to join the military in Baghdad and a civil defence post north of the capital, killing 41 people and wounding nearly 150.

Most of the victims were poor Iraqis desperate to take dangerous jobs in the Iraqi security forces because of a lack of alternatives in a country with up to 45 percent unemployment. They took their chances at the recruitment center in Baghdad even though a car bombing killed 47 people there in February.

"I have been coming for three weeks and they decided to interview us today," Abdul Wahid Shadhan, 32, said as he lay in a hospital bed

coughing up blood. "I heard a big explosion, I lost sight of everything and then I found myself in the hospital." Shadhan said he had been out of work since the Americans disbanded the Iraqi army last year. "I was obliged to work as a porter to feed my seven children," he told The Associated Press.

Iraqi Defence Minister Hazem al-Shalan promised a "house-to-house" search for anybody involved in planning the suicide attack.

"We will cut off the hands of those people, we will slit their throats if it is necessary to do so," he told reporters. "For those people who want to join the new Iraqi army, we will protect them and we will find them a safe location so they can submit their applications."

Thursday's attack near the recruitment centre — the deadliest single blast since a car bombing at the same base in February — came amid a surge of violence targeting

American troops and their Iraqi allies ahead of the transfer of sovereignty to Iraqis on 30 June.

The attacks are apparently designed to shake confidence in Iraqi security forces, seen by some in the region as beholden to the Americans. At least 35 people died and 145 were wounded, and the toll was likely to increase, health ministry official Saad al-Amili said.

Another car bomb exploded Thursday afternoon in a village near Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad, killing six Iraqi Civil Defence Corps members and wounding four others, the US 1st Infantry Division said. The defence corps is the main internal security force, created by US administrators to battle insurgents. The bombings have alarmed the people of Baghdad. Most are convinced that the attacks are carried out by outsiders — even by Americans who they say hope to weaken Islam and find a pretext to take this oil-rich country. —Internet



A car, which was thrown into middle of the road by the force of a blast, sits in the street while US and Iraqi troops and Iraqi police secure the scene of an explosion in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 17 June, 2004. — INTERNET

Britain plays hardball over EU Constitution

LONDON, 17 June — Britain will hold out for every last detail of its demands before signing up to an EU Constitution, ministers and officials said on Wednesday.

Prime Minister Tony Blair has staked out "red lines" to keep national control of areas like tax, defence and foreign policy and says he will only agree to the Constitution if they are met.

Diplomats say most of them already have, or will be. Britain confirmed a further objection on Wednesday, refusing to back Belgian Premier Guy Verhofstadt to succeed EU Commission President Romano Prodi, as Paris and Berlin want.

"Britain does not support Mr Verhofstadt for the presidency," a senior British official told reporters in Brussels. Drubbed in European Parliament elections last week, Blair will join fellow leaders on Thursday to thrash out a charter to allow the enlarged bloc to function properly.

Aides say he must seal a deal that shows London retains sole control of key policy areas to have any chance of selling it to wary Britons in a referendum he has promised them on the issue.

"We have made clear what we won't accept but we have also shaped the debate in our favour," Foreign Secretary Jack Straw told Parliament. "We are ensuring

that in respect of vital national interests the veto will be maintained."

The latest draft from the Irish presidency made clear that unanimity would be needed to take decisions related to taxation.

But British officials say it does not yet go far enough.

And to the anger of European partners, Britain has belatedly decided that a Charter of Fundamental Rights, to be incorporated into the Constitution, also needs tidying up. Industry groups have pressed Blair to ensure the Charter — which includes

articles like the right to strike — should not allow EU courts to challenge Britain's light-touch labour laws which have helped it maintain low unemployment levels.

"We have highlighted it as an issue we want to resolve," Blair's spokesman said. "It is a clarification we are seeking."

Relaxed Labour laws and tax sovereignty cut to the heart of the government's blueprint for economic success — which it views as superior to its more heavily regulated EU partners.

MNA/Reuters

ADF increases support to Africa's SMEs

TUNIS, 17 June — The African Development Fund (ADF) under the African Development Bank has strengthened its support to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) development on the continent, through a new grant to the African Management Services Company (AMSCO).

This grant, amounting to 2.35 million US dollars, was approved Wednesday by the Board of Directors of the ADF, which will help strengthen the African Training and Management Services (ATMS) Project and improve the quality of its service delivery.

It is intended to assist African businesses to become more competitive by seconding experienced managers and supporting training to upgrade management skills, considered to be one of the main causes of the weak performance of enterprises on the continent, in particular the SMEs.

MNA/Xinhua

စုတ်တုန်ခတ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်

First Hungarian soldier killed in Iraq

BUDAPEST, 17 June — A suspected roadside bomb killed a Hungarian soldier in Iraq and wounded a civilian driver on Thursday, Hungary's first military fatality since it joined the US-led coalition.

Hungarian Defence Minister Ferenc Juhasz said the casualties were probably caused by a bomb which hit a military convoy some 70 km (45 miles) southeast of Baghdad.

"The explosion ripped through an armoured personnel carrier...and fatally injured the lungs of a 27-year-old non-commissioned officer," Juhasz told a press conference.

The civilian driver was hit by shards of flying glass, Juhasz said.

He said Hungary's 300-strong transport battalion would remain in Iraq.

"The Hungarian military will continue its duty in Iraq unless parliament decides otherwise," said Juhasz.

Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy and his government strongly supported the US-led invasion of Iraq and sent troops after the war to help with security and reconstruction. But the Hungarian people are now mostly against their country's involvement in Iraq.

Before last year's invasion which toppled Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, the United States used Hungary as a base to train Iraqi exiles to work with US-led forces.

A Hungarian civilian was shot dead by US troops in Iraq in November after he failed to slow at a military checkpoint. —Internet

Annan says Iraq too dangerous for UN return

UNITED NATIONS, 17 June — UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said that Iraq was still too dangerous for the United Nations to return to the country.

"On the security situation on the ground in Iraq, obviously I am extremely worried," Annan told reporters at the UN headquarters in New York. A new car bomb attack in Baghdad on Thursday left at least 41 dead and Iraqi and US officials have warned that more deaths are likely ahead of the June 30 handover of power by the US-led coalition.

"I am grateful to the Security Council that they inserted the phrase that we could go in 'as circumstances permit'. As of today circumstances do not permit and we are monitoring the situation extremely carefully," Annan added.

The United Nations withdrew international staff following two bomb attacks on or near the UN offices in Baghdad in August

and October. A UN Security Council motion left it up to Annan to decide when Iraq was safe enough for a UN return. Annan also said he hoped to soon announce who would be the next UN representative to Iraq. "I haven't quite decided. I have a list which I am looking at. I would hope to be able to designate someone within the next week or so. It's a tough choice," he said. "In some situations, the candidates have been willing, excited when we have described the assignment to them, but a week or two later they come and tell you: 'We would love to do it but our wives and families don't want us to do it.'" Lakhdar Brahimi has been the Annan's special envoy in Iraq and played a key role putting together the interim government. — Internet



US Army troops arrive on the scene after a car bomb exploded outside a recruiting centre in the capital Baghdad on 17 June, 2004. There is still too much violence in Iraq for UN senior staff to reestablish a permanent presence to help with the political process and reconstruction, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Thursday.

INTERNET

New York Times calls on Bush to apologize for waging war on Iraq

WASHINGTON, 17 June—The New York Times called on President George W Bush to apologize to the American people for going to war on Iraq after an official probe into the September 11 attacks found no evidence linking Iraq and al-Qaeda.

"Now President Bush should apologize to the American people, who were led to believe something different," the Times editorial said.

"Of all the ways Mr Bush persuaded Americans to back the invasion of Iraq last year, the most plainly dishonest was his effort to link his war of choice with the battle against terrorists worldwide."

A panel investigating the 11 September, 2001 attacks said Wednesday there was no "credible evidence" Iraq had helped Osama bin Laden's extremist al-Qaeda network to attack the United States and no sign of any "collaborative relationship"

between Baghdad and the group.

The conclusions of the independent panel dealt another blow to Bush's justification for overthrowing Saddam Hussein's regime, which was also charged with possessing as yet undiscovered weapons of mass destruction.

"This is not just a matter of the President's diminishing credibility, although that's disturbing enough," The New York Times said.

"The war on terror has actually suffered as the conflict in Iraq has diverted military and intelligence resources from places like Afghanistan, where there could

really be Qaeda forces, including Mr bin Laden."

Bush, the daily added, is responsible for his government's actions since September 11. "That includes, inexcusably, selling the false Iraq-Qaeda claim to Americans."

"There are two unpleasant alternatives: either Mr Bush knew he was not telling the truth, or he has a capacity for politically motivated self-deception that is terrifying in the post-9/11 world," concluded the Times.

But the Washington Post pointed out that the 9/11 panel's report "has not denied there were contacts" between Saddam's regime and al-

Qaeda, shoring up the Bush administration's contention that it never suggested Iraq was behind September 11 but that it did have long-established ties with the group.

It criticized Bush administration foes for seizing on the commission's sentence that it found "no credible evidence" linking Iraq to September 11 to claim the White House has been lying.

"The accusation is nearly as irresponsible as the Bush administration's rhetoric has been," the Washington Post editorial said. —Internet

831 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq last year

BAGHDAD, 17 June—As of Thursday, 17 June, 831 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 612 died as a result of hostile action and 219 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one each. Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 693 US soldiers have died — 503 as a result of hostile action and 190 of non-hostile causes, according to the military. —Internet

Ancient Babylon closed to visitors by US-led coalition in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 17 June—The US-led coalition in Iraq has closed the ancient site of Babylon over worries about the "safety and care" of the archaeological treasure, a statement said.

The closure follows archaeologists' warnings that military activities were damaging the historically unique site.

Last week, Iraq's US Governor Paul Bremer and the top US military commander Lieutenant-General Ricardo Sanchez launched a probe into whether coalition activity has damaged the ancient city south of Baghdad, ordering a halt to any projects that might harm historic artifacts or sites.

"As a result of the concern that we have about the safety and care of the ancient and historically valuable site at Babylon, we decided to initiate a comprehensive study to determine how to best preserve the site between now and the time the division head-

quarters depart," the coalition statement said.

"The site will be closed to all visitors, other than archaeologists, until completion of the study."

The study will look into moving heavy equipment and living quarters at the Camp Alpha military base and investigate any damage done by parking, storage and traffic.

The ancient Mesopotamian city is just one example of Iraq's cultural heritage, which is one of the richest in the world.

International cultural organizations had urged that the heritage of Iraq, which boasts more than 10,000 archeological sites, be spared ahead of the US-led war launched March 20 last year. —Internet



An Iraqi paramilitary civil defence guard views an upturned vehicle after a car bomb killed six comrades and wounded four, on 17 June, 2004 near the town of Balad, north of the Iraqi capital. — INTERNET

CPC senior official meets Lee Kuan Yew

BEIJING, 17 June—Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, met here Wednesday with visiting Singaporean Senior Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Lee Kuan Yew.

Li praised Lee for his contribution to the Sino-Singaporean friendship.

Since they established diplomatic ties, Li said, China and Singapore have developed their relationship soundly and rapidly.

In the many past years, Singapore remained one of China's most important trade partners in Southeast Asia, Li said. Meanwhile, the two countries cooperated with

each other in culture, education and science and technology, he said.

Sino-Singaporean cooperation has markedly sped up in recent years and entered into an all-round, multi-faceted development era. The two sides has timely designated major cooperation areas according to changing situations, and thus breathe new vitality into the existing relationship, Li said.

Lee positively commented on the latest development of the Singaporean-Chinese relationship.

Faced with changing situations, Lee said, both Singapore and China seized the opportunity and closely cooperated with each other.

Lee said Singapore is willing to more actively engage in the process of China's economic development.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqi children in the Sadr City district of Baghdad come out of their homes to survey the damage of bullet riddled and burned cars left in a street after clashes between US troops and Iraqi militants loyal to Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr on 17 June, 2004. — INTERNET

Australian Government announces energy plan

CANBERRA, 17 June—The Australian Government announced an energy plan on Tuesday to encourage environment-friendly technologies for the next eight years.

The plan highlights a 500-million-dollar (341.2 million US dollars) fund for research to put carbon dioxide emissions underground. The fund will be boosted by a further 1 billion dollars (0.68 billion US dollars) from private investment. The federal government will inject 75 million dollars (51.18 million US dollars) into a project on solar energy for households, according to the plan, entitled Securing

Australia's Energy Future.

Launching the plan here, Prime Minister John Howard attached importance to fossil energy sources, rather than renewable sources. "Renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power will play a part in meeting growing energy demands ... But for the foreseeable future, coal, oil and gas will meet the bulk of Australia's energy needs," he said.

MNA/Xinhua

Thailand's economic growth to rise above 6% in 2 years

BANGKOK, 17 June—Thailand's economy would grow annually by more than 6 per cent over the next two years with the oil prices as a key factor, the Business Day website on Wednesday quoted an International Monetary Fund (IMF) official as saying.

"Thailand is doing quite well despite the little bleep in the first quarter," the IMF division chief for Asia and the Pacific Alessandro Zanello was quoted by Business Day website as saying.

Alessandro Zanello said that the improving domestic and external demand should sustain the kingdom's GDP growth at a robust level of

6.5 per cent for this year and 6.7 per cent for the year 2005.

The IMF official said this was a lowered forecast for Thailand's economic growth for the concern that rising oil prices would hurt the economy.

The Thai economy expanded 5 per cent in the first quarter of this year, a slowdown compared with the

performance of 7.8 per cent in the previous quarter.

While attributing rising oil prices and bird flu to the slowdown in the first three months this year, the Thai Government declared to cut down its projection for this year's economic growth by one percentage point to 6-7 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua

Australian argument for war in Iraq “blown apart” by US report

SYDNEY, 17 June — Australia's case for joining the invasion of Iraq has been “blown apart” by an official US investigation that found no link between Al-Qaeda and the regime of Saddam Hussein, the opposition Labour Party said.

The official report released overnight in Washington on the September 11, 2001, terror assault on the US said there was no “credible evidence” Iraq had helped Al-Qaeda to carry out the attack and no sign of any “collaborative relationship” between Baghdad and the group.

The conservative government of Prime Minister John Howard repeatedly cited alleged ties between Al-Qaeda and other international terrorists to Iraq, along with weapons of mass destruction that have not been found, to justify joining the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

Howard's policy on Iraq, where Australia still has troops deployed, has become increasingly unpopular in Australia and has emerged as a key issue ahead of national elections expected later this year.

The main opposition Labour Party — which has called for the withdrawal of Aus-

tralian troops from Iraq, said Thursday that the US findings destroy the credibility of Howard's case for going to war.

“It's quite plain from what's been produced in the United States that the core argument advanced by John Howard, that attacking Iraq was part of the war against terrorism, has been blown apart by this report,” Labour foreign affairs spokesman Kevin Rudd said.

The report by a commission of inquiry set up to investigate the September 11 airliner attacks on New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon in Washington found that Al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden explored possible cooperation with Iraq while he was based in Sudan in the early 1990s.

It said there were also reports of contacts with Baghdad after bin Laden returned to Afghanistan “but they do not appear to have resulted in a collaborative relationship”.

Internet



Iraqi oil workers make repairs on pipelines near Faw, Iraq, on 17 June, 2004, after saboteurs blasted the oil lines on Tuesday and Wednesday halting Iraq's oil exports.

INTERNET

Overseas Filipino worker's remittances down in April

MANILA, 17 June — Remittances from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in April 2004 reached 660 million US dollars, 5.6 per cent lower than the 699 million dollars recorded in the same period last year, the central bank said Wednesday.

The central bank said in a statement that the decline resulted in the slowdown in the growth of the four-month cumulative OFW remittances to 1.6 per cent or 2.6 billion dollars from 4.4 per cent recorded during the first three months of the year.

The central bank attributed the contraction in remittance flows in April partly to more rigid implementation of the Anti-Money Laundering Law by Saudi Arabia, which homes about one-fifth of Filipino workers overseas.

MNA/Xinhua

APEC to heighten level of WTO talks

MANILA, 17 June — Philippine Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar Purisima said members of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum are ready to push negotiations at the World Trade Organization to a higher level, a local newspaper reported Wednesday.

Purisima told *Philippine Daily Inquirer* that when attending earlier this month a meeting of the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade in Pucon, Chile, all delegates agreed to forge a consensus on key trade issues by next month.

“We emphasize the continued importance of the mandate agreed by the min-

isters in the Doha Development Agenda, and the need for high levels of ambition and respect for flexibility,” Purisima said.

In a November 2001 ministerial conference held in Doha, Qatar, delegates agreed on an agenda covering a wide range of subjects, including agriculture and services. — MNA/Xinhua

Chittagong Port introduces security code

DHAKA, 17 June — Chittagong Port, the largest seaport in Bangladesh, Wednesday formally introduced the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, reported the official *Bangladesh News Agency*.

At the function organized for awarding the ISPS Code compliance certificate to the stakeholders, Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) announced Bangladesh is now capable of detecting and defeating any security threat on maritime sectors.

The ISPS Code is a globally applicable unified safety and security code for port and shipping sectors. The code was set as an obligation by British based maritime watchdog International Maritime Organization (IMO).

MNA/Xinhua



US-led forces to hand Baghdad airport to Iraqis

BAGHDAD, 17 June — US-led forces will begin handing over control of Baghdad's international airport to Iraqi authorities after the formal end of occupation at the end of June, aviation officials said on Wednesday.

The US military hopes to stop using the heavily guarded airport by mid-August, leaving it in the hands of the Iraqi Transport Ministry, which will bring in a private contractor and a new Iraqi airport police force to handle security.

“Incrementally, (the Transport Ministry) will take over all of the security for the airport,” a foreign adviser to the ministry told reporters. “There's going to be a combination of private contractors working in conjunction with the Iraqi Airport Police and the Iraqi military.”

Baghdad Airport has been the main US military

base in Iraq since last year's invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein. The US military will continue to use Camp Victory, a sophisticated base it has built on the edge of the 35 square mile airport, officials said.

Military aircraft will continue to use the airport but only to support the future US Embassy, not to support troops, a senior coalition military operations official said.

Currently, about 90 per cent of the 500 daily flights to Baghdad Airport are military but US-forces will step up use of other Iraqi airfields and land routes instead.

The company that will

take over airport security from existing contractor Custer Battles, will be announced in the next day or two, the adviser said.

That security contractor, which was chosen through open bid and will be accountable to the Transport Ministry, will also train Iraqis eventually take over, he said.

No scheduled passenger flights currently operate out of Baghdad, due to threats of attack from the area around the heavily-guarded airport. Attacks on vehicles, particularly military convoys, travelling from the airport into the capital are common.

MNA/Reuters

US soldier charged in fatal shooting of wounded Iraqi

WASHINGTON, 18 June — The US Army is bringing murder charges against a soldier who fatally shot at close range an Iraqi man who already was badly wounded in a vehicle after a high-speed chase in Iraq, officials said on Wednesday.

“Charges have been preferred,” said Lieutenant-Colonel Pamela Hart, an Army spokeswoman at the Pentagon, but she did not specify the charges or name the 1st Armoured Division soldier. Another Army official said the soldier is being charged with murder after the Army Criminal Investigation Division looked into the May 21

shooting near Kufa in southern Iraq.

The incident took place after US forces engaged in a high-speed chase after coming across a motorcade in which the Iraqi was driving one of the vehicles, according to a statement issued by US Central Command on June 4. The man's vehicle was hit by gunfire and he was seriously wounded, while a

passenger in the vehicle was less seriously wounded, according to that statement. The US soldier then approached the car and shot the wounded driver to death at close range, according to the statement. At the time, defence officials said the investigation centred on “a potential violation of US rules of engagement”.

MNA/Reuters

Portuguese forces to stay in Iraq till November

LISBON, 18 June — Portuguese Foreign Minister Teresa Gouveia announced Wednesday that the government intends to maintain the contingent of the National Republican Guard (GNR) in Iraq till November.

Gouveia said that “in the face of the resolution that was unanimously approved by the United Nations (UN),” the presence of the multinational troops in Iraq will be decided by the Iraqi Government.

The UN Security Council last week approved a resolution endorsing the transfer of sovereignty to Iraq's new government by the end of June and authorized deployment of a multinational security force in that

country.

Portugal's opposition parties said at the National Assembly on Wednesday the contingent should be withdrawn from Iraq, arguing the European elections held on June 10 to 13 gave 60 per cent of the votes to the whole of the left parties, that are against the involvement of the Portuguese Government in the case of Iraq.

MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier drives away the media from the site of an explosion in Baghdad, Iraq, on 17 June, 2004. A sport utility vehicle packed with artillery shells slammed into a crowd of people waiting to volunteer for the Iraqi military, on Thursday killing dozens of people, authorities said. — INTERNET

Retired US diplomats say Bush policies a failure

WASHINGTON, 17 June — US President George W Bush led the United States into an ill-planned Iraq war that weakened US security, retired diplomats and military officers said on Wednesday in a challenge to one of Bush's main arguments for re-election.

"We all believe that current Administration policies have failed in the primary responsibilities of preserving national security and providing world leadership," said a statement signed by the 27 retired officials. "We need a change."

The rare criticism by career senior US officials came from a group that included members of both major political parties, two former ambassadors to the Soviet Union and a retired chair-

man of the military Joint Chiefs of Staff.

In attacking Bush's national security record, they challenged a key Bush argument for his re-election against Democrat Senator John Kerry, that the Iraq war has made America safer.

"Our security has been weakened," the group said.

The former officials, some of whom said they had voted for Bush, said the Republican President manipulated intelligence on Iraq to

lead the United States into an "ill-planned and costly war from which exit is uncertain".

Bush has maintained an "overbearing" approach to foreign policy that relied excessively on military power, spurned the concerns of US traditional allies and disdained the United Nations, the group said.

"It justified the invasion of Iraq by manipulation of uncertain intelligence about weapons of mass destruction,

and by a cynical campaign to persuade the public that Saddam Hussein was linked to al-Qaeda and the attacks of September 11," it said. "The evidence did not support this argument."

"Never in the two and a quarter centuries of our history has the United States been so isolated among the nations, so broadly feared and distrusted," it added.

While the group did not explicitly call in its statement for Kerry's election in the November 2 presidential election, several members made clear that they believed the Massachusetts Democrat would do a better job than the Republican incumbent.

"Obviously we think that Senator Kerry should be elected but we are not here to speak for him," William Harrop, a former ambassador to Israel, Zaire and Kenya, told reporters.

Retired General Tony McPeak, a former chief of staff of the US Air Force, said the military had performed well in Iraq but the pre-war diplomacy had been bungled and the Pentagon now had only about half the troops needed for the occupation. —MNA/Reuters



An American soldier walks through the site of an explosion in Baghdad, on 17 June, 2004. — INTERNET

Mounting Iraq tumult threatens food stocks

WASHINGTON, 17 June — Iraq's food supplies are threatened by the country's deteriorating security and problems could get worse when the US hands over power to Iraqis in the next two weeks, US officials told Congress on Wednesday.

The 14-month-old US occupation of Iraq has been hobbled by stepped up attacks on soldiers and civilians along with difficulties in supplying electricity. But until recently, Washington has not had to worry about a food crisis that could further undermine popular support for US efforts.

Andrew Natsios, administrator of the US Agency for International Development, told the House Agriculture Committee he was "fearful" of food interruptions resulting in food shortages.

"Delayed food deliveries not only threaten the vulnerable, they could create fur-

ther instability among the population," Natsios said in prepared testimony.

Iraq is heavily dependent upon imported wheat, rice, cooking oils and other basic commodities. Even with those imports, Iraqi families' wheat consumption is only 60 per cent of the level consumed by Turks and also significantly less than consumption in Iran and Syria, according to US statistics.

Representative Charles Stenholm of Texas, the senior Democrat on the House committee, pointed out that this week's sabotage of Iraqi oil pipelines could further

hamper the country's food supplies as revenues from crude exports help fund food purchases.

Officials also said Iraq now has a 30-day supply of food.

"While 30 days doesn't sound like much, I'm glad we're not three weeks ago when we were down probably to a two-week (food) pipeline in the country," said Lee Schatz, a US Department of Agriculture official working on developing Iraq's food and farm industries.

Schatz said that "as the violence spiked about two weeks ago, all the (food delivery)

trucks went off the road".

Since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, US officials have been trying to help rebuild Iraq's farm sector. But a US AID official told the House panel that those efforts have been disrupted by flaring violence and more violence at the June 30 hand-over to an interim Iraqi government could make matters worse.

MNA/Reuters

Japan, EU to urge mil'y forces in Iraq to follow int'l law

Tokyo, 17 June — Japan and the European Union are preparing to issue a joint statement at the end of their summit meeting here next week that will urge all military forces in Iraq to follow international law in the wake of the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US soldiers.

According to *Kyodo News*, Japanese and EU officials are scheduled to meet Thursday to put the final touches on the draft of the joint statement.

As for the abuse of Iraqi prisoners, the draft says the leaders of the two sides "called on all military forces in Iraq to uphold respect for international law and welcomed the firm commitment by the relevant governments to bring to justice any individuals responsible for such acts involving the abuse of detainees."

"The leaders reiterated that respect for human rights and adherence to the rule of law is essential in the fight against terrorism," indirectly criticizing the prisoner abuse incidents in the war-shattered country, according to the draft.

They also underscored the need for the international community to support the work of the interim Iraqi Government with a view to direct elections being held in accordance with the timetable set out in UNSCR (UN Security Council Resolution) 1546, it says.

On the Middle East, Japan and the European Union agreed that the US-backed roadmap peace plan is the only route to achieving a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

They called on the Israelis and the Palestinians to end all acts of violence against each side and to fulfill their obligations under the roadmap, which calls for the creation of a Palestinian state by 2005. — MNA/Xinhua

Vice-Premier says China will further relations with India

BEIJING, 17 June — China will work with India to push forward the bilateral long-term constructive and cooperative partnership, said Chinese Vice-Premier Huang Ju at a meeting here Wednesday with former Indian President Kochoeril Raman Narayanan.

Huang said China and India are neighbours and the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence initiated by the two countries have provided an important guarantee for the sound development of bilateral ties.

He spoke highly of Narayanan's contributions to bilateral relations and cooperation.

Narayanan, who is here as guest of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs to attend the International Seminar on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, mentioned the rapid development of bilateral relations in recent years.

He said he believes that bilateral relations will progress under the guidance of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and he will continue to make his own efforts to this end. — MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh to set up 100 more safe blood transfusion centres

DHAKA, 17 June — Some 100 more safe blood transfusion centres will be set up in the country soon, aiming to check various blood-borne contagious diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain said this in a meeting of national steering committee on implementation of the three-year Health, Nutrition and

Population Sector Programme (HNPPS) Wednesday, reported the *United News of Bangladesh*, a private news agency in the country.

In the meeting, some 20 operational plans of HNPPS were approved involving an estimated cost of 17.525 billion taka (302 million US dollars). Earlier, 11 operational plans were approved on June 2.

The Health Minister told the meeting that awareness programmes were not enough to prevent fatal diseases like HIV/AIDS. "We need to take preventive measures too," he said.

He directed the authorities concerned to give emphasis on the frontier areas of the country for establishing the new safe blood transfusion centres.

MNA/Xinhua



The mother of Abdul Razak Abdullah, 32, cries and reaches out to hug him as she discovers he is not in serious condition outside of Baghdad hospital after he was injured in a car bomb blast in Baghdad on 17 June, 2004. — INTERNET

New and fast developments throughout Myanmar



For the development of national races youths living in border area, Youth Centre was built in Kengtung, Shan State (East).—HTAY AUNG (KYEMON)



People living in Thityakauk village in Magway Township, are now possessing new houses built under rural housing project.—PBANRDA



Village-to-village roads and town-to-village roads are being built for better transportation in rural areas. Photo shows road construction site between Hsayhtoe and Thayagon villages in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Division. — PBANRDA



The Government is paying serious attention to border area development. Photo shows the development of Panwa in Kachin State.—PBANRDA



Under the Arid Zones Greening Plan, a dam was built in Kanhnahsint village in Aunglan Township, Magway Division.—MOE KO (FORESTRY)

Border and rural area developments



Kawthoung Airport in Taninthayi Division. — MNA

Burundian Vice-President visits Anhui Province

HEFEI, 18 June— Burundian Vice-President Alphonse-Marie Kadege visited East China's Anhui Province on Wednesday.

As the guest of Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong, Kadege and his party arrived at Anhui Province Tuesday night, and they visited some industrial and agricultural projects of Anhui on Wednesday morning.

Kadege also met with Anhui Governor Wang Jinshan on Wednesday, who said the visit of Kadege will further deepen the friendship and under-

standing between Anhui and Burundi, and the bilateral exchanges and cooperation will also be boosted.

Kadege said that though Anhui is an inland Chinese province, its achievements and experiences in industry and agriculture left a deep impression on them.

Kadege and his party will leave Anhui for Shenzhen City to continue their China visit on Thursday.

MNA/Xinhua

Food poisoning sickens at least 70 in south China

GUANGZHOU, 18 June— At least 70 people were sickened by a mass food poisoning in Meizhou City of southern China's Guangdong Province, local health officials and doctors said Wednesday.

Beginning Sunday morning, dozens of locals who ate sandwiches and toast from the same bakery chain reported symptoms of bellyache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, dehydration and fever, said doctors with the Meizhou City People's Hospital, where at least 70 people had sought medical treatment from Sunday to

Tuesday.

Doctors said they had taken emergency measures and the patients were in stable and not life-threatening condition.

Preliminary investigation by local health supervision authorities showed all the food was produced by six chain stores under a local company, 100 Point Artistic Bakery.

The city government has suspended the sales and production of the suspect food on the market and organized recall efforts.

Further investigation was still under way.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam boosts seafood exports to EU, APR

HANOI, 18 June— Vietnam is boosting its seafood exports to the European Union (EU) and the Asia-Pacific Region, when facing a decline in volume of the product shipped to the United States.

Local shrimp exporters are asked to intensify trade promotion to the markets, which have become accustomed to shrimp imports from Asian countries, according to the *Vietnam News* on Wednesday.

Vietnamese enterprises have advantages in exporting to the EU, which imposes a preferential tariff of 4.2 per cent on local shrimps. The market is also expected to import more Vietnamese catfish due to a lack of white meat fish in some European countries.

Meanwhile, the Asia-Pacific Region is always a major importers of Vietnamese seafood, along with the United States and the EU.

Vietnam's seafood exports to Japan and the EU recorded a year-on-year growth of 80 per cent in the first five months of this year, and its exports to the Asia-Pacific Region valued at 300 million US dollars, which accounted for 41 per cent of its total seafood exports.

Vietnam, which exported seafood worth of 782 million US dollars in the first five months of this year, a year-on-year increase of 1.7 per cent, is expected to obtain seafood export turnovers of 2.6 billion dollars in 2004, including 1 billion dollars from shrimp.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore joins APEC Business Travel Card Programme

SINGAPORE, 18 June— Singapore has joined the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Travel Card Programme (ABTC), which allows travellers to use express immigration lanes and enjoy greater travel flexibility among parti-

cipating APEC member economies.

According to a statement by the APEC Informal Experts' Group on Business Mobility on Wednesday, for travellers issued with ABTCs, the length of stay without a visa in Singapore is at least 60 days.— MNA/Xinhua

SEPA to conduct cleaner production experiment on SMEs

BEIJING, 18 June— China's environmental watchdog will begin a cleaner production experiment on dozens of small- and medium-sized enterprises selected from pharmaceutical, printing and dyeing, electroplating, paper-making and brewery industries in six months.

Wang Jirong, vice-director of the State Environmental Protection Administration (SEPA), made the remark Wednesday at the letter of intent signing ceremony of a cleaner production programme.

Lasting for three years, the programme will cost 720,000 US dollars, which is sponsored by Dow Chemical, one of the leading global chemical giants known for strict environmental standards.

"Although cleaner production is compulsory for enterprises according to China's law, many of them are hesitating and lack motivation. This programme intends to show them that cleaner production is not a burden but can bring profits," said Zhang Lijun, head of SEPA Pollution Control Department.

ment.

Cleaner production means to use clean technologies in the production process and recycle the discharge at the end. It is considered a leap forward from China's old practice of "treatment after pollution".

China promulgated the Regulation on the Promotion of Cleaner Production in 2003, 20 years after it first realized to minimize pollution in the production process in 1983.

However, promotion of cleaner production is not as smooth as the legislators have imagined.

According to Wang, major problems preventing enterprises from cleaner production include a lack of funds and technologies, a defective environmental management system, rare channels to get updated information and absence of market incentives.

"It is necessary to cooperate with multinationals. With experience and advanced technologies in cleaner production, they set up models for Chinese enterprises," Zhang said.

MNA/Xinhua

India's Konkan Railway puts train toll at 14

NEW DELHI, 18 June— India's Konkan Railway said Wednesday 14 passengers died and 62 injured, following derailment of Matsyagandha Express train Wednesday morning in Maharashtra State in west India.

Earlier, Railway Minister Lalu Prasad told reporters in Kolkata in east India that 20 people were killed and 100 injured in the accident in Raigadh around 150 kilometres of Mumbai.

The train had derailed after the engine hit two

boulders that fell on the track. The derailed loco motive and three coaches went down the bridge, while eight coaches behind it derailed due to the impact, Konkan Railway said in a statement.

The injured had been shifted to local hospitals in Mahad and Mumbai. Out of the 62 injured, 36 sustained serious injuries and 26 suffered minor injuries, it said.

It said all the trapped passengers have been evacuated from the affected coaches. — MNA/Xinhua

Poor nations launch talks to lower trade barriers

SAO PAULO (Brazil), 18 June— Poor nations on Wednesday launched new talks to lower their trade barriers in a move to fight poverty and win access to rich countries' markets.

Argentine and Brazilian ministers launched negotiations to expand the Global System of Trade Preferences—an agreement on tariff reduction and trade liberalization among 44 developing countries — to at least 40 more nations.

Many developing nations see trade with poor neighbours as second best to that with rich countries.

But most see no alternative to so-called

South-South trade while tariff barriers and subsidies block their farm exports from reaching Europe and the United States.

Countries like the United States and France want more access to poor nations' economies before they open up their lucrative farm sectors to developing countries' exports.

Argentine Economy Minister Roberto Lavagna told delegates at a meeting of the UN Conference on Trade and Development in Brazil that the new round of negotiations could lift millions out of poverty and push along a struggling world trade deal.—MNA/Reuters

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

မိုးဦးကျနှင့် မိုးရာသီတွင်ဖြစ်တတ်သော ရောဂါများအတွက်နူးအော်ချက်

၁။ မိုးဦးကျရာသီတွင် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ကူးစက်တတ်သောရောဂါများ ပုံမှန်ဖြစ်ပွားလေ့ရှိပါသည်။

(က) ဝမ်းမျက်ခမ်းလျှော့နှင့် ကာလဝမ်းရောဂါများအပါအဝင် ဝမ်းနှင့် ပတ်သက်သည့် ရောဂါများ၊ အသည်းရောင်အသားဝါရောဂါနှင့် သံကောင် တုပ်ကောင်ရောဂါများ

(ခ) သွေးလွန်တုပ်ကွေးနှင့် ငှက်ဖျားရောဂါ

(ဂ) တုပ်ကွေး၊ နှာစေးရောင်ဆိုးနှင့် အဆုတ်အဆေးမိရောဂါ

၂။ ဖြစ်ပွားရသည့်အကြောင်းရင်းမှာ—

(က) မိုးဦးကျလာပြီးဖြစ်၍ လှိုင်းလှိုင်းပေါ်လာသည့် အချိန်တစ်ပါးသော သရက်သီး၊ ပိန္နဲသီး၊ ဖရဲသီး၊ ကြက်မောက်သီး၊ မင်းဂွတ်သီး စသည်သစ်သီးဝလံများ၏ အခွံအစေ့ စသည်များကို စည်ကမ်းမဲ့ မဆင်မခြင် စွန့်ပစ်ခြင်းကြောင့် ယင်ပေါများခြင်း

(ခ) ရာသီစာအမှည့်လွန်အသီးများကို စားသုံးခြင်း

(ဂ) မိုးရွာပြီးရေတင်ရေဝပ်သဖြင့် ရေအိုင်၊ ရေကန်ဖြစ်၍ ရေမြောင်း၊ မိတ်ခြင်းနှင့် ချွန်နယ်မိတ်ပေါင်းထူထပ်၍ ခြင်ပေါက်ဖွားခြင်း

(ဃ) ရာသီဥတု အပြောင်းအလဲဖြစ်၍ အပူရှပ်ခြင်း၊ အအေးပတ်ခြင်း

(င) ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်သန့်ရှင်းမှုနှင့် တစ်ကိုယ်ရေသန့်ရှင်းမှု နည်းပါးခြင်း

(စ) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်ညီသည့်အသိပညာနှင့် အလေ့အကျင့်အားနည်းခြင်း

၃။ အောက်ဖော်ပြပါတို့ကို လိုက်နာကျင့်သုံးခြင်းဖြင့် ဖော်ပြပါ ရောဂါများ ကူးစက်ပျံ့နှံ့ခြင်းမှ ကာကွယ်တားဆီးနိုင်မည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

(က) အမှည့်လွန်အသီးများကို စားသုံးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ပါ။

(ခ) ယင်နားစာများကို မဆင်မခြင် စားသုံးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ပါ။

(ဂ) စားကြွင်းစားကျန် အမှိုက်သရိုက်များနှင့် အညစ်အကြေးများကို စည်ကမ်းမဲ့ စွန့်ပစ်ခြင်းမှရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

(ဃ) မိသားစုအတွင်းကျန်းမာရေးအသိပညာဖြန့်ဝေပါ။လိုက်နာကျင့်သုံးပါ။

(င) တစ်ကိုယ်ရေ သန့်ရှင်းရေးကို ဂရုပြုလိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

(စ) ရေကိုကျိုချက်၍ သောက်ပါ။

(ဆ) လတ်ဆတ်သန့်ရှင်းသည့် အသီးအနှံနှင့် အစားအစာများကို ဝယ်ယူခြင်း၊ ချက်ပြုတ်စားသုံးပါ။

(ဇ) ရာသီဥတု အပြောင်းအလဲအခြေအနေအထားကို သတိရှိပါ။

(ဈ) ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်သန့်ရှင်းရေးလုပ်ငန်းနှင့် ခြင်နှိမ်ခြင်းရေး လုပ်ငန်းများကို အချို့သားရေးအမြင်ဖြင့် ဝိုင်းဝန်းစုပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

(ည) ရောဂါတစ်မျိုးဖြစ်ပွားပျံ့နှံ့ပါက ကျန်းမာရေးဌာနသို့ အမြန်သတင်းပို့ပါ။

(ဋ) လိုအပ်ပါက နီးစပ်ရာဆေးပေးခန်းဆေးရုံများသို့ အချိန်မီသွားရောက်

ပြသစစ်ဆေး ကုသမှုခံယူပါ။ ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Commander inspects Patheingyi Airport runway, building of hovercrafts

YANGON, 18 June — Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing arrived Patheingyi Airport on 17 June. Patheingyi Airport Construction Project In-charge Lt-Col Kyaw Myint of Myanmar Air Construction Co Ltd reported on building of concrete runway.

Officials of Department of Civil Aviation reported on keeping the airport clean and pleasant. The commander instructed them to ensure proper drainage at the airport area, build a small park and keep the airport clean and pleasant.

Beginning 19 November 2003, a 22-inch high concrete runway was built by Myanmar Air Co Ltd. For the first phase, the runway, 8,500 feet long and 100 feet wide was opened on 14 March 2004. The runway was extended to the 9,500 feet by 200 feet and it was completed on 15 May. At the private workshop on Strand Road in Patheingyi, the commander inspected finishing touches to hovercrafts.

Technician U Aung Myint briefed the commander on building of the hovercraft. The hovercrafts, 130 feet long, 18 feet wide and with a draught of 4 feet, are being built at the private workshop. Each hovercraft can carry 250 passengers and it can be driven at 25 nautical miles per hour. So far, six hovercrafts have been built and are running on Haingyi-Pyinkhayaing-Patheingyi and Thongwa-Ngathaw-Patheingyi routes. — MNA



National Convention Convening Commission Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan explains matters at the meeting.
(News on page 16) — MNA



National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe explains matters at the meeting.
(News on page 16) — MNA

Minister inspects roads in Chin State, Magway Division

YANGON, 18 June — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun accompanied by departmental officials inspected maintenance of Kalay-Falam-Haka road on 14 June morning. The minister looked into Falam-Haka road section between mile posts 82/0 and 82/1 and fulfilled requirements.

On 15 June morning, the minister saw over completion of upgrading task of Mandalay-Sagaing-Monywa-Gangaw-Haka road and gave necessary instructions. At Lanthok Camp, Senior Engineer U Kyaw Wai reported on upgrading of the road. The minister instructed officials to supervise building tasks for meeting set standard.

On 16 June morning, the minister inspected completion and maintenance of upgrading Gangaw-Pale-Monywa-Sagaing road (Gangaw-Monywa section). — MNA

Home Affairs Minister inspects Drug Museum

YANGON, 18 June — Chairman of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing arrived at the Drug Museum this afternoon. The minister was welcomed there by CCDAC member Police Brig-Gen Win Myaing, CCDAC Joint-Secretary Police Col Kham Aung and officials.

Macro Co Ltd Managing Director U Aung San Myat conducted the minister round the booths. The minister next viewed the extension of booths. Later, the minister inspected preparations for the 18th destruction ceremony of seized narcotic drugs to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to be held on 16 June. — MNA

Courses of Communication, Postal Training Centre end

YANGON, 18 June — The concluding ceremony of Database Management Course, Introduction to Outside Plant Course, Fujitsu SDH Digital Microwave Equipment Handling Course and Subscriber Line Construction Course for Rural Telecommunication conducted by the Communication and Postal Training Centre was held at the training centre this morning.

It was attended by Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, officials of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and Directorate of Telecommunications, course instructors and 56 trainees. The minister addressed the ceremony and presented course completion certificates to the trainees and awards to the outstanding. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspects the Myanmar Shopping Mall. — MNA

Commander tours Bawlahe, Pruhsa in Kayah State

YANGON, 18 June — Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, accompanied by Chairman of Kayah State Peace and Development Council Col Myint Oo and officials, met departmental officials, social organization members and local people at Bayintnaung Hall in Bawlahe Township on 13 June evening.

Chairman of Bawlahe District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kan Tun reported on land utilization, food sufficiency and agriculture and livestock breeding. The commander gave necessary instructions.

The commander donated K 100,000 for Bawlahe Township Hospital to Head of the Township Health Department Dr Yan Naing.

On 14 June, the commander inspected maintenance of Pun Creek Bridge in Bawlahe. The bridge is 340 feet long and 12 feet wide and it is of bailey type. The bridge links Bawlahe and Ywathit townships.

The commander and party inspected irrigation from Dawtacha Dam to farmlands. The dam is 1,640 feet long and 27 feet high and it has 55 square miles of catchment area. Next, the commander donated cash for the funds of Maha Kantaya Teinna Pagoda in Bawlahe and offered provisions to Sayadaw U Vijaya at Maha Kantaya Teinna Monastery.

On 15 June, the commander, accompanied by Chairman of Kayah State Col Myint Oo and Col Aye Lwin of Bawlahe Station, met officers, other ranks and families of the station at the hall in Pruhsa and presented cash assistance to Maternal and Child Welfare Association of the station.

Next, the commander met departmental officials, social organization members and local people at the hall of Pruhsa Township Peace and Development Council. Chairman of Loikaw District Lt-Col Win Maung reported on land utilization in Loikaw District, local food sufficiency, agriculture, livestock breeding, water supply, education and health.

Officials also submitted reports on their respective sectors. The commander attended to the needs. He presented K 100,000 for Pruhsa Township Health Department and K 100,000 for purchasing school stationery to officials. In the evening, the commander met Tatmadawmen and families at the station hall of Phekho Station. — MNA



Meeting of the Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons in progress. — MNA

Panel of Chairmen of Delegates Group of Other Invited Persons meet

YANGON, 18 June — The Panel of Chairmen of the Delegates Group of Other Invited Persons held the coordination meeting at the hall No 8 of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township at 9 am today.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman U Sai Aung Tun of Myanmar History Commission, U Aung Hkam Hti of Shan State (South) Special Region-6, Dr Manan Tu Ja of Kachin State Special Region-2, Secretary of Myanmar History Commission U Tun Aung Chein, U Pawi Laik Kham of Shan State (North) Special Region-2, Deputy Director U Aung Kyi and Assistant Director U Win Myint of the working Group-10 of the National Convention Convening Work Committee.

They discussed matters related to proposals concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of power in legislative, executive and judicial sectors to be included in writing the State Constitution clarified by the National Convention Convening Work Committee. — MNA

Renovation of Kyaukseindwin Dhammayon, Myanmar Shopping Mall inspected

YANGON, 18 June — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw this afternoon inspected renovation of Kyaukseindwin Dhammayon carried out by Myitkyina Association (Yangon) near the southern stairway of the Shwedagon Pagoda and left necessary instructions.

In the evening, the

minister went to Myanmar Shopping Mall on Sule Pagoda Road where he inspected the stalls of consumers' goods, electronic items, foodstuff and jewellery and the Internet Cafe. Managing Director U Te Za conducted the minister round the shops, and he left necessary instructions. — MNA

Donate blood

Malaysia, Singapore to enhance transport sector ties

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 June — Malaysia and Singapore Thursday decided to enhance cooperation in the transport sector, including looking into the possibility of increasing flights between the two countries.

The decision was the outcome of talks between Transport Minister Chan Kong Choy and his Singaporean counterpart Yeo Cheow Tong, who is in Malaysia for a two-day visit.

"The two airlines

(Malaysia Airlines and Singapore Airlines) will meet immediately to find ways and means to enhance the present arrangement in the aviation sector," Chan said at a joint news conference after the one-hour

meeting at his ministry in Putrajaya, the Federal Administrative Centre.

On the air links, Yeo said, "The more we can strengthen air links between Singapore and Malaysia, the more we can facilitate tourism and investment flows."

Tourists from Singapore accounted for 56 per cent of total foreign tourists arriving in Malaysia last year.

Their discussion also touched on the International Shipping and Port Security (ISPS) code which comes into effect on July 1.

Chan said both sides could learn from each other on the approaches being taken for the ISPS code implementation so that it would not hinder the flow of trade between Malaysia and Singapore in particular, and within the Southeast Asian region in general.

MNA/Xinhua

20th Meeting of ASEAN National Tourism Organizations 5th Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and Korea National Tourism Organizations 3rd ASEAN-India Tourism Consultations



Taunggyi, Union of Myanmar
30 June — 1 July, 2004

23rd Meeting of the Task Force on ASEAN Tourism Marketing 11th Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Investment 11th Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Manpower Development



Taunggyi, Union of Myanmar
28 — 29 June, 2004

ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင် ဘဝတစ်ခွင်

ကျန်းမာခြင်းဆိုသည်မှာ - ရောဂါဘယကင်းရှင်းသောမက၊ ကိုယ်၏ကျန်းမာကြံ့ခိုင်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ချမ်းသာခြင်းနှင့် လူမှုရေးသုခ ဖြည့်ဝခြင်း ကိုဆိုသည်။

ဘဝတစ်ခွင် ကျန်းမာပျော်ရွှင်စေရန် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

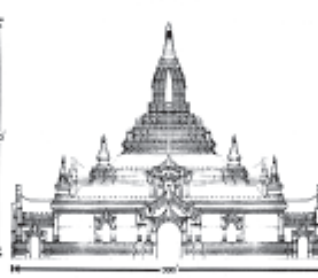
- (၁) တစ်ကိုယ်ရည်သန့်ရှင်းမှုကိုဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၂) အန္တရာယ်ကင်း၍ အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအသောက်များ ကိုစားသုံးပါ။
- (၃) ပိုးမွှားကင်းစင်၍ သန့်ရှင်းသောရေကို သောက်သုံးပါ။
- (၄) ရာသီဥတုနှင့် လိုက်လျောညီထွေစွာဝတ်စားဆင်ယင်နေထိုင်ပါ။
- (၅) အသက်အရွယ်နှင့်လိုက်လျောညီထွေရှိသည့် သင့်တော်သော ကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုကို မှန်မှန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (၆) နေ့စဉ်လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်တာများ ဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်းကြောင့် ပင်ပန်း နှမ်းနယ်မှုကိုပြောပျောက်စေရန် အနားယူပါ။
- (၇) ခြင်္သေ့ရယ်မှကာကွယ်ရန် ခြင်္သေ့ထောင်မြင်အိပ်ပါ။
- (၈) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်ညီညွတ်သော ယင်လုံအိမ်သာကိုသုံးစွဲပါ။
- (၉) အရက်သောက်ခြင်း၊ ဆေးလိပ်ခဲသောက်ခြင်း၊ ကျွမ်းစားခြင်းတို့ကိုရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၀) မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးနှင့် စိတ်ကိုပြောင်းလဲစေသည့် ဆေးဝါးများ သုံးစွဲခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၁) အပျော်အပါးလိုက်စားခြင်းကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- (၁၂) ရေ၊ မြေ၊ လေ သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်နှင့် နေထိုင်မှု၊ အသက် မွေးမှုပတ်ဝန်းကျင်အား ညစ်ညမ်းစေသည့် အပြုအမူများကို ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

တကောင်းမြို့ ရှေးဟောင်း လေးမျက်နှာတုရားကြီး ပြန်လည်ပြုပြင် ဘဏ္ဍာစာကံရာတွင် ကုသိုလ်ယူ ဝါဝင်လှူဒါန်းနိုင်



အေဒီ (၁၁)ရာစု အနောက်တောင်ကြီးတောင်ပိုင်းတစ် ဖြစ်သောလေးမျက်နှာတုရားကြီးသည် ဝါဝင်လှူဒါန်း ရာသီဥတု ၁၀၀၀ နှစ် ဖြည့်ကျော် ဖြစ်ပေါ်ခဲ့ပြီး နှစ်ပေါင်းများစွာ တောရိုင်းတိရစ္ဆာန်များက အုတ်ကုန်ကြီး တစ်ခုအဖြစ် ရသေ့သိမ်း ယူခဲ့ကြပြီးနောက် ပြန်လည်ပြုပြင် ဘဏ္ဍာစာကံရာတွင် ကုသိုလ်ယူ ဝါဝင်လှူဒါန်း နိုင်ပါသည်။



အုတ်တစ်ချပ် (၁၂ x ၈ x ၃) - ၄၆/-
တိရစ္ဆာန်တစ်ချပ် - ၄၀၀/-
သစ်တစ်ချပ် - ၆၀၀/-
ပြန်လည်ပြုပြင် (အသေး) တစ်ချပ် - ၂၀၀၀/-
သုံး (တစ်ချပ်) - ၁၀၀/-
သစ်တစ်ချပ် (၁၂ x ၁၂) - ၅၀/-

ယဉ်ကျေးမှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန (ဝန်ကြီးရုံး) ဖုန်း ၅၄၂၂၇၇၊ ၅၄၂၂၇၈
ဧည့်သည်များအသုံးပြုခန်းမ (ရုံးချုပ်) ဖုန်း ၅၁၀၄၀၊ ၅၁၀၄၁
ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအမွေအနှစ်ဝေခံရမှု (မန္တလေး) ဖုန်း ၀၂ - ၃၆၃၆၇၊ ၀၂ - ၃၆၃၆၈
တကောင်းမြို့ ရှေးဟောင်း လေးမျက်နှာတုရားစာရင်းအတိုချုပ်

Chinese, British navies to hold maritime exercises

QINGDAO, 18 June — The guided missile destroyer *HMS Exeter* and replenishment ship *RFA Grey* of the British Royal Navy arrived in Qingdao Thursday morning for a four-day visit to this port city and a joint military exercise with North Sea Fleet of the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN).

China's guided missile destroyer *Harbin* guided the British fleet into Qingdao Port, where the North Sea Fleet of PLAN held a welcome ceremony for the British fleet with 301 crew, headed by David Snelson, Chief of Staff of the war-time fleet of the British Royal Navy. Zhao Yongqing, Deputy Chief of Staff of the North Sea Fleet of PLAN said that exchanges of visits by warships is a crucial channel for two countries' friendly exchanges. He expressed his belief that this visit by the British fleet will write a new chapter of friendly exchanges of the two navies. Snelson said this is the second visit by *Exeter* to Qingdao.

It is significant for the two sides to hold the first joint maritime exercise, which is bound to promote friendly exchanges between the navies of China and Britain, he added. During their visit in Qingdao, the British Navy officers are expected to meet with Zhang Zhannan, Commander of the North Sea Fleet of PLAN and other officials of Qingdao. In addition, the two sides will visit the warships of the other and held football matches. The British fleet, which is on an eight-month trip to the Far East, has enjoyed trips to Madras of India, Singapore, Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam, Hong Kong and Shanghai. — MNA/Xinhua

US ministers to visit China

BEIJING, 18 June — Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said here Thursday that US Secretary of Commerce Donald Louis Evans and US Secretary of Labour Elaine Lan Chao will visit China soon.

At the invitation of China's Ministry of Commerce, Evans will visit China from June 19 to 24. At the invitation of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of China, Chao will visit China from June 21 to 24.

At the regular Press conference, Zhang said economic and trade relations between China and the United States developed closely at the moment, although there are some difficulties and disputes in the course of development, adding that it is not strange.

She said the visits at the ministerial level and between the leaders of China and United States showed that both sides expected the economic and trade relations to develop smoothly, which is important not only to the two nations but also to the world economic growth. — MNA/Xinhua

Singapore's non-oil exports sharply rise in May

SINGAPORE, 18 June — Singapore's non-oil domestic exports (NODX) increased 27.7 per cent to 11.7 billion Singapore dollars (about 6.8 billion US dollars) in May over last year, according to a statement by the International Enterprise of Singapore (IE Singapore) on Thursday.

IE Singapore attributed the robust rise in NODX mainly to strong demand from Europe for electronics and pharmaceutical goods. Exports of electronics and non-electronics products in May grew 26.2 per cent and 29.2 per cent respectively, IE Singapore said. As for the markets, IE Singapore said that except the United States, NODX to all the top ten markets registered positive growth in May this year.

NODX to China's Mainland and Hong Kong reported an increase of 56.6 per cent and 45.6 per cent respectively in May while NODX to the European Union (EU) continued to grow 41.9 per cent. But NODX to the United States slightly declined 0.8 per cent in May. In May, Singapore's total trade grew 30.6 per cent to 47.5 billion Singapore dollars (about 27.7 billion US dollars). — MNA/Xinhua

S Korea to spend \$57b on industrial clusters

SEOUL, 18 June — South Korea will spend a total of 66.5 trillion won (57.4 billion US dollars) on building infrastructure for industrial clusters over the next four years, reported the South Korean news agency *Yonhap* on Thursday.

Four strategic industries for each province will be chosen to narrow the gap between the greater Seoul area and the provinces as well as to pursue balanced national development, according to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy. In a report to President Roh Moo-hyun, the ministry and a presidential panel on balanced national development outlined the first five-year plan. Under the blueprint, South Korea hopes to develop at least two world-

class industrial clusters similar to the United States' Silicon Valley within 15 years. It plans to complete the necessary infrastructure by 2008. "To finance the project, we will seek to attract private capital as well as tap into public funds," Commerce Minister Lee Hee-beom was quoted as saying. The ministry plans to hold a hearing later this month to gauge opinion before it presents the five-year plan for the Cabinet and presidential approval next month. — MNA/Xinhua

UNSG urges tougher action against desertification

UNITED NATIONS, 18 June — An estimated 135 million people are at risk of being driven from their land because of continuing desertification and the world must focus more on reversing this trend, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Wednesday.

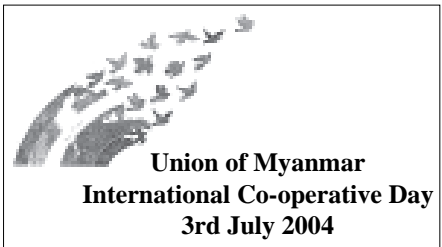
In a message to mark the World Day to Combat Desertification, which falls on Thursday, Annan said governments should cooperate with civil society, business and international organizations to promote more sustainable development so that land remains arable and does not become desert.

This year's Anti-desertification World Day coincides with the 10th anniversary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which now has 191 signatories.

Citing a UNCCD estimate that more than one billion people and one-third of the Earth's surface are threatened by desertification, Annan warned that the rural poor are particularly vulnerable, especially in the developing world.

He said desertification can reduce productivity in some regions by as much as half.

"It contributes to food insecurity, famine and poverty, and can give rise to social, economic and political tensions that can cause conflicts, further poverty and land degradation." — MNA/Xinhua



တိဘိရောဂါ ကာကွယ်နှိမ်နင်းရေး

(က) ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားကူးစက်ပုံ

ဤရောဂါသည်တိဘိရောဂါဖြစ်သော ကူးစက်ရောဂါဖြစ်သည်။ ဝေဒနာရှင် ရောဂါဆိုခြင်း၊ နာရခြင်း၊ သလိပ်တော့မှတစ်ဆင့် ရောဂါပိုးများ လေထဲတွင် ပျံ့နှံ့၍ ကူးစက်သည်။

- အသက်အရွယ်မရွေး လူတိုင်းတွင် ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်သည်။
- အဆုတ်တွင်အများဆုံးဖြစ်ပွားပြီး ကိုယ်ခန္ဓာအနံ့အပြားတွင်လည်း ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်။
- ဆီးချိုရောဂါ၊ နှစ်အားကျဆင်းမှုကူးစက်ရောဂါနှင့် အာဟာရ ချို့တဲ့မှုရှိသူများတွင် အဖြစ်များသည်။

(ခ) ရောဂါလက္ခဏာများ

- ရက်ရှည်ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း (ရက်သတ္တပတ် (၃) ပတ်နှင့်အထက်)။
- ချောင်းဆိုးသွေးပါခြင်း။
- သလိပ်တွင် သွေးပါခြင်း။
- အဖျားတာရှည်ခြင်း။
- ခံတွင်းပျက်ခြင်း၊ မောပန်းလွယ်ခြင်း။
- ကိုယ်အလေးချိန်လျော့နည်း ပိန်ချိုခြင်း။
- ကျောရင်အောင့်ခြင်း။

(ဂ) ကြိုတင်ကာကွယ်ခြင်း

- ရင်သွေးငယ်များအား ကာကွယ်ဆေး(ဘီစီဂျီ) ကို မပျက်မကွက်တိုးပေးပါ။
- အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသော အစားအစာများကို စားသုံးပါ။
- သင့်တင့်လျှောက်ပတ်သောကိုယ်လုပ်လေ့ရှိမှုပြုလုပ်ပါ။
- ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း၊ နာရချေလျှင် လက်ကိုင်ပုစိုက် အသုံးပြုပါ။
- သလိပ်နှင့်တော့ကိုစည်းကမ်းမဲ့ထွေခြင်းမှရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- ဆေးလိပ်သောက်ခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

(ဃ) ကုသမှုနည်းလမ်း

- တိုက်ရိုက်ကြည့်ရှုအချိန်တိုနှင့်ကုသပြီး ရောဂါကင်းသည့်အထိ ကုသမှု ခံယူပါ။
- ကုသမှုခံယူခြင်းသည်အခြားသူများသို့ ကူးစက်စေခြင်းမှ အကောင်အထည်ကွယ်ခြင်း ဖြစ်သည်။

တိဘိရောဂါသံသယရှိလျှင် နီးစပ်ရာကျန်းမာရေးဌာနတွင် စစ်ဆေး၍ တိဘိရောဂါရှိပါက အစွမ်းထက်သော တိဘိဆေးဝါးများဖြင့် အခမဲ့ကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Russia to boost 2005 military spending

Moscow, 18 June — Russia will boost domestic arms spending by a third to 6 billion US dollars in 2005, industry sources and media said on Thursday, but a top defence official called for more cash to help the sector recover from a post-Soviet crisis.

The arms industry — the core of the Soviet economy during the Cold War — shrank in the 1990s. Production picked up under President Vladimir Putin but still remains below Soviet levels. Frequent military accidents such as the sinking of the *Kursk* submarine in 2000, as well as the Army's inability to end a military conflict in Chechnya, have underscored the need for urgent reform of Russia's shoe-string military machine.

Defence spending, including security and emergencies, will rise 146 billion roubles to 894 billion roubles (30.8 billion US dollars) in 2005 — or about five per cent of the economy, according to a draft 2005 budget obtained by Reuters.

Industry players also confirmed a newspaper report the budget was likely to allocate more than 6 billion US dollars to state purchases of hardware — about 30 per cent more than in 2004.

The rise is in line with Putin's plan to bolster military capability by reforming the ill-equipped Army, reorganizing the nuclear sector and boosting defence exports to Asia to offset lower sales to Eastern Europe.

But key defence play-

ers were still disappointed by the draft, which was discussed by ministers on Thursday and is subject to revision. "I call on you to clarify the 2005 budget from the point of view of national security and defence," the chief of Russia's military staff, Anatoly Kvashnin, told a Cabinet meeting. "The draft budget does not give grounds to suppose it would be possible to boost national security and lead the Armed Forces out of crisis." Hardware producers were also sceptical as they said the state seemed divided over which defence sectors to favour.

"The good thing is that for the first time in many years, state spending has reached the level of annual arms exports: about 5-6 billion US dollars," said a high-ranking official in a big state-owned defence company. "But there is a long way to go because in the West this number is many times higher."

Defence officials have hinted the government wants to concentrate on researching next-generation technology, especially for the strategic rocket forces, rather than purchasing modified versions of existing stocks. — MNA/Reuters

Russia, China, Central Asian states talk security

TASHKENT, 18 June — China, Russia and four ex-Soviet Central Asian states will coordinate their attempts to curb extremism and drug trafficking, creating an anti-terrorism centre in Uzbekistan on Thursday, officials said.

The centre, officially known as RATS for Regional Antiterrorist Structure, is one of the few concrete steps to have been taken by the group of six countries, known as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

The group also includes Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. China is fighting separatist Muslims in its northwestern Xinjiang region, populated by ethnic Uighurs. Uzbekistan says it is threatened by Muslim extremists it blames for blasts and shoot-outs with police earlier this year that killed 47 people.

Tajik President Imomali Rakhmonov said a major challenge facing the grouping was drug trafficking. Afghan narcotics production, much of it destined for Western Europe, has nearly tripled since the overthrow of the Taliban.

"This is not just Afghanistan's problem, or Tajikistan's problem," he told a news conference after a meeting of the six leaders of the SCO which was attended by Afghan President Hamid Karzai. "It is a global problem and the world community should pay attention."

Tajikistan agreed earlier this month to extend the stay of Russian troops guarding the Tajik-Afghan border and to give a Russian military base there permanent legal status, in return for debt write-downs by Moscow. Chinese President Hu Jintao said his country would provide 900 million US dollars in loans and trade credits to the member states of the group, but gave no further details. Uzbek police, keen to ward off any security threats during such a high profile event, blocked roads and stopped traffic in the capital Tashkent. Despite official portrayals of the attacks in March and April as the work of al-Qaeda trained terrorists, much of the population has remained indifferent to the alleged threat against them, some even professing support for attacks that were largely aimed against a corrupt police force. — MNA/Reuters

သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

ခရီးသည်တင်စက်တော်ယာဉ်များအား ဖြိုခွင်းသို့ နေ့/ည ခရီးသည်ပို့ဆောင်နိုင်ရေးအတွက် သတ်မှတ်ခေါက်ရေနှင့်အညီ စက်သုံးဆီတင်ပေးထားပြီး ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ ယာဉ်စီးခများအားလည်း သတ်မှတ်နှုန်းထားများအတိုင်းတောင်းခံရန် ညွှန်ကြားထားရှိပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အချို့ယာဉ်လိုင်းများမှ ယာဉ်မောင်းနှင့် ယာဉ်နောက်လိုက်တို့သည် ယာဉ်စီးခများကို ညပိုင်းတွင် ပိုမိုတောင်းယူနေကြောင်း သိရပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ ပိုမိုတောင်းခံပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူနိုင်ရန် အောက်ပါနံပါတ်များသို့ တိုင်ကြားနိုင်ပါသည်။

(၁) မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရဲတပ်ဖွဲ့၊ ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း (ဖုန်း ၁၉၉)

(၂) ကြို့မဲ့ကြေးနန်းနှင့်ယာဉ်ထိန်းတပ်ဖွဲ့ချုပ် (ဖုန်း ၂၅၁၅၅/၂၅၁၅၄)

(၃) မော်တော်ယာဉ်လုပ်ငန်းပေါင်းစုံထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကော်မတီ (ဖုန်း ၅၄၁၉၀၅/၅၄၁၉၀၄)

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေးကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်သည့်ရောဂါများ

အရက်ကိုလွန်ကျွံစွာနှင့် စွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းကြောင့် ဖြစ်ပွားတတ်သောရောဂါများမှာ အသည့်ရောင်ခြင်း၊ အသည့်ခြောက်ခြင်း၊ သွေးအန်ခြင်း၊ အစာအိမ်ရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ နှလုံးရောဂါဖြစ်ခြင်း၊ ဦးနှောက်နှင့်အာရုံကြောထိခိုက်ခြင်း၊ စိတ်ရောဂါများဖြစ်ခြင်း စသည်တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အရက်ကြောင့်ဖြစ်တတ်သော စိတ်ရောဂါများမှာ -

၁။ ကယောင်ကတမ်းဖြစ်ခြင်း (Delirium Tremors) ကြောက်လန့်ခြင်း၊ အချိန်နာရီ၊ နေရာ၊ လူ ခန့်မှန်းနိုင်စွမ်း မရှိခြင်း၊ ကြောက်စရာလန့်စရာများမြင်ရခြင်း၊ အသံဗဟုများ ကြားရခြင်း၊ ပိုမိုများများနွှာကိုယ်ပေါ် စွဲစွဲစွဲစွဲသွားသလိုခံစားရခြင်း၊ လက်တုန့်ရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း။

၂။ အရက်အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သည့်အခါတွင် လူမရှိတဲ့ နားထဲတွင် ခေါ်သံများ၊ ခြိမ်းခြောက်သံများ၊ မော်ကားမော်ကားသံများ ကြားနေရတတ်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Hallucinations)၊

၃။ အတက်ကြီးရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Rum Fits)

(ဝက်ရုမြန်ရောဂါကဲ့သို့တတ်ခြင်း)။

၄။ စိတ်ဓာတ်ကျရောဂါဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Depressive Illness)၊

၅။ စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်ခြင်း (Alcoholic Psychosis)၊

၆။ ဦးနှောက်ချို့ယွင်းခြင်း။

၇။ အရက်နှင့်မတည့်သောသူများသည် အရက်အနည်းငယ်သောက်ရခြင်း ရုတ်တရက် စိတ်ဖောက်ပြန်တတ်ခြင်း (Pathological Drunkenness)၊

၈။ မိမိ၏ဇနီးကို အထင်အမြင်လွဲယွင်းခြင်းများ ဖြစ်တတ်ခြင်း (Morbid Jealousy)၊

၉။ အရက်ကြောင့် ရာဇဝတ်မှုကျူးလွန်သည့်အထိ ဖြစ်နိုင်ခြင်း။

အထက်ပါဆိုကျိုးများကို မစေားရစေရန် အရက်သောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အထူးသဖြင့် အလွန်အကျွံသောက်သုံးခြင်း၊ အရက်ကို စွဲလမ်းစွာသောက်သုံးခြင်းတို့မှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ရန် တိုက်တွန်းအပ်ပါသည်။ အရက်စွဲရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားပါက စိတ်ကျန်းမာရေးဆေးရုံနှင့် ကုသရေးဌာနများတွင် စနစ်တကျကုသမှုခံယူရန် အသိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 18 June— The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in states and divisions where water is scarce.

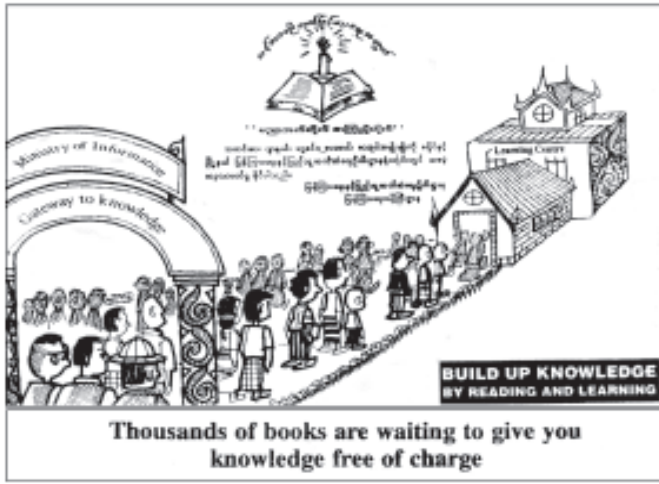
One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000.

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well

sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Magway Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-54657).

MNA

Drive safely



ADVERTISEMENT

ARRIVAL/CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV "BAGO" VOY NO BG 772/N

Consignees of cargo carried on MV "BAGO" Voy No BG 772/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 19-6-2004 and will be berthing on about 20-6-2004 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority 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 11.30 am and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

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

CONTAINER FEEDER SERVICE MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone : 293147, 296507, 295754

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE "MV MAGWAY VOY NO (5)"

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAGWAY Voy No (5) arrives 19-6-2004 are hereby notified that their cargo will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority 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 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.

AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA FIVE STAR LINE

Phone : 295279, 295280, 295281, 295658, 295659

TRADE MARK CAUTION
TORAY KABUSHIKI
KAISHA (TORAY INDUSTRIES, INC.) of No. 2-1, 2-chome, Nihonbashi-Muromachi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

东 丽

(TORAY in Chinese characters)

Reg. No. 1369/1998
in respect of "Unprocessed synthetic resins and plastics for industrial use. Synthetic resins and plastics in the form of film, sheet, plate, foil, block, filament, rod, tube, strip or other shaped sections. Ropes, twines, strings, nets, tents, awnings, tarpaulins, sails, sacks and fishing nets. Raw fibrous textile materials. Yarns and threads. Textile fabrics. Clothing, footwear, headgear. Synthetic suede and goods made of those materials. Water filtering equipments. Fishing lines"

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.
for TORAY KABUSHIKI
KAISHA
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 19 June, 2004.

ပြည်တွင်းပို့ဆောင်ရေး

၁၃-၆-၂၀၀၄နေ့ထုတ် ဤသတင်းစာတွင်ဝန်ထမ်းရွေးချယ် လေ့ကျင့်ရေးအဖွဲ့ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ် ၂၄/၂၀၀၄အမှတ်စဉ် (၁)ပညာအရည်အချင်းနှင့် မဟာသိပ္ပံ (အင်ဂျင်နီယာရပ်ပေး)အစားမဟာသိပ္ပံဘွဲ့ (အင်ဂျင်နီယာရပ်ပေး)ဟု ပြည်တွင်းပို့ဆောင်ရေးရန်။

German joyriders cause havoc with 8-tonne trucks

BERLIN, 17 June 17 — Joyriders wreaked havoc in Germany with three eight-tonne trucks and a bulldozer, damaging buildings, knocking over masts and cutting a trail through a forest in a night-time race, police said on Wednesday.

MNA/Reuters

အပတ်ပြောင်းခြင်း

အဘဦးကျော်အောင်၏သမီးအလ-က(၇) မ/ဥက္ကလာပစတုတ္ထတန်း (A)မှ ပါဠိဆိုင်ခေါ်အမည် ပထမအသွင်ဟု ပြောင်းလဲခေါ်ဝေါ်ရန်။

မထူးအသွင်

Whales seen facing biggest threat for 15 years

LONDON, 17 June — The world's whales are facing their biggest threat in 15 years as the three whaling nations — Norway, Japan and Iceland — all have their fleets at sea at the same time, environmental activists said on Wednesday..

MNA/Reuters

DON'T SMOKE

ပြည်တွင်းပို့ဆောင်ရေး

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနတွင် အသုံးပြုရန်လိုအပ်သော ပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရန် တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

- ၁။ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့် စာအုပ်ထုတ်ဝေရေးလုပ်ငန်းနှင့် သတင်းနှင့် စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းတို့တွင် အသုံးပြုရန်လိုအပ်သော အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ သတင်းစာစာမျက်နှာများကို ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်။
- (က) သတင်းစာစာမျက်နှာ (48.8 Gsm) (28 1/4" / 34" / 40" Width) ၁၄၀၀ တန်
- (ခ) သတင်းစာစာမျက်နှာ (48.8 Gsm) (30" Width) ၁၈၀၀ တန်
- (ဃ) သတင်းစာစာမျက်နှာ (48.8 Gsm) (34" Width) ၁၃၅၀ တန်
- ၂။ တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းမှုကို (၃၀-၆-၂၀၀၄) ရက် (၁၆:၃၀) နာရီတွင်ပိတ်သိမ်းပါမည်။
- ၃။ တင်ဒါပုံစံနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များကို အောက်ပါလိပ်စာတွင် လာရောက် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့်ထုတ်ဝေရေးရုံးချုပ်

ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

အမှတ်၊ ၂၂၈၊ သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့

ဖုန်း - ၂၄၅၆၃၁၊ ၂၄၅၆၂၄၊ ၂၄၅၆၂၅

WHO experts inspect elephantiasis control in China

GUANGZHOU, 17 June — A five-member team of specialists from the World Health Organization has been conducting a five-day inspection over controlling lymphatic filariasis, a mosquito-borne disease, in south China's Guangdong Province since Sunday.

Lymphatic filariasis, or LF, can result in the enlargement and disfigurement of the arms, legs and genital organs, a complication known as elephantiasis.

The WHO estimates that some one billion people in 80 tropical and subtropical countries are at risk from LF while 120 million people actually carry the infection,

which is spread by a microscopic parasitic worm, carried by mosquitoes, that invades the human lymphatic system.

The WHO passed a resolution at its 50th world health conference held in 1997 to wipe out LF globally by 2020.

LF used to run rampant in 16 Chinese provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.

Sun Dejian, head of the national leading group on control of LF with the Chinese Ministry of Health, claimed China was leading the world in LF control.

"By adopting a method of destroying the source of

infection since 1956, China has been successful in spreading the use of taking oral hetrazan salt among people who have already had LF infection," said Sun.

LF has disappeared in all but 17 of 847 counties in 11 Chinese provinces, including Guangdong Province, by late last year.

While pledging that greater efforts would be made to wipe out LF in the remaining 17 counties by late 2005, Sun said China had decided to accept assessment by WHO specialists in 2007 and would try to become the first country in the world to wipe out LF.

MNA/Xinhua

S Africa to publish biodiversity action plan

JOHANNESBURG, 17 June — South Africa will publish a national action plan in October to bring its rich natural heritage under better conservation and sustainable utilization.

The National Bio-diversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the first of this kind in South Africa, will result in the establishment of a national biodiversity framework, the *South African Press Association* (SAPA) reported Tuesday.

The framework will provide for an integrated and uniform approach to biodiversity management,

identify priority areas for conservation and establish norms and standards to guide local environmental conservation plans, it said.

The five-year plan will also enable fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of generic resources, it said.

South Africa enjoys the third-highest level of biodiversity in the world,

only after Brazil and Indonesia, according to the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

However, ecosystem degradation such as loss of wetlands and desertification, as well as human activities including poaching and development, have endangered many species in South Africa, and some are already on verge of extinction, said the department.

The NBSAP will focus on conservation, sustainable use, access and benefit sharing, invasive alien species and economic integration and poverty alleviation, the SAPA said.

"We can't conserve everything and what this plan does is to prioritize which geographic areas need attention to keep our ecosystems alive," said Amanda Driver, coordinator of the National Spatial Biodiversity Assessment team.

Mathieu Rouget, the NBSAP lead conservation planner, said so far researchers knew nothing about the full impact of land degradation in South Africa and had no detailed map of marine habitats. —MNA/Xinhua

NYC auctioneer puts dinosaur remains on the block

NEW YORK, 17 June — Dinosaurians have inspired entertainment fare ranging from the "Jurassic Park" blockbuster movie to the "Barney" TV series. Now a New York company is hoping an auction of dinosaur remains will inspire buyers.

The approximately 225 selections in Guernsey's Auction House June 24 sale include actual bones, teeth and fossils as well as reproductions and works of art.

Dinosaur remains have been part of natural history auctions that also included meteorites, gemstones, sea shells and other items, Guernsey's president Arlan

Ettinger said. In 1997, Sotheby's auctioned the remains of a Tyrannosaurus rex nicknamed Sue for a gargantuan 8.4 million US dollars.

But Guernsey's will be the first "major, full-blown auction focusing on prehistoric creatures", Ettinger said. Among the featured pieces is a nearly complete, 40-foot skeleton of an anatotitan duck-billed dinosaur.

"It is very rare to have a dinosaur skeleton in one piece," Ettinger said. As a result, it is difficult to estimate the selling price, although he said it could go

into the high six figures to potentially millions.

Also for sale is a unique complete skull of a stygimoloch — a horned dinosaur that lived 68 million years ago — that was expected to fetch between 150,000 US dollars and 200,000 US dollars.

Less-expensive items include a double-crab fossil with an estimated price of 750 US dollars to 1,000 US dollars. Other selections include two dinosaurs created for "Jurassic Park" and the complete set of paintings from *The Tiny Perfect Dinosaur* series of books.

MNA/Reuters

မညာရးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

S Africa, Botswana act to curb polio virus transmission

JOHANNESBURG, 18 June— Southern African countries including Botswana and South Africa have activated their immunization schemes to prevent the spread of polio virus that has been absent in the region for 13 years.

South Africa will embark on a polio immunization campaign next month after an outbreak of the deadly disease in neighbouring Botswana earlier this year, South African newspaper *This Day* reported Wednesday.

Nearly 250,000 children younger than five were being targeted with a second dose of the oral polio vaccine in Botswana this week. The first dose was administered to 222,000 children on May 10-14.

Botswana discovered its first polio case since 1991, becoming the 9th African country where polio had broken out afresh in the past year. Most of other countries are in West and Central Africa.

United Nations health officials fear that the human-to-human disease might soon jump across South Africa's border.

Sarah Crowe, spokesper-

son of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the southern African region, said the wild polio virus in Botswana was genetically traced to Nigeria.

Nigeria now has 170 polio cases, ranked the top among 11 case-reporting countries around the world, showed statistics from the World Health Organization's polio web site.

This is one of the first cases of long-distance importations of the disease. Though having a small population of 1.7 million, Botswana has a very mobile population, Crowe was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

She said 40 cases of polio had been reported in the nine countries last year, but the number had risen to 200 in a few months, despite a global effort in past years to eliminate the virus forever.

One polio case means up to 100,000 people being exposed to the crippling disease, said the health official, who recommended the countries to launch house-to-house immunization campaign as the quickest and surest method to stop the disease.

Gordon Lewis, UNICEF's Botswana representative, said the polio reinfection was a real wakeup call for the rest of the world to step up surveillance of suspected cases.

MNA/Xinhua

Smoking rates decline in Canada

OTTAWA, 17 June— Smoking rates in Canada have declined dramatically in the past decade, especially among young people, according to a survey published Tuesday.

Daily smoking in Canada declined to less than 20 per cent of the population, the lowest level since federal data have been kept, according to a Statistics Canada survey of 135,000 people last year.

The decline was most pronounced in teen girls, precisely the group that had until recently been the biggest worry due to persistent high rates, and the decline appeared to be accelerating. For all Canadians over 12, the percentage who smoked declined to 22.9 per cent in 2003 from 29.3 per cent in 1994. The highest rate, 33.2 per cent, was registered in the 20 to 24 age group.

A separate Statistics Canada study showed that smoking rate in the age group of nine to 14 also declined by more than half.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh's import rises sharply in 2004

DHAKA, 18 June— Bangladesh's import during the first 10 months of the fiscal 2003-2004 beginning on July 1, 2003, rose by 20 per cent over that of the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

Source from Bangladesh Bank, the central bank of the country, said Thursday the letters of credit opened by the importers with different commercial banks crossed 9.83 billion US dollars, up from 8.04 billion dollars in the corresponding months of the previous fiscal 2002-2003.

The source further specified that import of petroleum products rose by 29 per cent, industrial raw materials by 23 per cent and capital machinery by 15 per cent.

He attributed the rise in the import cost to the fall in

the value of Bangladesh currency taka to greenback and other hard currencies, adding this has put the government into trouble to keep balance in payment of foreign debts and Asian Currency Union payments.

Policy makers have been fearing that the trade imbalance would rise further, though the present trend of remittance from the Bangladeshis working abroad and export income rise would help maintain a balance of payment of export and import.

MNA/Xinhua



A Russian Proton-M rocket, carrying a US Intelsat-10 satellite, successfully blasts off a launch pad of the Baikonur Cosmodrome in the Central Asian nation of Kazakhstan, on early Thursday, 17 June, 2004. — INTERNET

New method predicts speed of a woman's biological clock

LONDON, 17 June— Scientists have developed a method that aims to predict how fast a woman's biological clock is ticking and when she is likely to go through menopause.

By measuring the volume of ovaries with ultrasound, researchers in Scotland said on Thursday that they can predict the reproductive age of a woman aged 25 to 51, or how many eggs she may have left, which could dramatically change fertility treatments.

"What we have done is to come up with a method that may allow us to predict for a woman what ovarian reserves she has and at what age she is likely to experience the menopause," said Dr Hamish Wallace, a paediatric oncologist and lecturer at the University of Edinburgh.

Women are born with an estimated 800,000 eggs but the number dwindles with age. At about 37, when there are about 25,000 eggs left, the decline speeds up and the ovaries shrink until most of the eggs are depleted and menopause occurs.

The age of menopause is generally around 50, plus or minus seven or eight years. Knowing a woman's repro-

ductive lifespan will enable doctors to predict how long she will be fertile and whether she will have an early menopause.

Dr Thomas Kelsey, a computer expert at the University of St. Andrews, said the main benefit of the research will be to improve fertility treatment and planning and to provide doctors with information about the likely success of such treatments.

"The ultrasound measurement is taken to work out the volume of the ovaries. If the ovaries are larger than average for her age, then she is likely to have a later menopause and if they are smaller she is likely to have an earlier one. Essentially we try to quantify by how much, by how many years," he said in an interview.

Wallace and Kelsey, who reported their research in the journal *Human Reproduction*, showed a strong relationship between ovarian volume and the number of egg cells. — MNA/Reuters

Yahoo upgrades free e-mail storage to 100 MB

LOS ANGELES, 17 June— Yahoo, a leading global Internet company, upgraded on Tuesday its free e-mail storage to 100 MB, 25 times more than its prior free offering.

"Free e-mail subscribers will automatically be upgraded to 100-megabytes of storage," Yahoo said in a statement.

The company also upgraded service to its premium customers, including paid subscribers to SBC Yahoo Dial and DSL, offering them 2 gigabytes of e-mail storage, while lowering Mail Plus subscription rate from 29.99 US dollars a year to 19.99 US dollars.

Yahoo said it will remove graphical ads with its Mail Plus and SBC Yahoo Mail, making the paid e-mail services easier and faster.

Additionally, the company said, it is opening up more than 50 million Yahoo IDs, giving consumers more address options for their e-mail accounts.

MNA/Xinhua

"Apollo" moon rocket to get face-lift in Texas

HOUSTON, 18 June— A giant Apollo moon rocket that never got off the ground is about to get a face-lift after years of rusting away in the Texas heat and humidity at the Johnson Space Centre (JSC).

Workers will construct a shelter for the Saturn V rocket and give it the equivalent of a "blow dry" in the first steps to preserve the relic of NASA's golden age, said Allan Needell, Apollo programme curator for the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum.

The 363-foot-long behemoth has lain on its side in front of JSC since 1977, a favourite sight of tourists, but also a victim of the elements.

Instead of launching astronauts to the moon as it was built to do, it has become a slowly fading hulk of peeling paint and corroded metal where birds live and plants sprout, Needell said on Wednesday during a

visit to the rocket.

"There's a lot of biology growing on there," he said, pointing out streaks of algae staining the rocket's white skin.

Needell said the Smithsonian was preserving the Saturn V because it was one of only three Apollo rockets still in existence and therefore an important artifact of mid-20th Century life.

It was built to launch the Apollo 18 flight, but never flew because NASA cancelled the moon programme after Apollo 17 in December 1972. The other Saturn V's are on display at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida and Marshall Space Center in Alabama. — MNA/Reuters



January 2004 satellite view released by NASA showing a brown cloud (C) over the erupting Shiveluch volcano in Russia's Far Eastern Kamchatka Peninsula. — INTERNET

SPORTS

Haas makes mark with red card

LISBON, 18 June — Switzerland defender Bernt Haas made totally the wrong impression against England on Thursday just a day after saying he dreamed of scoring the winner.

Haas, who helped West Bromwich Albion gain promotion to the English Premier League last season, was sent off in the 60th minute of the Group B clash in Coimbra for a second yellow card.

"It would be a dream for me to score against England, even though they might stop me at the airport when I go back to my club there," said Haas on Wednesday.

His first yellow came in the 49th minute when he crunched into Steven Gerrard and he committed a similar offence on Ashley Cole to leave Russian referee Valentin Ivanov with no choice but to show the red card.

Haas is the second Swiss player to be sent off in the tournament after Johann Vogel's red card in the 0-0 draw against Croatia. He will miss the final game against France, although Vogel will be available.

MNA/Reuters



England's Steven Gerrard (L) scores past Switzerland's Joerg Stiel during their Group B Euro 2004 soccer match at the Cidade de Coimbra Stadium in Coimbra, on 17 June, 2004. — INTERNET

History man Rooney sees nervy England home

COIMBRA, 18 June — Two-goal Wayne Rooney became the youngest scorer in European Championship finals history as England put their Euro 2004 campaign back on course with a 3-0 win over 10-man Switzerland on Thursday.



The striker, 18 years and seven months old, headed home after 23 minutes and scored a second goal in the 75th minute of a nervous display by his team rounded off by a late Steve Gerrard strike.

Still bearing the scars of a 2-1 stoppage time defeat by France in their Group B opener on Sunday, England only settled in the closing stages after Swiss defender Bernt Haas was sent off.

Rooney's third international record after becoming England's youngest player and youngest scorer last year as a 17-year-old, threw them a lifeline before their final group game against Croatia.

Faced with a match they could not afford to lose, England were a bag of nerves in the early stages, over-hitting passes forward for Michael Owen and conceding a flurry of free-kicks and corners to a composed Swiss side.

Unable to build any

rhythm, England's frustration showed after 19 minutes when Rooney followed through on grounded Swiss keeper Joerg Stiel.

The 18-year-old conceded a free-kick two minutes later for a barge, showing all the signs of a player about to get a red card.

Instead, he made history when David Beckham picked out an unmarked Owen at the far post and the striker's chip across the goal gave Rooney an easy close-range header.

A disappointing Owen could have added a second before the break had he been

able to connect properly with Ashley Cole's raking low ball across the face of the goal.

Switzerland kept plugging away at an England defence in which Sol Campbell was again imperious, this time partnered by John Terry on his return from a hamstring injury.

Though England got forward more easily after Haas's dismissal for a second booking on the hour, Owen failed to make the most of the opportunities and it needed Rooney's second and Gerrard's strike to finish the job.

MNA/Reuters



Wayne Rooney (left) heads the ball past Switzerland goalkeeper Joerg Stiel to put England ahead in their 3-0 victory at the Cidade de Coimbra Stadium yesterday.

INTERNET

Croatia hold France to surprise 2-2 draw

LEIRIA, 18 June — Croatia held champions France to a 2-2 draw in an explosive Euro 2004 match on Thursday, the latest tournament surprise that leaves Group B wide open.



An own goal by Igor Tudor midway through the first half seemed to have France on course for the quarter-finals but two goals in four minutes early in the second, a Milan Rapaić penalty and a shot by Dado Prso, suddenly turned things around.

David Trezeguet rescued the holders in the 64th minute to set up a tense final round of fixtures on June 21.

France lead the way with four points. England, who beat Switzerland 3-0 earlier on Thursday have three, Croatia have two and the Swiss one.

France play Switzerland in the final round, needing just a draw to advance. England play Croatia, also needing a point, but Croatia and Switzerland could still qualify with wins.

France started confidently, knocking the ball about crisply, but never really threatened in the opening 20 minutes.

The breakthrough came out of the blue when Zinedine Zidane, who struck both goals in France's 2-1 comeback win over England on Sunday, curled a free kick from wide on the left that took a slight deflection off defender Tudor and left goalkeeper Tomislav Butina wrong-footed.

The game then went into a lull with neither side showing any particular urgency until an outrageous backheeled flick by Zidane from a corner set up William Gallas for a header, which the defender wide of the post.

Croatia coach Otto Baric said in the build-up to the

game that he would be delighted with a draw and his side were on level terms three minutes into the second half after Mikael Silvestre bundled over Dovani Rossi in the box.

French goalkeeper Fabien Barthez had saved David Beckham's penalty for England on Sunday but had no chance with Rapaić's blasted effort.

The massed hordes of red and white checked Croatian fans erupted to acclaim their first goal of the tournament and four minutes later they took the roof off to celebrate the second.

Prso, who earned his living in the French league for AS Monaco last season, thought he had lost possession after hooking the ball over the head of Silvestre but a miscued clearance by recalled captain Marcel Desailly returned it to him and he took full advantage by lashing the ball past Barthez.

France, who had scored twice in three minutes to beat

England on Sunday, were stunned but quickly collected themselves and drew level with a hotly-disputed goal in the 64th minute.

Trezeguet charged down a Butina clearance, the ball hitting his arm, before slotting into the empty net from a tight angle.

The Croatian players complained bitterly to Danish referee Kim Milton Nielsen but the goal stood.

France then went for the win, sending on Robert Pires for the rusty-looking Sylvain Wiltord but they could not manage it.

Ivica Mornar could have won it for Croatia in injury-time when he swivelled inside the six-metre box but flashed his shot over the bar and their last chance of victory was gone.

Croatia, who had lost their three previous meetings, including the 1998 World Cup semifinal, also threatened on the break but at the final whistle their fans celebrated as if they had already won the title. — MNA/Reuters



France's players Mikael Silvestre (13), Lilian Thuram (15), Fabien Barthez (16) and Marcel Desailly (8) surround Croatia's Dovani Rosso, bottom centre, as he was fouled in the penalty box during the Euro 2004 Group B soccer match between France and Croatia at the Dr. Magalhaes Pessoa Stadium in Leiria, Portugal, on 17 June, 2004. Milan Rapaić of Croatia scored from the penalty spot as the match ended in a 2-2 draw. — INTERNET

Portugal's Deco close to Chelsea switch

LISBON, 18 June — Portugal midfielder Deco says he is almost certain to join Premier League club Chelsea after Euro 2004, TSF radio reported on Thursday.

"I have things practically resolved with the clubs," the Porto player said on Wednesday after featuring in Portugal's 2-0 defeat of Euro 2004 Group A rivals Russia.

"I still have to do medical examinations and sign a contract with Chelsea, which should happen after Euro 2004."

The 26-year-old Deco, who was born in Brazil and whose decision to play for Portugal sparked a debate over naturalization, is the second player from the Champions League winners set to link up with former Porto coach Jose Mourinho at Stamford Bridge.

Right back Paulo Ferreira is reported to have joined the Premier League club, though

Chelsea say a deal has not yet been completed.

Born in Sao Paulo, Deco — full name Anderson Luis de Souza — arrived in Portugal in 1997 to play for lowly Alverca. He then moved to Salgueiros and has been at Porto since the 1999/2000 season.

He made his international debut in April last year, ironically against the country of his birth, and celebrated by scoring from a free kick in Portugal's 2-1 win.

Portugal and Real Madrid's Luis Figo led the criticism of Deco's selection, saying in a newspaper interview: "You can learn national anthems but not feel them".

Deco said he did not take the criticism personally and that everyone was entitled to their opinion.

Deco began Euro 2004 as deputy for Rui Costa but won a place in the starting lineup for the match against Russia.

MNA/Reuters

MRTV-3
**19-6-2004 (Saturday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Myanmar Elephants
from Myanma Forest
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 Fishery Industry in
Thandwe Township
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 Myanmar Movie
Impact "Style"
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 The Beautiful Green
Ice
- 9:40 Song "Moonlight
Flower"
- 9:42 Myanmar Marionette
"The Ogre Dance"
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 Leisurely Cruise
Along The Coast
(Yanagon to
Mawlamyine)
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

**19-6-2004 (Saturday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)**

- 15:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 15:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma
Panorama & Myanma
Sentiment"
- 15:36 Myanmar Elephants
from Myanma Forest
- 15:40** **Headline News**
- 15:42 Fishery Industry in
Thandwe Township
- 15:45** **National News**
- 15:50 Myanmar Movie
Impact "Style"
- 16:00** **National News**
- 16:05 The Beautiful Green
Ice
- 16:10 Song "Moonlight
Flower"

- 16:12 Flower"
Myanmar Marionette
"The Ogre Dance"
- 16:15** **National News**
- 16:20 Leisurely Cruise
Along The Coast
(Yanagon to
Mawlamyine)
- 16:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 16:30** **National News**
- 16:35 Myanmar Profile
"Supermarkets"
- 16:40 Myanmar Footware
"Ponedaw" Famed in
Successive Eras
- 16:45** **National News**
- 16:50 A Village of Pa O
- 16:55 Rakhine Traditional
Cultural Dance,
Honouring Buddha
Kengtaung Waterfall
- 16:58 **Weekly News**
- 17:00** **Highlights**
- 17:05 Thihathana Throne
- 17:10 Song "Sagawa Flowers
Land"
- 17:15** **Weekly News**
- Highlights**
- 17:20 Beauty of the Woman
of Myanmar (Pre-War
Period)
- 17:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

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

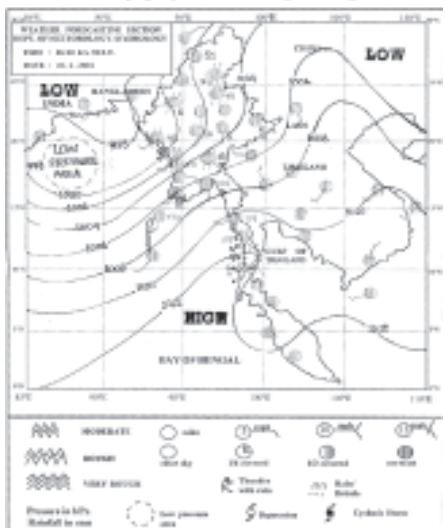
- 19:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 19:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 19:36 Myanmar Art of
Making Items in Gold
- 19:40** **Headline News**
- 19:42 The World of Mro
Nationals
- 19:45** **National News**
- 19:50 From Yanagon to the
Peak of Mt Victoria
Sentiment"
- 20:00** **National News**
- 20:05 Paper Toys
- 20:10 Song "From the
Golden National
Convention Towards ..."
- 20:12 The Wonderful
Peikchin Ravine
- 20:15** **National News**
- 20:20 CRAB Trading
- 20:25 Myanmar Modern
Song "Wonderful
Country"
- 20:30** **National News**

- 20:35 Greening of the Hills
and Ranges, in order to
achieve Climate
Change (Taung Thar
Hill) (Magway Division)
- 20:40 Myanma Paintings of
Successive Periods
- 20:45** **National News**
- 20:50 Myanma Custard
Apple
- 20:55 Kayin Dance
- 21:00** **National News**
- 21:05 The Ancient City
Mrauk U
- 21:10 Song "Greetings from
Chin Hills"
- 21:15** **Weekly News**
- Highlights**
- 21:20 The Incredible Edifice
(The Ananda Temple)
- 21:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma Pano-
rama & Myanma Sen-
timent"
- 21:35 Myanmar Elephants
from Myanma Forest
- 21:40** **Headline News**
- 21:42 Fishery Industry in
Thandwe Township
- 21:45** **National News**
- 21:50 Myanmar Movie
Impact "Style"
- 22:00** **National News**
- 22:05 The Beautiful Green
Ice
- 22:10 Song "Moonlight
Flower"
- 22:12 Myanmar Marionette
"The Ogre Dance"
- 22:15** **National News**
- 22:20 Leisurely Cruise
Along The Coast
(Yanagon to
Mawlamyine)
- 22:25 Songs on Screen:
"Musical Maze"
- 22:30** **National News**
- 22:35 Myanmar Profile
"Supermarkets"
- 22:40 Myanmar Footware
"Ponedaw" Famed in
Successive Eras
- 22:45** **National News**
- 22:50 A Village of Pa O
- 22:55 Rakhine Traditional
Cultural Dance
- 22:58 Kengtaung Waterfall
- 23:00** **National News**
- 23:05 Thihathana Throne
- 23:10 Song "Sagawa Flowers
Land"
- 23:15** **Weekly News**
- Highlights**
- 23:20 Beauty of the Woman

- 23:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"
- 19-6-2004 (Saturday) &
20-6-2004 (Sunday)
Evening Transmission &
Morning Transmission
(23:30-1:30)**
- 23:30 Signature Tune
Greeting
- 23:32 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma
Panorama & Myanma
Sentiment"
- 23:36 Myanmar Elephants
from Myanma Forest
- 23:40** **Headline News**
- 23:42 Fishery Industry in
Thandwe Township
- 23:45** **National News**
- 23:50 Myanmar Movie
Impact "Style"
- 24:00** **National News**
- 00:05 The Beautiful Green
Ice
- 00:10 Song "Moonlight
Flower"
- 00:12 Myanmar Marionette
"The Ogre Dance"
- 00:15** **National News**
- 00:20 Leisurely Cruise
Along The Coast
(Yanagon to
Mawlamyine)
- 00:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 00:30** **National News**
- 00:35 Myanmar Profile
"Supermarkets"
- 00:40 Myanmar Footware
"Ponedaw" Famed in
Successive Eras
- 00:45** **National News**
- 00:50 A Village of Pa O
- 00:55 Rakhine Traditional
Cultural Dance
- 00:58 Kengtaung Waterfall
- 01:00** **Weekly News**
- Highlights**
- 01:05 Thihathana Throne
- 01:10 Song "Sagawa Flowers
Land"
- 01:15** **Weekly News**
- Highlights**
- 01:20 Beauty of the Woman
of Myanmar (Pre-War
Period)
- 01:25 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See
Myanmar"

Rainfall on 18-6-2004 was 90mm (3.54 inches) at Yangon Airport, 101mm (3.97 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 41mm (1.61 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 925mm (36.41 inches) at Yangon Airport and 807mm (31.77 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 936mm (36.85 inches) at central Yangon.

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas


WEATHER

Friday, 18 June, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain have been scattered in Kayah State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States, Yangon Division, isolated heavyfalls in Kayin State, Bago, upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Thaton (6.54) inches, Thandwe (5.94) inches, Hpa-an (5.87) inches, Gwa (5.83) inches, Thayawady (5.12) inches, Mawlamyine (4.45) inches, Maungdaw (4.13) inches, Katha and Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (3.97) inches each, Yangon (Mingaladon) (3.54) inches, Patheingyi (3.27) inches, Kyaukpadaung (3.23) inches and Ann (3.03) inches.

Maximum temperature on 17-6-2004 was 26.0°C (79°F). Minimum temperature on 18-6-2004 was 18.5°C (63°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18-6-2004 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 17-6-2004 was nil. Rainfall on 18-6-2004 was 90mm (3.54 inches) at Yangon Airport, 101mm (3.97 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 41mm (1.61 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 925mm (36.41 inches) at Yangon Airport and 807mm (31.77 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 936mm (36.85 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 18 mph from Southwest at (12:20) hours MST on 17-6-2004.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, yesterday's low pressure area over North Bay and adjoining Central Bay still persist. Monsoon is vigorous in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 19-6-2004: Except for the scattered rain in Kachin, Shan and Kayah States, Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing Divisions, widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of locally heavyfalls in Coastal areas and isolated heavyfalls in Kayin State, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) to (45) mph. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Strong Monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-6-2004: Intermittent rain which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (100%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-6-2004:** Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Weather outlook for third weekend of June 2004: During the coming weekend, rain will be widespread in Yangon Division and isolated in Mandalay Division.



Saturday, June 19

View today:

7:00 am

- ကျေးဇူးတင် မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယက အရှ် အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက် အဘိဓမ္မာမဟာနာယက အဘိဓမ္မာမဟာနာယက ဓမ္မာတော်က တိရစ္ဆာန်ဓမ္မာ ဓမ္မာတော်က သရဏတော်ဘုရားရှင် ဝိနည်းသရဏတော်က ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

- Dance variety

8:10 am

- အရေးကြီးမှု

8:15 am

- ဘုရားဘိဝံသီ (ဝိဇ္ဇာတိုင်း)

8:30 am

- International news

8:45 am

- Grammar made easy

11:00 am

- Martial song

11:10 am

- Musical programme

11:30 am

- News

11:40 am

- Games for children

12:05 pm

- Roundup of the week's TV local news

12:55 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ "သစ္စာပန်း" (အပိုင်း-၁)

1:30 pm

- ဆင်ဖြူရှင်တော်

1:40 pm

- ပြည်သူ့နီတိ "ဗိုလ်ချုပ်စာ"

- ဓမ္မိတိပျို့၊ ဓမ္မိတိပျို့တော်

- ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဦးစံစော

2:15 pm

- Musical programme

2:30 pm

- Dance of national races

2:45 pm

- International news

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:15 pm

- Songs to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

- English For Everyday Use

4:45 pm

- Musical programme

5:00 pm

- အဝေးသတင်းတိုင်း ပညာရေး

- ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်တန်းစာ ခုတ်ယူမှု

- (တော့ဆေး၊ နေပေး၊ သတ္တဗျာဒိတ်)

- အထူးပြော (တော့ဆေး)

5:15 pm

- မြန်မာ့ပြည်သူ့အကျိုးအမြတ်

5:30 pm

- ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းမဟာဓမ္မာရုံသောဓိတန်း

5:40 pm

- အလှူတော်မံကမ်းခြေမြင်အောင်

- (မြင်းမြို့တိုင်းအရှ်၊ ဓမ္မိတိပျို့)

6:00 pm

- Musical programme

6:10 pm

- ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းတိုင်းရင်းစား

6:15 pm

- Musical programme

6:30 pm

- Evening news

7:00 pm

- Weather report

7:05 pm

- Discovery

7:15 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားစာတမ်းတွဲ

- "နင်းပွင့်" (အပိုင်း-၁)

7:45 pm

- ကျေးလက်သတင်းစုံအသံအသံ

8:00 pm

- News

- International news

- Weather report

- Myanmar video feature:

- "နင်းပွင့်" (အပိုင်း-၁)

- လှမ်းကုန်း၊ နင်းမြတ်နိုး၊ နင်းမြတ်နိုး

- ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဦးစံစော

10:30 pm

- Euro 2004 ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ

- တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစပွဲ

- (လတ်စဉ်အား နင်း ဂျာမနီ)

1:15 am

- Euro 2004 ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ

- တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစပွဲ

- (ဗော်လီနိုင်း နင်း ဂျာမနီ)

- The next day's programme



Saturday, June 19

Tune in today:

- 8.30 am** Brief news
- 8.35 am** Music: Boys (Britney Spears)
- 8.40 am** Perspectives
- 8.45 am** Music: Don't wanna lose you now (Blackstreet boys)
- 8.55 am** National news/ Slogan
- 9.05 am** Music: If I let you go (Westlife)
- 9.10 am** International news
- 9.15 am** Music (Spotlight on a star) Five
- 1.30 pm** News/Slogan
- 1.40 pm** Request
- Super trouper (ABBA)
- My one thing that's real (Ronan Keating)
- What forever for (Billy Gilman)
- 9.00 pm** ASEAN review
- 9.10 pm** Article
- 9.20 pm** Myanma culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
- 9.30 pm** Souvenirs
- There are no words for love (Matt Monro)
- To the middle of an island (Joni James)
- 9.45 pm** News/Slogan
- 10.00 pm** PEL



State Peace and Development Council Secretary-2 National Convention Convening Commission Chairman Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivers an address at the meeting. — MNA

Delegates show positive attitude in submitting papers and holding discussions National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee, Management Committee meet

YANGON, 18 June— The National Convention Convening Commission, the National Convention Convening Work Committee and the Management Committee held coordination meeting No 12/2004 at Anawrahta Yeiktha of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township, at 9.30 am today, with an address by Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary of the National Convention Convening Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and commission members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members, Chairman of the Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members.

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

First, Chairman of the NCCC Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address. He said that the National Convention has turned five weeks, and discussions are gathering momentum and so it has reached a crucial point. It is heartening to note that delegates openly submitted proposal papers and held cordial discussions individually or in groups with respect to the Work Committee Chairman's clarifications on the detailed basic principles to be adopted for division of legislative, executive and judicial powers to be included in framing the State Constitution. The National Convention is the first step of the State's seven-point policy programmes, and it will have to lay down basic principles to write the State

Constitution, which plays the most fundamental role in transforming the nation into a democratic one.

The NCCC Chairman expressed his heartfelt pleasure that as delegates are those who are from all strata of life, representing various national races and organizations, they had different intentions, aspirations and desires at the beginning of the National Convention. However, when several weeks have passed, delegates show more positive attitude in submitting papers and holding discussions under the unanimous objective — National Convention must succeed.

The Work Committee had received the proposal papers of delegate groups. The Work Committee is now setting itself enthusiastically into its work in holding discussions with delegate groups in order to lay good foundations for the State through thorough study of all papers of the eight delegate groups.

In conclusion, he called on those responsible to make efforts for ensuring emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation, putting aside discrimination of race, person, ism, and locality in exchanging views, and to strive for adopting firm and durable basic principles that can shape brighter future of the nation by taking both good and bad lessons from the experiences gained throughout the history of the nation and by forming correct views of prevailing conditions.

Next, Secretary of National Convention Convening Commission Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented a report, saying that the five-member translation team has started its function. Arrangements are being made for cash donation ceremony. In this regard, the donation of the delegates in accordance with their

wish to donate cash to storm victims in Rakhine State and the donation of wellwishers hailing the National Convention will be included in the programmes.

Every Thursday and Sunday, the anyeint troupe, Myanmar Thabin Asiayon and vocalists will be performing. And, prizes will be presented to winners in the singing programme. In addition, arrangements are being made for entertainment of Min Okka Elephant Team.

Next, Chairman of the Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe reported on submitting of proposals to panel of chairmen of respective delegate groups and the Work Committee; Chairman of the Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, on health care for the delegates and excursions.

A general round discussions of the members of the National Convention Convening Commission, the National Convention Convening Work Committee and the Management Committee followed. Afterwards, Chairman of the Commission Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein fulfilled the requirements and delivered concluding remarks.

The coordination meeting among the National Convention Convening Commission, the National Convention Convening Work Committee and the Management Committee concluded at 12.25 pm.— MNA

Coordination meeting on international civil aviation security measures held

YANGON, 18 June — A coordination meeting on international civil aviation

security measures took place at the Ministry of Transport on Merchant Street here this afternoon.

It was attended by Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Deputy Minister Col Nyan Tun Aung, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Myo Tin and officials of the Department for Civil Aviation, the Attorney-General's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The minister delivered an opening speech. The Director-General of the Department for Civil Aviation and directors reported on measures taken by departments concerned regarding the findings in the inspections of the Aviation Security Audit Team. Next, the deputy minister gave a supplementary report. Then, those present took part in the discussions and the minister gave concluding remarks. — MNA



National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe delivers an address at the meeting. — MNA

National Convention Convening Work Committee and State Service Personnel Group meet

YANGON, 18 June — The chairman, the vice-chairman and the secretary of the National Convention Convening Work Com-

mittee and members and members of panel of chairmen and resource persons of the State Service Personnel Group held a

coordination meeting at the meeting hall of NCCWC in Nyaungnapin Camp, Hmawby Township this afternoon. At the meeting,

National Convention Convening Work Committee Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe delivered a speech and those

present discussed compilation of papers to be submitted to the plenary session of the National Convention. — MNA

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.