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Prime Minister attends 18th Ceremony of Destruction of Seized Drugs 18th destruction of seized narcotic drugs worth US\$ 247 million

YANGON, 26 June — The 18th Ceremony of the Destruction of Seized Drugs, organized by Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, was held at the compound of Drug Elimination Museum at the corner of Kyundaw and Hanthawady Roads in Kamayut Township this morning, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of CCDAC Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Vice-Chairmen Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, ambassadors, charges d'affaires of foreign missions, military region commanders, resident representatives of UN agencies and officials, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, members of CCDAC and work groups, senior police officers, officials of social organizations, media persons of the Ministry of Information, the patron, the president and members of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club, corre-

spondents from foreign news agencies and broadcasting stations, winners in short story, article, song, poem, painting, cartoon, poster, computer painting, computer poster and photo competitions to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and guests.

Police Sub-Inspector Khin Nu Kyi and Police Sub-Inspector Sanda Pa Pa Win acted as masters of ceremonies.

Secretary of CCDAC Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi made clarifications. He said that today, the 26th of June is the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, ceremonies to mark this day are being held annually in countries all over the world and also in Myanmar. Every year on this day, Myanmar holds a ceremony to commemorate this day by burning and destroying drugs seized as a result of the efforts to eliminate drugs in the country. The destruction of drugs by burning has been carried out in Yangon since 1990 and this ceremony today is the 18th occasion. Similar ceremonies have been held not only in Yangon, but also in border areas and other towns where seized drugs, precursor chemicals and also poppy seeds have been



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt greets diplomats at 18th Ceremony of Destruction of Seized Drugs.—MNA

burned for thirty-two times.

Since the purpose of the occasion today is to burn and destroy drugs which are endangering the human race, the distinguished guests will have the opportunity to witness firsthand, the unsparing efforts of Myanmar in the fight against drugs as a National Cause. Allow me to take this opportunity to bring to your attention that at this time when the world community is fighting all out against drugs, the Union of Myanmar is also actively participating on par with other countries of the world if not in the forefront.

Never lagging behind in the prevention and enforcement sectors of drug eradication activities, Myanmar has taken the initiative in the supply reduction by launching a 15-year elimination plan since 1999 with three five-year Phases with the objective of totally stopping opium poppy cultivation and production by 2014. The First five-year Phase of this plan terminated this year and it has been assessed that the objectives of the first phase have been successfully met. The success in meeting the target of the first phase was due to the serious commit-

ment, close monitoring and supervision and full support of the Government. Furthermore, the active participation of the regional authorities, local leaders of the national races and the local people was also a crucial contributing factor.

The Implementation of the five rural development tasks in 24 regions to elevate the living standards of the national races of the border areas also contributed to the successful results. I would like to assure you here that we will do our utmost to realize the objectives of the 15-Year Plan, the main tasks

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CCDAC Chairman Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Singaporean Ambassador Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz, Japanese Ambassador Mr Yuji Miyamoto and Thai Ambassador Suphot Shiravaosol press the button to set fire on seized narcotic drugs.—MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 27 June, 2004

For perpetual existence of the Union

The State Peace and Development Council has been making attempts with zest and zeal so as to transform the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one.

In that regard, not only is it required to produce a large number of highly-qualified human resources, but also the citizens are to be healthy and fit ones. That is why the government gives top priority to education and health sectors for ensuring development of human resources.

As human resource development plays the main role in striving for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation, the government has been opening more and more universities and colleges where necessary across the country to ensure equitable progress in all parts of the nation.

In his tour of Loikaw University in Kayah State on 19 June, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win called on faculty members to be equipped with goodwill and to help the students value higher education and to strive for turning out a great deal of educated persons. Only then, can well-educated new generations make significant contributions towards greater development of Kayah State, he noted.

The government is elevating education, health and economic sectors through the 24 Special Development Regions Project. Now, many educational institutions have been established in the regions to bring about human resources development.

Local intellectuals and intelligentsia are to work hard for development of respective regions as well as that of the nation, while lending themselves in tasks for flourishing of the spirit of national solidarity and Union Spirit it is because the Union is home to various national races.

Therefore, at a time when the government has been taking measures for the betterment of the Union, it is incumbent upon local educated persons to make combined and united efforts for ensuring perpetual existence of the nation, while contributing towards regional development.

Diplomats visit Jade and Gems Special Sales 2004

YANGON, 26 June—Ambassadors, diplomats, military attaches of foreign missions and officials of UN agencies visited the Jade and Gems Special Sales 2004, organized by Central Committee for Organizing the sale, at Myanma Gem Emporium on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road from 9 am to 5 pm today.

Officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Mines and Myanma Gems Enterprise welcomed and conducted them round the emporium. —MNA



Myanmar Women's Day 3rd July 2004

417 gem merchants arrive

YANGON, 26 June—So far, a total of 417 gem merchants — 210 merchants from 78 companies abroad and 207 merchants of 66 local companies — have arrived here to attend the 2004 Jade and Gems Special Sales at the Myanma Gems Emporium on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. They inspected gems and jade lots from 9 am to 5 pm today. More merchants will arrive on 27 and 28 June.

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

NC delegates visit Kyaikkhauk Pagoda, Union National Races Village

YANGON, 26 June — National Convention delegates this morning visited Kyaikkhauk Pagoda in Thanlyin Township and Union National Races Village in Thaketa Township here.

The delegates arrived at Hsawdawshin Kyaikkhauk Pagoda where they were welcomed by Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Aung Pyae, members of the pagoda board of trustees and officials. Lt-Col Myat Soe (Retd), explained background history of the pagoda and facts about it. The delegates next donated K 111,565 to the funds of the pagoda and paid homage to it.

Afterwards, the guests went to the Union National Races Village where Deputy Director-General U Win Aung of Progress of Border Areas

and National Races Department and officials accorded welcome to them. Next, U Win Aung briefed the delegates on facts about the Village. The delegates studied Nan Myint Tower, traditional houses of various national races, traditional costumes and household items. They left the village at 10.20 am.

MNA

POEM:

While uprooting hard drugs

- * True weapon of the colonialists
The evil legacy of hard drugs
Our nationals had to suffer
Uproot this heritage
Vow to eliminate it.
- * This vow
Not only to eliminate
Their thoughts, their views
To interfere and enslave us
Let's keep vigil
And stop them.

Nwe Cho (Trs)



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attends the Wushu competition.—NLM

Wushu competition held

YANGON, 26 June—A Wushu competition for new generations to mark Olympic Day for 2004, organized by Myanmar Wushu Federation and the Ministry of Sports, was held at Padonma Gymnasium in Sangyoung Township at 8 am today, attended by Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and wife.

Also present were patrons of MWF Daw Kyin Khaing, Daw San San and Daw Kyi Kyi Win, President of MWF U Khin Maung Lay and Vice-President Day Kyu Kyu, officials and 163 participants. —MNA

Donation for storm victims

YANGON, 26 June — Daewoo International Corporation of the Republic of Korea donated US\$ 5,000 to the storm victims of Rakhine State. The ceremony to donate cash to the storm victims was held at the meeting hall of Relief and Resettlement Department here at 10 am today. Daewoo International Corporation Managing Director Dr Su Weong Yang handed over the donation of US\$ 5,000 to Relief and Resettlement Department Director-General U Than Oo, who thanked the donor. —MNA

NC delegates entertained with films

YANGON, 26 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 "Thu Mwai Hta Thitsar" (Thu Mwai Hta fidelity) directed by Wai Hmaing Nyo and starring Lu Min, Thiha Tin Soe, Nyunt Win, May Than Nu, Tun Eindra Bo and Eindra Kyaw Zin. —MNA

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရနှင့် နော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရန်

လစဉ်လစာ ဒုတိယပတ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့နှင့်နောက်ဆုံးပတ် တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တို့သည် ရှုလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်စွဲရပ်များမှအပ နော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရန် ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇွန်လအတွက် (၂၇-၆-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့၊
၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လအတွက် (၁၁-၇-၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့ နှင့်
(၂၇-၇-၂၀၀၄)

ငါးရစ်၊ ငါးသန် ရာသီချိန်တွင် ငါးမဖမ်းရန်

ပညာရေးနှင့်ဆက်သွယ်ရေး (၁/၆၇)

ငါးရစ်၊ ငါးသန် ဘေးဒဏ်ချိန်

ပုံမှန်စားသုံး မျိုးမတုံး

မိုးမြိုင်မြိုင်ရွာသော မေလနေ့အထိ ဇွန်၊ ဇူလိုင်လများတွင် မြစ်၊ ချောင်း၊ အင်းအိုင် အနံ့အပြား၌ ဥများဖြင့် ပြည့်နေသော ငါးမကြီးများနှင့် မျိုးရည်ပြည့်ဝသော ငါးမကြီးများသည် ဥချရန် နေရာရှာနေ၍ ငါးရစ်တက်ကြပါသည်။ ထိုငါးရစ်ငါးများကို ဖမ်းဆီးလိုက်ပါက ပေါက်ပွားလာမည့် သန်းပေါင်းများစွာသော နှုတ်လုပ်သည့် သားပေါက်ငါးသန်များသည်လည်း သေကျေပျက်စီးကာ တစ်နိုင်ငံလုံး ဖုလုစာ စားသုံးမှုနှင့် အမျိုးသား စီးပွားရေးဖွံ့ဖြိုးမှုကို အထောက်အကူ မပြုနိုင်တော့ဘဲ ငါးမျိုး ပြုန်းတီးသွားစေနိုင်ပါသည်။

မေးမြန်းရေးနှင့် ရေလုပ်ငန်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာနက အမိန့်ကြော်ငြာစာအမှတ် (၂/၉၂)ဖြင့် ငါးရစ်၊ ငါးသန် ရာသီချိန်များတွင် ငါးလုပ်ငန်း ဦးစီးဌာန၏ နှစ်ပြုချက်မှတစ်ပါး ငါးများ ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်းမပြုရန် တားမြစ်ထားပါသည်။ အဆိုပါ တားမြစ်ချက်ကို ဖောက်ဖျက် ကျူးလွန်ပါက ရေချိုငါးလုပ်ငန်းဥပဒေပုဒ်မ(၄၅)အရ ဖမ်းဆီးတရားစွဲဆို အပြစ်ပေးနိုင်ရန် ပြဌာန်းထားပါသည်။

သို့ပါ၍ ငါးရစ်တက်ချိန်နှင့် ငါးသန်သားပေါက်သော မိုးရာသီအချိန်များတွင် လွတ်လပ်စွာ ဥချသားပေါက်နိုင်ရန် ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်းမပြုဘဲ ဘေးမပေးကြပါရန် နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာန၊
မေးမြန်းရေးနှင့်ရေလုပ်ငန်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန

ဥကင်နေသောရေချိုပုစွန်ထုပ်ကြီးများဖမ်းရန် ပညာရေးနှင့်ဆက်သွယ်ရေး (၂/၉၇)

တန်ခူး၊ ကချင်၊ နယုန်လများတွင် ဥကင်နေသော (သို့) ဥနှင့်ပြည့်ဝနေသော ရေချိုပုစွန်ထုပ်ကြီးများသည် မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတစ်ဝန်းလုံးရှိ မြစ်၊ ချောင်း၊ အင်းအိုင်များတွင် ဥချရန် ပြင်ဆင်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။ ၎င်းတို့မှ မကြာမီ ထောင်ပေါင်းများစွာသော ပုစွန်များလည်း ပေါက်ပွားလာတော့မည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အကယ်၍ အဆိုပါဥကင်နေသော (သို့) ဥနှင့်ပြည့်ဝ နေသော ပုစွန်ထုပ်ကြီးများအား ဖမ်းဆီး သတ်ဖြတ်ခဲ့ပါက ၎င်းတို့မှ ပုစွန်သားလောင်းများ မပေါက်ပွားနိုင်တော့ဘဲ မျိုးပြုန်းတီးရာလည်း ရောက်စေပါသည်။ ရေချိုပုစွန်များ ပေါက်ပွားလာစေရန် ယခုကဲ့သို့ ဥကင်နေသော ရာသီချိန် များတွင် ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်းမပြုဘဲ ဘေးမပေးသော ထုတ်လုပ်မှုအား မြင်မလာပြီး အမျိုးသားစီးပွားရေး ဖွံ့ဖြိုးလာမည် ဖြစ်သည်။ ဥကင်နေသော (သို့) ဥနှင့်ပြည့်ဝနေသော ရေချိုပုစွန်ထုပ်ကြီးများအား ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်း၊ သတ်ဖြတ်ခြင်း၊ သယ်ယူခြင်း၊ သိုလှောင်ခြင်း၊ လက်ဝယ်ထားခြင်း၊ အရောင်းအဝယ် ပြုလုပ်ခြင်းများ မပြုလုပ်ရန် မေးမြန်းရေးနှင့် ရေလုပ်ငန်း ဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာနက အမိန့်ကြော်ငြာစာ အမှတ် (၁/၉၂)ဖြင့် တားမြစ်ထားပါသည်။ အဆိုပါ တားမြစ်ချက်ကို လိုက်နာခြင်းမရှိပါက ရေချိုငါးလုပ်ငန်းဥပဒေပုဒ်မ (၄၂၊ ၄၄၊ ၄၅)ပါ ပြဌာန်းချက်များအရ တရားစွဲဆို အရေးယူခြင်းခံရမည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ ရေချိုပုစွန်ထုပ်ကြီးများ ရေရှည်တည်တံ့စေရန် ယခုကဲ့သို့သော ဥကင်သော ရာသီချိန်တွင် ဖမ်းဆီးခြင်းမပြုဘဲ နေရာတိုင်းတွင် ဘေးမပေးကြရန် အသိပေး နှိုးဆော် အပ်ပါသည်။

ငါးလုပ်ငန်းဦးစီးဌာန၊
မေးမြန်းရေးနှင့်ရေလုပ်ငန်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန

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

BAGHDAD, 26 June—As of Friday, 25 June, 848 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 627 died as a result of hostile action and 221 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, 710 US soldiers have died, 518 as a result of hostile action and

192 of non-hostile causes, according to the military as of Friday.

—The latest identifications reported by the military: Army Staff Sgt Charles A Kiser, 37, Cleveland, Wis.; killed Thursday in an explosion in Mosul, Iraq; assigned to the Army Reserves 330th Military Police Detachment, Sheboygan, Wis.

Internet

Arroyo calls for unity, open mind

MANILA, 25 June — As the first gesture after being proclaimed as the next Philippine President, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo Thursday reached out to the opposition, calling for “unity and open mind”.

“This is the time for forgiveness and letting go of the past,” Arroyo said in a statement. “To my detractors, I appeal for unity. To my supporters, I appeal for an open mind,” she said.

The reelected president, who demanded solidarity for “national interest”, was proclaimed as winner in the 10 May elections by Congress earlier Thursday after a marathon of vote canvass amid heated debates between administration and opposition lawmakers.

MNA/Xinhua

Up to 25 killed in Iraq airstrike

BAGHDAD, 25 June—US warplanes bombed a suspected guerilla safe house west of Baghdad on Friday, stepping up a hunt for Jordanian militant Abu Musab Zarqawi believed to be behind a series of deadly attacks in Iraq.

“Somewhere between 20 and 25 people were killed in today’s strike,” said a US-led coalition official, who declined to be named. It was not immediately clear who was among the dead.

The US military said the house in the restive town of Fallujah, some 50 km (30 miles) from Baghdad, was a “known Zarqawi network safe house” and was destroyed in the daylight strike, the third on suspected Fallujah safe houses this week.

“This operation employed precision weapons to target and destroy the safe house and underscores the coalition’s continuing resolve...to completely destroy terrorist networks,” Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt said in a statement.

Fallujah residents said the house, in the southeast of the city, was reduced to rubble.

Washington, due to hand over to an interim Iraqi government on 30 June, accuses Zarqawi of links to al Qaeda and say he has masterminded a number of major attacks, as well as being responsible for the beheading of an American and a South Korean.

Militants in Falluja issued a taped statement on Friday denying Zarqawi was holed up in the town.—Internet



Iraqi men fight a fire in a house after US airstrikes in Fallujah, Iraq, during battles between US forces and Iraqi militants on 24 June, 2004.

INTERNET

ထုတ်တုန့်နှစ်ဆ ဝိုးမြင့်မြင့်

Thousands in Ireland protest Bush visit

DUBLIN (Ireland), 25 June—Thousands of left-wing activists marched through the Irish capital Friday to protest the arrival of President Bush for a brief summit with European Union chiefs.

Rallying under the “Stop Bush Campaign” banner, the crowd of about 10,000 waved signs denouncing

Bush as a warmonger and calling for an end to American military flights though Shannon Airport, a strategic refueling point used by thousands of US troops each month.

The protesters marched from north Dublin to the south-side office of Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, whose decision to keep Shannon available for Iraq-bound forces has angered many in this officially neutral nation.

“Good people of America,” read one placard, “vote that son of a Bush out.”

“If we don’t speak out, our silence will be taken as consent,” Dublin Mayor Andrew Montague told the crowd. “This president lied to the world about the reasons for invading Iraq.”

In an interview with state broadcaster RTE, Ahern said Ireland’s open airport policy didn’t amount to support for the US war effort. However, he stressed that those opposed to the US-led occupation of Iraq should recognize that times were changing, and European Union cooperation with Bush over Iraq was essential.

Ahern, the current president of the 25-nation EU, said the latest UN resolution on Iraq called on world body members to “help the coalition forces in Iraq. So whatever the arguments of last year were, those arguments are dead.”

But few in the crowd wanted to forget the war in Iraq. Leaders of Green Party handed out copies of a mock set of instructions advising protesters how to make a “citizen’s arrest” of Bush if they meet him.

Internet



Protestors shout slogans ‘We Don’t Want Bush and Blair’ on 25 June as they hold banners reading ‘Those responsible for invasion, torture and rape be tried’ during a demonstration against the upcoming NATO summit.—INTERNET

Detained British Marines released by Iran

TEHRAN, 25 June — The eight British Marines detained for intruding into Iranian territorial waters arrived here on Thursday noon and were soon handed over to British diplomats.

After three days of impoundment, the Marines were flown to the capital of Teheran aboard a chartered plane from the southwestern town of Bandar Mahshahr.

At Mehrabad Airport in Teheran, they were released to the care of the British Embassy personnel.

The British side expressed their pleasure about the release, saying the freed Marines were tired but in good spirit on arrival. However, Iran’s state news channel reported that Iran would keep the confiscated boats and the equipment aboard.

Some hardliners, who insisted that the eight Marines must be prosecuted for their illegal intrusion, launched protest against the release at the airport.

The Iranian Armed Forces on Monday seized these British Marines and their naval boats in the Shatt al-Arab waterway, saying they had entered Iranian territorial waters without permission.

Earlier in Tuesday, local reports said that the Islamic Republic was to prosecute the detained British soldiers.

Later in the day, a ranking officer said that fate of the eight Marines hinged on investigation on their intentions, noting that when detained, they had been heavily armed and carried light and semi-heavy weapons,

detailed area maps, as well as logistic and identification equipment.

After the effort-taking negotiations between the British Foreign Ministry and the Iranian Government, the latter decided to free the Marines later on Wednesday, saying the investigation determined that they had entered Iranian territorial waters by mistake and had no aggressive intentions.

However, until night in the day, the two sides had been discussing the way of handover, which naturally postponed the release to

Thursday.

The incident came shortly after Britain, along with France and Germany, accused Iran of being less than fully cooperative with the International Atomic Energy Agency on the inspection of its nuclear programme, which dissatisfied the Islamic Republic.

The Shatt al-Arab waterway, confluence of Tigris and Euphrates, serves as a part of boundary between Iran and Iraq. After the Iraqi war in 2003, the British troops controlled the area around the southeast city of Basrah and often patrolled the river with boats.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian police uncover counterfeit money ring

JAKARTA, 25 June — The Indonesian police have uncovered a counterfeit money printing ring in the central Java town of Sragen, arresting three of the gang and confiscating fake bills worth 60 million rupiah (6,315 US dollars).

Sragen Police chief Senior Commander Charles Himler Ngili was quoted by The Jakarta Post online news service as saying a raid on the gang’s headquarters was conducted late last week in Sragen, around 600 kilometres to the east of Jakarta.

Charles said the 60 million rupiah, all in the form of 20,000 rupiah notes, was part of a total of 72 million rupiah (7,578 dollars) the gang had printed.

The arrest came after a tip-off from a police officer, Charles said.

“The information turned out to be true,” he said.

The alleged mastermind of the gang, identified as Kristanto, confessed to police he had begun printing the money two months ago after teaching himself the process, Charles said. — MNA/Xinhua

Wary Singapore firms shelve plans for Iraq

SINGAPORE, 26 June—This week's high-profile killing of a South Korean translator in Iraq has added to growing security concerns that have forced Singapore companies to shelve plans for the multi-billion-dollar rebuilding of the war-ravaged country.

One casualty is a US\$5-US\$8 million deal to provide commercial ground services at Iraq's international airport. It never materialised for a Singapore consortium, which won the contract last July. Baghdad Airport has

yet to re-open to commercial traffic, even though it was scheduled to last August. It is now a US military base.

Most companies polled by BT said yesterday one could not be too cautious with human lives at stake.

A spokesman for Singapore Airport Terminal Services (Sats)—part of the consortium for the Baghdad Airport job—said that as of now, the group has no plans to be in Iraq. Sats sent 15 Singapore staff there last year to prepare for the work,

but all returned before the year was out.

"Now, for prudence's sake, we will not go in," the spokesman said.

The Singapore government warned Singaporeans yesterday to avoid Iraq after Kim Sun Il, who worked as a translator for a South Korean company in Iraq, was beheaded earlier this week by Islamic militants.

"In view of the security situation in Iraq, Singaporeans are advised not to travel or remain there," a Foreign Affairs Ministry statement said, adding that Singaporeans residing or travelling within the region should register with the nearest Singapore Embassy or consulate. — Internet

ဝက်စွဲစွဲအား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

More attacks by the resistance against US troops in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 June—The Iraqi resistance attacked the US invaders and their collaborators today in three cities, 24 hours after a bloody day in which more than 100 people were killed and 500 injured.

With only five days remaining until the eventual limited return of power to the Iraqis, the resistance opened fire for the second consecutive day against the positions of the US Marines in the rebel stronghold of Fallujah, west of the capital, according to Al Arabiya Arab television.

North of Baghdad, in Baquba, three policemen died and another was injured during an attack with rocket launchers by the opposition against a police station. On Thursday, the resistance killed some 20 policemen in that city.

Another three agents were injured when a bomb went off in Baghdad. Three bombs went off in early morning hours, according to Al Arabiya.

Also in Baghdad, an old airport in Muthanna was the target of various rounds of mortar fire. The air base is one of the grounds used by the new Iraqi army that was trained by and is subordinate to the United States.

Internet



Armed militants drive through the streets of Fallujah, Iraq, chanting pro-resistance slogans after battles with US forces on 24 June, 2004.

INTERNET

Iraq needs debt relief of up to 95%

WASHINGTON, 25 June—Iraq needs up to 95 per cent of its debt to sovereign countries forgiven to avoid overburdening its economy, a senior White House official said on Thursday.

White House National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice cited figures from the International Monetary Fund that she said showed that between 67 per cent and 95 per cent of Iraq's debt should be forgiven to allow for economic sustainability.

Before invading Iraq in the spring of 2003, the White House portrayed Iraq as a country that would be able to fund its own reconstruction with revenue from oil exports. Iraq's known oil reserves are second only to that of Saudi Arabia.

Iraq has been unable to fully exploit its enormous oil reserves, second only to

Saudi Arabia, due to instability and violence since the US invasion.

It was the first time a US official has publicly released figures from an IMF study on Iraq debt that has been circulating for weeks among members of the Paris Club of wealthy creditor nations. In a briefing with reporters, though, Rice acknowledged that achieving a debt reduction of that level might be difficult.

France has said it does not want to write off more than 50 per cent of Iraq's debt.

The United States has not publicly cited a figure for the amount of reduction it would like to see, al-

though officials have said they think almost all of the sovereign obligations should be forgiven. Some officials have indicated privately that debt forgiveness in the 85 to 95-per-cent range would be optimal.

In arguing for giving debt relief of no more than 50 per cent, French officials have pointed to Iraq's oil wealth, saying such resources would help them manage the debt.

US officials have noted that Iraq is the world's most heavily indebted country on a per capita basis. The country's sovereign debt is estimated at 120 billion US dollars. — MNA/Reuters

Zimbabwe to continue distributing anti-retroviral drugs

HARARE, 25 June—Zimbabwean Minister of Health and Child Welfare David Parirenyatwa has said that his government will continue to distribute anti-retroviral drugs ARVs free of charge since it has been proved throughout the world that the ARVs can improve the health of the people living with HIV.

He made the disclosure here on Wednesday in response to a question in Parliament on whether or not it is true people are dying in Europe after taking anti-retroviral drugs.

"We want to expand use of ARVs in the country because we know that they prolong as well as improve the quality of lives of people living with HIV and AIDS," said Parirenyatwa.

He said that it had also been proved that opportunistic diseases such as TB do not affect people who take the drugs.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam to boost seafood exports

HANOI, 25 June—Vietnam plans to export more seafood items to the European Union (EU) and some Asian markets to fulfil its seafood export targets of 2.6 billion US dollars in 2004 and 5 billion dollars in 2005.

While keeping its annual exports to the United States at the current level of 600-700 million dollars, it will strive to boost the exports to the EU, Japan and South Korea, local newspaper *Pioneer* reported on Wednesday.

Regarding shrimps as a key seafood item by 2010, the country will promote the product, which is expected to account for 50 per cent of its seafood export turnover in 2004.

Besides, it will improve the industry's infrastructure and management, including seafood processing plants. Many plants in central and northern regions are operating under their capacities.

MNA/Xinhua

US drops quest for UN immunity for soldiers

UNITED NATIONS, 25 June—The United States dropped its campaign to guarantee American soldiers immunity from the new International Criminal Court, a move that raised concerns Washington might veto UN peacekeeping missions.

The Bush Administration on Wednesday withdrew a resolution to renew an exemption from the court after it failed to get enough votes in the UN Security Council. Members cited worldwide anger over the Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal and strong opposition from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

The United States in the past had threatened to shut down UN peacekeeping missions and in 2002 actually vetoed one when the Council hesitated in approving the resolution.

"We will have to examine each of these missions case by case," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said in Washington. "We will have to look at it in terms of staffing, providing Americans to participate in peacekeeping missions, what the risk might be of prosecution by a court to which we're not party."

James Cunningham, the US deputy ambassador, who announced the US decision, would not comment on future US actions. He said officials would "take into account" the lack of a resolution "when determining contributions to UN authorized or established opera-

tions".

At the same time diplomats said the United States might have difficulties curtailing UN missions at a time it was seeking troops to help in Iraq and had a strong interest in operations in Liberia, Haiti and a future venture in Sudan.

The court, which started operating a year ago in The Hague, Netherlands, was created to try individuals for the world's worst atrocities — genocide, war crimes and systematic human rights abuses.

It is a tribunal of last resort and would only hear cases of individuals from a country that refused or was unable to press charges, making it unlikely an American would be tried.

The court's first case is an investigation into reports of "mass murder" in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

But the Bush Administration, backed by Congress, wants airtight guarantees and fears politically motivated prosecutions. In the last two years, Washington has signed 90 bilateral agreements with countries that pledge not to prosecute US officials abroad.

MNA/Reuters



Iraqi officers stand near a crater caused by a car bomb in Iraq's northern city of Mosul, on 24 June, 2004.

INTERNET

Markets sag as investors wait and worry

NEW YORK, 25 June—Stocks shifted lower on Thursday as investors' enthusiasm flagged in the face of multiple attacks overseas, weak sales of manufactured goods and a lower forecast from AT&T Corp.

A record reading on home sales for May was a bright spot, suggesting continued economic strength. But violence in Iraq and a pair of bomb blasts in Turkey, including one near a hotel where President George W. Bush is expected to stay ahead of Monday's NATO

summit, caused some jitters. However, the lack of a deeper slide was encouraging to analysts.

"The bombing in Istanbul certainly raises more risk concern, and that could be what's keeping us flat today," said Kevin Caron, market strategist with Ryan, Beck &

Co. "Beyond that, there are important fundamental drivers - a robust profit expansion, companies with record levels of cash balances, creating new jobs - that provide a solid underpinning to the nation's economic recovery."

The Dow Jones industrial

average sagged 35.76, or 0.3 per cent, to 10,443.81.

The broader gauges were also lower. The Nasdaq composite index was down 5.41, or 0.3 per cent, at 2,015.57. The Standard & Poor's 500 index shed 3.41, or 0.3 per cent, to 1,140.65.

The markets have been in a torpor all month ahead of a pivotal Federal Reserve meeting on interest rates and the hand-over of sovereignty in Iraq next week. A coordinated series of attacks in the country, mostly directed at Iraqi security forces, raised further doubts about the likelihood of a smooth transition. —Internet



US Marines with the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Marine Division re-supply ammunition at a traffic control post in Falluja, Iraq on 25 June, 2004. The traffic checkpoint has been the scene of heavy fighting between Marines and guerillas for the past two days.

INTERNET

EU warns of Iraq break-up, security may limit role

ENNIS (Ireland), 26 June — A top European Union official warned on Friday that violence could break Iraq apart within months and that the EU role in reconstruction and election planning would be limited if security did not improve.

EU External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten had little to offer US President George W. Bush but moral support as Bush launched his second European mission this month seeking international help with Iraq.

"All of us are worried that violence could lead to Iraq flying apart in the next few months," Patten told reporters before Bush arrived for a summit with the European Union in Ireland followed by a NATO summit in Turkey.

Bush is eager to share the burden in Iraq and is under pressure in an election year to obtain more international support for Baghdad.

Patten said the EU was offering to help Iraq prepare for its first elections, but even that depended on improving security.

"We now recognize in Europe that there is no point in continuing to focus on the passionate arguments about intervention in Iraq," Patten said.

"We have a shared interest in America, Europe and the rest of the democratic world in trying to ensure that the new Iraq created at the beginning of next month is able to be open, plural, democratic and, pray God, stable as well, despite the present exceptionally difficult security situation," he added.

Patten said it was for NATO to decide whether to agree to a US and Iraqi proposal that NATO allies help train Iraqi security forces. Patten urged Bush to take seriously European concerns about the treatment of detainees in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. "Once you start hair splitting about the Geneva Conventions, you risk getting into a good deal of difficulty," he said.

Patten said the European Union was willing to help educate Iraqi voters, create electoral commissions and assemble voter lists, as well as provide monitors for Iraqi elections slated for December or January.

MNA/Reuters

Malaysia to control external debt

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 June—Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Mustapa Mohamed said Thursday the government would ensure that Malaysia's total external debt would not exceed 50 per cent of the gross national product (GNP).

The country's ratings would be impacted if such a debt ratio was again breached, the minister said at the 44th meeting of the mass media consultative team of the National Economic Action Council (NEAC) in Putrajaya, Federal Administrative Centre.

Malaysia's external debt as percentage of GNP had come down from 55.3 per cent in 2002 to 50.7 per cent

in 2003.

Malaysia's total debt stood at 185.6 billion ringgit (48.84 billion US dollars) in 2002 and 187.25 billion ringgit (49.27 billion US dollars) in 2003.

Mustapa said the government would gradually reduce the country's budget deficit.

It has succeeded to bring down the fiscal deficit at 5.6 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2002 to 5.3 per cent of GDP last year.

The government is aiming for a balanced budget over the next two years.

The government had originally budgeted an expenditure of 110 billion ringgit (28.94 billion US dollars) for the 8th plan but the expenditure was raised to 160 billion ringgit (42.1 billion US dollars) during the Mid-Term Review of the country's current five-year plan last year.

MNA/Xinhua

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US 'underestimated' Iraqi enemy

WASHINGTON, 26 June—The United States did not size up its enemy's ability to strike in a co-ordinated fashion before invading Iraq, Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage told the US Senate's Armed Services Committee today.

"We underestimated the enemy, we didn't destroy it in our initial attacks," Mr Armitage said in response to a question about handing over power to Iraqis on June 30.

A series of co-ordinated attacks yesterday killed more than 90 people in Iraq.

"We underestimate the degree to which the enemy has a central nervous system... and I think what happened the other day showed it," Mr Armitage said.

"We did not estimate correctly the extent to which Iraq has become a criminal society under Saddam Hussein."

In all, nearly 1000 US troops have died in Iraq.

Internet

Iraqi fighters deny Zarqawi holed up in Fallujah

BAGHDAD, 26 June — Iraqi fighters in Fallujah, their faces hidden behind chequered cloths, denied in a taped message on Friday that al-Qaeda-linked militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was holed up in their city.

"The American invader forces claim that Zarqawi, and with him a group of Arab fighters, are in our city," a masked man read from a piece of paper. "We know that this talk about Zarqawi and the fighters is a game the American invader forces are playing to strike Islam and Muslims in the city of mosques, steadfast Fallujah."

The United States believes Zarqawi, accused of leading a bloody campaign of suicide bombings and of decapitating an American and a South Korean hostage, has played a significant role in the violence

gripping Iraq. On the tape, five men holding a rocket-propelled grenade launcher and machinegun said local fighters were defending their home town — sometimes known as the "city of mosques".

US forces over the past week bombed houses they said were hideouts for Zarqawi's fighters. A group led by Zarqawi, who Washington says has links to al-Qaeda, claimed responsibility for a wave of attacks in Iraq on Thursday in which more than 100 people were killed and hundreds wounded.

MNA/Reuters

Schroeder says confident Turkey will start EU talks

ANKARA, 25 June—German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said in an interview broadcast on Thursday that he was confident Turkey would soon start European Union entry talks and dismissed Turkish fears that France might try to block its bid.

EU leaders will decide in December, on the basis of a report from the European Commission, whether to begin negotiations with the Muslim but secular country of 70 million people.

"I believe that the European Commission's report at the end of the year will be positive. And so negotiations will begin," Schroeder told CNN Turk in an interview recorded in Berlin.

Germany, along with Britain and Italy, strongly backs Ankara's bid, but Germany's conservative opposition and France's ruling party have come out against Turkish accession. Austria has also expressed reservations.

Schroeder said French President Jacques Chirac shared his own views on Turkey's future prospects.

"Chirac and I have spoken often on this issue. We

both agree that if the Commission report is positive then there is no reason for further delay in the negotiations," he said.

MNA/Reuters



A protester in Seoul wears a box over her head to mourn over Kim Sun-il, who was beheaded by militants in Iraq, during a silent protest on 24 June, 2004. —INTERNET

Freed British servicemen arrive in Kuwait, fly to Iraq

KUWAIT, 26 June — Eight British servicemen held by Iran this week after straying into its waters arrived in Kuwait on Friday from where they flew out to their base in southern Iraq, witnesses and British Army officials said.

"They look well... We have not spoken to them yet but they look well," Hisham Halawi, a spokesman for Iraq-based British forces told Reuters in Kuwait by telephone.

A diplomatic standoff over Iran's seizure of the servicemen on Monday had threatened to inflame tensions in the region.

A British Embassy spokeswoman in Teheran said the men had been flown out of Iran in the early hours, after being released to British

diplomats on Thursday.

The men, who were first flown to Dubai, arrived in Kuwait aboard an Emirates flight. Reporters at Kuwait airport south of Kuwait City saw them disembark but were not allowed to talk to them.

The eight were taken to Mubarak Air Base adjacent to the airport after their 9 am (0600 GMT) arrival and were flown to Basra in southern Iraq in a military aircraft about an hour later, Halawi told reporters.

MNA/Reuters

US soldiers to be charged in Iraqi general's death

DENVER, 26 June — The US Army plans to file charges against two military intelligence officers in the suffocation death of an Iraqi general during questioning in Iraq in November, *The Denver Post* reported on Thursday.

The newspaper said negligent homicide and manslaughter charges were being brought against two warrant officers over the death of Iraqi Major-General Abed Hamed Mowhoush, Commander of Saddam Hussein's Air Forces.

Chief Warrant Officer Lewis Welshofer, based at Fort Carson, Colorado and a member of the 66th Military Intelligence Group, is accused of suffocating the general in a sleeping bag while sitting on his chest

and covering his mouth, according to Pentagon documents obtained by the newspaper.

The other soldier, Chief Warrant Officer Jeff Williams, was involved in the interrogation at a US military facility at Qaim, Iraq, the newspaper said.

The general's death was among more than 30 prisoner deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan that the Pentagon said last month it was investigating.

The treatment of prisoners came under scrutiny after photographs of physical and sexual abuse of Iraqi inmates at the Abu Ghraib Prison outside Baghdad emerged earlier this year.

MNA/Reuters



Swiss Govt rejects calls for sending troops to Iraq

GENEVA, 26 June — Swiss Government announced Thursday that it will not send troops to protect the Swiss mission in Iraq for fear that such a move could be misunderstood by Iraqis and leave its diplomatic staff and their guards vulnerable to attack.

Iraqis might be led to believe that Switzerland had taken sides in the US-led war if Swiss soldiers were sent to protect the mission, the government said in a statement.

The government had been asked by some parliamentarians to consider sending Swiss soldiers to replace a private security firm of South Africa, MTS, which is currently guarding the Swiss mission in Baghdad under a contract worth 1.3 million US dollars.

MTS also provides protection for American offi-

cials and British development agencies and training for Iraqi police.

The Swiss Foreign Ministry defended its decision of hiring MTS, arguing that only a firm specialized in security at high-risk regions could do the job.

"The MTS employees are under the responsibility of our head of mission and we have never had any problems with them," said Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey in a recent interview with the Geneva-based *Le Temps* newspaper.

MNA/Xinhua

US Senate passes \$447b defence bill

WASHINGTON, 26 June — After weeks of debate on the Iraqi prisoner abuse scandal, nuclear weapons and plans for a missile defence system, the US Senate on Wednesday unanimously passed a 447-billion-US-dollar bill for defence programmes including operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The bill, approved 97-0, gives President George W. Bush most of what he wanted, including 25 billion US dollars for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Republicans fended off final amendments from Democrats, defeating a bid to force the administration to release documents on its treatment of enemy combatants in the wake of the scandal over sexual and physical abuses of Iraqi prisoners. After bitter partisan debate, the Senate voted 50-46 to kill the measure demand-

ing Attorney General John Ashcroft turn over documents on the interrogation and treatment of prisoners in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Republicans also defeated a plan to expand prescription drug and health services for veterans that would have cost 300 billion US dollars over 10 years, and a measure requiring the White House to give Congress an estimate of the number of US troops it expects to have in Iraq by the end of 2005. Republicans said

the veterans care measure was too costly, and that the White House could not estimate troop requirements in Iraq a year from now. "Political developments in Iraq will drive security estimates so we cannot determine now what our needs are going to be," said Senator Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican.

But Senator Edward Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat, said with next week's transfer of sovereignty in Iraq, "American families are entitled to know how long their sons and daughters are going to serve in Iraq".

The Senate agreed to continue an independent inspector general's office to oversee US-financed reconstruction contracts after the US provisional government in Iraq transfers power to an interim Iraqi Government next week.

In debate spread over three to four weeks, the Senate defied the Pentagon and voted overwhelmingly to boost the Army by 20,000 troops to relieve stress on soldiers forced into extended duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. —MNA/Reuters

Forest fire spreading wider in north China mountain

HOHHOT, 26 June — Forest fire caused by lightning are spreading in virgin forests in north China's Greater Khingan Range, firefighters said Friday.

More than 1,000 police officers are fighting fire in the mountain, a major base for the country's virgin forest reserve.

There are a total of 10 separate flame spots that are expanding to larger areas, according to the police.

Lasting high temperature and aridity since late May posed great fire risk. Continued lightning that began in mid June stroke dry, withered trees and caused fire, police said.

Helicopters were employed to send firefighters to the fire sites which are mostly located in the far inland of dense woods. —MNA/Xinhua



Baqouba residents cycle past a building in Baqouba, Iraq, on 25 June, 2004, where US warplanes bombed guerrillas positions on Thursday. —INTERNET



Security officials keep guard outside the US Embassy in Bangkok on 25 June, 2004. Nearly a hundred demonstrators from various organizations requested the US's withdraw its troops from Iraq. —INTERNET

Experts say cheap drugs best way to fight AIDS

WASHINGTON, 26 June — Getting patients cheap drugs to fight the AIDS virus is the best answer to battling the global epidemic, but the window of opportunity is closing, AIDS experts said on Thursday.

Countries with emerging epidemics have to admit to the problem and move fast, and the international community has to pitch in more to help, the three health leaders said.

"We have the science, the technical capacity and the know-how, yet investments still have not begun to yield

substantial and lasting impact on the AIDS epidemic," said Peter Piot, head of the United Nations' UNAIDS agency, World Health Organization head Dr Lee Jong-Wook and Dr Richard Feachem of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

"To provide treatment to those who need it safely and effectively, we need to develop simplified drug treatments, based on fixed-dose combinations and copackaging," they added in a commentary in the journal *Science*.

MNA/Reuters

Top US lawyer who defended terror policies resigns

WASHINGTON, 26 June — Solicitor General Theodore Olson, who has appeared before the US Supreme Court to defend the Bush Administration's policies in the war on terrorism, is resigning, a Justice Department official said on Thursday. The resignation of the government's chief advocate before the Supreme Court will be effective in July, after the High Court is expected to rule on three cases involving the detention of enemy combatants.

Olson, who had been a Justice Department official in the Reagan Administration, will return to private practice, the official said.

Olson's wife, Barbara, was on the airplane that crashed into the Pentagon on September 11, 2001 when hijackers commandeered four airplanes, killing nearly 3,000 people. He has been a key player in defending the Administration's controversial legal strategy in the war on terror.

MNA/Reuters

New and fast developments throughout Myanmar



An X-ray room of Namlan Station Hospital, in Hsipaw Township, Shan State (North).
IPRD



*Office of Information and Public Relations
Department to disseminate
knowledge to locals in
Kantbalu, Sagaing
Division.*
IPRD



*A rural house built in
Tarsu (Kyakhatwayon)
Village in Nattalin
Township, Bago
Division (West).*
PBANRDA



Road at entrance to Mongla, Shan State (East).—MYANMA ALIN



*A water pipeline installed by Development Affairs
Committee in Moegok Township to supply potable water
to local public.—PBANRDA*

Border and rural area developments



A bridge across Palauk creek in Palauk village, Palaw Township, Myeik District, Taninthayi Division.—PBANRDA

Press conference on Jade and Gems Special Sales 2004 held Quality precious stones to be sold

YANGON, 26 June — Special Sales of Jade and Gems for 2004 was held at Myanmar Gems Emporium on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, here, this afternoon.

Present were members of Public Relations and Information Committee of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Director-General of Myanmar Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay, Managing Director Col Soe Win of News and Periodicals Enterprise, Director (News) U Hla Tun, Director (Admin) U Soe Win, editors of newspapers, President of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Sao Kai Hpa and Secretary U Nyunt Tin and member correspondents.

Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the Special Sales 2004 Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein, Secretary Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Khin Oo and members welcomed the guests and conducted them round the emporium where fixed price gems and jade finished goods, ornaments and jade figurines produced by MGE, private jewellery shops and mosaics painting shops, lots of imperial jade, utility jade and commercial jade stones and gem lots are to be sold through competitive bidding.



Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein and journalists view round the Jade and Gems Special sales 2004. — MNA

Next, Deputy Minister U Myint Thein met journalists at the press conference. Speaking on the occasion, he said that quantity and quality gems and jade lots will be sold in the special sales. The committee invited 535 companies from 25 countries and received replies to attend the special sales from 270 gem merchants of 95 companies from nine countries up to 24 June. Some gem merchants did not send replies but attended the previous sales. Especially, merchants from Hong Kong and the People's Republic of China had never replied to the invitation. Therefore, it is estimated that over 400 merchants from abroad and

over 200 local merchants, totalling over 600 will attend the special sales.

A total of 997 lots of jade at reserve price of 2.59 million euro will be sold through tender system and 131 lots at reserve price of 6.14 million euro through competitive bidding, totalling 1,128 lots of jade at reserve price of 8.73 million euro. Out of 1,128 lots of jade, 104 lots of jade at floor price of 1.8 million euro will be displayed by joint venture industries, 78 lots at floor price of 0.51 million euro by Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd and 946 lots at reserve price of 6.42 million euro by private companies, he added.

He then said that 78

lots of gems will be sold at floor price of 0.14 million euro through tender system and 62 lots at reserve price of 7.59 million euro through competitive bidding, totalling 140 lots of gems at floor price of 7.73 million euro.

Next, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein gave a speech. Managing Director U Khin Oo of MGE explained matters related to significant points of the special sales. Afterwards, Deputy Minister U Myint Thein, Managing Director U Khin Oo and Central Committee members answered the queries raised by journalists. Later, Deputy Minister U Myint Thein gave concluding remarks.

MNA



CCDAC member Brig-Gen Kyaw Thein of the Ministry of Defence gives replies to the queries raised by the journalists. — MNA

Press conference held on drug abuse control and illicit trafficking

YANGON, 26 June— The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) held a press conference on endeavours for combating the menace of narcotic drug abuse and illicit trafficking at the Drug Elimination Museum on Hanthawady Road here at 10.30 am today.

Present on the occasion were CCDAC Secretary Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi and officials, News and Periodicals Enterprise Managing Director Col Soe Win and officials, those of other ministries, the Foreign Correspondents Club patron, president and members, among others.

First, Director (International Relations) of CCDAC Police Col Sit Aye explained matters on the 18th destruction of seized drugs on the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Replies to the queries raised by the journalists were given by CCDAC member Brig-Gen Kyaw Thein of the Ministry of Defence, CCDAC Joint Secretary Police Col Kham Aung, Police Col Sit Aye, Police Col Tin Maung Htay, UNODC resident representative Mr Jean Luc Lemahieu and departmental personnel. — MNA



The 2nd meeting of the ASEAN national focal points working group on peas & beans of the products promotion scheme and

The 11th meeting of the Joint Committee on ASEAN co-operation in agriculture and forest products promotion scheme

(29 June — 2 July 2004) Yangon, Myanmar

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

ရောဂါများအတွက်နူးဆော်ချက်

မိုးဦးကျရာသီတွင် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ကူးစက်တတ်သောရောဂါများ ပုံမှန်ဖြစ်ပွားလေ့ရှိပါသည်။

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

(ခ) သွေးလွန်တုပ်ကွေးနှင့် ငှက်ဖျားရောဂါ

(ဂ) တုပ်ကွေး၊ နှာစေးချောင်းဆိုးနှင့် အဆုတ်အဆေးမိရောဂါ

၂။ ဖြစ်ပွားရသည့်အကြောင်းရင်းမှာ—

(က) မိုးဦးကျလာပြီးဖြစ်၍ လှိုင်းလှိုင်းပေါ်လာသည့် အချိန်တစ်ပါးသော သရက်သီး၊ ပိန္နဲသီး၊ ဖရဲသီး၊ ကြက်မောက်သီး၊ မင်းစွတ်သီး စသည်သစ်သီးဝလံများ၏ အစ အစေ့ စသည်များကို စည်းကမ်းမဲ့ မဆင်မခြင် စွန့်ပစ်ခြင်းကြောင့် ယင်ပေါများခြင်း

(ခ) ရာသီစာအမှည့်လွန်အသီးများကို စားသုံးခြင်း

(ဂ) မိုးရွာပြီးရေတင်ရေဝပ်သဖြင့် ရေအိမ်၊ ရေရွက်ဖြစ်၍ ရေမြောင်း၊ မိတ်ခြင်းနှင့် ချွန်ယပ်မိတ်ပေါင်းထွက်၍ ဖြစ်ပေါက်ဖွားခြင်း

(ဃ) ရာသီဥတု အပြောင်းအလဲဖြစ်၍ အပူရပ်ခြင်း၊ အအေးပတ်ခြင်း

(င) ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်သန့်ရှင်းမှုနှင့် တစ်ကိုယ်ရေသန့်ရှင်းမှု နည်းပါးခြင်း

(စ) ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်ညီသည့်အသိပညာနှင့် အလေ့အကျင့်အားနည်းခြင်း

၃။ အောက်ဖော်ပြပါတို့ကို လိုက်နာကျင့်သုံးခြင်းဖြင့် ဖော်ပြပါ ရောဂါများ ကူးစက်ပျံ့နှံ့ခြင်းမှ ကာကွယ်တားဆီးနိုင်မည် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

(က) အမှည့်လွန်အသီးများကို စားသုံးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ပါ။

(ခ) ယင်နှာစားများကို မဆင်မခြင် စားသုံးခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ပါ။

(ဂ) စားကြွင်းစားကျန် အမှိုက်သရိုက်များနှင့် အညစ်အကြေးများကို စည်းကမ်းမဲ့ စွန့်ပစ်ခြင်းမှရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

(ဃ) မိသားစုတွင်းကျန်းမာရေးအသိပညာဖြန့်ဝေပါ။ လိုက်နာကျင့်သုံးပါ။

(င) တစ်ကိုယ်ရေ သန့်ရှင်းရေးကို ကျင့်သုံးလိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

(စ) ရေကိုကျိုချက်၍ သောက်ပါ။

(ဆ) လတ်ဆတ်သန့်ရှင်းသည့် အသီးအနှံနှင့် အစားအစာများကို ပူပူနွေးနွေး ချက်ပြုတ်စားသုံးပါ။

(ဇ) ရာသီဥတု အပူအအေး အပြောင်းအလဲကို သတိရှိပါ။

(ဈ) ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်သန့်ရှင်းရေးလုပ်ငန်းနှင့် ဖြစ်နိုင်သမျှ လုပ်ငန်းများကို အမျိုးသားရေးအမြင်ဖြင့် ပိုင်ဝန်စုပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။

(ည) ရောဂါတစ်မျိုးဖြစ်ပွားပျံ့နှံ့ပါက ကျန်းမာရေးဌာနသို့ အမြန်သတင်းပို့ပါ။

(ဋ) လိုအပ်ပါက နှိပ်စပ်ဆေးပေးခန်းဆေးရုံများသို့ အချိန်မီသွားရောက် ပြသစစ်ဆေး ကုသမှုခံယူပါ။ ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends 18th Destruction of Seized Narcotic Drugs and MPF Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi reports anti-drug activities. MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends ...

(from page 1)

such as elimination of drug production and drug abuse, prevention and law enforcement, encourage the participation of the public and international cooperation. Learning from the success and short-comings encountered during the first phase, plans have been made to implement the second phase five years in the best possible way. As part and parcel of the 15-year plan, a pilot project known as the New Destiny Project was launched in April, 2002. Opium yield surveys jointly conducted annually with the United States since 1993 reported a decrease of 39% in cultivation in 2003 with a potential production of 484 metric tons of opium while the UNODC Illicit Crops Monitoring Programmes jointly conducted with CCDAC reported a decrease of 24% in cultivation and a potential production of 810 metric tons. United States figures show that from 1996 to 2003 over a span of 8 years, poppy cultivation has steadily declined by 71% while opium production decreased by 81%. Surveys for 2004 have also been conducted jointly with the United States and UNODC early this year. I am happy to report at this occasion that from field observation it is estimated that cultivation and production will continue to decline. Although poppy cultivation has been reduced in Myanmar, the danger of stimulant tablets is becoming a threat on the other hand. Seizure of drugs in Myanmar has been decreasing yearly within the period between 1997 and 2003. Heroin seizures decreased annually from 1997 to 2001, but there was a slight increase in the years 2002 and 2003. Although drug and heroin seizures have been decreasing every year, the seizure of stimulant tablets since 1996 has been increasing yearly from 1996 to 2001. However from 2002 up till the present, it was found that seizure of stimulant tablets has also decreased. Regarding the seizure of precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of stimulant tablets, over 180 thousand litres in the year 2001, over 29 thousand litres in 2002 and 39 thousand litres in 2003 have been seized. For the year 2004, up till the month of April, over 14 thousand litres of precursor chemicals have been seized. Ephedrine, caffeine and other precursor chemicals which are essential in the manufacture of stimulant tablets are not produced in Myanmar, but are smuggled from neighbouring countries. We are aware that the neighbouring countries are also seriously taking preventive measures to control and stop these chemicals from diversion to illegal channels. However, unscrupulous persons are using various methods to smuggle them to the clandestine refineries and laboratories along the common border areas of Myanmar. I would like to stress here that we are taking cooperation and urgent measures with our neighbouring countries for the control of these chemicals.

We are fully aware of and accept the fact that Myanmar alone cannot be successful in the fight against drugs but needs cooperation with neighbouring countries. Subsequently, we have established bilateral, trilateral and multilateral cooperation with neighbouring countries of the sub-region as well as countries in the region.

With a view to enhancing cooperation with neighbouring countries and also with international law enforcement agencies, Border Liaison Offices at the Myanmar-China border areas cooperation have been opened in Myawady and Tachilek. A similar office for Myanmar-Laos cooperation has been set up in Tachilek. To increase cooperation with Thailand, preparations are under way to open Border Liaison offices in Kawthoung and also in Wanpone and Wankyin along the Mekong River for cooperation with Laos.

Regarding law enforcement cooperation with China, 3 Chinese suspects arrested on drug charges were repatriated to Chinese authorities in December 2003. Another three drug suspects were repatriated in February 2004 and very recently on the 7 June, 2004, nine drug traffickers were extradited to China at Mongla of the Special Region 4. From 2001 up to date, thirty-five drug traffickers have been repatriated to the Chinese authorities on thirteen occasions. Similarly, we also enjoy good cooperation with our western neighbour, India. We have been meeting at both senior and field level officials to find ways and means to control and prevent drugs and precursor chemicals trafficking along our common borders. This cooperation has resulted in the drastic decline of drugs and precursors seizures in recent years. For example, Phensedyl seizures have dropped continuously and last year we have been able to seize only 74 litres while this year up to May there had been only 23 litres seized. Moreover, the Indian authorities have successfully persuaded the pharmaceutical companies to substitute codeine with synthetic chemicals in the much abused cough syrup.

I would also like to add that the outstanding efforts of neighbouring Thailand on their War on Drugs, has affected the sub-region and has also indirectly contributed to our efforts for drug eradication. Another noteworthy fact in 2003 is the efforts to establish Tachilek, Kawthoung and Myawady along the Thai border as drug free districts. These three districts, anti-drug organizations and working groups to promote awareness among students have been formed and are actively promoting drug awareness and putting up anti-drug billboards Hospitals to help drug addicts have also been established. Here, I would like to reiterate that fact although Myanmar has not received any substantial international support in the fight against drugs; we have not been sitting idle and discouraged but have been striving with our utmost efforts to this end using our own limited resources.

In conclusion, at this 18th occasion we are going to burn and destroy the following drugs seized by our law enforcement agencies within last year; —

Opium	710.497 kilos
Heroin	353.754 kilos
Marijuana	99.025 kilos
Stimulant pills	2643800.00 tablets
Stimulant power	59.865 kilos
Ephedrine powder	232.535 kilos
Diazepam pills	1010.00 pills



Ambassadors, diplomats, UN officials test narcotic drugs to be burnt.— MNA



Diplomats and UN officials destroying narcotic drug potent cough syrup.— MNA



Seized narcotic drugs seen at 18th Destruction of Seized Narcotic Drugs.— MNA

Furthermore, I would also like to mention that the drugs to be destroyed today have a street value of more than 247 million US dollars. The present value of drugs which have been destroyed since the 1st occasion up till the 18th occasion today is more than 14,452 million US dollars. Before the drugs are burned and destroyed, you are cordially invited to conduct tests to personally confirm the authenticity of the drugs.

Next, the ambassadors, charges d'affaires, military attachés, resident representatives of UN agencies and officials tested the drugs to be burnt and destroyed bottles of cough syrups which contains opium. CCDAC Chairman Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Dean of the diplomatic Crops Ambassador of Singapore Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz, Japanese Ambassador Mr Yuji Miyamoto and Thai Ambassador Mr Suphot Dhirakasol pressed the buttons of remote controls to set on fire to the seized drugs.

After the ceremony, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt cordially greeted the ambassadors, charges d'affaires, military attachés and guests. Next, they inspected the drug educative exhibition held on the ground floor of the museum.— MNA

Prime Minister and wife attend opening of Maha Thuwunna Ananda Beikman monastic building

YANGON, 26 June — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe attended the opening of Ananda Beikman three-storey building of Maha Thuwunna Monastery in Thingangyun Township, Yangon East District, and merit-sharing ceremony this morning.

Present on the occasion were State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws, Division and Township Sangha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaws, Maha Thuwunna Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Bhaddanta Nanissara and members of the Sangha, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, officials of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, division, district and township PDCs members, those of social organizations, wellwishers, teachers and students and guests.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Religious affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and well-wisher Daw Khin Nyunt formally opened the three-storey monastic building. The Prime Minister formally unveiled the stone inscription of the building and sprinkled scented water on it. Next, the merit-sharing ceremony of the monastery building commenced with the three-time recitation of Namo Tassa. Yangon Division Sangha Nayaka Committee (Shwekyin) Chairman Agga Maha Pandita Maha Theikpan Sayadaw Bhaddanta Siri Dhamam invested the congregation with the Five Precepts. The Sayadaws and members of the Sangha recited parittas. The Prime Minister and wife, donor Daw Khin Nyunt, the commander and officials offered provisions to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. Afterwards, wellwishers donated K 33,730,070 for the monastery to the commander and the ministers.

On behalf of the wellwishers, donor Thiri Thudhama Manijota Dhara U Sein Hla Win supplicated on the purpose of construction of the monastery building. Member of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhama



The Ananda Beikman three-storey building of Maha Thuwunna Monastery. — MNA

Jotikadhaja Shwebo Pakham Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vimala delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits gained. Then, the ceremony ended with the three-time recitation of Buddha Sasanam Cirum Thitthathu. The Prime Minister performed rituals of golden and silver showers to make the success of the ceremony. Later, 'soon' was offered to the Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. — MNA

Prizes presented to winners of short story, article, poem, song, cartoon, painting, poster, computer drawing, computer poster, photo and HIV/AIDS and Injection Drug Use Poster

YANGON, 26 June — The ceremony to observe the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and to present prizes to winners of short story, article, poem, song, cartoon, painting, poster, computer drawing, computer poster, photo and HIV/AIDS and Injection Drug Use Poster was held at the Drug Elimination Museum on Hanthawady Road here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Vice-Chairmen of CCDAC Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, ministers, deputy ministers, ambassadors, Charge d'Affaires at embassies, resident representatives and officials of UN Agencies, heads of departments, officials of social organizations, winners of the contests and guests.

In his address, Chairman of CCDAC Minister Col Tin Hlaing said today is the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Myanmar has been observing the day for 17 years. Similar ceremonies are being observed in the nations of the world. The motto of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking for this year is "Drugs: Treatment Works". The motto means that the drug-addicts will become those who are free from drugs if the rehabilitation works for them are carried out. He said various mottoes on anti-drugs were laid down for short story, article, poem, song, cartoon, painting, poster, computer drawing, computer poster, photo contests in commemoration of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The contests have been held for seven years. There are ten categories including photo (open division), he said. He said he would like to report on Myanmar's measures undertaken for combating narcotic drugs. Successive governments launched anti-drug campaigns in conformity with time and circumstance after enacting laws and rules. He said after 1988 armed groups returned to the legal fold due to the efforts of the government. Border areas lagged 20 years behind development owing to internal strife and poor transport. Opportunities were created for development of border areas and national races. The government enacted the border areas and national races development law on 13 August 1993. The point of total elimination of drugs was included in the objectives of the law. In connection with this, two strategies — to combat the menace of narcotics with added momentum as a national duty and to eliminate the habit of growing opium with the development of the life of national races in border areas — were laid down. In order to implement the strategies, the government is carrying out the tasks through three tactics of elimination of drug production and drug abuse demand and control of drugs. The government drafted the 15-year drug elimination project and is carrying out the project in accord with the three tactics. Starting from April 2002, the New Destiny Project was laid down. Under the project, seasonal crops were distributed free of charge to opium growers. The opium substitute crop project was also carried out for development of life of local people. He said emphasis is being placed on emergence of opium free zone. On 27 August 2002, District level Myanmar Anti-narcotics Association was formed in Tachilek and tasks for education, treatment, rehabilitation are being implemented for drug free zone. Such tasks are being carried out in Myawady and Kawthoung Districts. The minister stressed the importance of elimination of drug abuse, public cooperation, treatment, rehabilitation, agitation and educative talks on danger of narcotic drugs among students.

He said a cornerstone laying ceremony for construction of youths rehabilitation centre was held in Teema Village in Muse Township, in northern Shan State on 4 March this year. During the first five-year plan of the 15-year drug elimination project, 26 treatment centres and 40 treatment units were opened, 28 research works and 38 courses were conducted and treatment was given to 7,277 drug addicts. Altogether 409 drug addicts were treated in southern Wa region under the Wa Region Alternative Development Programme being carried out with the assistance of UNODC. As the government has been able to conduct 38 courses on control of drugs and give medical treatment to 7,277 drug addicts, it has exceeded the target. Under Wa Regional Alternative Development Programme being launched with the assistance of UNODC, the first five-year plan of project for control of drug addicts in southern Wa region was implemented. As a result, the government has been able to give medical treatment to 409 drug addicts.

In implementing project for control of drug addicts, giving medical treatment to drug addicts and rehabilitation measures are not enough, and imparting knowledge on disadvantages and dangers of narcotic drugs to the people and students before they have become drug addicts and cooperation of the people are imperative, he added.

Therefore, the government, he said, has been holding ceremonies to mark International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Starting from 1988, the government realized that imparting knowledge on disadvantages of narcotic drugs to the people based on literary, music, paintings and cartoons was effective. Thus, invitational contests on drug control have been held in conjunction with ceremonies to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Trafficking and it has reached for the seven times. He said that regarding drug control measures, trafficking and taking of drugs among students were exposed and action taken. Meanwhile, teachers, parents, local authorities and members of social organizations have been making concerted efforts for drug control at schools and wards and villages through effective educative talks. With the sponsorship of the Ministry of Education and UNICEF, courses on control of narcotic drugs and courses on control of HIV/AIDS were conducted for teachers in 40 project townships. Under the programme for building drug-free Kawthoung District, courses on control of drugs were conducted for teachers in Bokpyin Township, Kawthoung District. Accordingly, lectures on disadvantages and dangers of drug, AIDS and stimulants were given to altogether 5,500 students in Kawthoung District. Similar courses were conducted for teachers in 31 townships of Mandalay. Teachers who had completed the courses gave educative talks on dangers of drugs, AIDS and stimulants to altogether 55,188 students of basic education schools. With the sponsorship of the Ministry of Education and Myanmar Anti-Drug Association, talks on HIV/AIDS were given to 7,282 students of basic education schools in Tamway Township, Yangon Division.

In cooperation with UN agencies and NGOs, the government has been making efforts for control of HIV/AIDS. Efforts will have to be made for students to have patriotism and spirit of cherishing the country while striving for equipping them with the spirit to learn Myanmar literary and music, realizing the disadvantages of narcotic drugs. Therefore, measures on imparting knowledge on dangers of drugs are being taken through holding of literary, painting, cartoon and postal competitions, he disclosed.

This year also, handsome prizes will be given to prize-winners. The office of UNODC in Yangon is making

donations yearly for prize-presentation ceremonies. Such donations amount to giving encouragement to those who are engaged in drug control measures by the UN. A significant point of this year is that making donation of K 2 million for prize-presentation ceremony by Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN) that is implementing Drugs Related Harm Reduction with the sponsorship of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and Funds for HIV/AIDS in Myanmar (FHAM), he said. He, on behalf of CCDAC, thanked the donor. In conjunction with the prize-presentation ceremony, prizes will also be presented to those who won prizes in Postal Competition on HIV/AIDS and Injection Drug Use. Myanmar has been making relentless efforts for control of narcotic drugs as a national concern based on own wealth and resources. And the entire national people are urged to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts for the emergence of a society free from drugs through medical treatment and rehabilitation in line with the motto of UN for 2004 "Drugs Treatment Works". Next, UNODC Resident Representative Mr Jean Luc Lemahien read the message of UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan to ceremonies to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Afterwards, UNODC Resident Representative Mr Jean Luc Lemahien presented K 250,000 for prize-presentation ceremony to Chairman of CCDAC Col Tin Hlaing. Next, Country Coordinator Mr Willy de Maere of Asian Harm Reduction Network (AHRN) presented K 2 million for prize-presentation ceremony to Chairman of CCDAC Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing. Next, prizes were presented to winners in the competitions to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Vice-Chairman of CCDAC Minister Col Thein Nyunt presented first, second and third prizes to winners in the under-10 painting contest and the under-10 cartoon contest; Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung presented first, second and third prizes to winners in the under-10 poster contest and the short story contest; Minister for Labour U Tin Winn, first, second and third prizes to winners in the article and poem contests.

Next, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint gave away first, second and third prizes to winners in the song contest and the 10-15 painting contest; Minister for Education U Than Aung, first, second and third prizes to the 15-20 painting contest and the 20 and above painting contest. Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein presented prizes to first, second and third prize winners in the 10-15 cartoon contest and the 15-20 cartoon contest. Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein gave away first, second and third prizes to winners in the 20 and above cartoon contest and the 10-20 poster contest. Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win presented prizes to winners in the 15-20 poster contest and the 20 and above poster contest. Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Aung Thein presented first, second and third prizes to winners in the middle school level and high school level computer painting contests. UNODC Resident Representative Mr Jean Luc Lemahie presented first, second and third prizes to winners in the computer digital poster contest and the photo open contest. Similarly, Coordinator Mr Willy de Maere of Asia Harm Reduction Network (Myanmar) (AHRN-Myanmar) presented first, second and third prizes to winners in the HIV/AIDS and Injection Drug Use Poster Contest. Next, Director-General of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi presented certificates of honour and cash prizes to members of the panel of judges who contributed to organizing the competitions. — MNA

Fashion Show held to hail Myanmar Women's Day

YANGON, 26 June—Hailing the Myanmar Women's Day which falls on 3 July 2004, the Fashion Show, organized by Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, was held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Dagon Township this afternoon, attended by President of the federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe.

Also present at the show were Vice-Presidents Prof Dr Daw May May Yi, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, Adviser Daw Khin Than Nwe, General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win, advisers, Patron of Yangon Division Organization for Women's Affairs Daw Khin Thet Htay, leaders of working groups and members, guests and school girls.

The master of ceremonies thanked the contributors. Next, vocalist L Khun Yi sang the song titled "With new strength" in honour of MWAFF.

Later, President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presented the flower basket to Chairperson of the Organizing Committee for the fashion show Vice-President Daw Than Than Nwe and party and cordially greeted those who contributed to the show. — MNA

Press conference held on mine explosion in Yangon

YANGON, 26 June — A press conference on explosion of mines planted by terrorists in the environs of Yangon Railway Station early in this morning was held at the Tatmadaw guest house on Inya Road here this evening. Present on the occasion were State Peace and Development Council's Public Relations and Information Work Committee Chairman Minister for Labour U Tin Winn, Vice-Chief of Military Intelligence Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister for For-

eign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, senior military officers, departmental heads, media officials of the Ministry of Information, Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club Patron U Hla Htway, President U Sao Kai Hpa and members and guests. Brig-Gen Kyaw Thein of the Ministry of Defence explained matters relating to the explosion of mines planted by terrorists. He said that terrorists planted mines in the busy environs of Yangon Railway Station to harm the public. Three mines exploded and security unit members cleared the place and had found 4 more mines.

With the aims of harming and frightening the public and disturbing the on-going National Convention and spreading fabricated news that there is no peace and tranquillity in Myanmar, saboteurs who have connections with Pyithit Nyunt Wai (a) Maung Maung of Federation of Trade Union of Burma (FTUB), ABSDF, NLD (LA), NCGUB, Democratic Party for New Society (DPNS) and related organizations exploded the mines. Pyithit Nyunt Wai is a fugitive and his father is NLD Central Executive Committee member U Nyunt Wai. Pyithit Nyunt Wai was a staff member of Myanma Gems Corporation in 1988. While he was serving duties there, precious gems under his charge were lost. He was responsible and

while actions were to be taken against him, he fled to the other country. He attempted to reform the saboteur team named Hawk in 1992. In the year 1994, he met with Reman Htoo, secretary of Kayinni terrorist group (KNPP) in Chiangmai and asked the latter to explode bombs in Kayah State by providing 50,000 Bahts. In 1997, Pyithit Nyunt Wai sent Myo Aung Thant to enter via Kawthoung and explode bombs in Myanmar by providing him with eight C-3 gelignites, ten detonators, wires and related things hidden in a rice-cooker. Authorities concerned exposed it in time and the case was disclosed to the public on 27 June 1997.

Authorities concerned exposed and arrested those who planned to commit destructive acts and related persons on Martyr Day in July 2003. In this connection, Pyithit Nyunt Wai met Min Kyi (a) Naing Min Kyi and Shwe Mann in Maesot in Thailand in March 2003. He told them to collect news after formation of small groups in the country. He also provided a satellite telephone to send local news and monetary assistance.

The seventh meeting of National Council Union of Burma (NCUB), an anti-government organization, was held at a place in a border area from 3 to 8 May 2004. Pyithit Nyunt Wai was chosen as general secretary of that organization due to spending a large sum of money. The NCUB is an



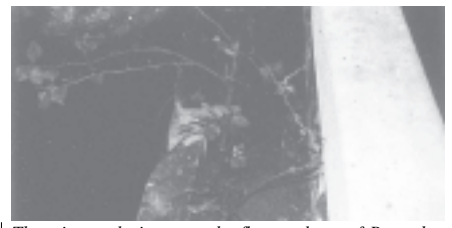
MWAFF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe presents a flower basket to Fashion Show Organizing Committee Chairperson MWAFF Vice-President Daw Than Than Nwe and party. — MNA

organization that cooperated with Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), NLD (LA) and National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB).

Making use of money he received from organizations in foreign nations, Pyithit Nyunt Wai bought cars for some important members of NCUB and provided cash for them in order to get a post in the organization. After receiving the post of general secretary of NCUB, he said within three months he would commit destructive acts at home and abroad including explosion in connection with political condition.

No one was hurt in the explosion of mines. No matter how the terrorists plot the destructive acts in Myanmar, there is no great danger as people of the country are pious. The security units are trying to expose the terrorists. Brig-Gen Kyaw Thein replied to the queries raised by the journalists and the press conference ended at 5.45 pm.

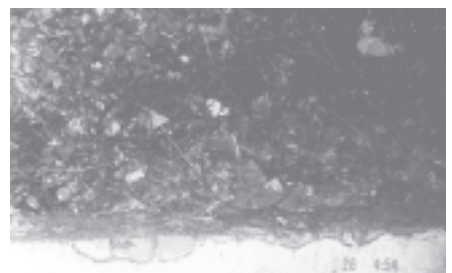
After the press conference, media officials and foreign correspondents observed documentary photos related to the explosion of mines planted by terrorists in environs of Yangon Railway Station and seizures of mines and documentary photos of saboteurs who entered the country to commit destructive acts on Martyr Day 2003 under public fighting project and seizure of explosives.



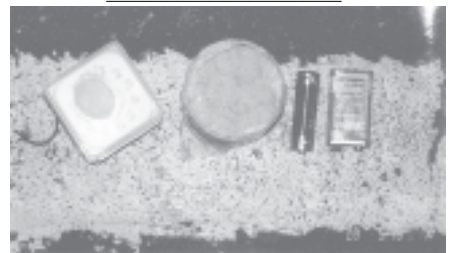
The mine explosion near the flower plants of Pansadan overpass. — MNA



The time mine, detonator, batteries and ammunition seen after being taken off. — MNA



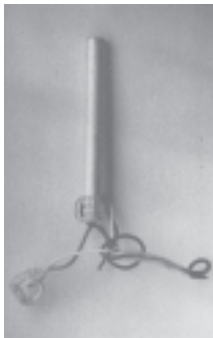
Mine explosion near the flower plants at the entrance to Yoma Bank and Yangon Railway Station.—MNA



A mine seized near the flower plants of Pansadan overpass. — MNA



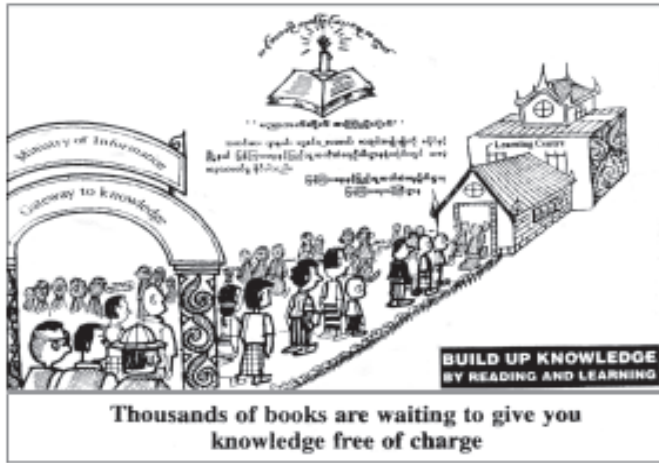
Mines seen near the flower plants of Pansadan overpass. — MNA



Detonator of mine. — MNA



Brig-Gen Kyaw Thein of the Ministry of Defence explains matters relating to the mine explosion. — MNA



ADVERTISEMENT

Literacy rate of Bangladesh rises to 62.66%

DHAKA, 25 June— The literacy rate of Bangladesh rose to around 62.66 per cent in 2003 from 60 per cent in 2001, reported the official *Bangladesh News Agency* on Wednesday.

This was revealed Wednesday here by the Prime Minister's adviser on primary and mass education, Professor Jahanara Begum.

The professor further pointed out the achievement was made mainly because of massive expansion programme of the primary and mass education in the last three years, as the current enrollment rate in the primary schools raised to 98 per cent.

According to official statistics, the number of primary school-going children is 17.7 million including 52 per cent girl students. The enrollment rate in primary schools including public, private and non-government schools has increased sharply over the years.

The six-year programme, which began in 2003 and will end in 2009, plans to bring some 1.95 million more students into the primary education. Moreover, the project for the first time incorporated separate measures of the education for tribal children in hilly region and children from flat areas respectively in the country.

Referring to teacher-student ratio in Bangladesh, Begum said it is now 1.60, but the ratio would be brought to 1.46 in next five years through fair recruitment.—MNA/Xinhua

Canada to reduce strength in ISAF

KABUL, 25 June — The Government of Canada has decided to reduce its strength within the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in post war Afghanistan, a spokeswoman of multi-national troops said Wednesday.

"The Canadian forces in ISAF will be decreased in August," Rita Lepage told journalists here at a news briefing. She did not give more details but added, "I do not have the details. The decision has been taken by the Canadian Government."

Canada as a major contributor to the multi-national peacekeeping force has been keeping 1,700 troops here to help stabilize the ongoing peace and reconstruction process in post-Taleban country.

The decision by Canada was made amid increasing insurgency by the suspected Taleban for the past two months in which around 150 people including some 100 Taleban suspects and at least 10 US soldiers had been killed.

In the meantime, two other ISAF's contributors Belgium and Germany have decided to double their troops in Afghanistan.

The 36-nation 6,500-strong ISAF troops have been mainly tasked to maintain law and order in the war-weary capital Kabul.

MNA/Reuters

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P.O. Box 60, Yangon.

Dated: 27 June, 2004

Rainstorms kill 23 in China's Hunan Province

BEIJING, 25 June — Rainstorms hit 30 counties in central China's Hunan Province over the past six days, killing 23 people and causing 24 others missing by 4.00 pm Thursday, said sources with China's Ministry of Civil Affairs.

Meanwhile, the rainstorms had hit 4.6 million people, damaged lots of houses and caused 2.43 billion yuan (about 293 million US dollars) of direct economic losses. Rescue teams and relief materials from local governments have reached disaster areas. A total of 121,000 people have been relocated, according to the sources.

The sources said as heavy rainfall continues, the scale of damages is developing further.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs has started the level-four disaster response mechanism. A working group made up of personnel from the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the Ministry of Construction and the China Meteorological Administration has been sent to the disaster areas.

MNA/Xinhua

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Vietnam wants enlargement discussion at 5th ASEM Summit

HANOI, 25 June — Vietnam will raise the issue of considering the enlargement of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) at the 5th ASEM Summit to be held here in October, said the country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"As the host country and Asia's coordinator, Vietnam will discuss with other ASEAN members and other Asian countries about putting forth satisfactory, timely and flexible solutions to the enlargement of ASEM," the ministry's spokesman Le Dung said on Thursday.

The enlargement would meet the wish of three ASEAN members, namely Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar, and 10 new European Union (EU) members to attend the summit, said the spokesman.

At the 37th ASEM Ministerial Meeting in Indonesia on 29 June-2 July and other

relevant meetings, Vietnam will seek consensus with other Asia-based ASEM members about preparations for the 5th ASEM Summit, especially the agenda and the content of major documents to be discussed at the summit, he noted.

ASEM is an informal process of dialogue and co-operation bringing together 15 EU member states and the European Commission, with 10 Asian countries, namely China, Brunei, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. The ASEM dialogue addresses political, economic and cultural issues, with the objective of strengthening the relationship between the two regions.

The 1st ASEM Summit was held in Thailand in 1996, giving rise to an ongoing process including summit-level meetings, ministerial-level meetings, and other meetings and activities at the working level.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam, Laos sign banking cooperation deal

HANOI, 25 June — Vietnam and Laos signed a memorandum of understanding on banking cooperation in Vientiane, Laos, on Thursday, Lao News Agency reported.

Under the memo, signed by Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) Phung Khac Ke and his Laos counterpart Phuphet Khamphunvong, the two sides will continue implementing their signed agreements, including the exchange of visits and information, and the amendment to the payment agreement between the two countries.

They will also create favourable conditions for the Laos-Vietnam Joint Venture Bank to effectively operate and help other banks of the two countries to share experiences and boost cooperation.

The Vietnamese side will send banking experts to help their Lao colleagues, said the report.

Last year, the SBV's experts attended seminars on open markets, management of foreign currencies, capital circulation, and IT utilization in Laos. The SBV has also helped train 20 banking experts for the Laos State Bank. — MNA/Xinhua

Philippines records more new AIDS cases nationwide

MANILA, 25 June — The Alliance Against AIDS in the southern Philippine island of Mindanao has released an update on HIV/AIDS from the National Epidemiology Centre to keep the public abreast with the incurable disease situation.

For January 2004, 14 new HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) cases were reported, including seven men and seven women. The age range for women was 21-40 years old while for men, 28-52, the *Philippines News Agency* reported Wednesday.

The median age for both sexes was 36 years old, and the reported modes of transmission was heterosexual, the report said.

Of the 14 new HIV cases, none was symptomatic of

AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). Last year, a total of 169 new cases were reported, including one from Davao City also in the south.

From January 1984 to January 2004, there were 1,979 HIV cases recorded in the Philippines, among which 1,343 were asymptomatic or without signs and

symptoms and 636 symptomatic.

Of the reported AIDS cases, 257 were already dead at the time of the report.

Of the total cases, 640 or 32 per cent were overseas Filipino workers, among which 240 or 38 per cent were seafarers; and 114 or 18 per cent were domestic helpers. — MNA/Xinhua

Beijing has hotter summers due to urban "heat island" effect

BEIJING, 25 June — The urban "heat island" effect is bringing Beijingers more scorching summer days, as the "heat island" now covers about 20 per cent of the 1,040-square-kilometre downtown area of China's capital, according to the latest scientific research findings.

Studies using remote sensing technology discovered that the urban "heat island" effect was a major factor behind the air temperature rise in Beijing, said Li Yanming, a senior engineer with the Beijing Research Institute of Garden, at an international urban "heat island" effect symposium held Wednesday in the city.

Beijing's downtown area under the unified design by the municipal government had its land area used for construction purposes almost double the level 15 years ago, whereas the area of natural plants, including farm land, reduced from 645 square kilometres to 279 square kilometres, according to Li Yanming.

This made the capital look like a huge "heat island", Li added.

The term "heat island" comes from the fact that in an air temperature distribution graph, the high temperature part has a shape of an "island".

MNA/Xinhua

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Experts say Arctic Ocean survey may reveal lost world

OSLO, 25 June—A new survey of the depths of the ice-capped Arctic Ocean could reveal a lost world of living fossils and exotic new species from jellyfish to giant squid, scientists said on Thursday.

The international scheme will include probing a 12,470-foot abyss off Canada described by project leaders as the "world's oldest sea water—a vast, still pool unstirred for millennia, walled by steep ridges and lidded with ice".

Scientists in the project, led from the University of Alaska, plan to use robot submarines and sonar to track down life in the chilly Arctic Ocean where they say many species may be at risk from global warming.

"This is the world's refrigerator where change has happened far more slowly than in other oceans," said researcher Russ Hopcroft at the University of Alaska, saying the census could easily double the number of species known in the Arctic.

The research is part of a one billion US dollars, 10-year global Census of Marine Life (CoML) funded by governments, companies and private donors. The Arctic sur-

vey got a 600,000 US dollars start-up grant from the private US Alfred Sloan foundation on Thursday.

Ron O'Dor, chief scientist of the 53-nation CoML, speculated that Arctic waters might hide creatures known only from fossils, such as trilobites that flourished 300 million years ago. The trilobites looked like over-sized modern woodlice.

He said it might find new types of jellyfish, giant squid or more humble plankton and algae in the barely surveyed ocean. "And this may be a last window of opportunity to study the Arctic because of climate change," he said.

More southerly species may invade Arctic waters if the polar icecap melts while increased shipping could accidentally introduce new creatures to the region in ballast water and disrupt the pristine ecology, he said.

MNA/Reuters

Experts says female IDUs key for fighting AIDS in China

BEIJING, 25 June — Female injection drug users (IDUs) are the key population to prevent HIV transmission from high-risk populations to the general population in China, said experts here Thursday on the sixth Drug Prohibition Science Popularization Symposium & Prevention and Care for Drug Using and "AIDS".

"Female IDUs may be at the highest risk of acquiring HIV and the highest risk of exposing others to HIV in China," said Bessie Lee, deputy director of US Centres for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention Global AIDS Programme, China.

According to statistics of CDC, in 2002 the three channels for China's HIV carriers to get the deadly virus are injection drug using, plasma collection and sexual trans-

mission, covering 68 percent, 9.2 per cent and 7.2 per cent respectively of the total number of HIV carriers in China in 2002.

"The number of female drug users covers a percentage of 16.7 of the over one million drug users reported in China. In some regions, this percentage can even reach 40," said Cheng Feng, Country Director of Family Health International of the US in China.

"Many of them often

collect money to buy drugs by offering sexual service. It makes this population a highly possible bridge connecting high-risk populations such as drug users to general population," said Cheng.

According to monitoring data offered by China-UK HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project, some 51 per cent of female sexual workers injecting drugs do not use condoms normally.

"HIV routes for female sex workers who use drugs are from them to their male clients, then to low risk females, and then to low risk males. This is the secondary HIV transmission, which means HIV is transmitted from high risk populations to general population," said Bessie Lee.—MNA/Xinhua

Nine die in north India after consuming spurious liquor

NEW DELHI, 25 June—Nine persons died and 36 fell ill after consuming spurious liquor in two villages of Bareilly District of Uttar Pradesh State in north India, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Thursday.

Six people died and 24 fell ill at Deosat Village after drinking illicit liquor Wednesday night, PTI quoted local police as saying.

At nearby Nagaria Village, three persons died and 12 took ill after consuming spurious liquor in a wedding ceremony.—MNA/Xinhua

World's most expensive glass goes under the hammer

LONDON, 25 June—The world's priciest piece of glass, a 1,700-year-old Middle Eastern bowl, will be the star of an antiquities auction in London next month.

The piece, the size of two cupped hands and known as the Constable-Maxwell Cage-Cup, is expected to fetch up to two million pounds at the Bonhams auction on 14 July.

"This is the most expensive piece of glass ever to be sold," glass specialist Joanna van der Lande told Reuters on Thursday.

"The most staggering thing to note about this is that it is all cut from one block of glass. The artistry and delicacy of the workmanship by someone working on the ancient Syrian coast in 300 AD would be hard to emulate today," she said.

The bowl, which would have been filled with oil and suspended from the ceiling as a light, is intact except for a small piece missing from the filigree base screen.

Most of the pieces in the 25-lot sale dating from 1,600 BC to 1,500 AD were once the property of the British Rail Pension Fund.

At the far end of the age scale is an ancient Egyptian statue carved out of a large block of black basalt and priced at up to 300,000 pounds.

At the near end is a hand-sized pre-Columbian gold statue of an alligator-headed god, priced at up to 150,000

pounds.

"These pieces... would have been commissioned for the very wealthy in a period of stability," van der Lande said. "The ancients did like to display their wealth. They were pretty decadent."

She said she expected interest from the United States, Europe and Asia for the collection of very rare pieces—most of which came from ancient graves—although the weakness of the US dollar against sterling could have a dampening effect. "This is for serious collectors and museums. It is not for dilettantes," she said.

MNA/Reuters

French President reassures military about spending

PARIS, 25 June — French President Jacques Chirac affirmed Thursday that the military planning bill on defence spending for the 2003-2008 period will be respected.

The commitments "will be of course respected", Chirac said when inspecting French infantry at the camp of Olivet near French central city of Orleans, France television TF1 reported Thursday. He also asked the infantry staff to be patient before the arrival of new supplies it needs.

Chirac was speaking against the backdrop of Finance Minister Nicolas Sarkozy's call for the Defence Ministry to cut expenditures, which resulted in the Finance Minister's discord with Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie over the budget 2004 and preparations for the budget 2005.

In an interview with French Daily *Le Figaro* on May 16, Sarkozy said that "everyone should make his effort" in the preparation of the budget 2005, including the Defence Ministry.

In his reaction, Alliot-Marie said her ministry is not obligated to cut spending as President Chirac has made military commitments.

France exceeded the EU Stability and Growth Pact's deficit ceiling in both 2002 and 2003, and is expected to post a deficit of 3.6 per cent in 2004. The military planning bill for 2003-2008 was voted on January 27, 2003. It grants a big increase in defence spending aimed at boosting the country's military preparedness and presence overseas.

MNA/Xinhua



Journalists look at a wooden model of a car designed by Italian Renaissance genius Leonardo da Vinci on display at an exhibition in Florence's Science Museum, Italy, in this file photo taken, on 23 April, 2004. A museum devoted to Leonardo da Vinci is adding a new display of three machines that were envisioned by the Renaissance genius to help the textile industry but were too far ahead of their time to work. —INTERNET

China, Vietnam to further develop bilateral ties

BEIJING, 25 June—Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxue voiced the hope Thursday that China and Vietnam would go on working together and implement the consensus defined by their leaders for the sound and steady growth of their ties.

During his meeting with visiting Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien, Tang said bilateral relations between China and Vietnam are faring well in general thanks to joint efforts of both sides. He noted that the Foreign Minister's visit has brought the views of Vietnamese leaders on furthering bilateral ties and properly solving problems existing between

the two nations, to which China expresses admiration and gives positive evaluation.

The Vietnamese Foreign Minister's visit has yielded the positive outcome, he said, expressing the hope that the two sides will make further efforts to promote their ties.

Nguyen Dy Nien said Vietnam is willing to conscientiously implement the consensus reached by the two nations' leaders, properly solve existing problems, and promote the growth of bilateral ties.

The two sides also had an exchange of views on Asia-Europe cooperation.

MNA/Xinhua



Audubon Society seabird conservationist Steven Kress looks for Roseate Terns as a new robotic camera records birdlife on Eastern Egg Rock Island, Maine, in this 31 May, 2004, file photo. Seabird researchers use the camera to study birdlife on the island which is located off the Maine coast.—INTERNET

SPORTS



Greek players run in celebration after beating France, 1-0, at the end of their Euro 2004 quarter final soccer match, at the Jose Alvalade Stadium in Lisbon, Portugal, on 25 June, 2004.—INTERNET

Politicians agree England were robbed

LONDON, 26 June— They made no progress on peace for Northern Ireland on Friday but the Irish and British prime ministers agreed on another matter of vital importance to millions — England were robbed at Euro 2004.

England were knocked out by hosts Portugal on penalties in the quarter-finals on Thursday after referee Urs Meier controversially disallowed what would have been Sol Campbell's winning headed goal in the 90th minute.

Asked at a Press conference on Northern Irish peace talks for his thoughts about the soccer, British Prime Minister Tony Blair tried to be diplomatic.

"There's obviously a tremendous sense of disappointment which I share," Blair said.

"I'm not going back over the various events of the match. But despite the disappointment we should feel a tremendous sense of pride in the English team, in their spirit, in their determination in their will to win."

But his Irish counterpart, whose own country was not

in the tournament, minced no words.

"I honestly believe that Sol Campbell's goal was a goal. I watched it several times. It was a goal," Bertie Ahern said.

"There you have got an impartial observer," Blair laughed. "What better testa-

ment can there be? I have to say how thoroughly I agree with the taoiseach (prime minister) on this point," he added.

The match finished 2-2 at the end of extra time before Portugal won the penalty shootout 6-5.

MNA/Reuters

Santini admits France were not good enough

LISBON, 26 June— Coach Jacques Santini admitted his side were simply not good enough as they slipped out of Euro 2004 with a shock 1-0 defeat by Greece on Friday.

The 2000 champions laboured against a disciplined Greek side and appeared to run out of ideas after going behind in the 65th minute to an Angelos Charisteas header.

"We lacked clear ideas on how to come back after the great goal Greece

scored," Santini, who will shortly depart for English Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur, said.

"We gave away the ball too much. There were too many bad passes which penalized us in the end.

"When we raised our game our opponents had strong defensive principles with a very compact block in front of their goalkeeper."

"Since the tournament started, we have been confronted with a recurring problem, dealing with very solid defences," said Santini.

"We failed to find the solutions and today we have not been good enough to avoid defeat," Santini said. France were victims of their own success four years ago because every side they played had a greater incentive to beat the reigning champions.—MNA/Reuters

Greek history-makers stun France

LISBON, 26 June— Greece produced the biggest upset in European Championship history when they knocked out holders France with a 1-0 quarter-final victory on Friday.



Greece, among the rank outsiders when the tournament started, scored the only goal after 65 minutes when Angelos Charisteas rose unchallenged to power a header past French goalkeeper Fabien Barthez from six metres.

Greece will face the Czech Republic or Denmark in the semi-finals, while French dreams of becoming the first team to retain the Henri Delaunay trophy are over.

It was also the Greeks' first win over France in seven matches since 1958, and a timely boost for the nation less than two months before the start of the Athens Olympics.

Oddly, though, the match lacked the passion and drama of Portugal's penalty shootout win over England in the first quarter-final, with the crowd largely anaesthetised by the lethargic play.

tised by the lethargic play.

France were poorer than Greece throughout, however, only briefly coming to life after falling behind.

Even then their play lacked cohesion and focus apart from two late chances which striker Thierry Henry failed to take.

Henry, the leading scorer in England last season and a scourge of defenders across Europe for five years, was virtually marked out of the game by right back Yourkas Seitaridis, one of the leading players in the tournament.

His contribution was immense and the Greek defence was outstanding as they prevented France from scoring in a European Championship finals match for the first time in 10 games since 1996, a tournament record.

Without the injured Patrick Vieira in midfield, France lacked their driving force, and it did not help that playmaker Zinedine Zidane was well below his best.

Zidane and Lilian Thuram set a new record for European Championship finals appearances by playing their 14th matches each since 1996 but Zidane's most notable contribution was pick-

ing up a yellow card for a clumsy challenge on Greek defender Traianos Dellas.

Greece had the better of a lacklustre first half and went close to the opening goal after 15 minutes. Giorgos Karagounis's free kick reached Costas Katsouranis whose attempted tap-in from close range was just blocked by Barthez on the line with the Greeks already raising their arms to celebrate.

The French keeper also tipped over a dipping 30-metre shot from defender Takis Fyssas after 37 minutes.

The French went close in the 25th minute when defender Bixente Lizarazu crossed to Henry but the striker's header sailed just wide of Antonis Nikopolidis's right post.

France, who came from behind to beat England and draw with Croatia on their way to winning Group B, just never found their rhythm.

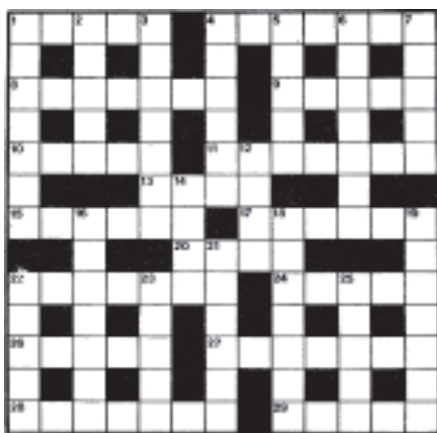
Henry wasted another golden opportunity in the dying minutes to leave Rehagel on course to become the first foreign coach to lead a side to victory in this competition.

MNA/Reuters



France's Zinedine Zidane, left, walks past celebrating Greek players after his team lost, 0-1, and was eliminated from the Euro 2004 soccer tournament, at the Jose Alvalade Stadium in Lisbon, Portugal, on 25 June, 2004.—INTERNET

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Regal
- 4 Disagree
- 8 Rank
- 9 Additional
- 10 Scope
- 11 Accuse publicly
- 13 Annoy
- 15 Marsh
- 17 Table linen
- 20 Noose
- 22 Referee
- 24 Newspapers
- 26 Outspoken
- 27 Cross-beam
- 28 Amends
- 29 Smooth and glossy

DOWN

- 1 Speaker's platform
- 2 Feel intense longing
- 3 Dawdles
- 4 Refusal
- 5 Guide
- 6 Interlace
- 7 Retinue
- 12 US gambling centre
- 14 Lies (anag.)
- 16 Spring back
- 18 Seems
- 19 Moslem veil
- 21 Makes speech
- 22 Warning light
- 23 Tenth part
- 25 Follow

Beckham defends his position as captain

LISBON, 26 June— England captain David Beckham still believes he can inspire his country to a major title and has no intention of resigning.

The day after England's agonising 6-5 penalty shootout defeat by Portugal in their Euro 2004 quarter-final, Beckham was clearly angry that his leadership was being questioned.

"Do you think I can inspire the team like I could in the past? What do you think? Listen, I am England captain and I will not be resigning my position, I'm proud to be part of this team and proud to be England captain," he told a news conference.

"If people want to doubt me, fair enough, but I'm England captain and I won't be resigning unless somebody wants me to and that person is the England manager."

Beckham offered no excuses for England's exit but said his team needed a change of luck to win a major title.

Talking about his failed penalty attempt after a dramatic game had ended 2-2 after extra time, Beckham said the penalty spot had given way. "The night before the match we practised penalties at the other end and our feet kept giving way under us," he said. "I think the manager made an official complaint to UEFA about both penalty spots but I'm not sure they did anything about it."

"The same thing happened on the first penalty. When I

planted my foot, the ball lifted. I don't think it's possible for me to have got the ball in that position from striking it."

Beckham also referred to Sol Campbell's disallowed goal in the dying seconds of normal time with the score at 1-1. "The linesman had given the goal, he was running back towards the halfway line but the referee made the decision," he said. "But there are no excuses from us, we have to live with that. Portugal kept the ball well, they played a good game, and we congratulate them, it's just a shame that the final couldn't have been Portugal versus England."

"We can't look back on the game and say we could have done this different or that different. Of course we could have kept the ball better, attacked more, but also we could have got a little luck and won 1-0."

Despite the defeat, Beckham insists England are capable of moving forward and challenging for the 2006 World Cup, possibly his last major tournament.

"We are now looking forward to qualifying for the World Cup. I've said this team can go a long way and I still believe that," he said. "It might be my last one, or I may have two, it depends how the legs hold up."—MNA/Reuters

TV
Myanmar

9. Say it in English

Sights · Mingalabar

4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး

Buried 27 June 2004

24. The next day s
programme

Radio Myanmar

10.00 nm PEI.

ကျွန်ရစ်သူမိ

Four political objectives

- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- * The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- * Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- * Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- * Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- * Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Prime Minister attends MOC Chairman's Trophy Inter-Ministry Archery Contest

YANGON, 26 June—Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Council Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at the training ground of the Myanmar Archery Federation in Kyaikkasan Grounds in Tamway Township, here, this morning.

They were welcomed there by Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, officials, members of the Leading Panel of Patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation, MAF patrons, President Dr Khin Shwe and members.

The Prime Minister and party watched women recurve event (single) and men compound event (single) of Myanmar Olympic Council Chairman's Trophy Inter-Ministry Archery Contest held to mark International Olympic Day (2004).

After the events, Executive of the MWSF Daw L Khun Yee presented the first, second and third prizes for women compound event (single); Leading Patron of the MWSF Daw Khin Aye, prizes for women compound event (single); Leading Patron of the MWSF Daw Nilar Thaw, prizes for women recurve event (team); Minister at the Prime Minister's Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, prizes for men compound event (single); Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Htay Oo, prizes for men recurve event (single); MAF Vice-President U Tint Hsan, prizes for men recurve event (team); Leading Patron of the MWSF Daw Khin Hla Hla, the most progressive prize (woman) to Kaythi (Sports Ministry); Dr Khin Shwe, the most progressive prize (man) to Myo Aung Hsan (Sports Ministry); Leading Patron of the MWSF Daw Aye Aye; the best player prize to Thin Thin Khaing (Home Affairs); and Sports



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents joint championship trophy to Ministry of Defence team and Ministry of Home Affairs team in MOC Chairman's Trophy Inter-Ministry Archery Competition.—MNA

and Physical Education Department Director-General U Thaug Htaik, the best player prize (man) to Zaw Min Tun (Home Affairs).

The Myanmar Olympic Committee chairman presented the trophy (women) to Sports Ministry, and the Prime Minister, the trophy (man) to joint-winners Defence Ministry and Home Affairs Ministry.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister inspected hostels and mess for selected Myanmar archers and the office. Dr

Khin Shwe presented bows and arrows and related equipment worth US\$ 63,000; MAF Vice-President U Tint Hsan, documents related to building and sports ground worth K 146 million; MAF Vice-President Dr Zaw Tun, K 30 million for giving medical services and prizes to the Sports Minister.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister inspected preparations for opening of a soccer academy and repairing of football grounds.—MNA

Prime Minister attends meeting to upgrade Kandawgyi Gardens, Zoo (Yangon)

YANGON, 26 June — Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the coordination meeting on all-round upgrading of environs of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens and Zoo (Yangon) held at the Agricultural Museum, Kandawgyi Gardens, this afternoon.

Also present were Chairman of the Work Committee for all-round upgrading tasks Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, members of the work committee and guests.

The commander reported on upgrading of the education zone, the central forest zone, the relaxation zone and the recreation zone and future tasks, Minister for Live-

stock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein on building the aquarium in the education zone, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin on construction tasks being carried out by Yangon City Development Committee in the relaxation zone and Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Nyi Hla Nge on quality control tasks.

Next, those present submitted reports on construction tasks. The Prime Minister delivered an address. He said that it is necessary to keep the completed construction tasks clean and pleasant. And, the remaining tasks are also to be carried out effectively. Moreover, the Ministry of Forestry and YCDC are to cooperate in greening of Kandawgyi Gardens and its environs in the rainy season.

After the meeting, the Prime Minister and party inspected progress of building the elephant plaza in the

Relaxation Zone, the Education Zone, the Water Fountain of the Central Forest Zone and the canteen and Myanmar handicraft shops in the Recreation Zone and upgrading of Paganlon Island and gave necessary instructions.

On arrival at Parami Overpass Construction Project site, the Prime Minister and party were welcomed by Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Ministers Thura U Thaug Lwin and U Pe Than and officials.

At the briefing hall, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min reported on facts about the project and efforts being made for completion of the tasks earlier than schedule and Deputy Minister U Pe Than presented reports on progress of tasks. The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions and inspected building of the main bridge.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects upgrading of environs of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens.—MNA

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.