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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers an address at meeting with BA and BSc graduates and AGTI diploma holders of Yangon and Mandalay Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges.—MNA

Government has not only provided equal opportunities for pursuit of education but also created job and career opportunities for youths of border areas

Prime Minister meets graduates of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges

YANGON, 27 June— Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met the students who got the arts and science degrees from Yangon and Mandalay Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges of the Ministry of the Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and AGTI engineering diplomas in the Diamond Jubilee Hall this evening and gave them words of advice.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of

Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Mayor of Yangon, the deputy ministers, members of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, officials of the Office of the State Peace and Development Council, departmental heads, principals and faculty members of Yangon and Mandalay Nationalities Youth Resource Degree Collages, the graduate students and their parents. Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address. He said: This is the third

of the ceremonies that have been held every year to celebrate the graduation and assignment of duties to students who have successfully completed the courses of the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Colleges. This demonstrates clearly that the avowed goal of the State is to develop of human resources and undertake capacity building in the border areas by opening up opportunities for pursuit of higher education for youths of the national races and nurturing them to become intellectuals, professionals and technicians. It is also a programme that exemplifies national unity.

(See page 8)

General Thura Shwe Mann meets oil palm and rubber entrepreneurs

YANGON, 27 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence met entrepreneurs of oil palm and rubber and gave instructions on boosting cultivation of oil palms and rubber at Zeya Thiri Beikman on Konmyinthathar this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were SPDC members Lt-

Gen Maung Bo, Quarter-Master General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the SPDC Office, departmental heads, Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry President U Win Myint, business entrepreneurs who are growing oil palms and

rubber in Taninthayi Division and guests. Speaking on the occasion, General Thura Shwe Mann said the meeting was to discuss matters related to boosting cultivation of oil palm and rubber and State's economy.

The Head of State gave guidance that 500,000 acres of oil palm were to be cultivated in Taninthayi Division to ensure the State's self-sufficiency in edible oil. And

surplus was to be exported. So, headed by Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, senior military officers, the ministers, the deputy ministers and officials went to the division where they studied the conditions of

extended cultivation of oil palm and fulfilled the needs. Similarly, the General said, accompanied by entrepreneurs who are growing oil palm and rubber in Taninthayi Division, he and officials also went to the division, discussed with local authorities and oil palm entrepreneurs the plan to cultivate 500,000-acres of oil palm and attended to the requirements.

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General Thura Shwe Mann meets oil palm and rubber cultivation entrepreneurs at Zeya Thiri Beikman.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 28 June, 2004

Towards elimination of narcotic drugs

As narcotic drugs endanger the entire human race, Myanmar is making unsparing efforts to fight against drugs as a national cause.

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

On the occasion, 710,497 kilos of opium, 353,754 kilos of heroin, 99,025 kilos of marijuana, 2643800 stimulant tablets, 59,865 kilos of Stimulant powder, 232,535 kilos of Ephedrine powder and 1010 pills of Diazepam pills were put to torch. The drugs destroyed on the occasion have a street value of more than 247 million US dollars. The value of drugs which have been destroyed since the 1st occasion up till the 18th is more than 14,452 million US dollars.

For the eradication of narcotic drugs, the 15-year drug elimination plan that covers not only the measures for prevention and law enforcement but also the ways to eliminate poppy cultivation have been initiated since 1999-2000 and the first five-year plan has been completed this year. The success in meeting the target of the first phase was due to the serious commitment, 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 border areas and national races development projects, the five rural development tasks and project for development of 24 regions to elevate the living standards of the national races of the border areas also contributed to the successful results.

Myanmar is endeavouring its utmost to realize the second five-year plan including the tasks such as elimination of drug production and drug abuse, prevention and law enforcement, while concentrating on the participation of the public and international cooperation.

Myanmar is fully aware of and accepts the fact that she alone cannot be successful in the fight against drugs but needs cooperation with neighbouring countries, and thus established bilateral, trilateral and multilateral cooperation with neighbouring countries of the sub-region as well as countries in the region.

We would like to present here that although Myanmar has not received any substantial international support in the fight against drugs she has been striving with her utmost efforts to reach the goal of elimination of drugs in accord with the guidance laid down by the leaders of the State.

**Myanmar Women's Day
3rd July 2004**



NC delegates entertained with films

YANGON, 27 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 Nyaungnnapin Camp. Yesterday evening, the delegates were entertained with a film entitled "Tharaphu" (Crown) directed by Kyee Myint and starring Ye Aung, Zaw Oo, Moh Moh Myint Aung and Htet Htet Moe Oo. — 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

Lt-Gen Maung Bo tours townships in Dawei District

YANGON, 24 June — State Peace and Development Council Member Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, together with Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Coastal Region Command Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, military officers, departmental officials and local authorities, inspected regional and rural development works and fulfilled requirements on 24 June.

First, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party left Dawei in the morning for Myitta Myo and inspected bridges and road sections along Dawei-Myitta Road. He fulfilled requirements of the town and met local authorities and local people.

Myitta Myo Administrator U Aye Naing reported on matters related to the town. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo presented K 1 million for education, health and social sectors of the town to the administrator and exercise books for students to Township Edu-



Lt-Gen Maung Bo donates K 1 million to BEMS branch of Taungthonlon village. MNA

cation Officer U Aung Hsan.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected construction of the combined office on Myitta Road, offices of various departments and Abhayajaya Shwemyitta Pagoda and attended to the needs. He also inspected Myitta BEHS.

Myitta Myo is located in Dawei District, Taninthayi Division, 34 miles and three furlongs from Dawei. Kayin national

people are the majority residing in the town, at the confluence of Kan Creek and Khamaukthe Creek.

On arrival at Taungthonlon Village, Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected BEMS (Branch) and the rural health unit. In Launglon, he saw over 16-bed Launglon Hospital. Next, he met township authorities, departmental officials and local people at the meeting hall of Launglon Township Peace

and Development Council. He presented K 1 million for health, social and economic sectors to the township chairman. Lt-Gen Maung Bo then inspected the multimedia classrooms of Launglon BEHS and presented K 1.5 million towards the educational funds to Headmistress Daw Tin Tin Latt. Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party went back to Dawei and they arrived back here on 25 June evening. — MNA

Dry day inspection teams check Tatmadaw, departmental vehicles

YANGON, 27 June— Dry Day Supervisory Committee members Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Military Provost Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yi, Col Tin Shwe of the Quartermaster-General's Office, Commandant of No 1 Provost Company (Navy) Lt-Cmdr Thein Htoo, Directors U Myo Nyunt, U Tin Aung and U Tin Maung Kyi, Secretary Deputy Director-General U Sein Hla of the Government Office and Joint-Secretary Commander of Yangon Division Wire-

less and Traffic Police Force Police Lt-Col Aung Naing, supervised dry day inspection teams which were checking vehicles of Tatmadaw and departments concerned this morning and evening.

The dry day inspection teams checked observance of disciplines of the dry day such as dry day pass of Tatmadaw and departmental vehicles, driver licence, wheel tax bill and wearing of departmental uniforms and breaking of road and traffic rules.

MNA

No one hurt in mine blast near Yangon Central Railway Station

YANGON, 27 June — A mine planted by terrorists in a small park between the ordinary class ticket sale unit of Yangon Central Railway Station and the filling station went off in the early morning today. There was no casualties in the blast. It is learnt that the plot was made by terrorists with the aim of harming and frightening the public, of jeopardizing the on-going National Convention and of spreading fabricated news to the effect that there is no peace and tranquillity in Myanmar. Security members are investigating to expose the terrorists. — MNA

NC delegates take exercises

YANGON, 27 June — Delegates to the National Convention take sports exercises daily at gymnasium in Nyaungnnapin camp in Hmawby township. Foodstuffs, personal goods, medicines, cosmetics, textiles, stationery, etc are sold at Win Thuza Shop and the GEC shop at the camp. Moreover, two communication offices are opened by the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications. Shop of the Ministry of Livestocks & Fisheries is also kept open daily to sell foodstuff

and canned foods. Laundry service is also available. — MNA



Delegates take physical exercise. — MNA

Degrees, diplomas presented in Convocation Hall of Ygn University

YANGON, 27 June — A ceremony to confer degrees and diplomas on graduates who have completed their studies at Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon and Mandalay) of the Education and Training Department under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs in the 2003-2004 academic year was held in the Convocation Hall of Yangon University this morning. Present on the occasion were national race youth students, their parents and guests. Rector of Yangon University Dr Soe Yin made a speech on the occasion and conferred BSc and BA degrees on 38 students of NYRDDC (Yangon) and Rector of Mandalay University Dr Nyunt Lwin, BSc and BA degrees on 34 students of NYRDDC (Mandalay).

At 1 pm at Diamond Jubilee Hall, Principal of NYRDDC (Yangon) U Sein Htay presented AGTI diploma certificates to 23 students and Principal of NYRDDC (Mandalay) U Aung Than Myint to 20 students. — MNA

760 gem merchants arrive

YANGON, 27 June— So far, a total of 760 gem merchants — 410 merchants from 152 companies from five foreign countries and 350 merchants of 122 local companies — have arrived here to attend the 2004 Jade and Gems Special Sales at the Myanmar 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 28 June. Jade lots will be sold through tender and competitive bidding from 29 June to 1 July and gem lots on 2 and 3 July. — MNA

Neighbours wonder whether Iraq will be source of democracy or chaos

CAIRO, 26 June—The reality of almost daily car bombings in Iraq and an economy as battered as its sabotaged oil pipelines hasn't stopped some in the region from dreaming of a better future.

"At the end of the day, we will see a model for democracy in Iraq," Negad el-Borai, an Egyptian lawyer and human rights campaigner, said as an interim Iraqi administration prepares to resume governmental authority.

Others, though, fear it is

Iraq's post-Saddam Hussein nightmare of violence and instability, not democracy, that will wash over the region as a result of the US-led invasion.

"You can see it," said Khaled Batarfi, a newspaper editor in Saudi Arabia, where terrorists try-

ing to justify their kidnappings, bombings and shootings of Americans and other Westerners portray the Iraq war and its aftermath as proof of Western ill will toward Arabs and Muslims.

Outsiders inspired by such thinking are believed

to be among the guerillas fighting US-led military forces in Iraq, along with Saddam loyalists and radical Shiite militiamen.

Neighbouring Iran is among those watching closely and anxiously.

"A stable Iraq is to the benefit of Iran. However, there is a long way before democracy develops in Iraq," said Ebrahim Yazdi, a former Iranian foreign minister and a liberal dissident.

Washington has accused the Iranians of meddling in Iraq. Iranians are worried about the continued military and political influence in Iraq of the United States, a longtime foe.

Iraq's Arab neighbours also have a stake. Any power struggle could mean a civil war that would destabilize the entire region.

Some Arabs question whether the United States can claim to have offered Iraqis something better than Saddam's regime, given the war-stalled economy, the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal and the bloody insurgency.

Internet

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Car bombs kill 40 in southern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 June—Guerillas are pressing their campaign as the handover of sovereignty to Iraq's interim government draws nearer, spilling fresh blood and snatching new hostages Saturday.

Two car bombs exploded near a mosque, killing 40 people and wounding 22 others Saturday night in the southern Iraqi city of Hillah, a coalition military official said.

The bombings took place near a building formerly known as the Saddam Mosque. The Polish-led multinational division responded.

Hillah is a largely Shiite town near the ancient city of Babylon and is along a road where many ambushes have occurred. And militants who kidnapped three Turkish citizens are threatening to behead them in 72 hours if Turkey does not pull its companies out of Iraq, the Arabic-language television network Al-Jazeera reported Saturday.

Al-Jazeera broadcast a video showing three people seated, holding what appeared to be identification documents, while two armed, masked men pointed guns at them. The network did not broadcast any sound from the tape.

The broadcast came hours before President Bush was due in Turkey for a NATO summit.

According to Al-Jazeera, the video is from a group that calls itself Unification and Jihad. The group is believed to be linked to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, whom the coalition blames for a string of recent attacks and who is believed to have ties to al-Qaeda.

The same group kidnapped and beheaded American Nicholas Berg and South Korean Kim Sun-il when its demands were not met.

Al-Jazeera said the videotape was dropped off at the network's Baghdad office and an accompanying statement was faxed to the network's office in Doha, Qatar.

According to the text read by the Al-Jazeera anchor, the kidnapers called on the people of Iraq to denounce President Bush's visit to Turkey and to insist Turkish companies leave Iraq.—Internet



Iraqi security men guard the area around a crude oil pipeline fire at Al-Mishahdah, 31 miles north of Baghdad, on 22 June, 2004, after an overnight explosion. —INTERNET

Invasion of Iraq 'enormous mistake,' ex-counterterrorism chief says

ORLANDO, 26 June—The invasion of Iraq was an "enormous mistake" that is strengthening al-Qaeda and breeding a new generation of terrorists, former White House counterterrorism chief Richard Clarke said Saturday.

Clarke, an adviser to four presidents, made the comments in Orlando, Fla, where he delivered a speech to the American Library Association's annual convention.

Richard Clarke "We did exactly what al-Qaeda said we would do —invade and occupy an oil-rich Arab

country that wasn't threatening us in any way," Clarke said. "The hatred that has been engendered by this invasion will last for generations."

He said the US will lose the war on terrorism if it loses the battle of ideas against extremists in the

Middle East.

Clarke said the Cold War was won not just by having a strong military, but also by competing in the battle of ideas against the Communists. "We have to do that with the jihadists," he said.

Internet

Russia, Japan expect peace treaty settling territorial dispute

MOSCOW, 26 June — Russia and Japan expressed their hopes Thursday to sign a peace agreement ending their territorial dispute over four Pacific islands.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov pledged to hold meetings at expert levels on the issue before President Vladimir Putin's scheduled visit to Tokyo early next year, *Interfax* news agency reported.

But the specific date for the signing of the agreement should not be talked as "comprehensive solution needs to be found". Lavrov said after talks with his visiting Japanese counterpart Yoriko Kawaguchi in Moscow.

However, Japan expressed the hope that the peace treaty could be reached in early 2005 during Putin's visit to Tokyo, according to Japanese Foreign Ministry's Press secretary Hatsushisa Takashima.

Russia and Japan have failed to sign a peace treaty to formally end their World War II hostilities due to the dispute over the four Kuril Islands that were occupied by the former Soviets in the closing days of the war.

MNA/Xinhua

Greek Parliament passes new anti-terrorist bill

ATHENS, 26 June — The Greek Parliament on Thursday approved a new anti-terror bill to keep the pace with the European Union (EU) less than two months ahead of the Olympic Games.

The new law establishes a legal framework for probes within the EU and allows the faster extradition of terrorist suspects to other EU members. It also extends the statute of limitation for committing terrorism crimes from the original 20 years to 30 years.

The EU made a framework-decision in 2002, introducing an EU-wide arrest warrant and calling for tougher measures against terrorism.

The Greek Government has been criticized by its EU partners for its lag in implementing the decision. Facing amounting violence in Iraq and fearing possible terrorist attacks during the upcoming Olympic Games, the new government which took office in March this year introduced the legislation.

However, the opposition parties accused the government of leaving no time for thorough negotiations and consultations among the public. They also said the new law would curtail civic rights.

Minister of Justice Anastassios Papatigouras shrugged off the accusations, saying the EU framework-

decision was binding on the definition of terrorism to ensure that all the EU members treat certain types of acts in the same way.

He also rejected concerns that the new law might be used to persecute trade union movements and other organizations.

MNA/Xinhua

Georgian police detain three Russians on suspicion of spying

MOSCOW, 26 June— Georgian police have detained three Russian citizens on suspicion of collecting intelligence information, Georgian Deputy Interior Minister Georgy Getsadze said Thursday.

The three Russians were arrested in Georgia's South Ossetia republic that enjoys de facto independence and maintains close relations with neighbouring Russia.

The detained "were dressed in military uniforms and had a local map and weapons", Getsadze was cited by *Interfax* news agency as saying.

MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier guards the area around charred cars after an explosion in Baghdad, Iraq, on 22 June, 2004. The explosion, in the Amiriya residential neighbourhood of Baghdad, killed two and wounded three others, witnesses said. US troops sealed off the area after the late afternoon explosion.—INTERNET

Iraq war protesters gather in Boston

Boston, 26 June—Hundreds of protesters rallied Saturday on a city plaza to call for an end to the US military presence in Iraq.

We are here to say that it is time now to bring the troops home to their families where they belong. It is time to care for the thousands and thousands of broken bodies, minds and hearts created by this war," Paul Shannon, an activist with the American Friends Service Committee, told the crowd on Copley Plaza.

Police estimated a crowd of about 400 to 500.

Similar protests were scheduled for the weekend in cities around the nation, including San Francisco, St Louis and New York, said

Jennifer Horan, a spokeswoman for United for Justice With Peace, the coalition of groups that organized the rally.

Horan, acknowledging the turnout in Boston was disappointing, said, "My feeling is right now a lot of people are demoralized because trying to bring the troops home is like trying to move a mountain."

But, she said, "We are here and we're not going away and more and more the American public is coming to support the idea that the troops should be brought

home."

Protesters carried a variety of signs, including ones that read, "Enough! Bring the Troops Home Now," and "Democracy Yes! Empire No!" They also waved rainbow-coloured flags with "Peace" written on them. Protesters were skeptical of the US handover of sovereignty to the Iraqi interim government, which is scheduled for Wednesday.

Shelagh Foreman, an activist with Massachusetts Peace Action, said the transfer of sovereignty was "fraudulent."

"I foresee problems and I don't think we're part of the answer," she said.

Richard Clement, 51, a Vietnam-era veteran who is a kitchen supervisor from Gardiner, Maine, attended the rally with the blessings of his son, who is currently in the Army in Iraq.

"He said, 'Go for it.' You need to speak out," he said.

"This war was wrong from the beginning," he said.

"We need to speak out. ... We need to keep it up. I need to, for my peace of mind,

attend and speak and hopefully change a few people's minds." —*Internet*

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Iraq war casualties mounting for US citizen soldiers, with no end in sight

WASHINGTON, 26 June—The US military's National Guard and Reserve forces have suffered more deaths in Iraq since April first than in the previous seven months combined.

And that trend may continue after the transfer of power next week, since the size of the US military force in Iraq may increase.

One senior officer says, "We should expect more violence, not less, in the immediate weeks ahead."

Deaths among National Guard and Reserve troops have represented up to 20 percent of the monthly US total for most of the conflict. But the figure jumped to 28 percent in May, and even higher in June.

Internet



Anti-war protesters march down Chapel Street in New Haven, Conn. during an anti-war rally and march in New Haven, Conn, Saturday, 26 June, 2004. Participants called for an end of the United States occupation of Iraq.—INTERNET

Iraq's political parties latest target in wave of violence

BAQUBA, 27 June—Political parties became the latest target of Iraq's violent attacks as rebels hit the local office of the prime minister's political group and a Shiite party in the restive city of Baquba, while a car bomb in the north wounded a top Kurdish politician.

The attacks, which left at least six people dead, capped a week of continued violence scarring the country's countdown to independence from the US-led occupation in four days. And officials have warned of worse to come.

Unleashed at around the same time, the strikes appeared staged to cripple Iraq's new democratic roots, planted by the US-led coalition, and echoed a similar onslaught Thursday against police targets.

Anxious to appear in control, prime minister Iyad Allawi said he was ready to take "necessary measures" within two weeks to crush the violence.

"The Iraqi security forces as well as the Iraqi army would be prepared in a week or two to impose the necessary measures to deal with the terrorists and the terrorist activities throughout the country," Allawi told reporters.

Iraq's interim government also confirmed it has asked for assistance from NATO to train its new army and indicated that if the military alliance wanted to send troops that would be most welcome.

In a sign of the challenge ahead, insurgents blew up the local headquarters Allawi's Iraqi National Accord party in Baquba, 60 kilometres (38 miles) north of Baghdad, and attacked the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI).

"The third floor of a building that houses the offices of the Iraqi National Accord was devastated by an explosion," a witness said on condition of anonymity.

Although no one was hurt, several hundred metres (yards) away, a group of armed men, including a potential suicide bomber, killed four people and wounded two others when they stormed SCIRI's Baquba base.

Internet

Two US Marines killed, one wounded in Afghanistan

KABUL, 26 June—Two US Marines were killed and one was wounded in an operation against militants in eastern Afghanistan, the US military said on Friday.

The Marines were killed in Kunar Province, which borders Pakistan, on Thursday evening, said military spokeswoman Master Sergeant Cindy Beam.

She said the wounded Marine was hurt by gunfire, but she said she did not know how the two were killed or have any other details.

Residents of Kunar said the attack happened in a mountainous district called Naray, close to the border with Pakistan. They said they saw the bodies of the two Marines and they appeared to have been shot with assault rifles.

MNA/Reuters

Argentina to promote all-round cooperation with China

BUENOS AIRES, 26 June—Argentina looks forward to enhancing its cooperation with China in various fields and will learn from China how to maintain balanced and sustainable growth in economic reforms, Argentine President Nestor Kirchner said.

"I wish my visit will help to push forward the cooperation with China in political, economic and other fields, and I look forward to making wide-ranging exchanges of views with Chinese leaders on bilateral ties and international issues," Kirchner said in an interview here with China's leading media on the eve of his first state visit to China scheduled for June 27.

Speaking highly of the remarkable achievements made in China's reform and opening up over the past 25 years, Kirchner said that during his visit he will learn earnestly from China's successful development experience, especially the Chinese Government's ways to realize balanced development.

Argentina is looking for a way out after suffering from a serious economic crisis, so it pays great attention to China's development model, said the President.

Unilateralism will do no good in the current world, he said. Latin American states like Argentina should strengthen their relations with China and make joint efforts with China to estab-

lish new international relations and order.

On trade and economic cooperation, Kirchner said that Argentina is ready to open its economy to China and believes China will do the same. He said he will sign some cooperation agreements with the Chinese side during the visit and those documents will help to improve bilateral ties.

Various political and economic circles in Argentina

attach great significance to the upcoming visit, said Kirchner. Argentina's key Cabinet ministers, state secretaries, governors and lawmakers form major provinces as well as more than 100 entrepreneurs will accompany him on his trip to China. This has proved that expanding ties with China has become a common will of Argentina's society and political parties, the President noted.

MNA/Xinhua

EU, US sidestep details of Iraq debt issue

NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS (Ireland), 27 June—The United States and European Union sidestepped the details of a proposed deal to reduce Iraq's foreign debt on Saturday, saying only that debt reduction was crucial for the Iraqi people.

In a joint statement after an EU-US summit in Ireland, the two sides pledged to "promote reduction of Iraq's external debt burden, as debt reduction is critical if the Iraqi people are to have the opportunity to build a free and prosperous nation".

The statement did not specify how much debt would be forgiven but that the reductions "should be provided in connection with an International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme and sufficient to ensure sustainability taking into account the recent IMF analysis".

The IMF analysis showed that between 67 per cent and 95 per cent of Iraq's debt should be forgiven to avoid overburdening its economy, White House National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said on Thursday.

MNA/Reuters



US marines aim their rifles at the main entrance of Fallujah on 25 June, 2004. For the first time since the Iraq war, a majority of Americans believe it was a mistake sending US troops to Iraq and that it has not made the US safer from terrorism.—INTERNET

US soldier's lawyer says Iraq abuse widespread

BAGHDAD, 26 June — Senior military officers were aware of widespread abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US soldiers, and lower-ranking troops should not be made scapegoats, the lawyer for an accused female soldier said on Friday.

Speaking at a hearing in Baghdad which will decide whether Specialist Sabrina Harman will face a court martial, civilian defence lawyer Frank Spinner said soldiers far more senior than Harman had been aware of the abuse at Abu Ghraib prison.

"I don't think the world wants to see someone of her rank and experience taking the fall," he told the judge. "That's not someone who should be court-martialled."

Spinner, who has de-

fended Army clients and won in several high-profile trials, told reporters he had "no doubt that Iraqi detainees have been physically abused on a wide scale that would be beyond the military's ability ever to prosecute".

"The chain of command, they know it too, and the problem is that people won't step up and admit it. To do it now would only subject them to prosecution," he said. "There's no question our Marines and soldiers were put into impossible cir-

cumstances."

The Pentagon says the abuse was only confined to a few low-ranking soldiers at Abu Ghraib. Seven have been charged. But some of their defence lawyers say it was carried out with the knowledge of senior officers and at the request of military intelligence to help soften up inmates for interrogation.

On Thursday, Harman's company commander testified that the top military intelligence officer at Abu Ghraib was present in the

cell block the day an Iraqi prisoner died during interrogation. Harman was photographed grinning beside the corpse in one of the images that sparked worldwide outrage.

Captain Donald Reese, company commander of 372nd Military Police Company, told the hearing held at a US base near Baghdad's airport he first saw the prisoner after he had died.

"I was told that when he was brought in he was combative, that they took him up to the room and during the interrogation he passed," Reese said.

He said the body "was bleeding from the head, nose, mouth". Several officers, including Colonel Thomas Pappas, Commander of the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade and the top intelligence officer at the jail, were discussing what to do.

"I heard Colonel Pappas said 'I'm not going to go down alone for this'," Reese said. He said the body was left locked in a shower room overnight and the next day was fitted with an intravenous drip and taken away. He said this was done to ensure other inmates did not get "upset" over the death.

MNA/Reuters



US soldiers from First Infantry Division search an Iraqi home, as an Iraqi child sleeps on a mat on the outskirts of Baquouba, Iraq on 25 June, 2004.—INTERNET

Italy not to send more troops to Iraq

ROME, 26 June — Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini announced on Thursday that his government has no intention to send more troops to Iraq.

Frattini told reporters that the Italian policy on Iraq remains unchanged, though the recent situation in that country is not stable.

On the security of the Italian forces in Iraq, the minister said the Italian Government has demanded they keep a close watch on surroundings.

Italy backs Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's request that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) help train Iraqi security forces and provide the war-torn country with technological and logistic assistance, Frattini said.

Italy sent 3,000 troops to Iraq after the ouster of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

In accordance with the decree approved by the Italian Cabinet at the beginning of the year, the troops' mission in Iraq will expire on 30 June, but the Italian Government on Tuesday decided to extend the mandate till the end of the year. —MNA/Xinhua

FBI questions man caught with gun, knife at S California airport

LOS ANGELES, 26 June — The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is questioning a man of Middle Eastern descent arrested in a southern California airport for attempting to bring a handgun and a knife onto a flight to Washington, DC, authorities said Friday.

The 65-year-old man was arrested late Thursday at John Wayne Airport, Orange County, after "a routine check of luggage through the X-ray machine revealed a handgun in the luggage," said Orange County Sheriffs Department spokesman Hayward Miller.

A subsequent search of the luggage revealed that there was a loaded handgun, Miller said, adding the suspect also had a knife "of unknown length and type." Miller declined to say where the knife was found.

The man, whose name was withheld pending investigation, was "detained by the Transportation Security Administration and our joint terrorism task force representatives," he added.

The suspect, who has booked a United Airlines flight to the US capital of Washington, DC, was arrested for "attempting to bring a loaded firearm into a secured area of an airport."

The man was later taken to the Santa Ana Men's Central Jail, where he was booked on a "variety of charges, including possession of firearms and bringing firearms into a secured area of an airport," Miller said.

It was unclear "at this point in the investigation" whether the suspect faced terrorism-related charges," according to Miller.

MNA/Xinhua

Bush's visit to Ireland sparks protests

SHANNON (Ireland), 26 June — US President George W Bush flew into Ireland on Friday for a summit with European Union leaders which has sparked protests and rekindled anger over American policy in Iraq and the Middle East.

Bush landed at Shannon Airport, on Ireland's west coast, and was whisked 10 miles up the road to the fairytale setting of Dromoland Castle, a 16th Century turreted mansion set in secluded woodland in County Clare.

There, he and First Lady Laura Bush — on the first US presidential trip to Ireland since the Clintons visited in 1995 — were welcomed by Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency.

The two men strolled around the lush gardens of the castle in conversation

before returning to the building under the shelter of umbrellas as a light shower fell.

The visit has sparked protests in a country where visiting US presidents, from John F Kennedy to Ronald Reagan, have traditionally been feted due to their Irish ancestry and the strong historical links between the two nations.

Some 10,000 people marched through Dublin on Friday night to voice their opposition to Bush, and a smaller protest of around 600 people was staged at Shannon, although demonstrators were kept well away from the presidential entourage.

The focus of the protests is US policy in Iraq and Ireland's own role in the war there. Ahern's government has been heavily criticized at home for allowing US jets to refuel at Shannon en route to the Middle East.

But the Irish Prime Minister says the rift between Europe and the United States, so deep 15 months ago when the US-led coalition invaded Iraq, has been bridged by the recent signing of UN Resolution 1546, which provides for UN members to support the coalition in the Gulf.

"Whatever the arguments

of last year, those arguments are dead," Ahern told Irish state television RTE shortly before Bush landed.

The Dublin march was orderly but feelings ran high.

"The Irish Government has no right to be spending our taxes on entertaining a warmonger like Bush," one of the marchers, Dubliner Sarah O'Kane, told Reuters. "It's a disgrace." —MNA/Reuters

France, Britain warn of incalculable risks of weather changes

PARIS, 26 June — Weather changes will have incalculable consequences on future generations if no steps are taken to control them, four French and British ministers warned Thursday.

In an article published in French Daily *Le Monde* in its Friday edition, Britain's Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and Secretary of State for the Environment Margaret Beckett and France's Foreign Minister Michel Barnier and Ecology Minister Serge Lepeltier warned that climate changes would have an "incalculable" cost on health, the environment and national

economies and would seriously affect future generations.

The collective will of action remains too weak before the serious challenge, they said, adding that scientists forecast a global warming from 1.4 to 5.8 degrees by 2100.

"The heat wave of summer 2003, repeated floods, the advance of deser-

tification, the melting of the ice floes and glaciers are an illustration of the first effects of climate upheaval," they said.

In front of this "major collective risk", the international community and notably industrial nations should hold down emissions of fossil-fuel gases blamed for the rising temperatures, they said. —MNA/Xinhua



Medical staff of an emergency hospital gather around Hemin, A badly injured bodyguard to a culture minister in the Northern Iraq Kurdish regional government is treated following a car bomb blast in Arbil on 26 June, 2004. The car bomb explosion killed one man and wounded 40 people on Saturday as guerillas kept up a bloody drive to derail Iraq's transition to an interim government in four days' time. —INTERNET



An Iraqi woman sits next to her two children including her daughter, Shalaa, far right, who was injured in an explosion in Baghdad, Iraq, on 22 June, 2004.



An Iraqi man climb over the rubble of a destroyed building in Ramadi, Iraq, after a militant attack on 24 June, 2004.

Images of Iraq



A bomb attack killed two Iraqis in the capital of Baghdad, on 22 June, 2004.



An Iraqi son guides his wounded father out of the scene of one of four car bomb explosions, targeting police force in Mosul, on 24 June, 2004.



An Iraqi firefighter arrives to the scene after a car bomb explosion in Iraq's northern city of Mosul, on 24 June, 2004.



Iraqis evacuate a victim from the scene of one of four car bomb explosions, targeting police force in Iraq's northern city of Mosul on 24 June, 2004.



An Iraqi man looks at the destruction of the police station in Ramadi, 110km west of Baghdad, Iraq, after a militant attack on 24 June, 2004.



An Iraqi youth collects belongings from the rubble of his house damaged in one of the five car bomb attacks that hit Mosul, 370 kms north of Baghdad, on 24 June 2004.

New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

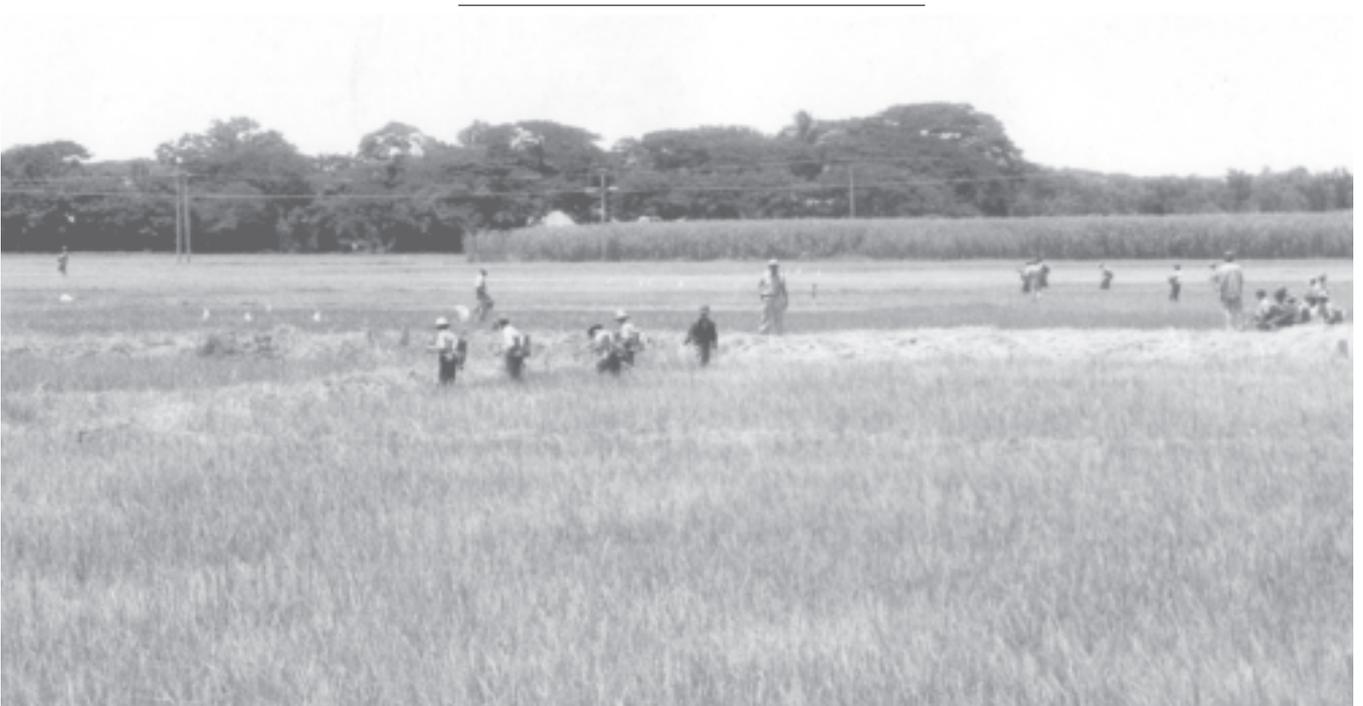
Border and rural area developments



Thaphanseik Dam in Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Division benefits 400,000 acres of monsoon paddy, 45,000 acres of cotton, 172,500 acres of summer paddy and 26,300 acres of sesame.—MYANMA ALIN



A new building of Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Mokhamu Village, Kyaikto Township, Mon State.—MYANMA ALIN



Monsoon paddy field in Hsamalauk village in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Division.—MYANMA ALIN



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents medal and certificate of honour to outstanding student in Arts Akha national Maung Soe Paing of Kengtung Township of Shan State (East).—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents medal and certificate of honour to outstanding student in Arts Kayin national Maung Saw Tin Moe Win of Myainggyingu region of Kayin State.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents medal and certificate of honour to outstanding student in Science Akha national Maung Kyi Lin of Kengtung Township of Shan State (East).—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents medal and certificate of honour to outstanding student in Science Khami national Maung Aung of Pauktaw Township of Rakhine State.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents medal and certificate of honour to outstanding student in Maung Aung Thura Thein of Loikaw Township of Kayah State.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presents medal and certificate of honour to outstanding student in Engineering Kayin national Maung Saw Maukhoukda of Hpa-an Township of Kayin State.—MNA

Government has not only provided equal opprtunities...

(from page 1)

At present, the government is fully engaged in the very important task of developing the country all aspects so that she shall be able to take her rightful place among the nations of the world and be second to none, and so that she shall endure for as long as the world exists. In conformity with these tasks arrangements were made and carried so all the national races of our country develop uniformly and equally and that the national unity shall go from strength to strength. So plans were laid and all necessary arrangements made to fully enhance the capacity of the national races and thus provide them with opportunities to take their share of responsibility for the protection and development of the State.

In these endeavours for the progress and development of the border areas, which have lagged behind, the government has taken the initiative to provide leadership as well as moral and material support for their development and progress. So, it is of great urgency and importance that the borders of the national races and the people of the border areas give their full cooperation and work in concert with the government. What is primarily needed thus, is the development of human resources in the border areas—that is people who have the will and skills, the ability and capacity to work for the progress and development of their locality and region.

Furthermore, in the endeavour to develop a certain region, it is necessary to improve roads and communications, build and install required infrastructure for development, lay the foundations for a thriving economy and raise the health and education standard of the people of the region. The government has systematically drawn up plans and projects, which comprehensively covers all these sectors and work is now in full swing.

So far, the expenditure on projects for the development of border areas and progress of national races totals over 56,000 million kyats and US\$ 550 million in foreign exchange. Due to this, the foundations for development have been laid and the border areas are developing and flourishing with great momentum before our very eyes.

Although achievements were made in growth and development, the foundations that have been so far laid must be further maintained and enhanced for long-term sustainable development. For this, it is necessary to raise the educational standards of the people who are the native inhabitants of these regions. Now is the right time when we should encourage and support the emergence of intellectuals, professionals and technicians from among the people of the respective regions. At the meeting of the Central Committee for the Development of Border Areas and Progress of National Races held in March this year, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe laid down guide-

lines that:

“The development of some border areas can now be seen to surpass the development of even some areas within the country. The border areas are developing fast and efforts must be made to maintain and further raise this momentum. We must continue all endeavours to help the people in these regions to make life secure, raise their quality of life and eliminate poverty. In order to ensure development that is sustainable and enhanced, it is especially necessary to make arrangements for the nurturing and development of human resources”.

In accordance with these guidelines concerted efforts are being made to raise the education standard and develop human resources. As a result new basic education schools have been built and the level of existing schools raised; colleges, degree colleges and universities have been opened and “Three R” Classes have been organized as contingency measures to raise the overall standard of literacy and education in the border regions.

To further nurture human resource development especially for the youths in the various border regions, 26 Training Schools for Development of National Youths from Border Areas, 17 Vocational Schools of Domestic Science for Women and two Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges, in Yangon and Mandalay, have been established.

According to official indicators there are now 451 primary students, 1,127 middle school students and 662 high school students, that is, altogether 2,240 students, now attending 26 Training Schools for Development of National Youths from Border Areas. Of these students, those who show promise and have passed the matriculation examinations will be able to continue their studies in higher education in the Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree Colleges.

For the all-round development of girls in the border regions, 17 Vocational Schools of Domestic Science for Women have been opened in cities near the borders with neighbouring countries. In addition, commodity production entrepreneurs have been set up to provide for their livelihood. With regard to the Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree Colleges it will be seen that the 141 students who graduated last year, have now been appointed to suitable posts by the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs; the Home Ministry; the Ministry of Electric Power, the Information Ministry; the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Construction Ministry and that they are now performing their assigned tasks to promote development of the border areas.

The present intake graduating in the academic year 2003-2004 from the Yangon Nationalities Youth Resources

Development Degree College consist of 38 graduates with arts and science degrees and 23 diplomas in engineering. From the Mandalay Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree College, 34 students have now obtained arts and science degrees and 20 have obtained engineering diplomas. That is a total of an additional 115 graduates this year to those in previous years.

Moreover, the students of the previous graduating classes of the Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree Colleges who passed with distinctions in the arts and science and engineering diploma courses, are now attending the B. Tech Engineering courses and Master of Arts and Master of Science (Qualifying) courses in the Yangon and Mandalay degree colleges.

Among those graduated today, 24 are eligible to attend the Master of Arts and Master of Science (Qualifying) courses and 27 are eligible to go on to B. Tech courses. Therefore, before very long, the youths of the national races from the border areas will be qualified to obtain not only Master’s degrees but doctorate degrees as well. These are indeed good signs for the future. These developments show that the border areas, which for many long years had lost their opportunities for pursuit of education have today regained their birthright. Furthermore they have now within their grasp, in a short period, excellent prospects for higher education and thus become qualified and educated intellectuals, professionals and technicians. It can clearly be seen that foundations have been laid for equal opportunities for education for the youths of the border areas.

The intellectuals, professionals and technicians who have benefited from the Educational Plans and Programmes of Border Area Development, (including today’s graduates), are fully aware that they face no employment difficulties; for the government has not only provided equal opportunities for education but also created job and career opportunities for them. I would like the graduates of today to clearly understand that the national race youths who have graduated from the Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree Colleges have now all returned to their native regions in supervisory and administrative positions in the various educational, administrative, agricultural and construction sectors to lead and participate in the ongoing development activities in their regions. It is indeed necessary to understand that they were provided with these golden opportunities as an integral part of their graduation.

That is why I would like to urge today’s graduates to avail themselves of these opportunities and find new ways and means to promote the welfare and development of his or her village or region; to establish good and friendly relations with the local people, find out their needs and fulfil them to the best of your ability. The development of the border areas will mean a higher standard of living and a better quality of life for the people.

(See page 9)

Government has not only ...

(from page 8)

And as their educational standards rises and their general knowledge expands, their outlook will broaden with the realization that the long-term welfare and prosperity of the Union and each person's welfare and prosperity are one and the same. This view in turn, will strengthen national unity and reinforce the Union Spirit.

When firm foundations have been laid for material prosperity and welfare of a region, this will lead to the development of foundations for spiritual and moral uplift. That is why I would like to advise you to make use of the knowledge you have obtained, the skills you have been equipped with to do your utmost for the development and welfare of your community, your village and your region. The State has educated and equipped you to be able to carry out these tasks and has also provided you with the means for the enhancement of your own life and has trained you to be good organizers with a proper attitude to life and a firm Union Spirit. And I wish you to understand that we are now dispatching you to take up your assigned duties with a firm faith in your abilities and in your good will.

In whatever region you have been assigned, you should not only do your best to achieve the goal of border area development and progress of the national races, but also guide the perceptions and attitudes of the people in your region. You have to instill in them and convince them that their progress and welfare depends on The Three National Causes - that it is imperative to prevent the disintegration of the Union, to prevent the disintegration of national unity and that it is the mandatory duty of every citizen to protect and perpetuate our national sovereignty. This is the one and only correct path of our Nation and I therefore call upon you to organize and lead the people on this correct path towards the perpetuation of our nation.

As you all know we are in the midst of reconstructing the Union of Myanmar as a developed and modernized nation where a fully disciplined democracy prevails and a 7-stage road map was laid down for the realization of this goal. The National Convention which is the first stage of this important road map, is now in progress. The various national groups, representatives of political parties and representatives from the many strata of the mass of people are now successfully carrying on their deliberations on the drawing up



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and ministers pose for documentary photo together with BA and BSc graduates and AGTI diploma holders of Yangon and Mandalay Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and ministers pose for documentary photo together with BA and BSc graduates and AGTI diploma holders of Yangon and Mandalay Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges.—MNA



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and ministers pose for documentary photo together with BA and BSc graduates and AGTI diploma holders of Yangon and Mandalay Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges.—MNA

of a new constitution.

So, it is the duty of all citizens, including yourselves, to give active support in whatever way we can and whatever our responsibilities are, for the success of the National Convention and for the emergence of a strong constitution. In conclusion I would like to urge you:

- To do your unremitting best to utilize the knowledge you have obtained and the capacities that have been built up at the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges to participate in the ongoing plans and programmes for development in the border areas.

- To preserve the traditions nurtured in you by the degree colleges and to work for a Union which is strong and enduring; furthermore to do your level best as good organizers and as good leaders to instill in the people the spirit of national unity and the Union Spirit by setting yourselves up as good examples.

- To be and live as one with the people in the border areas who are indeed your kith and kin and to raise their standard of living.

Lastly I would like my best wishes that:

- You shall be able to carry out your duties faithfully.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented medals and certificates of honour to outstanding students—Akha national Maung Soe Paing of Kengtung in Shan State (East) in Arts, Akha national Maung Kyi Lin of Kengtung in Shan State (East) in science and Shan national Sai Aung Thura Thein (a) Maung Aung Thura Thein of Loikaw, Kayah State in Engineering from Yangon Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges for 2003-2004 academic year and Kayin national Maung Saw Tin Moe Win of Myaunggyingyu region of Kayin State in Arts, Khami national Maung Aung Aung of Pauktaw Township of Rakhine State in Science and Kayin national Maung Saw Maukkhoukda of Hpa-an Township of Kayin State in Engineering from the degree college (Mandalay).

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party had a documentary photo taken together with the students.

A total of 115 students of the two degree colleges received BA and BSc degrees and certificates of diploma in AGTI. BA degree holders are four Kayah nationals, one Kayan national, three Kayin nationals, two Khami nationals, three Chin nationals, three Palaung nationals, four Naga nationals, one PaO national, one Mon national, four Rakhine nationals, five Shan nationals and four Akha nationals totalling 35. B.Sc degree holders are two Kayah nationals, four Kayin nationals, one Kayan national, seven Khami nationals, three Chin nationals, one Danu national, one Naga national, two Palaung nationals, two PaO nationals, one Mon national, one Myaungzi national, five Rakhine nationals, three Shan nationals, two Akha nationals, one Thet national, one Intha national totalling 37. Certificates of AGTI holders are one Kachin national, three Kayan nationals, five Kayin nationals, one Dawei national, two Danu nationals, four Palaung nationals, two PaO nationals, six Mon nationals, nine Rakhine nationals, eight Shan nationals and two Intha nationals totalling 43. MNA

20th Meeting of ASEAN National Tourism Organizations

5th Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and Korea National Tourism Organizations

3rd ASEAN-India Tourism Consultations



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

23rd Meeting of the Task Force on ASEAN Tourism Marketing

11th Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Investment

11th Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Manpower Development



Taunggyi, Union of Myanmar
28 — 29 June, 2004

General Thura Shwe Mann meets palm oil and rubber...

(from page 1)

He went on to say that as regards the cultivation of oil palm, the State will grant land allotments that will be protected in accord with existing laws and render other necessary assistance to the entrepreneurs. In addition, he said for the better transport of the entrepreneurs including the public, airports and Bokpyin Airport where F-28 can land have been opened. Besides, the roads of the division have also been upgraded to all-weather ones. Measures are being taken for the safety of farm work site, farm equipment and crops produced. Assistance is being rendered for importing machinery and seeds, he added. That is why those entrepreneurs for cultivation of oil palm are invited to present their requirements if there was any. Moreover, the world market in rubber is getting better, he noted. So, emphasis is to be put on the extension of rubber cultivation. It is our country that has a lot of lands suited most to the cultivation of rubber. The General stressed the need for both oil palm and rubber entrepreneurs to expand their cultivation for sufficiency of the State as well as surpluses to be exported.



OLYMPIC DAY BOXING: The 2004 Olympic day commemorative boxing tournament was held at the Training Centre of the Myanmar Boxing Federation in Thuwunna, Yangon, on Sunday. Young boys participating in the 42-kilo junior class event. — NLM



OLYMPIC DAY WUSHU TOURNEY: Myanmar Wushu Federation President U Khin Maung Lay presents prizes to winners in the Olympic Day commemorative Wushu tournament on Saturday. — NLM

Next, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha read out the resolutions passed at the previous meetings regarding the matters pertaining to the cultivation of 500,000 acres of oil palm.

Later, secretary of Tanithayi Division PDC Lt-Col Myo Nyunt reported on land allotments for oil palm entrepreneurs.

Director-General of Settlement & Land Records Department U Win Kyi reported on matters related land allotments; Managing Director of Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank U Tin Lun on disbursing loans; and Managing Director of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise Col Kyi Win on oil palm and rubber growing projects.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone, Deputy Minister for Industry 1 Brig-Gen Kyaw Win and Director-General of Forest Department U Soe Win Hlaing reported on assistance to be rendered for cultivation of oil palm and rubber.

Afterwards, those present from Yuzana, Asia World, Dagon International, Htoo Trading and Myanmar Avia, Kabawza, Maung Weik and Family, Anawa Soe Moe, Shwe Myay Yadana, Stee Stone, Po Kaung, South Dagon, Edin, Myan Naing Myint, Vin Desh, Tet Nay, Aung Zin, SI, Shwe Si Ohn, Pyi Phyo Htun, Shwe Padonma, Amyotha Gonyi and Aung Yi Phyo companies which have been implementing the projects reported on progress of work.

Member of State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Man attended to their needs.

Later, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha explained the rules and regulations to import heavy machinery for agricultural sector.

In his speech, General Thura Shwe Mann urged those present to extend the cultivation of oil palm. Although there was a plan to put 500,000 acres of land under oil palm, it can be seen that over 1.3 million acres were allotted to the growers, he added. If 60 per cent of the land be the cultivable land, 800,000 acres of land could be put under oil palm, he said. The general urged the oil palm entrepreneurs to make earnest efforts to grow oil palm on their allotted land.

General Thura Shwe Mann continued to say that as the country is an agro-based one, the government is paying serious attention to the agriculture sector for national development. Based on the favourable economic foundations, the country is heading for an industrialized nation, he said.

Strong economy and defence, he said, are sine qua non for building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Therefore, four economic objectives are being implemented to realize the goal. National entrepreneurs play a key role to meet this end and they are the ones who have the ability to lend themselves effectively to national development, he said. National entrepreneurs with enough capital, management skill and technical know-how are to strive for development of the State based on their efficiency. The General also urged the entrepreneurs to make efforts in their own interests as well as the State.

In conclusion, General Thura Shwe Mann urged the national entrepreneurs to strive in all sectors including the agriculture sector for national development as they are the nation's new economic forces on which the State can rely. —MNA

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OLYMPIC DAY SEPAK TAKRAW TOURNEY: The 2004 Olympic Day Commemorative Sepak Takraw Tournament was held for the ILBC Cup on Sunday. The National Selection team (B) and team (D) seen in action. — NLM



SOCCER COACH HONOURED: FIFA Centennial Order of Merit Medal was awarded to U Sein Hlaing, (National Coach) at a ceremony held by the Myanmar Football Federation at the National Football Training Centre in Thuwunna, Yangon, at 3 pm on Sunday. After speaking words of honour, Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents the medal to U Sein Hlaing. — NLM

Outstanding students of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College (Yangon and Mandalay) in the 2003-2004 academic year



Akha national Maung Soe Paing of Kengtung Township, Shan State (East) who won prize in Arts at NYRDDC (Yangon). — MNA



Kayin national Maung Saw Tin Moe Win of Myhauinggying region, Kayin State, who won prize in Arts at NYRDDC (Mandalay). — MNA



Akha national Maung Kyi Lin of Kengtung Township, Shan State (East) who won outstanding prize in Science at NYRDDC (Yangon). — MNA



Khami national Maung Aung Aung of Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State, who won outstanding prize in Science at NYRDDC (Mandalay). — MNA



Shan national Maung Sai Aung Thura Thein of Loikaw Township, Kayah State who won prize in Engineering at NYRDDC (Yangon). — MNA



Kayin national Maung Saw Maukhoukda of Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, who won prize in Engineering at NYRDDC (Mandalay). — MNA

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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

Union of Myanmar International Co-operative Day
3rd July 2004

Building new motor roads ...

(from page 16)

and Layhnya-Mandaing bridges—on Dawei-Myeik-Taninthayi-Bokpyin-Kawthoung Union Highway during six years since 1998. To ensure better transport in the division, efforts are being made even in the rainy season for renovation of the Union highway.

Priority is being given to undertaking potential businesses in the division while striving for development of transport infrastructures. As the government has granted allotment between Myeik and Kawthoung where there is favourable water, land and weather condition for growing oil palms there has now emerged a wide array of oil palm plantations either sides of Myeik-Bokpyin-Kawthoung road. As a result, Taninthayi Division will soon become an oil port capable of providing palm oil to the State. There are now over 80,000 acres of oil palm in the division.

Likewise, arrangements are being made for extended cultivation of rubber. Remarkable progress has been made in the meat/fish sector that is the most suitable to water, land and weather condition of the division. Factories and mills based on fish and prawn undertakings have emerged in the environs of Myeik region alongside fish, prawn and crab breeding and pearl culture. In implementing projects for the 24-development regions for bringing about harmonious development across the nation, universities, colleges and hospitals (bed-200) were established in Dawei and Myeik regions.

Regarding transport sector, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance, stressing that communication plays an important role in economic development; that communication means waterways, road transport, airways, telecommunications etc.; that efforts are to be made for better transport to ensure economic development. In accord with the guidance, transport facilities, prerequisite for national development, were established one after another based on own wealth and resources. Myanmar engineers were engaged in building new airports, upgrading old ones, building more railways, building bridges small and large and jetties. There were six airports that jet aircraft could take off and land in the past and there are now 21 including Bokpyin airport which was built by Myanmar engineers.

Building new motor roads, railroads, airports and bridges is tantamount to creating better transport among states and divisions and bringing about development in some less-developed states and divisions. Efforts are being made for building new roads linking parts in the east and west while striving for upgrading roads linking parts in the south and north of the nation. Thus, Myitkyina-Mandalay-Yangon-Mawlamyine-Dawei-Myeik-Kawthoung main road has emerged while railroad linking Myitkyina and Dawei has come into existence. In promoting of air transport sector, he said new airports were built and runways and airport terminals were upgraded. The significant progress made under the present Tatmadaw government was opening of Mandalay International Airport. It has the longest runway in South East Asia. Moreover, new airports were built in Magway, Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions and Rakhine State for development of transport. He said smooth and easy transport in the country is essential for nation-building and development. Roads and bridges built spending a large sums of money are infrastructures for transport and they are socio-economic structures that contribute towards closer relations, understanding and development among the national races, he said. He said Myanmar is home to different national races. The State Peace and Development Council is building the nation with added momentum to become a peaceful and modern developed nation upholding the national policy of Our Three Main National Causes—non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. He stressed that this national task is very important for the State. He said the government is implementing the tasks for development of agriculture, the basic economy of the State, and industrial-based agriculture to become an industrialized nation in combination with the State and private sectors. The government is also laying emphasis on united strength of national forces for all-round development of the State. Efforts are being made in order not to harm national interest due to wealth, technology and development gaps between a developing country like Myanmar and the nations of the world. Making use of international organizations, some developed nations are putting pressure on Myanmar through imposing sanctions on Myanmar in connection with political affairs. Internal and external destructive elements are undermining the endeavours for development of the Union with the support of some big nations. He said all the national races are to fully make endeavours for prosperity of the nation and its people and to make efforts on self-reliance basis for enabling the Union to stand tall among the nations of the world. He said the government is implementing border areas and national



The new school building of Thanlyin Yadana Basic Education Primary School. — MNA

Prime Minister Khin Nyunt attends opening of new school building at Thanlyin Yadana BEPS in Thanlyin

YANGON, 27 June — Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony to open new school building of Thanlyin Yadana Basic Education Primary School built by Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development near Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge-1 at 11 am today. Also present on the occasion were 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, local authorities, members of the School Board of Trustees and Parent-Teacher Association, local people, the headmaster and teachers, wellwishers and students.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Education U Than Aung and Director-General U Arnt Kyaw of the DHSHD formally opened the new school building. Next, Director-General U Arnt Kyaw reported on matters related to the school building. He said that DHSHD in cooperation with entrepreneurs had built 20 school buildings in 2004-2005 academic year. SPA, FMI Co Ltd in cooperation with the department had opened Pun Hlaing International Level Golf Resort and modern housing estate project. As they have technicians from abroad, heavy machinery and experience in building the golf resort, they submitted the proposal to build a golf course in western part of Thanlyin Yadana Project. The proposed golf course will include four-storey buildings. So, education and economic buildings will be acquired for Thanlyin Yadana Housing Estate Project and Thanlyin Golf Housing Estate Project. Hence, the department built Thanlyin Yadana BEHS, Shop House, Open Market and Covered Market for the project. At present, over 100 children of employees of the two projects are attending the school. Arrangements have been made for upgrading the school into BEMS and BEHS if households will increase. Being a new one, school equipment have been fulfilled at the school. School uniforms were donated to needy students. He thanked the wellwishers and urged them to ensure durability of the school. Adviser to the department Col Tin Tun handed

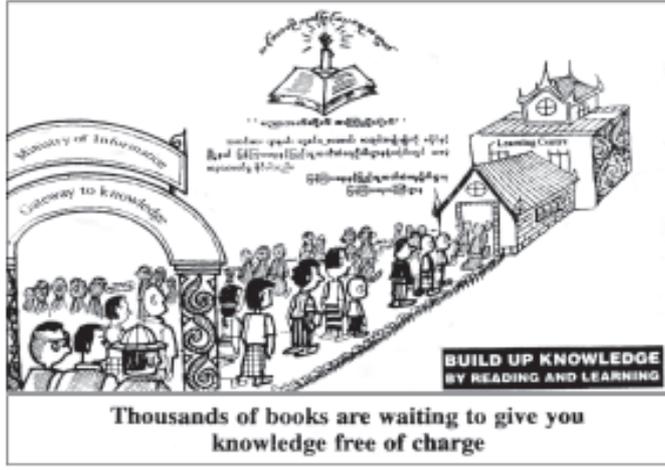
over documents related to the school to Director-General U Aye Kyu of No 3 Basic Education Department. Next, the commander and Minister for Education U Than Aung and Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepted K 500,000 each towards the funds of the school donated by SPA, FMI Co Ltd; Htut Khaung Development Co; and KMA Construction Co; K 300,000 each by Asia Express Construction; Ayeyeknyeik Co; and Aung Yadana Co and AM Construction; K 200,000 by Nay La General Production and Trading Cooperative Ltd; K 100,000 each by Ngwe Win Aung Construction Co; Kyay Nyi Naung General Construction Co; Shwe Family Construction Co; and Grand Master Asia Co Ltd.

Afterwards, Headmaster U Thein Tun expressed gratitude for construction of the school building. Next, Minister for Education U Than Aung delivered an address, saying that it is important that schools should be significant and splendid and, more and more, schools are to be extended for promotion of the national education. Thanks to better transport, Thanlyin region achieves sectoral development. In the education sector, basic education schools open in all villages of the region. There are 18 institutions of higher education including University of East Yangon, Myanmar Maritime University, Cooperative College and Government Technological College in Thanlyin. At present, student youths have opportunities to pursue education not only at basic education level but also at higher education. Later, the minister thanked DHSHD and wellwishers for their donations to build the school.

Chairman of SPA, FMI Co Ltd U Thein Wai briefed them on construction of the Pun Hlaing (Thanlyin) Golf Course and housing estate project (Pun Hlaing Links). The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions. After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party inspected the new school building and classrooms. The new school building is 300 feet long and 30 feet wide. It is 14-classroom two-storey building. Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected the site for construction of Pun Hlaing (Thanlyin) Golf Course and housing estates. — MNA

will land. Moreover, construction tasks will be carried out for the airport building, the control tower and others. There are four airports in the division including Bokpyin Airport opened today and they will contribute towards regional development. Similarly, Magway Airport, Homalin Airport, Patheingyi Airport and Monywa Airport were opened in 2003, and Kyaukse Airport will be opened soon. With the guidance of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and under the supervision of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, engineers of the Directorate of Military Engineers built the airport. In conclusion, the minister urged those present to ensure durability of the airport and thanked those who contributed to construction of the airport. Later, Commander Brig-Gen Ohm Myint also delivered an address.

Next, on behalf of the local people, a local spoke words of thanks. On behalf of the Directorate of Military Engineers, Lt-Col Soe Win accepted the gifts presented by Lt-Gen Maung Bo. Afterwards, Commander Brig-Gen Ohm Myint, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and Director of the Directorate of Military Engineers Maj-Gen Tin Tun formally opened the airport. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party had the documentary photos taken together with local people and students. Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe unveiled the airport signboard and Lt-Gen Maung Bo and the commander sprinkled scented water on it. Bokpyin airport is the fourth one of Taninthayi Division and situated nine miles south of Bokpyin. The 26-inch-thickness runway is 10,000 ft long and 100 ft wide. On completion of the runway, not only domestic flights but also Boeing 747-400 airplanes can be able to land and take off. — MNA



ADVERTISEMENTS

အခြေခံပညာ အလယ်တန်း၊ အထက်တန်း စာသင်သားများအတွက် Student's Companion စာစဉ်ထုတ်ဝေမည်

နယူးလိုက်အောင်မြင်မှုမာသတင်းစာ စာတည်းအဖွဲ့က သင်ရိုးညွှန်းတမ်းများနှင့်အညီ ပြုစုထားသည့် အခြေခံပညာအလယ်တန်းနှင့် အထက်တန်း ကျောင်းသူကျောင်းသားများအတွက် အင်္ဂလိပ်စာအထောက်အကူပြု Student's Companion စာစဉ်များကို ၂၀၀၄ခုနှစ် ဇူလိုင်လဆန်းမှ စတင်၍ ပြန်လည်ထုတ်ဝေပါမည်။

Malaysian PM says additional allocation to boost economic growth

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 June — Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Thursday that the additional 10 billion ringgit (2.63 billion US dollars) allocation under the Eighth Malaysia Plan would stimulate the country's economic growth.

The additional allocation, decided by the Cabinet Wednesday, would not involve any big projects but finance projects whose main objective would be to generate economic growth for the benefit of the people, Abdullah told a media briefing after chairing the Supreme Council meeting of the ruling United Malays National Organization (UMNO) here.

The government had originally budgeted an expenditure of 110 billion ringgit (28.94 billion US dollars) for the eighth plan (2001-2005) 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.

implement development projects which could bring about multiplier and spillover effects to the economy. The Prime Minister said the country's economic situation was now in a healthy state with its gross domestic product expanding at 7.6 per cent in the first quarter of 2004.

MNA/Xinhua



Kushi, a 52 day old Sumatran tiger cub, rests on a keepers shoulders at Ragunan Zoo in Jakarta, on 24 June, 2004. —INTERNET

Indonesian police investigate nine companies for illegal sugar import

JAKARTA, 26 June — The Indonesian police have investigated nine shipment companies linked to the illegal sugar import amounting to 56 thousand tons a responsible official said Thursday. Samuel Ismoko, director in the national police detective, was quoted by Detikcom online news service as saying that the investigated companies are foreign companies. He said the staffs of the companies are investigated for allegedly faking documents, but the police have not named suspects until now. Previously on Wednesday, National Police Detective Chief Suyitno Landung said the police will soon

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Cambodia celebrates International Drug Day

PHNOM PENH, 26 June — Cambodia on Friday celebrated the International Drug Day and urged the whole society, especially the younger generation to keep away from the drugs.

Drug abuse has become a social problem in Cambodia as most of the victims are young people. Moreover, there has been a rapid increase in the use of Cambodia as a transit country for trafficking illicit drugs to other countries. Phnom Penh Police Chief Soun Cheangly told reporters on Friday that during the last six months of 2004, police in Phnom Penh cracked down on 46 drug-

related cases and detained 103 people. Over the past years, the government has strengthened its crackdown on drug abuse and trafficking, as well as the propaganda of the harm of the drugs among the people, he said, adding that the government has also taken steps to strengthen its national coordinating agency and has increased the budget of National Authority for Combating Drugs (NACD).

blems in the country," a UN report said. NACD's budget allocation was approximately 150,000 US dollars in 2001, 245,000 US dollars in 2002 and 250,000 US dollars in 2003. However, it said, Cambodia needs to make more efforts to increase the percentage of the overall annual budget dedicated to drug control activities. Some thousand people, including government officials, students, and representatives of international organizations, attended the gathering.

MNA/Xinhua

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Singapore to promote investment in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 26 June — Visiting Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong Thursday said that he can help promote investment in Bangladesh, at least from Singapore, as he saw potentials for the two countries to work together in various sectors, including trade and investment.

During the visit to Bangladesh, "I have a better understanding of what Bangladesh is doing for its economic progress," he told reporters after formal talks between the two sides at the International Conference Centre here. The Singaporean Prime Minister and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia led their respective sides at the talks, which were followed by signing of an agreement on investment guarantee and a MoU on consultation between the foreign ministries of the two countries.

Steerubg Committee (NSC) that would undertake a mission to clear misperception about Islam and project its moderate image across the world, Foreign Secretary Shamsur Mobin Chowdhury told reporters. —MNA/Xinhua

Simplification of visa and other regional and international issues of common concern were also discussed in the meeting. Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Morshed Khan briefed newsmen, adding that Bangladesh reiterated its stand to become dialogue partner of ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) and a member of ASEAN Regional Forum. In a ground breaking development, Bangladesh accepted Singapore's offer to membership of a proposed eight-member Bucleus

Indonesia optimistic about new investment of \$7.5b

JAKARTA, 26 June — The Indonesian Government is optimistic about getting a new investment of 7.5 billion US dollars in oil and gas sector in 2004, according to government sources Friday. A statement released by the Department of Energy and Mineral Resources said the figure is higher than the 5.3 billion US dollars investment in the sector in 2003. The new investment is expected to increase the crude oil reserve in the country to 10.82 billion barrels in 2004, from 9.82 billion barrels in 2003, Detikcom online news service reported. It said that gas reserve is also expected to rise to 218.13 trillion cubic feet (TCF) in 2004 from 198.13 TCF in 2003. — MNA/Xinhua

Afghan Govt to eradicate poppy cultivation

KABUL, 26 June — Afghan Government as part of its commitment to eradicate poppy from the post-war country has destroyed around 15,000 hectares of opium poppy fields this year. Interior Minister said Thursday. "We have destroyed 15,000 hectares of poppy lands in the 16 provinces of the country and the process is going ahead," Ali Ahmad

Jalali told reporters here. He made this comment amid rampant spread of poppy cultivation in the war-ravaged country particularly in the vast rural areas where the government has little sway. "With the increase in the strength of anti-narcotic force we are hopeful to further bring down poppy production in the country," said the Minis-

ter. Under a plan backed by international community Afghanistan would have 50,000 police by the end of 2005. Afghanistan with an output of 3,600 tons of opium in 2003 became the largest supplier of the raw material used in manufacturing heroin. The production is going to rise up as more farmers devoted their lands to poppy cultivation. — MNA/Xinhua

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Spacewalk cut short by oxygen problem

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 26 June — An American astronaut on his first spacewalk outside the International Space Station was ordered back inside less than five minutes after leaving his airlock when his main oxygen supply began to lose pressure.

NASA said the pressure inside Michael Fincke's suit never dropped, but the pressure inside his air tank showed a too-rapid decline.

"You need to return. The pressure in Michael's bottle is falling," said a Russian ground controller.

"Okay, Michael, we're going back in," said Fincke's colleague, Gennady Padalka, the station's Russian commander.

The pair quickly reentered the Russian air-lock and closed the hatch, then hooked their suits to umbilical cords that fed them oxygen from the station.

The spacewalk had been expected to be challenging, taking the two almost the length of the station and out of range of communication antennas.

Not only were they likely to be out of touch with ground controllers, but also each another, as they replaced a transistorized switch for one of four large gyroscopes, or

Control Moment Gyros, that help steady the 200-tonne station as it flies 250 miles above the ground.

The gyro has been out of operation since April, when a switch inside a power unit the size of a portable DVD player showed signs of failure, NASA said. It was the second gyro to fail on the station, leaving just two working.

The repair might have been routine but for another pair of failures. Two of three US spacesuits on the station had problems that rendered them useless, so Padalka and Fincke wore Russian spacesuits and exited from the Russian side of the complex.

Russian ground controllers were given overall responsibility for safety and were to oversee the free-floating crewmen's work until they crossed over to the US side of the station, when NASA's Mission Control in Houston was due to take over.

MNA/Reuters

Experts say "AIDS" efforts still not nearly enough

WASHINGTON, 25 June — More than 20 years into the AIDS epidemic, with billions being spent on prevention, research and treatment, the world has not even begun to make a dent on the deadly virus, top experts said on Thursday.

Global AIDS leaders said getting patients cheap drugs to fight the AIDS virus was the best answer to battling the global epidemic, but warned the window of opportunity was closing while debates rage over patents and pricing.

"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," they wrote in a commentary published in the journal *Science* before next month's International AIDS Society meeting in Bangkok.

AIDS experts from around the world will meet

there to compare notes and try to come up with a better agenda for fighting the incurable virus that infects more than 43 million people around the world and has killed more than 25 million.

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 said a top priority should be cocktails of drugs that can suppress the virus enough to keep people healthy.

"To provide treatment to those who need it safely and effectively, we need to develop simplified drug treatments, based on fixed-dose combinations and co-packaging," they wrote.

Arguments persist about the best way to fight the virus, with debates over whether it is proper and ethical to promote condom use, abstinence and needle exchange programmes. Drug companies and governments debate the proper use and licensing of cheap, generic versions of the lifesaving drugs. —MNA/Reuters

Indonesian Govt prepares lawsuits against firms over wildfires

JAKARTA, 26 June — The Indonesian Government is intensifying efforts to put out wildfires on Sumatra and Kalimantan and preparing lawsuits against farmers and plantation companies blamed for setting the land-clearing blazes, a local newspaper said Friday.

State Minister of the Environment Nabeli Makarim has ordered his staff to investigate the rogue firms and farmers, so they could be brought to justice soon, reported *The Jakarta Post*.

Separately on Thursday, officials from Nabeli's office reported five companies in Riau Province to the national police, and accused them of starting many of the fires.

"We have given evidence to the police, so they can investigate the case," said Sudarsono, an expert assistant to the Environment

Minister. He refused, however, to name the companies directly. Law No. 41/1999 bans the use of fire to clear land. Violators could be sentenced to a maximum of five years in prison, Sudarsono said. Earlier on Wednesday, the Riau administration said it would file lawsuits against at least 10 forestry and plantation companies for up to 2 trillion rupiah (222.2 million US dollars) for starting the fires. It was not clear whether the five firms reported to the national police were among the 10 being sued.

MNA/Xinhua

41 million Chinese believed to have Hepatitis C virus

BEIJING, 26 June — An estimated 41 million people in China have contracted the Hepatitis C virus, which could become a fatal "quiet epidemic", according to Professor Xu Daozheng, a liver disease expert with Ditan Hospital in Beijing.

The Chinese Ministry of Health said in a report, issued in February, the number of Hepatitis C patient was growing. A national epidemiological survey covering the 1992-1995 period found 3.2 per cent of the country's population, or 38 million people, had Hepatitis C virus.

Professor Xu said his estimate is quite conservative, and suggested the disease should be included in normal medical checks, like Hepatitis B, because it has become a serious public health issue in China.

At present, a patient with Hepatitis C may look normal and feel just as good as a healthy person, and the disease will not be detected until it is too late, the professor warned.

Unlike other types of Hepatitis B, 75 per cent of people with Hepatitis C show no signs of symptoms in the early stage, said Xu.

About 15 per cent of the people with Hepatitis C will develop hepatocirrhosis and 5 per cent would develop cancer if the disease is detected in a later stage, the expert explained. —MNA/Xinhua



A tornado forms in the sky above Aken, south of Berlin, in this picture taken on 23 June, 2004. Around 100 buildings were partially destroyed after a tornado raged through the east German region of Saxony on late Wednesday evening. —INTERNET



A humpback whale jumps out of the waters off Hawaii in this photo, date unknown. Federal researchers will head out into the North Pacific this weekend on a four-month long mission to learn more about humpback whales, acrobatic crowd-pleasers up to 50 feet long whose eerie, plaintive songs have been recorded for CDs. —INTERNET

Spreading web virus aims to steal financial data

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 June — A potentially dangerous Internet attack on personal computers by a virus designed to steal financial data and passwords from web users rippled across the Internet on Friday, computer security experts said.

The attack, which surfaced earlier this week and is known as the "Scob" outbreak, exploits a vulnerability in servers using a version of Microsoft Corp.'s IIS software, and has been called more dangerous than the recent "Sasser" and "Blaster" infections.

The infected servers in turn exploit another vulnerability in Microsoft's Internet Explorer browser to install a Trojan Horse virus on the PCs of Web surfers who visit the infected web sites, said Al-

fred Huger, senior director of engineering at Internet security company Symantec Corp. "All of this takes place while it looks like you're viewing the same web page," Huger said. "You don't even know that parts of your browser have been redirected to another web site."

The US Computer Emergency Readiness team warned on its web site that "any web site, even those that may be trusted by the user, may be affected by this activity and thus contain po-

tentially malicious code".

The Trojan Horse places a keystroke logger on users' PCs and is designed to capture credit card numbers and passwords and send them back to a server in Russia, said Michael Murray, director of vulnerability and exposure at computer security firm nCircle Network Security.

By late Friday, however, the threat to users' personal data seemed to have diminished, at least for the time being. —MNA/Reuters

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Netherlands' goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar makes a save off a penalty shot from Sweden's Olof Mellberg (R) during their Euro 2004 quarter-final soccer match at the Algarve stadium in Faro on 26 June, 2004. The Netherlands defeated Sweden 5-4 on penalties.

INTERNET

Greeks hail their "Lions" as gifts from "The Gods"

ATHENS, 26 June— Greeks hailed their triumphant soccer team on Friday as "Lions" and gifts from "The Gods" for delivering to the nation what many described as one of its greatest sporting moments since the ancient Olympics.

From the capital Athens to Greece's hundreds of islands, Greeks sought each other out in town squares and on beaches to cheer, dance, set off fireworks and marvel that two months before the Athens Olympics they are already in the spotlight of world sport.

"They were fantastic, brilliant. They were lions," said shop owner Dimitris Papadopoulos in the Athens main nightlife district of Plaka.

"Now we are going to

win the whole thing. We're going to take it. Everybody thought that France would have beaten us by four or more goals. But now that we are in the semifinals, we are going all the way."

"It is unbelievable, undescrivable. I really cannot believe it. It's the greatest moment in our sports history that we beat all those great teams," said fellow shop owner Nikos Bakosis.

"But I don't know how it has happened. Maybe it's gifts from the Gods."

Within minutes of Greece winning the match against hot favourites and champions France, town squares across the country of 10 million were swollen with thousands of people.

Streets were jammed with cars and motor bikes blowing their horns and people waving every size of Greek flag and setting off ship flares.

Even the capital's famed stray dogs, who are just part of the scenery for most city residents, joined in the din barking endlessly at the uproar around them.

On the island of Evia off Athens, where, as in many places elsewhere, hundreds of people watched giant TV screen set up on the beach, housewife Katya Velissariou screamed with tears streaming down her cheeks: "Greece is going to burn tonight." Greece's most famed sports commentator Yannis Diakogiannis spoke for all Greeks when he said that with the Olympic Games still to come in Athens in August, the country, which has known little sporting success in recent years, was in the midst of a magical era.

"This is the best advertisement there could possibly be for the Olympic Games. This is the summer of Greece," he said.

MNA/Reuters

France players rue wasted opportunity

LISBON, 26 June— France players said they had wasted a glorious chance to become the first team to retain the European Championship with the 1-0 quarterfinal defeat by Greece on Friday.

"We had the team to go further," defender Bixente Lizarazu said. "I think that during the second half we were in better shape than the Greeks.

"They were on the verge of collapse defensively."

Defender Lilian Thuram said they may have taken the Greeks too lightly and had paid the price for not taking their chances.

"The only thing we can tell is that we didn't expect such a challenge," he said. "We wasted our first half and we took too much time before starting to play. "When you play at such a level you can't afford to squander your best chances to score. You have to find the net.

France barely created a chance in the opening half, and although they raised the tempo after the break they could not break down Greece. Thierry Henry had the best chance three minutes from the end of normal time, but he headed Thuram's cross wide with the goal at his mercy.

"I'm really sad tonight," said Thuram. "We could have won but it's the law of a tournament like this one."

MNA/Reuters

Answers for yesterday's crossword puzzle

R	O	Y	A	L	D	I	S	S	E	N	T	
O	E	O	E	T	N	R						
S	T	A	T	I	O	N	S	E	X	T	R	A
T	R	T	I	E	W	I						
R	A	N	G	E	A	R	R	A	I	G	N	
U	S	R	I	L	E	S	N					
M	O	R	A	S	S	N	A	P	E	R	Y	
E	L	O	O	P	S	S	A					
A	R	B	I	T	E	R	S	P	R	E	S	S
M	O	I	A	E	N	H						
B	L	U	N	T	T	R	A	N	S	O	M	
E	N	H	E	R	U	A						
R	E	D	R	E	S	S	S	L	E	E	K	

Swede midfielder claims terrible to lose on penalties

FARO (Portugal), 27 June— Sweden midfielder Kim Kallstrom spoke of his side's anguish after they lost 5-4 to the Netherlands on penalties in their Euro 2004 quarterfinal on Saturday.

"It's terrible to lose on penalties," substitute Kallstrom said. "We had the chance to win, in the last five minutes we had a shot against the crossbar and another shot hit the post. It's terrible."

The match had finished 0-0 at the end of extra time.

MNA/Reuters

Robben ends Dutch penalty jinx

FARO (Portugal), 27 June— The Netherlands have been losing penalty shootouts for more than half of Arjen Robben's life but the 20-year-old midfielder ended the jinx on Saturday to send his country into the Euro 2004 semifinals.



When the quarterfinal against Sweden ended 0-0 after extra time the Dutch nation could have been forgiven for thinking "oh no, not again" as the teams prepared for a shootout.

After winning the 1998 European Championship their side went out of the next three editions on shootouts and also lost the 1998 World Cup semifinal to Brazil in the same way.

They took the early initiative on Saturday when Zlatan Ibrahimovic blazed Sweden's third penalty over the bar.

But the demons came

back when Philip Cocu's effort hit the post. Cocu was one of the players who failed in the 1998 World Cup semifinal and he looked devastated as he trudged back to where his teammates stood with linked arms.

It went to sudden death and Dutch keeper Edwin van der Sar brilliantly saved from Olof Mellberg. Robben then dispatched his shot into the net to take his country into a semifinal against Portugal on Wednesday with a 5-4 win.

The Dutch fans, so used to heartbreak, exploded with joy — in their last three European championship shootouts their team had missed five out of 14 attempts.

"It was the moment of my life in such a big tournament but I was very confident and thought I would score," Robben said.

"It's over now but it was very exciting and now it's one big party," Robben said.

"Finally we won a penalty shootout. Today we fought until the end, stayed positive and finally we won."

Dutch coach Dick Advocaat, well aware of the previous problems, had prepared for the moment.

"I think we can do our job in the regular 90 minutes, but if necessary there is list of five players for the shootout," he said before the game.

"The list has existed since the second leg (of the qualifying playoff) against Scotland and we have given some extra attention to penalties."

One person glad not to be on the pitch was captain Frank de Boer who was substituted, injured, in the first half.

He failed with one attempt during normal time and another in the shootout against Italy in the Euro 2000 semifinal defeat.

MNA/Reuters

Rangers sign Serbian midfielder Mladenovic

GLASGOW, 27 June— Rangers have signed Red Star Belgrade midfielder Dragan Mladenovic on a four-year deal subject to the Serbian international being granted a work permit.

"The clubs have agreed a deal of 1.6 million euros for Dragan, the player has signed a four-year contract having passed a medical with flying colours and it's all sub-

ject to a work permit being granted," Rangers director of football Martin Bain told the club's web site on Friday.

Rangers expect 28-year-old Mladenovic, part of the Red Star side who won a league and cup double last season, to join up with them at their pre-season training camp in Austria next month.

MNA/Reuters

Zidane, Thuram set championship appearances record

LISBON, 27 June— France's Zinedine Zidane and Lilian Thuram set a new record for European Championship appearances when they started the quarterfinal against Greece on Friday.

Midfielder Zidane and defender Thuram were playing their 14th European Championship finals match, beating the record they had held jointly with seven players.

Frenchmen Didier Deschamps and Laurent Blanc, Germans Juergen Klinsmann and Thomas Haessler, Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp, Italian Paolo Maldini and Denmark's Peter Schmeichel all played 13 matches in the tournament.

MNA/Reuters

UEFA praises players and referees

LISBON, 26 June— Euro 2004 has been an exceptionally clean tournament, with few red cards, thanks to the behaviour of the players and excellent refereeing, UEFA said on Friday.

UEFA communications director William Gaillard said players had responded well to the European governing body's fair play campaign.

"We've not seen any dangerous fouls," he said. "There have been very few bad injuries."

Only six red cards were shown during the first 25 matches of the tournament.

"On the whole we've seen some really excellent refereeing," Gaillard said.

MNA/Reuters



Dutch players (L to R) Michael Reiziger, Clarence Seedorf, Arjen Robben, Wilfred Bouma, Phillip Cocu, Jaap Stam, Giovanni van Bronckorst, Johnny Heitinga and Roy Makaay celebrate after defeating Sweden in their Euro 2004 quarter-final soccer match at the Algarve stadium in Faro on 26 June, 2004. The Netherlands won 5-4 on penalties. —INTERNET

Four political objectives	Four economic objectives	Four social objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 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 ceremony to drive stake, lay cornerstone of home for the aged in Kyauktan

YANGON, 27 June— Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony to drive stake and lay cornerstone of Kyauktan Home for the Aged, in Padagyi model village of Kyauktan Township at 9 am today.

Also present on the occasion were 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, local authorities, social organizations, wellwishers and guests.

First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt drove the stake and sprinkled scented water on it.

At the auspicious time, the Prime Minister laid the cornerstone and sprinkled scented water on the foundation.

Next, the Commander and the ministers simultaneously laid the cornerstones at the designated places and sprinkled scented water on the foundation.

Later, the Prime Minister put gem casket at the centre of the foundation and stone inscription on it. The Prime Minister performed the rituals of golden and silvery showers to mark successful completion of the ceremony.

Afterwards, Director-General of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development U Arnt Kyaw reported on construction matters and donations of wellwishers.

Managing Director of AEC construction U Tint Hsan reported on the lay-out plan of the home for the aged and construction works. The Prime Minister gave instructions.

The Prime Minister and party paid homage to Kyaik Padagyi Hsandaushin Pagoda and looked into the renovation tasks of the Pagoda.



Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt lays stone plaque at the cornerstone of Kyauktan Home for the Aged in Padagyi Model Village of Kyauktan Township.— MNA

tasks of the Pagoda.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected construction of Kyauktan gymnasium. On arrival at Kansein lake, Director of Yangon Division Development Affairs Department U Kyan Taing Hsung reported on renovation

tasks of the lake.

Later, the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions and left there for Thanlyin to attend an opening ceremony of Thanlyin Yadana Basic Education Primary School.—MNA

Building new motor roads, railroads, airports and bridges tantamount to creating better transport among states and divisions

Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends inauguration ceremony of Bokpyin Airport

YANGON, 27 June— The opening ceremony of Bokpyin Airport in Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi Division, was held at the airport this morning attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present at the ceremony were Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Win of Khamaukyi Station, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Transport Department and other departments concerned, social organizations,

students and local people totalling 33,000.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo, accompanied by the ministers, the deputy ministers and departmental officials, arrived at Bokpyin by Myanma Airways. They were welcomed there by Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and military officers, departmental officials, students and local people.

The ceremony to open the Bokpyin Airport was held at the pavilion at the airport and Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave an opening speech. He said:

Bokpyin airport opened today is situated near Chaungkayett Village about nine miles south of Bokpyin, Taninthayi Division. The 10,000 feet long and 100 feet wide facility in which domestic and foreign aircraft could easily land has the concrete runway.

The opening of Bokpyin Airport in Taninthayi Division where there were only three airports—Myeik airport, Dawei airport and Kawthoung airport—in the past amounts to uplifting the transport sector of the division.

Bokpyin had to rely only on waterways in the past but it is now accessible by road, by waterways and by air. Taninthayi Division is in southernmost of the country and it can be accessible only by waterways and airways. Due to poor transport, business such as agriculture and mining could not be conducted.

Therefore, the division lagged behind in development.

One can now travel from one place to another in the division with the emergence of seven bridges—Winwa, Pulauk, Palaw, Pathoung, Taninthayi, Kywegu-Kyaukphya

(See page 11)



Lt-Gen Maung Bo addresses opening ceremony of Bokpyin Airport.— MNA

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.