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Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt inspects the project to relocate the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, and an exchange station in Sangyoung Township. — MNA

Secretary-1 inspects renovation of CPT Minister's office, Hanthawady exchange compound, Myanmar Shopping Mall building

YANGON, 17 June— State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt looked into the arrangements to relocate the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and an exchange station to the compound at the corner of Hanthawady and Pyay roads in Sangyoung Township, here this afternoon. The Secretary-1 also inspected Myanmar Shopping Mall project on Sule Pagoda Road. During inspection of the two projects, he gave necessary instructions to officials.

General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Yangon Division

Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Yangon Mayor U Ko Lay, officials from the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, arrived at the compound at the corner of Hanthawady and Pyay roads in Sangyoung Township where the ministry and the exchange station will be relocated. Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Communications, Posts and

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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Government building 80 highways, bridges large and small to ensure smooth transport in entire Union Hopin Bridge on Shwebo-Myitkyina strategic road opened

YANGON, 17 June — Hopin Bridge in Hopin, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, was opened with a ceremony at the pandal near the bridge this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint said the bridge on Thayet creek in Hopin on Shwebo-Myitkyina road is installed with steel frames. The State is giving priority to building bridges and roads, the basic requirements for

national development. It is the ninth bridge in Kachin State whose length exceeds 180 feet. The State Peace and Development Council has been studying and fulfilling the regional requirements for harmonious progress of all the regions including Kachin State.

Transport is the most important and the most basic need for regional development. In accord with the Head of State's guidance, Union 80 highways linking the states

and divisions the length and breadth of the Union have been build and extended phase by phase. At the same time, the government is building a large number of bridges large and small on the roads. The aim of the project is to build a network of roads ensuring smooth transport in all the parts of the Union. In the past, mainly, there was only a rail road to link Mandalay Division, Sagaing Division

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The newly-opened Hopin Bridge in Hopin, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 18 June, 2003

Towards socio-economic development of rural areas

The development of a region depends on its transportation sector. Therefore, the government is giving top priority to building the transport infrastructure for the development of each and every region across the Union. Plans are being implemented for the improvement in transport and telecommunications that can directly benefit social, economic, education and health sectors. Rural areas have become developed especially during the period of the third short-term five-year plan and measures are being taken to narrow down the gap between rural and urban areas.

In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on rural development, the tasks for smooth and easy transportation, water supply, promotion of education and health care services and economic development in rural areas are being carried out with added momentum. Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt on 15 June attended the opening ceremonies of Cheinchaung and Anaingpon bridges and Shwewayang Road (fourth section) in Bilin Township, Mon State.

Cheinchaung Bridge is 90-foot long and 16-foot wide. Anaingpon Bridge is 46 feet long and 16 feet wide. Both are of reinforced concrete types and are situated on the Shwewayang Road (first section). Shwewayang Road (fourth section) links Yetkanthema village and Theingnu village in Bilin Township and Kyaikpi village in Kyaikhto Township. It was constructed by the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs with the cooperation of local people.

Now, the first, second, third and fourth sections of Shwewayang Road have been opened in Bilin and Kyaikhto townships in Mon State. The fourth section of the road links the villages on the eastern and western sides of Kaylatha Mountain Range. The opening of Thuwunna Yadana Bridge, Zokthok Bridge, Cheinchaung Bridge and Anaingpon Bridge on Shwewayang Road enables the people living in 13 villages in the area to travel from one place to another easily.

We would like to urge all those responsible always to construct more and more roads and bridges in rural areas so as to improve the social and economic life, education and health of rural people.



Ywin Shinyon and Ywin Laukshin with seized heroin. MNA

Heroin, raw opium seized

YANGON, 17 June — A combined team consisting of members of the local intelligence unit, special anti-drug squad and Myanmar Police Force, acting on a tip-off on 30 May, searched a house in Yonshé Ward, Laukkai and arrested Ywin Shinyon, son of U Ywin Kyar Shi of Kongyan, and Ywin Laukshin, son of U Ywin Lauk Kyone, together with 9.1 kilos of heroin at the house.

Likewise, on 5 June, another combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and special anti-drug squad, acting on information, searched a house located in Shwethamin Ward, Muse, and seized house owner Mar Naw, son of U Khin Yongan along with 10.7 kilos of raw opium. Police stations concerned are taking action against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

Fire-fighting course concludes

YANGON, 17 June — The conclusion of the basic fire-fighting course No 1/2003 organized by the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information was held at the head office of NPE on Theinbyu Road here this afternoon, with an address by Managing Director of NPE U Tin Kha.

Also present on the occasion were Director (News) U Hla Tun, Director (Admin) U Soe Win, the head of Kyauktada Township Fire Services Department, chief editors of the dailies, Myanmar News Agency (Internal) and (External), course instructors and trainees. Head of Kyauktada Township Fire Services Department U Hla Myint presented completion certificates to the trainees. Then, the trainees presented a skill demonstration.

A total of 65 trainees attended the course conducted from 2 to 10 June under the instruction of the Minister for Information. — MNA



Managing Director of NPE U Tin Kha delivers an address at the closing ceremony of the training course. — MNA

Seminar on application of modern laboratory equipment held

YANGON, 17 June — A seminar on application of modern laboratory equipment, jointly organized by Lion Myanmar International Co Ltd and Bayer Health Care Ltd, was held at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here this afternoon. It was attended by specialists, professors, heads of departments, lecturers and doctors of the Ministry of Health and Defence Services Hospital, officials of the two companies and guests.

At the seminar, Director U Nay Min Myo Thein of

POEM:

Take horse and saddle as example

* If horse doesn't move
But saddle moves
Horse would have to
Take to full gallop
Every time saddle moves.
* Every time that toy horse
Moves whenever saddle sets fickle
The move it shakes
The saddle deteriorates
And comes off
In chaotic condition
Head and neck breaks
It is left thus
The saddle itself
Is unperturbed
But keeps moving.

Byan Hlwar (Trs)



Director of Lion Myanmar International Co U Nay Min Myo Thein delivers an address at the seminar. — MNA

Demonstration on SEW Eurodrive Energy Saving Products

YANGON, 17 June — Under the aegis of the Myanmar Engineering Society, SEW (Private) Co Ltd of India and Agricultural and Industrial Development Co Ltd of Myanmar jointly demonstrated on SEW Eurodrive Energy Saving Products at the Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road here this afternoon.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Nyi Hla Nge, Deputy Minister for Energy U Tin Tun,

the chairman, vice-chairman and executives of the MES, and guests.

After Chairman of the MES Dr Sein Myint had extended greetings, Managing Director of SEW (Private) Co Ltd of India Mr PKC Bose explained the production and utilization of various gear motors.

Next, Market Director of SEW (Private) Co Ltd of India Mr P Majundar explained the marketing of gear motors. — MNA



Managing Director of SEW (Private) Co Ltd Mr PKC Bose speaks at the demonstration. — MNA

BBC poll shows disapproval of Iraq war

BAGHDAD, 17 June —The US-led military campaign in Iraq and the policies of President George W Bush have been condemned in an 11-country opinion poll conducted by the BBC.

The publicly funded UK broadcaster — which questioned 11,000 people in the US, Europe, Middle East and Australia — found that 57 per cent had an unfavourable attitude to the US President. The figure rose to 60 per cent when responses by Americans were excluded.

A majority of those questioned in the poll, which covered US political, economic, military and cultural influence, opposed the invasion of Iraq, including more than 80 per cent of Russian respondents and 63 per cent in France.

The poll, to be broadcast in Britain on Tuesday night, showed attitudes to the US splitting mainly along the lines

adopted by national governments.

More than 70 per cent of US and Israeli participants supported the Iraq conflict, along with 54 per cent of Britons.

The BBC declined to comment on whether what the World thinks of America, the programme about the poll, would be shown in the US, where it broadcasts through public service networks and its BBC America cable channel.

Results of the survey, conducted last month, illustrated deeply divergent views on US foreign policy between Americans and other nationalities.

Among its findings, the survey found that 70 per cent of international respondents felt the US military had failed to do enough to minimise civilian casualties.

"However, 70 per cent of American respondents said other countries did not appreciate how much America does to avoid civilian casualties," according to a BBC statement.

Only US respondents showed a majority view in favour of the country's policy on Israel and Palestine.

But the BBC admitted the findings were collated before the launch of the Bush administration's "road-map for peace".

Culturally, respondents in several countries admitted that they were becoming more like America, with more than 60 per cent in Britain and Israel acknowledging that trend, rising to 81 per cent in Australia.

Internet



Iraqi lawyers shout slogans during a protest outside the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA) at the former Presidential Palace in Baghdad, on 16 June, 2003. The lawyers are demanding the restoration of Iraqi courts and the country's legal system following the fall of Saddam Hussein. Iraqis are slowly coming out of the streets to express their new-found freedom after Saddam's ouster.

INTERNET

ISLAMABAD, 17 June —Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov Sunday stressed that his country is prepared to establish mutually beneficial relations with Pakistan at all levels and welcomed Islamabad's efforts to fight against terrorism.

At an hour-long joint news conference with his Pakistani counterpart Khurshid Kasuri, Ivanov said political contacts between Moscow and Islamabad in recent years have been gaining momentum and he is satisfied with this development.

He noted that both Russia and Pakistan agree to leave behind "the past negative tendencies" and show keen interest in developing bilateral relations. By and large, Russia is prepared to establish with Pakistan mutually beneficial relations at all levels, said the minister. Talking about his meeting with Kasuri, Ivanov said they discussed bilateral, regional and international issues and shared similar positions

especially on the role of the United Nations.

Ivanov elaborated on Russia's stand on the situation in South Asia, saying his country welcomes Pakistan's efforts to deter terrorism and religious extremism. International terrorism has posed a threat to the world and that is why Russia conducts coordinative efforts to deter terrorism in the framework of an international coalition, Ivanov said.

Russia also welcomes the peaceful efforts made by Pakistan and India to resolve their outstanding issues, supports the possible dialogue between the two neighbours and believes that a solution to the Kashmir issue has to be found, he added.—MNA/Xinhua

Australia launches tourism campaign in Asia

CANBERRA, 17 June — Australia launched a new campaign Sunday to retake its share of the Asian tourist market.

The Australian Tourist Commission launched the campaign named Australian Tourism Exchange in Melbourne. According to a news release from the state organ, the campaign is funded by the new 10 million Australian dollar (6.6 million US dollar) allocation of the federal government last week.

The campaign will run over several months to promote Australia as a friendly and welcoming destination, the commission's Managing Director Ken Boundy said, adding that the new promotion will be rolled out across the region including Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Taiwan, and will also

extend to Japan.

Advertisements in newspapers and magazines as well as TV and radio commercials will be supported by consumer competitions, media promotions and an extensive visiting journalist programme," Boundy said.

He revealed that due to the severe impact of SARS, over the past two months arrivals from international markets per week have dropped by between 15 to 20 and some of the worst hit markets are in the Asia region, with falls of up to 40 to 50 per cent in weekly visitor arrivals from Southeast Asia.

The Australian tourism industry earns 71 billion Australian dollars (46.86 billion US dollars) a year.—MNA/Xinhua

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Pressure mounts over WMD claims

LONDON, 17 June—An inquiry opens on Tuesday into whether the UK Government misled parliament on the threat posed by Iraq, as Washington comes under fresh attack for allegedly manipulating evidence.

In London, parliament's Foreign Affairs Select Committee will focus particular attention on British Government claims that Iraq had the capacity to launch a strike using weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) within 45 minutes.

Since the war was officially declared over, no such weapons have been located — although their alleged existence was a key reason cited by the US President George Bush and UK Prime Minister Tony Blair for going to war.

In Washington, Congress is to open inquiries this week into whether the government misread or inflated threats posed by Iraq before going to war. Such a finding is seen as having the potential to embarrass President Bush.

On Monday, a senior member of the US Senate fuelled the debate with fresh allegations.

Senator Carl Levin said

he had evidence that the Central Intelligence Agency deliberately withheld crucial information from the UN arms inspectors deployed to Iraq before the war to find evidence of banned weapons.

Mr Levin, the top Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee — which is reviewing the information — told reporters that if the public had known that information about alleged top weapons sites was not being shared, there would have been "greater public demand that the inspection process continue".

While Mr Levin has already made clear that he believes intelligence material may have been misused to make the case for war, the BBC's Justin Webb in Washington says this is the first time he has backed it up with one specific, and serious, allegation. Mr Bush defended his decision to go to war in a speech on Monday. This nation acted to a threat from the dictator of Iraq. Now there are some who would like to rewrite history; revisionist historians is what I like to call them," the president said.

Two former UK cabinet ministers who resigned in connection with the war against Iraq, Robin Cook and Clare Short, are due to give evidence to the committee, whose job is to assess the role played by the Foreign Office in the affair.

Internet

Russia to establish mutually beneficial ties with Pakistan



View of the seventh conference of the secretaries of Gulf Cooperation Council parliaments and Shura Councils. The GCC strongly condemned terror attacks in Saudi Arabia and called for a national unity government in Iraq. —INTERNET

US arrests dozens in Iraqi sweep

RAWAH, 17 June — Led by informants, US soldiers swept into homes in Baghdad and several outlying towns Monday, a day after 10 Americans were injured in two ambush attacks that reinforced the belief that loyalists of former President Saddam Hussein were reorganizing. At least 59 Iraqis were detained, most of them taken away blindfolded and in handcuffs.

The soldiers dug up back yards in a search for heavy arms, but the military announced no major weapons discoveries. An Army soldier told NBC News that the troops found "blasting caps, C4 [plastic explosives], artillery rounds, ammunition, a few weapons."

For weeks, US forces have been the targets of hit-and-run assaults, most of them in the central "Sunni belt" north and west of Baghdad. About a dozen US service members have been killed by hostile fire since 1 May, when President Bush declared major combat operations over.

Ten Americans were wounded in the latest ambushes Sunday.

In the first, an "enemy individual" fired a rocket-propelled grenade at soldiers of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, hitting a civilian bus that was passing a military convoy near the town of al-Mushahidah, about 15 miles north of Baghdad, US Central Command said in a statement.

Eight Americans were wounded, two of them seriously. Soldiers returned fire, but it was unclear whether there were casualties on the civilian bus, the

statement said.

In the other incident Sunday, assailants fired rocket-propelled grenades at a US convoy near Dujayl, 35 miles north of Baghdad, slightly wounding two soldiers, said Army Capt John Morgan, a military spokesman in Baghdad.

Home searches

The attacks took place on the second day of a forceful new operation called Desert Scorpion, which US officials said was based on intelligence pinpointing opponents of the coalition forces in Iraq. It followed the expiration Sunday of an amnesty program for people turning in heavy weapons.

On the outskirts of Ramadi, about 60 miles west of Baghdad, families were still asleep when a US armored column rumbled into their village at 5.15 am, blaring an Arabic-language warning from loudspeakers: "These are coalition forces. Please stay in your homes and open your doors. Thank you for your cooperation."

Troops bound men and women in the two houses with plastic hand-

cuffs and moved them into a nearby field while they searched the homes, residents told news agencies. They found one rifle.

Omar Mishrif Saleh, an older brother of the detainees, said the soldiers knew what they were looking for and sought out the house of a brother who had served in Saddam's army.

"Someone must have informed on us," he said, although he denied that his arrested brothers, ages 20 to 30, were engaged in anti-US activities.

Desert Scorpion follows last week's Operation Peninsula Strike, the biggest US operation since the end of major combat in Iraq. Troops in armoured convoys, boats and helicopters raided suspected militia hideouts around Balad, detaining 400 Iraqis, 60 of whom remained in custody, the Army said.

Residents in and around Baghdad told NBC News that the high-profile US operations would backfire by creating resentment.

"The Americans claim they want to provide Iraq with freedom and humanity, but they are doing the opposite," Zaidoun Jassim, 15, told NBC's Dawna Friesen on Monday. —Internet

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British troops in Iraq 'for four years'

LONDON, 17 June — British troops could be in Iraq for up to four years if pro-Saddam Hussein fighters continue to undermine attempts by the US-led coalition to eliminate his former regime, *The Times* newspaper said today.

Britain has deployed a 17,000-strong ground force in Iraq for between one and two years. But the duration could double if attacks by Iraqi militia on allied forces became more frequent, defence ministry sources told *The Times*.

Major-General Freddy Viggers, a British commander appointed to serve at the US military headquarters in Baghdad, told the newspaper yesterday that coalition forces risked becoming bogged down in a Balkans-style policing mission unless they could capture or kill Saddam and prove his regime was finished.

About 1600 British troops are still in Bosnia, 11 years after the end of the conflict.

Major-General Patrick Cordingley, commander of Britain 7th Armoured Brigade — Desert Rats — in the 1991 Gulf War said that the longer coalition forces remained in Iraq, the more resentful the Iraqis would become.

"But the American and British troops cannot possibly leave Iraq until the country is absolutely secure and back in Iraqi hands," he said. But sources close to Britain's Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon told *The Times* that he was determined to avoid a Bosnia-style commitment.

"The Iraqis have to take responsibility for themselves," the source said. —Internet

British official warns of chaos in Iraq

LONDON, 17 June — British military sources last night voiced growing concerns over the efficiency of the American-led reconstruction operation in Iraq.

In the face of growing hostility from pro-Saddam Hussein militias, one defence source told *The Times* that the 17,000-strong force of British soldiers in Iraq may have to stay in place for as long as four years.

Major-General Freddy Viggers, the British commander appointed to serve at the US military headquarters in Baghdad, warned that

Allied troops would face a long-running struggle unless Saddam Hussein was killed or captured. Unless his Baathist regime was brought to a definitive end, the operation threatened to follow in the footsteps of the Balkans operation, where around 1,600 British troops remain in Bosnia after 11 years, according to General Viggers. Meanwhile, there were

further claims that the American post-war effort was being seriously undermined by incompetence, mismanagement and a shortage of staff. Paul Bremer, the US administrator in Iraq, had "fewer than 600" staff to run the country in which civil infrastructure was on the brink of collapse, a senior British official in Baghdad told *The Daily Telegraph*. —Internet



US military police lead away an Iraqi man after finding plastic explosives in his house during a dawn raid on 16 June, 2003 in the town of Khadiya, west of Baghdad.

INTERNET

Baghdad sniper kills US soldier

LONDON, 18 June — An American soldier has been killed by a sniper's bullet while on patrol in Iraq Monday evening, according to the US military.

The soldier was with the 1st Armoured Division in northern Baghdad when he was shot in the chest and collapsed.

He was taken to a first aid station but later died, said US military spokesman Major Sean Gibson. The gunman escaped.

The shooting came on the second day of a major operation by US forces to root out pockets of resistance and track down illegal weapons stockpiles.

Almost 400 people have been arrested since Operation Desert Scorpion was launched on Sunday, the day a two-week gun amnesty ended.

Soldiers stormed the homes of hundreds of sleeping families in and around the capital Baghdad and the northern cities of Tikrit and Kirkuk. The raids follow a series of attacks on US forces since the end of the war, which has left more than 41 soldiers dead. —Internet

Security lapses as Paris Air Show gets underway

LE BOURGET (France), 17 June — Paris Air Show organizers have more than doubled spending this year to reduce the risk of attacks, but the head of the world's biggest aerospace fair concedes there have already been security lapses. Guards are meant to search all visitors and their bags when they enter on foot, while others should check cars and luggage as they enter the grounds. On Sunday morning, though, attendees said they were ushered in with minimal checks, while some cars were allowed to pass through security gates without stopping as guards stood by.

MNA/Reuters



A dragon boat is to arrive at the finishing line during a dragon boat race held near the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River in central China's Hubei Province June 14, 2003. The dragon boat race was the first after the water level of the Three Gorges Reservoir reached 135 meters. Migrants of the county of Zigui in Hubei in the Three Gorges Dam area formed the teams to take part in the race. —XINHUA PHOTO

Blair loses trust of 'duped' swing voters

LONDON, 17 June — Tony Blair is losing the trust of "swing voters" who feel duped over the Iraq war and his claims about its weapons of mass destruction, a *Financial Times* survey shows. The postwar euphoria that enhanced the prime minister's personal standing has evaporated, to be replaced by growing disillusion over the state of public services, according to a focus group conducted for the FT by Opinion Leader Research.

The findings show that, as the prime minister attempts to put behind him a muddled reshuffle and lever the spotlight back on to the government's reform programme, he faces an uphill battle to hold on to the public's trust.

There was criticism of Mr Blair's handling of the war and accusations he was duped by George W Bush, the US president, or followed America unthinkingly.

Worryingly for Mr Blair, some participants in the New Labour-style focus group of "switchers", former Tory voters who moved to Labour in 1997, felt it was now a matter of "time" before the government fell. But the lack of a strong opposition meant none of the other political parties offered a serious alternative. Problems are piling up on the domestic front, with

frustration at the perceived failure to deal with rising numbers of asylum seekers and deliver on promises to improve the health service and education. The survey was similar in format to those regularly conducted by Labour's own pollsters and was carried out last week in Hemel Hempstead, a marginal seat. It shows that the Prime Minister's personal standing with switchers, which soared during the Iraq conflict, has taken a severe knock in the row over WMD. There was anger that, despite the government's repeated assertion of the threat posed by Iraq before the conflict, no evidence of its weapons of mass destruction had been found.

Jackie, a middle manager, said: "I haven't got much faith in Blair at the moment, after this Gulf business. Like, the weapons, where are they? Every-

one I know doesn't think much of Blair now, whereas everyone voted for him before."

John, a maintenance manager, said: "You can see through the curtain now. It's obvious now, you can see the leaks and the scandals. And they're paranoid about what information we're given." The group talked of being "sceptical" and "wary" of the prime minister and said the government was too obsessed with "spin" and appearances on a range of issues. The Prime Minister can take consolation that switchers feel the "not yet" decision on the euro was right. And, encouragingly for Mr Blair as he begins a campaign to promote the benefits of Europe, there was a sense that relations with European partners would become closer.

Internet

သားငယ်မြို့ ပြည်နယ်

US Senator probes CIA dealings with weapons inspectors

WASHINGTON, 17 June — A senior American Congressman has called for the declassification of information on how many moderate and high-level suspect sites were provided to United Nations weapons inspectors before the war in Iraq.

From Washington, John Shovelan reports Democrat Senator, Carl Levin is challenging claims by the Bush Administration it provided weapons inspectors with information on all the sites. Senator Levin says the CIA Director, George Tenet should make public just how many of the 150 sites he briefed UN weapons inspectors about. "Why did the CIA say that they had provided detailed information to UN inspectors when they had not?" he has asked. Senator Levin says the Administration needs to hold a full independent inquiry into the relationship between the Administration and intelligence agencies before the war, and not the limited hearings now planned. —Internet



An Iraqi boy walks past a broken burning oil pipeline near the oil refinery in Kirkuk, 255 kilometres north of Baghdad, Iraq on 16 June, 2003. With the UN lifting its sanctions on Iraq, oil is expected to hit the global market to prop up Iraq's economy. —Internet

China helps build up regional confidence

PHNOM PENH, 17 June — Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, paid tribute to China Monday for helping build up regional confidence and trust.

China did this in accepting mutually beneficial conduct in the South China Sea as well as demonstrating solidarity with

ASEAN, he added.

In his opening speech at the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) 36th Ministerial Meeting (AMM), he recalled that in 2002, ASEAN and China inked the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea. This was a big step forward, he stressed, thus greatly building up regional confidence and improving security and stability in East Asia.

During the ASEAN-China Summit in Phnom Penh in 2002, China's special envoy signed the declaration which contains important practical areas for cooperation in the South China Sea, including safety of navigation, rescue operation and combating trafficking of illicit drugs, piracy and armed robbery in the sea. Under the theme

"Towards an ASEAN Economic Community — Integrated and Outward-Looking", the 36th Ministerial Meeting is being attended by Foreign Ministers from the 10 ASEAN members, its secretary-general, the foreign minister of Papua New Guinea (special observer) and Foreign Minister of East Timor (chairman's guest).

ASEAN was established on 8 August, 1967, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration, also known as the Bangkok Declaration, by foreign ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. It was later expanded to include Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia. Papua New Guinea became its observer in 1995.

MNA/Xinhua

Official says Powell could visit Israel Friday

WASHINGTON, 17 June — US Secretary of State Colin Powell could visit Israel on Friday to take part in the US attempt to mediate between Israelis and Palestinians, a senior US official said on Monday.

Powell left Washington for Cambodia on Monday for an Asian regional meeting. He will visit Bangladesh on Thursday and then fly on to Jordan for an economic conference on the Dead Sea. The US official, who asked not to be named, said: "There's some flexibility in his schedule, should he wish to do that (visit Israel) on Friday." On Sunday Powell will attend a meeting in Amman of the quartet of international mediators. The group includes the European Union, United Nations, Russia and US. —MNA/Reuters

Pentagon spokeswoman resigns

WASHINGTON, 17 June — Pentagon spokeswoman Victoria Clarke has resigned, effective Friday, from her post as assistant secretary of defence for public affairs, the Defence Department announced on Monday.

Clarke cited personal reasons for her resignation but did not elaborate. "I depart sadly because this has been the best professional experience of my life," she said in a brief statement issued by the Pentagon.

Clarke was reportedly the mastermind of the ambitious programme to "embed" hundreds of reporters from around the world with US military forces during the war in

Iraq. The programme has got mixed reaction from the media.

In the Pentagon statement, Defence Secretary Donald H Rumsfeld called Clarke "a gifted communicator".

The *Washington Times* reported last week that Clarke, a former public relations executive, might be planning to join the communications team for the re-election campaign of President George W Bush.

Lawrence DiRita, special assistant to Rumsfeld, will do Clarke's job until a permanent replacement is confirmed, the Pentagon said. — MNA/Xinhua

Latvian peacekeeping troops start mission in Kirkuk, Iraq

RIGA (Latvia), 17 June — The Latvian military contingent as part of the US-led multinational peacekeeping force in Iraq has already launched its mission in a military base in Kirkuk, Iraq, the *Latvian News Agency* LETA reported on Monday.

First Lieutenant Uldis Davidovs, chief of the Press and Information Department at the National Armed Forces, told LETA that Latvian field engineers along with their American colleagues have begun the work of gathering and neutralizing ammunition, twice a week. The supply squad servicemen participate in handling freights, driving trucks or repair work, one serviceman coordinates delivery of freights supplied by airplanes.

Until last week, Latvian soldiers were located at the military base "Ahmed al Jaber" along with American soldiers, but later departed for a military base in Kirkuk. Kirkuk is located in northern Iraq, where the largest and oldest oil fields are located. The Americans took over the oil fields after the military operation was over, and resumed oil drilling there in late April.

It was reported that Latvia has sent a dozen soldiers to the US-led multinational peacekeeping force in Iraq. — MNA/Xinhua



Actor Hume Cronyn, shown with his Emmy for best supporting actor in for the television special *Neil Simon's 'Broadway Bound'* at the Emmy Awards in this 30 August, 1992 file photo in Pasadena, Calif, died of prostate cancer on 15 June, 2003 at his home in Fairfield, Conn, a family spokeswoman said on 16 June, 2003. Cronyn, who was a veteran stage and screen actor who charmed audiences with his portrayals of irascible old men and frequently paired up with his wife, Jessica Tandy, was 91. —Internet

UN hopes of big influence over postwar Iraq fade

UNITED NATIONS, 17 June — Hopes that the United Nations and other international monitors might over time win substantial influence over Iraqi reconstruction were fading yesterday, as detailed proposals for the management of Iraqi oil receipts threatened to leave multilateral institutions with only minor powers.

Draft US proposals for an International Advisory and Monitoring Board, established by the UN to oversee spending through an Iraqi Development Fund (IDF), would give the board powers to approve the fund's auditor (after making recommendations on its selection and terms of reference), review its reports, and monitor internal control systems.

But they did not appear to give the IAMB, which comprises representatives from the IMF, the UN, the World Bank and the Arab Development Bank, the power directly to monitor spending through the fund, which will receive 95 per cent of proceeds from all Iraqi oil and gas sales and leftover millions from the oil-for-food programme. That would be left to an independent public accounting firm, whose selection was already under way by the US before the monitoring board's establishment, according to an official.

At the same time, proposals to establish a "Programme Review Board", which would recommend expenditures from the fund in a way that would further the interests of Iraqi citizens, would give voting rights to a raft of US officials, and to one representative each from the UK, Australia, and Iraq's ministry of finance. The UN's special representative, by contrast, is not even given a non-voting seat, instead designated as an "observer".

The proposal would appear to confirm fears that the UN will be given somewhat less than the "vital" role originally promised.

One official said, however, that the proposals were not in final form, pointing out that the mandate of the international monitoring board needed to be approved by its four members. That could take place by June 25.—*Internet*

UNICEF resumes immunizing Iraqi children

GENEVA, 17 June— The United Nations children's agency (UNICEF) began routinely immunizing Iraqi children on Monday, restarting a programme which collapsed during the US led invasion.

UNICEF said 210,000 babies born in the 90 days since the start of military action were at risk from polio, tetanus, diphtheria, per-

tussis or whooping cough, measles and tuberculosis — all preventable diseases. "Not one of these children has been vaccinated

against the myriad of deadly and debilitating diseases young people are susceptible to," Carel de Rooy, UNICEF's representative in Iraq, said in a statement.

UNICEF's programme with the Ministry of Health to immunize the country's 4.2 million children under the age of five broke down during the conflict. Many vaccines were destroyed in missile attacks or because of electricity blackouts.

MNA/Reuters



The famous leaning tower of Pisa is lit up during the traditional 'Luminara di San Ranieri' (Illuminations of St Ranieri), in Pisa, central Italy on 16 June, 2003.

For centuries, in order to celebrate ancient Pisa's patron, Ranieri degli Scaccieri, some 70,000 candles have been displayed at sunset inside glasses and then hung up over wooden structures on palaces, bridges and towers along the river Arno.

INTERNET

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Grenades hit convoy in Iraq

Two Americans seriously wounded

BAGHDAD, 17 June — Assaults fired rocket-propelled grenades against a civilian bus and a US military convoy, wounding at least four Americans, two of them seriously, a US military spokesman said Monday.

In the first of two attacks, "an enemy individual fired a rocket-propelled grenade at 4th Infantry Division soldiers during an attempted ambush, hitting a civilian bus that was passing a military convoy near the town of Al Mushahidah" on Sunday, a US military statement said. The town is about 25 kilometres (15 miles) north of Baghdad.

At least two Americans

were seriously wounded in the attack, said Captain John Morgan, a US military spokesman in Baghdad.

Soldiers returned fire "to protect the convoy and the civilian bus," said a statement from US Central Command, adding that "the number of casualties on the civilian bus are unknown at this time."

Also Sunday, assailants fired rocket-propelled gre-

nades on a military convoy near Ad Dujayl, a town 55 kilometres north of Baghdad, lightly wounding two soldiers, Morgan said.

"The convoy returned fire, and the attackers fled the area," the Central Command said. "A quick reactionary force was dispatched to provide security for the convoy and pursue the attackers."

The incidents were the latest in a series of attacks against US occupation forces in Iraq. In response, the military has begun large-scale sweeps around the country in search of insurgents and weapons.

"Supporters of the former regime continue to put innocent civilians at risk. Coalition forces will continue to isolate and defeat remaining pockets of resistance that are delaying the transition to a peaceful and stable Iraq," the Central Command said.

Internet

US soldiers check weapons recovered during a raid at Khaldiya, 70 kms (40 miles) west of Baghdad, Iraq on 16 June, 2003. Hundreds of US troops backed by tanks and helicopters raided several cities and villages on the second day of 'Operation Desert Scorpion', arresting suspected militia leaders and seizing illegal weapons.

INTERNET

ASEAN must enhance economic competitiveness

PHNOM PENH, 17 June — Enhancing ASEAN's economic competitiveness remains high on the agenda of ASEAN foreign ministers who exchanged views in a closed session Monday shortly after the opening of the 36th Ministerial meeting.

This was announced by ASEAN spokesman Sieng Lapresse. The ministers were briefed by the consultation company McKinsey and Co on ASEAN's competitiveness in the world market.

They found that one of the main setbacks for the 10 member countries is their market fragmentation.

To overcome this, he added, "a fast-track economic integration in priority sectors, such as consumer goods and electronics" within ASEAN could be considered by the ministers.

The spokesman also noted that consumer goods are the largest traded sector in ASEAN, accounting on average for 58 per cent of household spending. Electronics is the most important export sector, representing some 50 per cent of the bloc's export.

Keeping this in mind, he noted, the ministers will realize the imperativeness of forming an ASEAN economic community by as early as 2020.

Under the theme "Towards an ASEAN Economic Community — Integrated and Outward-Looking", the 36th Ministerial Meeting was opened Monday morning.

Foreign ministers from the 10 member countries, its secretarygeneral, Foreign Minister of Papua New Guinea (special observer) and Foreign Minister of East Timor (chairman's guest) attended the opening ceremony.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen delivered a keynote speech "Cambodia: Fully Engaged in the ASEAN Community." The foreign ministers will continue the closed session Tuesday after a retreat Monday afternoon.

ASEAN was established on August 8, 1967, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration, also known as the Bangkok Declaration, by foreign ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

It was later expanded to include Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia. Papua New Guinea became its observer in 1995.—MNA/Xinhua

Pentagon adviser says making Iraq pay debt would be outrage

BERLIN, 17 June — Richard Perle, a leading Pentagon adviser and architect of the US war to topple Saddam Hussein, said on Monday it would be a moral outrage not to forgive Iraq's debt.

Perle also proposed new rules to discourage lending to other leaders who repressed those they ruled.

"To ask the impoverished and newly liberated people of Iraq to assume Saddam's debts would be a moral outrage," Perle, a leading neo-conservative, told *Reuters* after an address at the German Council on Foreign Relations in Berlin.

"Because Saddam was there for so long and his policies were known, no one can claim there was a surprise. No-one who handed over the money has any excuse," he said.

Iraq has an estimated 120 billion US dollars in external debts but the question of possible forgiveness has become entangled in the divisions between Washington and nations which opposed the war — Russia, Germany and France — all owed money by Baghdad.

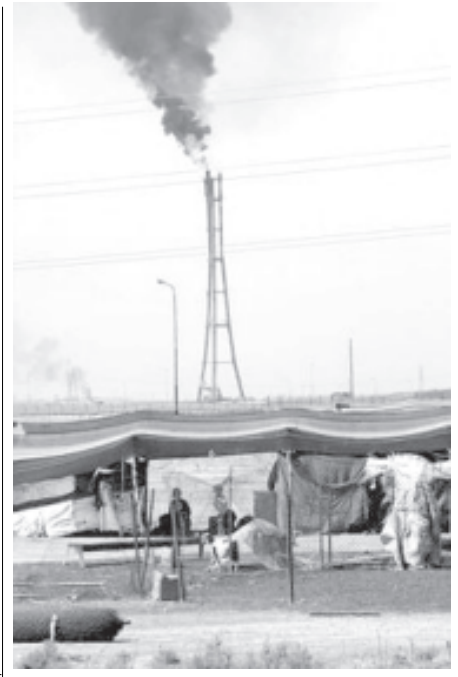
Any debt reduction agreement would require unanimous agreement among Iraq's creditors. That is unlikely given the political wrangling over how to manage the country after the war and the prospect of contracts to develop Iraq's huge oil reserves.

Perle, who resigned in March as chairman of the Pentagon's Defence Policy Board over alleged conflicts of interest, called for new international rules to discourage lending to repressive governments, but declined to name other countries he believed should be targeted by such measures. "It would be a good thing to increase the moral hazard associated with lending to totalitarian regimes," he said. "The international community should come together and lay down some broad guidelines."

"There will always be humanitarian exceptions where there are some awful regimes where people are in danger of perishing unless there is some assistance," he said. "Much too much international assistance ends up supporting regimes and not people."

Perle said it was legitimate for Iraq's occupiers to favour US firms when spending "American tax payer dollars" on reconstructing Iraq and said it would be understandable if an eventual new Iraqi administration also favoured "those who participated in their liberation".

MNA/Reuters



A destitute family lives near the oil refinery in Kirkuk, 255 kilometres north of Baghdad, Iraq on 16 June, 2003. With the UN lifting its sanctions on Iraq, oil is expected to hit the global market to help prop up Iraq's economy. —INTERNET

Butler slams Australia's delay on Iraq probe

AUSTRALIA, 17 June — Former United Nations weapons inspector Richard Butler said today it was "just shocking" Australia was the last nation to consider an inquiry into intelligence information about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

And Australians might have been "jilted" over the reasons for going to war against Iraq, Mr Butler said.

He was commenting on a Labour push for the parliament's intelligence authorities' committee to examine the nature and accuracy of information used to justify claims that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction ahead of the war.

Despite similar inquiries in the United States and Britain, the Government has steadfastly refused to investigate the accuracy of its intelligence information.

"I'm simply making a call for the historic truth here," Mr Butler told ABC radio. I'm very disappointed in the Howard Government's stance on it. I think it's just shocking they should be the last cab off the rank (in investigating intelligence which prompted the war)."

Mr Butler said he had been in the

game a long time and did not wish to make presumptions.

"(But) I think the signs are that we may have been jilted, and all I'm saying is, by God, we should know the truth," he said.

"The real possibility is that the weapons situation was pumped up to justify a war ... with respect to what John Howard called these 'mammoth quantities' of weapons, of which the biological trucks were a part. The public needs to know what was true here, because going to war is a dreadful business, and it would be shocking to think we had done that with the US and the UK on the basis of wrong or even falsified information."

He said Iraq was now "covered by American soldiers" and more than 1000 people in a special inspectorate were looking for weapons of mass destruction. —Internet

IAEA chief asks Iran to accept strict nuclear checks

VIENNA, 17 June — The head of the United Nations' nuclear watchdog on Monday called on Iran to accept strict inspection of its atomic programme to help dispel fears that it is secretly developing nuclear weapons, as Washington alleges.

The watchdog's board members have already received copies of a harsh report on Iran by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Mohammed ElBaradei and will discuss it during a board meeting running this week. "The report points out

that Iran has failed to report certain nuclear material and activities, and that corrective actions are being taken in cooperation with the Iranian authorities," ElBaradei said in a speech to the board.

ElBaradei also called on Iran to sign an Additional Protocol with the IAEA to grant inspectors wider access and more intrusive, short-notice inspections in order to be able to provide credible assurances about Iran's atomic plans.

A spokesman for Iran's Atomic Energy Organization told *Reuters* that Tehran might be willing to sign it, though he reiterated Iran's demands for access to nuclear technology in exchange for the government's signature.

"We have not yet decided about signing the Additional Protocol, but we are studying it with a positive view," spokesman Khalil Mousavi said.

A senior Iranian delegate at the board meeting complained to reporters that Washington was unduly pressuring the IAEA board, though he said a "reasonable" statement from the board on Iran's nuclear programme might provoke a positive response from Tehran.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters

Asian tourism to bounce back by end of this year

MANILA, 17 June — Tourism in Asia is expected to bounce back by the end of this year despite severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) fears, the Iraq war and last year's Bali bombings, the World Tourism Organization (WTO) said Monday.

"We expect the second part of the year to be positive and tourism will be back on track in the fourth quarter," said Francesco Frangialli, WTO Secretary-General.

He said Asia's tourism started to recover after the

end of the Iraq war, but that the rebound was delayed by the SARS outbreak.

SARS caused a 30 per cent to 40 per cent drop in reservations in Asia this year, compared with last year, even damaging tourism industries in countries in the region that had no cases of local transmission.

Frangialli, however, noted that the World Health Organization has declared the outbreak of the disease seems to near its end.

Asia saw an 8.3 per cent jump in tourist arrivals last year compared with 2001, despite the continuing effects of the September 11 terrorist attacks; last October's bombings on Bali, Indonesia that

killed over 200 people; and the region's lackluster economic performance, he added.

Frangialli was in Manila to attend a five-day WTO meeting of more than 100 delegates and tourism officials from at least 18 countries in the region, one of the objectives of which is to come up with a set of indicators to measure the economic impact of tourism, Frangialli said.

In May, the International Air Transport Association said it expects a loss of 10 billion US dollars this year due to SARS, the lingering effects of the September 11 attacks and the Iraq war.



Balinese women carry offerings on their head during the opening ceremony of the Bali Art Festival in Denpasar. The month long festival is aimed at attracting tourists and assisting the recovery of the island's tourism industry which suffered due to the 12 October 2002 bombing which killed more than 200 people. INTERNET

Secretary-1 inspects...

(from page 1)

Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw and officials welcomed them.

At the briefing hall, Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported matters on renovation tasks in the exchange compound for opening of the CPT Ministry and the exchange, large-scale renovation of assembly hall and two-storey main building, completion of greening tasks and arrangements for

better communication.

The Secretary-1 attended to the needs and inspected completion of the minister's office, assembly hall, land preparation for greening of the environs and gave necessary instructions to the officials. Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at Myanmar Shopping Mall at 143/149, Sule Pagoda Road, which will be jointly opened by Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services of the Ministry of Hotels and

Tourism and Htoo Trading Co Ltd, where officials welcomed them. The General was reported by Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw on large-scale renovation of the existing Diplomatic Store to open Myanmar Shopping Mall and arrangements for displaying and selling of various kinds of goods including gems. After giving necessary instructions, the Secretary-1 inspected renovation tasks and left there. — MNA



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt hears a report presented by Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw on renovation of the former Diplomatic Store for opening of Myanmar Shopping Mall. — MNA

The renovation of the office of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, and Hanthawady exchange compound in progress in Sangyoung Township. — MNA



Regional development projects inspected...

(from page 16)

progress, arrival of construction materials, heavy machinery and fuel. Deputy Chief Engineer (Upper Myanmar) U Sai Thein Maung gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected progress in constructing piles on Mogaung bank and left necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party, together with Brig-Gen Min Thein of Mogaung Station and departmental officials, inspected Mogaung People's Hospital. Medical Superintendent Dr Sein Lin conducted them round the hospital. Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected the hospital building and hospital equipment and gave instructions.

They then inspected progress of Mogaung by car. In the evening, they met

with departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people at the Town Hall. Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Tin Zaw Win reported on salient points about the township, formation of social organizations, agricultural

matters, condition of food sufficiency in the region, transport sector, progress in carrying out five rural development tasks, GDP, production value and supply of electricity; and departmental officials, on progress of work for regional development tasks department-wise.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that upholding the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, measures are being taken for building up a peaceful modern nation, for narrowing the development gap among the regions and for proportionate development of all parts of the country after

designating the 24 development regions. Besides, the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs has been formed for the development of border areas. Only when rural regions are developed, will the nation be modern and developed. So, the five rural development tasks have

been laid down and they are also being carried out. Then, Lt-Gen Ye Myint dealt with matters on promotion of transport, health and education sectors. He called for regional development tasks to be carried out through cooperation.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Ye Myint cordially greeted those present and townselders. — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townselders at the Town Hall in Mogaung. — MNA

Commander, Minister inspect Monywa Industrial Zone, Monywa Airport

YANGON, 17 June — Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe together with officials yesterday afternoon paid homage to Boditahtaung Sayadaw in Monywa Township and offered provisions to the Sayadaw.

Then, the commander and the minister met with industrialists at the hall of Monywa industrial zone.

At first, Chairman of the Supervisory Committee of the industrial zone U Zaw Win reported on progress of work and Chairman of Management Committee of industrial zone U Aung Khin, on production of items, raw materials and necessary assistance rendered for the zone.

Next, the commander made a speech on the occasion, saying that Monywa Industrial Zone is the largest one except Yangon and Mandalay industrial zones and

necessary assistance is being provided to it. Then, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, in-charge of the industrial zone, said that among the industrial zones, Monywa industrial zone is the one which was implemented first and innovative measures are to be taken to maintain the development momentum.

Afterwards, the commander and the minister inspected traditional weaving factory in the industrial zone and gave necessary instructions.

They inspected process of assembling the automobiles, making of designs, assembling of engine parts and different kinds of newly-manufactured automobiles and left necessary instructions.

In the afternoon, they arrived at Monywa airport construction site. Officials of the Shwethanlwin Highway

Company reported to them on progress in construction of the runway, stockpiling of construction materials, use of heavy machinery and arrangements for construction of airport building. Director-General of the Civil Aviation Department U Win Maung gave a supplementary report. The commander and the minister gave instructions on making concerted efforts for ensuring timely completion of the project and meeting the set standard under the supervision of the Civil Aviation Department, and attended to the needs.

Next, the commander and the minister inspected progress in constructing and tarring of the runway. Officials conducted them round the site. The commander and the minister left necessary instructions.

MNA

Government building 80 highways, ...

(from page 1)

and Kachin State. Shwebo-Myitkyina strategic road was built in 1996 in addition to rail, water and air transport in the regions. Hopin Bridge is a section of the strategic road on the west bank of Ayeyawady River. In accord with the goodwill and guidance of the Head of State, Mandalay-Tagaung-Bhamo-Myitkyina road was opened on the east bank. The two roads are now serving as gateways to Kachin State.

In addition, Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road was built, and Namti-Tanai-Nanyun road and Mogaung-Phakant-Phalamon-Hkamti road are being upgraded. Moreover, Myitkyina Degree College has become a university, and Myitkyina Education College, Myitkyina Government Technological College and Myitkyina Government Computer College, Bhamo Degree College, Bhamo Government Technological College and Bhamo Government Computer College were opened. The government has also opened 1,181 primary schools, 59 post-primary schools, 85 middle schools, 43 high schools, 36 affiliated high schools, and 10 affiliated middle schools.

The government has opened a 300-bed hospital, a drug rehabilitation hospital, a 16-bed traditional medicine hospital and a midwifery school in Myitkyina. A 200-bed hospital was also opened in Bhamo. The hospitals that have been opened in Kachin State are: one 300-bed hospital, one 200-bed hospital, one 100-bed hospital, five 50-bed hospitals, three 25-bed hospitals, one 25-bed drug rehabilitation hospital, and 30 16-bed hospitals. As in the other states and divisions, the government is laying down good foundations in Kachin State also to the most possible degree for cent-per-cent development of the region.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has been making arrangements in accord with the plans for



U Thein Aung speaks words of thanks. — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint addresses the opening ceremony of Hopin Bridge in Hopin, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State. — MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint formally unveils the stone inscription of the Hopin Bridge in Hopin, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State. — MNA

regional development and fulfilling the requirements of the plan. For example, he made a separate programme for development of Mohnyin. A degree college, a government technical institute, and a number of roads are under construction in the township. The town hospital has been upgraded to a 100-bed facility. As the paddy sown acreage in the state has reached over 400,000 acres in 1998-99, the region has been producing enough food for its population since then. Now, it can produce up to 112 per cent of the local requirement. Thanks to the collective efforts of the local people, peace and stability and the rule of law have been prevailing in the state. Thus, the people are now striving together with the government for rapid development of the region and the economy. The people are practically enjoying the fruits of peace and stability. The two roads on east and west banks of the Ayeyawady are the results of peace and stability.

The emergence of roads and bridges has led to formation of a transport network linking all parts of the Union. Thus, the national people of the state are urged to strive for development of the mother country with the spirit of national unity, the spirit of oneness and Union Spirit.

Next, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun made a speech. He said the Government has been giving priority to building of roads and bridges for ensuring better transportation. There were 13,635 miles of road in 1988 and now the

figure has increased to 18,111 miles showing the increase of 4,476 miles. Altogether 156 major bridges — 8 in Kachin State, 6 in Kayin State, 2 in Chin State, 10 in Sagaing Division, 4 in Taninthayi Division, 14 in Bago Division, 10 in Magway Division, 6 in Mandalay Division, 2 in Mon State, 25 in Rakhine State, 23 in Yangon Division, 8 in Shan State and 38 in Ayeyawady Division — have been built. The Hopin Bridge on Shwebo-Myitkyina road



Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun speaks at the ceremony. — MNA

was built at a cost of K 375.1 million. Mohnyin and Mogaung bridges on the same road will also be opened soon.

Then, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe delivered a speech. He said it was an auspicious effort for the entire Union for building of the Hopin Bridge on Shwebo-Myitkyina Road in accord with one of the five basic factors for rural development — ensuring smooth and secure transport. Bridges and roads were built in plain and hilly regions as well as border areas. By doing so, one can

travel easily from Kachin State to other states and divisions. As is known to all, the government has been making efforts for development of regions in the states and the Union, he said. Firstly, Shwebo-Myitkyina Road was upgraded to all-weather one and it was opened on 2 January 1990. Secondly, Namti-Mogaung axis was opened on 27 March 1990 and it became a tarred road on 16 December 1996. Again, bridges on Shwebo-Myitkyina Road are being built, he said.

The Hopin Bridge was the first one on Shwebo-Myitkyina Road. Mohnyin Nanyin Creek and Mogaung Nankaung Creek are under construction. In the past, the Hopin Bridge was often repaired due to the bank erosion. As the bridge was built firmly, the flow of commodity from Kachin State to central regions in Myanmar would be smoother and easier and education, social, economic conditions would also improve. Though the bridge is 200 feet long, it is a major bridge in transport of rice, edible oil and kitchen crops from Mohnyin, Mogaung, Myitkyina and Waingmaw regions to other states and divisions. He said the government is making arrangements for construction of six major bridges. He spoke of construction of Loi-liyan Bridge on Namti-Tanai Road, Sinkhan Bridge on Tagaung-Katha-Bhamo strategic road, Paung Net Creek Bridge on Shwegu-Sithoung Road, Malikha suspension bridge on the road to Kaunghmulon Pagoda and a suspension bridge on the road to snow-

capped Phonkanyazi Mountain in the west of Putao.

The Government spends a huge sum of money on the construction of roads and bridges, so that there



Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe speaks at the ceremony. — MNA

will be harmonious development in all the states and divisions of the nation. New roads will also be built in Kachin State for secure and better transport system. Just as the Government continues to maintain the long-term durability of Hopin Bridge, which was constructed at an enormous price, the national brethren should follow suit in the attitude of recognizing the gratitude of the State.

To sum up, the transport sector is becoming better improved as the Government in its genuine goodwill makes efforts to bring equality to every state and division for the development of the State. Now, the people of local national races can enjoy the economic, social, education, and health developments. Therefore, Kachin nationals are needed to join hands with the Government to establish a modern, developed nation ensuring the

development of the State, and the prevalence of law and order, and tranquillity.

Next, U Thein Aung, on behalf of the local populace, thanked the Government for the construction of Hopin Bridge. Then, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander, the minister, the deputy minister and party, and guests took their designated places at the top of the bridge.

At the auspicious time, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, and Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun formally opened the bridge. Lt-Gen Ye Myint unveiled the stone plaque of the bridge. Then, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party posed for documentary photo at the archway.

Hopin Bridge is constructed across Thayet creek on Shwebo-Myitkyina road in Hopin, Mohnyin Township. The bridge is 200 feet in length and is of concrete reinforced type. It also has a 75 feet wide clearance with 8 feet in height. The project of the construction of the bridge started on 12 February 2002, Union Day. It has a 26-foot-wide motor way and can bear 60 tons of load. The bridge plays a vital role in linking Kachin State to Central Myanmar. The bridge will also ensure smooth flow of commodities in Kachin State. It will also contribute to the flourishing of the Union Spirit that assures easy relations among different national races. Also present were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Brig-Gen Min Thein of Mogaung Station, military officers, local authorities, and over 10,000 local people.

MNA

Fourteen years of development and peace

Myint Soe (Na-Ta-La)

I was aware that the place I was standing was the very spot I had done so previously, but the view before me was quite different from the past and all my opinions were wrong.

The first time I arrived there was in 1983 when our battalion was discharging duties in Tangyan and Mongkong regions to control the western area of the Thanlwin River. Our commanding officer and Column No 1 Office was on Loi-in hill camp. Our platoon was on the Loi-in main range that could control Naungmain and Tonhne Villages including Loi-in hill camp.

On the mountain ranges in the eastern bank of the Thanlwin river, a squadron of fighter planes was dropping bombs and firing rockets amidst the explosions of 25- powder, 76 mm and 120 mm artillery shells. I came to remember a soldier who dropped his plate in fear on the very first day due to the explosion of a shell fired at BCPs from our camp.

On the left side of the scene, there were Mankhu and Mankha mountains once occupied by the BCPs. There were few travellers between the east and west banks of the river except those on military duties as decisive battles often took place there. I then thought that the region would be a battlefield in the future and we would have to fight the BCPs regardless of the nationalities among the BCP members.

I did not know if I got back to the regions twice because I had drunk water of the Thanlwin River. When I arrived at Tangyan region in 1988, the duty of our troops was to camp in Nanpaung to control the jetties on the bank of the river. I studied the situation with a communication machine and a radio. I liked the song Thakaung Yadana (the good son) sung by Yi Yi Khin which was often aired by the radio station.

While I was studying the situation of the region, I heard news about the break away of Kokang nationals led by U Phon Kya Shin from the BCPs and their return to legal fold on 31 March 1989. I was always worried that at a time when the government was making strenuous efforts for stability and tranquility of the State, BCP would hinder the efforts of the government. Our troops were so happy to hear the separation of Kokang nationals that marked the outset of the disintegration of BCP that we fired our rounds over the river. The entire village of Nanpaung was awakened by the sound of the explosions. We had to explain and ask their pardon later.

After fighting against the central BCP and its branches, Kokang and Wa nationals returned to the legal

fold on 9 May 1989. This incident led to the restoration of peace, enabling the Government to carry out rural development tasks for national brethren in border areas that had been left far behind in development for many decades.

On 25 May 1989, the Central Committee for the Development of Border Areas and National Races chaired by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe himself was formed with five members. Moreover, the Work Committee for the Development of Border Areas and National Races made up of 17 members led by State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt came into existence on 31 May the same year to add momentum to the realization of development tasks.

Again, it was also in 1989 that Akha nationals led by U Sai Lin from eastern Shan State, Shan nationals of the SSA from the area of North-East Command, and Kachin nationals led by U Za Khun Ting Ring of the 101 military region of former BCP also returned to the legal fold.

At that time, our company was stationed at the camp on Loi-in hill. When I gazed at the eastern view of Thanlwin from where I was six years ago, I smelt a fragrance mingled with the breeze — the sweet smell of peace. Going along the winding motor road for about 45 minutes leads to Takawet jetty on Thanlwin bank. Pontoons were packed with people as there was no bridge. Among the busy local nationals were rural development employees who were to shoulder duties in Panphein and Weinkaung regions. Sometimes, there happened to be unusual guests on the pontoons. They were but wives and offspring of members of peace groups who were once in Panghsang.

It seemed to be long that they had not spoken Myanmar language because they were speaking it most lively. The jetty where the reunion of family members met was worth remembering.

As I continued to serve at the operation strategy-1 of North-East Command, the two words 'peace and border area development' became more and more familiar with me. I got chances to make friends with such groups as the SSA, the Wa, the KDA, and the PSLA while lending myself to border area development tasks of eastern part of Thanlwin.

(To be continued)

(Translation: MWT+KTY)

(Kyemon: 16-6-2003)

New building for post-primary school handed over in Peikswa Village in Twantay Township

YANGON, 17 June — A new building of the post-primary school in Peikswa Village, Twantay Township, donated under the guidance of Myanmar Education Committee Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt by Doh Pyitha Enterprise Ltd was opened at the hall of the school this morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, senior officers of the Office of Military Intelligence, Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department U Tin Win, wellwisher Daw Khin Hla and her brother U Than Nyunt of Doh Pyitha Enterprise Ltd, departmental officials, Chairman of Twantay Township Peace and Development Council and members, Township Education Officer and school heads, social organizations,

wellwishers, Headmistress Daw Khin Saw and teachers and school children. Next, Township Education Officer U Tin Win, U Than Nyunt of Doh Pyitha Enterprise Ltd and Headmistress Daw Khin Saw formally opened the new building. U Than Nyunt of Doh Pyitha Enterprise Ltd then spoke on the occasion. Deputy Minister Brig-

Gen Soe Win Maung and Headmistress Daw Khin Saw thanked the donors.

Next, U Than Nyunt handed over related documents to Director-General U Tin Win who presented certificate of honour to the donor. Next, the deputy minister and guests viewed round the new building. The new building was con-

structed at a cost of K32 million.

MNA

Twantay Township Education Officer U Tin Win, wellwisher U Than Nyunt and Headmistress Daw Khin Saw formally open the new school building. — MNA



The new building worth K 32 million for post-primary school constructed by Doh Pyitha Enterprise Ltd in Peikswa Village in Twantay Township. — 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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တွင် (၆) မြို့နယ် (လမ်းမတော်၊ လသာ၊ ပန်းဘဲတန်း၊ ကျောက်တံတား၊ ဗိုလ်တထောင်၊ ပုဇွန်တောင်) အတွင်း ဟွန်းသံကင်းမဲ့ အဖြစ် (၁-၆-၂၀၀၃) ရက်မှစတင်သတ်မှတ်သွားမည်ဖြစ်ရာ မော်တော်ယာဉ်မောင်းသူများအားလုံးမှ ယင်းဧရိယာအတွင်း မည်သည့်အကြောင်းနှင့်မျှ ဟွန်းမတီးကြရန်နှင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုမဖြစ်စေရန် အတွက်လည်း သတိပြု မောင်းနှင်ကြရန် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အနေအထား များမှာလည်း စည်းကမ်းတကျ သွားလာကြရန်နှင့် ကန့်သတ်ထားသည့် ဧရိယာအတွင်း ဝင်ရောက်စီးနင်းခြင်းမပြုကြရန်၊ ထို့အပြင် လမ်းအသုံးပြုသူများမှာလည်း လူသွားစင်္ကြန်မှသွားလာကြရန်နှင့် လူကူးမျဉ်းကျားများ၊ လူကူးခုံကျော်တံတားတို့မှသာလမ်းဖြတ်ကူးကြပါရန်၊ လိုက်နာခြင်းမရှိပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူဆောင်ရွက်သွားမည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေး ကြံ့ကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

Myanmar Women's Sports Federation leading patrons meet

YANGON, 17 June — Leading Patrons of the Myanmar Women's Sports Federation held a meeting at Social Welfare Department this afternoon.

Present were head of the leading patrons Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and the leading patrons, and the president of the federation and executives.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe gave a speech. The meeting sought means to render assistance to Myanmar athletes who will take part in the Southeast Asia Games to be hosted by Vietnam this year. — MNA



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe delivers a speech at the meeting of the patrons of Myanmar Women's Sports Federation. — MNA

Holding of National Workshop on Women and Sport discussed



Deputy Minister U Hlaing Win makes an opening address at the coordination meeting for holding the national workshop on women and sports. — MNA

YANGON, 17 June — A meeting was held to successfully hold the National Workshop on Women and Sport this afternoon at the Social Welfare Department.

The Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs and the Myanmar Women's Sports Federation will co-sponsor the workshop.

Present were Chairman of the NWS Organizing Committee Chairman of Myanmar National Working Committee for Women's Affairs Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Hlaing Win, Vice-Chairperson 1 of the Workshop Organizing Committee Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-Chairperson 2 Prof Dr Daw May May Yi, the committee members Daw Khin Than Nwe, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Than Nwe and others, Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thuang Htaik, Director-General of Social Welfare Department U Sit Myaing and officials.

Deputy Minister U Hlaing Win gave a speech.

Participants gave suggestions to successfully hold the workshop. The deputy minister gave the concluding remarks.

MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects agricultural projects in Shan State (North)

YANGON, 17 June —Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung and officials, left here by air and arrived at Lashio on 15 June.

They were welcomed at the airport by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint, senior military officers and local authorities. They then went to the 1,000-acre reclamation model plot of Hsinshweli high yield strain paddy, groundnut, soya bean, sunflower, pigeon pea and coffee being undertaken by the North-East Command. At the briefing hall, Lt-Col Nay Lin Aung, in-charge of the project, reported on progress in reclaiming land, cultivation of crops, sown acreage and progress of crop cultivation. The commander gave a supplementary report. Then Manager of Myanmar Agricultural Service U Hla Gyi reported on production of Hsinshweli hybrid paddy strain.

Regarding the reports, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe said that strenuous efforts are to be made for boosting production in agricultural sector, adding the objectives have been adopted for significantly boosting per acre yield of the ten major crops. Effective measures must be taken for boosting per acre yield of paddy up to 100 baskets, long stable cotton up to 400 viss, sugarcane up to 30 tons, green gram up to 20 baskets, pedisein up to 20 baskets, pigeon pea up to 25 baskets, groundnut up to 50 baskets, sesamum up to 20 baskets, sunflower up to 50 baskets and maize up to 80 baskets, he said. In the process, officials concerned are to organize local farmers for ensuring systematic application of agricultural methods, high yield strains and chemical and natural fertilizers and extended cultivation of crops in the most suitable period for meeting the targets. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe viewed the produce displayed at the briefing hall and then the thriving mixed crop plantations and left necessary instructions. He also inspected progress in construction of the lake for agricultural purpose, and generating 2,000 watts in the project site.

The 2003 rainy season Thitseint trees (*Terminalia Belerica*) planting ceremony was held at the project site. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe attended it and planted a sapling. Also present were Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and wife, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Khin Maung and wife, Deputy



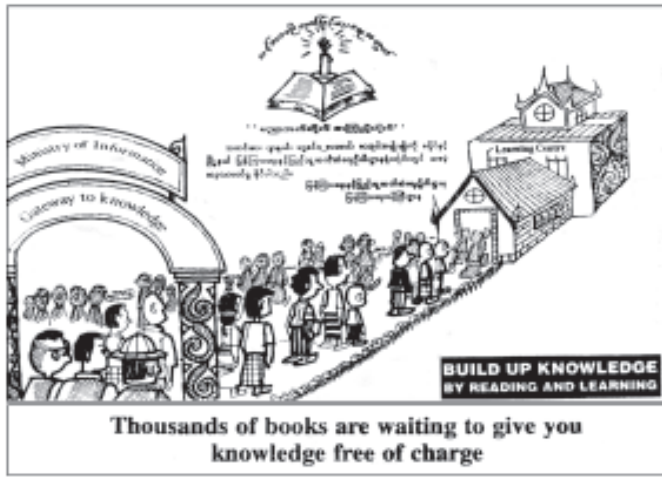
Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects the thriving mixed crop plantations of Hsinshweli monsoon groundnut and sunflowers in Lashio, Shan State (North). — MNA

Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint and their wives, departmental personnel, local authorities, members of social organizations, nurses and local people. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, the commander and wife, and the deputy minister planted saplings at the designated sites. Then, those present planted Thitseint saplings. A total of 1,000 saplings were planted on the land of 200 acres in the project site.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected the eight-acre research plot of Hsinshweli strain paddy. Next, they inspected thriving maize plantations in Bonmon Hsinshweli maize strain plot No 1. They then proceeded to Bonmon 700-acre poppy substitute Hsinshweli maize strain farm and viewed honey machine, honey products, and seeds of maize, sunflower and hemp. At the briefing hall, an official reported on arrangements for

cultivation of maize on 500-acre land and sunflower on 200-acre land, work progress, and measures taken for meeting the targets. The commander then reported on dissemination of agricultural methods and distribution of seeds of crops, tasks being carried out for ensuring per acre yield of maize up to 70 baskets, and use of materials in agriculture. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions on use of high yield strains, effective use of natural fertilizers, efforts to be made for exceeding the target and distribution of more seeds of crops to local farmers. Next, from the observation tower, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party viewed the crops plantations in the project site. They then inspected the regional progress and plantations of paddy, groundnut, soya bean and sunflower along Lashio-Hseinwi-Kutkai-Muse Road by car.

They spent the night in Muse. — MNA



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သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းစာအုပ်ဆိုင်စာအုပ်စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဦးစီးဌာန
ကိုယ်စားလှယ်များထံတွင် လက်လီဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

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MV "MAGWAY" VOY NO 271/N

Consignee of cargo carried on MV "MAGWAY" Voy No 271/N are hereby notified that the vessel has arrived at Yangon port on 18-6-03 and will be berthing on about 19-6-03 and cargoes will be discharged into the premises of Myanmar Port Authority where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the bye-laws and conditions of the port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily between 8 am to 11.30 and 12 noon to 4 pm into Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from vessel.

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

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Russian conductor Evgeny Kolobov dies aged 57

Moscow, 17 June—Evgeny Kolobov, former conductor at St Petersburg's Mariinsky Theatre and the founder of Moscow's innovative Novaya Opera, died on Sunday at the age of 57, Russian television reported.

"His death is a colossal loss for the Russian musical arts as he was an outstanding conductor and a true innovator in his field," *ITAR-TASS* quoted critic Svyatoslav Belza as saying. —MNA/Reuters

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- * ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံခေါင်းဆောင် နိုင်ငံတော်အေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီဥက္ကဋ္ဌ ဗိုလ်ချုပ်မှူးကြီးသန်းရွှေ၏ သမိုင်းတွင် သမိုင်းတင်မည့် မလေးရှားနိုင်ငံ၊ ကမ္ဘောဒီးယားနိုင်ငံ၊ ဘရူနိုင်းနိုင်ငံ၊ ဘင်္ဂလားဒေ့ရှ်နိုင်ငံ၊ တရုတ်ပြည်သူ့သမ္မတနိုင်ငံနှင့် ဗီယက်နမ်နိုင်ငံများသို့ သွားရောက်ခဲ့သည့် ချစ်ကြည်ရေးခရီးစဉ် မှတ်တမ်းများ-
- * မျိုးဆက်သစ်လူငယ်လူရွယ်များအတွက် ဗဟုသုတဖြစ်စေရုံမက နိုင်ငံအကျိုးသယံပိုးလိုစိတ်၊ နိုင်ငံတော်အားချစ်မြတ်နိုးစိတ်၊ မျိုးချစ်စိတ်ဓာတ်များ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်မြှင့်တင်လာစေမည့်-
- * မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ၏ နိုင်ငံတကာဆက်ဆံရေးအမြင်ကို ပိုမိုကြည့်လင်ထင်မြင်လာနိုင်စေမည့်-
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The State Visits: the milestones in history

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Dated: 18 June, 2003

Pakistani police seize huge arms cache

ISLAMABAD, 17 June — Pakistani police in northern city of Peshawar Sunday seized huge cache of lethal weapons and ammunition in a passenger bus heading to the port city of Karachi. Talking to newsmen on Monday, Peshawar City Police Chief, Tanveerul Haq Sipra said that the deadly weapons confiscated included anti aircraft gun's shells, rocket launchers, hand grenades, *Klashinkovs* and huge quantity of narcotics.

He said the arms and ammunition destined for Karachi, was being transported for carrying out subversive and sectarian related activities in southern Sindh Province, of which Karachi is the capital. Such kind of weapons are used in exceptional circumstances and activities, he said. — MNA/Xinhua

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Britons swap tea for infusions

LONDON, 17 June — Traditionally tea-crazy Britons are setting aside their milky brown "cuppa" for more exotic brews infused with mango, peppermint or camomile, while fresh coffee is ousting instant varieties around the world.

Research published on Monday by market analysts Datamonitor suggested Britain's volumes of fruit and herbal teas — once seen as the preferred beverage of unfavourable aunts and new-age eccentrics — increased by 50 per cent between 1997 and 2002.

In the same period, British consumption of "normal" — i.e. tea-flavoured — teabags fell by 10 per cent to a still impressive 114 million kilos, or roughly 2.2 kilos per man, woman and child. This is second only to Turkey. In a parallel trend, the exponential growth of coffee shop chains such as Starbucks is beginning to force instant coffee off the supermarket shelves.

"It's no great surprise that the world is losing patience with fast, but not particularly appetising, hot drinks," Datamonitor analyst John Band said in his report, "The Global Hot Drinks Market to 2007".

"Sales of instant tea in Britain have declined far faster than sales of regular tea — and sales of instant coffee have fallen at 1 per cent per year even as volumes of ground coffee and coffee beans showed overall growth," he said. As coffee-drinkers around the world become harder to please, top coffee producers such as Nestle and Kraft

Foods are responding to the tidal wave of lattes and mochas by producing instant approximations of these beverages.

This is undoubtedly a growth market, but Scandinavian countries, where people like their coffee strong and black, remain at the top of the global coffee consumption league. The average Dane consumed 7.5 kilos in 2002.

This is more than double the amount consumed in Brazil and even the United States, at least by weight of ground coffee consumed. Coffee consumption in the US might well still be the highest in terms of volume.

One exception to the decline in regular tea sales is iced tea. Always the preferred method of tea consumption in the United States, pre-packaged iced tea sales are also enjoying a sharp rise in Europe.

To what extent the rise of more exotic infusions is down to health concerns is not clear — sales of decaffeinated coffee are certainly declining in Britain and the United States. Datamonitor's Band has an explanation. "It's more about image," he said. "A stereotypical decaff drinker is a recovering caffeine addict, while a stereotypical fruit tea drinker is perceived as stable, modern, and with it." — MNA/Reuters

Officials deny Prince William has girlfriend

LONDON, 17 June — Royal officials denied a newspaper report on Sunday that Britain's Prince William was going out with a young woman he met on a trip to Kenya two years ago.

But St. James's Palace did confirm that William, second in line to the throne, had been involved in a road rage incident on a dirt track following a polo match on Saturday.

The prince, followed by his bodyguards in a separate car, overtook another vehicle, angering the driver who beeped his horn and chased the royal car. William's bodyguards intervened to stop the car, reportedly driven by an aristocrat.

"It was a very minor incident in which obviously no one was injured," a St James' Palace spokesman said.

The Mail on Sunday ran the road rage story on its front page, alongside photos of William and Jessica Craig, 21. The report said the pair had been having a long-distance relationship for the past two years and had even had a pretend engagement.

"St. James' Palace denies that there is or ever has been any romantic liaison between Prince William and Jessica Craig," a statement said. William is friends with Craig and her family but nothing more, it said.

William spent part of a year out between school and university in Kenya where he met Craig. In a recent interview, William said his trip had inspired him to learn Swahili and return to Africa.

But the report of his alleged relationship has sent the media flocking to the safari reserve run by Craig's family.

MNA/Reuters

HK witnesses 4th consecutive day of zero SARS infection

HONG KONG, 17 June — No new confirmed case of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) was reported Sunday, marking the fourth consecutive day of zero infection in Hong Kong.

It is also the 31st day in a row on which the number of cases has fallen below five since 16 May, according to a Press release jointly issued by the Department of Health and the Hospital Authority.

A 43-year-old woman died in United Christian Hospital, bringing the total number of SARS related death to 295. The number of patients recovered and discharged from hospital continues to rise to 1,386. Of them, four were discharged Sunday.

MNA/Xinhua

India, Laos ink pact on science, technology cooperation

NEW DELHI, 17 June — India and Laos on Monday inked an agreement on collaboration in science and technology as their prime ministers, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Bounnhang Vorachit, discussed steps to enhance their bilateral cooperation.

Vorachit arrived here Sunday night on a week-long

visit to India, which will also take him to Agra, Hyderabad and Mumbai. Vajpayee visited Laos in November last year.

Indian officials noted that India-Laos relations have not only a bilateral but multilateral dimension. While Laos is a new member of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN),

India is ASEAN's summit partner.

The two countries are also members of the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Project along with Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia.

At a meeting organized here jointly by the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Vorachit praised India's support for his country in various fields and invited Indian businesses to invest in his country.

Laos, he noted, is on the threshold of an economic revolution, thanks to path breaking initiatives undertaken by the government to woo foreign investments.

He said Laos has tremendous potential in the fields of agriculture, forestry, garments, finished leather and most importantly, hydro power transmissions.

MNA/Xinhua

WHO praises China for responsible reporting of SARS

HONG KONG, 17 June — The World Health Organization's (WHO) Executive Director for Communicable Diseases David Heymann has praised the Chinese Mainland for having guaranteed responsible reporting of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

Heymann made the positive comment Monday at a news conference after winding up his one-day trip to Hong Kong.

"China made very well reporting. We believe that China will be reporting much more important diseases. We are, and I am, sure that China will be working very closely with the WHO. This is the guarantee we had last week in Beijing.

"There is no reason that they (countries) have to report anywhere, but a good world citizen reports any disease that may spread to another country. We anticipate that as we move through the 21st Century, countries will take on more of a responsibility of reporting, including China, including others," Heymann said.

Commenting on the credibility of the Chinese Mainland's reported fatality rate of SARS patients, Heymann remarked that due to the fact that the Chinese Mainland SARS patients are predominantly in the younger age groups there, the overall fatality rate tending to be lower there is of no surprise. "The overall case fatality is an average. In Hong Kong, it's about 15 per cent; on the Chinese Mainland, the overall is about 5.7 or 6 per cent. If you look at the age of patients in China, it appears that the people in China are in a younger age groups." — MNA/Xinhua



An Indian villager fishes in floodwaters in Rangia, some 57 kms west of Guwahati. Flash floods triggered by heavy monsoon rains have left at least 150,000 people homeless in India's north-eastern state of Assam. —INTERNET

Indian boy breeds eggs in his body, produces beetles

NEW DELHI, 17 June — A 13-year-old Indian boy has begun producing winged beetles in his urine after hatching the eggs in his body, a senior medical official said on Monday.

Dr Chittaranjan Maity, Medical Education Director

of West Bengal State where the boy is from, said doctors found the beetles while examining him for pain in the groin area.

"Doctors were really surprised to see the beetles," he told Reuters.

"There are eggs of the

beetle in a fistula in his body and he is getting medical treatment to try to kill the eggs," Maity said.

The boy had been taken to hospital on Sunday after complaining of pain while urinating.

The beetles more than half a centimetre in length belong to the Staphylinidae rove beetle family of insects. Most types are predators but some feed on fungi, algae and decaying plant matter.

An expert in urology, Doctor N Subramanian, said that in theory it was possible for insects to hatch in the body and come out in urine but said he had not heard of such a case.

MNA/Reuters

435 kilos of charas seized in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 17 June — Pakistani Excise Department Monday confiscated 435 kilos of charas and arrested three drug smugglers at Mallan Mansoor Check Post Attack near Islamabad.

A report of the Associated Press of Pakistan said the Excise Department Attack on a tip off searched all the incoming vehicles from the Northwest Frontier Province at Mallan Mansoor Check Post

Attack Khurd. They signalled to stop a truck but the driver sped the vehicle. The officials chased the car and managed to intercept it. The truck driver while escaping lost control over the steer and rammed into a wall. Three smugglers were arrested.

Police have registered the case and further investigation is in progress.

MNA/Xinhua

Spanish first division leading scorers

MADRID, 17 June — Leading scorers in the Spanish First Division after Sunday's matches:

- 28 - Roy Makaay (Deportivo Coruna)
- 22 - Nihat Kahveci (Real Sociedad)
- 21 - Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
- 19 - Darko Kovacevic (Real Sociedad)
- 17 - Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona)
- 16 - Raul (Real Madrid)
- 15 - Fernando (Real Betis)
- 14 - Samuel Eto'o (Real Mallorca), Ismael Urzaiz (Athletic Bilbao), Joseba Etxeberria (Athletic Bilbao), Walter Pandiani (Real Mallorca)
- 13 - Javi Guerrero (Racing Santander), Fernando Torres (Atletico Madrid)
- 12 - Javier Saviola (Barcelona)
- 11 - Dario Silva (Malaga), Savo Milosevic (Espanyol), Edu (Celta Vigo), Santi Ezquerro (Athletic Bilbao)
- 10 - Ruben Navarro (Alaves), Dely Valdes (Malaga), Raul Molina (Recreativo Huelva), Raul Tamudo (Espanyol), Luis Figo (Real Madrid) —MNA/Reuters

S P O R T S



Roger Federer of Switzerland wins the ATP tennis tournament in Halle, Germany on 15 June, 2003. Federer won the final against German Nicolas Kiefer 6-1 6-3. —INTERNET

Blatter promises return of Int'l games to Israel

TEL AVIV, 17 June — FIFA president Sepp Blatter said on Sunday he would recommend the return of international matches to Israel before the 2006 World Cup.

"I have never changed my perception of the situation here. I am of the opinion that as long as security is guaranteed and obviously, in this country, it is guaranteed, then we shall play the preliminary matches for the 2006 World Cup here," he told a news conference.

The president of the world game's governing body was in Israel as guest of honour at the Israeli FA's 75th anniversary celebrations taking place on Sunday. Earlier, Blatter met Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom, who appealed for international football to be allowed to return to the country.

Almost all international football at both club and national team level has been banned by European body UEFA since March 2002 when rising tensions in the region forced matches to be moved to neutral venues in other countries.

Only two friendly internationals — against Armenia and Moldova — were held in Tel Aviv earlier this year, but they fell under FIFA's jurisdiction.

All home Euro 2004 qualifiers and Champions League and UEFA Cup fixtures last season were held at nearby venues in Cyprus,

Turkey, Bulgaria and Italy.

"I had a very interesting meeting with Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom," Blatter said. But he urged caution.

"The matter of international matches in Israel is a problem which is currently being addressed by UEFA and not by FIFA.

"I do not want to interfere in the internal politics of UEFA but after having heard from the foreign minister I will pass on to UEFA president Lennart Johansson the message I received from Mr. Shalom.

"We will also discuss the matter at the Confederations Cup competition in Paris on June 28," he said.

"My opinion is that wherever security is assured you can play football. These principles should apply for all FIFA members.

"Here we are facing a 'continental' problem from UEFA and you must understand that I will relay the message and we will discuss

it but I cannot take a stand here against an autonomous organization, especially concerning club competitions where FIFA has no say."

Blatter said that if Libya were to stage the World Cup finals in 2010 and Israel were to qualify, the country could be sure of being allowed to play in the north African state.

"The bidding countries have to give governmental guarantees that all members, all members of the FIFA family will receive visas and will be permitted to play in their country," he said.

Blatter said he was excited by the prospect of two Israeli Arab teams (Maccabi Ahi Nazareth and Bnei Sakhnin) playing in Israel's top flight next season.

"Isn't it fantastic that for the first time ever you will have two Arab teams in the Premier League, this is what soccer should really be about," he said.

MNA/Reuters



Andy Roddick of the United States plays a return to Sebastien Grosjean of France during the final of the Queen's Club grass court tennis tournament in London on 15 June, 2003. Roddick won the final, 6-3, 6-3. —INTERNET

Beckham still big prize for Laporta

BARCELONA, 17 June — Newly elected Barcelona president Joan Laporta has confounded his critics by clearing two hurdles in his bid to bring England captain David Beckham to the Nou Camp.

After first securing a deal for Beckham with Manchester United and then winning the Barcelona election, Laporta now needs to convince the hugely popular midfielder that a move to the troubled Catalan club would be in his best interests.

That looks like being by far the trickiest of the three tasks but a landslide victory in Sunday's election has left the Laporta camp confident they can get their man.

"We've now been in contact with Beckham's people and I'm convinced he'll come," said Sandro Rosell, the man who conducted the negotiations with Manchester United.

According to reports in Spain, England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson spoke to Beckham last week and advised him to choose Barcelona.

"Those comments from Eriksson will help us a great deal," Rosell said.

Laporta was planning to speak to Beckham's people on Monday, the day after he secured the Barcelona presidency with 52.57 per cent of the vote, compared to 31.8 per cent for his nearest challenger Lluís Bassat.

The England skipper arrived back in England on Saturday after a holiday in the United States but made no comment about United's decision to accept the Laporta bid conditionally.

Worryingly for Laporta, Beckham's agents at SFX did issue a statement after United's announcement last week saying the player had no intention of meeting the then candidate.

Now that Laporta has won the election, though, he believes the attitude of the Beckham camp will change.

"We'll be speaking as Barcelona president and club directors now rather than as candidates," Laporta said. "That will make a difference.

"I'll give it everything to bring Beckham here but if it's not possible someone else of the same standing will come."

Laporta will be waiting nervously to see if, as expected, Real Madrid choose to make a counter-offer for Beckham when the league season is over next weekend.

Real have arguably the most attractive side in the world, already featuring such talents as Ronaldo, Raul, Luis Figo and Zinedine Zidane, and will be one of the favourites for the Champions League next season.

Barcelona, by contrast, are struggling even to grab a place in the UEFA Cup and may be forced to play the Intertoto Cup over the close season in a bid to sneak into Europe's secondary club competition by the back door.

Barcelona are also at least 100 million euros in debt, making it doubtful whether they can build a team capable of challenging for honours again, but for the moment, at least, Laporta is sounding confident about the task ahead.

MNA/Reuters

Porto crown spectacular season with Portuguese Cup

LISBON, 17 June — A goal by Brazilian striker Derlei Silva gave Porto their 12th Portuguese Cup win with a 1-0 win over Uniao Leiria in the final on Sunday to add a domestic league-cup double to their UEFA Cup triumph.

Derlei, who was top scorer in the UEFA Cup last season and struck the winner when Porto beat Celtic 3-2 in the Seville final last month, was doubtful until the last minute due to injury.

But the Brazilian was on form and beat his marker inside the area to receive a neat backward cross from playmaker Deco Souza on the right and score with a first-time right-footed shot in the 63rd minute.

Porto had trouble in the first half due to Uniao Leiria's defensive tactics, and Russian midfielder Dmitri Alenitchev was denied at close range by Brazilian defender Gabriel Atz.

But Uniao Leiria played a more open game in the last half hour in a desperate attempt to grab an equalizer, which almost paid off in injury time when Silas Fernandes — who won his first Portuguese cap last week — hit the bar with a powerful left-footed shot from the edge of the area.

Leiria finished the league in fifth place, 37 points behind Porto, but can console themselves with a berth in the UEFA Cup next season because Porto will play in the Champions League. — MNA/Reuters

MRTV-3
**18-6-2003* (Wednesday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Afternoon Transmission
(13:00 - 14:00)**

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greetings
Coming up
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Journey to Mogok
(The Ruby Land)
- 9:10** **Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes "Chicken with
gourd curry bachelor
style"
- 9:15** **National News**
- 9:20 Myanmar Jaggery
- 9:25 Auspicious Glory
- 9:30** **National News**
- 9:35 Myanmar Orchestra
(Thinchinkhant)
- 9:40 Song
"Tranquil Bagan"
- 9:45** **National News**
- 9:50 Highland Farmland
Reclamation in
Kaung Kha Region
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"
- 10:00 Close Down

**18-6-2003* (Wednesday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Afternoon Transmission
(13:00 - 14:00)**

- 13:00 Signature Tune
Greetings
Coming up
- 13:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma
Panorama &
Myanma Sentiment"
- 13:06 Power Aerobic
"Let's Exercise for
Fitness & Health"
- 13:10** **Headline News**
- 13:12 Myanmar Cuisine
"Traditional
Shwedaung Noodle"
- 13:15** **National News**
- 13:20 Tour On Myanmar
"Bago, Thanlyin"
- 13:25 Kayin Dance
(Ton Pana)
- 13:28 Modern Embroidery
- 13:30** **National News**
- 13:35 Traditional Weaving
Art
- 13:40 Myanmar Modern
Song "Flowers in
Profusion"
- 13:45** **National News**
- 13:50 Drug Eradication
Movement in
Myanmar
- 13:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"
- 14:00 Close Down
- 18-6-2003* (Wednesday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(18:00 - 19:00)**
- 18:00 Signature Tune
Greetings

- Coming up
- 18:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 18:06 Journey to Mogok
(The Ruby Land)
- 18:10** **Headline News**
- 18:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes "Chicken with
gourd curry bachelor
style"

- 18:15** **National News**
- 18:20 Myanmar Jaggery
- 18:25 Auspicious Glory
- 18:30** **National News**
- 18:35 Myanmar Orchestra
(Thinchinkhant)
- 18:40 Song
"Tranquil Bagan"
- 18:45** **National News**
- 18:50 Highland Farmland
Reclamation in
Kaung Kha Region
- 18:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"
- 19:00 Close Down

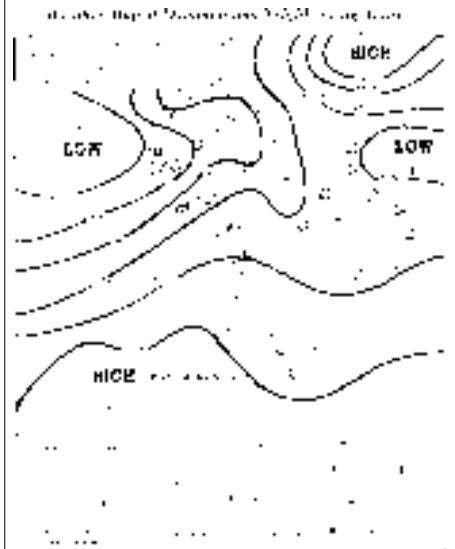
**19-6-2003* (Thursday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Morning Transmission
(2:00 - 4:00)**

- 2:00 Signature Tune
Greetings
Coming up
- 2:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma
Panorama &
Myanma Sentiment"
- 2:06 Journey to Mogok

- (The Ruby Land)
- 2:10** **Headline News**
- 2:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes "Chicken
with gourd curry
bachelor style"
- 2:15** **National News**
- 2:20 Excellent Photo
Exhibition
(Shan State)
- 2:25 Auspicious Glory
- 2:30** **National News**
- 2:35 Reminiscence in the
Glow of Sunset
- 2:40 Song
"Tranquil Bagan"
- 2:45** **National News**
- 2:50 Travelogue "Kalaw"
- 2:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 3:00** **National News**
- 3:05 Excursion in Yangon
River
- 3:12 Myanmar Cuisine
"Traditional
Shwedaung Noodle"
- 3:15** **National News**
- 3:20 Myanmar Jaggery
- 3:25 Kayin Dance
(Ton Pana)
- 3:30** **National News**
- 3:35 Illustrious handi-
work in Kyeethe
- 3:40 Myanmar Modern
Song "Flowers in
Profusion"
- 3:45** **National News**
- 3:50 Drug Eradication
Movement in
Myanmar
- 3:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"
- 4:00 Close Down



A training course of the 2003 Myanmar Agricultural Census was opened with ceremony at the meeting hall of the Insein Township General Administration Department by the Yangon North District Settlement & Land Records Department on 15-6-2003. Divisional Settlement & Land Records Department Head U Naing Win delivers an address at the opening ceremony. — (H)

**WEATHER**

Tuesday, 17 June, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in lower Sagaing Division and rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State and Magway Division, scattered in Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawai (2.80) inches, Thandwe (2.64) inches, Mogok (2.01) inches and Kyaukphy (1.77) inches.

Maximum temperature on 16-6-2003 was 31.5°C. Minimum temperature on 17-6-2003 was 20.0°C. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 17-6-2003 was 96%.

Total sunshine hours on 16-6-2003 was (3.1) hours approx. Rainfall on 17-6-2003 was 22 mm at Yangon Airport, 8 mm at Kaba-Aye and 8 mm at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 581 mm at Yangon Airport, 633 mm at Kaba-Aye and 704 mm at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 18 mph from Northwest at (14:00) hours MST on 16-6-2003.

Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 18-6-2003: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine, Mon, Kayin States and Taninthayi Division and scattered in Kachin State, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar Waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-6-2003:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-6-2003: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).



View today:

Wednesday, June 18

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by
Missionary Sayadaw U
Ottamathara

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. မြန်မာ့အသံအဖွဲ့အစည်း

8:10 am

6. Musical programme

8:20 am

7. ထင်ရှားသောပုံစံများကိုတား
(သေးသံ)

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. English for Everyday
Use

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Song to uphold
National Spirit

4:25 pm

3. အစောင့်အရှောက်ပညာရေး
ရန်ပြင်သည့်သင်တန်းစာ
အားဖြင့် (စာတည်း၊ ရုပ်ပုံ၊
သဘာဝရေးရာ၊ စာအုပ်ရေးရာ)

4:40 pm

4. Classical song

4:55 pm

5. ရွှေလင်းအောင်အောင်အောင်

5:10 pm

6. နိုင်ငံအုပ်ချုပ်ရေးအဖွဲ့
စီမံကိန်းရေးရာ

5:20 pm

7. ပထမအကြိမ်အထိအထိ
(ခ) နှစ်အထိအထိအထိ
မြို့ပြဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးအဖွဲ့
အစီအစဉ် (စီမံကိန်း)
(မြို့တော်အဖွဲ့အစည်း)

7:30 pm

8. "မေတ္တာရောင်မြန်" (အပိုင်း-၁၉)

8:00 pm

9. News

10. International news

11. Weather report

12. "စာအုပ်အတွင်းမှသိရသော"

- စီမံကိန်းရေးရာ

13. ပထမအကြိမ်အထိအထိ

- (ခ) နှစ်အထိအထိအထိ

- မြို့ပြဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးအဖွဲ့

- (စီမံကိန်းရေးရာ)

14. The next day's

- programme



Tune in today:

Wednesday, June 18

8:30 am

- Brief news

8:35 am

- Music

8:40 am

- Perspectives

8:45 am

- Music

8:50 am

- National news/Slogan

9:00 am

- Music

9:05 am

- International news

9:10 am

- Music

1:30 pm

- Brief news

1:35 pm

- Music

1:45 pm

- National news/Slogan

1:55 pm

- Music/Article

2:05 pm

- International news

2:15 pm

- Music

2:25 pm

- Discovery

2:40 pm

- Toddy Palm in
Myanmar

2:40 pm

- World of music

- Chinese songs

9:00 pm

- Variations on a Tune:
Jambalaya

9:10 pm

- Article

9:15 pm

- Music at your request

9:45 pm

- News/Slogan

10:00 pm

- Portfolio for easy
listening



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt delivers an address at the coordination meeting for cultivating paddy and other crops to green the 30-mile perimeter of Yangon City all-year round. — MNA

Meeting to coordinate matters for cultivation of paddy and other crops and ensuring all-year round greening 30-mile perimeter of Yangon held

YANGON, 17 June — A meeting to coordinate matters for cultivation of paddy and other crops and ensuring all-year round greening 30-mile perimeter of Yangon was held at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall this afternoon.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt attended the meeting and made a speech on the occasion.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon Mayor, the deputy ministers, the Vice-Mayor, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, the Chairmen of District Peace and Development Councils and officials.

In his address, Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt said it was the second meeting to coordinate matters for cultivation of paddy and other crops and ensuring all-year round greening of the 30-mile perimeter of Yangon, adding that the committee and sub-committees have been formed after the first coordination meeting and work is well under way for successful implementation of the projects. The present meeting was to coordinate work being carried out for the projects, he said.

The Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command is taking the principal duty for successful implementation of the projects. The heads of departments who are dealing with the projects, technicians and the respective departments are to make concerted and collective efforts for timely completion of the project, he stressed.

Encouragement is to be given and necessary assistance is to be provided to the farmers who are going to practically engage in cultivation of paddy, pulses and beans, sunflowers and other crops to ensure that they are making strenuous efforts with interest.

There are different kinds of land — cultivable land, land that is not suitable for cultivation, the land where water is available for cultivation and land that needs water—in the environs of Yangon. Arrangements are to

be made for cultivation of seasonal crops in the cultivable land all-year round, he said. Likewise, perennial crops are to be grown in land that is not suitable for cultivation and livestock breeding is to be undertaken in the wet land to ensure all-year round greening in the division.

Arrangements are also to be made for sufficient water supply to land that needs water for agricultural purpose. In the process, dams such as Nagmoeyek, Kalihtaw, Nagonbyin and Alaingni had been built in the environs of Yangon Division.

Means and ways are to be sought for ensuring water supply to the regions that do not have enough irrigation water and the wet lands. The successful implementation of the projects for cultivation of paddy and other crops and ensuring all-year round greening of the 30-mile perimeter of Yangon will contribute much to fulfilling the food, clothing and shelter needs of the Yangonites as well as ensuring development of the national economy.

At a time when the government has been providing necessary assistance and the departments are giving technical assistance for timely completion of the projects, the efforts exerted by the farmers would be much fruitful.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt called on members of the respective committee, sub-committees and departments to coordinate measures to be able to lay down future work programmes for successful implementation of the projects.

Then, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe reported on cultivation of monsoon paddy on over 600,000 acres of land out of over 900,000 acres of cultivable land of the projects, arrangements being made for cultivation of summer paddy and winter crops, conditions of intake and outfall channels, dams and reservoirs, river water pumping projects, sluice gates, and arrangements being made for renovation of the irrigation facilities, water supply for ensuring successful implementation of the projects and arrangements for digging of fish breeding ponds in the wet lands.

Then, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported on geographical conditions of

the projects, arrangements being made for all-year round greening and arrangements for water supply along the Thanatpin-Thongwa motor road from Moyungyi natural lake through Minywa escape.

Next, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint reported on storage of water of the dams in 30-mile perimeter of Yangon, supply of water for cultivation and arrangements for supply of water needed for cultivation of crops in the dry season.

Deputy Minister for Forestry Col Thaik Tun reported on distribution of saplings free of charge to industrial zones, schools, houses and other areas for greening of the 30-mile perimeter of Yangon City, planting of shade trees and seasonal flowers on the roadsides and collection of saplings.

Deputy Minister for Transport Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint reported on planting of trees for greening of Yangon International Airport and its environs and tasks to be undertaken. Those present at the meeting took part in the discussions on cultivation of paddy and other crops in the 30-mile perimeter of Yangon City.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said the greening project in the 30-mile perimeter of Yangon City and its environs is a long-term one which contributes towards greening and modernization of Yangon City, economic development of the State and uplift of socio-economic life of the people.

According to the project, he said, water can be supplied to over 300,000 acres of farmlands in Yangon and its environs which need water in summer and the project can also promote agricultural sector. He called on responsible officials to implement the project successfully. He said it is necessary for district and township officials to meet farmers constantly and to fulfil their requirements for success of the project. — MNA

Regional development projects inspected in Mogaung, Kachin State

YANGON, 17 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, together with officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and the Ministry of Health, left here by air and arrived at Myitkyina, Kachin State, on yesterday afternoon.

Accompanied by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and officials, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party

went to Nankaung Creek (Mogaung) Bridge Construction Project site on Nankaung Creek near mile post No 239/0 on Shwebo-

Myitkyina Road in Mogaung Township. At the briefing hall of the project, officials reported on arrangements for construction

of the 945-foot long bridge with a two-way 21.5 feet wide motor road on it, and approach roads, work

(See page 8)



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspecting the work site of Nankaung Creek (Mogaung) Bridge Construction Project in Mogaung Township. — MNA

SARS prevention

- * There is no outbreak of SARS in Myanmar.
- * Preventive measures are being taken against the spread of SARS from other countries.
- * The people are urged to participate in the project.