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Myanmar youths win ASEAN Under-18 football championship trophy Secretary-1 presents championship trophy to Myanmar team

YANGON, 18 June— Chairman of Myanma National Olympic Council Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt watched the final match of the first U-18 ASEAN Youth Football Tourney at the Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna this evening and presented the championship trophy and cash award to victorious Myanmar youth football team.

Among the spectators were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, officials of the ministry, members of leading patrons of Myanmar Women Sports Federation and guests.

Singapore and Vietnam played for the third place. The two tied 1-1 draw during the 90-minute play. Singapore beat Vietnam 6-5 after penalty shoot-out.

In the final match, Myanmar beat Malaysia 4-0 and won the championship trophy.

Before the match, the two teams took positions in front of the grand stand. Then national anthems of both countries were played and players greeted each other.

Head of delegation and council member of ASEAN Football Federation Mr Rene Adad presented Milo cleanest award to Vietnam youth team and prizes to four referees.

Next, Secretary of MOC Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik presented medals to players of Singapore and Malaysia youth teams.

Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented medals to players of victorious Myanmar team. Next, the Secretary-1 presented championship trophy and US \$



Chairman of Myanma National Olympic Council Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt presents the trophy to Myanmar U-18 football team. — MNA

31,500 awarded by the State Peace and Development Council to Myanmar team. The Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd and entrepreneurs presented K 5 million, Myan Gon Myint K 2.5 million, Sky Link Communication Co Ltd K 12 million, Chairman of Kanbawza Co Ltd U Aung Ko Win and Shwe Thanlwin Co Ltd K 10 million each, Myanmar May Flower Bank Ltd K 6.6

million, Naing Group Construction Co and Cherry Oo Watch Showroom 21 watches worth K 2 million and K 1.5 million, Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs K 1.5 million, Vice-Chairman of CB Bank Ltd U Khin Zaw Aye and Chit Kyi Yay Construction K 1 million each and Chairman of Jade Dragon and Ruby Dragon K 5 million to Myanmar team. — MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint poses for a documentary photo together with victorious Myanmar U-18 football team. — NLM

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PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 19 June, 2003

Successful cultivation of seasonal crops

As Myanmar is an agricultural country and agriculture is the main pillar of its national economy, rural people, the majority of the population, are mainly engaged in agriculture.

Development of agriculture will not only strengthen the national economy but also raise the living standard of the people. Therefore, the government has been taking steps to ensure sufficient water supply for cultivation and up to now 146 dams have been built all over the nation.

As the government is trying to seek ways and means to exploit water resources in the regions where water is scarce, the farmers in the regions where there are a lot of water resources are required to cultivate all kinds of crops on every plot of arable land.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on one occasion gave guidance on the cultivation of paddy and other crops within a 30-mile radius around the city of Yangon all the year round.

To translate the guidance of the Head of State in action, a coordination meeting was held on 17 June and Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt attended the meeting and gave necessary instructions. General Khin Nyunt urged all the responsible personnel to organize the farmers into growing all kinds of crops, especially paddy, beans and pulses and sunflower and to render necessary assistance to them.

Measures must be taken to grow seasonal crops on the land suitable for cultivation and forests and perennials on the land not suitable for cultivation and to raise fish and prawn in the wet land.

Now as the Ngamoeayik Dam, the Kalihtaw Dam and the Alaini Dam have been built in Yangon Division, measures are being taken to grow monsoon paddy, summer paddy and other crops on 600,000 acres of arable land around Yangon throughout the year and to green its environs.

We believe that all those responsible will render all the necessary assistance to farmers so that the latter will be able to grow paddy and other crops all the year round. And we also believe that the farmers, on their part, will try their utmost to ensure that there is enough food supply and the city of Yangon and its surrounding areas are always lush and green in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State.

မုန်တိုင်းမိုးကြောင့် သီးနှံစိုက်ပျိုးရေးပျက်စီးဆုံးရှုံးမှုပမာဏရှိ နှိုးဆော်ချက်

ယခုရက်ပိုင်းအတွင်း ဘင်္ဂလားပင်လယ်အော် အနောက်တောင်ပိုင်းနှင့်ဆက်စပ်လျက်ရှိသော ဘင်္ဂလားပင်လယ်အော် အနောက် အလယ်ပိုင်းတွင် ဆိုင်ကလုန်းမုန်တိုင်းကြောင့် မိုးများမုန်တိုင်းပေါ်နိုင်ကြောင်း မိုးလေဝသနှင့်ဓာတ်ဆွေဌာနကြီးမှဦးစီးဌာနမှ မုန်တိုင်းသတင်း ထုတ်ပြန်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။

သို့ဖြစ်ပါ၍ ဒေသအလိုက် နေရာကွက်ပြီးမိုးကြီးနိုင်ပါသဖြင့် မိုးကြိုနှင့် မိုးဦးကာလ သီးနှံစိုက်ပျိုးထုတ်လုပ်မှု လုပ်ငန်းများတွင် အောက်ပါအတိုင်း လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ကြပါရန် သတိပေး နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

- (၁) ရိတ်သိမ်းဆွဲနေစပါးများ လေလွင့်ဆုံးရှုံးမှုမရှိအောင် အောက်ပါအချက်များကို ဂရုပြုဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
က- မျိုးရိုးစီမံ မှန်ကန်မှုရှိပြီး ပိုးမွှားရောဂါကင်းစင်သည့် စပါးခေါင်နှံများကို နှံကောက်စနစ်ဖြင့် ရွေးချယ်ရိတ်သိမ်း၍ မျိုးအဖြစ်ရယူပါ။
ခ- တလင်းပျောက်စနစ်ဖြင့် ရိတ်သိမ်းခြွေလှေ့စက် အသုံးပြုပြီး ချက်ချင်းခြွေလှေ့အခြောက်ခံပါ။
ဂ- အကယ်၍ ချက်ချင်းမဆောင်ရွက်နိုင်ပါက ရိတ်ပြီးကောက်လှိုင်းများကို လယ်ကွက်ထဲတွင် ဖြန့်မထားပါနှင့် ကောက်လှိုင်း စီးပြီးအနုအပေါ်ထောင်၍ တစ်ဖက်ရပ်ပုံပါ။
ဃ- စပါးစေ့တွင်အစိုဓာတ် (၁၄) ရာခိုင်နှုန်းရှိရအောင် နေရောင်ခြည်သုံး ပလတ်စတစ်အမိုးအကာတံများဖြင့် အခြောက်ခံပါ။
င- လေဝင်လေထွက်ကောင်း၍ ခြောက်သွေ့သော နေရာတွင် စပါးစေ့များကို ပါးပါး ဖြန့်လှမ်းပါ။
(၂) မိုးစပါးကို အစိုဓာတ်ရရှိရန် အတန်လိုက်တိုက်ရိတ်မျိုးစေ့ချ စိုက်ပျိုးပါ။
က- အောက်တောင်စပါး မျိုးကောင်းမျိုးသန့် အဆင့်မြင့် စပါးများ ရွေးချယ်စိုက်ပျိုးပါ။
ခ- အချိန်မီ သီးထပ်စိုက်ပျိုးရေးအတွက် အထွက်ကောင်း သက်တမ်းစပါးမျိုး (HYV) မျိုးများ အချိန်မီစောစော စိုက်ပျိုးပါ။
ဂ- ဆည်ရေသောက်နှင့် မြစ်ရေတင်ဒေသများတွင် မိုးစပါးအခြေခံ တစ်နှစ်သုံးသီး သီးနှံပုံစံရှိရအောင် ပထမတစ်သီး မိုးစပါးကို စောစော စိုက်ပျိုးပါ။
(၃) မတ်လအတွင်းစိုက်ပျိုးခဲ့သော အစေ့ထုတ်ပြောင်းစိုက်ခင်းများ ရေမဝပုံအောင်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
(၄) အစိုဓာတ်ရရှိရန် မိုးခြေပဲ၊ မိုးနှမ်း၊ မိုးနေကြာ၊ အစေ့ထုတ်ပြောင်းတို့ကို မြေယာပြင်ပေါ်တင်စိုက်ပျိုးပါ။
(၅) မိုးကြုံရေသွင်း နှမ်းစိုက်ခင်းများရေမဝပုံအောင် ပတ်မြောင်း၊ စိမ်မြောင်းများမှရေထုတ်ပါ။
(၆) မိုးကြုံရေညှစ်ရုံညှစ်ပါစိုက်ခင်းများ ရေမဝပုံအောင်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။ မုန်တိုင်းမိုးရွာပြီးပါက ပိုးမွှားရောဂါ ကြိုတင်ကာကွယ်နှိမ်နင်းပါ။ မိုးစိုက်ပါခင်းများ အချိန်မီစိုက်ပျိုးရန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
(၇) နည်းပညာနှင့်လိုအပ်သည့် အကူအညီများကို သက်ဆိုင်ရာဌာနများသို့ အချိန်မီလျှောက်ထားဆောင်ရွက်ရန် လယ်ယာစိုက်ပျိုးရေးနှင့်ဆည်မြောင်းဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

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

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

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-21012), the Di-

rector (Magway Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-54657).

MNA

Deputy Minister for Culture U Soe Nyunt receives President of ITT Co Ltd Mr Toh Jin-Gyu.

—MNA

Deputy Minister for Culture receives Korean guest

YANGON, 18 June — Deputy Minister for Culture of the Union of Myanmar U Soe Nyunt received President of ITT Co Ltd Mr Toh Jin-Gyu at the Office of the Minister for Culture on Kaba Aye pagoda Road in Bahan Township here at 1 pm today.

Also present on the occasion together with the

deputy minister were Director-General of the Department of Cultural Institute U Myint Thein Swe, Director-General of Archaeology Department U Nyunt Han, Director-General of Fine Arts Department U Kyaw Win, Director of Department of Cultural Institute Daw Nanda Hmun and officials.

MNA



ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထင် နှိုးဆော်ချက် (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ ကာကွယ်ရေး သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

၁။ ယခုအခါ ကမ္ဘာ့နိုင်ငံအချို့တွင် ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထင် နှိုးဆော်ချက် (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ ဖြစ်ပွားလျက်ရှိပါသည်။ ဤရောဂါသည် ကိုရိုနာ (Corona) အုပ်စုဝင် မိုးရင်(စ်)ရိုးကြောင့် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အဆိုပါရိုးသည် လူနာချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း၊ နှာချောင်း၊ နှာရည်၊ ရှူသလိမ်များမှတစ်ဆင့်သော်လည်းကောင်း၊ လူနာအသုံးအဆောင် ပစ္စည်းမှတစ်ဆင့်သော်လည်းကောင်း အသက်ရှူလမ်းကြောင်းမှ ခန္ဓာကိုယ်အတွင်းသို့ ဝင်ရောက်၍ ရောဂါဖြစ်ပေါ်ပါသည်။

၂။ ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထင် နှိုးဆော်ချက် (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ၏ လက္ခဏာများမှာ-

- (က) ကိုယ်အပူချိန် (38°C) သို့မဟုတ် (100.5°F) ထက်ပို၍မြင့်ထွန်းစွာများခြင်းနှင့်
(ခ) အသက်ရှူလမ်းကြောင်းဆိုင်ရာ ရောဂါလက္ခဏာများ ဖြစ်သည်
- ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း
- အသက်ရှူမဝခြင်း
- အသက်ရှူရခက်ခဲခြင်းနှင့်
(ဂ) အောက်ပါအကြောင်းတစ်ခုခုရှိခြင်း
- ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထင် နှိုးဆော်ချက် (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါရှိသူလူနာ (သို့မဟုတ်) လူနာနှင့် အနီးကပ်

ထိတွေ့သူများနှင့် ထိတွေ့မှုရှိခြင်း
- ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထင် နှိုးဆော်ချက် (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ ဖြစ်ပွားနေသည့် နိုင်ငံများမှ လွန်ခဲ့သည့် နှစ်ပတ်အတွင်း ပြန်လည် ရောက်ရှိခြင်း တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၃။ ဤရောဂါသည် အသက်အရွယ်မရွေး ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်ပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါသူများတွင် ရောဂါ ပိုမိုဖြစ်ပွားလွယ်ပါသည်။

- (က) ကလေးငယ်များနှင့် သက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုများ
(ခ) ဆီးချိုရောဂါရှိသူများ
(ဂ) နှာတံရှည်အဆုတ်နှင့် အသက်ရှူလမ်းကြောင်းဆိုင်ရာ ရောဂါရှိသူများ
(ဃ) ကိုယ်ခန္ဓာအားကျစေသည့် ဆေးဝါးမှီဝဲ သောက်သုံးနေသူများ (ဥပမာ-ကော်တီဆို့ ပါဝင်သည့်ဆေးများ၊ ကင်ဆာရောဂါများစသည့်ခြင်း)
၄။ အသက်ရှူလမ်းကြောင်းမှ ကူးစက်သော ရောဂါဖြစ်သဖြင့် ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထင် နှိုးဆော်ချက် (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားမှုမှ ကာကွယ်ရန် အောက်ပါအချက်များကို လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
(က) တစ်ကိုယ်ရေသန့်ရှင်းမှုကို ဂရုပြုဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း
(ခ) အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသည့်အစားအစာများစားသုံးခြင်း
(ဂ) ကောင်းမွန်စွာအိပ်စက်အနားယူခြင်း
(ဃ) ကိုယ်လက်လွှပ်ရာမှ မှန်မှန်ပြုလုပ်ခြင်း
(င) နှာချောင်း ချောင်းဆိုးလျှင်လက်ကိုင်ဝါးဖြင့်ဖုံးအုပ်ခြင်း
(စ) ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထင် နှိုးဆော်ချက် (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ လက္ခဏာရှိသူများအား နှိပ်စက်သုံးသပ်မှုများ (surgical mask) ဝတ်ရုံ (gown) ပလတ်စတစ်ရှေ့ဖုံးခါးစည်း (apron)နှင့် ပလတ်စတစ်လက်အိတ် (gloves) အသုံးပြု၍ လူနာနှင့်ထိတွေ့ခြင်း၊ လူနာအသုံးအဆောင် ပစ္စည်းများ ကိုင်တွယ်ခြင်း မှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ခြင်း
(ဆ) ကူးစက်ရောဂါများကို ထိရောက်စွာ ကာကွယ်ရန်အတွက် လက်ကို ဆပ်ပြာနှင့် စင်ကြယ်စွာ ဆေးကြောခြင်း
(ဇ) လူထုထပ်သောနေရာများ နှင့် ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားနေသော နိုင်ငံများသို့ ခရီးသွားလာခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ခြင်း
၅။ ကိုယ်အပူချိန်မြင့်ထွန်းခြင်း၊ ကိုယ်လက်ကိုင်ခဲခြင်း၊ ခေါင်းကိုက်ခြင်း၊ ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း၊ လည်ချောင်းနာခြင်း၊ နှာပန်းခြင်း၊ အသက်ရှူကြပ်ခြင်း၊ ရင်ဘတ်အောင့်ခြင်းစသည့်လက္ခဏာများဖြစ်ပွားပါကနီးစပ်ရာကျန်းမာရေးဌာန/ဆေးရုံ/ဆေးပေးခန်းများတွင်ပြသ၍ ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူရန် သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Antiquities still being looted in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 18 June—A quick new survey of ancient sites in Iraq shows that American bombs in the April war did little damage, but recent looting and long-term neglect have had serious impact, the National Geographic Society announced last week.

Two dozen important archaeological sites—some thought to hold artifacts from the very beginnings of civilization—were hurriedly inspected in May by a National Geographic expedition headed by Henry Wright of the University of Michigan. Anthropologist Elizabeth Stone of Stony Brook University was a member of the team. Results of the first survey of antiquities beyond Baghdad were described as mixed: some disappointment, plus much relief. "Somebody in the US government deserves positive credit for sparing the archaeological sites from bombing," Wright said. Such restraint was difficult, because Iraqi forces often used mounds and the ruins of ancient cities as fortified observation points. Archaeologists know that in the so-called ancient Fertile Crescent, which includes modern Iraq, every crumbling mound is a potentially important site.

However, Wright noted, "Several important sites have been badly looted and remained unguarded while we were there." Indeed, according to archaeologist McGuire Gibson of the University of Chicago, a helicopter tour south from Baghdad showed major, ongoing damage occurring at some sites, but nothing happening at others.

"One site looks like a waffle; it's so completely destroyed that the looters have stopped working," Gibson recalled. Another, called Umm al Hafriyat, "is one of the great sites that people have wanted to go back to. But now

it's like Swiss cheese; I could see more than 200 men working on the site," presumably looters.

Half the team headed north to visit Mosul, and ancient cities such as Nineveh and Nimrud. The others went south into the areas where irrigation was invented, the site of cities such as Babylon. Stone, on the team that hurried south, said they found the ancient Babylon ruins "heavily guarded by Marines who were encamped in a Saddam palace overlooking the site." Only the gift shop and guard-house from Hussein's era had been looted. But a day later, she said, "we saw looting at a desert site," an area important as "one of the first places where there was the development of temples, in the sixth millennium."

But at another location, she said, "looters had re-excavated an old dig, and maybe they got some old sardine cans, and little else." At still another site, which had not been explored by archaeologists, heavy looting was actually under way. "If that continues," Stone warned, "there's a whole city we may never know anything about unless the looting is stopped." The fundamental problem, Stone added, is that "this looting of sites and museums is governed by the desire of people in the West to collect these objects. It's similar to the drug trade, with some of the wealthiest people in the United States, Europe and especially Japan driving this type of destruction." —*Internet*

ထုတ်တုန့်နှစ်ဆ ထိုးမြင့်ကြ

Thai Deputy PM arrives in Beijing

BEIJING, 18 June—Thai Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak arrived here Tuesday noon, continuing his China visit.

During his stay in Beijing, Somkid will meet with the Chinese leaders, attend seminars on tourism, trade, agriculture and quarantine, and sign some agreements.

Somkid arrived in Kunming, capital of the southwest China province of Yunnan, Sunday afternoon as the guest of Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi.

In his meetings with Bai Enpei, secretary of the

Yunnan Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China, and Yunnan Provincial Governor Xu Rongkai, Somkid expressed his country's wish to enhance economic cooperation between Thailand and Yunnan, saying "it's time to lay down a strategy of cooperative development between the two sides." He also invited Chinese enterprises to invest in northern Thailand. —*MNA/Xinhua*



Former Iraqi soldiers march towards the Palestine Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, on 17 June, 2003 to protest the dissolution of the army and demand benefits due them. Thousands of

Iraqi soldiers were displaced after the US administration in Iraq dissolved the Iraqi armed forces following the fall of Saddam Hussein to pave the way for the formation of the new Iraqi Corps. — *INTERNET*

Soldier from Fort Drum regiment dies in Iraq

FALLUJAH, 18 June—Army Spc John K Klinesmith, 25, of Stockbridge, Ga, died last week after he was seen wading in a lake in a palace compound in Fallujah, Iraq, the Defence Department said.

Klinesmith, assigned to the 14th Infantry Regiment of the 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, NY, was found by searchers at the lake after he disappeared Thursday, officials said. His death was being investigated. Fort Drum spokesman RD Murphy said Klinesmith is the first casualty suffered by the 10th Mountain Division since the start of America's war on terrorism. The division has been the military's most deployed unit over the past decade.

"It's unfortunate. It appears he was just enjoying a swim. That's not supposed to be a dangerous activity," Murphy said. A memorial service for Klinesmith will be held Friday or Saturday in Iraq, Murphy said. Tenth Mountain Division troops played a key role in Operation Anaconda, the last major initiative in Afghanistan. Fort Drum troops saw heavy action and helped spearhead a victory over al-Qaida and Taleban militia fighters during an 18-hour firefight in the Shah-i-Kot Valley in March 2002.

Murphy said a number of Fort Drum soldiers have been wounded during combat duty in Afghanistan and Iraq. He said it appeared the last Fort Drum soldier to die in combat would have been during the deployment to Somalia in the mid-1990s, but he could not say for sure. — *Internet*



US Army soldiers patrol a street in Baghdad. A total of 50 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since President George W Bush declared the war there effectively over on 1 May, according to an AFP count from US military statements. Fourteen of those were killed in attacks and the rest in accidents. — *INTERNET*

**Senator
says CIA
deliberately
misled UN
arms
inspectors**

WASHINGTON, 18 June—The row over Iraq's missing weapons intensified in Washington yesterday as a leading Senate Democrat accused the CIA of deliberately misleading United Nations inspectors to help clear the decks for an invasion of Iraq.

The charge by Carl Levin of Michigan, the senior Democrat on the powerful Senate Armed Services Committee, comes as Congress gears up for its own hearings into whether the Bush administration misinterpreted or manipulated pre-war intelligence on the scale of the threat posed by Saddam Hussein.

Mr Levin is not the first Democrat to question the CIA's role. But his allegations are the most precise yet, and seem bound to increase pressure for a fuller, more public investigation than the Republican majority on Capitol Hill has been willing to concede thus far.

Mr Levin says that when the UN team under Hans Blix returned to Iraq last autumn, the CIA — contrary to what it claimed at the time — did not pass on its full list of 150 high or medium priority suspected weapons sites. This, in turn, enabled the US government to shut down the inspections quickly, opening the path for military action.

Internet

Iraqi resistance gets reinforcements

BAGHDAD, 18 June—Islamic militants and foreign fighters, including suicide bombers, are streaming into Iraq to bolster the resistance to the US-led occupation and to threaten Iraqis who cooperate with US troops, US intelligence officials told NBC News.

Although Baghdad fell to US-led coalition forces two months ago, Iraq remains essentially a war zone as former members of the Iraqi intelligence service and militia-men of the Saddam's Fedayeen paramilitary organize deadly hit-and-run attacks on US service members.

Forty-one Americans have been killed since the fighting officially stopped, the latest an Army soldier felled by a sniper Monday night. The attacks have become a "daily occurrence," an Army spokesman said.

"There is an element of society here that doesn't want change, and they see the coalition forces as bringing change in the form of freedom and democracy," said Army Col David Perkins, commander of the 3rd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade.

Senior military officials and analysts told NBC News that the Pentagon seriously underestimated the threat of a potential guerrilla war in Iraq. They suggested that Central Command may not have the right mix of troops on the ground to fight it.

"In the Sunni areas north and west of Baghdad, where there wasn't much fighting during the war and where radical Baathist elements didn't see the might of the US Army, we have faced a lot more problems than we expected," said Patrick Clawson of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"We need to have units that can go after those who might be thinking about guerrilla activities in this so-called 'Sunni triangle' north and west of Baghdad," Clawson said.

There are currently 145,000 US person-

nel in Iraq, but senior Army officials said on condition of anonymity that there was too much heavy armor and not enough light infantry or military police to combat the emerging threat.

Instead, the forces are concentrating on rounding up Baath Party loyalists and suspected insurgents. In the past three days, they have detained more than 400 suspects.

But many members of the resistance are former government officials still loyal to deposed President Saddam Hussein who melted away into the general population after the government fell. They are being augmented by Islamist militants who have continually entered the country through Syria and Jordan, US intelligence sources said, and they are undetectable until they attack.

Moreover, anger at the US raids has grown among the population, creating a groundswell of sympathy for forces resisting the US-led occupation.

"We are a proud people, and we will not accept this humiliation," a senior tribal leader in Ramadi, Abu Adel, told the Associated Press. "The Americans should beware the wrath of the Iraqi people."

"For every action, they should expect a reaction," said Sheik Saad Nayef al-Hardan, chief of Iraq's largest Arab tribe, the Dulaim. "Those attacks are a sign that the tolerance to the humiliation is running out."

L Paul Bremer, the US envoy in charge of administering postwar Iraq, told NBC News in an interview: "When we have these military operations, we try very quickly to show that we are not at war with the Iraqi people. — *Internet*



A US soldier moves through an alley during a raid for illegal weapons in Baghdad, Iraq on 17 June, 2003. Three days after the deadline for weapons amnesty lapsed, US forces stepped up their search for weapons which flooded Baghdad following the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime. — INTERNET

Dean urges probe into Bush's statements on Iraq

IOWA, 19 June — Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean on Tuesday called for an independent investigation of President Bush and his justification for the US-led war against Iraq, arguing that the commander in chief misled the country.

"I think the president owes this country an explanation because what the president said was not entirely truthful, and he needs to explain why that was," Dean said in an interview with *The Associated Press*.

Dean cited a number of statements made by Bush and other senior administration officials about the existence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and the dangers that the regime posed to the United States. The candidate said the claims were made even though officials knew they weren't true. "We need a thorough look at what really happened going into Iraq," Dean said. "It appears to me that what the president did was make a decision to go into Iraq sometime in early 2002, or maybe even late 2001, and then try to get the justification afterward."

Earlier Tuesday, Bush fired back at his critics who have suggested that the administration inflated prewar intelligence data on Iraq's weapons program as a justification for war. He said the most overlooked fact is that "the people of Iraq are free." — *Internet*

Vietnam takes measures to accelerate SOE reform process

HANOI, 18 June— The Vietnamese Government last week decided to assign the Ministry of Finance to preside over the sale and purchase of companies with bad debts, in a move to further clean up the financial state of state-owned enterprises (SOEs), *Vietnam Investment Review* reported Monday.

Under the decision, the sale and purchase of companies will settle the outstanding debts of enterprises through direct negotiations, bidding and auctioning and could use the purchased debts to re-invest.

Quach Duc Phap, head of the Financial Policy Department of the Ministry of Finance (MoF), said the decision will provide momentum for the reform and restructuring of SOEs. The current number of SOEs was around 5,200.

In recent years, the process of SOE reform has been slowed due to difficulties in settling outstanding debts. It is estimated the outstanding SOE debts total around 15 trillion Vietnamese dong (VND) (nearly one billion US dollars).

The government also assigned the MoF to implement, on a trial basis, settlement for debts of the first 20 SOEs with debts of more than five billion VND (330,000 US dollars).

The government aims by 2005 to equitize, assign, sell, contract and lease 2,000 of the current 5,200 SOEs. A further 2,000 of the SOEs will be shifted into one-member liability companies, while the remainder will retain their current status.

MNA/Xinhua

ဝက်မုန့်အား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Army criticized on Iraq oil contract

WASHINGTON, 18 June — The Army would ignore the votes of 99 senators if it were to renege on plans to open competition for companies to restore Iraq's oil production, the Senate sponsor of competitive bidding legislation said Tuesday.

The job currently is being done by a subsidiary of Halliburton, the company formerly led by Vice President Dick Cheney.

Senator Barbara Boxer, D-Calif, said the Army Corps of Engineers would contradict its own timetable if it should fail to end the lucrative monopoly given to Halliburton.

Cheney's office has said repeatedly that the vice president has severed ties with the company and had no role in awarding the work to Halliburton's KBR subsidiary.

Boxer was reacting to an Associated Press story last week that said Halliburton's work was likely to last longer than estimated as costs to the government escalated. The government had approved \$213.7 million in payments to KBR as of last week, up from \$184.7 million the first week in June.

Boxer said a delay would be "a direct rebuke of the will of the United States Senate," which voted 99-0 on May 22 to force the Army to award a competitive replacement contract by 31 August or explain the delay. The amendment was added to the Senate version of the defence authorization bill, which is headed to a House-Senate conference. The Senate Armed Services chairman, John Warner, R-Va, co-sponsored the amendment.

Lt Col Eugene Pawlik, a spokesman for the Corps of Engineers, said, "We generally don't reply directly to statements from any of our elected representatives. We certainly try to comply with directions we receive from Congress. If we have a requirement to report back to Congress on the contracting, and provide background on why the process has gone the way it has, we certainly will do that."

The Corps last week said that given requirements necessary to rebuild Iraq's oil industry, it could not have a proposal ready for contractor bidding by the original August timetable. Further, Corps officials said there would be no second contract if the oil restoration mission were to be completed before another company could take over or if the Iraqis make arrangements for additional help. — *Internet*



US soldiers stand guard on an armoured vehicle outside Baghdad's Um al-Tubool mosque in Baghdad, Iraq on 17 June, 2003.

INTERNET

Deminers warn it will take years to clear bitter legacy of Iraq wars

BAGHDAD, 18 June—Deminers say it will take years to clear the hundreds of tons of unexploded ordnance, from cluster bombs to anti-air missiles, that litter residential areas across Iraq. "What we find here is more dangerous than landmines which can kill one or two people each. Missiles can kill loads," said Roger Hess from the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action, an organization contracted by the United Nations to help clear Iraq of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and mines.

Hess, who works with international and local Kurdish staff, estimated it would take "between 18 and 24 months to ensure civilians will no longer be in contact with UXOs."

"But it will take between six and seven years to destroy them all."

Hess and other deminers said the latest war did not see a proliferation of landmines, unlike the 1991 Gulf War and the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War.

He said boys, typically aged nine to 13, are among those most likely to get hurt by UXOs as they often mistake them for toys. "The real challenge is that we can't tell them 'don't touch and call the authorities' because there is no government here," he said.

But NGOs such as Handicap International are trying to fill the gap with UXO and mine awareness programmes alongside their demining activities.

"We distribute leaflets and posters in schools, mosques and hospitals," said the head of operations in Iraq, Damien Vallette D'Osia. "The suffering of victims of war is only beginning. We're looking to provide medical and psychological assistance," he said, pointing to a programme to fit up to 300 people

with artificial limbs and offer local medics training in psychology.

The US-led occupation administration has also set up its own demining programme, relying on a Mozambican team working for the US-based, private company Ronco, which is used by the State Department worldwide.

A spokesman said US and British troops were also disposing of UXOs but only those they found in their path or as part of their weapon confiscation programme. "Humanitarian demining is not done for any tactical military purposes, it is done for civilians," said Pearce Marschner, describing Ronco's job.

"Sixteen years of civil war in Mozambique gave us a lot of experience in demining, although what we found here are mostly UXOs," said Elton Pinheiro, one of the deminers working in the Baghdad area.

He said Ronco's other team was based in Hilla, south of Baghdad, and exclusively dealing with landmines.

"Our working hours are shortened by the heat here," said Fernando Junior, another deminer, expressing con-

cern that Iraq's blistering summer heat, only a month away, "would destabilize some UXOs and may set them off."

As he was touring UXOs-infested sites in Baghdad, Hess faced the locals' ire for not having cleared the area sooner.

"You came last week and you said the missile would go. Look, it's still here and we're scared!" said Abdullah Hattab, 68, pointing at a Russian-made ground-to-air SA-2 missile on a launcher, right by his house in the Al-Baladiat neighbourhood in southwest Baghdad. The US army says at least 131 such missiles still dot the capital.

"It will be cleared out within a week. I did not have the equipment nor the personnel but they've arrived now," explained Hess as the old man calmed down and flashed a big smile.

Other residents expressed fears that the missile would go off under Iraq's blazing sun.

"It could cook off and blow up or its liquid fuel could leak," said Hess.

"This fuel, inhibited red fuming nitric acid, is deadly if people breathe it in. It can also lead to deep burns if they touch it." —*Internet*

PM faces grilling over reshuffle

LONDON, 18 June—Tony Blair is facing a torrid time before MPs after being summoned to explain his "shambolic" ministerial reshuffle.

The Prime Minister has been forced to make a Commons statement on changes which include the abolition of the historic post of Lord Chancellor.

Mr Blair caused confusion by incorporating the Welsh and Scottish affairs roles into the replacement Constitutional Affairs department.

Anger was intensified by the lack of consultation about the moves. He is due to answer critics after Prime Minister's questions — which could bring renewed attacks over the war in Iraq. On Tuesday Robin Cook and Clare Short, who quit the Cabinet over the conflict, cast renewed doubt on Government intelligence briefings used to justify the invasion. The pair said MI6 told them Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction did not pose any immediate threat during the build-up.

The threat had been "exaggerated", they told the opening session of the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee inquiry into the use of intelligence in the Iraq conflict.

Ms Short repeated her accusation that Mr Blair had "pre-committed" Britain to war, even though he had claimed to be working for a resolution to the crisis through the United Nations. The issue could bring more brickbats for the Prime Minister as he takes questions from MPs. — *Internet*

Indonesia presses for ASEAN "security community"

PHNOM PENH, 18 June—ASEAN, Southeast Asia's loose economic and political group, must do more in the field of security and anti-terror cooperation if its dream of a peaceful, stable region is ever to be realized, Indonesia said on Tuesday.

As the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) moves towards a planned Economic Community in 2020, it must not lose sight of its own internal security needs, especially after the September 11 attacks on the United States, and the October 2002 bombings on the Indonesian resort island of Bali.

As such, it should also strive to become a "Security Community" by 2020, Indonesia said in a proposal document obtained by

Reuters at an ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in the Cambodian capital.

"These two noble ideas could (be) 'mutually reinforcing' towards achieving peace, stability and prosperity in the region," Indonesia said.

The document said it was "ironic" that while economic cooperation had continued apace, "areas of cooperation in political and security fields have not been increased".

MNA/Reuters

Canberra opposition to call for Iraq probe

CANBERRA, 18 June—Australia's opposition Labour party is today expected formally to call for a parliamentary inquiry into the evidence on which the government based its support for the war in Iraq, asking the Senate, which it controls, to back the probe.

Like Britain, where an inquiry is already under way, John Howard's government has come under increasing pressure to show why it believed Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

Internet



A father carries his daughter out, waking her from sleep, to let in US soldiers during a search operation in Baghdad, Iraq, on 17 June, 2003. Three days after the deadline for weapons amnesty lapsed, US forces stepped up their search for weapons which flooded Baghdad following the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime. — *Internet*



Rounded up Iraqis sit blindfolded and handcuffed following a raid conducted by US Army troopers from the 1st Armoured Division 1st Brigade in a Baghdad neighbourhood in Iraq, early on 17 June 2003. Two days after the deadline for the weapons amnesty has elapsed, US forces stepped up their search for weapons which flooded Baghdad following the fall of Saddam Hussein. — *Internet*

Iraq seen missing 1.5 million BPD end-June oil target

BAGHDAD, 18 June—Looting and technical snags have kept Iraqi oil output near 750,000 barrels per day (BPD) since last month, and the war-torn country is expected to pump only 1-1.2 million bpd by mid-July, below its official target, an Iraqi oil official said on Tuesday.

Iraq had hoped its vast oilfields would be cranking out 1.5 million bpd by the end of June. But with virtually no increase in pumping rates over the past month, some officials now say Baghdad will fail to reach its goal.

"We are producing between 700,000 to 750,000 bpd," a senior Iraqi oil official told Reuters.

"There have been problems with the pipeline in the north and looting," he said, adding that four de-gassing stations have to be reinstalled and water intake facilities need to be rehabilitated.

This combination of lawlessness and technical problems in the oilfields means Iraq might only reach production of 1-1.2 million bpd by the middle of July, he

said.

The country's northern oilfields are now pumping about 550,000 bpd, with southern output at 200,000 bpd, another Iraqi oil official said. Before the US-led war, Iraq — home to the world's second largest oil reserves — was producing about 2.5 million bpd and exporting two million.

MNA/Reuters

Short says war decision reflected sidelining of cabinet by clique

LONDON, 18 June—Britain went to war in Iraq without any considered cabinet discussion or serious examination of the military options, Clare Short and Robin Cook revealed yesterday to the Commons foreign affairs select committee.

Speaking in public before MPs, the two former ministers opened the committee's high-profile investigation into the events that led Britain to war.

Ms Short complained that Iraq had symbolised a wider collapse of the collective decision-making process, in which a small, unelected entourage of Mr Blair's personal staff dominated decisions.

She named Jonathan Powell, his chief of staff, Alastair Campbell, the director of communications, Lady Morgan, political secretary, and Sir David Manning, foreign policy adviser, as the group around the prime minister. In a withering attack she said the Foreign Office and the foreign secretary, Jack Straw, were subservient to this clique, adding that many diplomats had opposed the war.

"I think that the decision-making was sucked out of the Foreign Office, which I think is a great pity," Ms Short said. "There is enormous expertise in the Foreign Office, including what was necessary to get a second UN resolution."

On the foreign secretary's role, she said: "I am suggesting that he was extremely loyal to the prime minister and his decisions." Ms Short claimed the lack of systematic discussion represented a collapse of British government traditions and had con-

tributed to the lack of planning for a postwar Iraq. Ms Short acknowledged that cabinet discussions on Iraq had been held regularly from October, but she said they were little more than updates.

"It was not what I considered a thorough decision-making discussion and there was no collective decision-making," she said.

"It is not just on Iraq, it is more generally on foundation hospitals and top-up fees."

She said that the lack of a coherent decision-making structure contributed to the failure of the Americans to prepare for ensuring order after Saddam Hussein's fall.

Mr Cook recommended that the UN inspectors be allowed back into Iraq, adding that if the US were opposed to such a move, the UN should at the least be allowed into British occupied Southern Iraq. Both Mr Cook and Ms Short laid into the so-called "dodgy dossier" published in February by Downing Street without any involvement from the Foreign Office or the intelligence services.

"To think that in the run-up to a declaration of war, where people's lives are at stake, to lift a prior PhD thesis and distort it ... I think it is shocking," Ms Short said.

"I am shocked that our system can come to this. I do not think we should permit this."

Internet



Former British International Development Secretary Clare Short gives evidence to the Foreign Affairs Select Committee on 17 June, 2003, in this video grab still image. Short, who resigned after the war with Iraq accused Prime Minister Tony Blair of a series of half truths, exaggerations, reassurances that weren't the case in the run-up to the war.

INTERNET

ACU can become forum to discuss eco cooperation

NEW DELHI, 18 June — Reserve Bank of India Governor Bimal Jalan Monday said that the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) could become a strong and non-political forum of central banks in the region to discuss issues relating to economic co-operation among member countries and foreign exchange and reserves management.

Addressing the 32nd annual meeting of the ACU in Bangalore, Jalan said that the ACU could be used as a forum for free exchange of views among members.

Maintaining that "administrative bottlenecks" were hampering the use of the ACU mechanism to boost intra-region trade, Jalan called for removal of these bottlenecks to make use of ACU mechanism popular.

The ACU has eight members — Bangladesh, Bhutan,

India, Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Its objectives are multi-lateral settlement of current account payments, conservation of foreign exchange promotion of monetary cooperation among central banks, increasing relationships among the banking systems of member countries and providing currency swap arrangements. Stating that the ACU mechanism needs to demonstrate the tangible benefits it could provide to its

members, Jalan said, if it has to attract new members, "it is necessary to make the ACU mechanism more efficient in the first instance and enhance the volume of trade routed through the arrangement."

There was a strong need to expand ACU membership, Jalan said, adding besides Maldives, the possibilities of bringing in Thailand, China, Malaysia and countries like Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and others should be explored.

MNA/Reuters

မြို့ပြရွေ့တင်၊ မိန်းပါးလေထွင်း ထုတ်တုန်းမြင့်

US troops 'used excessive force' at Fallujah protest

FALLUJAH, 18 June—The United States should hold a "full, independent and impartial" inquiry into the "apparent use of excessive force" by American troops who allegedly opened fire on a crowd of demonstrators in the Iraqi town of Fallujah, according to a report issued yesterday by Human Rights Watch.

As debate grows over the bungled aftermath of the invasion, the group also accuses US authorities of following a "recipe for disaster" by placing combat-ready soldiers in a volatile environment without adequate training, translators or crowd control devices.

The report's publication came as another US soldier was killed, this time by a sniper in Baghdad, bringing the number of American troops killed since the end of major combat operations to about 50. In a parallel development, guerrillas carried out drive-by shootings at several public buildings, including Fallujah's mayor's office and courthouse, a new stage of violence that seems to be an effort to deter Iraqi officials from co-operating with the US.

American military commanders have attempted to

crush the increasingly organised resistance. They say they have conducted 69 raids and detained more than 400 people during a three-day operation in Baghdad and northern Iraq.

The bloodbath in Fallujah on 28 April, a large Sunni Muslim town 35 miles west of Baghdad which has become one of the centres of opposition to the US-British occupation, has been the subject of intense dispute. Iraqi witnesses and hospital officials say 17 people were killed and up to 70 injured when US troops from the 82nd Airborne Division fired without provocation on an unarmed crowd of protesters outside a local school, which the army had taken over as a base.

The US military claim its soldiers were fired on by gunmen among the demonstrators, and from rooftops,

and replied with "precision fire".

The 18-page findings by Human Rights Watch (HRW) challenges the American explanation, and highlights some crucial failings in their approach to the now increasingly messy occupation of Iraq.

It says its investigators "did not find conclusive evidence of bullet damage on the school where US soldiers were based". That confirms the findings of The Independent whose correspondents also examined the scene; it is in striking contrast to some media reports which described the school as "pocked with bullet holes".

HRW states the absence of such evidence places "into serious question" the Americans' assertion they had come under fire from individuals. — *Internet*

US official sees chance of Iraq buying wheat in fall

WASHINGTON, 18 June — Iraq's supplies of grain could begin dwindling this fall, sparking US wheat producers to start competing for commercial sales after a decade of disrupted trade, a Bush Administration agriculture official said on Monday.

"The best information I have... is that Iraq's needs are covered in basic commodities until September, October," said Dan Amstutz, the US adviser charged with rebuilding Iraq's agriculture sector.

A "quite good" Iraqi wheat crop this year could delay commercial wheat sales beyond September or October, Amstutz added as he spoke to reporters a day before departing for Baghdad on his first trip to post-war Iraq since being named US advisor on Iraqi agriculture in April.

Amstutz, 71, said he plans to spend about two weeks in Iraq assessing what the country needs to ensure adequate food supplies in coming months and to boost long-term grain production.

Even before the Iraq war began in late March, US producers of commodities, especially wheat and rice, have been looking for ways to reenter that market. Relatively small amounts of American grain have been donated recently, but much larger commercial sales are being eyed, creating friction with Australia, which dominates Iraq's grain import market.

Iraq can absorb about three million

tons of foreign wheat a year, a significant portion of the 16 million tons Australia exported worldwide in 2001 and the 26 million tons the United States sold abroad that year.

The US industry fears it could lose out to Australia, which has been selling about two million tons of wheat in Iraq each year through a United Nations oil-for-food programme.

The United States was a large supplier of wheat, rice, barley, poultry and other farm goods to Iraq before the 1991 Gulf War. By the late 1990s, purchases from the US had been banned by President Saddam Hussein. US Agriculture Undersecretary JB Penn said the United States will be "prepared to compete along-side everyone else" for the Iraqi market.

Amstutz has predicted that with the proper help, Iraqi farmers will be able to double their grain production within two or three years. Even so, he said, "Iraq will still be a net importer of wheat and rice and perhaps, as its animal industry kicks into higher gear, some feed ingredients."

MNA/Reuters

The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago.

The second best time is now.

ASEAN affirms support for UN's central, vital role in Iraq

PHNOM PENH, 18 June— The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) reaffirmed its support for “a central and vital role for the United Nations in the reconstruction and development of Iraq.”

In the Joint Communiqué issued at the end of 36th Ministerial Meeting here Tuesday, the regional grouping also said reconstruction and development in Iraq must be achieved in accordance with the aspirations of the Iraqi people.

It stressed that all measures relating to the future of Iraq “must be undertaken on the basis of respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and security of Iraq.”

Urging the international community to extend assistance to the Iraqi people, the document said assistance to the Iraqi people should be adequate to meet their basic needs. Also, it said, measures must be taken to “ensure that normality and law and order is restored and

maintained.”

Immediately following the beginning of the US-led war against Iraq, ASEAN convened an informal meeting in Karambunai, Malaysia.

In its statement issued after the meeting, ASEAN affirmed its support for “UN’s responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and stability.”

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

Foreign ministers from the 10 members countries, its secretary-general, Foreign Minister of Papua New Guinea (special observer) and Foreign Minister of East Timor (chairman’s guest)

attended the meeting.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen delivered a keynote speech titled “Cambodia: Fully Engaged in the ASEAN Community” at the meeting.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers check Iraqi men for the weapon at a checkpoint in Baghdad, Iraq on 17 June, 2003. — INTERNET

Cook attacks ‘striking absence of evidence’

BAGHDAD, 18 June — Robin Cook took apart the Government’s justification for war in Iraq in just over an hour of testimony yesterday. The former foreign secretary and leader of the Commons used the quiet forensic skills which made his name in opposition to pick away at the evidence used to argue that Saddam Hussein was a clear and immediate threat to his neighbours, and the international community.

Mr Cook used his knowledge of intelligence reports on Iraq from 1997 to 2001, and a face-to-face briefing from the chairman of the Government’s joint intelligence committee, to insist that MI6 had not regarded Iraq’s chemical or biological arsenal as a high risk to the world.

Mr Cook told members of the all-party Commons Foreign Affairs Committee that secret briefings he received immediately before the outbreak of war differed sharply from Downing Street’s rhetoric.

He declared that the briefings reflected “word for word” the warning in his resignation speech that “Iraq probably has no weapons of mass destruction in the commonly understood sense of the term; namely a credible device capable of being delivered against a strategic city target”.

He also revealed that concerns about Saddam’s arsenal had eased to the extent that Britain had considered “closing the files” on Iraq’s nuclear and long-range missile programme in the late 1990s. In a devastating critique of the Government’s culture of spinning, he accused ministers of carefully selecting intelligence information to back their case for war. He said that the Government’s first dossier on Iraq’s weapons, which included the claim that weapons

could be launched within 45 minutes, was “very thin”.

He said: “I was taken aback at how thin the dossier was. There was a striking absence of any recent and alarming firm evidence. The great majority was derivative. The plain fact is that a lot of the intelligence in the dossier turned out to be wrong.” The second publication, now labelled the “dodgy dossier” after it emerged much had been culled from a PhD thesis, was condemned as “a glorious and spectacular own goal”.

It was a quiet, understated performance, in sharp contrast with the highly charged testimony of Clare Short, the former secretary of state for international development. It came from a man who has become the respected leader of anti-war opinion on the back benches, amid increasing concern in Labour’s ranks about the failure to uncover weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. — *Internet*

India to consult Iraq’s neighbours on troop deployment

NEW DELHI, 18 June — India Tuesday said it will hold “political consultations” with countries neighbouring Iraq on the issue of troops deployment.

New Delhi has also made it clear that it has not sought any fresh UN resolution during parleys with the Pentagon team on the issue of sending Indian forces to Iraq. “If there is a UN mandate, many more countries will find it easier to participate,” an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said.

India wanted to know from the United States details on the nature of force required for stability operations, their role, mandate and the relationship with the United Nations.

New Delhi also sought clarifications on development of a responsible Iraqi interim administration, future political evolution in that country and the humanitarian relief and reconstruction activities. Asked if India has pressed for a fresh UN resolution during talks with the American team Monday, the spokesman said, “India has not sought a UN resolution,”

adding “we are not a member of the UN Security Council.” Ahead of the Pentagon-Government talks, US Ambassador Robert Blackwill said at the weekend that Indian troops in Iraq could operate under their own flag and be used for non-combat operation.

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee discussed the matter with leader of the opposition and Congress President Sonia Gandhi Sunday. Later, the government said it would take a decision on the issue after evolving a political consensus keeping “best national interest in view” and consulting countries in that region.

“These discussions were part of process of wide-ranging consultations that the Government proposes to hold to have a better appreciation of the situation and take appropriate decisions as necessary,” the spokesman said. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Iraqi museum to repair broken 5,000-year-old vase

BAGHDAD, 18 June— A priceless vase returned to the Iraqi National Museum is damaged but can be repaired, the museum’s director said Tuesday.

The three-foot-tall, Warka Vase is in pieces after being stolen during looting.

The 5,000-year-old artifact known as the Warka Vase is considered one of the world’s first sculptures. It disappeared with hundreds of other treasures from the museum during the chaotic days after Saddam Hussein’s regime was toppled. Last week, unknown people handed the vase to guards at the museum’s gate. It is the most famous of a few hundred items turned in since an amnesty was granted to anyone returning a stolen artifact.

The vase was shown Tuesday to a USA today reporter and photographer. At first glance, it appears to have been seriously damaged. It is in pieces — one large section and a half dozen or more smaller ones.

But Ahmed Kamel, the museum’s acting director general, said the vase is in no worse shape than when it was discovered by German archaeologists in 1940, near Samawa in southern Iraq. “It was in pieces then, and we restored it,” he said. “Now the looters have broken it again, but it can be repaired.” The vase is named for Warka, formerly the ancient Sumerian city of Uruk where it was believed to have been made.

The three-foot-tall, alabaster vase has five tiers of carvings that art historians say are among the first narrative pictures. They depict water, grain, sheep, and priests and rulers bearing offerings. The images are important because they depict the ordering of the ancient civilization that led to modern systems, said McGuire Gibson, a leading archeologist on Mesopotamia at the University of Chicago. — *Internet*

Platinum production up in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 18 June— Zimbabwe produced 40,320 ounces of platinum worth 27 million US dollars in the first four months of this year, almost trebling the figure produced in the same period of last year, according to the *Herald* newspaper on Tuesday. The rise follows Zimplats Makwiro Platinum Mine in Ngezi entering full production with expanding

production at the Zimbabwe Mining and Smelting Company’s Mimosa Mine.

Anglo American Corporation is undertaking the initial phase of its Unki Platinum mine in Shurugwi.

The mine will be expected to produce at least 58,000 ounces of platinum per annum when it becomes fully operational in 2007.

MNA/Xinhua



A riot police officer escorts a veiled handcuffed woman on 17 June, 2003 after a raid in Saint-Ouen-l’ Aumône, about 35 kilometers northwest of Paris. French police raided the offices earlier Tuesday of Iranian opposition group the People’s Mujahadeen accused of links to terrorism, rounding up 165 members and seizing US\$1.3 million in American currency, the government said. The interior minister said the raids were motivated by evidence that France was becoming a major operations center for the group, whose Iraq-based military wing was disarmed by US forces. — *INTERNET*

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects roads and bridges in Kachin State

YANGON, 18 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, together with Kachin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Northern Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and departmental officials, went to Hopin from Myitkyina by car and inspected roads and bridges on 16 June.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions to the responsible officials on maintenance and upgrading of road and bridges on Myitkyina-Hopin section of Myitkyina-Shwebo road.

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Adviser U Thant Zin and Sagaing Division Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Tint reported on conditions of Shwebo-Myitkyina road and Shwebo-Hopin-Myitkyina road section to Lt-Gen Ye Myint at the guest house of the Public Works. Lt-Gen Ye Myint called on the Ministry of Construction and the Northern Command for building strategic roads and bridges in the state. Then, Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe reported to Lt-Gen Ye Myint on conditions of roads and bridges on Myitkyina-Nantsiaung road section of



Lt-Gen Ye Myint gives instructions on roads and bridges in Kachin State to officials in Hopin. — MNA

Mandalay-Shwebo-Myitkyina Road. U Thant Zin of Public Works and Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Tint reported on condition of road sections and bridges and upgrading of Shwebo-Myitkyina and Myitkyina-Nantsiaung road sections. After hearing reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint fulfilled the requirements for construction of roads and bridges. He also gave instructions on assistance to be provided by Kachin State Peace and Development Council and the Northern Command.—MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects regional development ...

(from page 16)

He said local people have now enjoyed benefits of regional development due to peace and tranquillity in the region. He spoke of the need to promote agriculture and livestock breeding activities, which are basic economic enterprises.

He said the government has given top priority to the development of agriculture and livestock breeding in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. At the same time it is establishing industries. He said the government is making arrangements for progress of border areas after formation of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.

Moreover, he said, the government designated some important areas as major development regions. There are now 24 development regions in the Union and it is also

implementing five rural development tasks, he said.

He spoke of the need for the people to participate in nation-building tasks willingly and to discharge regional development tasks. Service Personnel are to undertake the tasks with sense of duty.

He called for cooperation in national and regional development. After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Ye Myint cordially greeted departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsenders.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected agricultural and livestock breeding integrated farm on manageable scale of Hopin Station.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected integrated farms and plantations of Warrant Officer Than Win and Sergeants Aung Shein and Thein Cho.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint met Tatmadaw members and families at the hall of local battalion. He called for cooperation in community welfare and national development tasks.

MNA

Construction minister inspects construction of roads and bridges

YANGON, 18 June—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein and officials concerned, on 14 June inspected Sagaing-Shwebo-Myitkyina motor road by car.

Sagaing Division Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Tint of Public Works and Shwebo District Senior Engineer U Kyaw Kyaw reported on roadworks carried out during the open season and the future tasks.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun gave instructions on priority works to be carried

out in the rainy season.

The minister and party went to Meza Bridge on 15 June where he called on officials to maintain of the bridge.

They proceeded to Mohnyin Bridge construction site after inspecting Shwebo-Myitkyina road.

Senior Engineer U Chit presented a report on progress of work in constructing the bridge and tasks to be implemented. The minister instructed to complete the construction of the bridge in time and to meet the set standards.

Yesterday, the minister and party saw over Lonton Road and the 90-foot-long Bailey bridge in Nanmon Village.

Then, the minister and party inspected Hopin-Myitkyina road section and Nanyin Creek Bridge on Shwebo-Myitkyina Road.

Later, on arrival at Nankaung Bridge (Mogoung Bridge), officials reported to the minister on progress in building the bridge.

The minister then gave necessary instructions and inspected round the construction tasks.

MNA



Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspects Mohnyin Bridge in Mohnyin Township. — CONSTRUCTION

Nursery Market Festival continues

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

Educative booklets and pamphlets on scientific cultivation methods and application of pesticides and fertilizers are also available at the festival. Kitchen crops, fruits and saplings of herbal plants are being shown at the festival.

Poultry farming and fish breeding are also exhibited there. — MNA

POEM:

Treasures of the nation

- * 'Myanmar Soccer Team has clearly won Won Victory.
- * 'Strength, tenacity of our nation's youth Have clearly been shown.
- * 'For the nation, there's honour Definitely elevated.
- * 'For sports to shine out And education, if observed For the nation, has produced brilliant Outstanding ones are constantly born.
- * 'Distinctively, prominent Youths' ability, variegated Are vital to national development Strong, consolidated, mighty Investment of treasures.

May Yu (Trs)

Prawn breeding tasks inspected in Kyauktan

YANGON, 18 June — Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein inspected prawn breeding industry in Kyauktan Township, Yangon South District, yesterday.

Together with Deputy Director-General of the Fisheries Department U Hla Win, the minister met entrepreneurs from the sea prawn breeding zones in the township at the department.

At the meeting, the minister called on the entrepreneurs to expand the scope

of sea prawn breeding industry in suitable regions. He said that only if the prawn breeding industry realizes US\$ 400 to 500 million yearly, the fish and meat sector would fully contribute towards the national economy.

Then, Chairman of Myanmar Fisheries Federation U Htay Myint reported on methods and feedstuff to be provided by MFF in prawn breeding industry; and Head of Yangon Division Fisheries Department U Khin Maung Win, on

tasks for extended digging of fish and prawn breeding ponds. The minister and officials inspected the growth rate of the 100-day-old prawns and sea prawn breeding ponds.

A total of 65 entrepreneurs are running prawn breeding industry on the land of 5,876.99 acres in three sea prawn breeding zones in the township.

Then, the minister called for speeding up the already-gained development momentum in prawn breeding industry. — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects regional development tasks, attends summer paddy harvesting ceremony in Shan State

YANGON, 18 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung and officials, arrived at Amyekaung farm and nursery of U Aung Myint in Nampun Village, Muse Township in Muse District, on 16 June morning. Farm Manager U Soe Myint Thein reported on crops grown on 220 acres of land and arrangements for extended cultivation of crops.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave necessary instructions and viewed packaging of lychees for marketing in Yangon, Mandalay and China, and thriving of lychee, Seintalon mango and macadamia (Jinkaw) plants and macadamia (Jinkaw) saplings in the farm. At the farm, altogether 19 plants namely rubber, coffee, citron, lychee, mango, papaya, Yodaya plum, China conifer, banana, sunkist, lonkan, chestnut, Thitseint, castard apple, tamarind, Phayawaythee, guava, carambola and macadamia (Jinkaw) have been grown on over 200 acres of land and it is a successful farm in the region.

Then, the opening of Pyaythaya Ring road of Muse Township Development Affairs Department was held at 7.30 am at the archway of the road. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe graced the ceremony by attending it.

Also present on the occasion were Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Khin Maung, senior military officers, district/township Peace and Development Council chairmen and members, departmental officials, members of social organizations, local cultural troupe members and people.

Assistant Engineer U Aung Naing Oo of the township DAD reported on tarring of the road. Muse District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Soe Win and Assistant Director of the township DAD U Kyaw Oo formally opened the road.

Then, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party walked along the road and cordially greeted local people.

The new road linking with the Union Highway was built at a cost of K 42.266 million. It is 12,600 feet long and 18 feet wide. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party arrived at the briefing hall of Muse High-class Playground Construction Project where Muse District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Soe Win reported on location, area and design of the playground, Staff Officer U Htan Eait Khe of Township Sports and Physical Education Department on drainage system, Chairman of Soe Soe Pyay Pyay Co U Sai Tun Aye on requirements in building the playground. After giving instructions on timely completion of the playground, meeting the set standards and holding of local contests as well as invitational contests, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected construction material for the playground.

Then, he attended the harvesting of 100-acre summer model paddy field held at Naungsai Village-tract in the township and growing of Hsinshweli monsoon paddy.

Muse District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Soe Win reported on harvesting of summer paddy in the respective zones, local rice sufficiency, target for growing of monsoon paddy and growing of Hsinshweli paddy.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Khin Maung called for extended growing of Hsinshweli paddy that will ensure earning more money.

Township Myanmar Agriculture Service Manager U Khin Maung Than reported on growing and production of paddy in the township.

Then, the harvesting ceremony was held. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party viewed harvesting of paddy with the use of paddy harvesters. Then, they also viewed Hsinshweli monsoon (100-acre field) paddy growing ceremony.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party proceeded to Namkham Township and attended the harvesting ceremony of Hsinshweli summer (500-acre field) paddy. Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council Major Aung Zaw Latt reported on growing of summer and monsoon paddy, General Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Services Dr Min Aung on growing of Hsinshweli paddy strain.

Then, the harvesting of Hsinshweli summer (500-acre



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe attends the harvesting of the 500-acre model Hsinshweli paddy plot in Hohsaing Village, Namkham Township. — MNA

field) paddy was held. After viewing the harvesting of paddy with the use of paddy harvesters, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected thriving paddy fields along Namkham in car. They then arrived at Phaengkyaung jetty, crossed the Shweli River on board of motor craft; and arrived at Naunghin jetty. They proceeded to Manhiro and Myanmar-China border gate and inspected SARS prevention measures of health care staff.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe met with departmental officials, townsmen at the hall of Manhiro Administrative Office. Present on the occasion were Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Khin Maung, district/township Peace and Development Council chairmen, departmental officials, townsmen and local people.

Manhiro Administrative Officer U Aung Kyaw Soe reported on economic, social, health care and administrative sectors of the town, District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Soe Win on local rice sufficiency, production of summer paddy and growing of monsoon paddy, construction of earthen road, water supply tasks and development tasks.

The deputy minister explained arrangements for providing agricultural technology. The commander then explained that arrival of service personnel, opening of departmental offices, and arrangements for distribution of Hsinshweli quality paddy strain and other crops to local people and assistance to be rendered for regional development tasks.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe said that the purpose of their tour of Manhiro is to carry out border areas development tasks, adding now peace has been restored in the region and so the government will take measures for enabling the region to keep up with other regions.

In the process, local people and departmental personnel are to take part in these tasks as well as tasks for prevalence of law and order in the region, he said. Upholding "Our Three Main National Causes", it is needed to implement the twelve objectives. Only when the local residents participate in the regional development tasks with might and main, will accomplishments be achieved, he noted. In conclusion, he called for successful implementation of these tasks through the might of the unity among the national races.

Then, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected Manhiro middle school and Station Hospital, monsoon paddy fields and progress of the region.

At 2 pm, they arrived at Muse Yahtaik brick factory in Muse. Officials reported on process of brick production. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe said that the brick production contributes towards construction project in the region and officials concerned thus need to provide necessary assistance to the projects. He continued to say that for fuel, coal is used instead of firewood in the industry so it prevents deforestation.

He called for maintenance of quality and distribution of the products to construction projects at reasonable prices.

They inspected production process at the factory. The factory produces 50,000 bricks a day and there is no longer need to import bricks at expensive prices from the neighbouring country.

They proceeded to the perennial crop farm of the North-East Command in Khomoun Village, Kutkai Township. At the briefing hall, Col San Shwe Tha of Kutkai Station reported on planting of orange, coffee and pomelo in the 20-acre farm. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions and attended to the needs and then inspected the trees. In the farm, altogether 4,340 orange trees, 8,680 Sunkist trees, 4,500 coffee plants and 120 pomelo trees have been grown.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party went to the 1,000-acre

highland reclamation project in Loihsamhsit agricultural zone being undertaken by local regiment in the township. Col San Shwe Tha reported on cultivation of paddy, groundnut, maize and buckwheat in the project, implementation of the 1,700-acre farmland project in the township; U Mahtu Naw of Kaungkha Special Region 5, on cultivation of groundnut, soya bean and paddy being undertaken by the special region in the 300-acre land of the farm; and U Ti Khun Myat, on agricultural tasks being undertaken on the 100-acre highland by local national group in Kutkai Township. The commander gave a supplementary report. Concerning the reports, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe said that the government has been striving for development of agriculture and livestock breeding sectors after laying down plans and fulfilling the requirements. In social, economic and health care sectors, needs are also attended to for equitable development in all parts of the nation. Endeavours are being made for regional development. At the same time, objectives are being realized raising the economy sector based on agriculture.

Regarding the development of Shan State, strenuous efforts must be made for boosting per acre yield of paddy to 100 baskets, long staple cotton to 400 viss, sugarcane to 30 tons, green gram to 20 baskets, pedisein to 20 baskets, pigeon pea to 25 baskets, groundnut to 50 baskets, sesamum to 20 baskets, sunflower to 50 baskets and maize to 80 baskets. With these aims in view, the four methods namely application of proper cultivation methods, utilization of high-yield pedigree strains, combined use of natural and chemical fertilizers and putting farmlands under cultivation in scheduled time. In this context, educative and organizational works are to be carried out among the farmers. The departmental personnel concerned are also required to make earnest efforts for ensuring the national development. The service personnel are to join hands with the people in making development endeavours.

Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected pedigree strains, fertilizers and pesticides displayed at the agricultural educative station and gave necessary instructions to the officials. Then, they inspected the 20-day nursery of the 100-acre terrace Hsinnyadana special high-yield paddy field of the local national group in Kutkai Township. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party stopped for a night in Kutkai. Deputy Minister for Agriculture & Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung inspected the tea plantation of the 300-acre terrace opium substitution crop cultivation station of Kaungkha special region (5) in Kutkai Township on 16-6-2003 evening.

He met with national race leader U Mahtu Naw and officials and discussed matters on extension of tea plantations. He also inspected the saplings at the nursery.

In the Kaungkha special region (5) opium substitution crop cultivation station, tea and other perennial crops are grown scientifically in double hedge rows instead of conventional cultivation methods in 100 acres. Other perennial crops such as orange, peach, damson, pears, etc will also be put under cultivation, it is learnt. — MNA

Stimulant tablets seized

YANGON, 18 June — When the No 55 Mandalay-Myitkyina up-train arrived at Shwebo station at 2.45 pm on 25 May 2003, members of Railway Police Force searched a suspect on board and then confiscated 6,200 WY Brand stimulant tablets and arrested him.

The Shwebo Myanmar

Police Station registered the case and was taking action against Tin Win (a) Aik Thaug, son of U Hlaing Khan, of Natmahtwet Village, Naunglaing Village-tract, Tangyan, under Section 15/19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

MNA

Fourteen years of development and peace

Myint Soe (Nga-Ta-La)

(Continued from yesterday)

The development tasks of border areas have gained momentum since 1989 on a national scale. With the establishment of the central committee and the working committee, primary schools were opened in Laukkai, Hseaw, Chinshwehaw, Pasinkyaw, Tashwehtan, and Namhtaw of Kokang region, Wansalaung and Kaunglon of Mawpha region, and Mongyu, Mongma, Mongla, Hsantauk, Hsilu, and Monghe of eastern Kengtung region in 1989 alone. In the health sector, hospitals and dispensaries were also constructed in Laukkai and Chinshwehaw of Kokang region, Hsi-aw, Pasinkyaw, Tashwehtan, Mongmaw and Namtit of Wa region, and Mongla, Mongyu, Mongkha, Hsilu, Mongma, Kengkham (Mongwa), and Monghe of eastern Kengtung region.

The construction of roads and bridges also included in the development tasks that started in 1989. Roads constructed were Nanhua-Chinshwehaw road, Chinshwehaw-Laukkai road, Laukkai-Kongyan road, Laukkai-Yanlonkeng road, Hopan-Chinshwehaw road, Hopan-Mongla road, Hopan-Nantit road, Mongyan-Hsilu road, Mongyao-Mongyu road, KyetUtaung-Mongpauk road, Wantapin-Panhomon road, Panhomon-Mongyan road, Mongyu-Wanphyat road, Wanphyat-Monghe road, and Wanphyat-240 Kyauktaing road. Bridges were the bailey bridge crossing Nantein creek and the Wantapin bailey bridge.

Electricity was generated in Chinshwehaw new town with the use of two 4KVA generators as of 17-7-1989. Furthermore, Mongyan, Hsilu, Mongkhat, Mongla, Monghsat, Mongpan, Ywangan, and Mabein were also supplied with electricity during 1989. Pakyathaw hydel power plant was also constructed in Kokang region.

The earliest border area communication sector in 1989 was the radio telephone communication linking Lashio to Kunlon on 30-7-1989. A post office and radio telegraphic office were also constructed in Mongkhat. In the agricultural sector, tractor stations were opened in Lashio and Kunlon; Nali and Shiphan Dams built; and fertilizer, pesticide, coffee strains, and maize distributed to Mongyu and Mongwa regions.

Public relations works could be carried out only in 1994. Beginning 3-1-1994, Panhsan TV relay station of Wa region started broadcasting MRTV programmes. Mongmaw, Laukkai, Mongyan, Mongkhat, Hsilu, Mongla, Nanphatka, Monghsat, Bokpyin, Kaleinaung, Tanai and Papun regions were also facilitated with TV relay stations in 1994 alone.

There have now been 17 armed groups carrying

out regional development tasks together with the Government. When compared with the cause of previous history of the country, these are the fruits of peace never achieved in any periods. Peace is essential to development. Everyone who has hungered after peace cherishes it earnestly.

Border areas development tasks undertaken as a national cause for promotion of the lives of national brethren turned 14 years in May 2003. The 16-member Central Committee for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and the 53-member Working Committee plus 11 regional Working Committees, 18 subcommittees and the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, are all working in harmony.

A total of 2748 miles and two furlongs earth road, 1578 miles and two furlongs gravel road, 297 miles and five furlongs tarred road, maintenance works on 2743 miles and 7 furlongs long roads, 42 major bridges, 640 small bridges, 16 suspension bridges, 52 hospitals, 82 dispensaries, 28 rural health care centres, 41 rural health care centres (branch), 627 primary schools, 61 middle schools, 62 high schools, 31 offices of Myanmar Agriculture Service, 115 Agricultural Camps, 11 tractor stations, 184 towns and villages provided with sufficient electricity, 8 hydel power plants, 97 TV retransmission stations, 47 post offices, 80 telephone exchange stations, 35 telegraphic offices, 19 livestock breeding farms and 41 veterinary clinics have been put into service in border areas from 1989 up to date spending K 43025.63 million.

Besides the upgrading of schools and construction of new school buildings in accord with the border areas education promotion 30-year plan, 3Rs courses were also conducted at the border areas for the elimination of illiteracy. Social infrastructures could be built in border areas. Panhsang, Mongla and Laukkai hospitals have been upgraded into a 50-bed ones. Once hamlets of border areas such as Mongla, Panhsang, Namtit, Laukkai, Kongkha and Panwa have been upgraded into major towns.

The government has been striving for the harmonious development of border areas by setting up border areas development projects, rural development projects and 24 development zones projects. It is sure that I will be able to present more articles about the development of border areas in the future.

(Concluded)

(Translation: KTY+MWT)

(Kyemon: 16-6-2003)

Stakes driven for construction of Monywa Airport building

YANGON, 18 June —Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe attended the stake-driving ceremony for construction of Monywa Airport building of the Civil Aviation Department at the airport in Monywa yesterday morning.

First, Maha Boditahtaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Narada administered the Five Precepts to the congregation. Members of the Sangha recited parittas.

Then, offertories were presented to the Sayadaw. Afterwards, the commander, the minister, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Soe Myint, the director-general of the department and the managing director of Shwe Than Lwin Highway Co drove stakes at the designated sites and sprinkled scented water on them. Then, rituals of golden and silver showers were performed.

The Maha Shwetheindaw Monastery in Yayyo Village in Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Division, donated ancient Buddha images and bundles of palm leaves to the State. Accompanied by officials, the minister attended the ceremony.

Missionary Dhammakathika of Mahasi Meditation Centre Siri Mangala Shwetada Sayadaw Ashin Vannissara explained the purpose of the donation. Maha Shwetheindaw Monastery Sayadaw U Kolasa handed over the donations to the minister.

The four Buddha images and 138 bundles of palm leaves are from Maha Shwetheindaw Monastery in Yayyo village, nine miles from Ayadaw. — MNA



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe drives the stake for construction of the Monywa airport building. — MNA

ဝမ်းရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားမှုမရှိစေရန်

- * ရေကိုကျိုချက်၍ သောက်ပါ။
- * ယင်းနားစာများ မစားပါနှင့်။
- * ယင်းလုံအိမ်သာ အသုံးပြုပါ။
- * အစာမစားမီနှင့်အိမ်သာမှအဆင်းတွင် လက်နှစ်ဖက်ကို ဆပ်ပြာဖြင့် စင်ကြယ်စွာဆေးကြောပါ။
- * အမှိုက်သရိုက်များကို စနစ်တကျဖွင့်ပစ်ပါ။
- * ဝမ်းလျှောလျှင် ကျန်းမာရေးဌာနသို့ပြပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

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၊ ဝန်းဘိုတန်း၊ ကျောက်တံတား၊ ဗိုလ်တထောင်၊ ပုဇွန်တောင်) အတွင်း ဟွန်းသံကင်းမဲ့ အဖြစ် (၁-၆-၂၀၀၃)ရက်မှစတင်သတိပေးသွားမည်ဖြစ်ရာ မော်တော်ယာဉ်မောင်းသူများအားလုံးမှ ယင်းဧရိယာအတွင်း မည်သည့်အကြောင်းနှင့်မျှ ဟွန်းမတီးကြရန်နှင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုမဖြစ်စေရန် အတွက်လည်း သတိပြု မောင်းနှင်ကြရန် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အနားယာဉ် များမှာလည်း စည်းကမ်းတကျသွားလာကြရန်နှင့် ကန့်သတ်ထားသည့် ဧရိယာအတွင်း ဝင်ရောက်နှိုးနှင်းခြင်းမပြုကြရန်၊ ထို့အပြင် လမ်းအသုံးပြုသူများမှာလည်း လူသွားစင်္ကြန်မှသွားလာကြရန်နှင့် လူကူးမျဉ်းကျားများ၊ လူကူးခုံးကျော်တံတားတို့မှသာလမ်းဖြတ်ကူးကြပါရန်၊ လိုက်နာခြင်းမရှိပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူဆောင်ရွက်သွားမည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေး ကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်း အချို့မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမှာ ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်း လမ်းစည်းကမ်း ချိုးဖောက်မှုများကြောင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုများ ဖြစ်ပွားခဲ့သဖြင့် ဒဏ်ရာရသူသေဆုံးသူများ များပြားလာသည်ကို တွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုများ ဖြစ်ပွားပါက ကြေအေးသည်ဖြစ်စေ မကြေအေးသည်ဖြစ်စေ ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်း လမ်းစည်းကမ်းများယွင်းသော ယာဉ်မောင်းသူများအား တည်ဆဲဥပဒေအရ ထိထိရောက်ရောက် အရေးယူဆောင်ရွက်သွားမည် ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေး ကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

တိုက်ရိုက်ကြည့်ရှု အချိန်တိုနှင့်ကု

ပျောက်မှာသေချာ တိဘီရောဂါ

- * ရက်သတ္တပတ် (၃)ပတ်ကျော် ရောင်းဆုံးလျှင် နီးစပ်ရာ ကျန်းမာရေးဌာနတွင် စစ်ဆေးပါ။
- * တိုက်ရိုက်သွားသော အစွမ်းထက်မြက်သော တိဘီဆေးဝါးများဖြင့် အခမဲ့ကုသပေးနေပါသည်။
- * တိုက်ရိုက်ကြည့်ရှု အချိန်တိုနှင့်ကုနည်းဖြင့်ကုသလျှင် တိဘီရောဂါ ပျောက်ကင်းပါသည်။

အိမ်တိုင်းမှာသစ်ပင် ရွာစဉ်မှာတောတန်း

တစ်တောဝင်တစ်တောင်တက် ဗြူတက်မယ့်လင်း။

Myanmar youths emerge as champions in ASEAN Under-18 football Tournament



Victorious Myanmar youth footballers show off the ASEAN U-18 championship trophy. — NLM



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt cordially greets the victorious Myanmar youth footballers. — MNA



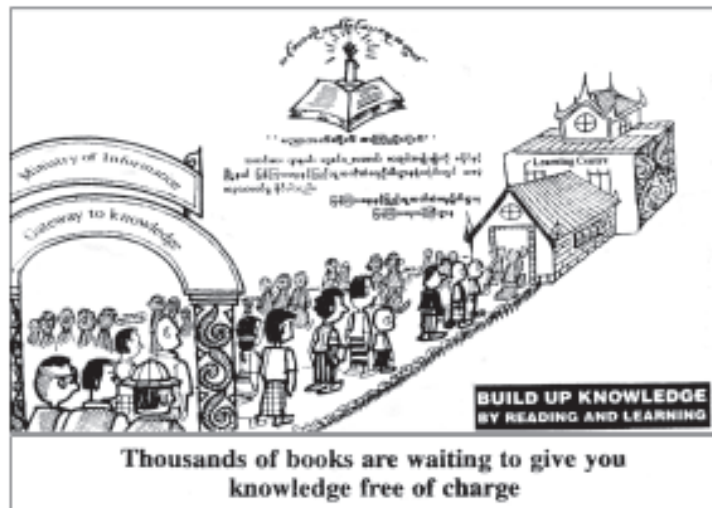
Victorious Myanmar youth footballers celebrate their victory joyfully after the final match. — NLM



Myanmar Under-18 football team members rejoice over the victory. — NLM



Myanmar football fans enthusiastically encouraging and cheering Myanmar U-18 football team during the final match. — NLM



ADVERTISEMENT

ASEAN welcomes peaceful initiatives in South Asia

PHNOM PENH, 18 June — The ASEAN 36th Ministerial Meeting expressed on Tuesday welcome to recent positive development in the relations between India and Pakistan.

A joint communique issued after the meeting said ASEAN welcomed the peaceful initiatives by Indian leaders, which constitute encouraging steps towards a fully normalized relationship between Pakistan and India.

"We expressed the hope that the two sides would continue their dialogue and cooperation and resolve the difference through peaceful means in the interests of the two peoples and for the sake of peace and stability in South Asia and the world," said the communique.

According to the communique, participants of the 36th Ministerial Meeting agreed to accept Pakistan as a new participant in the ASEAN Regional Forum.

India has already got a full dialogue partnership with ASEAN in 1995.

Participants of the 36th Ministerial Meeting also agreed to lift the moratorium, and to consider the application of new participants of the ASEAN Regional Forum on a case by case basis.

The ASEAN series of meetings now underway here includes the 36th Ministerial Meeting to discuss the bloc's affairs, the ASEAN Regional Forum and the Post-Meeting Conferences, to be attended by its dialoguers partners and other nations to discuss bilateral and multilateral issues.

The whole series goes from 16 June to 20. ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

MNA/Xinhua

China starts shipping trials at Three Gorges

BEIJING, 18 June — China has sent two passenger vessels into the massive Three Gorges reservoir, launching a year of shipping trials at the world's largest hydro-electric project, the official *China Daily* said on Tuesday.

A giant lock in the hills on the northern bank of the Yangtze River is set to give vessels with up to 10,000 tons capacity upstream access to the city of Chongqing in southwestern China, it said.

The trials were giving engineers a chance to test the lock, it said. The passenger ship took about two-and-a-half hours to pass through

the two-way lock on Monday.

"The favourable conditions for navigation in the wake of the increased water volume of the river will enable shipping teams to enlarge their business and carry more freight," it quoted Yao Yusheng, a chief engineer at the project, as saying.

Engineers closed the dam's sluice gates to block the Yangtze on June 1, starting to fill the reservoir for a project that is a landmark of national pride, but which critics fear will become an environmental disaster.

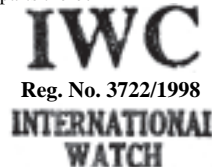
The reservoir will be 175 metres (575 feet) deep when full. —MNA/Reuters

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Win Mu Tin,
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Dated: 19 June, 2003

Heilongjiang builds first used battery storage centre

HARBIN, 18 June — The first storage centre exclusively for the safe conservation of used batteries in China's northernmost Heilongjiang Province has commenced operations in the provincial capital of Harbin.

The battery storage centre was built in 2002 at a cost of approximately 2 million yuan (about 241,000 US dollars), which was raised by the Heilongjiang Provincial Environmental Protection Bureau. It covers an area of 3,200 square metres with a storage capacity of 1,000 tons.

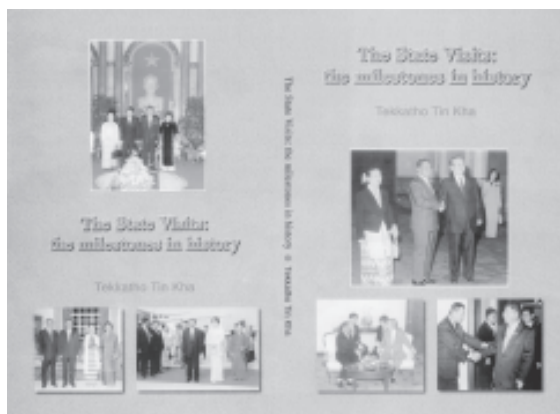
A source with the pro-

ပြည်တွင်းဖြစ်ကိုအားပေးပါ

သမိုင်းတွင်သမိုင်းတင်မည့် ချစ်ကြည်ရေးခရီးစဉ်မှတ်တမ်းများ

- * ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံခေါင်းဆောင် နိုင်ငံတော်အားချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီဥက္ကဋ္ဌ ဗိုလ်ချုပ်မှူးကြီးသန်းရွှေ၏ သမိုင်းတွင် သမိုင်းတင်မည့် မလေးရှားနိုင်ငံ၊ ကမ္ဘောဒီးယားနိုင်ငံ၊ ဘရူနိုင်းနိုင်ငံ၊ ဘင်္ဂလားဒေ့ရှ်နိုင်ငံ၊ တရုတ်ပြည်သူ့သမ္မတနိုင်ငံနှင့် ဗီယက်နမ်နိုင်ငံ များသို့သွားရောက်ခဲ့သည့် ချစ်ကြည်ရေး ခရီးစဉ် မှတ်တမ်းများ
- * မျိုးဆက်သစ်လူငယ်လူရွယ်များအတွက် ဗဟုသုတဖြစ်စေရန်မက နိုင်ငံအကျိုးသယ်ပိုးလိုစိတ်၊ နိုင်ငံတော်အားချစ်မြတ်နိုးစိတ်၊ မျိုးချစ်စိတ်ဓာတ်များ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်မြှင့်တင်လာစေမည့်-
- * မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ၏ နိုင်ငံတကာဆက်ဆံရေးအမြင်ကို ပိုမိုကြည်လင်ထင်မြင်လာနိုင်စေမည့်-
- * မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ၏ လွတ်လပ်တက်ကြွသော နိုင်ငံခြားရေးဝါဒနှင့် အတူယှဉ်တွဲနေထိုင်ရေးမူကြီးငါးရပ်ကို ထပ်ချပ်မကွာ လေ့လာမှတ်သားနိုင်မည့်-

The State Visits: the milestones in history



- * အင်္ဂလိပ်ဘာသာဖြင့် ထပ်မံထုတ်ဝေလိုက်ပါသည်။
- * ကြွေးစာဖြင့် မှတ်တမ်းတင်ရောင်စုံဓာတ်ပုံများ ပုံနှိပ်ထားပါသည်။
- * ဖြန့်ချိလိုက်ပါပြီ
- * သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းစာအုပ်ဆိုင်နှင့် သတင်းစာကိုယ်စားလှယ်များထံတွင် လက်လီဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဧရာဝတီ ကျပ် ၃၅၆/-

သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်း

၉၄၃၀၆

HK, China to sign free trade pact on 30 June

HONG KONG, 18 June — Hong Kong and China will sign a long-awaited trade agreement on 30 June which will scrap import tariffs of up to 35 per cent for many of Hong Kong's exports to the Mainland.

"The market (for Hong Kong's exports) will increase massively, so I'm very sure it will give new impetus to Hong Kong's recovery," Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa told reporters on Monday.

Tung, whose popularity has sunk to record lows because of his government's

inability to revive the economy, said the trade deal will cover three main areas — goods, services and investment — but gave few details. China currently levies import tariffs of up to 35 per cent on items such as jewellery, one of the few products where Hong Kong still has a competitive export edge.

The government hopes that the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) will give Hong Kong's stagnant domestic economy a boost by bringing back some of the manufacturing the territory has lost over the last two decades to Mainland China.

Despite far more expensive land and labour costs than the Mainland, Hong Kong offers manufacturers better infrastructure and greater protection of intellectual property rights.

Even though Hong Kong is part of China, its status as a special administrative region gives it a great deal of economic autonomy, including pursuing its own inter-

national trade relations.

Hong Kong exported more than 41 billion Hong Kong dollars (5.3 billion US dollars) worth of goods made in the territory to the Mainland last year, making China the territory's biggest trading partner. But analysts believe the benefits for Hong Kong will be relatively modest. Some say the deal appears to be more of a confidence building measure which China is offering Hong Kong than a panacea for its many economic problems.

Analysts estimate CEPA would result in net savings of up to 2 billion Hong Kong dollars (256 million US dollars) a year in terms of tariffs and administrative costs, with some sectors, such as the territory's watchmakers likely to see sales turnover increasing by some 3-5 billion Hong Kong dollars. Hong Kong's total gross domestic product, by comparison, is about 1.2 trillion Hong Kong dollars.

MNA/Reuters

Drive with care

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

36th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting ends

PHNOM PENH, 18 June — The 36th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) ended here on Tuesday with members agreeing to narrow economic gap and accelerate the process of integration.

With the theme "Towards an ASEAN Economic Community — Integrated and Outward-looking," "the two-day meeting discussed current hot topics, such as the situation in the Middle East and the Korean Peninsula. The foreign ministers also focused their talks on the roadmap of external cooperation.

Chairman of the meeting Hor Namhong, who is Cambodia's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said in his closing remarks that the meeting was held "in an atmosphere of hope for enduring peace and stability in our region".

However, he said the ministers also met at a time of anxiety for certain issues such as the Middle East, the Korean Peninsula and post-war Iraq.

"We look forward to addressing these

questions further during the ASEAN Regional Forum and the Post Ministerial Conferences, which are the only region-wide fora for dealing with these political and security issues," said Hor Namhong.

He handed over Chairmanship of the ASEAN Standing Committee to Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda for the next annual meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, in July 2004.

The ministerial meeting will be followed by ASEAN+3 (China, Japan, South Korea) meeting Tuesday afternoon.

ASEAN (The Association of South-East Asian Nations) groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

MNA/Xinhua

WHO global conference on SARS opens in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, 18 June — The world has moved collectively to combat severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) as health has become central to human and economic development, Malaysian Health Minister Chua Jui Meng said on Tuesday.

Delivering a keynote address at the opening of the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Conference on SARS at Sunway Lagoon, some 30 kilometres west of the capital, Chua said that after the outbreak of SARS, "individually nations have executed action plans and are working out their own salvation, regions have moved collectively to combat SARS, globally WHO is the flag bearer for humanity."

The two-day conference is attended by some 1,000 scientists and clinicians who have been at the front line of SARS research and response regionally and globally since the outset of the outbreak. "All that has been done across the globe against SARS by humanity collectively must become the model for man's response to new microbes that will surely threaten humanity in the future," Chua said.

Citing bold measures taken by Malaysia and other countries in southeast Asia, he said his country have had only five probable cases and two deaths to date, but all imported. The last case in the region was registered on May 11 in Singapore and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) is now a SARS-free region, he added. "The price for being SARS-free here in the region and elsewhere in the world is continued vigilance and action," he said.

The conference comes at a time when the intense round-the-clock emergency actions needed to contain the initial outbreak have slowed and the scientists and clinicians have thus been allowed more time to assess evidence and bridge gaps in the knowledge of the disease.

MNA/Xinhua

Rapes, murders increase in US

WASHINGTON, 18 June — Rapes and murders in the United States increased in 2002, but the overall number of crimes fell 0.2 per cent from the previous year, the FBI said on Monday.

The number of rapes increased by 4 per cent in the year while murders grew by just under 1 per cent over 2001 figures, the FBI said in its annual report on crime statistics.

Robberies and aggravated assaults dropped 1.2 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively, to help bring the overall violent crime figure down by 1.4 per cent in the year.

Property crimes, which include burglary, larceny-theft and motor vehicle theft, held steady from 2001. The larceny-theft number decreased 0.7 per cent but burglary increased 1.5 per cent.

The FBI said the volume of violent crime decreased overall in the country's four regions, but the number of murders in the West rose 5.2 per cent and dropped 4.8 per cent in the Northeast.

In 2001, for the first time in a decade, violent and property crime in the United States rose, growing 2.1 per cent from the year before.

MNA/Xinhua



A woman dances following the samba dancers during the 13th Samba Carnival in Helsinki, capital of Finland, on 14 June, 2003. Samba dancers and fans from all over Finland participated in the carnival. — XINHUA PHOTO

US health official warns West Nile virus could hit hard in US

WASHINGTON, 18 June — Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson warned on Monday of the potential for another outbreak of the deadly mosquito-borne West Nile virus in the United States this summer because of the wet spring weather.

"Because of the tremen-

dous amount of rain we've had, the kind of moisture that's in the fields; it's going to be great fertile breeding grounds for mosquitoes. We can expect that West Nile virus is going to hit the United States pretty hard this summer," Thompson said.

Appearing on CNN,

Thompson said that funds were being provided to state and local agencies to eradicate mosquito breeding grounds, which he said was the best way to prevent the spread of West Nile virus.

The health secretary also urged people to take steps to guard against mosquito bites.

MNA/Reuters

UNICEF funds child birth, death registration project in Uganda

KAMPALA, 18 June — The child birth and death registration project which was funded by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will start in 20 of Uganda's 56 districts by the end of this year.

UNICEF country representative Martin Mogwanja was quoted by Monday's *New Vision* newspaper as saying that the 1.2 million-US-dollar-project was first

done in Uganda's northwestern district Arua and eastern district of Busia.

The decentralized system of birth registration broke down in the 1970s and has not been revitalized since.

"We are, together with the Ugandan Government, going to expand the project to cover 20 districts. By the end of the year, birth and death registration will be a

reality," Mogwanja said.

He said UNICEF was aware that 95 per cent of Ugandan children are not registered at birth, which frustrates the government planning.

He added that the project, which would cover the backlog of unregistered births since 1988, would cover all districts by the end of 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

Canada's travel industry calls for more governmental aid

OTTAWA, 18 June — Thousands of jobs in the travel and tourism industry are at risk this summer unless the government approves an immediate bailout package, Canadian travel sector groups said Monday.

The severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak, the war in Iraq and terrorist attacks on the United States and its interests abroad, have all buffeted Canada's travel and tourism industry, the Travel Industry Cost Coalition said. So an aid package, including tax breaks for the travel industry, should be announced at the final Cabinet meeting Tuesday before summer break or it will be too late, the Coalition said.

Cliff Mackay, chief executive of the Air Transport Association of Canada, said that if Cabinet leaves for its summer vacation without announcing the aid, thousands more jobs across Canada will be put at risk, and air service to many communities will be reduced further.

"There is a disaster looming for our industries

and we're asking for some relief," Mackay was quoted by local media as saying.

Earlier this year, the travel sector groups asked the government to cut 800 million Canadian dollars (about 600 million US dollars) in charges collected from the air industry and tourism sectors by reducing airport rents, security and fuel taxes.

The Canadian Government has allocated 17.5 million Canadian dollars (about 12 million US dollars) to promote the hardest SARS-hit city of Toronto as safe tourist destinations.

A study conducted by the Hotel Association of Canada estimated the SARS outbreak cost the tourism industry in Toronto alone 190 million Canadian dollars (about 140 million US dollars) in lost business since early March.

MNA/Xinhua

Zambia to import oil from Iran

LUSAKA, 18 June — Zambia will import crude oil from Iran directly following a dispute with former supplier Trans-Sahara Trading Ltd (TST), the official *Times of Zambia* said Tuesday.

George Mpombo, the Minister of Energy, was quoted as saying Monday that the country's Indeni Petroleum Refinery will sign a renewable one-year contract with the Iranian Oil Company (IOC) for the supply of

crude oil.

Mpombo, who had just returned from a trip to Iran, said a technical team from IOC, will arrive in Zambia in a few days to discuss the details of the deal.

MNA/Xinhua

Barcelona president admits defeat in Beckham bid

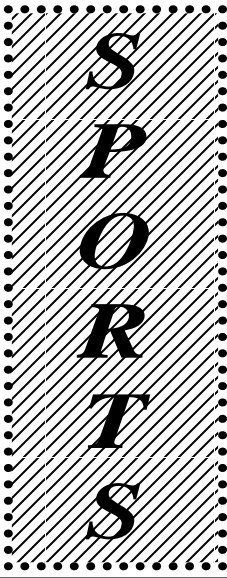
MADRID, 18 June—Barcelona president Joan Laporta admitted defeat in his bid to sign David Beckham on Tuesday.

"Beckham's representatives presented an unscalable wall," Laporta told Antena 3 television.

Manchester United confirmed on Tuesday they had agreed to sell David Beckham to Real Madrid.

United said they had accepted a fee of around 35 million euros (41.31 million US dollars) for the 28-year-old England captain. Laporta last week secured his own agreement with Manchester United to sign Beckham for an undisclosed fee but he recognized that his attempts to persuade the player to come had met with failure.

"We've been aware of the news since this evening," Laporta said.—MNA/Reuters



File photos showing some of Spanish league soccer club Real Madrid's top international stars, including, clockwise from top left David Beckham, Roberto Carlos, Zinedine Zidane, Raul, Ronaldo and Luis Figo. With their purchase of British star Beckham, Real Madrid have completed an unmatched collection of soccer's crown jewels, a sextet of the best and brightest attacking players in the world. Figo, Zidane and Ronaldo have all won the World Player of the Year award. The Englishman's challenge will be to show he can improve a Real forward line that is already one of the best in the business and perhaps in the history of club soccer. — INTERNET

Sao Paulo turn to gloat after derby win

RIO DE JANEIRO, 18 June — Sao Paulo, who beat arch-rivals Corinthians 2-1 in a bad-tempered derby at the weekend, celebrated by gloating on their official web site on Monday in a week of mutual provocation between the two clubs.

Corinthians had got the ball rolling last week when the club's official web site described Sao Paulo's Morumbi stadium as "Corinthians' party room", a reference to the fact that Corinthians have enjoyed the better of recent meetings between the two Brazilian clubs. Sao Paulo's web site hit back on the Monday, saying that "Sao Paulo opened up the room and took Corinthians for a dance" during Sunday's game.

Sao Paulo officials had also pointed out last week that most matches against Corinthians are played in the Morumbi because Corinthians do not have a stadium of their own. They also jibed about Corinthians' failure to win the South American Libertadores Cup, which Sao Paulo lifted twice during the 1990s.

The victory in their first match since former Chile goalkeeper Roberto Rojas was made coach on a permanent basis lifted Sao Paulo above Corinthians and took them into fifth place in the table.—MNA/Reuters

US chooses new stadium for Women's World Cup final

WASHINGTON, 18 June — The 2003 Women's World Cup soccer final will be played in the new 27,500-seat Home Depot Centre in Carson California, US soccer officials said on Monday.

At a news conference announcing the schedule for the 16-nation tournament, US Soccer Federation President Dr S Robert Contiguglia defended the choice of the stadium for the October 12 final after the 1999 decider was held in the 90,000-seat Rose Bowl.

"Although one way to look at it is by the numbers in the stands, another is what is right for the athletes, what is right for the spectators," Contiguglia said.

"We believe that the Home Depot Centre represents the future of the sport in the United States," he said. "You step on that field and all you have to say is 'Wow this is world class.' I hate to say this, but no American football stadium can compare."

The tournament's opening ceremony will be held on September 21 at RFK Stadium in Washington, DC.

MNA/Reuters

Beckham leaves United to join Real Madrid

LONDON, 18 June — Manchester United's David Beckham will join Real Madrid after the two most glamorous clubs in the world agreed a fee of around 35 million euros (41.31 million US dollars) for the England captain on Tuesday.

Beckham is expected to earn around six million euros a year plus bonuses at the nine-times European champions and will undergo a medical in Madrid on July 1.

The midfielder, travelling to Japan on Wednesday as part of a promotional tour of Asia for his sponsors, issued a statement through his agents SFX saying he was delighted to move to Spain.

"I recognize that this is an amazing opportunity for me at this stage in my career and a unique and exciting experience for my family," he said.

"I know that I will always regret it later in life if I had turned down the chance to play at another great club like Real Madrid."

"I will always hold precious memories of my time at Manchester United and Old Trafford as well as the players, who I regard as part of my family, and the brilliant fans."

Madrid sporting director Jorge Valdano said: "We are delighted with the arrival of David Beckham."

"It is a signing that will help us become more competitive." Italian clubs Inter and AC Milan showed an initial interest in Beckham but a week ago United announced they had agreed a conditional deal to sell him to Barcelona.

Beckham's agents issued a statement saying he was "surprised and disappointed" at United's announcement and within days Barcelona's greatest rivals, Real, emerged as favourites for his signature.

In the last three years Real have held a virtual monopoly on buying the world's best players.

Zinedine Zidane, Luis Figo and Ronaldo,

all winners of the World Player of the Year award, have arrived at the Bernabeu for a combined transfer total of more than 160 million US dollars, with Beckham taking the outlay to more than 200 million US dollars.

The club won the Champions League, Europe's top trophy, in 2000 and 2002 after selling their training ground to wipe out 240 million US dollars in debt.

Beckham has been hugely popular at United, a club he joined as a schoolboy, but in the last few years his relationship with manager Alex Ferguson has been strained.

Beckham, married to pop star Victoria Adams and with two young children, leads a high-profile celebrity lifestyle that has not always been appreciated by 61-year-old Ferguson.

The Scot kept Beckham on the bench for several high-profile matches towards the end of the season just finished, sparking the initial speculation that he would be moving overseas.

After United were knocked out of the FA Cup by Arsenal, a furious Ferguson kicked a boot in the changing room which cut Beckham over the eye.

United won the league title but their failure to repeat their Champions League success of 1999 has led Ferguson to re-evaluate his squad.

He apparently decided that to bring in new blood — Brazilian playmaker Ronaldinho is top of his shopping list — he would have to raise funds via the sale of the club's most valuable commodity.

MNA/Reuters

Woods faces major headache after fizzling out

OLYMPIA FIELDS, 18 June — The remnants of Tiger Woods's US Open challenge were blown away on Sunday when he embarrassingly four-putted during his final round to fall hopelessly adrift of the leaders.

Woods, seeking his third US Open crown in four years, carded a double-bogey at the ninth and went on to post a two-over-par 72, finishing the tournament three over par.

Leader Jim Furyk was 14 shots in front of Woods through his first six holes and, when Woods' dethronement is confirmed later on Sunday, the American world number one will be without a major championship to defend for the first time since 1999.

Some critics believe the 27-year-old is facing the first serious slump of his career.

He had carded a five-over-par 75 on Saturday — his worst number as a professional at the US Open — to slip right out of contention 11 shots behind overnight leader Furyk.

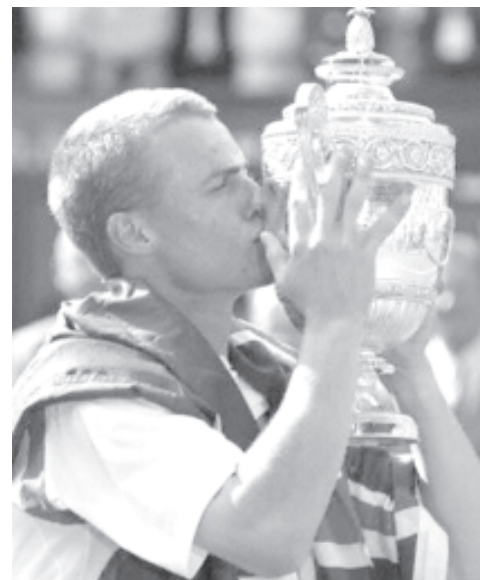
Beginning Sunday one over par for the tournament, Woods emerged in a more aggressive frame of mind at the Chicago course and immediately birdied the par-

five first hole.

A textbook tee shot and approach to the green preceded a nicely judged six-foot putt as the eight-times major winner looked to make amends for his woeful putting on Saturday. He was an inch short of another birdie at the

second and it was not until the 555-yard, par-five sixth that he picked up another shot.

However, a chance for another birdie whistled by the hole at the eighth and, at the par-four ninth, his round turned sour.—MNA/Reuters



Lleyton Hewitt is keen to relive the moment, pictured here, when he won the men's singles final at Wimbledon. The Aussie tennis star said walking out onto centre court on Monday as defending champion would be a "special moment". — INTERNET

MRTV-3



19-6-2003* (Thursday) (Programme Schedule) Morning Transmission (9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greetings
Coming up
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma
Panorama &
Myanma Sentiment"
- 9:06 A Pagoda Built with
A Special Objective
- 9:10 **Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes "Snake gourd
stuffing pounded
prawn"
- 9:15 **National News**
- 9:20 The Gok Hteik
Viaduct
- 9:25 The Solo Dance
- 9:30 **National News**
- 9:35 Song
"Treasure Land"
- 9:40 Conservation of
Sea-turtles
- 9:45 **National News**
- 9:50 Lifestyles along The
Ayeyawady (Manda-
lay to Pyay) (Part-I)
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"
- 10:00 Close Down

19-6-2003* (Thursday) 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 "Mingalabar"
- 13:06 Power Aerobic
Let's Exercise For
Fitness & Health"
- 13:10 **Headline News**
- 13:12 Myanmar Cuisine
"Pappery
Monhingha"
- 13:15 **National News**
- 13:20 The oldest Anthro-
poid Primates of
Pondaung in
Myanmar (I)
- 13:25 Lonyuu Festival
Dance
- 13:28 Paper Toys
- 13:30 **National News**
- 13:35 Oil Painting Model
Demonstration
- 13:38 Myanmar Modern
Song "A Compas-
sionate Love Boat"
- 13:40 Tribal Dances of
Lajapet and Khaku
National Races in
Kachin State
- 13:45 **National News**
- 13:50 The Oldest Anthro-
poid Primates of
Pondaung in
Myanmar (II)
- 13:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"
- 14:00 Close Down

19-6-2003* (Thursday) 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 "Myanma
Panorama &
Myanama Sentiment"
- 18:06 A Pagoda Built with
A Special Objective
- 18:10 **Headline News**
- 18:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes "Snake gourd
stuffing pounded
prawn"
- 18:15 **National News**
- 18:20 The Gok Hteik
Viaduct
- 8:25 The Solo Dance
- 18:30 **National News**
- 18:35 Song
"Treasure Land"
- 18:40 Conservation of Sea-
turtles
- 18:45 **National News**
- 18:50 Lifestyles along The
Ayeyawady
(Mandalay to Pyay)
(Part-I)
- 18:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"
- 19:00 Close Down

20-6-2003* (Friday) 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 "Mingalabar"
- 2:06 A Pagoda Built with
A Special Objective
- 2:10 **Headline News**
- 2:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes "Snake gourd
stuffing pounded
prawn"
- 2:15 **National News**
- 2:20 The Gok Hteik

- Viaduct
- 2:25 The Solo Dance
- 2:30 **National News**
- 2:35 Song
"Treasure Land"
- 2:40 Conservation of
Sea-turtles
- 2:45 **National News**
- 2:50 Lifestyles along The
Ayeyawady
(Mandalay to Pyay)
(Part-I)
- 2:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma
Panorama &
Myanma Sentiment"
- 3:00 **National News**
- 3:05 Golden Mandalay
Hill
- 3:12 Myanmar Cuisine
"Pappery
Monhingha"
- 3:15 **National News**
- 3:20 The Oldest Anthro-
poid Primates of
Pondaung in
Myanmar (I)
- 3:25 Lonyuu Festival
Dance
- 3:28 Paper Toys
- 3:30 **National News**
- 3:35 Oil Painting Model
Demonstration
- 3:38 Myanmar Modern
Song "A Compas-
sionate Love Boat"
- 3:40 Tribal Dances of
Lajapet and Khaku
National Races in
Kachin State
- 3:45 **National News**
- 3:50 The Oldest Anthro-
poid Primates of
Pondaung in
Myanmar (II)
- 3:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"
- 4:00 Close Down

ကုသကာကွယ် မူးယစ်အန္တရာယ်

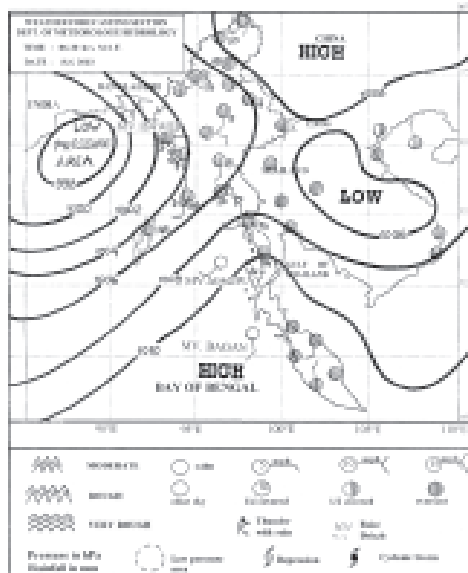
၁။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲလျှင်
အသည်းရောင် အသားဝါရောဂါ၊ အသည်းခြောက်ရောဂါ၊
အသည်းကင်ဆာရောဂါ၊ သွေးဆိပ်တက်ခြင်းနှင့် နှလုံးရောဂါ၊
အဆုတ်ရောဂါများ၊ ခုခံအားကျဆင်းမှုရောဂါ (AIDS) နှင့်၊
စိတ်ပိုင်းဆိုင်ရာရောဂါများ စသည်တို့၊ ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်သည့်အပြင်၊
စီးပွားရေးနှင့်၊ လူမှုရေးများ ထိခိုက်ပျက်ပြားခြင်း၊ ဥပဒေအရ
အရေးယူခံရခြင်းတို့ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်။

၂။ ထို့ကြောင့် အဆိုပါဒုက္ခများမှတင်းဆေးရန်၊ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးကို
လုံးဝ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

၃။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲသူများသည် သတ်မှတ်ဆေးရုံများတွင်
မှတ်ပုံတင်၍ ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Wednesday, June 18

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Kachin and Kayah States, Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Hakha (2.28) inches, Homalin (2.24) inches, Yangon Co Co Island (2.01) inches and Thaton (1.93) inches.

Maximum temperature on 17-6-2003 was 30.5°C (87°F). Minimum temperature on 18-6-2003 was 21.0°C (70°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18-6-2003 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 17-6-2003 was (0.2) hour approx. Rainfall on 18-6-2003 was 30 mm at Yangon Airport, 30 mm at Kaba-Aye and 40 mm at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 611 mm (24.06 inches) at Yangon Airport, 663 mm (26.12 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 744 mm (29.29 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 14 mph from South at (18:45) hours MST on 17-6-2003.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hrs MST today. The low pressure area is forming in the North Bay and Monsoon is strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 19-6-2003: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Mandalay, Magway and lower Sagaing Divisions, scattered in Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain in the Coastal areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 19-6-2003: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-6-2003: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).



View today: Thursday, June 19

- 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
- 7:50 am
5. Dance variety
- 8:05 am
6. Musical programme

- 8:20 am
7. Dance of national races
- 8:30 am
8. International news
- 8:45 am
9. Say it in English
- 4:00 pm
1. Martial song
- 4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold national
spirit
- 4:30 pm
3. English for Everyday Use
- 4:45 pm
4. Musical programme
- 5:00 pm
5. အစားသင့်တော်သည့်အရေ
ရှင်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ
ပထမနှစ် (သင်္ချာ၊ ဓာတုဗေဒ၊
ရုပ်ဗေဒအထူးပြုများ)
(သင်္ချာ)

- 5:15 pm
6. Cute little dancer
- 5:30 pm
7. "သုဇာတ်စဉ်းမရှိတော့ပေ"
မင်းခေါ၊ စင်စာပြည်ကျော်၊
ဇာတိကျော်ကျော်
ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်ယဉ်ကျော်
- 5:40 pm
8. Musical programme
- 5:50 pm
9. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား
- 6:05 pm
10. ဂီတသံစဉ်အလှဆင် (ဝင်းဦး)
- 6:20 pm
11. Musical programme
- 6:30 pm
12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
13. Weather report

- 7:05 pm
14. ဓမ္မာရောင်ပြန့် (အပိုင်း-၁၉)
- 7:30 pm
15. Musical programme
- 7:40 pm
16. တိုင်ကျီမြည်ဖြူတည်ဆောင်မှု
- 8:00 pm
17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. Myanmar video
feature:
"အစားထိုးကိန်းများ"
(အပိုင်း-၁)
လူမင်း၊ ရာဇာဇာဝင်း၊
မိုးမြတ်နိုးရာ
ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မျိုးမင်း
(ရင်တွင်းမြင်)
21. The next day
programme



Tune in today: Thursday, June 19

- 8:30 am
- Brief news
- 8:35 am
- Musical
- 8:40 am
- Perspectives

- 8:45 am
- Musical
- 8:50 am
- National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am
- Musical
- 9:05 am
- International news
- 9:10 am
- Musical
- 1:30 pm
- Brief news
- 1:35 pm
- Musical
- 1:45 pm
- National news/Slogan

- 1:55 pm
- Musical
- 2:05 pm
- International news
- 2:15 pm
- Musical
- 2:20 pm
- Article/Music
- 2:35 pm
- ASEAN review
Weekly news
- 2:45 pm
- My kind of music Rain
- 9:00 pm
- Aspects of Myanmar
Kachin State

- 9:15 pm
- Article
- 9:25 pm
- Topics potpourri
Beijing hospitals
provide radies to ease
SARS burden
- 9:35 pm
- Favourite songs chosen
by music lovers
- 9:45 pm
- News/Slogan
- 10:20 pm
- Portfolio for easy
listening



Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townselders in Hopin. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects regional development in Hopin

YANGON, 18 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, accompanied by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe, military officers of Northern Command, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials, inspected 16-bed people's hospital in Hopin in Kachin State yesterday.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the laboratory, wards, operation theatre and medicine warehouses. They were conducted round by Medical Superintendent Dr Nay Tun Aung and officials. Lt-Gen Ye Myint comforted the patients and gave instructions to officials concerned.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party discussed regional development in meeting with departmental officials, social organizations and townselders at the basic education high school in the township.

Present were Brig-Gen Min Thein of Mogaung Sta-

tion, chairmen of Mohnyin and Hopin Township Peace and Development Councils and members, departmental officials, social organizations and townselders.

Hopin Township Officer U Tha Myint Aung reported on agriculture, education, health and social conditions of the township.

Departmental officials and chairmen of the village tract peace and development councils reported on requirements and efforts being made for development.

At the meeting, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said regional development tasks can be undertaken as peace and stability has been restored in Kachin State. In the past people relied mainly on the railway, he said.

The Shwebo-Myitkyina Road is being upgraded to all-weather one and the Mandalay-Myitkyina Railroad is also being upgraded. Later, motor roads and railway can be used in a short time, he added.

(See page 8)

- 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

Plans under way to build Ngawun River Bridge in Pathein for development of Chaungtha and Ngwe Hsaung beaches

YANGON, 18 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye met with hoteliers at Myanma Posts and Telecommunications (head office) here this afternoon, and discussed matters relating to hotel projects in Ngapali, Chaungtha, Ngwe Hsaung and Bagan.

Lt-Gen Tin Aye said the meeting was held to look into the requirements of investors running businesses in the four hotel zones — Ngapali, Chaungtha, Ngwe Hsaung and Bagan. Myanmar has placed agriculture in the fore in building up a modern and developed nation. It is encouraging industries to introduce mechanized farming.

There are changes in the global economy, and the hotel business is earning more foreign exchange and contributing to progress of the nation. As Myanmar possesses natural scenes and cultural heritage, hoteliers will have to make collective efforts for the development of tourism in Myanmar. The government will also render assistance in the required sectors. The hoteliers should appreciate the goodwill of the Head of State towards them, and should make collective efforts for national develop-

ment.

Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw explained his ministry's provision of assistance, the need to work in accord with the schedule and rules and regulations, assistance rendered by the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and future programmes.

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein explained about the government's arrangements to provide assistance to the hoteliers who would breed sea prawn in Ngwe Hsaung region.

Vice-Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Kyaw Win explained setting up of

business operations on the allotted land and aid programmes.

Hoteliers presented reports on starting of businesses on the allotted land and requirements.

Chairman of Myanmar Hoteliers Association Dr Khin Shwe and Chairman of Myanmar Travels Association U Khin Zaw presented plans to develop the hotels and tourist industry.

In his concluding address, Lt-Gen Tin Aye said the departments will have to render assistance to those who run a hotel business, and to issue licenses in accord with the rules and regulations. Work permits should be issued to those who want to run a business in the re-

maining four-mile long stretch at Ngwe Hsaung beach. The authorities and the entrepreneurs will have to find means for the vacationers to visit the public recreation places at low cost.

Plans are under way to build the Ngawun River Bridge, which will contribute much to development of Chaungtha and Ngwe Hsaung beaches, in Pathein.

Also present were directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Secretary of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Sein Maung and others.

MNA



Lt-Gen Tin Aye meets hoteliers engaging in hotel projects in Ngapali, Chaungtha and Ngwe Hsaung beaches and Bagan region. — 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.