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Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt delivers an address at the ceremony to honour victorious U-18 Myanmar youth soccer team.— MNA

## Thanks to Myanmar people's great hope and support, Myanmar U-18 wins trophy Victory of Myanmar U-18 boys, victory of people Victorious Myanmar youth football team honoured

YANGON, 19 June — The victorious Myanmar Youth football team of the first ASEAN U-18 Youth Football Tourney was honoured by Chairman of

Myanmar National Olympic Council Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt at a ceremony held at Karaweik Palace at

Kandawgyi here at 7 pm today.

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt arrived at Karaweik Palace at 6.45 pm and was welcomed by the manager of the Myanmar youth football team, coaches and footballers.

At the ceremony, the Secretary-1 delivered a speech. He said that the Myanmar U-18 team after achieving victories one after another won the championship trophy in accord with the desire of the people. The Secretary-1, on behalf of the State and the people, and as the MNOC Chairman, honoured the

team. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe also sent a message, saying that he too honoured the Myanmar victorious boys.

Thanks to the Myanmar people's great hope and support, the Myanmar U-18 team won the trophy. By winning the trophy, the Myanmar boys have fulfilled the long desire and great expectation of the Myanmar people.

The victory of the Myanmar boys is the victory of the people who were supporting them from all sectors for the Myanmar football to enter another golden age.

In the previous year, the Myanmar U-17 boys won the ASEAN cup, and this year the U-18 team grabbed the championship trophy again. Their victories have led the Myanmar football entering a new era, and ensuring the State move one step ahead to reach the new golden era.

With the conviction that the victory is not an ordinary one; and that it is the result of the efforts to reach a new era of success, the State honoured the youth footballers who are worthy of it.

Once, the Myanmar sports won victories all over (See page 8)

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### Circulation

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### Four political objectives

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

### Four economic objectives

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

### Four social objectives

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



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt cordially greets players of victorious U-18 Myanmar youth soccer team.— MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 20 June, 2003

Maintain peace and stability while striving for national development

The Union of Myanmar is home to more than 100 national races, who have been living together in unity and amity from time immemorial. It is for the sake of these national people themselves that the Government is working in concert with them towards the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

Kachin State is one of the main regions of the Union and different national races live there. As the state succeeded in implementing its development plans, it is now enjoying the fruits of development.

Now the entire state is peaceful and stable and therefore local people are now in a position to practically experience the taste of peace. And sound environment for development has also emerged because the peace groups, together with the Government, are throwing themselves heart and soul into their regional development work.

The most remarkable achievement of Kachin State in recent years is sufficiency in rice for local consumption. As more than 400,000 acres of land are put under paddy every year, rice is even in surplus.

The Government, on its part, has been building all the necessary infrastructures, especially transport and communication facilities essential to regional development, with the intention of improving the socio-economic life of the national people. Formerly, the chief means of transport from Mandalay and Sagaing Divisions to Kachin State was railways. However, the construction of Shwebo-Myitkyina strategic road started in 1996 and bridges are also being constructed where necessary. The Hopin Bridge in Mohnyin Township, one of the bridges being constructed along the Shwebo-Myitkyina road, was opened on 17 June. It was 200 feet long and built across the Thayet creek. It was the very first bridge to be opened on the Shwebo-Myitkyina Road. It plays a vital role in linking Kachin State and Central Myanmar. In addition to the Shwebo-Myitkyina road, the Mandalay-Tagaung-Bahmo-Myitkyina road was built. Therefore, the travel from one region to another is now smooth and easy.

We would like to call upon the local people living in various regions across the Union to work unitedly for its development and perpetuity, maintaining peace and stability prevailing in their respective regions.

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) ရိတ်သိမ်းဆွဲယူမှုများ လေလွင့်ဆုံးရှုံးမှုမရှိအောင် အောက်ပါအချက်များကို ဂရုပြုဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
က- မျိုးရိုးစီမံ မှန်ကန်မှုရှိပြီး မိုးပွားရောဂါကင်းစင်သည့် စပါးခေါင်နှံများကို နှံ့ကောက်စနစ်ဖြင့် ရွေးချယ်ရိတ်သိမ်း၍ မျိုးအဖြစ်ရယူပါ။
ခ- တလင်းပျောက်စနစ်ဖြင့် ရိတ်သိမ်းခြေလှေ့စက် အသုံးပြုပြီး ချက်ချင်းခြေလှေ့အခြောက်ခံပါ။
ဂ- အကယ်၍ ချက်ချင်းမဆောင်ရွက်နိုင်ပါက ရိတ်ပြီးကောက်လှိုင်းများကို လယ်ကွက်ထဲတွင် ဖြန့်ထုတ်ပါ။ ကောက်လှိုင်း စီးပြီးအနုအပေါ်ထောင်၍ တစ်ဖက်ရပ်ပုံပါ။
ဃ- စပါးစေ့တွင်အစိုဓာတ် (၁၄) ရာခိုင်နှုန်းရှိရအောင် နေရောင်ခြည်သုံး ပလတ်စတစ်အမိုးအကာတံများဖြင့် အခြောက်ခံပါ။
င- လေဝင်လေထွက်ကောင်း၍ ခြောက်သွေ့သော နေရာတွင် စပါးစေ့များကို ပါးပါး ဖြန့်လှမ်းပါ။
(၂) မိုးစပါးကို အစိုဓာတ်ရရှိချိန် အတန်လိုက်တိုက်ရိတ်မျိုးစေ့ချ စိုက်ပျိုးပါ။
က- အထွက်ကောင်းစပါး မျိုးကောင်းမျိုးသန့် အဆင့်မြင့် စပါးများ ရွေးချယ်စိုက်ပျိုးပါ။
ခ- အချိန်မီ သီးထင်စိုက်ပျိုးရေးအတွက် အထွက်ကောင်း သက်တမ်းစပါးမျိုး (HYV) မျိုးများ အချိန်မီစောစော စိုက်ပျိုးပါ။
ဂ- ဆည်ရေသောက်နှင့် မြစ်ရေတင်ဒေသများတွင် မိုးစပါးအခြေခံ တစ်နှစ်သုံးသီး သီးနှံပုံစံရှိအောင် ပထမတစ်သီး မိုးစပါးကို စောစော စိုက်ပျိုးပါ။
(၃) မတ်လအတွင်းစိုက်ပျိုးခဲ့သော အစေ့ထုတ်ပြောင်းစိုက်ခင်းများ ရေမဝအောင်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
(၄) အစိုဓာတ်ရရှိချိန် မိုးပြေပါး မိုးနှမ်း၊ မိုးနေကြား အစေ့ထုတ်ပြောင်းတို့ကို မြေယာပြင်ပေါ်တင်စိုက်ပျိုးပါ။
(၅) မိုးကြုံရသည့် နှမ်းစိုက်ခင်းများရေမဝအောင် ပတ်ခြောင်း၊ စိမ်ခြောင်းများမှရေထုတ်ပါ။
(၆) မိုးကြုံရသည့်မြေရပ်ပါစိုက်ခင်းများ ရေမဝအောင်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။ မုန်တိုင်းမိုးရွာပြီးပါက မိုးပွားရောဂါ ကြိုတင်ကာကွယ်နိုင်ရန်ပါ။
မိုးစိုက်ပါခင်းများ အချိန်မီစိုက်ပျိုးရန်ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
(၇) နည်းပညာနှင့်လိုအပ်သည့် အကူအညီများကို သက်ဆိုင်ရာဌာနများသို့ အချိန်မီလွှဲပြောင်းပေးရန် လာရောက်ဆက်သွယ် ရယူကြပါရန် နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။
လယ်ယာစိုက်ပျိုးရေးနှင့်ဆိုင်ရာဌာန

Labour Minister arrives back from ILO annual conference

YANGON, 19 June — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Labour U Tin Winn who attended the 91st Annual Conference of International Labour Organization in Geneva, Switzerland, on 2 June, arrived back here by air yesterday evening.

The minister and party were welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport by Minister at the State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Office Brig-Gen Abel, Minister for Cooperatives Lt-Gen Tin Ngwe, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein, departmental officials of the Ministry of Labour and families.

Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin of the Attorney-General's Office, Director-General

U Khin Maung Yi of the Ministry of Labour and Supervisor Daw Lin Lin Oo of Myanmar Guston Molinel Co Ltd of Hlinethaya Industrial Zone also arrived back here on the same flight. — MNA

Nursery Market Festival

YANGON, 19 June — The Nursery Market Festival continued at Myay Padetha Park in Bahan Township here today with the aim of providing necessary assistance for growers and to attract the public to be interested in agriculture, horticulture, livestock breeding and vegetable farming.

Kitchen crops, fruits and saplings of herbal plants are being shown at the festival. Poultry farming and fish breeding are also exhibited there. — MNA



The Myanmar delegation headed by Minister for Labour U Tin Winn being welcomed back at the Yangon International Airport. — MNA

Donate blood

ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ ကာကွယ်ရေး သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

- ၁။ ယခုအခါ ကမ္ဘာ့နိုင်ငံအချို့တွင် ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး နမူနာနံပါတ် (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ ဖြစ်ပွားလျက်ရှိပါသည်။ ဤရောဂါသည် ကိုရိုနာ (Corona) အုပ်စုဝင် မိုးခေါင်(စ်)ရိုးကြောင့် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။
အဆိုပါရိုးသည် လူနာချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း၊ နှာချောင်း၊ နှာရည်၊ ရှူသလိမ်များမှတဆင့်သော်လည်းကောင်း၊ လူနာအသုံးအဆောင် ပစ္စည်းတဆင့်သော်လည်းကောင်း အသက်ရှူလမ်းကြောင်းမှ ခန္ဓာကိုယ်အတွင်းသို့ ဝင်ရောက်၍ ရောဂါဖြစ်ပေါ်ပါသည်။
၂။ ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး နမူနာနံပါတ် (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ၏ လက္ခဏာများမှာ-
(က) ကိုယ်အပူချိန် (38°C ) သို့မဟုတ် (100.5°F) ထက်ပို၍မြင့်ထွက်လာခြင်းနှင့်
(ခ) အသက်ရှူလမ်းကြောင်းဆိုင်ရာ ရောဂါလက္ခဏာများ ဖြစ်သည် - ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း - အသက်ရှူမဝခြင်း - အသက်ရှူရှုခတ်ခြင်းနှင့်
(ဂ) အောက်ပါအကြောင်းတစ်ခုခုရှိခြင်း - ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး နမူနာနံပါတ် (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါရှိသူလူနာ (သို့မဟုတ်) လူနာနှင့် အနီးကပ်

- ထိတွေ့သူများနှင့် ထိတွေ့မှုရှိခြင်း - ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး နမူနာနံပါတ် (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ ဖြစ်ပွားနေသည့် နိုင်ငံများမှ လွန်ခဲ့သည့် နှစ်ပတ်အတွင်း ပြန်လည် ရောက်ရှိခြင်း တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။
၃။ ဤရောဂါသည် အသက်အရွယ်မရွေး ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်ပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါသူများတွင် ရောဂါ ပိုမိုဖြစ်ပွားလွယ်ပါသည်။
(က) ကလေးငယ်များနှင့် သက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုများ
(ခ) ဆီးချိုရောဂါရှိသူများ
(ဂ) နာတာရှည်အဆုတ်နှင့် အသက်ရှူလမ်းကြောင်းဆိုင်ရာ ရောဂါရှိသူများ
(ဃ) ကိုယ်ခန္ဓာအားကျစေသည့် ဆေးဝါးမှီဝဲသောကုသမှုများ (ဥပမာ-ကော်တီဆို့ ပါဝင်သည့်ဆေးများ၊ ကင်ဆာရောဂါများစသည်ဖြင့်)
၄။ အသက်ရှူလမ်းကြောင်းမှ ကူးစက်သော ရောဂါဖြစ်သဖြင့် ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး နမူနာနံပါတ် (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားမှုမှ ကာကွယ်ရန် အောက်ပါအချက်များကို လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
(က) တစ်ကိုယ်ရေသန့်ရှင်းမှုကို ဂရုပြုဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း
(ခ) အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသည့်အစားအစာများစားသုံးခြင်း

- (ဂ) ကောင်းမွန်စွာအိပ်စက်အနားယူခြင်း
(ဃ) ကိုယ်လက်လွှပ်ရာမှမုန်မုန်ပြုလုပ်ခြင်း
(င) နာချေ ချောင်းဆိုးလျှင်လက်ကိုင်ဝတ်ဆင်ခြင်း
(စ) ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး နမူနာနံပါတ် (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ လက္ခဏာရှိသူများအား နှိပ်စိမ်းသုံးမျက်နှာရုံး (surgical mask) ဝတ်ရုံ (gown) ပလတ်စတစ်ရှေ့ဖုံးခါးစည်း (apron)နှင့် ပလတ်စတစ်လက်အိတ် (gloves) အသုံးပြု၍ လူနာနှင့်ထိတွေ့ခြင်း၊ လူနာအသုံးအဆောင် ပစ္စည်းများ ကိုင်တွယ်ခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ခြင်း
(ဆ) ကူးစက်ရောဂါများကို ထိရောက်စွာ ကာကွယ်ရန်အတွက် လက်ကို ဆပ်ပြာနှင့် စင်ကြယ်စွာ ဆေးကြောခြင်း
(ဇ) လူထုထပ်သောနေရာများ နှင့် ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားနေသော နိုင်ငံများသို့ ခရီးသွားလာခြင်းမှရှောင်ကြဉ်ခြင်း
၅။ ကိုယ်အပူချိန်မြင့်ထွက်ခြင်း၊ ကိုယ်လက်ကိုင်ခံနိုင်ခြင်း၊ ခေါင်းကိုက်ခြင်း၊ ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း၊ လည်ချောင်းနာခြင်း၊ ဖောပန်းခြင်း၊ အသက်ရှူကြပ်ခြင်း၊ ရင်ဘတ်အောင့်ခြင်းစသည့်လက္ခဏာများဖြစ်ပွားပါကနီးစပ်ရာကျန်းမာရေးဌာန/ဆေးရုံ/ဆေးပေးခန်းများတွင်ပြသ၍ ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူရန် သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။
ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



# A Democrat is loath to seem partisan on White House handling of Iraq

WASHINGTON, 19 June—Republican and Democratic leaders in the Senate were locked in a tense, closed-door struggle today over how aggressively to investigate the Bush administration's handling of pre-war intelligence on Iraq.

The wrangling took place as both sides sought to gauge the political fallout from the growing debate over whether the administration had exaggerated the threat that Saddam Hussein posed to the United States.

Just as the House intelligence committee was holding its first, classified hearing on the issue of Iraq-related intelligence, members of the Senate intelligence committee were engrossed in a rancorous, closed-door meeting to debate the scope of the panel's inquiry. Committee members and Senate aides said the meeting lasted about two and a half hours, and Democrats left frustrated that they still had no agreement from the committee's Republican chairman to mount a full investigation of the matter.

The chairman, Senator Pat Roberts of Kansas, is opposed to authorizing a full investigation, and has said instead that the panel can review the Iraq-related intelligence as part of its normal oversight of intelligence agencies. Democrats say that would be inadequate, and want a more public airing. Democrats say that under the committee's rules they have the power to authorize a full investigation on their own, but the vice chairman and ranking Democrat on the panel, Senator John D. Rockefeller IV of West Virginia, is reluctant to do so.

He and other Democrats say his reluctance is based on a belief that if the Democrats began their own investigation, it would be easily dismissed

as openly partisan, and so Mr Rockefeller has been trying to negotiate with Mr Roberts on a compromise approach. So far, such a compromise has proven elusive. Republican congressional officials said late today that, for now, Mr Roberts was still planning to examine the issue under the normal oversight process.

"There is clearly resistance from the Republicans," said Senator Richard J. Durbin, an Illinois Democrat and a member of the intelligence committee. "They don't want anything that sounds like an investigation."

After the afternoon meeting, Mr Roberts and Mr. Rockefeller said little to reporters, other than that they had a productive meeting. Mr Roberts has agreed to hold hearings on Iraq intelligence but has not scheduled any that will be open to the public. With little movement on the Republican side, Mr Rockefeller seemed to be under growing pressure from within the Democratic caucus to mount an investigation without the Republicans.

On the House side, there has been far less open rancor within the intelligence committee, but that may be largely because the Republicans so completely dominate the legislative process in the House that Democrats have few alternatives.

Representative Porter J. Goss, the Florida Republican who is chairman of the committee, and Representative Jane Harman, Democrat of California, the ranking minority member, have agreed to examine the issue through a

series of oversight hearings, which seems similar to the approach that Mr Roberts wants to pursue in the Senate.

"We spent a useful couple of hours asking the important oversight questions about how the intelligence picture on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction was assembled over time," Mr Goss said in a statement after the closed-door hearing today with officials from several intelligence agencies. "As you know, this is an issue that the committee, not to mention the intelligence community, has been looking at basically since the end of the Gulf War, so there was a good deal of information to cover."

As Congress sorts out how to approach the issue, the Central Intelligence Agency and other agencies have begun to turn over a torrent of documents to the committees. "They have provided boxes and boxes of documents to go through, looking at them all it reminds me of tobacco litigation," Mr Durbin said.

Among the materials sent by the CIA were several documents related to a now discredited report that Iraq had been trying to buy uranium from Niger for its nuclear weapons program. President Bush referred to that report in his State of the Union address to buttress the case that Iraq was developing nuclear weapons. It was later revealed that the report was a fabrication, and the White House has been on the defensive in recent days as it tries to explain how a fabricated report got into such an important presidential address on the eve of the war. —Internet

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## Intelligence 'being politicised'

AUSTRALIA, 19 June—Intelligence services had been dangerously politicised by the Government, a strategic think-tank said today.

Intelligence agencies could be influenced to support the government line if their work remained in the political debate, Stratwise director Adam Cobb said.

"The long-term influence on Australian intelligence agencies could be a very negative one on national security," Dr Cobb told AAP. Prime Minister John Howard had broken the long-standing convention of refusing to comment on intelligence issues with the children-overboard controversy and repeated it with terrorist attacks on Bali and the Iraq war.

"It is precedent-breaking and the Prime Minister first did it in his (National) Press Club speech when he was talking about children overboard and he referred directly to an ONA (Office of National Assessment) intelligence report which flooded a lot of people," Dr Cobb said.

"My real concern is that they're politicising intelligence gathering and even if there isn't direct word coming down from the minister to view something one way or the other, these guys aren't stupid."

"They know that there's a particular line the Government is pursuing, there could a temptation to align their assessments and research to at least not conflict with the Government's line."

Dr Cobb said the political debate about Australian intelligence warnings of a Bali terrorist attack and of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction could significantly undermine intelligence gathering. "Because good intelligence is all about having a sceptical, questioning approach to information and just seeing where it takes you as opposed to having a predisposition and pulling the facts in to support a case," he said. —Internet

## Ex-CIA director says administration stretched facts on Iraq

WASHINGTON, 19 June — Former CIA director Stansfield Turner accused the Bush administration Tuesday of "overstretching the facts" about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction in making its case for invading that country.

Turner's broadside adds the retired admiral's name to a list of former intelligence professionals concerned that the CIA and its intelligence reports were manipulated to justify the war. Since Baghdad fell April 9, US forces have been unable to find chemical and biological weapons the White House said were in Iraq.

Turner, who headed the CIA under President Carter, paused for a long moment when asked by reporters whether current CIA Director George Tenet should resign. "That's a tough one," Turner said. The problem did not appear to lie with the CIA, he said, but Tenet should consider resigning if he lost the confidence of President Bush or the American people. A CIA spokesman declined to comment.

Turner suggested Tenet should tread cautiously because CIA directors "can be made the fall guy" by administrations when policy judgments based on intelligence go wrong.

Turner said, "There is no question in my mind (policymakers) distorted the situation, either because they had bad intelligence or because they misinterpreted it."

Public criticism of an administration's handling of intelligence is rare from former CIA directors, who typically give the benefit of the doubt to those with full access to

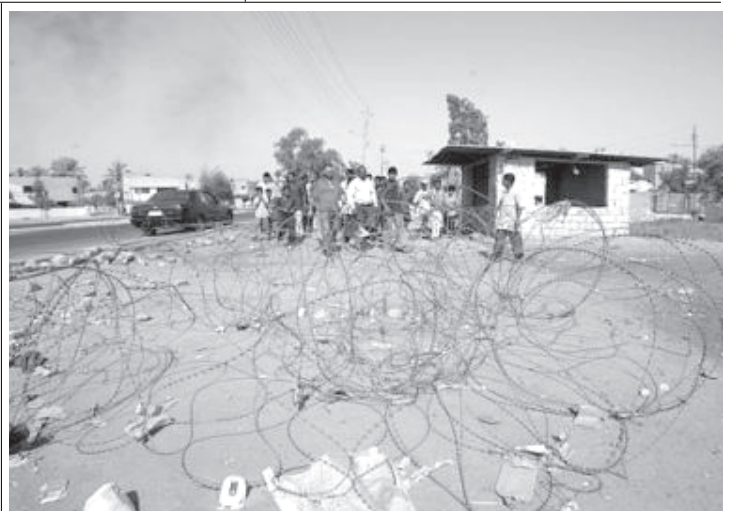
classified information.

President Bush has given no indication he is having second thoughts about his decision to invade Iraq.

"We made it clear to the dictator of Iraq that he must disarm," Bush said in a speech Tuesday at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale. "He chose not to do so, so we disarmed him. And I know there's a lot of revisionist history now going on, but one thing is certain. He is no longer a threat to the free world."

Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was known to have chemical and biological weapons in the early and mid-1990s. Late last year, Iraq claimed to have none left, though it offered no proof of having disposed of them. At the White House, spokesman Ari Fleischer called it "fanciful" and "a fit of imagination" to believe that Saddam would have destroyed his arsenal but neglected to tell the world. Seeking to counter partisan criticism about the intelligence used to justify war, Fleischer said Democrats, including President Clinton, flatly asserted that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction in the late 1990s.

"The president has every confidence in the intelligence and that weapons will be found," Fleischer said. "The president has full faith in Director Tenet." —Internet



Iraqis gather at a gas station in Baghdad where a US soldier was killed on 18 June, 2003. A US soldier was killed and another wounded at a gas station in Baghdad while two Iraqi protesters were killed by US troops. Controversy continued over why the United States and Britain sent fighters into Iraq. — INTERNET

## Railway reconnects two Koreas

SEOUL, 19 June — North and South Korea have held a symbolic ceremony to re-link cross border railways severed by war more than 50 years ago.

Engineers from both sides tightened the screws on 14 June on the railway tracks that will, it is hoped, eventually carry passenger trains between the two countries.

The event came a day before the third anniversary of an historic inter-Korean summit in which the then

South Korean President Kim Dae-jung made a euphoric visit to the North Korean capital, Pyongyang.

Reconciliation has since stalled.

The last train crossed the border shortly before the 1950-53 Korean War.

Both sides have said they want to complete the

restoration of the western line by September.

This will run between Seoul and Pyongyang, and extend to North Korea's border with China. If work goes to schedule, a rail link along the eastern coast will be ready by the end of the year.

Internet

# British public doubts Blair's Iraq intelligence

**LONDON, 19 June**—British Prime Minister Tony Blair, under growing pressure to produce evidence of Saddam Hussein's alleged weapons mass destruction, is trying to deflect charges he exaggerated the threat posed by Iraq. Despite these efforts, a recent poll indicates he is losing credibility among Britons.

"Nobody believes a single word he says anymore," Conservative leader Iain Duncan Smith said.

The opposition claims Blair misled the British public about Iraq's alleged nuclear, biological and chemical weapons programmes.

And a great many Britons appear to agree. A recent opinion poll concludes a third of the British public is less inclined to trust their prime minister because of what happened in Iraq.

"The cracks in the facade are there now for all to see and they're beginning to cut quite deep," said Andrew Cooper of Populus Polling. Over half of those polled indicated they believed Blair's government deliberately exaggerated the weapons threat.

Allied forces have yet to find any evidence of so-called weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, but Blair denies allegations his government manipulated evidence.

"Saddam Hussein was a threat to his region and to the wider world. I always made it clear that the issue was not whether he was about to launch an immediate strike on Britain. The issue was whether he posed a threat to his region and to the wider world," Blair told the House of Commons.

On Wednesday, US President George Bush defended Blair against allegations he exaggerated Iraq's al-

leged weapons programme.

"Blair operated on very sound intelligence and those accusations are simply not true," Bush said.

Many Britons appear to have doubts. While most indicate they are pleased to see the end of Saddam Hussein's regime, they're not so happy their government may have manipulated them.

"It's a case of the air coming slowly out of the tires. It's very hard when people decide you're somebody they don't especially trust... to rebuild that," Cooper said.

## Two parallel probes

Blair is facing two parliamentary investigations over the Iraq war.

The Commons' Intelligence and Security Committee plans to probe the matter behind closed doors.

In contrast, the Foreign Affairs Committee inquiry was broadcast live when it began Tuesday with the testimony of two former senior cabinet ministers. Both quit over the government's handling of the Iraq crisis.

Clare Short told the inquiry that Blair "pre-committed" Britain to the conflict months before the war. Robin Cook took a similar position and said officials "used intelligence as the basis on which to justify a policy on which we had already settled."

Home Secretary David Blunkett defended the actions of the government

Wednesday. He said Short and Cook didn't have access to the most sensitive intelligence on Iraq.

"Those outside the security services, the prime minister, the secretary for Northern Ireland, (Foreign Secretary) Jack Straw, myself, do not see the detailed briefings," Blunkett told BBC radio.

Hours later, Blair's office was refuting a newspaper report regarding an official British investigation in Iraq. The Observer said investigators had concluded two trailers were not mobile germ warfare labs.

A spokesman for Blair's office said the investigation was still under way. However, a source told *The Associated Press* that there was no credible evidence to suggest the trailers were used as part of Iraq's weapons program. Critics have repeatedly questioned information and statements released by Blair's government about Iraq since the conflict emerged.

In February, the British government said it made a mistake when it failed to credit an academic report in a dossier that purported to detail how Iraq was blocking UN weapons inspectors.

The lapse was exposed by Britain's Channel 4 News, which traced passages of the dossier to a report written by a post-graduate student based in California. — *Internet*

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## Small groups of between 10 and 20 fighters involved in attacks on US-led forces

**BLOOMBERG, 19 June**—Resistance by militiamen and Baath party officials loyal to Iraq's ousted leader Saddam Hussein is unorganized and involves small groups of fighters, US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said.

"If you're thinking about large military formations or some sort of a network organizing something, I have not seen any intelligence to that effect," Rumsfeld said at a briefing yesterday in Washington. Allied forces are rooting out "dead-enders trying to reconstitute," he said.

Allied forces, backed by air power and special units, are carrying out the second of two operations started this month to capture Hussein loyalists. The US military command said yesterday it detained Abid Hamid-Mahmud al-Tikriti, one of Hussein's closest aides and No 4 on the list of the 55 most wanted Iraqi leaders.

Coalition troops have come under increased attacks in recent weeks with more than 50 soldiers killed since US President George W Bush on 1 May declared the major fighting in Iraq to be over. Hussein's fate isn't known after he was targeted in two air attacks in Baghdad during the war.

Small groups of between 10 and 20 fighters are involved in attacks on allied forces, Rumsfeld said. The allies are working to enforce control outside Baghdad toward the city of Tikrit, Hussein's hometown 145 kilometers (90 miles) to the north, he said. The military raided areas along the Tigris River north of Baghdad as part of its security operations this month. More than 800 Iraqis were detained for questioning during the two operations, many of whom were released, the military said. — *Internet*

## Kerry says Bush misled Americans on war

**LEBANON, 19 June**—Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry said Wednesday that President Bush broke his promise to build an international coalition against Iraq's Saddam Hussein and then waged a war based on questionable intelligence.

"He misled every one of us," Kerry said. "That's one reason why I'm running to be president of the United States."

Kerry said Bush made his case for war based on at least two pieces of US intel-

ligence that now appear to be wrong that Iraq sought nuclear material from Africa and that Saddam's regime had aerial weapons capable of attacking the United States with biological material.

Still, Kerry said it is too

early to conclude whether or not war with Iraq was justified. There needs to be a congressional investigation into US intelligence on Iraq, he said. "I will not let him off the hook throughout this campaign with respect to America's credibility and credibility to me because if he lied he lied to me personally," he said. Kerry fielded several questions about Iraq from a small group of anti-war Democrats after he addressed about 250 people in a downtown Lebanon park.

*Internet*



A specialist with a US soldier is ushered into a room as a child sleeps during a raid conducted by his unit at a Baghdad neighbourhood in Iraq on 18 June, 2003.

*INTERNET*

## Canada marks another SARS death

**TORONTO, 19 June**—A 67-year-old man has died from SARS in the Toronto area, bringing Canada's death toll from the deadly disease to 34, health officials said on Tuesday.

The Health Ministry in Ontario, Canada's most populous province, said the man died on Monday — the country's first death from the disease since June 7.

*MNA/Reuters*



US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld points to a map of Iraq outlining the security levels across the land during a Press briefing at the Pentagon on 18 June, 2003.

Rumsfeld's Press conference came in the wake of US troops raiding two farmhouses near Tikrit, north of Baghdad on Wednesday.

*INTERNET*

## China's urban residents spend more on healthy living

**BELING, 19 June**—China's city-dwellers are spending more on those things that come with a good health promise, an official survey has found. Sanitary essentials, sports goods, organic food and communication gadgets figure high on the spending list of urban consumers, both during severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and now, as the disease is brought basically under control in China.

The spending shift is based on a belief that such items can help people lead safer and healthier lives, and help them ward off illness, according to the conclusion of a recent national survey by the Price Monitoring Centre under the National Development and Reform Commission, reported Wednesday's *China Daily*.

The centre's branches in 35 major cities across China conducted the survey

throughout May, which includes responses of more than 3,000 people, said the English-language newspaper.

According to the survey, about 80 per cent of urban residents planned to increase their expenditure on sanitary essentials. And some 35 per cent of respondents said they were considering buying an electrical disinfecting appliance.

*MNA/Xinhua*



# US worried about mounting casualties in Iraq

WASHINGTON 19 June — US lawmakers expressed alarm at the rising number of dead and wounded US troops in Iraq, with some highlighting fears that US forces may be overextended.

"While our military did remarkable work in defeating two terrorist regimes in short order, events in Afghanistan and Iraq make it clear that we have a ways to go in both countries," said Duncan Hunter, chairman of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee.

"The terrorist elements have been defeated, but they haven't been destroyed," he said.

Hunter worried that US forces are stretched thin, with some troops now in Iraq for nearly one year, and with no end in sight to the US military commitment.

"Because we have long-term commitments in Europe and Asia and long-term requirements in Iraq and Afghanistan and don't know how long the global war on terror will last — or for that matter, whether it will ever end — we face a future security environment loaded with uncertainty," he said.

"We face uncertain risks associated with the possibility of having to react to a future contingency while the bulk of our forces are already committed elsewhere," Hunter added.

Representative Ike Skelton, ranking Democrat on the committee, said the unsettling number of US casualties calls for a review of how the US occupation of

Iraq is being conducted.

Skelton highlighted how more Americans have been killed in Iraq since April 14 than throughout the past year that US troops have been chasing al-Qaeda and Taliban operatives in Afghanistan.

"This morning — like most recent mornings — we awoke to the news of another servicemember killed in Iraq," he said.

Skelton said there had been at "one dead American each day" since President George W Bush declared the end of major combat on May 1.

"I've been arguing for careful post-war planning to secure Iraq," he said. "The realities to date do not indicate that the planning that occurred was sufficient."

Since May 1, 16 US troops have been killed by hostile fire, the latest a soldier who was shot at a Baghdad filling station. Another was wounded.

"Given the challenges we're facing, we need our allies and their troops more than ever. We must not let our failure to agree before the war become an argument for a failure to achieve peace now," Skelton said.

In testimony at the hearing, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said

the 146,000 US military personnel in Iraq should not need to be supplemented.

"We are pleased that the number and capability of coalition forces pledged to contribute to those operations is growing," Wolfowitz said, adding that the United States needed and would get more help from other countries in coming months.

But he also counseled patience: "It is only seven weeks since President Bush announced the end of major combat operations, and let me emphasize that word 'major.'"

"As we expected and planned for, smaller combat operations in Iraq continue, even as we work with Iraqis to establish stable and secure areas throughout Iraq," Wolfowitz said.

He said US troops in Iraq were fighting forces waging a "guerrilla war."

"We've made great progress in some areas of the country, but we continue to face an adaptive and determined enemy, which, while defeated on the conventional battlefield, is nonetheless intent on killing Americans and Iraqis and disrupting the establishment of order in Iraqi society and the process of building a new and free country," Wolfowitz said. — *Internet*

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## Two killed in Baghdad protest

BAGHDAD, 19 June — US forces say they have shot dead two Iraqis during a protest by unpaid former soldiers outside the presidential compound in Baghdad.

The violence erupted Wednesday when an angry crowd swarmed an American convoy passing near the coalition's provisional authority headquarters, according to the US military.

Captain Scott Nauman of the US Army, who was at the scene, said members of the convoy appeared to fire in self-defense after the ex-army officers smashed windows in their vehicle with rocks.

The situation in the Iraqi capital is tense due to the presence of about 250,000 jobless former soldiers, CNN's Jane Arraf reported.

They were dismissed from the armed forces in May by US administrator Paul Bremer following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein and have received no wages for three months.

"It is a very volatile situation, one that has been going on for a month and will not go away," Arraf said on Wednesday. "The US has made it pretty clear they will react with overwhelming force if they feel threatened."

The two people were injured, and later died, a US military spokesman said. CNN's Ben Wedeman later reported that it was a single US soldier with an M-16 who opened fire. According to Nauman, his soldiers had been pelted with rocks from the demonstrators for about an hour when the convoy passed by and was inundated by members of the crowd.

In a separate incident in Baghdad, one US soldier was killed and another wounded Wednesday in a drive-by attack, a US military spokesman said.

However, eyewitnesses told CNN the troops were shot by an Iraqi man who ap-

proached the vehicle on foot. US forces said they were pursuing the attacker or attackers. The incidents follow the death of a US soldier the previous day, who was killed by a sniper after 371 people were captured in raids against Saddam Hussein loyalists, US Central Command said.

The soldier was shot in the back, while on patrol in northern Baghdad, US military officials added. Troops have been sealing off roads and carrying out house to house searches in the area.

Since the beginning of May, 41 US troops have been killed in attacks in Baghdad and parts of western and central Iraq, according to US Central Command.

In another deadly incident, a woman and child were killed in an apparent car bomb attack Monday night in a western section of the Iraqi capital. The latest developments came as Britain's parliament launched an inquiry into whether Tony Blair's government misled the British people about the evidence it allegedly had on weapons of mass destruction held by the Iraqi regime.

The first witness, former Cabinet minister Robin Cook, accused the Blair government of using intelligence on Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction to justify a predetermined policy. Cook said there was no "full consideration of evidence." Meanwhile, the US Army was giving details of the latest military action in Iraq associated with Operation Desert Scorpion. "In the central region near Tikrit and Kirkuk, coalition forces conducted 36 raids and detained 215 individuals," a Central Command statement said.

— *Internet*

## Vitamin D boosts cancer treatment

LOS ANGELES, 19 June — Giving cancer patients a form of Vitamin D could help radiotherapy work more effectively, a new study shows.

The study report, conducted by researchers from Dartmouth Medical School and Virginia Commonwealth University, was published in the June issue of *Journal of Clinical Cancer Research*.

Radiation therapy is commonly used prior to surgery to reduce the size of the tumour and after surgery to eradicate any remaining cells and to reduce the chance of the tumour returning.

In the study, researchers compared tumour growth in mice given the combined therapy, using a derivative of Vitamin D called EB 1089, and others given radiation therapy alone.

The study report shows that in those given the combined treatment tumours were around 50 per cent smaller than in those that received radiation alone. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Former soldiers protest during a rally outside the temporary American headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, on 18 June, 2003. US soldiers opened fire on the demonstrators, leaving two people dead and two others injured, a witness said. — *INTERNET*

## Tankers collide in Gulf killing four

LONDON, 19 June — An explosion following a collision on Wednesday between two oil tankers in the Gulf off the United Arab Emirates has left four dead, according to the shipping agent for one of the two vessels involved.

An official working for Middle East-based Knoo shipping agency said the collision was between crude tanker *Sebu* and product tanker *Efxinos*.

— *MNA/Reuters*

## US soldier killed in drive-by shooting

BAGHDAD, 19 June — The recent string of American deaths at the hands of Iraqis opposed to the occupation of their country continued Wednesday.

One US soldier was killed and another wounded in a drive-by shooting in south central Baghdad. In the center of the capital, US troops being threatened by a stone-throwing crowd shot and killed two demonstrators.

US troops from the First Armoured Division were hit by gunfire at a gas station. The gunmen walked up to a squad of troops guarding the gas station and opened fire at close range before fleeing in a waiting car, witnesses told Capt David Gercken, a spokesman for the Army's 1st Armoured Division.

The shooters escaped as other soldiers tried to give aid to the wounded, said US Army Capt John Morgan.

The two Iraqi deaths took place as former Iraqi soldiers demonstrated to demand back wages outside American headquarters at one of Saddam Hussein's former palaces.

Military officers initially reported two people were wounded, while Iraqis at the scene said two were killed and one wounded. US troops took two fallen Iraqis to an army aid station inside the compound. US Marine Corps Maj Sean Gibson confirmed the two Iraqis had died.

"One demonstrator pulled out a weapon and began shooting. US forces responded, killing two of the demon-

strators," US Central Command said in a statement.

Another military spokesman said the incident began when demonstrators threw stones at a convoy of military police vehicles moving toward the Assassins Gate of the Republican Palace, now the headquarters of the US-led administration.

"A soldier did fire his weapon," in response to the stoning, Morgan said.

Iraqis who participated in the protest said the violence erupted when the crowd pressed against a vehicle moving slowly outside the gate and banged on it. A soldier fired into the air, apparently setting off a panic in the crowd.

— *Internet*

# Iraq 'too dangerous to rebuild'

**BAGHDAD, 19 June**—British and American troops have to get a grip on Baghdad because lawlessness is hampering attempts to rebuild Iraq, the UK's international development secretary has warned.

Baroness Amos is so concerned about the dangerous security situation in the Iraqi capital she has postponed a trip there.

The cabinet minister told the *Financial Times* the coalition had failed to anticipate the extent of problems in the aftermath of Saddam Hussein.

Baroness Amos' concerns came days after the Home Office declared Iraq was safe enough for it to start asking asylum seekers to return.

The minister said that with hindsight there was "no doubt we would all say there were things we did not get right with respect to the planning and administration", she told the paper.

But she added things had improved since Paul Bremer took over as administrator from retired US general Jay Garner. Meanwhile US forces

are continuing to attempt to tackle pockets of resistance and track down illegal weapons stockpiles.

In the latest incident an American soldier was killed by a sniper's bullet while on patrol in Iraq, the US military said on Tuesday.

Baroness Amos told the paper: "The safety and security situation, which we really need to get right to enable us to really go for the reconstruction effort, is slightly hampering things."

The peer was appointed to the post last month after her predecessor Clare Short resigned over a draft UN resolution being discussed at the Security Council because she was unhappy that it did not give the UN its promised central role in rebuilding Iraq.

On Tuesday Ms Short blamed

poor planning for the looting and violence in Baghdad as she gave evidence at a Commons inquiry into whether the threat posed by Saddam Hussein was exaggerated.

She told the Foreign Affairs Select Committee the US administration "was not properly prepared for its duties".

Both she and fellow ex-minister Robin Cook, who also quit the Cabinet over Iraq, told the committee that government claims about the threat posed by Saddam Hussein's regime in the build-up to war had been exaggerated.

Ms Short accused Tony Blair of a "series of half truths, exaggerations, reassurances that weren't the case" in the run-up to war.

She said she presumed Mr Blair saw the devices he used to get the UK to back America against Iraq as "honourable deception". — *Internet*

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## Bulgaria to send 480 troops to Iraq

**SOFIA, 19 June**—Some 480 Bulgarian troops will be sent to Iraq on September 1 to help maintain stability there, Brigadier Galimir Peglivanov, commander of the Bulgarian Command of Operational Force, said Tuesday. The peacekeeping contingent will first leave for Kuwait in early August to have adaptive training there.

The Bulgarian troops will be included in the division in northern Iraq, which was under the command of Poland, the Bulgarian news agency reported.

The daily allowance for each Bulgarian soldier is expected to be 60 US dollars.

The Bulgarian Parliament approved recently to send some 500-strong peacekeeping force to Iraq to contribute to the Gulf nation's postwar reconstruction. — *MNA/Xinhua*

## Concern over NZ troops in Iraq

**BAGHDAD, 19 June**—A Government MP has expressed concerns that any New Zealand troops sent to Iraq will get dragged into supporting an "illegal occupation".

Defence Minister Mark Burton and Defence Force chief Air Marshall Bruce Ferguson were quizzed by the foreign affairs select committee today about an upcoming deployment of army engineers to Iraq. Progressive Coalition MP Matt Robson was concerned that "our people and weapons" would be drawn into the "clearly illegal occupation" by the United States and British forces. He also believed those two countries had "lied" about Iraq possessing weapons of mass destruction.

Mr Burton said New Zealand's views on the Iraq war were clear and the troops' rules of engagement would be consistent with that. The deployment of engineers emphasised New Zealand's role was one of reconstruction not occupation.

Air Marshall Ferguson told MPs the engineers — who were fully armed and trained

soldiers — would have orders to act only in self-defence.

The number of troops going and their exact role was not yet finalised, but they would join field engineers from the British 31st Brigade.

The 31st Brigade was currently preparing to leave for Iraq in late July or early August.

Air Marshall Ferguson acknowledged disaffected Iraqis would be unlikely to know the engineers were New Zealanders or that they were in Iraq under different rules and for different reasons than the occupying forces.

"It is a dangerous place," Air Marshall Ferguson said. The troops' training and skills would help balance the risk, he said.

He was also aware US forces in the north of Iraq were being attacked more often than the British in the south, but he did not know why. It had been his preference for the troops to work alongside the British. — *Internet*



*Pedestrians pass by locked stores covered with metal shields in Salonica, part of stepped up security in anticipation of anti-globalisation demonstrations while EU leaders meet nearby to discuss a blueprint for the EU constitution amid simmering tensions over Iraq, farm spending and immigration. — INTERNET*

## Study shows fried food ingredient mutates DNA

**WASHINGTON, 19 June**—Acrylamides, cancer-causing agents recently found in some fried and baked foods, damage DNA by causing a spectrum of mutations, researchers reported on Tuesday.

Swedish researchers caused a global furor in 2000 when they reported that acrylamides, used to purify water and in other industrial processes, could be found in a range of baked and fried foods. They seem to be formed by exposing high-carbohydrate foods to high temperatures such as those found in baking and frying.

The chemicals can cause cancer in laboratory animals but have never been linked to human cancer.

Ahmad Besaratinia and Gerd Pfeifer of the City of Hope National Medical Centre in Duarte, California found that acrylamides can mutate DNA. Cells exposed to acrylamide had more adducts — specific types of mutations in the DNA — than untreated cells, they reported in this week's issue of the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

They noted that they treated mouse cells only, not human cells. They said the best way to find out if acrylamide causes cancer in people is to do epidemiological studies — studies of populations to see if people who eat more foods containing acrylamides have higher rates of cancer.

One such study, published by US and Swedish researchers last January, found no link between acrylamide consumption and the risk of bladder or kidney cancer.

Acrylamide experts Fredrik Granath of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm and Margareta Tornqvist of Stockholm University in Sweden, said the risk to any one person from eating acrylamides is small and they would not recommend changing nutritional guidelines.

*MNA/Reuters*

## Finnish PM to face Parliament over Iraq leak

**HELSINKI, 19 June**—Finland's recently elected prime minister said on Tuesday she would face Parliament in a week to answer questions about a leaked secret document on Iraq that has undermined the Nordic country's coalition government.

Commentators said the growing scandal surrounding Anneli Jaatteenmaki has already sapped the influence of her Centre Party in favour of its main coalition partner, the Social Democrats. "This is serious, it's a big thing now... (but) my personal feeling is that the government will survive this one," a

government source told *Reuters*.

Jaatteenmaki is accused of using confidential information about talks between her predecessor Paavo Lipponen and US President George W. Bush on Iraq and other issues as fuel for an attack on Lipponen during parliamentary elections in March.

She said Finland, which has been militarily non-aligned since World War II, was too close to Washington and not doing enough to promote a peaceful solution. The Centre emerged from the vote as the largest party.

*MNA/Reuters*



*US soldiers search vehicles for weapons at a check point in Baghdad, on 18 June, 2003. — INTERNET*

## Texas prisoners marry, may honeymoon in 2036

**SAN ANTONIO (Texas), 19 June**—Two Texas prisoners who have never met were married by proxy on Tuesday in a San Antonio courtroom and can now look forward to their honeymoon — in 2036 at the earliest.

State District Judge Johnny Gabriel married Diane Zamora, 25, and Steven Mora, 27, using her mother and Mora's friend as stand-ins, Bexar County Clerk Gerry Rickhoff said.

The husband and wife have not met, but began writing letters to each other after Mora saw Zamora on television, his family said. They are in prisons 130 miles apart.

Zamora is a former US Naval Academy midshipman who, along with then-boyfriend David Graham, an Air Force Academy cadet, was sentenced to life in prison in a 1996 trial for the murder of a 16-year-old girl who was her romantic rival.

*MNA/Reuters*



## US says "loose-knit" Saddam backers attacking troops

WASHINGTON, 19 June—The United States on Wednesday blamed a "loose-knit group" of supporters of missing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for a surge in deadly attacks on US troops in Iraq.

"There continue to be elements that support Saddam Hussein, there continue to be loyalists to the Baath Party who want to engage in violence," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer told reporters.

He said a "loose-knit group of loyalists" to Saddam were believed responsible for sniper and other attacks but that US Defence Department officials had detected no organizational point for them.

In Iraq US forces said Saddam's presidential secretary and senior bodyguard, Abid Hamid Mahmud al-Tikriti, had been captured on Monday. He was fourth on a US list of 55 most wanted Iraqis and the highest placed so far seized.

A US Army general also said his troops on Wednesday raided two farmhouses near Tikrit and seized millions of dollars apparently set aside to pay bounties for killing American soldiers. But he said attacks on the troops were not slowing US efforts to normalize life in the country. Since President George W Bush declared on May 1 that major combat operations were over, at least 42 US soldiers have been killed in a spate of attacks in and around Baghdad. Speaking ahead of a scheduled afternoon Pentagon news conference by Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Fleischer gave no sign that the United States planned to increase the number of troops in Iraq to confront the threat. — MNA/Reuters

## Bangladesh Islamists protest over Powell visit

DHAKA, 19 June — Hundreds of Bangladeshi Islamists and left-wing students demonstrated in Dhaka on Wednesday ahead of a visit by US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Chanting anti-US slogans and carrying banners reading "We hate Powell", they protested over the killing of "thousands of Iraqi people during the US-led invasion", witnesses said.

Powell is due in Dhaka on Thursday for a brief visit during a three-nation trip to Asia and the Middle East. He is due to hold talks with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan.

Authorities have clamped extra-tight security on the capital for Powell's visit, the first by a US secretary of state since Henry Kissinger came in 1973. "Don't come Powell, you are not welcome here," the protesters chanted before dispersing peacefully.

The protesters included activists of the radical Islamic Constitution Movement (ICM), the Bangladesh Khelafat Andolan, the leftist Bangladesh Workers Party and left-wing students.

"We should not host Americans like Powell, who either killed or helped in the killing of thousands of Muslims in Afghanistan, Palestine and Iraq," Moulana Hemayetuddin, a leader of ICM, told the protesters.

The Bangladeshi Government is very upbeat about Powell's visit, calling it a

*Bangladeshi Islamists chant anti-US slogans during a protest on the eve of a visit by Secretary of State Colin Powell, in Dhaka on 18 June, 2003. Powell is expected to arrive in Dhaka on 19 June, as part of a three-nation visit to Southeast Asia and the Middle East.—INTERNET*



## Britain wants plea-bargaining for top Iraqis

LONDON, 19 June— The British Government is urging Washington to offer top Iraqi prisoners their freedom in exchange for information about Saddam Hussein and his alleged banned weapons, *The Times* newspaper reported on Wednesday.

A British Government spokeswoman declined to either confirm or deny the report, saying only: "We want to check out the story properly and I'm not able to do that at this time."

*The Times* said British officials had told Washington that the only way to track down former Iraqi president Saddam and his disputed arsenal was to allow top-ranking Iraqis, many of whom are being held in Baghdad, to plea bargain.

It said that, to the "intense frustration" of the British, the Americans had so far rejected the idea.

We have been trying for ages to persuade the Americans but they have come up with all kinds of legal arguments," the paper quoted one unnamed official as saying.

The British Government is under increasing pressure to find the weapons which it cited as the justification for going to war with Iraq in March.

Former Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, who quit the Cabinet on the eve of the war, said on Tuesday it was "inconceivable" that Iraqis could have kept weapons and weapon-making equipment hidden for the two months since the British and Americans occupied Iraq.

"We have now inspected every munitions storage facility in Iraq and have found no chemical or biological weapons..." he said.

MNA/Reuters

## Khatami defends Iran's right to acquire advanced N-technology

TEHERAN, 19 June— Iranian President Mohammad Khatami strongly defended Iran's right to acquire advanced nuclear technology while rejected "politically-motivated and groundless accusations and pressures on Iran" on Wednesday.

Khatami reiterated Iran's readiness for cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), demanding that IAEA help Iran acquire the nuclear energy know-how.

"The International Atomic Energy Agency is obliged to prepare for Iran's acquisition of nuclear know-how according to the treaty which we have signed," the official IRNA news agency quoted the President as saying.

Iran, which is a party to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), is blaming the international nuclear watchdog for the sanctions which Iran says has kept it from acquiring the nuclear energy technology. "We have no problem on cooperation with IAEA and have always announced that we reserve the right to acquire the advanced nuclear technology. We also hope that members of NPT will help Iran with cheaper and more convenient acquisition of the nuclear know-how," Khatami said. In a response to Washington's allegations that Iran intended to use its nuclear energy programmes as a cover to build weapons

of mass destruction, Khatami said "Iran has always cooperated with IAEA and will continue its cooperation in order to make issues transparent and dispel certain charges."

IAEA has called on Iran to sign an additional protocol to the NPT, which paves the way for surprise visits of the country's nuclear sites by IAEA inspectors.

Khatami repeated Iran's condition that it wanted the sanctions removed if the IAEA wanted Tehran to sign the protocol.

"We do not seek any privilege for joining this protocol. Our demand is because of being a signatory of NPT, all members of the treaty have the right to be provided with the nuclear technology," he said. Khatami said Iran does not seek to acquire atomic weapons. "We believe that having atomic arms does not bring security."

MNA/Xinhua

## Saddam almost certainly still in Iraq

CANBERRA, 19 June— The United States and its allies in the war on Iraq have little doubt that former President Saddam Hussein remains in Iraq and will eventually be caught, British Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said on Wednesday.

"I think the fact that as each day goes by we are successfully rounding up still more names on the list, that shows that we are having successes in locating particular individuals and I'm confident that eventually we will locate Saddam Hussein." Saddam's fate since US, British and Australian forces rolled into Baghdad two months ago is unknown. US officials say they believe he survived airstrikes and at least one letter and audio message purportedly from Saddam have appeared since the end of the war on April 9.

MNA/Reuters

## Illegal immigrants drown off Italy

ROME, 19 June — Italian military rescue ships have recovered 11 bodies of immigrants off the southern Italian island of Lampedusa after a boat bringing dozens of illegal migrants to Italy capsized, an official said on Tuesday. Captain Elio Gallinaro, a spokesman for the central command of Italy's Coast Guards, said the rescue operation began after a fishing ship picked up several survivors on Monday and raised the alarm.

MNA/Reuters



*Rescuers tend to an Iranian man sitting on the road after setting himself on fire during a protest near the headquarters of the French counter intelligence agency, on 18 June, 2003 in Paris. At least three Iranians set themselves on fire Wednesday after the agency led Tuesday a massive raid on the offices of an Iranian opposition group, The People's Mujahedeen of Iran. The protest was the latest in a series of dramatic protests in Europe against Tuesday's crackdown on the Mujahedeen Khalq, which is listed as a terrorist organization by the United States and the European Union. — INTERNET*



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt presents cash prize to a player of victorious U-18 Myanmar soccer team.— MNA



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt presents cash prize to a player of victorious U-18 Myanmar soccer team.— MNA

## Thanks to Myanmar...

(from page 1)

Southeast Asia and Asia. Myanmar athletes who even won world championship medals emerged then. It was an unforgettable national pride for all the Myanmar people.

However, for certain reasons, the Myanmar sports came to a decline, and the people lost hope on it. But Myanmar's nationalist spirit to win victories in international events was also kept in the hearts of the Myanmar people.

The conviction of the government is that international sports victory reflects the national dignity and flourishing of patriotism; and that international sport victory helps raise the dignity of the people. With this conviction, the government is making efforts together with the people as a national task to raise the standard of the nation's sport.

Due to the harmonious efforts of the government and the entire people, the nation is achieving the fruits including national progress, economic development and improve in the living standard. The public support for the sports is also increasing significantly. These are all the results of the strong nationalistic fervour of the people.

The public support and desire for a Myanmar victory at the U-18 matches was amazingly active.

The national entrepreneurs achieving economic success due to the encouragement of the government are taking part in the State's health, education, social, religious and development undertakings. They are also contributing to the development of the Myanmar sports.

It is very encouraging to note that national entrepreneurs awarded K 90.1 million and the State Peace and Development Council US\$ 31,500 to the Myanmar team for its victories throughout the ASEAN U-18 Football Championship.

He said he would like to express words of honour to Kanbawza Bank Limited which had constantly striven for advancement of Myanmar football. Since the year 2000, Kanbawza Bank Ltd had been providing cash assistance to Myanmar selected football team, men's and women's football teams and youth football teams which took part in international events. The bank provided the expenses for training, meal and monthly cash allowances for footballers including coaches. To date since 2000, it has spent over K 672.9 million, over US\$ 72,400 and over 550,000 Thai Bahts for ensuring the advancement of Myanmar

football. He said he would like to express thanks to it on behalf of the Government as well as the footballers.

The Myanmar footballers were found to be striving hard with strong determination in unison for enhancing the prestige and dignity of the nation and the people. Being good athletes, they played with team spirit instead of trying to win individual prestige. In their matches, they were found to be playing with zeal, unity, perseverance and diligence. Accordingly, they won full support and unanimous encouragement of the public. Such good traditions are to be preserved well. With zealous endeavours, high spirit, proper training and united efforts, Myanmar footballers stood first in ASEAN U-17 football tournament last year and ASEAN U-18 football tournament this year.

Therefore, he said, he would like to urge the victorious Myanmar footballers, amid the earnest support of the people, to strive with perseverance, efforts and morale in order to maintain the already-achieved success in future, to contribute as outstanding footballers towards selected Myanmar football team and to achieve continued success in international matches.

He expressed his belief that thanks to the efforts of the new generation youths, Myanmar football standard will surely reach that of the heyday of Myanmar football in the near future.

On behalf of the government, he would like to thank Myanmar football fans roaring "We are Myanmar" during the matches supported and encouraged the victorious Myanmar footballers with enthusiastic patriotism and nationalistic spirit and fervour, and called on them to continue supporting the efforts of the government.

On behalf of the government, the Secretary-1 thanked the Kanbawza Bank Ltd, national entrepreneurs and respective ministries that contributed towards the Myanmar youth soccer team throughout the tournament to win the trophy.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 said that, on behalf of the State and the people, he took pride in the victory of Myanmar soccer team who had brought honour to the State and the people and then he wished the Myanmar youth footballers achieving repeated victories to become outstanding players who can bring honour to the nation and the people.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 presented prizes and certificates of honour to the manager of the Myanmar youth football team, Deputy Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thein Aung, coaches and footballers individually.

Then, a midfielder player Myo Min Tun spoke words of thanks.

Also present at the ceremony were Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, the Yangon City mayor, deputy ministers, the vice mayor, members of Myanmar Olympic Committee, officials of the State Peace and Development Council office, the general secretary of MOC, the director-general of the Sports and Physical Education Department, the president and executives of Myanmar Football Federation, chairmen and officials of the Myanmar sports federations, representatives of social organizations, wellwishers, the manager of the victorious Myanmar youth football team, coaches, youth footballers and guests. Later, the Secretary-1, Myanmar National Olympic Council members and guests enjoyed the dinner together with the victorious football team manager, coaches and footballers. — MNA



Midfielder Myo Min Tun of victorious U-18 Myanmar soccer team expresses thanks.— MNA

## Buddhist Literature Award presentation ceremony held

YANGON, 19 June — The second Buddhist Literature Award presentation ceremony, sponsored by Missionary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Vepunla of Japan, was held at Maha Sasana Vepunla Monastery on Gyartawya Road in Bahan Township this morning, attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present were members of the Sangha led by Vice-Chairman Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw of Aungmyayabonsan Monastery Bhaddanta Panindabhivamsa, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Adviser to the State Peace and Development Council office U Arnt Maung, Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint, Director-General of the Depart-

ment for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana U Sann Lwin, Commander of No (3) Military Region Col Tint San, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint, Chairman of Yangon West District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Shein, disciples, award winning members of the Sangha and nuns and guests. First, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and the congregation received the Five Precepts from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panindabhivamsa. Then, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vepunla delivered an Ovadakkatha on the purpose of presenting the awards.

Afterwards, the commander, the deputy minister and officials presented offertories to Sayadaws and members of the Sangha. Later, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko and officials presented awards to 20 members of the Sangha, 6 nuns and 17 lay persons. — 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.

## Myanmar to take part in Thailand Travel Mart-2003

YANGON, 19 June — Work coordination meeting on participation of Myanmar in Thailand Travel Mart-2003 to be held in conjunction with wonderful countries of Mekong Sub-region exhibition of the countries in the Greater Mekong region at Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Center (BITEC), Bangkok, Thailand, from 16 to 18 September was held

at the Kandawgyi Palace Hotel here yesterday.

It was attended by Director-General U Khin Maung Latt of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Managing Director U Htay Aung of Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services, officials of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, members of Myanmar Hoteliers Association and Myanmar Tour Operators Association,

hoteliers and tour operators in Yangon and representatives of airlines.

Director-General U Khin Maung Latt explained the marketing arrangements and urged hoteliers and representatives of airlines to strive for the promotion of tourism in Myanmar. Then, the director-general replied to the queries raised by those present.

MNA



# The target of thunderbolt

Moe Shin

*"We may lose our independence easily in a short time and will fall under subjugation, if we stay inattentively. But it will take many lives, much blood and sweat and time to regain it."*

Senior General Than Shwe

Myanmars had to live under enslavement for about 62 years. The people from some regions of the nation had to face oppression for 123 years under the colonialist occupation. But Myanmar were somewhat fortunate when compared to the nations which had lived under oppression for 200 or 300 years. The colonialists disliked Myanmar who were difficult to enslave and who had launched a tenacious struggle to free their nation.

Bogyoke Aung San stayed away from the colonialists, for, he disliked their many ways of wickedness and treachery. Thus, he didn't join the Commonwealth after the nation regained total independence. Straightforward persons do not want to deal with or make friends with the wicked and those who are fond of tricks.

Despite the colonialists' sweet words of democracy, human rights and other rights, their blood stained fangs and claws and their weapons stand as a firm proof of their domination and bullying practices. But they cannot trick Myanmar, who are equipped with great knowledge at present. Thus, they with extreme anger and desire are trying to threaten the nation. Let it be.

*"Man is a part of nature, and his war against*

*nature is inevitably a war against himself."*

Rachel Carson

First, we theoretically learn that war is bad, and from the books we come to know that peace is beneficial. Thanks to the novel "War and Peace" by Leo Tolstoy, I have learnt about the practical lives of some village people falling into poverty because of war. In addition, I have come to understand the evil consequences of war and the developments that peace will bring to us.

So bad, there are some elements who are trying to blow up explosives, plant mines and brutally murder passengers to start a war, unrest and instability. But, I want to ask them two questions. How many people need to die to serve your interest? Haven't you made an assessment of the fact that it is foolish to dream of finding pleasure while sitting on the corpses?

We already faced the bitter experiences of the 1988 unrest, during which a large number of innocent persons were beheaded for no apparent reason, not a single place was safe, the people had to guard their own houses and property and live in fear and anxiety, public and State-owned property including factories were plundered and looted, the State suffered great losses in many sectors, all operations and functions of enterprises and departments came to a halt, the people faced difficulties in fulfilling their basic needs, anarchy ruled the nation and many kinds of evil things did occur. In this regard, I would like to say that the conspiracies from outside and inside the nation for recurrence of the unrest

were so frightening.

Others in the neighbourhood are developing. So we too should develop like them. However, there must be peace and stability and security for development. All the regions of the nation including the border areas, where the sound of guns and bombs is silent for a decade or so, are rapidly developing and prospering.

There will be development only if there is peace and stability.

Peace and stability is still prevailing in the nation thanks to the active and collective efforts of the entire people to safeguard and maintain the rule of law and community security. The genuine desire of the people is to see progress and prosperity. It is sure that those who want to push the nation into poverty, instability and unrest will be severely punished by the people. No one likes the attempts to weaken the nation.

So, do not even think about trying to cause unrest and confrontation, coerce others, put everything on the road to total destruction, blow up explosives and make instigation. Those who try to go against the objective conditions are like hanging themselves. Nobody can confront and launch war against the truth and justice. So, do not betray the truth. Do not commit unjust acts. If you do, you will be wrong.

Besides, in accord with the belief of Myanmar, such a person will be hit by a thunderbolt.

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(Translation: TMT)

## Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects coal mine and agricultural projects...

(from page 16)

commander on implementation of the project for reclamation of 300 acres of land for cultivation of honey orange, cultivation of 24,000 honey orange plants in 130 acres of reclaimed land and arrangements of meeting the target for cultivation.

Then, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected honey orange trees and had a documentary photo taken with officials of Lin Tun Company.

It is learnt that a tree produces 300 fruits and gets K 50 per fruit in the market.

Next, they also saw over the successful plantations in Naungmon Village by motorcade.

They then inspected the drycell factory of Shwemyin Hnakaung Industrial Co Ltd in Maihan Village-tract in Kaungkha Ward, Lashio Township, where factory manager explained manufacturing process with the use of charts.

The factory produces between 22,000 to 23,000 drycells per day and transported to Shan State (North), Mandalay, Monywa, Magway and Sagaing.

They then went to the site chosen for feedstuff factory of Kokang national cultural troupe and 50-ton feedstuff factory of TPA Company. There, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe urged the officials concerned to produce the feedstuff as targeted.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe spent the night in Lashio.

MNA



*Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspect thriving high yield paddy plantation at Humon irrigated area in Lashio, Shan State.*

MNA

## Commander's Shield shooting contest opens

YANGON, 19 June — The opening ceremony of Yangon Command Commander's Shield (2003) shoot-

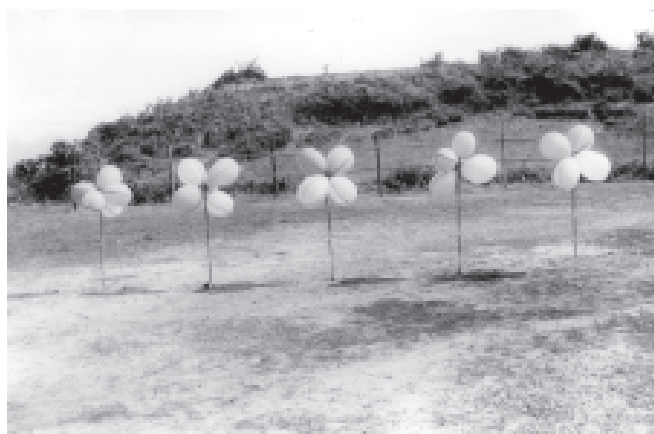
ing contest was held at the shooting range of the local battalion in Mingaladon Township this morning. Chair-

man of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe attended the ceremony.

Also present at the ceremony were Commander of No 2 Military Region Brig-Gen Myo Myint and military region commanders, station commanders, senior military officers of the command, officers, other ranks, and families of battalions and units under the command, and fans.

First, the commander made a speech and formally opened the contest. A total of 18 teams are participating in the contest that will continue up to 28 June.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe opens Yangon Command Commander's Shield Shooting Championship.— YANGON COMMAND

# The Ayeyawady as proof — 1

U Zaw

Originating in the area lying in the far north of the nation in Kachin State, the Ayeyawady River meanders through Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago divisions in the plains, and splits into many watercourses including Ngawun, Dakah, Shwelaung, Panmawady, Yazutaing, Gonnyindan, Bogale, Pyapon, Thandi and Toe rivers before draining into the sea. Annually, over 1,000-mile long river deposits a large volume of fertile soil and forms the invaluable delta for the nation near the end of its course.

Thus, the fertile land formed by the mighty river is called the Ayeyawady Delta or the Ayeyawady Division. Like the river, the division is also famous.

As the Ayeyawady is the nation's artery, it has relationship with the Myanmar's history of progress. The river stands witness to Myanmar history. So also, the division serves as the proof to Myanmar's progress.

Among the 14 states and divisions of the Union, Ayeyawady Division has the largest cultivation area with nearly 4.4 million acres. In addition, as the division possesses the largest number of natural lakes, roughly over 1,700 water bodies, and is lying contiguous to the sea, it is running a large sea and fresh water fish and prawn farming. Thus, the division, with excellent economic potentials, is selling its surplus rice and fish and prawns to other states and divisions, especially to Yangon Division.

Unfortunately in the past, the division had to mainly rely on the waterways in transporting its goods to markets. Transport was difficult in the region then as motor roads of over 460 miles in total could be found only in the areas — Patheingyi, Hinthada and Myanaung. Travelling by boat from one place to another took much time and caused delays in business operations.

As Head of State Senior General Than Shwe had served as the command commander in Ayeyawady Division once, he knows too well about the transport difficulties of the division. In this regard, he gave guidance on building miles and miles of new roads and large and small bridges at necessary places in the division. The successive command commanders have also made efforts to improve the regional transport infrastructure. Local authorities at different levels and the people understand the goodwill of the superior body and dutifully perform the assigned task.

Thanks to the energetic and harmonious efforts of the government and the people of the division, a network of roads and bridges linking the townships has emerged in the region. Sadly, there were accusations concerning the issue of forced labour since the start of road projects in the division. But now, cars are travelling safely on the roads. The major bridges, which were just a dream for the division in the past, emerged within a short period. Thirty-eight major bridges including Bo Myat Tun, Maubin, Dedaye, Myaungmya, Pinlelay, Gonnyindan, Shwelaung, Wakema bridges are serving as links between the regions in the division.

Maubin-Kyaiklat-Pyapon, Pyapon-Bogale, Dedaye-Kyaiklat, Maubin-Hsamalauk, Pantanaw-Wakema-Kyonmange, Myaungmya-Einme-Kyaunggon, Hinthada-Myanaung, Hinthada-Zalun-Danubyu, Patheingyi-Chaungtha and Patheingyi-Ngwe Hsaung roads came into being together with the Yangon-Patheingyi Highway. Some of the roads including Patheingyi-Thalathkha-Mawtin road are being upgraded into laterite roads. The total length of all tar

roads, laterite roads and earth roads in the division is about 1,300 miles. On completion of two or three more major bridges, motorways will link almost all the towns in the division.

The roads and the bridges are the indicators showing the development of the division's transport sector. The journeys which took many hours in the past can be travelled in a matter of hours.

"It takes only three hours to travel between Yangon and Patheingyi."

"Travellers leaving Yangon in the early morning can have lunch at Ngwe Hsaung beach or Chaungtha beach."

"A visit to Pyidawbayan Buddha Image in Zalun from Yangon is just a day's trip."

"Hinthada is only four hours' drive from Yangon."

"It takes only six hours to reach Pyapon from Yangon."

These are not dreams. It is not possible to state in this article all the roads that cut travelling time. But one sure thing is that the roads and the bridges are the results of the harmonious and energetic efforts which lead to rapid development.

In the past, there were only two auto-exchange stations, 29 manual exchange stations totalling 31 in the division. Now there are seven auto-exchange stations and 68 manual exchange stations totalling 75. Forty-four new exchange stations have been erected and the number of telephone lines have reached 15,734. Fax machines have been introduced to the division. Moreover, under the rural development project, 18 villages now have telephones. Arrangements are under way to install phones at 16 more villages. All the towns in Ayeyawady Division including Hainggyi Island and Chaungtha and Ngwe Hsaung beaches are now covered by the telephone network. Revenues from telephone business reached over K 177 million at present, up from only K 9.8 million in the past.

Officials are saying with full confidence that the setting up of an ICT Park in Patheingyi is possible at present.

The people in the division have understood the fact that economic, trade, health and education development depends on better transport and communication. Actually, the transport sector in all states and divisions are developing with added momentum. Ayeyawady Division has become the symbol of progress.

The division possessing the good natural conditions is developing rapidly together with improvement in the transport infrastructure. The division's per capita income is over K 100,000. The division was enjoying 14.5 per cent annual economic growth during the period of four years from 1998-99 to 2001-2002.

As it is contributing nearly 15 per cent to the nation's gross domestic income, it is a reliable division for the country in the national economy. The economic ups and downs in Ayeyawady Division reflect the national economy. While the division is achieving 14.5 per cent economic growth per year, it may be simply calculated that the nation is also achieving 10.4 per cent annual economic growth and the material development in the division is serving as proof that Ayeyawady Division is achieving economic progress.

(Translation: TMT)  
(Myanma Alin: 19-6-2003)

## Drug traffickers sentenced

YANGON, 19 June — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit, Bhamo Special Anti-drug Squad, and local police force, on 19 June 2002, searched the two suspects Thant Win Sein and Kyan Yin Htant near 7th mile Village in Momeik Township and seized 2.46 kilos of raw opium. The two suspects confessed that owners were Nay Win and Nyi Nyi of Kandaw Ward, Bhamo. In connection with the case, action was taken against Thant Win Sein, son of U Hla Moe, of Mawhan Village, Mohnyin Township, Kyan Yin Htant, son of U Aik Tun, of Phankhargon Village, Bhamo, Nay Win, son of U Ohn Maung and Nyi Nyi, son of U Laurant, of Tontwa Village, Mabein Township, under Sections 15/19 (A)/21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by Momauk Police Station. On 21 May, Bhamo District Court sentenced each of them to 20 years' imprisonment under the law. — MNA

## People's Desire

- \* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- \* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- \* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- \* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

## Efficient use of electricity

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

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

## Efficient use of fuel

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

## သတိပေးနိုးဆော်ချက်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တွင်း(၆)မြို့နယ် (လမ်းမတော်၊ လသာ၊ ပန်းဘဲတန်း၊ ကျောက်တံတား၊ ဗိုလ်တထောင်၊ ပုဇွန်တောင်) အတွင်း ဟွန်းသံကင်းမဲ့အဖြစ် ၁-၆-၂၀၀၃ ရက်မှစတင်သတ်မှတ် သွားမည် ဖြစ်ရာ မော်တော်ယာဉ်မောင်းသူများအား လုံးဝ ယင်းဧရိယာအတွင်း မည်သည့်အကြောင်းနှင့်မျှ ဖုန်း၊ ကြေးရန်နှင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုမဖြစ်စေရန် အတွက်လည်း သတိပြု မောင်းနှင်ကြရန် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အနီးယာဉ် များမှာလည်း စည်းကမ်းတကျ သွားလာကြရန်နှင့်ကန့်သတ်ထားသည့် ဧရိယာအတွင်း ဝင်ရောက်စီးနင်းခြင်း မပြုကြရန်၊ ထို့အပြင် လမ်းအသုံးပြုသူများမှာလည်း လူသွားစက္ကန့်မှ သွားလာကြရန် နှင့် လူကူးမျဉ်းကျားများ၊ လူကူးခုံးကျော်တံတားတို့မှသာ လမ်းဖြတ်ကူး ကြပါရန်၊ လိုက်နာခြင်းမရှိပါက ထိရောက်စွာ အရေးယူဆောင်ရွက် သွားမည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေး ကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

## သတိပေးနိုးဆော်ချက်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်အတွင်း အချို့မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမှာ ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်း လမ်းစည်းကမ်း ချိုးဖောက်မှုများကြောင့် ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုများ ဖြစ်ပွားခဲ့သဖြင့် ဒဏ်ရာရသူသေဆုံးသူများ များပြားလာသည်ကို တွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ ထိုသို့ယာဉ်တိုက်မှုများ ဖြစ်ပွားပါက ကြေအေးသည်ဖြစ်စေ မကြေအေးသည်ဖြစ်စေ ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်း လမ်းစည်းကမ်းများယဉ်းသော ယာဉ်မောင်းသူများအား တည်ဆဲပဒေအရ ထိထိရောက်ရောက် အရေးယူဆောင်ရွက်သွားမည် ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတိပေးနိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေး ကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

## တိုက်ရိုက်ကြည့်ရှု အချိန်တိုနှင့်ကု မျောက်မှာသေချာ တိဘီရောဂါ

- \* ရက်သတ္တပတ် (၃)ပတ်ကျော် ရောင်းဆုံးလျှင် နိစပ်ရာ ကျန်းမာရေးဌာနတွင် စစ်ဆေးပါ။
- \* တိဘီလူနာများအား အစွမ်းထက်မြက်သော တိဘီဆေးဝါး များဖြင့် အခမဲ့ကုသပေးနေပါသည်။
- \* တိုက်ရိုက်ကြည့်ရှု အချိန်တိုနှင့်ကုနည်းဖြင့်ကုသလျှင် တိဘီရောဂါ မျောက်ကင်းပါသည်။

အိမ်တိုင်းမှာသစ်ပင် ရွာစဉ်မှာတောတန်း၊ တစ်တောင်တစ်တောင်တက် ခြုံတက်မယ့်လင်။



A ceremony to provide educational cash assistance and student uniforms for children of staff of the Shan State Police Force was held at the Shan State Police Force Office in Taunggyi on 13-6-2003. Head of Shan State Police Force Police Col Thura Tin Hla gives away cash assistance at the ceremony. — (H)



# A vanished bird last seen almost 90 years ago rediscovered in Myanmar

Article by Aung Naing Oo & Htay Aung; Photos by WATT



Gurney's Pitta

A group of Myanmar and foreign ornithologists from Wild-bird Adventure Travels and Tours (WATT) rediscovered a bird called Gurney's Pitta in Kawthoung District in Taninthayi Division during the third week of May this year. The bird was supposed to have been an extinct species and the last time it was seen in Myanmar was about 90 years ago.

The bird is a restricted range species and said to live in the tropical evergreen forest. It used to be found in the area between latitudes 7 degree and 12 degree, that is, in the area between Kawthoung and Lay-hnya in Myanmar and in Prachathirikhan just north of Pukhet in Thailand.

The discovery of Gurney's Pitta in Lay-hnya area, Taninthayi Division, Myanmar, was first recorded in May, 1875, and it

area. Therefore, the world has provided millions of dollars to Thailand every year so that the latter will be able to prevent the remaining pittas from extinction. It is also learnt that the remaining one percent of the tropical evergreen forest is being conserved as a protected forest.

The conversation of the tropical evergreen forest, the natural habitat of Gurney's pittas, is critically important to their continued existence. However, as the tropical evergreen forest is the most suitable for oil palm plantations, the continued existence of the pittas is increasingly threatened by the rapid clearance of the forest. Although only one percent of that kind of forest can be conserved in the other country, Myanmar is in a position to conserve almost 50 percent of the habitat of the endangered species.

nature conversation.

After doing the survey work from 13 to 26 May this year, the team found 21 pairs of pittas (42 birds) and the work was halted due to continuous torrential rain. If it could have been continued, more pittas would have been found. The number of pittas found in Myanmar are more than that of Thailand and the survey work will also be conducted in coming years, it is learnt.

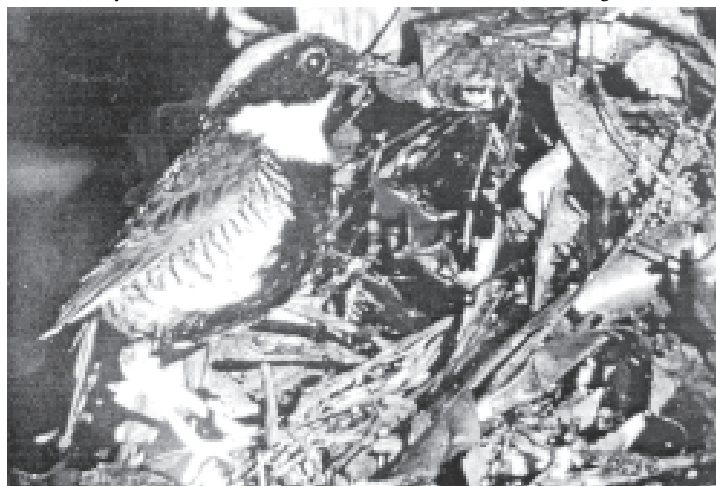
After a 60-year gap, WATT rediscovered White-browed Nuthatch at Natmataung (Mt. Victoria) National Garden in Chin State in April, 1995, and Blyth's Tragopan in Phonganrazi region in Kachin State in January and February, 1998.

Due to these rediscoveries, bird-lovers are making trips to the regions now.

Throughout the sur-



Inner part of tropical evergreen forest where Gurney's Pitta lives.



Endangered species named Gurney's Pitta that can be found in an area between latitudes 7 degree and 12 degree of Myanmar and Thailand.

was also found around Ranong in Thailand a few years later. It is said that the bird was last found in Myanmar in 1914 and in Thailand in 1936. It had not been found ever since and therefore was presumed extinct.

Gurney's Pittas resurfaced in Thailand in 1986 and, when continued search for them was made in Khanawchuchi, 39 pairs were found. However, only one percent of the tropical evergreen forest remained because of the clearance of the forest during the 15 years that followed. As a result, only 12 pairs were found to be living in that

A team of conservationists from WATT comprising Myanmar ornithologist Dr Htin Hla, U Sein Myo Aung (Ko Pan) and U Saw Moses, and Mr Jonathan Eames of Birdlife International, made a field trip to Kawthoung District in Taninthayi Division to search for endangered species of birds with the assistance of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, local organs of power and the Forest Department. The object of the team was to prove the existence of Gurney's pittas in Myanmar to international organizations on conservation of birds and to contribute to her efforts for



Ornithologists from home and abroad who discovered Gurney's Pitta.

vey work in Kawthoung, the team recorded a total of 222 species. Gold-Whiskered Barbet (*Megalaima Chrysopogon*) Refous backed Kingfisher (*Ceyx rufidorsa*), Cream-Vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus Simplex*) and Long-Billed Spiderhunter

(*Arachnothera robusta*), which they had thought would never exist in Myanmar, were also recorded.

Besides, the discovery of such endangered species as Plain-Pouched Hornbill (*Aceros*

Subruficollis), Wallace's Hawk Eagle (*Spizaetus nanus*), Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) was also recorded, it is learnt.

\*\*\*\*\*

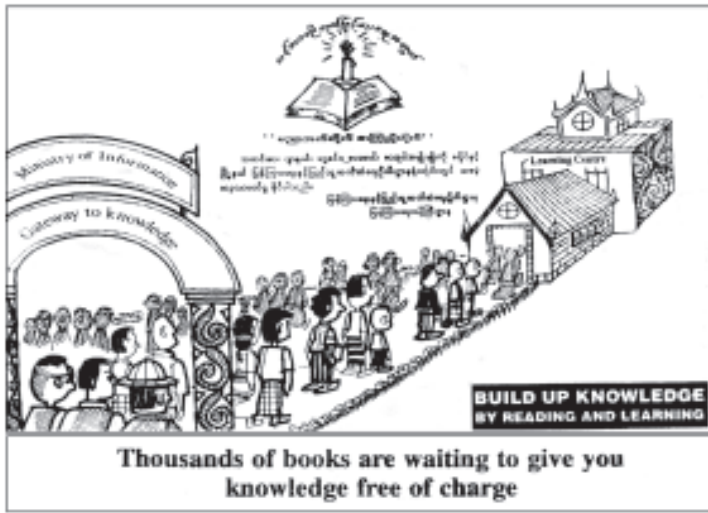
(Translation: Ko Nyi)

\*\*\*\*\*

(Kyemon: 18-6-2003)



View of tropical evergreen forest which is the habitat of Gurney's Pitta. pitta.



## ADVERTISEMENTS

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## 45% of Estonians use Internet

**RIGA, 19 June** — Some 45 per cent of Estonians between the age of 15 and 74 use the Internet, shows a poll released recently.

Some 59,000 new Internet users have been added within a year, the poll says.

The growth in the number of Internet users is the result of the increase in home computer owners and more convenient Internet access.

Half of the families with kids have a computer at home and most of them can get access to the Internet, the poll shows.

The growth has been faster among kids, with two-thirds of kids in the age of 6-14 using the Internet, compared with one-third of teenager Internet users a year ago, according to the poll.

Estonia is a Baltic state with a population of 1,350,000.

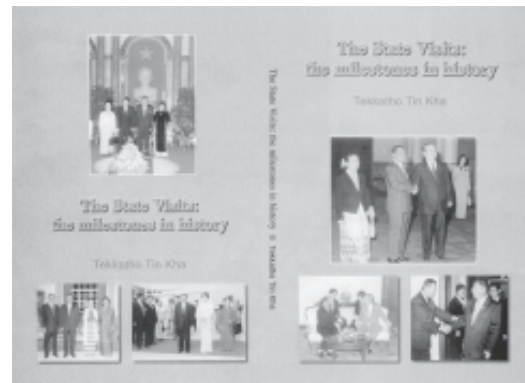
MNA/Xinhua

## ပြည်တွင်းပြင်ကိုအားပေးပါ

### သမိုင်းတွင်သမိုင်းတင်မည့် ချစ်ကြည်ရေးခရီးစဉ်မှတ်တမ်းများ

- \* ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံခေါင်းဆောင် နိုင်ငံတော်အေးချမ်းသာယာရေးနှင့် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကောင်စီဥက္ကဋ္ဌ ဗိုလ်ချုပ်မှူးကြီးသန်းရွှေ၏ သမိုင်းတွင် သမိုင်းတင်မည့် မလေးရှားနိုင်ငံ၊ ကမ္ဘောဒီးယားနိုင်ငံ၊ ဘရူနိုင်းနိုင်ငံ၊ ဘင်္ဂလားဒေ့ရှ်နိုင်ငံ၊ တရုတ်ပြည်သူ့သမ္မတနိုင်ငံနှင့် ဗီယက်နမ်နိုင်ငံများသို့ သွားရောက်ခဲ့သည့် ချစ်ကြည်ရေးခရီးစဉ် မှတ်တမ်းများ-
- \* မျိုးဆက်သစ်လူငယ်လူရွယ်များအတွက် ဗဟုသုတဖြစ်စေရမက နိုင်ငံအကျိုးသယံပိုးလိုစိတ်၊ နိုင်ငံတော်အားချစ်မြတ်နိုးစိတ်၊ မျိုးချစ်စိတ်ဓာတ်များ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်မြှင့်တင်လာစေမည့်-
- \* မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ၏ နိုင်ငံတကာဆက်ဆံရေးအမြင်ကို ပိုမိုကြည်လင်ထင်မြင်လာနိုင်စေမည့်-
- \* မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ၏ လွတ်လပ်တက်ကြွသော နိုင်ငံခြားရေးဝါဒနှင့် ငြိမ်းချမ်းစွာအတူယှဉ်တွဲနေထိုင်ရေး မူကြီးငါးရပ်ကို ထပ်ချပ်မကွာ လေ့လာမှတ်သားနိုင်မည့်-

## The State Visits: the milestones in history



- \* အင်္ဂလိပ်ဘာသာဖြင့် ထပ်မံထုတ်ဝေလိုက်ပါသည်။
- \* ကြွေစက္ကန့်ဖြင့် မှတ်တမ်းတင်ရောင်စုံဓာတ်ပုံများ ပုံနှိပ်ထားပါသည်။
- \* ပြန်ဆိုလိုက်ပါပြီ ရေးဆွဲသူ ကျော်စိုး -
- \* သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းစာအုပ်ဆိုင်နှင့် သတင်းစာကိုယ်စားလှယ်များထံတွင် လက်လီဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

**သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း**

၂၉၄၁၀၆

## THESE ARE THE FACTS OF THE

Some 45 per cent of Estonians between the age of 15 and 74 use the Internet, shows a poll released recently.

Some 59,000 new Internet users have been added within a year, the poll says.

**NGK**



The growth in the number of Internet users is the result of the increase in home computer owners and more convenient Internet access.

Half of the families with kids have a computer at home and most of them can get access to the Internet, the poll shows.

The growth has been faster among kids, with two-thirds of kids in the age of 6-14 using the Internet, compared with one-third of teenager Internet users a year ago, according to the poll.

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SEA BRIGHT VOY NO( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA BRIGHT Voy No( ) which arrived on 19-6-03 are hereby notified that their cargo will be discharged into the premises of ASIA WORLD PORT TERMINAL where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**AGENT FOR: ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**

Phone : 256914/256908/256924

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV YANGON STAR VOY NO(329)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR Voy No (329) which arrived on 19-6-03 are hereby notified that their cargo will be discharged in to the premises of M.I.T.T Terminal where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**  
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**  
**AGENT FOR: EAGLE CORPORATION, SINGAPORE**

Phone : 256914/256908/256924

**Drive safely**



# ပညာရေးနှင့် ခေတ်မီပို့ဒ်တိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

## ARF calls for cooperation in maintaining maritime security

PHNOM PENH, 19 June — The ongoing 10th ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) appealed here Wednesday for further cooperation in containing piracy and other threats to maritime security.

In a statement, ARF said piracy and the terrorist attacks on vulnerable sea shipping threaten the growth of the Asia-Pacific Region and disrupt the stability of global commerce.

It agreed to work together to maintain maritime security by combating piracy and armed-robbery and seeking early implementation of the comprehensive amendment to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and relative codes on maritime security.

It said reinforced bilateral and multilateral maritime cooperation among ARF members is necessary to combat piracy.

The forum urged the participants to provide, where and when possible, technical assistance and capacity-building infrastruc-

ture to countries that need help in developing necessary laws and extending training on fighting piracy.

It also suggested to enhance ARF participants' ability to share information domestically and internationally as a vital component in the fight against piracy and armed-robberies.

The forum agreed to endorse the ongoing efforts to establish a legal framework for regional cooperation to combat piracy and armed-robberies against ships.

In 2002, ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) and China signed the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea to safeguard the regional security, particularly maritime security.

MNA/Xinhua



An Indian woman holds her umbrella while walking on the street during pre-monsoon rain in New Delhi, on 18 June, 2003. Monsoon rains brought down temperatures across parts of India, easing a severe heat wave that has killed nearly 1,400 people in South Asia in three weeks. —INTERNET

## Chinese, US FMs meet on ASEAN sideline

PHNOM PENH, 19 June— Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing met with his US counterpart Colin Powell here Wednesday on the sideline of ASEAN meetings.

Li said that not long ago, Chinese President Hu Jintao and US President George Bush had a fruitful meeting in Evian of France, laying a good foundation for the future development of the Sino-US relations. He hoped the two sides would do a good job in carrying out the common understanding reached by the two leaders, strengthen high-level exchanges, expand dialogue and cooperation in various areas, handle properly dif-

ferences and make new progress in pushing forward the bilateral relations of constructive cooperation.

Li added that to the Chinese Government and the Chinese people, the Taiwan issue has always been and still is the most important, most sensitive one in the Sino-US relations, and hoped the US side would keep to the one China policy and its own promises and take practical actions to safeguard the relations.

MNA/Xinhua

## ASEAN, UNDP sign \$1.45m partnership agreement

PHNOM PENH, 19 June— The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed Wednesday a document to implement the 1.45 million US dollars ASEAN-UNDP Partnership Facility.

The facility will provide analytical and advisory support services to ASEAN to address current and emerging issues in the integration within ASEAN and with other countries. Under the agreement, the three-year partnership facility will focus on human development, globalization and economic governance.

Newer members of ASEAN like Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam will receive assistance to integrate them with multilateral arrangements such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The focus of the facility is to help ASEAN

members develop innovative approaches to the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) and develop the conceptual framework of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), and boost the region's economic competitiveness. UNDP Administrator Mark Malloch Brown said UNDP is delighted to renew the partnership with the ASEAN to address the economic disparity among the bloc's members. ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong, who signed the agreement, said "The UNDP has a well-established way of organizing things and executing projects and we've done much with the help from the UNDP." —MNA/Xinhua

## Japanese miso soup cuts breast cancer risk

TOKYO, 19 June— Women who eat three or more bowls of miso soup each day may cut their breast cancer risk sharply, Japanese researchers said on Wednesday.

Miso soup — a concoction of fermented soybean paste dissolved in broth flavoured with seaweed and bonito that usually includes bean curd and vegetables — appears on most Japanese tables at least once a day.

Researchers at Japan's National Cancer Centre said they found that the health benefits from the soup were due to the presence in soybeans of isoflavones, a powerful phytochemical, or compounds found only in plants.

They tracked the eating habits of 21,852 women aged between 40 and 59 for 10 years from 1990, according to an abstract of their findings published in the online edition of the US-based *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.

Women who had three or more bowls of miso soup daily reduced their risk of getting breast cancer by about 40 per cent compared with those who had only one bowl, while women who had two bowls daily cut their risk by 26 per cent.

Isoflavones are also a type of plant hormone whose chemical structure resembles oestrogen, albeit a weaker version. They are found in a number of legumes, such as chickpeas, but are most concentrated in soybeans.

MNA/Reuters

## NASA delays next Mars rover launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, 19 June — NASA said on Tuesday it would delay by a day to June 26 the launch of its next Mars rover, the second leg of an 800-million US dollars robotic exploration of the Red Planet.

The 24-hour delay had been expected because the first of the twin rovers, which was launched June 10, was delayed two days by bad weather at its Florida launch pad, giving NASA less time to prepare the second rover's *Delta 2* rocket for lift-off.

The two rovers, named Spirit and Opportunity, each about a size of a small golf cart or large lawn mower, are set to reach Mars in January, landing in areas scientists believe were once lake and river beds.

MNA/Reuters

## Russia to launch 35 military satellites in 2003

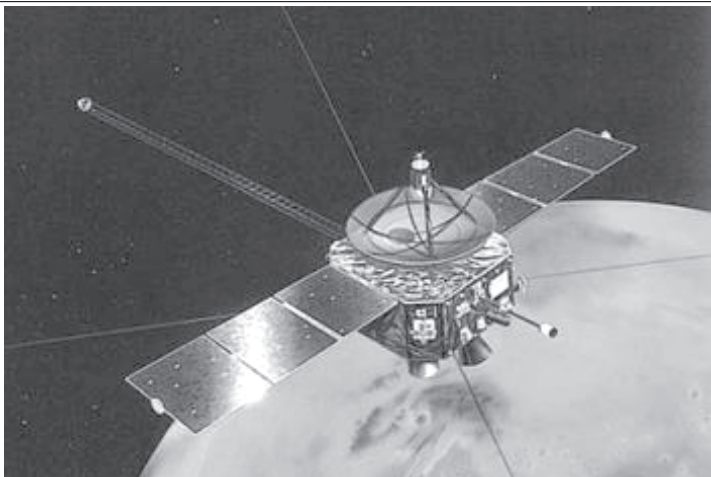
Moscow, 19 June— Russian space forces plan to launch 35 military satellites this year, Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said Wednesday. Ivanov said eight of the planned launches have already been carried out, the *Interfax* news agency reported.

In 2002 the space forces conducted 17 launches and put 22 satellites into orbit. Russia currently has some 100 military and dual-purpose satellites, said Ivanov, adding

that by 2006-2008 up to half of the satellites "will be dual-purpose".

He called for further development of the satellite fleet in the interests of the armed forces.

"Without a space component, we cannot speak of army reforms or the formation of advanced armed forces," he said after his visiting Energia Rocket and Space Corporation. — MNA/Xinhua



This is an artist illustration of Japan's first Mars-bound probe Nozomi carried on the Website of Japan's Institute of Space and Astronautical Science. Five years late, low on fuel and with its heating system on the blink, the 11 billion yen (US\$88 million) Nozomi, or 'Hope' appears to be in serious trouble. Mission controllers trying to keep the mission alive are to face a major test on 19 June, 2003, when Nozomi is scheduled to make its second swingby of Earth. The manoeuvre is intended to use the Earth's gravity as a slingshot to send the probe on its final trajectory to Mars. Experts admit the probe is limping. —INTERNET

## Polish paramedic charged with killing patients

WARSAW, 19 June— Prosecutors said on Tuesday they had charged a Polish paramedic with killing two emergency patients for profit in a grisly twist to an alleged scam run by ambulance crews and funeral parlours.

The paramedic, identified only as Andrzej N, had admitted giving lethal doses of Pavulon, a muscle relaxant, to two patients in 2000 and 2001 to get a cut of their state funeral benefits, prosecutors in the central city of Lodz said. The charges came 17 months into an investigation into media reports that doctors and paramedics in Lodz had tipped off undertakers of deaths in return for a cut of the benefits, worth 1,000 US dollars.

Andrzej N not only sold the information of deaths, but has admitted actually killing people to ensure he received the kick-backs, said Malgorzata Glapska, spokeswoman for the prosecutors' office in Lodz.

MNA/Reuters

# S P O R T S

## Beckham-mania grips globe as Spain gets new star

MADRID, 20 June— Beckham-mania spread across the globe on Wednesday as the England soccer captain's move to Real Madrid from Manchester United gripped fans from Spain to Japan, where the player arrived on a promotional tour.

David Beckham was welcomed in Tokyo by hundreds of screaming fans trying to come to terms with his switch to the Spanish club, while Spain prepared to greet a new king and fans of the English champions mourned the loss of a hero.

"God save the new king!" enthused one excited television reporter as the Spanish media — in which football and celebrity gossip vie for prominence — erupted at the prospect of the arrival of "Beck's" and his wife, former Spice Girl Victoria.

Real Madrid, nine-times European champions, beat off competition from arch-rivals Barcelona to sign the 28-year-old midfielder for a fee of 35 million euros, ending months of intense speculation about his future.

Beckham and his wife posed for photographs after arriving at Narita Airport near Tokyo, but gave reporters nothing more than a smile as a crowd of about 500 frantic fans jostled for a glimpse of the pin-up.

"I saw him! I saw him!" shouted Ayumi Hiwada, 39. "I'm really happy." Beckham, renowned for his ever-changing hairstyles and pop-star lifestyle, was setting foot in Japan for the first time since last year's World Cup.

In an astute stroke of timing, news of his transfer came just before his tour of Asia, home to millions of his most free-spending fans and a potentially lucrative market for the already star-studded Real Madrid team.

The near god-like status Beckham commands in Japan and other Asian nations was a major reason for Real's interest in him as the club looks to win over more fans in the soccer-mad region.

In Spain, pictures of the couple, the darlings of the British tabloid Press, were splashed over the front pages as local media dwelt on Beckham's glittering pop-star lifestyle and merchandising power — almost ignoring his talents on the field.

Real's training session at a ground a few kilometres north of their landmark Bernabeu Stadium in central Madrid was mobbed by British journalists vying for reaction from Beckham's future teammates, who carried on their work-out apparently unflustered.

Beckham's arrival could pose problems for a self-styled "galactic" team already overflowing with attacking footballing talent in the shape of Brazilian striker Ronaldo, Portuguese winger Luis Figo, French playmaker Zinedine Zidane and Spain striker Raul.

But the trip to Asia is less about his football skills than his bankability as a one-man marketing industry in commercials for products as diverse as chocolates and beauty treatments.

Japanese television broadcast his arrival live and news services sent their clients urgent headlines usually reserved for top economic news.

After three days in Japan, the Beckham bandwagon will move on to Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. Beckham could be back in Japan on August 5 for a pre-season friendly between Real and J-League club FC Tokyo. But not every Japanese fan was thrilled by Beckham's move, with some worried that he will struggle to get a game in a team packed with the world's best players.

"I'm against him going to Real, because he's Beckham and Manchester United is best for him," said 15-year-old Yu Nagaya, who was wearing a Manchester United shirt with Beckham's name on the back.

Distraught Manchester United fans poured out their woes on the club's official web site, worried that they will not be able to compete with the Spaniards in the Champions League. "Might as well hand Real Madrid the European Cup now. Real are the benchmark in European football and we sell them one of our best players. How are we meant to compete?" said Craig Hudson.

"I really hope United and Madrid meet in the Champions League," said Alexander Alexeev. "I want Becks to feel his error on leaving United. When he comes back to Old Trafford with his white uniform, he'll feel the pressure. I'm sure United will beat Real and win the Champions League next season."

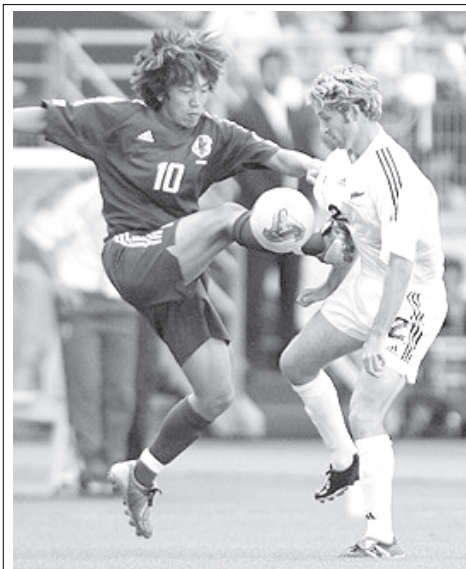
But as Beckham leaves Manchester United he might ponder the fate of others whose careers have turned sour after leaving the city's Theatre of Dreams. — MNA/Reuters

## Leading world transfer fees after Beckham's move to Real

LONDON, 19 June — Following is a list of leading world transfers after David Beckham's move from Manchester United to Real Madrid on Tuesday:

Player	Year	From	To	Fee (millions)
Zinedine Zidane	2001	Juventus	Real Madrid	\$64.4
Luis Figo	2000	Barcelona	Real Madrid	\$56.1
Hernan Crespo	2000	Parma	Lazio	\$54.1
Christian Vieri	1999	Lazio	Inter Milan	\$50.0
Rio Ferdinand	2002	Leeds	Man United	\$47.0
Gianluigi Buffon	2001	Parma	Juventus	\$45.9
Ronaldo	2002	Inter Milan	Real Madrid	\$44.2
David Beckham	2003	Man United	Real Madrid	\$41.3
Gaizka Mendieta	2001	Valencia	Lazio	\$41.0
Juan Veron	2001	Lazio	Man United	\$39.5
Pavel Nedved	2001	Lazio	Juventus	\$36.4
Nicolas Anelka	1999	Arsenal	Real Madrid	\$35.7
Marc Overmars	2000	Arsenal	Barcelona	\$35.5
Lilian Thuram	2001	Parma	Juventus	\$35.4
Denilson	1997	Sao Paulo	Betis	\$35.0
Rui Costa	2001	Fiorentina	AC Milan	\$34.9
Gabriel Batistuta	2000	Fiorentina	AS Roma	\$33.8
Marcio Amoroso	1999	Udinese	Parma	\$33.1
Gianluigi Buffon	2001	Parma	Juventus	\$32.8
Nicolas Anelka	2000	Real Madrid	PSG	\$31.2
Alessandro Nesta	2002	Lazio	AC Milan	\$29.7
Antonio Cassano	2001	Bari	Roma	\$28.8
Christian Vieri	1998	Atletico Madrid	Lazio	\$28.0
Hernan Crespo	2002	Lazio	Inter Milan	\$25.5

Note: All dollar conversion figures from time of transfer. — MNA/Reuters



Japanese midfielder Shunsuke Nakamura is challenged by New Zealander defender Duncan Oughton during their soccer Confederations Cup first round match at the Stade de France.

INTERNET



England and Manchester United soccer star David Beckham and his wife Victoria hold hands as they leave London's Heathrow Airport, on 17 June, 2003, en route to Tokyo and a four-nation tour of Asia. Beckham is currently at the centre of speculation that he is to leave Manchester United for either Barcelona, Real Madrid or AC Milan. —INTERNET

## Nakamura inspires Japan to winning start

PARIS, 19 June— Midfielder Shunsuke Nakamura scored twice to inspire Japan to a highly deserved 3-0 victory over outsiders New Zealand in the opening game of the Confederations Cup in Paris on Wednesday. Nakamura opened the scoring from close range in the 12th minute of a match the Japanese dominated from the start.

Captain Hidetoshi Nakata slotted his side's second goal after 65 minutes and Nakamura put the issue beyond doubt when he headed home a cross by midfielder Nobuhisa Yamada 15 minutes from time.

New Zealand are still without a win in the eight-nation tournament. In their previous appearance in 1999 the All Whites completed their campaign with three consecutive defeats.

"We could have scored or maybe had two more goals in the dying minutes of the game but I'm happy with the performance of my players tonight," said Japanese coach Zico.

"There was not much pressure and it looked like a training match which is good for the next two games." New Zealand worked hard in the first half but naive defending led to midfielder Nakamura's first goal. The Japanese, finalists of the

tournament on home soil two years ago, were well organized and New Zealand failed to create single chance throughout the first half. Zico's side should have increased their lead before the interval but strikers Yoshito Okubo and Takahara squandered two clear chances. "The first 45 minutes are a huge disappointment," said New Zealand coach Mike Waitt. "We were unable to keep and to carry the ball when we had it." —MNA/Reuters

## Krajicek pulls out of Wimbledon Open

BRUSSELS, 19 June— Former champion Richard Krajicek has withdrawn from next week's Wimbledon Open after he was beaten 6-4, 7-6 by Frenchman Olivier Mutis on Tuesday at the Ordina Open in Den Bosch, Netherlands.

The 32-year-old Dutchman was subdued throughout his game, committing 13 double faults in the first-round defeat.

Krajicek's coach Rohan Goetzke said the 1996 Wimbledon champion was still suffering from a longstanding elbow injury.

MNA/Xinhua



# MRTV-3



20-6-2003\* (Friday)

(Programme Schedule)

**Morning Transmission**  
(9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune  
Greetings  
Coming up
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Photo by Artist
- 9:10 **Headline News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes "Pork Curry  
mixed with Vegeta-  
ble Sour Soup"
- 9:15 **National News**
- 9:20 Let Us Preserve the  
Watershed Areas
- 9:25 Scenic Beauty of  
Htantalan & Cultural  
Dance
- 9:30 **National News**
- 9:35 Myanmar Traditional  
Flower Arrange-  
ments (Decoration  
with Lacquer)
- 9:40 Songs On Screen  
"One and Only Yours  
(Maung Mu Paing  
Shin)"
- 9:45 **National News**
- 9:50 Lifestyles along the  
Ayeyawady (Manda-  
lay to Pyay) (Part-II)
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and  
See Myanmar"
- 10:00 Close Down

**20-6-2003\* (Friday)**  
**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 "Myanmar  
Panorama &  
Myanmar Sentiment"
- 13:06 Power Aerobic  
"Let's Exercise For  
Fitness & Health"
- 13:10 **Headline News**
- 13:12 Myanmar Cuisine  
"Banana pudding"
- 13:15 **National News**
- 13:20 The Wooden  
Walking Stick
- 13:25 Lively Dancer,  
Myanmar Mintha
- 13:28 To Combine Forces  
of Agricultural and  
Industrial Sector
- 13:30 **National News**
- 13:35 Myanmar Traditional  
Food "Pone Ye Gyi"
- 13:40 Myanmar Modern  
Song "Everlasting"
- 13:42 Historical Shwe Inpin  
Monastery
- 13:45 **National News**
- 13:50 Tiger Population  
Counting (Part-I)
- 13:58 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and  
See Myanmar"
- 14:00 Close Down

**20-6-2003\* (Friday)**  
**Regular Programmes for**  
**Viewers from Abroad**  
**Evening Transmission**  
**(18:00 - 19:00)**

- 18:00 Signature Tune  
Greetings  
Coming up
- 18:02 Song of Myanmar

- Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 18:06 Photo by Artist
- 18:10 **Headline News**
- 18:12 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes "Pork Curry  
mixed with Vegeta-  
ble Sour Soup"
- 18:15 **National News**
- 18:20 Let Us Preserve the  
Watershed Areas
- 8:25 Scenic Beauty of  
Htantalan & Cultural  
Dance
- 18:30 **National News**
- 18:35 Myanmar Traditional  
Flower Arrange-  
ments (Decoration  
with Lacquer)
- 18:40 Songs On Screen  
"One and Only Yours  
(Maung Mu Paing  
Shin)"
- 18:45 **National News**
- 18:50 Lifestyles along the  
Ayeyawady  
(Mandalay to Pyay)  
(Part-II)
- 18:58 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and  
See Myanmar"
- 19:00 Close Down

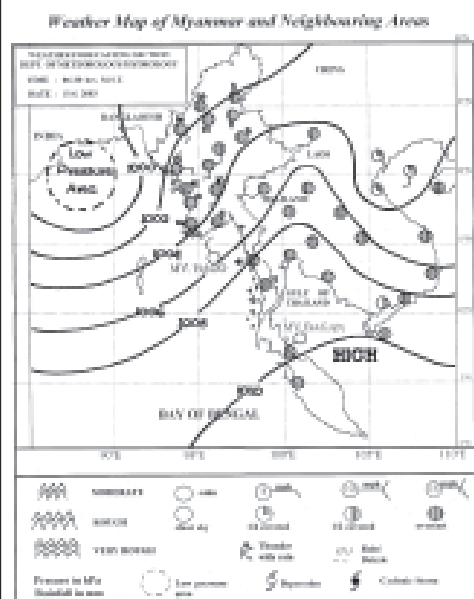
**21-6-2003\* (Saturday)**  
**Regular Programmes for**  
**Viewers from Abroad**  
**Morning Transmission**  
**(2:00 - 4:00)**

- 2:00 Signature Tune  
Greetings  
Coming up
- 2:02 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Myanmar  
Panorama &  
Myanmar Sentiment"
- 2:06 Photo by Artist
- 2:10 **Headline News**
- 2:12 Easily Cooked Tasty  
Dishes "Pork Curry  
mixed with Vegeta-  
ble Sour Soup"

- 2:15 **National News**
- 2:20 Let Us Preserve the  
Watershed Areas
- 2:25 Scenic Beauty of  
Htantalan & Cultural  
Dance
- 2:30 **National News**
- 2:35 Myanmar Traditional  
Flower Arrange-  
ments (Decoration  
with Lacquer)
- 2:40 Songs On Screen  
"One and Only Yours  
(Maung Mu Paing  
Shin)"
- 2:45 **National News**
- 2:50 Lifestyles along The  
Ayeyawady  
(Mandalay to Pyay)  
(Part-II)
- 2:58 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 3:00 **National News**
- 3:05 A New Tourist Des-  
tination "Myanmar"
- 3:12 Myanmar Cuisine  
"Banana Pudding"
- 3:15 **National News**
- 3:20 The Wooden Walk-  
ing Stick
- 3:25 Lively Dancer,  
Myanmar Mintha
- 3:28 To Combine Forces  
of Agricultural and  
Industrial Sector
- 3:30 **National News**
- 3:35 Myanmar Traditional  
Food "Pone Ye Gyi"
- 3:40 Myanmar Modern  
Song "Everlasting"
- 3:42 Historical Shwe Inpin  
Monastery
- 3:45 **National News**
- 3:50 Tiger Population  
Counting (Part-1)
- 3:58 Song of Myanmar  
Beauty & Scenic  
Sights "Come and  
See Myanmar"
- 4:00 Close Down



**CO-ORD MEETING HELD:** Yangon City Development Committee Joint Secretary U Kyi Win attends the co-ordination meeting on keeping the city clean and pleasant at the Environmental Conservation and Sanitation Department of the YCDC on 19-6-2003. Head of the Department U Tun Than Tun explains work progress. — YCDC



## WEATHER

Thursday, June 19

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State, rain or thundershowers have been scattered in Mandalay Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in lower Sagaing and Yangon Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Coco Island (3.15) inches, Mawlamyine (2.60) inches, Hpa-an (2.48) inches, Kyaukpau (2.19) inches, Ye (2.17) inches, Dawei (2.01) inches and Kanbalu (1.89) inches.

Maximum temperature on 18-6-2003 was 30.5°C (87°F). Minimum temperature on 19-6-2003 was 22.0°C (72°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 19-6-2003 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 18-6-2003 was nil. Rainfall on 19-6-2003 was 5 mm at Yangon Airport, 4 mm at Kaba-Aye and 4 mm at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 616 mm (24.25 inches) at Yangon Airport, 667 mm (26.28 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 748 mm (29.45 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from South at (14:20) hours MST on 18-6-2003. **Bay inference:** According to the observations at (06.30) hrs MST today, yesterday's low pressure area over North Bay still persists. Monsoon is strong in the Bay of Bengal.

**Forecast valid until evening of 20-6-2003:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Kayah State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%). **State of the sea:** Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Increase of rain in the whole country. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 20-6-2003:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 20-6-2003:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).



View today:

Friday, June 20

- 7:00 am
- 1. Recitation of Parittas  
by Missionary Sayadaw  
U Ottamathara
- 7:25 am
- 2. To be healthy exercise
- 7:30 am
- 3. Morning news
- 7:40 am
- 4. Nice and sweet song
- 7:55 am
- 5. လွန်ရှားပုံပြင်စိတ်ဖျော်ရွှင်
- 8:10 am
- 6. The mirror images of the  
musical oldies

- 8:20 am
- 7. တင်တော့
- 8:30 am
- 8. International news
- 8:45 am
- 9. English for Everyday Use
- 4:00 pm
- 1. Martial song
- 4:10 pm
- 2. Song to uphold national  
spirit
- 4:25 pm
- 3. Practice in reading
- 4:40 pm
- 4. Musical programme
- 4:50 pm
- 5. အစောသင်တန်းသို့လုံညာရေး  
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ  
တတ်ယူရန်  
(သင်္ချာအထူးပြု) (သင်္ချာ)
- 5:05 pm
- 6. Song of national races

- 5:15 pm
- 7. "သစ်သစ်ပွင့်စာ"  
သွားသို့ မိုးဒီ  
မြင်မြင်မိုးဒီ, မိုးဒီဒီ  
ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုးထွန်း
- 5:35 pm
- 8. Musical programme
- 5:45 pm
- 9. နည်းစနစ်မှန်မှန်  
အားတေးအခြေခံ
- 5:55 pm
- 10. Musical programme
- 6:10 pm
- 11. Discovery
- 6:30 pm
- 12. Evening news
- 7:00 pm
- 13. Weather report
- 7:05 pm
- 14. မေတ္တာရောင်ပြန့် (အပိုင်း-၂၀)  
(စာတတ်ပို့စိုး)

- 7:25 pm
- 15. ဝင်ရောက်သည့်  
သီးနှံသစ်ပွင့်စားစီးယား
- 7:30 pm
- 16. Songs of yesteryears
- 7:40 pm
- 17. တိုင်းကျိုးပြည်ပြည်ဆောင်မှု
- 8:00 pm
- 18. News
- 19. International news
- 20. Weather report
- 21. Myanmar video  
feature:  
"အစားထိုးကိန်းရာ"  
(အပိုင်း-၂)  
လူပေါင်း, ရာစာချင်း  
မိုးမြိတ်ရာ  
ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်မြိုးမင်း  
(ရင်ကျိုးမြို့)
- 21. The next day  
programme



Tune in today:

Friday, June 20

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

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

- 1:45 pm
- National news/Slogan
- 1:55 pm
- Music/Article
- 2:05 pm
- International news
- 2:15 pm
- Music
- 2:20 pm
- Article/Music
- 2:35 pm
- ASEAN review :  
Weekly news
- 2:45 pm
- Harmony time

- 9:00 pm
- World of music
- Songs from Japan,  
Germany, Philippines
- 9:15 pm
- Article
- 9:25 pm
- Music at your request
- 9:45 pm
- News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm
- Portfolio for easy  
listening



State Peace and Development Council member Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects 20 acres of orange plantation near Namphatka Village.— MNA

## Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects coal mine and agricultural projects

YANGON, 19 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and party, inspected the crops plantations, saplings and fruits in Kutkai Station on 17 June.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party arrived at the new building construction project site in the Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Mongle Village in Hsenwi Township. Project Manager U Win Maung of Asia World Co Ltd reported to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe on the purpose and layout of the new building. Lashio District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Kyaw Shwe reported on setting up of firewood plantations for the village, development, agriculture and livestock breeding tasks of the region.

Township Education Officer Daw Nan Mya Lon reported on academic matters. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe fulfilled the requirements to set up the village as a model one and inspected round the new building. The building

comprises 10 classrooms and one meeting hall.

Then, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party arrived at the worksite of Narhlian coal mine in Lashio Township. Lt-Col Myo Kyin reported to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe on coal-mining prospects in North-East Command Area. Then, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected the coal samples and the coal mine with 1400 feet in length, 1000 feet in width and 55 feet in thickness.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party proceeded to the local battalion in Lashio and inspected 10 acres model plots of thriving monsoon groundnut and pesingon. Then, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party arrived at the

high-yield monsoon Hsinshweli paddy model-farm irrigated by Humon Dam in Lashio. At the briefing hall, the responsible official of the farm reported to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe on yield of summer paddy and arrangements for cultivation of monsoon paddy. Then, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected the nursery of Hsinshweli paddy for monsoon cultivation.

Then, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party arrived at the poppy-substitute 300-acre plantation of honey orange of Lin Tun Co of Kunlong Region Development Association in Naungmon Village. Chairman of the company U Lin Tun reported to the (See page 9)

## Lt-Gen Maung Bo tours Kawthoung

YANGON, 19 June—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence attended the ceremony to drive the stake and to lay cornerstone for the Home for the Aged in Ayeyeknye Ward, Kawthoung, on 17 June morning. Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and members, senior military officers of Kawthoung Station, Chairman of Kawthoung District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Phyoo and departmental officials, members of Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Working Committee for Women's Affairs, social organizations and wellwishers.

First, the commander gave a speech. Then, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, the commander and officials drove stakes at the designated places and laid cornerstones.

Next, officials accepted K 20,450,000 for construction of the Home for the Aged donated by 22 wellwishers including K 300,000 by Lt-Gen Maung Bo and family; K 200,000 by Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and wife and family; K 500,000 by Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council; K 9.5 million by U Kyaw

Lwin (Golden Bear Co); K 5 million by U Kaung-Daw Cho and family; K 1 million by Myanmar Universal Bank; K 5 million by U Aung Soe (Thida Co); K 5 million by Seashore Fishery Entrepreneur Association; and K 500,000 by U Thu Kha-Daw Aye Aye Mu and family.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and the commander inspected construction of the new school building of Shweminwun Basic Education High School in Padaukshwewa Ward and the retaining walls between Myoma Bridge and Bayintnaung Bridge in Kawthoung. They heard reports of the officials and attended to their needs. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party then viewed SARS surveillance works being carried out to passengers at the Myoma Jetty.

They went to Pyidawaye Sasana Beikman in Kawthoung and paid homage to members of the Sangha. Lt-Gen Maung Bo supplicated on religious affairs and donated provisions to Township Sangha Nayaka Committee Chairman Aungchantha Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Panāsami. They then proceeded to Kawthoung District Hospital and inspected the medical wards.

Next, they saw over the place where the View Point will be built. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe inspects repair of ancient buildings at Yangon Zoological Gardens.— YANGON COMMAND

## Work Committee for Upgrading of Kandawgyi Garden and Yangon Zoological Gardens meets

YANGON, 19 June — The second coordination meeting of the Work Committee for Upgrading of Kandawgyi Garden and Yangon Zoological Gardens took place at the Agricultural Museum in Myepadetha Park in Kandawgyi Garden here this afternoon.

It was attended by Chairman of the Work Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and members Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint, Deputy Minister for Forestry Col Thaik Tun, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Myo Myint, Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Managing Director of Myanma Agricultural Service U Tun Than, Director-General of the Forest Department U Shwe Kyaw, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Tint, local authorities, Dr Khin Shwe of Zaygabar Col Ltd, U Win Aung of Wood Land Co Ltd, departmental

officials and guests.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander dealt with measures being taken for upgrading of Kandawgyi Garden and Yangon Zoological Gardens dividing the areas into four zones — Central Symbol Zone, Education Zone, Recreation Zone and Relaxation Zone. He then invited respective chairmen of subcommittee of the four zones to discuss tasks being undertaken sector-wise and future tasks.

Then, Deputy Minister Col Thaik Tun reported on preparations for upgrading of the central symbol zone and future plans; Director-General of the Fisheries Department U Than Tun, on arrangements for renovation of the Aquarium in the education zone; Dr Khin Shwe, on tasks being carried out in the recreation zone; Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, on conditions of restaurants and measures to be taken for upgrading of them in the relaxation zone; Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint, on tasks for cleanliness of Kandawgyi Lake and requirements for upgrading of the

agricultural museum and plantations; and Head of the Parks and Playgrounds Department U Nyunt Pe, on conditions of shops in the gardens.

Next, Managing Director U Win Aung gave an account on layout of buildings in the zones; and Deputy Minister U Myo Myint, Managing Director of Myanma Electric Power Enterprise Dr San Oo, Director-General U Shwe Kyaw, and Director of the Themis Services U Maung Maung Khin, on tasks for upgrading of the gardens.

The commander made concluding remarks and then inspected the tasks in the recreation zone. Dr Khin Shwe conducted him round the zone. The commander gave instructions. At the office of Yangon Zoological Gardens Upgrading Project, Director U Maung Maung Khin reported on work progress. The commander and party then inspected renovation of ancient buildings, progress of land preparations and future tasks and left necessary instructions. — MNA