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Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets with departmental officials and social organizations of Shwebo District and Township in Shwebo. — MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets departmental officials in Shwebo District

YANGON, 23 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung of regional station, military officers and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departments met departmental officials in Shwebo District, members of social organizations and townsenders at Yangyiaung Hall in Shwebo on 21 June.

Present were Chairman of Shwebo District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Than Han and members, chairmen of Township Peace and Development Councils and members, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townsenders.

Chairman Lt-Col Than Han reported on geographical

conditions, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, oil crops, beans and pulses, cotton and sugarcane and maize, surplus of paddy and edible oil in the region, arrangements for boosting production of paddy under the project and production and services, increase of individual income, livestock breeding and five rural development tasks and greening tasks.

Commander Brig-Gen Soe Naing gave a supplementary report on data on Shwebo and regional development and development of Sagaing Division.

Next, departmental officials, members of Township Peace and Development Councils reported on work done for regional development and requirements. Lt-Gen Ye Myint then fulfilled the requirements.

(See page 8)

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects airport construction projects in Monywa, Kyaukhtu

YANGON, 23 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, accompanied by Commander-in-Chief (Air) Maj-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Vice Quartermaster-General Maj-Gen Kyaw Win, Director of Military Engineers Maj-Gen Tin Tun, Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Zaw Min, Director-General U Win Maung of Directorate of Civil Aviation and officials, inspected Monywa Airport Construction Project yesterday morning.

At the briefing hall, Director-General U Win Maung of DCA reported on construction of the tarred and concrete runway which is 100 feet wide and 8,500 feet long in the first

phase, completion of 3,300 feet long earth works out of 6,000 feet, other construction works, completion of driving stakes for the airport building and preparations for construction of the 600' by 300' apron. Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected construction works of the airport and gave instructions on tasks to be carried out for timely completion meeting the set standard.

The previous runway of Monywa Airport was 5,000 feet long and 100 feet wide with gravelly soil type. It can withstand 4,500-pound loads. According to the guidance given by Senior General Than Shwe in his inspection tour in April 2002, the 100 feet wide and 8,500 feet long airport was to be built together with the 600 feet long and 300 feet wide apron in the first phase. Then, the runway will be upgraded into 10,000 feet long and 200 feet wide one in the second phase.

(See page 8)

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

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Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects progress of Monywa Airport construction project. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 24 June, 2003

For development of every community and region

It goes without saying that development of human resources is the key to the development of a nation. Therefore the Government of the Union of Myanmar has been taking necessary steps for the development of human resources not only in urban areas but also in rural areas.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe is convinced that, only with the development of rural areas, will the national development be complete. Accordingly, he has given guidance on the nation-wide implementation of rural development tasks.

Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony to donate exercise books and pencils to primary schools in Dalla, Twantay, Kawhmu and Kungyangon townships. It was held at the Township Hall in Dalla on the other day.

In his address on the occasion, General Khin Nyunt said that the national development would become a reality only when the number of educated people increased. Therefore, school enrolment campaign was being carried out on a national scale and, due to the cooperation and assistance of the entire national people for needy children, the rate of enrolment at primary schools became higher, he added.

Stationery donated to 13,070 children from 138 basic education primary schools in four townships of Yangon South District was worth K 5 million.

We cannot expect the Government to provide assistance to children of each and every family too poor to send their offspring to school. Therefore, the Government is not only providing as much help as it can but also encouraging the generosity of benevolent people.

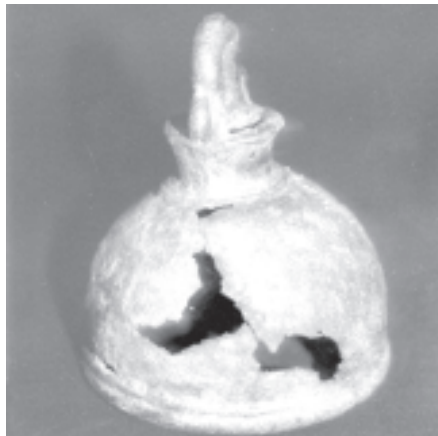
In transportation sector in this region, Twantay-Dalla Road and Dalla-Kungyangon Road have been upgraded and Dedaye Bridge has also been built on Kungyangon Road. Therefore, the region has achieved better transportation now.

It is the duty of all the employees of the State to make field trips and to fulfil the requirements of the grass roots.

While the government is making efforts for the regional development with added momentum, local people and service personnel are to cooperate in this task with might and main.



A bronze Buddha image and a small bell of Pyu era unearthed from Site No D-2 of Mound No BTO-13 on ancient Beikthano city. — CULTURE



A small bell of Pyu era unearthed from Site No D-2 of Mound No BTO-13 on ancient Beikthano city. — CULTURE

Ancient bronze Buddha image, bell unearthed in Beikthano

YANGON, 23 June — Under the programme to excavate ancient cultural objects at Beikthano ancient city in Taungdwingyi Township in Magway Division, an excavating group led by Deputy Director U Thein Lwin of Archaeology Department of the Ministry of Culture systematically excavated the remaining mounds in Beikthano ancient city starting 3 June. The excavations

led by Research Officer U Paing Soe dug up Site No D-2 of Mound No BTO-13 on 11 June morning and found a bronze Buddha image and a small bell of Pyu era about 3 feet away. Learned Sayadaws remarked that the image is similar to that of ancient Arjanta stone caves in the west of India. It is a very ancient one. The head, the hair, the way of wearing robes and lower

fringes of robes were distinctly depicted. The reverend Sayadaws confirmed that the image depicts the Buddha sitting comfortably in Arsana posture of Vitakka Mudra. The image is six inches high and 2.5 inches in width. As it had been in the ground for ages, verdigris covers the image forming some cracks. The small bell, three inches in height

and eight inches in girth, is a bell of Pyu era. The Archaeology Department has excavated Beikthano ancient city since 1959 and found no Buddha image. So, scholars then assumed that there was no practice of worshipping Buddha images. The image is the first unearthed at the city, and it can now be stated firmly that Buddhism flourished in the city. — MNA



Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun addresses opening ceremony of General Banking Service Course (Officer Level). — F&R

General Banking Service Course opened

YANGON, 23 June — The General Banking Service Course (Officer Level) of the Banks Supervisory Committee was opened at the meeting hall of Central Bank of Myanmar this morning with an address by Minister for Finance and

Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun. In his address, the minister said the course was opened aimed at enhancing work efficiency leading to harmonizing the banking services. Myanmar Bankers Association being a member of ASEAN Bank-

ers Association, there will be increased contacts and dealings in banking services between Myanmar and other ASEAN countries in future, he added. A total of 62 trainees are attending the eight-week course. Patron of the banking services

supervisory committee Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, F & R Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Tun, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and officials also attended the opening ceremony. — MNA

ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထိန်းသိမ်းမှု (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ ကာကွယ်ရေး သတိပေးနည်းစာချက်

၁။ ယခုအခါ ကမ္ဘာ့နိုင်ငံအချို့တွင် ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထိန်းသိမ်းမှု (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ ဖြစ်ပွားလျက်ရှိပါသည်။ ဤရောဂါသည် ကိုရိုနာ (Corona) အုပ်စုဝင် ဗိုင်းရပ်စ်(စ်)ရိုးကြောင့် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အဆိုပါဗိုင်းရပ်စ်(စ်)ရိုးကြောင့် နှာရည်၊ နှာရည်၊ ချွဲသလိပ်များမှတစ်ဆင့်သော်လည်းကောင်း၊ လူနာအသုံးအဆောင် ပစ္စည်းမှ တစ်ဆင့်သော်လည်းကောင်း အသက်ရှူလမ်းကြောင်းမှ ခန္ဓာကိုယ် အတွင်းသို့ ဝင်ရောက်၍ ရောဂါဖြစ်ပေါ်ပါသည်။

၂။ ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထိန်းသိမ်းမှု (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ၏ လက္ခဏာများမှာ-

- (က) ကိုယ်အပူချိန် (38°C) သို့မဟုတ် (100.5°F) ထက်ပို၍မြင့်တက်လာခြင်းနှင့်
- (ခ) အသက်ရှူလမ်းကြောင်းဆိုင်ရာ ရောဂါလက္ခဏာများ ဖြစ်သည် - ရောဂါဆိုးခြင်း၊
- အသက်ရှူမဝခြင်း၊
- အသက်ရှူရခက်ခဲခြင်းနှင့်
- (ဂ) အောက်ပါအကြောင်းတစ်ခုခုရှိခြင်း - ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထိန်းသိမ်းမှု (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါရှိသူလူနာ (သို့မဟုတ်) လူနာနှင့် အနီးကပ်

ထိတွေ့သူများနှင့် ထိတွေ့မှုရှိခြင်း - ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထိန်းသိမ်းမှု (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ ဖြစ်ပွားနေသည့် နိုင်ငံများမှ လွန်ခဲ့သည့် နှစ်ပတ်အတွင်း ဖြန့်လှင်း ရောက်ရှိခြင်း တို့ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၃။ ဤရောဂါသည် အသက်အရွယ်မရွေး ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်ပါသည်။ သို့ရာတွင် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါသူများတွင် ရောဂါ ဖိုမိုဖြစ်ပွားလွယ်ပါသည်။

- (က) ကလေးငယ်များနှင့် သက်ကြီးရွယ်အိုများ
- (ခ) ဆီးချိုရောဂါရှိသူများ
- (ဂ) နာတာရှည်အဆုတ်နှင့် အသက်ရှူလမ်းကြောင်းဆိုင်ရာ ရောဂါရှိသူများ
- (ဃ) ကိုယ်ခန္ဓာအားကျစေသည့် ဆေးဝါး၊ နှစ်သက်သုံးနေသူများ (ဥပမာ-ကော်တီဆိုး ပါဝင်သည့်ဆေးဝါး၊ ကင်ဆာရောဂါ ဖျားစသည့်ခြင်း)
- ၄။ အသက်ရှူလမ်းကြောင်းမှ ကူးစက်သော ရောဂါဖြစ်သဖြင့် ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထိန်းသိမ်းမှု (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားမှုမှ ကာကွယ်ရန် အောက်ပါအချက်များကို လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
- (က) တစ်ကိုယ်ရေသန့်ရှင်းမှုကို ဂရုပြုဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း
- (ခ) အာဟာရပြည့်ဝသည့်အစားအစာများစားသုံးခြင်း

- (ဂ) ကောင်းမွန်စွာအိပ်စက်အနားယူခြင်း
- (ဃ) ကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုမှန်မှန်ပြုလုပ်ခြင်း
- (င) နာချေ၊ ရောဂါဆိုးလျှင်လက်ကိုင်ပုစွန်ဖြင့်ဖုံးအုပ်ခြင်း
- (စ) ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထိန်းသိမ်းမှု (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ လက္ခဏာရှိသူများအား ခွဲစိတ်စစ်ဆေးမှု (surgical mask) ဝတ်ရုံ (gown)၊ ပလပ်စတစ်ရှေးဖူးခါးစည်း (apron)နှင့် ပလပ်စတစ်လက်အိတ် (gloves) အသုံးပြု၍ လူနာနှင့်ထိတွေ့ခြင်း၊ လူနာအသုံးအဆောင် ပစ္စည်းများ ကိုင်တွယ်ခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ခြင်း
- (ဆ) ကူးစက်ရောဂါကို ထိရောက်စွာ ကာကွယ်ရန်အတွက် လက်ကို ဆပ်ပြာနှင့် စင်ကြယ်စွာ ဆေးကြောခြင်း
- (ဇ) လူထုထိန်းသိမ်းရေးများနှင့် ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားနေသော နိုင်ငံများသို့ ခရီးသွားလာခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ခြင်း
- ၅။ ကိုယ်အပူချိန်မြင့်တက်ခြင်း၊ ကိုယ်လက်ကိုင်ခက်ခဲခြင်း၊ ခေါင်းကိုက်ခြင်း၊ ရောဂါဆိုးခြင်း၊ လည်ချောင်းနာခြင်း၊ ဖောပန်းခြင်း၊ အသက်ရှူကြပ်ခြင်း၊ ရင်ဘတ်အောက်ခြင်းစသည့်လက္ခဏာများဖြစ်ပွားပါက ကုသမှုရယူရန် ရှေ့ဌာန/ဆေးရုံ/ဆေးပေးခန်းများတွင်သွား၍ ဆေးကုသမှုရယူရန် သတိပေးနည်းစာချက်အပိုပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Attacks in Iraq traced to network

FALLUJAH (Iraq), 23 June —Groups of armed fighters from the Baath Party and security agencies of ousted President Saddam Hussein have organized a loose network called the Return to harass US occupation forces, with the goal of driving them out of the country, and the group is partially responsible for the string of fatal attacks on American soldiers in recent weeks, according to US and Iraqi officials.

The intensified resistance has been reinforced by the participation of foreign fighters coming into Iraq, L Paul Bremer, the civilian administrator of Iraq, told reporters at a conference in Jordan today. "We do see signs of outside involvement in a number of ways," he said. Bremer said that "we so far don't see signs of command and control in these attacks," adding that it appears largely to be small groups of five to 10 people.

According to the officials, the Return, or Awdah in Arabic, has been assembled by Iraqis who possessed funds, weapons, transportation, listening devices and informants at the end of the war. The Iraqis retained the

equipment provided to them by Hussein's government. Although the hierarchical structure of Hussein's security and political agencies has been broken, the relationships among secret police, intelligence officials and Baathists endure, the Iraqi and US officials said.

The mounting US casualty toll and the sophistication of recent ambushes have deepened fears among US officials that the military is facing a guerrilla war. The center of the resistance is a crescent of central Iraq dominated by Sunni Muslims, a minority who were the key base of support for Hussein's government and his repressive security apparatus. —Internet



A cameraman walks away from the raging fire of a gas pipeline in the town of Hit, around 150 kilometres (95 miles) northwest of Baghdad. Residents said the pipeline was sabotaged in an overnight attack to disrupt US efforts to rebuild the battered country with revenue from its vast oil and gas reserves. According to a senior oil ministry official, the pipeline linked Iraq's southern oil fields to Baghdad's main Dura oil refinery. — INTERNET

Five Asian nations pledge cooperative fight against drugs

CHIANG, 23 June —Ministers from China, Thailand, India, Myanmar and Laos on Saturday expressed here their determination to jointly solve the drug problems in the area.

The five nations will send their ministers responsible for the anti-drug issues to attend a meeting to be held next month in Thailand to discuss specific co-operative measures which were aimed at making the region free of drug, Thai Foreign Minister Surakiat Sathirathai said at a news briefing.

The five ministers reviewed the region's drug problem on a sideline meeting of the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Co-operation Dialogue which is being held between Saturday and Sunday in northern Thailand province Chiang Mai, some 600 kilometres north of Bangkok.

The ministers agreed that the whole region now was faced with severe challenge posed by the large-scale pro-

duction of amphetamine pill while the production of heroin was gradually going down with the crop replacement project initiated by Thailand and China.

The ministers also called for efforts to create a favourable context to solve the drug problems, which were closely related to terrorism, human trafficking and money laundry etc.

The five-country cooperation would be an effective and important part of the international anti-drug efforts including related projects of the United Nations and the Association of South-East Asian Nations, said Surakiat.

He noted that police have arrested many drug dealers and seized a great number of amphetamine pills through the information exchange system between the five countries.

He also revealed that Myanmar and Laos planned to eradicate poppy plantation in the year of 2004 and 2005 respectively.

The Chinese Government is ready to contribute to the anti-drug cooperation between the five nations so as to fight against poppy plantation and drug trafficking in the border region, said Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippines considers readopting death penalty on drug crime

MANILA, 23 June —The Philippine Government was studying calls to lift the moratorium on capital punishment for convicts of drug-related crimes, Presidential Spokesman Ignacio Bunye said Friday.

The government would have to review the status of convicts currently on death row before deciding whether the moratorium should be lifted, the Philippine Daily Inquirer online news quoted Bunye as saying.

"The President is very seriously pursuing this anti-drug campaign," Bunye said.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo suspended the implementation of the death penalty after she assumed the presidency in January 2001.

MNA/Xinhua

Disruption to oil pipeline threatens to Baghdad refinery

BAGHDAD, 23 June —An Oil Ministry official said any disruption to the oil pipeline could hit Baghdad's main refinery, forcing it to rely on crude from the south, where oil facilities are in bad shape.

The refinery at al-Doura serves a city whose five million people have barely had time to forget the misery of petrol queues that snaked through sweltering streets for weeks after US-led forces toppled Saddam Hussein on 9 April.

Iraq, which exported around two million barrels per day (bpd) before the US-led war, relaunched oil sales Sunday from eight million barrels stored in Turkey. A Turkish tanker loaded a million barrels of oil bound for Turkish refineries from the Mediterranean terminal of

Ceyhan.

De facto oil minister Thamir Ghadhban said Saturday it would take 18 months —and well over \$1 billion— to restore pre-war production capacity of three million bpd.

Postwar looting and sabotage at oil facilities have delayed the resumption of Iraq's oil exports and will keep shipments well below pre-war levels for several months, officials say.

Iraqi oil pipelines and installations are spread over vast swathes of sparsely populated desert that is hard to patrol. —Internet

Halliburton Unit gets over \$800m for Iraq

WASHINGTON, 23 June —A unit of Halliburton Co, the Texas oil giant once led by Vice-President Dick Cheney, has received more than 800 million US dollars in work orders in Iraq so far, according to military figures obtained on Friday.

The bulk of the orders are under a military contract awarded in December 2001 to Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg Brown Root that a Democratic lawmaker labelled "obscure and lucrative".

That 2001 contract, called the Logistics Civil Augmentation Programme does not have a ceiling. By the end of May, task orders for Iraq accounted for 596.8 million US dollars of the 708 million US dollars earmarked under that deal.

Under that contract, the Halliburton subsidiary has provided housing, recreation, laundry, power and sanitation for troops in Iraq, said Dan Carlson, a spokesman for US Army Field Support Command in Rock Island, Illinois.

MNA/Reuters



US Army Staff Sgt Gerard Calaham, from Connecticut, works on a damaged American Apache attack helicopter at Camp Arifjan, 80 km south of Kuwait City on 22 June, 2003. Arifjan is considered the logistic centre for the US troops deployed in the area of Kuwait and Iraq. — INTERNET

ရှောင်လေဝေးဝေး မူးယစ်ဆေး

Bush says troops still in danger

WASHINGTON, 23 June — President Bush, speaking at length for the first time about the continuing casualties among American troops in Iraq, said Saturday that remnants of the ousted government were trying to “kill and intimidate” American soldiers there.

Meanwhile, US soldiers, acting on a tip, seized code equipment and piles of top secret Iraqi intelligence documents in a raid on a Baghdad community centre. “The men and women of our military face a continuing risk of danger and sacrifice in Iraq,” Bush said in his weekly radio address. But, he added, “our military is acting decisively against these threats.”

Bush raised the topic 10 weeks after Baghdad fell and seven weeks after he declared on May 1, aboard the aircraft carrier *USS Abraham Lincoln*, that the active phase of the fighting was largely over. After coming under sporadic attacks since then, the military has mounted significant operations to round up suspected resisters. More than 28,000 troops are in Baghdad enforcing the law, he said.

He avoided the lingering question of whether Saddam Hussein was alive or in any way coordinating the attacks, saying only that “dangerous pockets of the old regime remain loyal to it, and they, along with their terrorist allies, are behind deadly attacks designed to kill and intimidate coalition forces and innocent Iraqis.” He also said the occupying forces would keep looking for chemical and biological weapons in Iraq and defended the intelligence assessments before the war, saying that the intelligence services of “many nations” had similarly concluded that Saddam had illegal weapons.

Hans Blix, the United Nations’ chief weapons inspector, told *The Washington Post* he suspects that Baghdad possessed little more than “debris” from a former, secret weapons programme when the United States invaded the country in March.

The Swedish disarmament expert said in an interview last week that the failure to turn up evidence of weapons of mass destruction has led him to downgrade his assessment of the threat his government posed.

Blix, who will step down June 30, conceded there’s too much uncertainty associated with Iraqi weapons programmes to conclude there are no hidden arsenals in Iraq. He also acknowledged that he remains deeply puzzled by the former Iraqi government’s efforts to deceive and mislead UN inspectors for 12 years after the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Blix said assertions by Iraqi officials and defectors that they’d destroyed the bulk of their weapons programmes might turn out to be true. The claims were long dismissed by US intelligence officials and UN weapons experts. Blix added that Iraq’s failure to account for arsenals that existed before the 1991 war “does not mean they exist.”

Blix said a series of suspicious discoveries during his inspections of Iraq — including those of a crude remotely piloted aircraft; documents on a banned nuclear program found in a scientist’s home; and 12 chemical warheads found at a weapons depot, were probably remnants of a destroyed stockpile. “They could have been the tip of an iceberg, but they could also have been debris,” Blix said. “Now as we look back on it and they don’t find anything, well, maybe more likely debris.” — *Internet*



US soldiers patrol in front of a hotel in Baghdad on 22 June, 2003. US President George W Bush warned Saturday that US forces in Iraq still face “danger”, as their death toll has mounted to more than 50 since 1 May. — XINHUA PHOTO

Thai Prime Minister meets with Chinese Foreign Minister

CHIANG MAI, 23 June — Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra met here Saturday with visiting Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Li Zhaoxing.

Thaksin welcomed Li’s participation to the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD).

He said the effective cooperation between Thailand and China have brought about practical benefits to the peoples of the two countries. He said the recent agreement between the two countries on vegetable and fruits tariffs is a good example of Sino-Thai cooperation.

He said Thailand is willing to advance the strategic and comprehensive cooperation with China.

The Thai Prime Minister said Thailand is to coop-

erate with China within the ACD framework in an effort to promote prosperity and stability in Asia.

Li Zhaoxing said Thailand is a friendly neighbour of China in Southeast Asia. The two countries have treated each other sincerely and trusted each other.

He said China has listed Thailand as one of the most important cooperative partners in the region and is willing to further promote high-level official exchange between the two countries.

Li said China is to expand cooperation with Thailand in more fields and push cooperation between the two

countries to a new level.

On the ACD meeting which will formally open on Sunday, Li Zhaoxing said the ACD, initiated by Thaksin, is of strategic importance and is a good thing for peoples from various Asian countries.

He stressed China’s further support for the ACD activities.

After the meeting, the foreign ministers of the two countries signed the Kingdom of Thailand and the People’s Republic of China on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

MNA/Xinhua

India-Pakistan bus service to be inaugurated

ISLAMABAD, 23 June — Pakistani Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali is likely to inaugurate the bus service between India and Pakistan, Minister for Culture, Tourism, Sports, Minorities and Youth Affairs Raees Munir Ahmed said here on Saturday.

According to a report of the *Associated Press of Pakistan*, Raees Munir Ahmed said in a meeting that the Prime Minister was looking towards normalization of relations between India and Pakistan.

MNA/Xinhua

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Jordan’s King believes Saddam is alive

AMMAN (Jordan), 23 June — Saddam Hussein and at least one of his sons are believed to be alive, Jordan’s King said Sunday.

King Abdullah II told ABC’s “This Week” programme that many Iraqis still may fear that their former president “might still be alive and might come back to haunt them.”

“I think from day one, until there was critical proof that he was dead, I think we all have to assume that he is (alive),” Abdullah said in an interview conducted on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum being held in Jordan.

“And out of the top three, i.e., Saddam and his two sons (Odai and Qusai), I think that the attitude is by the international community, at least two or three are alive.” Abdullah did not say which two he believed may be alive. But he added that it was important for everybody to have “some closure” in terms of Saddam’s fate.

“I wouldn’t underestimate the fear that Saddam still shadows his people (with),” he said. Abdullah also said there were reports Saddam has been “moving around the north-western area (of Iraq) in the tribes, using sort of taxis and pickup trucks.” The *Observer* newspaper of London reported Sunday that American specialists were conducting DNA tests on human remains recovered last week to determine whether they belonged to Saddam or his sons.

The remains were retrieved from a convoy of vehicles struck by US forces last week in the Western desert near Syria, the newspaper reported, citing military sources it did not identify. On Sunday, officers with the 3rd Armoured Cavalry Regiment in Iraq told *The Associated Press* they had no information concerning such a find.

The chairman of the US Senate Intelligence Committee said Sunday he “would not be surprised” to learn of Saddam’s death because of “this very aggressive effort that we have been mounting” to locate Saddam and his loyalists. “I will not be surprised at any military action that would lead to the possibility that we have now finally killed Saddam Hussein,” Sen Pat Roberts R-Kan., told “Fox News Sunday.” — *Internet*

Royal Marines hurt by British guns in Basra

LONDON, 23 June — Eight Royal Marines were injured by fire from British guns during the battle for the southern Iraqi city of Basra, the Ministry of Defence confirmed for the first time yesterday.

The incident occurred in March as British troops encircled the city and artillery bombarded positions held by forces loyal to Saddam Hussein. There were no fatalities, and the severity of

the injuries was not revealed.

The “blue-on-blue” attack, as such mistakes are known in military circles, was not publicised at the time. It is believed the Royal Marines unit was advancing into Basra as the bombardment continued. “I can confirm that the incident did happen,” an MoD spokeswoman said yesterday. “It was an error of coordination and misunderstanding.” — *Internet*



A Danish trooper patrols the streets of Basra, 600 kilometres south of Baghdad, Iraq, on 22 June, 2003. Danish troopers are now deployed in Basra to help out British soldiers following the fall of Saddam Hussein. — INTERNET

"Washington Post" says Bush speech overstated Iraq threat

WASHINGTON, 23 June — President George W Bush, in building his case against Iraq in a speech last October, gave a harder version of its alleged links with al-Qaeda than US intelligence did, the *Washington Post* reported on Sunday.

A still-classified intelligence report, which had been reviewed by administration officials at the time of Bush's speech, included cautionary language about the possible links and warnings about the reliability of some evidence, the *Post* reported.

The report, known as the National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq, represented the consensus of the US intelligence community, according to intelligence analysts and congressional sources who read the report, the *Post* said.

"There has always been an internal argument within the intelligence community about the connections between Saddam Hussein and al-Qaeda," said a senior intelligence official interviewed by the newspaper.

In his October 7 speech in Cincinnati, Bush said Iraq posed an immediate threat to the United States, partly because of the ties he said it had to al-Qaeda, blamed for the 11 September, 2001 attacks.

He cited high-level contacts that "go back a decade" and said "we've learned" that Iraq trained al-Qaeda members "in bomb-making and poisons and deadly gases," the *Post* reported.

The newspaper quoted its sources as saying that although the President offered essentially circumstantial

evidence, his remarks included none of the caveats about the reliability of this information that were in the national intelligence document.

As the months go by without chemical or biological weapons being found in Iraq, the Bush Administration is facing increasing questioning over whether it exaggerated the threat posed by Saddam.

Last week Bush dismissed his critics as "historical revisionists".

In his weekly radio address on Saturday, he said one of the reasons weapons of mass destruction had not been found was that arms sites had been looted in the final days of Saddam's rule.

"The intelligence services of many nations concluded that he had illegal weapons and the regime refused to provide evidence they had been destroyed," Bush said. —MNA/Reuters

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Grenade attack in Baghdad kills US soldier

BAGHDAD, 23 June — A US soldier was killed and another was wounded in a grenade attack on a military convoy south of Baghdad on Sunday, the US military said.

A US statement said the two soldiers had been evacuated by road after the attack in Khan Azad, 12 miles south of the capital. One was dead on arrival at hospital.

It was the latest in a spate of attacks on US forces in which 19 soldiers have been killed since President George W Bush declared major combat in Iraq over on May 1.

The assault came less than a day after an Iraqi oil pipeline was set ablaze near the town of Hit, about 90 miles northwest of Baghdad, by a late-night explosion blamed by an Iraqi Oil Ministry official on sabotage.

Two US soldiers were wounded in the same area on Saturday afternoon when their vehicle detonated a landmine.

MNA/Reuters

600 children die of diarrhoea per day in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 23 June — Every day 600 children died of diarrhoea in Pakistan and over two million fell victim to acute respiratory infection when simple hand washing with soap could prevent them from contracting such infectious diseases, a symposium on public hygiene has revealed.

The Pakistan Medical Association Saturday organized a symposium on "Hand Washing for Life Campaign 2003" which attracted many medical experts from all over the country, reported the newspaper *Dawn* on Sunday. The seminar intended to create awareness among the medical profession, the media, the government and the general public that good hygiene, especially hand washing with soap, is a very simple way to prevent disease like typhoid, dysentery, diarrhoea, skin diseases and tuberculosis.

Dr Serajuddaula Syed from the association emphasized at the symposium that prevalence of infectious diseases in Pakistan is for the most part due to lack of awareness about good personal hygiene practices.

He said regular hand washing with soap is extremely effective to interrupt many infectious cycles.

Citing her experience, Dr Mubina Agboatwalla said hand washing with soap when introduced in certain slums of Karachi, a southern port city, led to a reduction of 44 to 47 per cent in the prevalence of diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections.

Some experts urged the government to reduce excise duty on soaps so that the daily product can be available to the poor.

MNA/Xinhua

IAEA inspectors should resume mission in Iraq

CAIRO, 23 June — A prominent Egyptian analyst on Saturday called for the return of inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to Iraq.

"IAEA experts should be allowed to resume their activities in Iraq, as it is the best way to prove whether or not Baghdad has nuclear weapons," Mohamed Shaker, chairman of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, told Abu Dhabi TV channel. "Iraq is a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), under which Baghdad is liable to inspection operations carried out by the agency," he said.

"All signatory countries, including Egypt, are subject to inspection operations," he added.

Although US troops have been searching alleged weapons of mass destruction in Iraq following Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's ouster on April 9, their hope seems to be slimmer.

Despite international opposition, the United States and Britain launched a war on Iraq on 20 March under the pretext of alleged weapons of mass destruction in the oil-rich Gulf country. The international community has called for the resumption of the UN-backed inspections in Iraq to see the real picture. Analysts have claimed that any failure to find out such weapons in Iraq will badly dent the justification of the US-led Iraqi war. —MNA/Xinhua

Indian goods threaten Bangladeshi cottage industries

DHAKA, 23 June — About 2,000 small and cottage industries in the northern Bangladesh have closed due to the inflow of cheap smuggled Indian goods.

Due to lack of capital, faulty electric supply, political intervention and other reasons, Bangladesh's small and cottage industries cannot compete with Indian goods in the market, the official *Bangladesh News Agency* reported Sunday.

The goods manufactured in Bangladesh factories remain stockpiled for years and the industries have been facing financial losses year after year. The industries closed include electric fan factory, garments factory, lock and key factory, handloom factory, medicine factory, automatic rice mills, engineering workshop and printing Press.

MNA/Xinhua

Putin insists on Russian oil interests in Iraq

MOSCOW, 23 June — President Vladimir Putin said on Sunday Russian firms should have a fair chance for energy contracts in postwar Iraq, whose huge oil reserves are eyed by oil majors around the world.

In an interview on the BBC's "Breakfast with Frost" show, a transcript of which was released by the BBC in Moscow, Putin also said Russia would not allow its commercial interests in Iran to be undermined by controversy over Teheran's nuclear programme.

Russian involvement in the rebuilding of Iraq following the US-led war and Moscow's sales of nuclear technology to Teheran in the face of US criticism are issues that will figure in talks this week during a historic state visit to Britain by the Kremlin leader. "As for major investment projects (in Iraq) — our position is based on the primacy of law... The Iraqi side must fulfil its obligations in compliance with the law and of course we will be insisting that some of those projects do go ahead," Putin said.

The biggest Russian prize in Iraq is a 3.7-billion-US-dollar contract secured by one

of the country's biggest oil companies, LUKOIL, to develop the West Qurna oil field. The contract was held by LUKOIL until mid-December when Baghdad pulled the plug, saying the Russian company had failed to meet the terms of the deal by not starting development work. Putin defended Russia's cooperation with Iran which involves helping it build a nuclear power plant at Bushehr — a project that has raised querulous voices in Washington which believes Teheran is clandestinely trying to develop a nuclear weapon. "We do not intend to lose our positions in Iran," he told the BBC.

Putin repeated that Iranian President Mohammad Khatami had told him Teheran was ready to join all non-proliferation agreements and place all its nuclear programmes under the control of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN nuclear watchdog.

Pointing to Western European companies who, he said, were supplying Teheran with nuclear technology that could also be used for military purposes, Putin said.

MNA/Reuters



A group of Iraqi people receive medical supplies and equipment at A1 Yarmuk hospital in Baghdad, Iraq, on 22 June, 2003. — INTERNET

Beijing sees triple digit growth in digital camera imports

BEIJING, 23 June — Imports of digital cameras through Beijing Port shot up to 34,000 units during the first five months of this year, 66 times the figure a year earlier, Customs figures showed.

The value of the imported cameras totalled 8.08 million US dollars, up 33 times. The imports exceeded last year's total in

both the number of units and value, respective increases of about 220 per cent and 280 per cent year-on-year.

Analysis by Beijing Customs indicates that 90 per cent of the imported cameras came from Japan, most of them medium- and low-end products priced at about 200 US dollars. — MNA/Xinhua

Oil Minister expects Iraq exports from oilfields in July

DEAD SEA (Jordan), 23 June — Iraq's US-appointed de facto Oil Minister said on Saturday he expected the country to begin exporting from its oilfields in July. Asked when Baghdad would revive its crude exports from oilfields, Thamir Ghadhban told reporters: "I hope next month."

He declined to comment on the volumes and precise date of renewed exports.

Ghadhban said Iraq was currently pumping around 800,000 barrels per day (BPD), with 500,000 BPD from the north and 300,000 BPD from the southern fields. He was speaking on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum, taking place near the Dead Sea.

MNA/Reuters

US says foreign fighters add to resistance in Iraq

CAMP DOHA (Kuwait), 23 June — United States military commanders say foreign fighters are being actively recruited by loyalists to Saddam Hussein to join the resistance against American forces in Iraq posing a new challenge to efforts to stabilize the country.

Military officials say that American troops in Iraq have had to contend with Syrians, Saudis, Yemenis, Algerians, Lebanese and even Chechens.

Many of these fighters took up arms against the United States during the American thrust to Baghdad. But a significant number remain, and a new effort is under way to lure more to Iraq to join the fight against the Americans, officials say.

"You have got Baath Party and regime loyalists west and northeast of the city who are calling buddies in foreign countries and getting fighters to come across the border," Maj. Gen. William Webster, deputy commander of the allied land command, said in an interview. "They are also rounding up those who are already here and issuing them weapons."

New evidence about the role of foreign fighters, including passports and other documents, was gathered after the American air and ground attack last week on a militant camp at Rawa, about 150 miles northwest of Baghdad. According

to American military commanders, two wounded foreigners were also captured — a Saudi and a Syrian.

American officials said the two captives had told them that they were offered money to come to Iraq and kill American soldiers.

Foreign fighters played an important role during the war. Busloads of fighters drove in from Syria and fought soldiers from the Army's Third Infantry Division who pushed into the center of Baghdad. American soldiers confirmed their nationality by retrieving passports from bodies of dead fighters. What is significant now, American military officials say, is that foreign fighters continue to play an active role in Iraq and continue to be recruited for pay or to join in a new struggle against the Americans. This indicates a considerable degree of organization behind the resistance against the American presence, though officials say it does not appear to be under the central control of a single leader or group. — Internet

No deal on resuming Iraqi oil supply to Jordan

AMMAN, 23 June — Jordan and Iraq have so far not reached any agreement on resuming oil supply, local daily *Jordan Times* reported on Sunday. There has been no discussion yet between Jordanian and Iraqi officials on the future of the Iraqi-Jordanian oil protocol which ceased after the US-led coalition forces toppled Saddam Hussein, a senior Jordanian official who declined to be identified told the paper.

Jordan's response came after Iraqi Acting Oil Minister, Thamer Ghadhban, said Saturday on the sidelines of an extraordinary annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) that he expects Iraq to begin exporting oil next month. — MNA/Xinhua

China to reopen Tibet to tourists as SARS tamed

BEIJING, 23 June — China will reopen Tibet to tourists on 1 July after closing it for more than two months to keep the flu-like SARS virus from spreading there, the official *People's Daily* newspaper said on Sunday.

"As the SARS outbreak in the whole country has come under fairly good control, and since Tibet has up to now not had any confirmed or suspected cases, it has become a relatively safe and attractive tourist area," the newspaper said. The Himalayan region has been closed to foreign and domestic visitors since 25 April, it said. — MNA/Reuters



The Turkish tanker Ottoman Dignity remains berthed at the port of Ceyhan, near the city of Adana on 22 June, 2003, to start the first loading of Iraqi oil since the US-led war on Iraq. The Ottoman Dignity loaded a million barrels of Iraqi oil bound for the state refinery Tupras on Sunday. Some eight million barrels of Kirkuk crude are in storage at Ceyhan, where there has been no loading since last 20 March. — INTERNET

SARS kills two more in Canada, brings death toll to 38

TORONTO, 23 June — A 55-year-old man and an 81-year-old woman died of complications from SARS, health officials said on Sunday, bringing the total number of related deaths in the Toronto area to 38 since mid-March.

The Ontario Health Ministry said both patients were ill for a long time before succumbing to severe acute respiratory syndrome.

There were 28 active probable SARS cases in and around the Toronto area on Friday, down from 31 on 19 June and 55 a week ago. Some 14 active cases are in critical condition, but the number of infected patients continues to decline, health officials said on Friday.

The outbreak in Canada has only affected Toronto, the only place outside Asia where people have died of SARS.

MNA/Reuters

Electricity transferred to east China to ease shortage

CHENGDU, 23 June — Beginning early Sunday, a total of 1.5 billion kilowatts hour of electricity will be transferred to east China areas from southwest China's Sichuan Province in 2003.

Officials at the State Grid Corporation of China said 300 million kilowatts hour of electricity will be diverted to east China's electricity grid every month to ease power shortages there.

The electricity will be transferred via the newly operational Three Gorges transmission and converting system, cutting the distance from 2,552 kilometres to 1,644 kilometres, officials said.

Officials from Sichuan said the electricity supply to east China would not affect power use in the province as surplus power supply had been achieved following a period of abundant rainfall.

The electricity transferred to east China, equivalent to the power generated by burning about 56.51 million tons of coal, would meet peak electricity use in summer in the eastern area. — MNA/Xinhua

China probes fatal shipwreck on Yangtze River

CHONGQING, 23 June — Chinese authorities began an investigation Saturday into a ship collision on the Yangtze River that left one person confirmed dead and 52 passengers still unaccounted for.

An investigation team, headed by Shan Chunchang, deputy director of the State Administration of Work Safety (SAWS), has been tasked with finding the causes of the accident and supervising salvage operations.

A passenger liner capsized on the Yangtze River on 19 June after colliding with a freighter in a section of the river in southwestern Chongqing Municipality.

The Yangtze River Three Gorges Shipping Co passenger liner was sailing down-

stream when it collided with a freighter heading upstream near Longqiao Town, Fuling District, at 7.55 am on Thursday.

Initial reports released on 19 June by local authorities showed 23 dead or missing.

But further investigation showed one person confirmed dead, 52 others still missing, and 12 confirmed survivors.

The passengers reportedly included students and vegetable sellers on their way to market. — MNA/Xinhua

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Aussie soldiers have uranium sickness like Iraqis

CANBERRA, 23 June — Australian soldiers who took part in the Iraq war were said to have symptoms of uranium sickness, a United States nuclear weapons expert said in Melbourne on Monday.

Former US Army nuclear health physicist Douglas Rokke was quoted by the *Australian Association Press* (AAP) as saying that he received reports from the US Army medical department that Iraqi women and children and American and Iraqi military personnel had respiratory illnesses and rashes after the recent conflict, and he had also been told of Australian servicemen and women with similar symptoms.

"When American soldiers are sick and the Iraqis are sick there's nothing that says an Australian soldier is going to be isolated," Rokke said.

AAP said Rokke, who

is campaigning for the outlawing of depleted uranium munitions, was in Australia to speak against the use of them.

More than two thousand Australian soldiers were sent to the war in Iraq and among them were 150 special forces troops who infiltrated deep into the Iraqi territory during the conflict to collect intelligence, look for military targets and destroy Iraqi missile launchers.

It was the first report on uranium sickness after the conflict. Last weekend Prime Minister John Howard welcomed in Perth the troops who returned from the war but he never mentioned the issue. — MNA/Xinhua

US military reports Iraq oil pipeline explosion

BAGHDAD, 23 June — The US military in Iraq said on Sunday there had been an oil pipeline explosion and fire near the town of Hit about 90 miles northwest of Baghdad, but had no word on what had caused it.

"The cause of the fire was still under investigation," a US military spokes-

man said, adding that there were no reports of casualties and that the fire was still blazing.

It was not clear when the blast occurred. An Iraqi Oil Ministry official said he had no word on the explosion, but that the section reported to be affected was part of a key pipeline between Iraq's northern and southern oilfields.

The main oil pipeline from Iraq's Kirkuk oilfields to Turkey was damaged earlier this month by explosions and fire, but was in working order again late last week after repairs.

Postwar looting and sabotage at oil facilities have delayed the resumption of Iraq's oil exports and will keep shipments well below pre-war levels for several months, officials say.

Iraq, which exported around two million barrels per day before the US war to oust Saddam Hussein, is due to relaunch oil sales on Sunday from storage tanks in Turkey which hold some eight million barrels.

MNA/Reuters

Don't
smoke

Bush faces new intelligence row over war claims

BAGHDAD, 23 June—The United States President, George Bush, faces a new row with the emergence of the intelligence report on which he based his pre-war claims about Iraq's links with al-Qaeda. Mr Bush claimed that Saddam Hussein posed an immediate threat to the United States because of the al-Qaeda link. But the still classified intelligence report portrays a far less clear picture, say intelligence analysts and congressional sources who have read it.

The *National Intelligence Estimate* on Iraq report, which represented the consensus of US intelligence officials and experts, was circulated in the Bush Administration late last year. It contained cautionary language about Iraq's connections with al-Qaeda and warnings about the reliability of conflicting reports by Iraqi defectors and captured al-Qaeda members, sources said.

In a speech on 7 October Mr Bush made his case that Iraq had ties with al-Qaeda by mentioning high-level contacts that "go back a decade". He said the US had learnt that Iraq trained al-Qaeda members "in bomb-making and poisons and deadly gases". His remarks contained none of the caveats in the report about the reliability of this information, sources pointed out.

Within four days of the speech, the Congress overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution granting Mr Bush authority to go to war.

In one of the more notable statements, Mr Bush said that "Iraq could decide on any given day to provide a biological or chemical weapon to a terrorist or individual terrorists".

Mr Bush did not indicate that the consensus of analysts was that Saddam would launch a terrorist attack against the US only if he thought he could not stop the US from invading Iraq, and that he would give chemical or biological agents to terrorists only as a "last chance to exact vengeance by taking a large number of victims with him". He failed to reveal that the consensus said that course would be an "extreme step" by Saddam.

Annan urges Iran, US to contain row

DUBAI, 23 June—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged the United States and Iran to contain a row over Teheran's nuclear programme, and said in remarks published on Sunday only Iranians were responsible for their country's political future.

Washington accuses the Islamic Republic of seeking nuclear weapons, a charge denied by Teheran, and warned on Friday that the United States reserved the right to use military action to stop Teheran making such weapons.

"I hope they contain it (the dispute) and this is possible because we have very good examples of good cooperation between the United States and Iran," Annan told the pan-Arab *Asharq al-Awsat* news-

paper.

He urged Iran to cooperate fully with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and to sign an additional protocol to allow more intrusive, snap inspections.

Teheran said on Saturday it is ready to cooperate more actively with UN inspectors to dispel doubts about its nuclear ambitions, which it has said were merely to diversify electricity generation sources.

MNA/Reuters

Japan, US to sign criminal investigation cooperation treaty

TOKYO, 23 June—Japan and the United States have agreed to sign a treaty under which their judicial authorities can directly exchange information on criminal cases without their foreign ministries' involvement.

The accord came at a working-level meeting on Friday in Washington between the Japanese Justice Ministry and the US Justice Department, government officials said Saturday.

The bilateral justice ministers are expected to sign the treaty as early as this summer, the officials said.

The treaty will pave the way for Japan's Justice Ministry and National Police Agency to directly ask the US Justice Department for cooperation and information, and vice versa.

The Japanese law stipulates the Foreign Ministry serves as the window for international cooperation in investigating criminal cases, Japanese media reported, saying this makes difficult prompt cooperation in investigating cross-border criminal cases.—MNA/Xinhua

Mr Bush also spoke of Iraq and al-Qaeda having had "high-level contacts that go back a decade". But he did not say, as the classified intelligence report said, that the contacts occurred in the early 1990s, when Osama bin Laden, the al-Qaeda leader, was living in Sudan and his organisation was in its infancy.

At the time, the report said, bin Laden and Saddam were united primarily by their common hostility to the Saudi Arabian monarchy, according to sources.

Mr Bush also failed to mention the report's conclusion that those early contacts had not led to any known continuing high-level relationships between the two, the sources said.

Internet

Second ACD ministerial meeting opens in Thailand

CHIANG MAI, 23 June—The Second Ministerial Meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) opened Sunday in Chiang Mai, the second largest city of Thailand.

Foreign Ministers and their representatives from 18 Asian countries are participating in the meeting focusing on cooperation on regional finance, security and free trade and investment process. Prior to Sunday's opening, Thai Minister of Foreign Affairs Surakiart Sathirathai has said that the closed-door ministerial meeting will discuss and review reports of regional cooperation in 17 fields including

agriculture, tourism, energy security, development of small- and medium-sized enterprises, e-commerce and poverty relief.

He said participants of the meeting will seek ways to jointly promote the regional cooperation in an effort to realize mutual prosperity.

Regional cooperation on financial field, especially the framework building of the Asian Bond Market, is the top subject for discussion and 18 ACD members are expected to issue Chiang Mai Declaration on Asian Bond Market Development at the end of the meeting and announce the inauguration of the Asian Bond Fund.

Economic experts here believed that the inauguration of the Asian Bond Fund will lay a foundation for the establishment of the Asian Bond Market.

MNA/Xinhua

Sichuan plans huge investment in tourism projects

CHENGDU, 23 June—Sichuan Province in southwest China plans to invest 13.9 billion yuan (1.7 billion US dollars) to make its major tourist destinations more accessible and attractive.

Wang Huicheng, vice-governor of the province, said the investment involved about 140 basic projects to build, upgrade infrastructure, and improve ecological environment for five major tourist destinations.

The destinations included Great Jiuzhaigou (Jiuzhai and Huanglong), a unique picturesque landscape, Mount Leshan-Mount Emei, the Sanxingdui relics, the Wolong Giant Panda habitat, and Dujiangyan-Mount Qingcheng.

All except the world-famous giant panda habitat and Sanxingdui relics, were on the United Nations' heritage list.—MNA/Xinhua

India yet to decide on troop deployment in Iraq

NEW DELHI, 23 June—Indian Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani said Saturday that deployment of Indian troops in Iraq remains an "open question".

He told reporters aboard a special plane en route to Ahmedabad to attend two functions that a final decision on the issue would be taken only after Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee returns from his China visit.

"It is an open question. We are concerned with two things—what does Iraq (people of that country) feel about it and what are the plans for restoring Iraqi administration in Iraq," he said.

He said, "We also have to assess public opinion on the issue."

The Deputy Prime Min-

ister, however, said it was in India's interests to remain in that region. "It will also be in Iraq's interest," he said.

He said that the proposal to send Indian troops to Iraq had "nothing to do" with New Delhi's efforts to secure a permanent seat at the United Nations.

"It is a separate issue," he added. To a question on whether the move would be contradictory to the Indian Parliament resolution condemning the US invasion of Iraq, he said, "Our disapproval of the US action remains."—MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh embarrassed by US request of sending troops to Iraq

DHAKA, 23 June—The Bangladeshi Government is "walking on a diplomatic tight rope" as mulling over the US proposition to dispatch troops to Iraq, reported the *Daily Star* on Sunday.

The government is considering whether to send troops to Iraq following discussions between US Secretary of State Colin Powell and Bangladeshi leaders during Powell's visit to Dhaka on 19 June, the paper said.

Diplomatic sources revealed the Americans had made the request weeks before Powell's visit.

It noted that the request, in all probability, has a smell of a "combat mission" instead of a peacekeeping operation of a sort that Bangladesh has had performed in the past under explicit mandates from the United Nations.

Government sources insisted that no commitment has been made yet either to the visiting US Secretary of

State or to the US Embassy after Powell's departure.

A Foreign Ministry official was quoted as saying the situation is indeed embarrassing, as it is hard for Bangladesh to comply with such a request, and even harder to say no.

The request set the coalition government into a dilemma, while members of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) split on this issue, said the paper.

Some senior BNP leaders think it would be wise for the government to respond positively to the US call and send troops to Iraq to maintain good relations with the lone superpower since the war is over.

MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi ice vendor waits in Baghdad on 17 June, 2003. The Iraqi capital has been in the grip of a heatwave and a severe electricity shortage.—XINHUA PHOTO

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects...

(from page 1)

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party left Monywa by Tatmadaw helicopter and arrived in Kyaukhtu. They then inspected Kyaukhtu Airport construction project. At the briefing hall, Maj Aung Khaing of No 2 Works Battalion (Engineers) reported on extension of 8,500 feet long and 100 feet wide runway into 11,000 feet long one, carrying out of 250 feet wide and 8,500 feet long earth works, completion of earth works for 72 per cent, rain fall and collection of sand and gravel.

Col Zaw Min and officials reported on tasks related to construction of Kyaukhtu Airport. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions on emphasis to be placed on meeting the set standards and collection of gravel, sand and construction materials. Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party viewed completion of the earth works, the sites for the apron and the airport building.

Kyaukhtu Airport under construction is located near Kyaukhtu Village, Saw Township. Old airport was 5,000 feet long and there was no place to extend the runway. No 2 Works Battalion (Engineers) started



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects construction of Kyaukhtu Airport project.—MNA

the construction of the new airport on 6 December 2002. Though the runway will be 11,000 feet long and 100 feet wide, the earth works are being carried out to be able to extend 200 feet wide one. The construction works are being conducted with the primary test and quality control with the use of laboratory for long-term use of the runway meeting the set standards of international level. The construction projects are being implemented with the use of heavy machinery.

Then, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party left Kyaukhtu by helicopter and arrived in Bagan-NyaungU Airport in Mandalay Division at 2 pm. They left there and arrived back here in the evening.

MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets...

(from page 1)

In his address, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said Shwebo District is an important one in agriculture in Sagaing Division. Efforts are being made to enable Sagaing Division to become a granary of Upper Myanmar with the objective of producing 800 million baskets of paddy a year. In order to accomplish the targets, Thaphansek Dam was built and water is being supplied to farmlands.

Water pumping projects are being implemented in the region where there was no water, he said. Moreover, he said, a lot of roads and bridges were built for ensuring smooth transport in the division. Now Shwebo-Mytikyina strategic road is being upgraded and tasks on power supply and regional development are being carried out, he added.

He said the government is making efforts for na-

tional development. The Ministry of Progress of Border Areas And National Races and Development Affairs was formed for development of border areas and important regions in states and divisions were designated as major development regions. Now there have been 24 development regions, he added.

He said the government in cooperation with the people is carrying out five rural development tasks for development of all rural

regions. He said the government needs highly-qualified intellectuals and intelligent in building an agro-based industrialized nation. Therefore the government is promoting education of children, he said. Continuing, he said, all these tasks cannot be undertaken by the government alone and so all national people are to cooperate with the government in national development tasks. He urged the people to ward off those who hinder the development tasks.—MNA

Industry-1 Minister inspects project sites, factories

YANGON, 23 June—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun and officials, inspected completion of factory projects this morning. The minister and party inspected

the site for construction project and the warehouse and the tanks of Vinegar Factory of Myanma Foodstuff Industries. They then saw over implementation of the disposable needle factory project of Myanma Pharmaceutical In-

dustry in West Gyogon Ward, Insein Township.

Afterwards, the minister and party arrived at the cement distribution camp of Myanma Ceramics Industries in Phawgan where Managing Director Col Soe Yi reported on construction of the jetty and raw material warehouses. Managing Director U Than Shwe and General Manager U Thein Win of Myanma Paper and Chemical Industries reported on the pulp to be conveyed from the Pulp Factory Project (Thabaung) to the warehouse in Danyingon.

The minister gave necessary instructions. Then, they inspected cement carriers, bromide and ceramics for Pathein Glass Factory and the site for construction of the jetty.

MNA

Computer and financial courses opened

YANGON, 23 June — Basic computer application course No 3 and financial procedures course No 3, organized by the Ministry of Commerce were opened at the Border Trade Department of the ministry this morning.

The opening ceremony was attended by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone and advisers, directors-general, managing directors and officials.

The minister first made an opening speech. Altogether 45 trainees are attending the courses.

The courses will last four weeks and 10 weeks respectively.—MNA



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspects cement carriers in Phawgan.—INDUSTRY-1

Myanmar tennis team wins third prize in zonal Davis Cup

YANGON, 23 June—The selected Myanmar tennis team which won the third prize in Davis Cup Asia-Oceania zone (Group-IV) in Colombo, Sri Lanka, arrived back here this morning.

Tennis players Zaw Zaw Latt, Khin Maung Win, Tu Maw and Min Min, Chief Coach U Maung Maung Lay and Manager U Khin Maung Win led by President of Myanmar Tennis Federa-

tion U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar Co Ltd) included in the Myanmar team which took part in the tournament together with Oman, Singapore and Bangladesh teams in the Group-B. Host Sri Lanka,

Vietnam, Brunei and Saudi Arabia teams participated in the Group-A.

Vietnam and Saudi Arabia, the first and second of the Group-A played against Oman and Myanmar, the first and second of the Group-B in the semi-finals. After the final match, Vietnam was the first, Oman, the second and Myanmar and Saudi Arabia tied at the third.

Myanmar took part in the Davis Cup for two times—in 1955 and 1963, and did not win the prize.

Taking part the third time in the 40 years of its history, the Myanmar team secured the third position.

The Myanmar team was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Sports and MTF.

MNA



Victorious Myanmar tennis players being welcomed back at the airport.—(H)

UMFCCI meets Japanese guests

YANGON, 23 June—General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and members of Work Committee for Education Affairs met General Manager Mr Hideo Yoshihara of the Association for Overseas Technical

Scholarship (AOTS) of Japan and Deputy General Manager Mr Kazuhisa Ogawa Manager Ms Midori Morioka at the hall of the federation here on 19 June morning. They discussed matters relating to conducting of the business communication course at the UMFCCI Training Centre in September 2003.—MNA

Drug trafficker gets jail terms

YANGON, 23 June — Members of Phyu Railway Police Force on 16 February night searched No 2 down train at Phyu Station and seized 0.4899 gram of marijuana from Darakyan on board.

In connection with the case, Phyu Police Station filed a lawsuit against Darakyan, son of U Onparakap, of Sargon Vil-

lage, Thadukan Village-tract, Phyu Township, under Section 15/19 (A) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Toungoo District Court on 6 March sentenced him to five years' imprisonment under section 15 and 15 years' under section 19 (A) to serve separately.

MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects ...

(from page 16)

At the briefing hall, Head of Sagaing Division Forest Department U San Lwin reported to Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party on progress in planting of 7,000 teak saplings in Kanbalu, Kawlin and Htigyaing Township starting from 1998, teak plantations and thriving of teak and quality strain teak.

Then, Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions

and inspected thriving of teak and quality strain teak in Teak Hedge Gardens.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing and party inspected construction of a bypass and Thitseint plantations of Sagaing Division Forest Department on Shewbo-Myitkyina Road by car. There, the Head of the Forest Department reported on the plantations and thriving of Thitseint.

Then, they arrived at Kyikyinchau Bridge (Bridge No 4/24) on Shewbo-Myitkyina road where Lt-Gen Ye Myint viewed the situation of the bridge, current and condition for upgrading of the bridge. After inspecting Mawra Bridge (Bridge No 1/19) on the road, he gave necessary instructions.

Then, Lt-Gen Ye Myint,



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects special teak plantation in Kanbalu Township.— MNA

the commander and party inspected condition of roads and bridges on the road by car and arrived at Shewbo at 5.30 pm. At night, Lt-Gen Ye Myint discussed development of the road and towns.

On 20 June morning, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, accompanied by Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung of Local Battalion and military officers, met Tatmadawmen and families at the hall of local battalion in Wuntho. He

gave instructions on carrying out the regional development tasks and tasks for the development of the State and the extended cultivation and livestock breeding tasks. He then viewed the plantations there.

He inspected raising of cattle and growing of vegetables at the farm of WO II Mya Aung. He also viewed maize plantation and raising of pigs at the farm of WO II Tin Hlaing and Thitsa flower (gladi-

olus) plantation of Sgt Than Aung. He studied the loss and profits gained of the agriculture and livestock breeding business and gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint then inspected the Thitseint tree (belleric myrobalan) plantation where over 25,000 Thitseint trees were grown and the pineapple plantation where over 15,000 pineapple trees were also grown. Military officers briefed facts about the plantation.

MNA



Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects Kawlin Township Hospital.— MNA

Construction Minister inspects roads, bridges in Kachin State

YANGON, 23 June— Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein and officials inspected Bhamo-Tagaung-Mandalay-Udaungtaung-Hanhtet road section and construction of bailey bridge on the road on 20 June.

The minister and party went to the site of Hsinkhan Bridge. The minister gave instructions on early completion of the bridge.

The minister and party inspected Bhamo-Tagaung-Mandalay-Kyedawgyi-Udaungtaung road section. Senior engineers reported on work done and tasks to be undertaken.

The minister inspected construction of Paungnet Bridge in Shwegu. On 21 June, he inspected Shwegu-Kyedawgyi-Hanhtet ring

road, Kyedawgyi-Thayagon and Thayagon-NgaO road section, junction on the road.

The minister and party inspected Shweli Bridge (NgaO Bridge), waterways and bank erosion, NgaO-Tagaung and Tagaung-Twinngge road section and the site for construction of Kin Creek Bridge.

They also inspected construction of Nanmaung Creek Bridge in Momeik and gave instructions on proper drainage.

On 22 June, the minister and party also inspected Mogok-Thabeikkyin road section, Thabeikkyin-Singu-Singu-Madaya-Mandalay road section, construction of Kyaukhlebee Bridge, Pozar Bridge and Baunggyi Bridge on Thabeikkyin-Mandalay Road.

MNA



Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspects construction of Hsinkhan Bridge Project.— CONSTRUCTION

Sports gear for football teams

YANGON, 23 June— A ceremony to present sports gear to Sagaing Division was held at the city hall in Monywa on 21 June morning.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint gave a speech and presented sports gear worth K 450,000 to three

youth football teams and cash assistance K 87,000 to coaches. Under the youth football development programme, Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council manages to train four youth football teams — the under-13, the under-17 and two under-21 teams.— MNA

Talks on environmental conservation held

YANGON, 23 June — Talks on environmental conservation, organized by Mon State Women's Affairs Work Committee, were held at Yamanya Hall of the office of Mon State Peace and Development Council on 20

June afternoon.

At the talks, responsible personnel gave talks on conservation of forests and natural environments. Then, presents were given to those who gave the talks.

MNA



Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint addresses opening of Central Level Seminar on Applied Management for Health Information System 2002.— HEALTH

Applied Management for Health Information System 2002 opened

YANGON, 23 June — An opening ceremony of the central level seminar on Applied Management for Health Information System 2002, jointly conducted by the Health Planning Department of the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization, took place at the meeting hall of the department on Theinbyu road here this morning, with

an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, directors-general of departments under the ministry, directors, deputy directors, project managers, officials, state/division heads of health departments, and accounting officers. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said,

measures are being taken for more systematic development of health sector in line with the directive of the chairman of the National Health Committee. The Ministry of Health is carrying out the tasks for prevention and control of diseases for the public health, uplift of health standard, medical treatment, and rehabilitation under the leadership of the

NHC.

In doing so, the national health plan is under way, using available manpower, money, and materials for fruitful results, he said.

Next, Dr Agostino Borra, Resident Representative of the WHO, also spoke on the occasion. Dr Mya Oo presided over the seminar, which continues tomorrow.

MNA

New Destiny Project to eradicate narcotic drugs

Lwan Htaik Aung (Pinlaung)

Cultivation of poppy took root and internal armed insurgency broke out in the Union of Myanmar as a legacy of the subjugation as the British colonialists and their divide-and-rule policy, and Myanmar has to tackle the problem till now.

The government has accelerated eradication of poppy cultivation on one hand and also provided K 42.5 million for cultivation of poppy substitute crops to poppy growers on the other hand.

The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control of Myanmar destroyed the narcotic drugs, chemicals and poppy seeds seized in Shan State (North) for the second time.

A total of 2,721.5 pyis of poppy seeds, 35,256 pyis of dry poppy bulbs, 44.87 kilos of heroine, 383.18 kilos of raw opium, 3 kilos of morphine, 16.33 kilos of opium residue, 2 kilos of stimulant tablets, 8.7 kilos of stimulant powder, 115 kilos of ephedrine, 3,530.76 liters of liquid chemicals, 7,089 poppy milk collecting tools, 65 opium pipes and paraphernalia were destroyed on the occasion.

In addition, poppy growers, of their own volition, handed over 61,323 pyis of poppy seeds and 78,505 pyis of dry poppy bulbs in Shan State (North), 8,908 pyis of poppy seeds in Shan State (South), 684,699 kilos of poppy seeds, and 9 pyis of dry poppy bulb in Shan State (East), 23.44 pyis of poppy seeds in Kayah State, 2,013 pyis of poppy seeds in Mandalay Division and 53.75 pyis of dry poppy bulbs in Kachin State. Therefore, total of them made 98,486.514 pyis of poppy seeds including those from poppy bulbs. Destruction of such quantity of poppy seeds meant being able to prevent the cultivation of poppy on 98,486.514 acres of land and production of 43.34 tons of opium. The State, designating the eradication of narcotic drugs as a national duty, laid down two strategies namely comprehensive elimination of narcotic drugs, and promotion of the social lives of border area national races and total eradication of poppy cultivation. To successfully implement the two strategies, three tactics—supply elimination, demand elimination and enforcement are being employed.

The 15-year drug elimination project was laid down and has been implemented since 1999-2000. Considerable success has been achieved thanks to the cooperation of national race leaders.

The Government introduced alternative crops in a bid to stop poppy cultivation. As a result, such crops as paddy, maize, wheat, pigeon pea, buckwheat, sunflower, Chinese curb, and a variety of vegetables are grown in

places where poppy was previously cultivated.

Owing to the collective efforts of leaders of local national races in cooperation with the Government, Mongla region in eastern Shan State has been turned into a drug-free zone. Likewise, endeavours are also being made for Kokang and Wa regions to follow suit by 2005. For the same reason, arrangements are being made to establish Tachilek and Monghsat districts of eastern Shan State as drug-free zones.

At present, as part of the drug elimination campaign, the New Destiny Project has been implemented since April 2002. The New Destiny Project chiefly focuses on total disappearance of poppy cultivation through the poppy-substitute crops cultivation programme.

In implementing the project, what should be practised is such strategies as the prevention of poppy cultivation by law enforcement, the dissemination of crop seeds and methods of livestock breeding, supervision of authorized bodies, and the holding of educational talks. Regions covered by the project are northern Shan State, southern Shan State, eastern Shan State, Kachin State, and Kayah State. A total of K 100 million — K 50 million for the first phase and K 50 million for the second phase — has been earmarked for the project.

The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control allotted K 50 million worth of seeds of alternative crops to poppy growers for 2002 monsoon crops. The CCDAC, earmarking another K 50 million, is distributing seeds of poppy substitute crops to poppy growers. Realizing the genuine goodwill of the Government, poppy growers presented poppy seeds and buds to authorities concerned. These poppy seeds were destroyed twice in Lashio of northern Shan State, and once in Laukkai of Kokang special region -1 with ceremonies, which were attended by local and foreign journalists, diplomats, military attaches, and representatives of UN agencies. Thanks to the New Destiny Project, a total of over 164 tons of poppy seeds were handed over. More than 100,475 acres of land would be needed if these poppy seeds were to be grown. During the 2002-2003 poppy cultivation season, over 100,000 and poppy-sown acreage could be destroyed and over 442 tons of opium yield prevented in time.

Up to date, seized narcotic drugs have so far been torched 16 times in Yangon.

(To be continued)

(Translation: MWT+KTY)

(Kyemon: 11-6-2003)

“Tatmadaw-thar-gonyi” copies donated to IPRD libraries

YANGON, 23 June— A ceremony to present 250 copies of “Tatmadaw-thar-gonyi” written by Hla Myint Swe (Sagging) for libraries of Information and Public Relations Department was held at the office of the Ministry of Information this morning. Wellwisher Minister

for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and wife Daw San San Myint presented the books to Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan. Also present were Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, heads of departments and enterprises under the ministry and officials

of the Ministry of Information and IPRD.

Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe spoke on the occasion. Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan thanked the donor and presented a certificate of honour to him.

The book features engagements in Si Si Wan

Tarpan and Kyukok (Pansai), combat experience and Tatmadawmen's patriotism.

The book is available K 2,500 per copy at Myawady Publishing House, Hsin-taunggyi Publishing House and Pyinnya Alinpya Publishing House.

MNA

Olympic Day Shooting Tournament ends

YANGON, 23 June—

The prize presentation ceremony of the Shooting Tournament to mark Olympic Day for 2003, organized by Myanmar Shooting Federation, was held at Okkalapa Shooting Range at 3 pm today.

After the final events, executives of MSF presented prizes to the respective winners. — MNA



Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe and wife Daw San San Myint present 250 copies of “Tatmadaw-thar-gonyi” worth K 625,000 written by Hla Myint Swe (Sagging) to Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan. — 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

သတိပေးနူးဆော်ချက်

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

ယာဉ်စည်းကမ်းထိန်းသိမ်းရေး ကြီးကြပ်မှုကော်မတီ

ကုသကာကွယ် မူးယစ်အန္တရာယ်

- ၁။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲလျှင် အသည်းရောင် အသားဝါရောဂါ၊ အသည်းခြောက်ရောဂါ၊ အသည်း ကင်ဆာရောဂါ၊ သွေးဆိပ်တက်ခြင်းနှင့် နှလုံးရောဂါ၊ အဆုတ်ရောဂါများ၊ ရုခအားကျဆင်းမှုရောဂါများ ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင် သည်အပြင်၊ စိတ်ပိုင်းဆိုင်ရာရောဂါများ စသည်တို့၊ ဖြစ်ပွားနိုင် သည်အပြင်၊ စီးပွားရေးနှင့် လူမှုရေးများ ထိခိုက်ပျက်ပြား ဖြစ်ပါ။ ဥပဒေအရ အရေးယူခံရခြင်းတို့ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်။
- ၂။ ထို့ကြောင့် အဆိုပါဒုက္ခများမှ ကင်းဝေးစေရန်၊ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးကို လုံးဝ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- ၃။ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးသုံးစွဲသူများသည် သတ်မှတ်ဆေးရုံ များတွင်၊ မှတ်ပုံတင်၍ ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန



Remember a lesson from Mahawthada's judgement

Myint Thein Aung

Bao Jing the wise man, the protagonist of Chinese teleplay series telecast by Myawady TV, and Itkyu San the wise novice in the Japanese teleplay series being telecast by MRTV are well-known to Myanmar television viewers. They are very popular because both of them see all the problems from the right perspective and thus are able to solve them wisely. They bring nemesis to wrongdoers and always stand on the side of angels.

And all those familiar with Buddhist literature know very well that Mahawthada, the embryo Buddha, had been able to solve knotty problems since his childhood days, protecting the righteous and inflicting punishment on the wicked.

Thinking of the latest developments in our country, I remember Mahawthada's judgement on the dispute between an ogress and a mother over a child. Mahawthada decided the case by letting them hold the child, one by the hands and the other by the legs, saying that the one who succeeded in trying to get the child must be its own mother. The child's real mother, not being able to bear her son cry and scream because of great pain, yielded. However, the ogress tried to grab the child, not taking into consideration of his sufferings. She thought only of possessing him.

Anyone, when asked whether they love their own country or race, would answer that they do. However, we can clearly see whether they really love their country or race if we objectively look at what they did in the past and are doing now. We would like the inattentative per-

sons, extremists, selfish people and those who have been nursing personal grievances to remember the judgement of the case between the ogress and the child's mother.

They should seriously think of the grave consequences which can befall their country and people because of the acts of their party and themselves. And they should avoid any kind of action that is contrary to the interests of the nation and the people. Only then will the most ardent wish of the entire people — the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation — become a reality. National unity calls for the cooperation of all the citizens and organizations. Only when we discard egoism, refrain from dancing to the tune of big nations and put the national interests in the fore, will national unity, national development and genuine democracy be achieved.

Therefore, the judgement of Mahawthada should always be borne in mind. It should be seriously taken to heart that anyone who is bent on serving personal interests at the expense of the nation and the people will be like the ogress in the dispute. If the individuals or party work towards peace, stability and development of the State, they will command the love of citizenry and their good reputation will live in history for ever. I also want the entire people to be able to differentiate between right and wrong and stick to sound reasoning, taking lessons from the past. It is my solemn wish.

Translation: Ko Nyi

ASEAN is an Orchestra: A unity in diversity

Aung Shwe Oo

Rain was heavy half an hour before the commencement of ASEAN Fantasy of Orchestra June 20 evening at the National Theatre, Yangon. On receipt of the invitation to the AFO days ahead I made a firm determination to attend the Song for Peace, Song for Tomorrow to be played as an integral part of ASEAN-Japan Exchange Year 2003.

I have already attended the opening ceremony of ASEAN-Japan Exchange Year 2003 on February 10 morning at the Aung San Stadium. I and my assistant Sint Sint Aung (NTV) covered the Japan Cup Judo tournament opening demonstrations. I could still recall some points of the keynote speeches delivered by the Sports Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and Ambassador of Japan Mr Yuji Miyamoto. Sports Minister said: Judo ASEAN-Japan Championship is sponsored by the ASEAN-Japan Exchange Year 2003. It is the highest contest of its kind. The government of Japan donated ¥ 40 million in Judo aids in addition to 150 Judo grass mats. Mr Yuji Miyamoto said: to promote friendship among ten ASEAN members proposal tabled by the Japanese Prime Minister in January 2002 to designate 2003 as ASEAN-Japan Exchange Year was unanimously adopted in November 2002 at the Phnom Penh ASEAN Summit.

To be more specific, ASEAN Fantasy of Orchestra ASEAN Tour 2003 that sang for Peace and for Tomorrow was organized by the Union of Myanmar Information Ministry, ASEAN Fantasy Executive Committee and Embassy of Japan. It was supported by The Japan Foundation in cooperation with Three D, CLEF Productions, Upstage Productions, YAMAHA and Japan Airlines. It goes with-

out saying the producer is AFO, Planet Arts Company.

Strength of AFO is 21 who are outstanding Japanese and Asian musicians, singers of various genres. They are Traditional music, Folk music, Western classic music, pop music, rock and jazz. Myanmar guest artists graced and honored the Tour in both traditional and modern style. Fantasy Music Festival has been held annually since 1991 prior to the birth of AFO.

AFO ASEAN TOUR began in 1995 with the first performance in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo. The Second Tour was in 1998 in Delhi, Mumbai, Hanoi, Manila and Tokyo. Current Tour includes performances in Bangkok, Vietiane and Ho Chi Minh city to commemorate the ASEAN Exchange Tour 2003. Despite heavy rains the Theatre was filled to capacity. The placement of the arrivals was in shipshape.

Musical Instruments employed in the Orchestra were not easy to name. Some musicians used more than one instrument, the same in type but different in size. If not for Musicians Profile, the audience would be at sea in locating the nationalities of the Orchestra members. They acted so much together, so much in cohesion, so much in unity, only a sound, a voice, a melody in continuum could be heard. The audience rapt in enrapture resembled a humanity in monolithic unity as if Orchestra had been leaving its message ASEAN itself is an Orchestra—a genuine unity in diversity—acting together and advancing together. Though the Tour Message is Song for Peace, Song for Tomorrow, may I add one word, it is also Song for Today.

Lampedusa mayor asks for govt.'s help with immigration crisis

ROME, 23 June — The mayor of Lampedusa, a small island south of Sicily, on Saturday called on the government for help, saying he could no longer cope with the hundreds of illegal immigrants landing on his shores.

Bruno Siragusa, the centre-right mayor of Lampedusa, told reporters: "I'm fighting a losing battle." "I hope our politicians do something because I feel under siege and abandoned," the mayor said. Early this morning, a 12-metre boat carrying 107 immigrants from central and northern Africa landed at Lampedusa taking the number of arrivals on the island this month alone to more than 3,000.

The latest ship set sail from Turkey despite assurances from the Turkish Interior Ministry earlier this week that it had successfully cracked down on illegal immigration and that all immigrant-laden boats destined for Italy or elsewhere in Europe were being prevented from leaving its ports.

The immigrants aboard the Turkish boat were all

male and told police they had paid Turkish crime groups up to 1,500 US dollars for the four-day journey to Italy. The new arrivals were taken to Lampedusa's immigration reception centre which has room for only 190 people but is currently sleeping more than 500. Local authorities are planning to transfer at least 160 to centre in the southern regions of Calabria or Puglia.

On Saturday, Tunisian Navy ships were searching for at least 200 immigrants believed to be missing at sea after another shipwreck. The Italian-bound boat capsized on Friday morning with some 250 people aboard. Meanwhile, the immigration crisis was causing problems for the centre-right government led by Premier Silvio Berlusconi.

MNA/Xinhua

One US Marine killed, 8 hurt in Djibouti accident

LONDON, 23 June — A US Marine was killed and eight other servicemen injured in an explosion during a training exercise in Djibouti on Sunday that may have been caused by a bomb dropped from a B-52, the US military said.

The blast, which also damaged two helicopters, happened at the Godoria Range, along the northern coast of the tiny Red Sea state, the military said in a statement.

Six of the injured were taken to hospital.

The other two were treated for more minor injuries at Camp Lemonnier, the Djibouti headquarters of the US-led counter-terrorism operation in the Horn of Africa. "We're investigating whether a bomb dropped by a B-52 was the cause of the explosion. We're waiting for more information," Lieutenant Commander Matthew Klee said from US Central Command Headquarters in Florida. The servicemen were taking part in a routine training exercise by the Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa. The force was set up last year to lead the US war on terror in a region that has proved a flashpoint for militant attacks. It covers Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti and Yemen. The names of the servicemen were being withheld until their families had been informed. — MNA/Reuters

Bosnian catholic runs 35-hour marathon to see pope

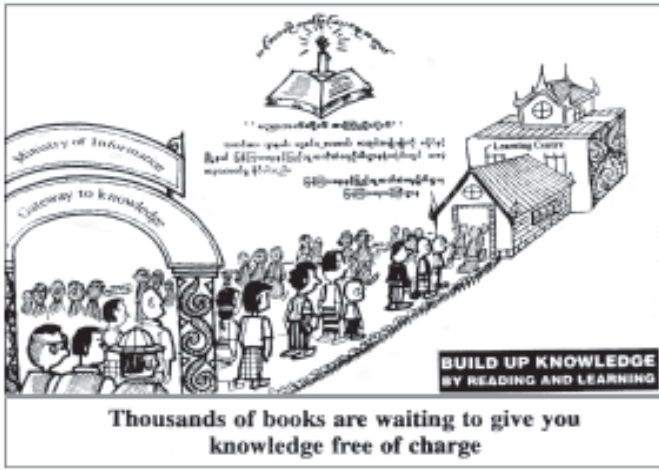
BANJALUKA (Bosnia), 23 June — A Bosnian Catholic marathon runner has embarked on a 35-hour run from the southern town of Mostar to the northwestern town of Banja Luka to see Pope John Paul, a newspaper reported on Saturday.

Aleksandar Gola said he would run 150 miles in honour of the pontiff, who arrives on Sunday in Banja Luka. On his 101st foreign trip, the Pope will beatify a Catholic layman and urge ethnic reconciliation in the country still recovering from war.

"I know this will be a long journey. But my wish to touch the Holy Father is stronger than any fatigue," Gola was quoted by the Banja Luka-based *Nezavisne Novine* newspaper as saying before he set out on Friday.

Banja Luka is the biggest city in the Orthodox Serb-dominated half of Bosnia and the Pope's visit is seen as a test of security and religious tolerance for its nationalist authorities and citizens. The journey will be the longest run so far by the athlete who will be escorted by an ambulance and his son.

MNA/Reuters



ADVERTISEMENTS

ရိတ်တိတ်တင်ဒါစေလွှတ်ခြင်း

စဉ်	ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအမည်	အရေအတွက်	တင်ဒါမိတ်ရက်
၁။	Hydraulic Crawler Drill Spares	2 Items	၁၇.၇.၂၀၀၃
၂။	Hammer Pulverizer Spares	Lot	၁၇.၇.၂၀၀၃
၃။	Belt Clip	6000 Nos	၁၇.၇.၂၀၀၃
၄။	Grinding Media	483 Tons	၂၂.၇.၂၀၀၃
၅။	Raw Materials for Refractory	67 Tons	၂၂.၇.၂၀၀၃
၆။	Steel Lining Plate	Lot	၂၂.၇.၂၀၀၃
၇။	Screen Printing Machine (FE)	1 Unit	၃၁.၇.၂၀၀၃

အမှတ်(၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ မြန်မာ့ကြွေးသွင်းမြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း၊ ရောင်းဝယ်ရေးဌာန၊ အမှတ်(၁၉၂) ကမ္ဘာအေးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်တွင် ရှိရှိနေသော အကယ်၍ စိတ်ဝင်စားသူများကို ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။
တင်ဒါပုံစံတရားဝင်ဝယ်ယူသူများထံမှ တင်ဒါကိုသာလက်ခံပါမည်။ (အသေးစိတ်သိရှိလိုပါက ရုံးခန်းရန် တယ်လီဖုန်းအမှတ်-၅၆၆၂၉၅၊ ၅၆၆၂၉၂)

မြန်မာ့ကြွေးသွင်းမြေထည်လုပ်ငန်း

ပြည်တွင်းပြစ်ကိုအားပေးပါ

- * နိုင်ငံတော်တည်ငြိမ်အေးချမ်းဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်အောင် အမျိုးသားရေးတာဝန်သိသူများက ကြိုးပမ်းဆောင်ရွက်ကြလျက်ရှိသည်-
- * ပြည်တွင်းပြည်ပ ကိုယ်ကျိုးရှာအဖျက်သမားများက ပျက်စီးရာပျက်စီးကြောင်းကို ဦးတည်ပြီး မီးလောင်ရာလေပင့်ကြသည်-
- * ဤသို့အခြေအနေများကို ကဗျာဆရာရွှန်းမြအောင်က တိုတိုကျဉ်းကျဉ်းဖြင့် မီးမောင်းထိုး ခံစားဖော်ညွှန်းတင်ပြထားသည်-

ဘုရားစကားလိုက်နာပွားစို့နှင့် အခြားကဗျာများ



သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း စာအုပ်ဆိုင်နှင့် သတင်းစာကိုယ်စားလှယ်များထံတွင် ဝယ်ယူရရှိနိုင်ပါသည်။

ရောင်း စက္ကူဖြူချော ကျပ် ၂၀၀
သတင်းစာစက္ကူ ကျပ် ၁၅၀

ဖြန့်ချိလိုက်ပါပြီ။

သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း
ဖုန်း - ၂၉၄၃၀၆

JUNIOR LEADER



အတွဲ(၅) အမှတ် (၁၄) ဖြန့်ချိလိုက်ပါပြီ

သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်းစာအုပ်ဆိုင်(စာပေမီမာ)စာအုပ်ဆိုင်နှင့်သတင်းစာ ကိုယ်စားလှယ်များထံတွင် လက်လီဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

The New Light of Myanmar

အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ တိုးတက်လိုသူတိုင်း ဂျူနီယာလီဒါကို ဖတ်ကြည့်ပါ။
Read Junior Leader to improve your English.

စာပွဲနှင့် ကုလားထိုင်များငှားရန်

အလှူ ထိန်းမြှောက်သော အမည်အတော်အမည်အတိုင်းအတိုင်း အစဉ်မီ အကယ်၍ စာပွဲနှင့် ကုလားထိုင်များ ငှားရန် သက်သေခံချက်ဖြင့် ငှားရမ်းချေပါသည်။
 ၄၄၈၇ ၅၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀
 ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀
 ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀ ၄၃၀၀

သစ်တောသစ်ပင် ချစ်ခင်တဲ့ လူမျိုး
သစ်ပင်ကို နှစ်စဉ်စိုက် ရွှေတိုက်ကိုစိုက်

စာပေမြတ်နိုးသူများအတွက် N E သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း N E စာအုပ်ဆိုင်

- ဘုရားစကား လိုက်နာပွားစို့နှင့် အခြားကဗျာများ
- မှန်နန်းမဟာရာဇဝင်တော်ကြီး (ပ+ဒ+တ)
- သမိုင်းတွင် သမိုင်းတင်မည့် ချစ်ကြည်ရေးခရီးမှတ်တမ်းများ (မြန်မာ-အင်္ဂလိပ်)
- တပ်မတော်သမိုင်း (အတွဲ ၁ မှ ၈ အထိ)
- ဇာတ်တော်ကြီးဆယ်ဘွဲ့ (မြန်မာ-အင်္ဂလိပ်)
- ပုဂံ-ညောင်ဦးဒေသရှိ ရှေးဟောင်းစေတီပုထိုးများ (မြန်မာ-အင်္ဂလိပ်)
- မြန်မာပြည်ရှိ ရှေးဟောင်းဘုရားစေတီပုထိုးများ (မြန်မာ-အင်္ဂလိပ်)
- ငါးရာငါးဆယ် ဇာတ်ဝတ္ထု (အကျဉ်း) (ပ+ဒ) (မြန်မာ-အင်္ဂလိပ်)
- ရခိုင်ပြည် ဝတ်လေးရုပ်ရှိ ရှေးဟောင်းစေတီပုထိုးများ (မြန်မာ-အင်္ဂလိပ်)
- ဂျူနီယာလီဒါပေါင်းချုပ် (၁၂၊ ၁၃၊ ၄၊ ၅)
- သိထားရမည့် အင်္ဂလိပ်စကားလုံးတွဲများ
- အင်္ဂလိပ်ဝါကျ တည်ဆောက်ပုံများ
- အီရတ်စစ်မြေပြင်နှင့် စာပေကောင်းမျိုးစုံကို တစ်စုတစ်စည်းတည်း ဝယ်ယူရရှိနိုင်ပါပြီ။ (အမြန်ဝယ်ထားမှ စိတ်ချရမည်ဖြစ်ကြောင်း သတင်းကောင်းပေးပို့လိုက်ပါသည်။)

သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း
စာအုပ်ဆိုင် (ဝန်ကြီးများရုံးရှေ့)
ဖုန်း - ၂၉၄၃၀၆

New task schedule for Three Gorges Project announced

YICHANG, 23 June — Construction of the Three Gorges Project on the middle reaches of the Yangtze River will concentrate on three major tasks on the southern side in the next six years.

The tasks are the construction of the giant dam on the southern bank, workshops to house 12 generators, and the vertical ship lift, said an executive of the China Yangtze River Three Gorges Project Development Corpo-

ration. Launched in 1993, the Three Gorges Project, consisting of a dam, workshops for 26 generators and facilities for navigation, is being built in three stages.

Preparations and construction of the first phase were carried out between 1993 and 1997, and the second phase took from 1998 to 2003. The new phase features the reservoir's water storage, the operation of the first group of generating units, and the passage of ships through the

permanent sluice gate.

About 70 per cent of the Three Gorges Project, which is expected to cost 180 billion yuan (21.69 billion US dollars), has been completed.

The third phase of the project will see the water level reach the expected altitude of 175 metres.

Concrete pouring in dam construction on the southern bank would start soon and reach a peak in 2004, said the executive.

MNA/Xinhua

Leonardo da Vinci's maps back in Italy for show

ROME, 23 June — A series of maps displaying Renaissance master Leonardo da Vinci's cartography talents are back on Italian soil for exhibition for the first time in 500 years.

The five maps, completed by Leonardo da Vinci in 1503, were greeted by a police escort on arriving in Italian Pisa's airport ahead of a new exhibition that opens in Arezzo Friday entitled Leonardo, Genio E Cartografo (Leonardo, Genius and Cartographer).

The papers, which belong to the British royal family's collection of 600 Leonardo da Vinci's drawings, are usually housed in Windsor.

They were among material Leonardo da Vinci took to France in 1516 when he became official "painter, engineer and architect" to King Francis I and were subsequently bought by the British royal family during the reign of King Charles II (1660-1685).

Organizers say Queen Elizabeth gave permission for the maps — which are so precious they are almost never moved from Windsor — to be lent to the Arezzo exhibition.

MNA/Xinhua

မညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီပွဲပြီးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

EU leaders' AIDS budget disappoints aid groups

PORTO CARRAS (Greece), 23 June — International health organizations said on Saturday they were disappointed EU leaders had failed to agree on pledging about one billion dollars to battle diseases including HIV/AIDS.

"We came here looking for the EU to make a firm commitment and they haven't. We didn't get it," said Lucy Matthew, the European director of DATA — an aid agency grappling with AIDS in Africa that was founded by rock stars Bono and Bob Geldof.

The global fund, established in 2001, aims to eradicate diseases, including tuberculosis and malaria, by providing prevention and treatment to poor people in developing countries.

Despite pledges of 4.6 billion US dollars through to 2008, it faces a 3.0-billion-US-dollar shortfall to cover its needs up to the end of next year, aid organizations say.

A statement adopted at an EU summit in this northern Greek resort on Friday did not pin down the amount Europe would hand over despite a draft conclusion saying "it will receive up to one billion euros from the European Union in 2004".

The final text omitted this reference, despite lobbying from EU heavyweights Britain and France.

"The European Council reaffirms its commitment to combating HIV/AIDS. It calls upon each member state and the Commission to make a substantial contribution on a long-term basis, to the financing of the fund," the summit's conclusions said.

The final amount will be determined in an international donors' conference on 16 July in Paris. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw told reporters that some EU partners only wanted to discuss cash at that gathering.

"There were some countries in the room, Germany and the Netherlands in particular, that had reservations about using the 'up to' phrase in advance of the donors' meeting," he said.

DATA's Matthew said she hoped British Prime Minister Tony Blair and French President Jacques Chirac would continue pushing their EU allies for more funds. "Between now and 16 July, we hope Blair and Chirac will convince the other countries of the need to contribute at least one billion euros (1.17 billion US dollars) to the global fund," she told Reuters.

Last month President George W Bush announced plans to donate one billion US dollars a year to the fund over the next five years, challenging European partners to do the same.

The US pledged the amount conditionally — only if it was matched two to one.

EU officials questioned the US figures and said the bloc already spends far more than Washington on fighting killer diseases.

MNA/Reuters



Chinese workers prepare for the opening of the Outer Ring Tunnel in Shanghai on 21 June, 2003. The 2,880-metre-long, eight-lane Outer Ring Tunnel or 'Wai Huan Tunnel', which runs under Hongpu River, is said to be Asia's longest submerged tunnel. It was constructed to reduce traffic congestion in and around China's biggest city. — INTERNET

US says working for drugs deal as WTO talks wrap up

SHARM EL-SHEIKH (Egypt), 23 June — The United States said on Sunday it was working to solve a trade dispute on access to life-saving medicines for poor countries as ministers ended a meeting aimed at boosting stalled global commerce talks.

The gathering in this Red Sea resort failed to bridge gaps over trade barriers in agriculture, but ministers said it had helped the whole Doha Round of World Trade Organization (WTO) talks ahead of a landmark September meeting in Cancun, Mexico.

"I am talking with the (drugs) companies, I am talking with African countries, I'm talking with Brazil and India," said US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick, speaking of efforts to solve a deadlock in the dispute over medicines.

The United States blocked a deal in December intended to help poor countries obtain cheap medicines to fight diseases like AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

Drug firms feared proposals to waive patents could help developing world producers of generic medicines, such as India and Brazil, steal markets.

The issue, along with agriculture, is one of the key tests for the Doha Round, supposed to give developing nations greater

benefits from world trade talks, as well as lead to an overall liberalization of commerce that will boost economic activity.

Zoellick said pharmaceutical firms were concerned that drugs sold cheaply to developing nations could be smuggled back to Western markets and that the system could be abused by makers of generic products to make medicines such as the anti-impotence drug Viagra.

A senior US official said the United States had dropped its idea of having a restricted list of illnesses that could be covered by the system of waivers.

"It is certainly fair to say industry is looking to resolve this issue and would like to resolve it by Cancun," he added, referring to the September meeting which could determine if the Doha Round negotiations finish on time in 2004.

MNA/Reuters



A girl waits at a cashier counter to buy four copies of "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" at a bookstore in Kuala Lumpur. Youngsters all over Asia flocked to stores to buy the new book. — INTERNET

New bulbs restore Eiffel Tower to City of Lights

PARIS, 23 June — Thousands of new bulbs made the enduring symbol of the City of Lights twinkle again in Paris on Saturday almost two years after wear-and-tear darkened the Eiffel Tower's lighting system.

The 20,000 new lights on the tower recreate a glittering display originally meant to show off one of the world's most visited tourist sites on the night of the Millennium.

It proved so popular that the system was left in operation until the bulbs began to fail. It was shut off on 14 July, 2001, after many of the bulbs, which were designed for only short-term use, burned out or stopped working. A new set of sparkling bulbs was switched on after 11 pm (2100 GMT) by Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë

and will stay on until 2 am (0000 GMT) Sunday.

The display capped the 22nd annual "Fete de la Musique" — the music festival that fills French cities with free concerts and brings amateurs out to sing in bistros and on street corners all over the country.

The pyramid-shaped bulbs spread all over the iron structure flash on and off quickly to complement the old lighting.

MNA/Reuters

Quintuplets born in Sicily in fragile condition

PALERMO (Sicily), 23 June — An Italian woman has given birth to quintuplets, but the mother and the babies are in a serious condition, doctors at a hospital in the Sicilian city of Messina said on Saturday.

The quintuplets' birth, which took place on Wednesday, was kept secret until now at the request of the parents, they said.

The babies, four girls and a boy, were born two months prematurely. The smallest weighed 550 grammes while the biggest weighed 1.2 kilos. All five are in incubators.

"The quintuplets are 28 weeks and two days old and if a premature birth is a difficult situation when there is one child, imagine when there are five of them," Doctor Eloisa Gitto told Reuters.

"For the time being they are in a precarious but stable state. It's too early to be reassured though."

The mother is in an intensive care

unit. Doctors said they could not disclose details of her conditions for privacy reasons.

The 34-year-old was originally due to give birth in Cosenza, on the Italian mainland, but complications arose and she was flown by helicopter to Messina.

Data from national statistics agency ISTAT shows multiple births have been on the rise in Italy in past years, largely due to fertility treatment, although it is not known if such treatment was used in this case.

A Sicilian couple had octuplets in 2001, but four of the babies died within days of their birth.

MNA/Reuters

Toshack warns Beckham of Real challenge

LONDON, 23 June — Former Real Madrid coach John Toshack is not convinced that the club had to sign David Beckham or that the England captain will settle easily in Spain. "The signing doesn't make too much sense unless of course Luis Figo moves on," the Welshman, who steered Real to the Spanish title in 1990 and had another short spell with them in the late 1990s, said in an interview broadcast on Saturday.

"I think most coaches in Spain would tell you that the Real Madrid side needs strengthening in other areas," the Welshman told Sky Sports.

"The president Florentino Perez has gone in for this (sort of signing) over the last three years, Ronaldo, Figo and (Zinedine) Zidane. Unless there are one or two changes I think he might have just gone a bit too far."

Figo plays on the right of midfield for Real, the same position Beckham has occupied for Manchester United for a decade.

Toshack doubts whether Beckham, signed from United this week for 35 million euros, has the footballing and psychological armoury to do well in Spain.

"I'm not so sure that Beckham has got the character and kind of qualities to play in that central midfield role that this Madrid side needs," Toshack said.

He said the Real fans were notoriously hard to please, as Brazil striker Ronaldo found early last season following his move from Inter Milan. —MNA/Reuters



Real Madrid's Brazilian Ronaldo controls the ball surrounded by Athletic Bilbao's players during their last Spanish League soccer match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium on 22 June, 2003. — INTERNET

Lewis survives bloody battle to keep world title

LOS ANGELES, 23 June — Britain's Lennox Lewis scored a bloody sixth-round technical knockout win over Vitali Klitschko on Saturday, successfully defending his WBC and IBO titles and confirming his status as the top heavyweight of his era.

In one of the most brutal and exciting world heavy weight bouts in recent years, Lewis and Ukrainian Klitschko staged a gladiatorial battle, the two giants standing toe-to-toe trading blows through six tough rounds.

But as the bell rang to start the seventh and Klitschko's left eye sliced opened, referee Lou Moret stopped the fight, Lewis raising his arms and thumping his chest in victory.

When the bout was halted, Klitschko was ahead 58-56 on the cards of all three judges and charged across the ring towards Lewis amazed at the stoppage. The near-capacity crowd of 15,939 at the Staples Center was also surprised, booing loudly before cheering Klitschko as he remained in the ring soaking up their applause. The first world heavyweight title fight to be staged in Los Angeles in

45 years marked Lewis' first appearance since his eighth-round knockout of Mike Tyson in Memphis last June.

Lewis (41-2-1) weighed 256-1/2 pounds, the heaviest he has been for a fight, and appeared ring rusty in the early rounds. For one of the few times in his career, Lewis met a taller opponent but the 6-foot-7 Klitschko, a late replacement for injured Canadian Kirk Johnson, could not put his opponent away despite hurting him with a crunching right in the second round. Lewis, 37, will now look to close out his career with one or two more big paydays, starting with a likely showdown with Roy Jones Jr. later this year. But the champion said he would consider a rematch with Klitschko if the money was right. It was only the second defeat for Klitschko (32-2).

MNA/Reuters

Romario hits hat-trick as Guarani finish with eight men

RIO DE JANEIRO, 23 June — Veteran striker Romario scored a hat-trick to help Fluminense thump Guarani 5-2 in the Brazilian championship after the visitors had three players sent off and also argued with police over a refereeing decision on Sunday.

Police came on to the field in the 85th minute to protect the match officials, who were surrounded by furious Guarani players protesting the award of a penalty to Fluminense.

Play was held up for five minutes as Guarani players and around half a dozen policemen, some raising their truncheons, pushed, shoved, threatened and pointed fingers at each other in the penalty area.

When play resumed, Romario, 37, completed his hat-trick by coolly converting the penalty and Guarani defender Paulao was sent off for dissent.

Romario was playing his second game since returning from a three-month stint with

France seal "home" Cup semifinal

PARIS, 23 June — Defending champions France thrashed New Zealand 5-0 in the Confederations Cup on Sunday to finish top of Group A and guarantee a semifinal clash at the Stade de France. Two first-half goals by Olivier Kapo and Thierry Henry and a third by Djibril Cisse in the 71st minute put the former world champions firmly in control.

Midfielders Ludovic Giuly and Robert Pires completed the rout with goals in injury-time.

France topped the group with a maximum nine points and will now play the runners-up of Group B in the last four.

The European champions proved too strong for the All Whites, who ended the tournament with three defeats from three, a repeat of their performance four years ago.

Midfielder Ludovic Giuly, making his first appearance in this year's tournament, set the hosts on their way to victory by setting up Auxerre's Kapo for a close-range strike in the 17th minute. Three minutes later, the Monaco playmaker outspurred defender Gerard Davis and delivered a pinpoint cross for Henry to head home at the far post.

France then eased off the gas before Cisse, who hit the woodwork in the first half, slotted home a third goal from Henry's cross.

Goalkeeper Mickael Landreau, called into the side an hour before kick-off after Fabien Barthez became a father, denied New Zealand a consolation with a superb late save.

France then added two further goals in stoppage time through Giuly and Pires. —MNA/Reuters

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Real Madrid win 29th league title on final night

MADRID, 23 June — Real Madrid clinched their 29th league title on Sunday as two goals from Ronaldo and a thunderous Roberto Carlos free kick earned them a 3-1 victory over Athletic Bilbao at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

On a nerve-jangling final night of a long Spanish league season, Real Madrid's victory kept them two

points clear of Real Sociedad, who had to settle for second spot despite a 3-0 win at home to Atletico Madrid.

Real Madrid took the lead with a close-range Ronaldo finish in the ninth minute only for Bilbao to equalize after 36 minutes with a Bittor Alkiza strike.

A Roberto Carlos special restored the Real Madrid lead in first-half injury time, though, and a second Ronaldo strike after 61 minutes made certain of the title.

Deportivo Coruna and Celta Vigo were already assured of finishing third and fourth and taking the remaining Champions League places, while last season's champions Valencia fin-

ished fifth to go through to the UEFA Cup.

In the only other outstanding issue of the league season, Barcelona pipped Athletic Bilbao to a UEFA Cup place with a 2-0 victory at home to Celta that took them up to sixth.

Real Madrid went top of the table in the penultimate game of the season when they swept to a 4-0 victory over neighbours Atletico, while Sociedad slipped to a 3-2 defeat at Champions League-bound Celta Vigo.

In a repetition of the finale to the 1979-80 season, Real went into their last match needing a victory over Athletic Bilbao to clinch the title ahead of Sociedad.

MNA/Reuters



River Plate's player Andres D'alessandro (C) tries to get past between Gimnasia y Esgrima La Plata's Andres Madrid (L) and Martin Pautasso during their Argentine First Division soccer match in Buenos Aires on 22 June, 2003. River Plate won the match, 3-0. — INTERNET

MRTV-3

24-6-2003* (Tuesday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greetings
Coming up
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma
Panorama &
Myanma Sentiment"
- 9:06 Dat Taw Gyaik
Waterfall
- 9:10 **Headline News**
- 9:12 Myanmar Cuisine
"Noodle with
Coconut-soup"
- 9:15 **National News**
- 9:20 100 Shuttle Traditional Weaving Industry
- 9:25 Chin Dance
- 9:30 **National News**
- 9:35 Kayin Traditional Vegetable Curry (Tarlabaw)
- 9:40 Song
"Dear Myanmar"
- 9:45 **National News**
- 9:50 Putao Surrounded by Natural Scenic Beauty
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and See Myanmar"
- 10:00 Close Down



Health educative talks, organized by MMA (Women Chapter), in progress.—MNA

Health educative talks held

YANGON, 23 June — Myanmar Medical Association (Women Chapter) held educative talks on health at the meeting hall of Tamway Township Peace and Development Council Office this morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairperson of MMA (Women Chapter) Dr Daw Yi Yi Hla and members, officials of division/district/township level health departments, members of the Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Women's Affairs Committee and pregnant women.

First, Chairperson Dr Daw Yi Yi Hla extended greetings and explained the purpose of holding of the talks, and Tamway Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Aung Kyaw Soe made a speech.

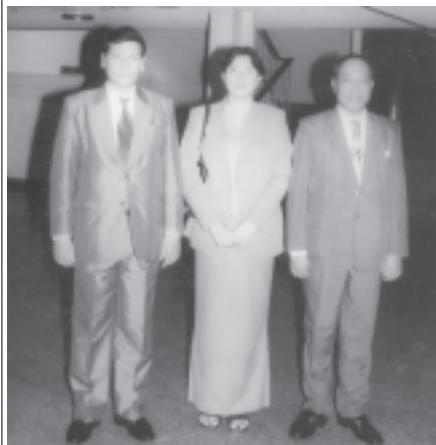
Obstetrics and

Gynecology Specialist Dr Daw Tin Soe of Yangon General Hospital (East) and Specialist Dr Daw Myint Myint Kyi of Yangon General Hospital gave health

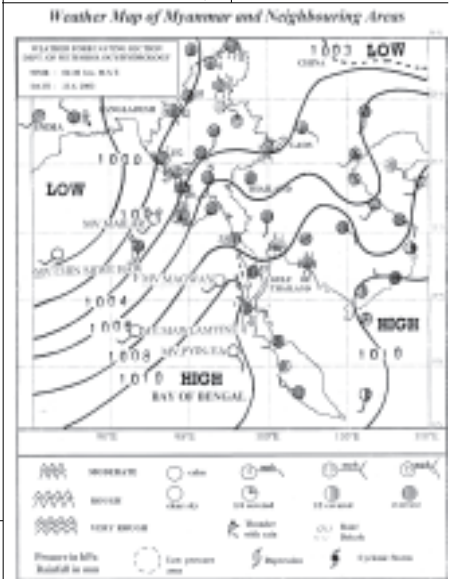
educative talks. After the talks, Dr Khin Than Mya, Head of Township Health Department, spoke words of thanks.

MNA

MNA/Xinhua



Myanmar Red Cross Society Central Council members U Gueness, of Kachin State and U Pe Thein of southern Shan State together with Project Officer Daw Khin Soe seen at Yangon International Airport on 21 June before departure for Vientiane, Laos, to attend the Disaster Management Course.—MNA



WEATHER

Monday, June 23

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather have been partly cloudy in Kayin, Chin States, lower Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan State, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in upper Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Homalin (3.98) inches, Sittway (2.48) inches, Maungdaw (1.97) inches and Loikaw (1.77) inches.

Maximum temperature on 22-6-2003 was 27.0°C (81°F). Minimum temperature on 23-6-2003 was 20.6°C (69°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 23-6-2003 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 22-6-2003 was nil.

Rainfall on 23-6-2003 was 27 mm (1.06 inches) at Yangon Airport, 19 mm (0.75 inch) at Kaba-Aye and 34 mm (1.34 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 797 mm (31.38 inches) at Yangon Airport, 854 mm (33.62 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 942 mm (37.09 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 15 mph from South at (08:30) hours MST on 23-6-2003.

Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 24-6-2003:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine, Mon States, Yangon, Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Kachin, Shan, Chin States, upper Sagaing, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfall in Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be generally moderate in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Decrease of rain in the upper Myanmar areas. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-6-2003:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-6-2003:** Partly cloudy.



View today:

Tuesday, June 24

7:00 am

1. ဆွေးနွေးမင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်
ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ
နာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊
အဘိဓမ္မဟောရှုရှု၊ အဘိဓမ္မ
အဗ္ဗဟာသန္ဓေတော်ကတိဝိသုကရ
ဓမ္မဘာဏ္ဍာဂါရီကဆရာတော်
ဘန္တန်ဝိမိတ္တသာရာတိဝိသင်္ခ
ပရိတ်တရားတော်
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. ကဗျာဆန်းဥယျာဉ်

8:10 am

6. Song of yesteryears

8:20 am

7. ဖောင်းကတောရေလှောင်တံခံ

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Grammar made easy

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold national spirit

4:30 pm

3. Musical programme

4:40 pm

4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး

ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ

ပထမနှစ် (ရက္ခဝေ၊ သတ္တဝေ)

အထူးပြုချာ (ရက္ခဝေ)

4:55 pm

5. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:05 pm

6. Dance of national races

5:25 pm

7. The mirror images of the musical oldies

5:35 pm

8. ခံစားနားထောင်စာတော်ပင်

5:50 pm

9. Sing and enjoy

6:30 pm

10. Evening news

7:00 pm

11. Weather report

7:05 pm

12. အိမ်ကျွမ်း

7:20 pm

13. ဘောလုံး (အပိုင်း-၁)

7:30 pm

14. Musical programme

7:45 pm

15. နိုင်ငံ့နာမည်ပြိုင်ပွဲ (အပိုင်း-၃)

8:00 pm

16. News

17. International news

18. Weather report

19. နိုင်ငံခြားတေးဂီတသံသွေး

"လွှမ်းမိုးခြင်းမဟူသော"

(အပိုင်း-၂၅) (စတင်သံသွေးမိုး)

20. The next day programme



Tune in today:

Tuesday, June 24

8:30 am

Brief news

8:35 am

Music

8:40 am

Perspectives

8:45 am

Music

8:50 am

National news/Slogan

9:00 am

Music

9:05 am

International news

9:10 am

Music

1:30 pm

Brief news

1:35 pm

Music

1:45 pm

National news/Slogan

1:55 pm

Music

2:05 pm

International news

2:15 pm

Music

2:20 pm

Article/Music

2:35 pm

Aspects of Myanmar

— Kachin State

2:45 pm

Souvenirs

9:00 pm

English Lesson: 32

9:15 pm

Article/music

9:25 pm

Weekly sports reel

9:35 pm

Harmony time

9:45 pm

News/Slogan

10:20 pm

Portfolio for easy listening

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects regional development in Katha District, road sections and bridges along Shwebo-Myitkyina Road

YANGON, 23 June— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing, Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung of the local station and military officers and departmental officials, left Wuntho for Kawlin on 20 June morning.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected roads and bridges along the road and arrived in Kawlin at 8 am.

Then, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and party met with service personnel, members of social organizations and townselders at the meeting hall of Kawlin Township Peace and Development Council Office and gave instructions.

Present also were Katha District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Myint Naing and members, the Chairman of Katha Township Peace and Development Council and members, departmental officials,



Lt-Gen Ye Myint meets departmental personnel, social organizations and local people in Kawlin.— MNA

members of social organizations and townselders.

First, the Chairman of Katha Township Peace and Development Council reported on geographical conditions of Katha Township, transport, farming and industrial undertakings, self sufficiency in rice and social conditions, and implementation of the five rural development tasks.

Then, the Chairman of Katha District Peace and

Development Council reported on agriculture and regional development, transport, construction of roads and bridges in the district.

Next, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing gave a supplementary report.

In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Ye Myint attended to the needs.

In his address, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that Kawlin has been developing and is located at the centre of the township areas, adding that there is the main road in the township.

To ensure better transport, the main road is to be linked with other roads. Only then, will there be smooth flow of commodities, thereby further contributing to regional development.

The government has been making all-out efforts for building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. In the process, steps are being taken for bringing about harmonious development across the nation. To ensure successful implementation of the tasks the local authorities, the people and members of social organization are to strive together with the government.

The State Peace and Development Council is making efforts with added momentum for national development. With the active participation of the people, the nation is making progress in development. The entire national people are to guard against the danger posed by destructive elements who hamper the nation-building endeavours while striving for regional and national development.

He called on the local people to make efforts for regional and national development.

Then, Lt-Gen Ye Myint greeted the departmental officials, members of social organization and townselders.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander and party looked into Kawlin People's Hospital (25-bed) where they were welcomed by Township Health Officer Dr Thit Lwin and staff members.

After inspecting operation theatre, wards, X-ray unit, laboratory and dental clinic, Lt-Gen Ye Myint asked after the health of the patients and comforted them.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected new Indoor Stadium in Kawlin. At the stadium, the Chairman of Kawlin Township Peace and Development Council reported on progress in construction of the stadium and the salient points of the sports facility to Lt-Gen Ye Myint who gave necessary instructions.

Then, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party left Kawlin for Shwebo via Kyauktan Village.

They then arrived at Bridge No1/84 on Shwebo-Myitkyina Road and inspected the upgrading of the bridge. Then, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Bridge No 1/79 and inspected measures being taken for upgrading of the bridge and gave instructions to officials.

On arrival at Zaw Creek at the border of Katha District and Kanbalu Township, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected current of the creek and geographical condition and gave instructions to officials. They then arrived at Baw Creek in Kanbalu Township and inspected current of the creek and geographical condition for construction of a bridge.

At the milepost No 50/1, Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected current of Hlweiseik Creek and geographical condition for construction of a bridge.

Next, they arrived at the special teak plantations of Kanbalu Township Forest Department near Sabainantha Village.

(See page 9)



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addresses first coordination meeting of Leading Committee for Organizing the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions.— MNA

Leading Committee for Performing Arts Competitions meets

YANGON, 23 June — The first coordination meeting of the Leading Committee for the Holding of the 11th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions took place at the meeting hall of the National Museum on Pyay road here this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the Leading Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee Deputy Minister for Culture U Soe Nyunt and members, celebrated performing artistes, chairmen of respective work committees and subcommittees, chairmen of the panels of judges, and officials.

In his address, Maj-Gen Myint Swe said that with the aim of upholding the national traditional cultural characteristics among the entire Myanmar nationals and the youths of new generation and promoting the moral development to preserve the national traditional cultural arts, the MTCAPAC has been held yearly since 1993. It has now entered into the preparatory period of holding the 11th MTCAPAC. The MTCAPAC is held every year to raise the national prestige.

Thanks to the cooperative efforts of the artistes and chairmen of the respective committees as well as of the public, the MTCAPAC can be held more and more grandly year after year.

The State Peace and Development Council Chairman's Office formed the panel of patrons and the leading committee on 10 June so as to grandly hold the competitions.

The other two committees and nine subcommittees will also be set up at this meeting to start carrying out the tasks of the competitions. It will be necessary to coordinate in advance matters related to the competitions, he said.

Next, Deputy Minister U Soe Nyunt reported on tasks concerning the holding of the competitions. Then, Director-General U Kyaw Win of the Fine Arts Department also reported on the setting of the date on which the competitions will be held, the venues for the competitions, categories of the competitions, rules for marionettes and King Hsaddan Elephant competitions, the setting of prize presentation date, and amount of cash awards. Later, a general round of discussions followed. Afterwards, the commander attended to the requirements. — 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.