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Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt and party, diplomats and UN officials attend the ceremony to incinerate seized narcotic drugs for 17th time. — MNA

Yearly decline of poppy production due to close cooperation between the nation and the people Narcotic drugs worth US\$ 862m of street value in US destroyed

YANGON, 26 June — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony to destroy the seized narcotic drugs for the 17th time, organized by Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, at the compound of the Drug Elimination Museum at the corner of Hanthawady and Kyundaw Streets in Kamayut Township at 8 am today.

IP Ohnmar Yin Mee and IP Ma Pyone of Myanmar Police Force Headquarters acted as masters of ceremonies.

Secretary of CCDAC Director-General of MPF Brig-Gen Khin Yi presented a report. He said:

Being an occasion to burn and destroy narcotic drugs, a menace that can destroy the entire human race, distinguished guests will clearly witness today how Myanmar is striving relentlessly to control and eradicate narcotic drugs. We firmly believe this undertaking as a national cause.

Today is the seventeenth occasion of burning seized narcotic drugs here in Yangon since 1990. There have also been 32 occasions

where narcotic drugs, chemical precursors and opium seeds were burnt and destroyed in border areas and other towns.

In addition to these control measures, a 15-year programme to reduce poppy cultivation and opium production started in 1999-2000 and is now already in its 5th year of implementation. As part of this 15-year programme for reducing supplies, New Destiny Project was launched in April 2002 on a pilot scale. In project areas, educational

campaigns, crops substitution, livestock breeding, income generation and other development activities are being initiated with increased momentum and the leaders of different national races cooperated by laying down directives on informative as well as prohibitive measures in their own local dialects with active involvement of the local authorities. Five Cabinet Ministers who are members of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control are in the forefront of these activities

with four Deputy Ministers closely supervising the development process in respective project areas.

Destroying poppy seeds surrendered voluntarily to the authorities is also an important element in this project. Although poppy seeds do not contain morphine and consequently do not come under international control, the seeds themselves can be grown into plants. This led to advocate for surrendering them voluntarily and there

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Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

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Bottles of cough syrup with drug potency being destroyed by rollers at the 17th destruction ceremony of seized narcotic drugs. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 27 June, 2003

Rural water supply projects for long-term benefit of rural people

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on the adoption of the five rural development tasks to bridge the gap between the urban and rural areas and to pave the way for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation. The five rural development tasks are to ensure smooth and easy transport in rural areas, to supply rural areas with clean water for drinking and agricultural purposes, to raise the education standard of rural people, to promote health care services for rural people and to develop the economy of rural areas.

The Head of State, in April 1999, gave guidance on drawing a 10-year plan for supplying clean water to all villages in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay divisions where water is scarce. There are 8,042 villages in these divisions and 15,813 villages in other states and divisions where water is insufficient.

The sixth cash donation ceremony for supply of clean water to rural areas being implemented by the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was held at the Development Affairs Department (Head Office) in Thanlytsun, Botahtaung Township, on 25 April and it was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt. He said on the occasion that people in upper Myanmar had experienced scarcity of water for hundreds of years. However, he continued, due to the leadership of the government and the generous donations of wellwishers, posterity would be free from the trouble caused by scarcity of water.

At the sixth donation ceremony, a total of 209 wellwishers donated K 168.04528 million and US \$ 5,000. Since the 2000-2001 fiscal year, water supply projects have been successfully implemented in 4187 out of 8042 villages in three divisions in the dry zone. In the fiscal 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, K 321.61 million and K 561.78 million were spent on rural water supply projects respectively. A total of K 650.32 million has been earmarked for the fiscal 2003-2004.

Rural water supply projects have been gaining momentum owing to the cooperation of wellwishers and the support of international organizations such as Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Bridge Asia Japan (BAJ) and UNICEF. Rural water supply projects will enable the rural people to enjoy long-term benefits such as good health, happiness, agricultural and economic developments and higher standard of living. Therefore, we would like to urge the entire people to cooperate with the government and take part in the project.

IT examinations to be held

YANGON, 26 — With the aim of developing the information technology, Myanmar Computer Scientists Association (MCSA) will hold examinations of MCSA Professional Certification (Fundamental) on 12 July, Networking and Software Engineering on 2 August in Yangon and Mandalay simultaneously. Any one

can take the examinations, and those who pass the exams can apply for the scholarship. Curriculum and sample questions — Fundamental (FE) and Software and Networking (SE & NE) by 5 and by 25 July respectively — can be available at the office of MCSA (ph 01-652276 in MICT Park).

MNA

Cash donated to MNWCWA

YANGON, 26 June — The Chinese Enterprises Chamber in Myanmar donated cash to the Myanmar National Working Committee for Women's Affairs at a ceremony held at the meeting hall of the Social Welfare Department on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township here this afternoon.

Present were member of the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs and also Vice-chairperson of the Working Committee Prof Dr Daw May May Yi, member of the MNCWA and also member of the Working Committee Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe,

Adviser to the Education Sub-committee of the Working Committee Daw Khin Than Nwe, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun, Director-General of the SWD U Sit Myaing, departmental officials, and wellwishers. Prof Dr Daw May May Yi expressed thanks for the donation of cash. Next, Vice-President of the CECM Mr Liu Xiaonan handed over K 1.5 million to Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, who later presented certificate of honour to the wellwishers. Afterwards, Mr Liu Xiaonan explained the purpose of cash donation.

MNA

Heroin and raw opium seized

YANGON, 26 June — A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and Myanmar Police Force, acting on information, searched the house of U An Khun Ma Naw of No (Thasa/813) in Thazi Ward, Bhamo on 12 June. The authorities arrested U Lashi Bran Shaung, son of U Lashi La of Yanhu Village, Namkhan Township, and U Lashi Mar Naw, son of U Lashi Naw, found at the house together with 44.4 grams of heroin.

On 17 June, a similar combined team, acting on a tip-off, stopped and searched a van with number plates La/8980 on its way from Kutkai to Muse at Mongyu 105-mile check-point and arrested Ma Ywe Taung, daughter of U Maji Ton of Kaungkha Village, Kutkai Township, Ma Nan Payi, daughter of U Zaw Mon, Ma Mar Payi, daughter of U Khaw Mai Hla, and

Ma Htwai Bauk, daughter of U Dot Naung, together with 13.9 kilos of raw opium. On further investigation, the combined team also arrested Ma Dwe Lein and Ma Lu Hsaing, daughters of U Marla of Lwewinhai Village, Lweje Township. In this incident, 6 culprits were arrested together with 13.9 kilos of raw opium. Action is being taken against the culprits under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law by the police stations concerned. — MNA

Six persons seized with 13.9 kilos of opium in Muse on 17 June. — MNA

Myanmar Gazette

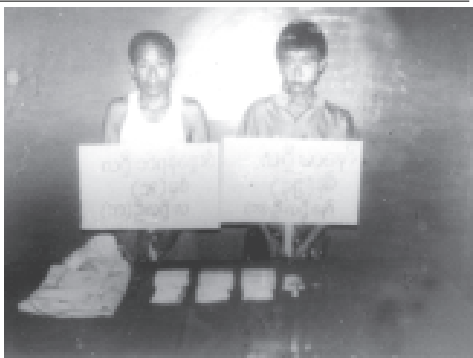
YANGON, 26 June — The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the appointment of the following heads of service organizations on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Win Kyaw	Director-General Hydro-electric Power Department, Ministry of Electric Power
(b) Dr San Hla Thaw	Director-General Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, Ministry of Transport

MNA



Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepts K 1.5 million from Mr Liu Xiaonan. — MNA



U Lashi Bran Shaung and U Lashi Mar Naw seized with 44.4 grams of heroin in Bhamo on 12 June. — MNA



Six persons seized with 13.9 kilos of opium in Muse on 17 June. — MNA

ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ ကာကွယ်ရေး သတိပေးချီးဆော်ချက်

- ၁။ ယခုအခါ ကမ္ဘာ့နိုင်ငံအချို့တွင် ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ ဖြစ်ပွားလျက်ရှိပါသည်။ ဤရောဂါသည် ကိုရိုနာ (Corona) အုပ်စုဝင် ဗိုင်းရပ်(စ်)ရိုးကြောင့် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အဆိုပါရိုးသည် လူနာချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း၊ နှာချောင်း၊ နှာရည်၊ ရွှံ့သလိပ်များမှတဆင့်သော်လည်းကောင်း၊ လူနာအသုံးအဆောင် ပစ္စည်းမှ တဆင့်သော်လည်းကောင်း အသက်ရှူလမ်းကြောင်းမှ ခန္ဓာကိုယ် အတွင်းသို့ ဝင်ရောက်၍ ရောဂါဖြစ်ပေါ်ပါသည်။
- ၂။ ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ၏ လက္ခဏာများမှာ-
- (က) ကိုယ်အပူချိန် (38°C) သို့မဟုတ် (100.5°F) ထက်ပို၍မြင့်တက်ခြင်း၊
 - (ခ) အသက်ရှူလမ်းကြောင်းဆိုင်ရာ ရောဂါလက္ခဏာများ ဖြစ်သည် - ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း၊
 - အသက်ရှူမဝခြင်း၊
 - အသက်ရှူရခက်ခဲခြင်းနှင့်
 - (ဂ) အောက်ပါအကြောင်းတစ်ခုခုရှိခြင်း - ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါရှိသူလူနာ (သို့မဟုတ်) လူနာနှင့် အနီးကပ်

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

- (ဂ) ကောင်းမွန်စွာအိပ်စက်အနားယူခြင်း
- (ဃ) ကိုယ်လက်လွှပ်ရာမှ မှန်မှန်ပြုလုပ်ခြင်း
- (င) နာချောင်းချောင်းဆိုးလျှင်လက်ကိုင်ပုစွန်ဝတ်ဆင်ခြင်း
- (စ) ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေး (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ လက္ခဏာရှိသူများအား နှိပ်စိမ်းသုံးမျက်နှာဖုံး (surgical mask) ဝတ်ရုံ (gown) ပလပ်စတစ်ရှေ့ဖုံးခါးစည်း (apron)နှင့် ပလပ်စတစ်လက်အိတ် (gloves) အသုံးပြုကာ လူနာနှင့်ထိတွေ့ခြင်း၊ လူနာအသုံးအဆောင် ပစ္စည်းများ ကိုင်တွယ်ခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ခြင်း
- (ဆ) ကူးစက်ရောဂါများကို ထိရောက်စွာ ကာကွယ်ရန်အတွက် လက်ကို ဆပ်ပြာနှင့် စင်ကြယ်စွာ ဆေးကြောခြင်း
- (ဇ) လူထုထပ်သောနေရာများ နှင့် ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားနေသော နိုင်ငံများသို့ ခရီးသွားလာခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ခြင်း
- ၅။ ကိုယ်အပူချိန်မြင့်တက်ခြင်း၊ ကိုယ်လက်ကိုင်ခဲခြင်း၊ ခေါင်းကိုက်ခြင်း၊ ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း၊ လည်ချောင်းနာခြင်း၊ ဖောပန်းခြင်း၊ အသက်ရှူကြပ်ခြင်း၊ ရင်ဘတ်အောင့်ခြင်းစသည့်လက္ခဏာများဖြစ်ပွားပါကနီးစပ်ရာကျန်းမာရေးဌာန/ဆေးရုံ/ဆေးပေးခန်းများတွင်ပြသ၍ ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူရန် သတိပေးချီးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Britain, US try to weaken UN deal on cluster bombs

LONDON, 26 June—Britain and the United States are attempting to weaken the provisions of an international treaty requiring belligerents to clear up unexploded cluster bombs after the end of any conflict, according to the group Landmine Action.

Talks have been going on for 10 days in Geneva to reach consensus on a protocol under the United Nations convention on conventional weapons. Draft proposals would oblige countries to pay for the safe destruction of cluster bombs they had used during a war.

Richard Lloyd, the director of Landmine Action, said yesterday: "Rather than adopt a clear obligation to clear up the mess, the UK [delegation] is suggesting it should 'cooperate' in addressing the problems that unexploded munitions cause."

"We are disappointed the UK are failing to take a lead in this issue. Britain is quite isolated from other European countries over it. [The UK wording] would not make the difference to stop people being blown up after wars."

"The British position in Geneva is contrary to the impression left by

ministers in parliament that they would work positively to achieve an effective, legally binding protocol. They have been arguing instead for a weaker language in certain key articles."

The US, Mr Lloyd said, had been even more resistant to calls for a legal duty. "The biggest problem is the United States," Mr Lloyd said.

"We hope they will change their view, but at present they want a voluntary declaration [of intent to remove cluster bombs] rather than having a duty imposed on them."

"The negotiations are by consensus, so it looks likely there will be an agreement at the end of the week to adjourn for further talks in November."

The Ottawa Treaty on landmines already requires states which plant mines to remove them after a conflict. As well as unexploded cluster bombs,

the new protocol would also cover hand grenades and other explosive devices.

Landmine Action is one of the main groups campaigning on the issue, and has estimated that US and UK forces used around 300,000 cluster bomb sub-munitions, or "bomblets", on Iraq in the war earlier this year. A significant number failed to explode.

Cluster bombs are usually used against troop concentrations. British aircraft dropped 66 cluster bombs, each containing 147 bomblets, and fired 2,000 artillery shells which each contained 49 bomblets. US forces dropped around 1,200 cluster bombs.

UN agencies have estimated that hundreds of Iraqi children have been killed or injured since the end of the fighting from picking up unexploded shells and bomblets.—Internet

US government grossly underestimates time and financial resources needed to get postwar Iraq on its feet

WASHINGTON, 26 June—The US government grossly underestimated the time and financial resources needed to get postwar Iraq back on its feet, said a senior US senator who recently returned from the war-torn country. Senator Joseph Biden, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, lashed the White House for what he said was poor preparation for the postwar period and continued US missteps in administering Iraq since the end of the war.

Internet



The First consignment of \$ 3.3 million worth of relief goods for Iraq is ready to be loaded onto a cargo aircraft, at an airport in Islamabad, on 25 June, 2003. Pakistan sent on Wednesday humanitarian relief supplies of medicines and surgical equipment to Iraq, and will soon donate some 9,000 tons of rice. —INTERNET

Mahathir says Abdullah Badawi suitable to take over Premiership

KUALA LUMPUR, 26 June—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said on Tuesday that his deputy Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is suitable to take over as prime minister when he steps down in October this year.

He said he has confidence in Abdullah to carry on the country's policies.

"I think he is very suitable to take over," he said at the Parliament lobby here.

Mahathir said: "We have worked together for a long time. We know each other very well, and I have no problem working with him."

On whether he is worried that the new government will change the current policies after he retires, he said that Malaysia has been practicing collective decision-making through the Cabinet and "I have no worries about that."

"We belong to a single party and the

policy of the party remains even though the leaders of the party change," Mahathir said.

"The decisions are made by the Cabinet and everybody is bound by the Cabinet. It is not (the decision of the) prime minister alone," he said.

"If the prime minister comes up with an idea but the Cabinet does not agree, the idea cannot go through," he said, adding "this is an entrenched policy of the government, and the way the government handles any situation is determined by the Cabinet."

Mahathir, who has been in power for 22 years, stunned the nation with a resignation announcement in June last year. He later agreed to continue to helm the government till October this year to ensure a smooth and orderly transition of power to his deputy.

MNA/Xinhua

ထုတ်တုန့်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ကြ

US troops accused of killing civilians in Iraq

KAMPALA, 27 June — The Ugandan Government-owned newspaper has accused the United States troops of killing civilians in a recent strike on a three-vehicle convoy fleeing Iraq near the Syrian border.

The *New Vision* newspaper said on Wednesday in a commentary entitled "don't kill civilians" that the United States is carrying DNA testing on the bodies found in the wreckage of a three-car convoy in Iraq.

"The USA is hoping that the remains of Saddam Hussein or his sons might be identified among the dead bodies after its special forces destroyed the convoy near or at the Syrian border," the commentary said.

It said that "it is still not known when the attack took place or how it took place. The American Government is keeping very quiet about the whole incident."

The commentary pointed out that "the attack raises serious human rights issues."

The US Government "has itself criticized Israel for its policy of assassinating Palestinian radicals who are non-combatants. How different is the situation in Iraq?" it questioned.

MNA/Xinhua

Britain to ban mobile phone use during driving

LONDON, 26 June — British drivers will be forbidden to use mobile phones during driving and violators of the law to take effect from December will be fined up to 1,000 pounds, government sources said on Tuesday.

The government will ban the use of hand-held mobile phones during driving from 1 December, with offenders being fined from 30 pounds (40 US dollars) to a maximum 1,000 pounds (1,665 US dollars) if their cases go to court.

Those caught breaking the ban will also get three penalty points on their driving licences for each offense.

Roads Safety Minister David Jamieson said: "Driving whilst using a mobile phone is dangerous." He said any driver would be distracted by a phone call or text message.

"We are all too familiar with the sight of people driving along while holding and talking on their mobile phones."

"Our decision to introduce this new offense will make the roads safer for us all. Missing a call won't kill you — an accident quite possibly could," he said. — MNA/Xinhua

WB extends \$20m loan to Iran

TEHERAN, 26 June—The world Bank has extended a loan of 20 million US dollars to Iran's Department of Environment for air pollution control and environment projects, local Press reported on Tuesday. Three million dollars of the loan will be spent on purchase of equipment for air

pollution control and water quality control systems, personnel training and other related projects. The Department of Environment will purchase 15 air pollution control systems for Teheran, 15, for Isfahan, five for Arak and 13 for Mashhad, an official of the department said.—MNA/Xinhua



A US soldier searches a vehicle for weapons at a checkpoint in Baghdad, Iraq, on 25 June, 2003.—INTERNET

Fund for Iraq proposed outside of US control

UNITED NATIONS, 26 June—Wary of US control of Iraqi development monies, several European donors proposed on Tuesday an international fund for reconstruction during a 52-nation conference on measures to rebuild Iraq.

But the proposal for a separate fund was one of the few signs of discomfort with the US-led occupiers at the first UN-sponsored meeting among US and British occupation authorities, Iraqi delegates and international agencies.

"A number of delegates wanted this to be seen as a moment of unity," said Mark Malloch Brown, head of the UN Development Programme, which initiated the conference, referring to the bitterness over the US-led invasion of Iraq.

"What it does show is that the membership is united around the issue of building as quickly as possible an Iraq which is back on its own feet," he told a news conference.

At the conclusion of the two-day

meeting, the United Nations, the World Bank, the European Union, Japan, the United Arab Emirates as well as the United States agreed to organize a donors conference in October to address reconstruction.

Malloch Brown said "there was strong support" for a separate fund, adding: "Not every donor will necessarily use it. But we were asked to go away and develop the options so at the time of the full conference donors could decide how they wanted such a fund structured."

The new fund would be parallel to the Development Fund for Iraq set up by the United States and Britain to spend Iraqi oil monies on emergency needs and rebuilding the war-shattered

country. Participants in the conference said France and several other large donors said they wanted multinational control over monies they might donate.

And their assistance will be needed. "There was general agreement that petroleum income will not be sufficient to cover Iraq's reconstruction needs over the next few years, making donor assistance essential," a closing statement said.

The US-led Coalition Provisional Authority, which includes Iraqi members, was pressed by UN officials and donor nations to put their plans on paper and devise a budget as soon as possible or the donor conference would flounder.

MNA/Reuters

E China to spend heavily curbing river pollution

HEFEI, 26 June—East China's Anhui Province will spend more than one billion yuan (827 million US dollars) by 2005 to tackle pollution in the Huaihe River and Chaohu Lake, both among the most polluted in the country.

Official figures show that since 2001, the province has spent 2.34 billion yuan (282 million US dollars) on pollution control, completing 11 projects and launching 43 more in the treatment of industrial and urban sewage.

Local environment authorities said the programme would focus on the construction of urban environment infrastructure and control of industrial and household sewage.

MNA/Xinhua

Syria issues protest to US on Iraq border incident

DAMASCUS, 26 June—Syria said on Wednesday it has protested to Washington over what US officials have described as a military strike near the Iraq-Syrian border last week in which several Syrian border guards were wounded.

In the first official reaction from Damascus, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said Syria had demanded that the United States "return... the wounded soldiers to continue their treatment at a Syrian hospital to avoid any misunderstanding that might lead to an escalation that both sides do not desire."

A week after the incident, the United States continues to hold five Syrian border guards who were seized after US special forces attacked a convoy of vehicles believed to be carrying aides of toppled Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. Three of the guards were still being treated for their wounds, US officials said.

Neither the United States nor Syria has made clear whether the incident took

place in Syrian territory.

In Washington, the State Department confirmed that Syria had lodged a protest and said the US government has been in contact with the Syrian government in private exchanges over the past several days about last week's incident.

"For us, the issue is not Syria's territorial integrity, it's the security of the Iraq border, it's our continued efforts to try to bar flight of former senior Iraqi officials and try to prevent the transit of illegal goods," said Greg Sullivan, a State Department spokesman.

US Ambassador summoned

A senior US defence official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he was unable to place a timetable on the release of the bor-

der guards. US officials have not said how the guards were wounded.

SANA said the Syrian Foreign Ministry summoned the US ambassador to Damascus to protest about a "military incident to which a military patrol was subjected at a border post south of the (town of) Bukmal."

Internet

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Taha Abbas, 22, recovers from gunshot wounds at a hospital in Ramadi, 68 miles (110 kms) west of Baghdad, Iraq, on 24 June, 2003. Abbas was allegedly shot by US soldiers at a checkpoint at Al Ramadi early Tuesday as US troops exchanged gunfire with Iraqis. The shooting left three Iraqis dead and two wounded, and an American soldier wounded—INTERNET

Best-selling US author Leon Uris dies

NEW YORK, 26 June—Best-selling American novelist Leon Uris, best known for *Exodus* about the creation of Israel and *Trinity* on the conflict in Ireland, has died in New York, his ex-wife, Jill Uris, said on Tuesday. He was 78.

She said by telephone from Aspen, Colorado, that the novelist died on Saturday at his home on New York's Shelter Island after suffering from various ailments.

Jill Uris said the author had lived on the small island off Long Island since 1989 and that a new book, *O'Hara's Choice* — a historical fiction about the US Marine Corps — was scheduled to be published by HarperCollins in October. — MNA/Reuters

US senators call for information on cost of Iraqi war

WASHINGTON, 26 June—US senators urged the Bush Administration Tuesday to tell the nation how much more money and time America will spend in Iraq.

"I've said a number of times that I don't think the administration has been forthcoming in terms of an estimate as to how many forces for how long," said Senator Carl Levin, a top Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"All of America has a deep concern about the situations both in Iraq and Afghanistan," said Senator John Warner, a Republican who heads the committee.

Warner and Levin were among 11 senators who met Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld Tuesday to talk about defence legislation and the postwar situation in Iraq.

The Bush Administration said the Iraq

war has cost some 30 billion dollars so far, but officials have not made clear how much more money the country need for the reconstruction and hunt for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

US Congress has been pressing the Pentagon to disclose an estimate of the costs as soon as possible. Warner said he discussed with Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist Monday about the need for Rumsfeld to come before the Senate. A number of senators, who are scheduled to visit Iraq to see the occupation forces, predicted Monday that American troops will stay in Iraq for as long as five years.

MNA/Xinhua

India calls for Pakistan air links talks

NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD, 26 June—India on Tuesday urged Pakistan to hold early talks on resuming air links, while Islamabad said restarting bus services between the neighbours would be delayed at least a month by visa and security issues.

A statement from India's Foreign Ministry said Delhi had suggested early technical level discussions for resumption of civil aviation links severed last year when the nuclear-armed rivals went to the brink of a fourth war.

A Foreign Ministry official told Reuters New Delhi had proposed hosting the meeting.

"So far we have not been able to proceed on aviation as Pakistan has not clearly indicated its position on allowing overflights," he said.

India proposed restoring air links with Pakistan as a confidence-building measure after launching a peace initiative in April, while Pakistan proposed restoring road and rail links.—MNA/Reuters



US and British forces came under fire in Iraq on 24 June, 2003, as security around the country's vital oil pipelines was beefed up after several explosions blamed on sabotage. Six British personnel were killed as troops were attacked in two separate incidents near Amarah, Prime Minister Tony Blair's spokesman said.

INTERNET

UN official upbraids US for lack of plan in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, 26 June — A senior UN official cautioned the US-led occupation in Iraq on Tuesday to ensure a social safety net for Iraqis as they move from a centralized to a market economy.

Ramiro Lopez da Silva, the UN humanitarian coordinator in Iraq, told a conference on the country's future that before the war, 60 percent to 70 percent of Iraq's 25 million people were totally dependent on monthly food rationing under the UN oil-for-food programme, now being phased out.

"The same is true of health systems, water and sanitation, electricity, agriculture, education, housing and the like," he said. "There needs to be social safety nets in place as Iraq moves to a market economy." The oil-for-food programme used Iraq's oil revenues to pay for food, medicine and other civilian supplies to ease the impact of sanctions on former President Saddam Hussein's government. The sanctions were lifted last month by the UN Security Council but food rations are expected to resume shortly.

Paul Bremer, the chief US administrator in Iraq, has made clear he wants to privatize more than 40 government-owned companies.

Internet

US senators want price tag on huge Iraq rebuilding

WASHINGTON, 26 June — The United States faces a huge task rebuilding Iraq and restoring security and the White House needs to spell out how much it will cost, two senior senators just back from the Middle East said on Wednesday.

"No one back here understands how monumental this job is going to be," Democratic Senator Joseph Biden from Delaware said, fresh from a bipartisan fact-finding mission to Iraq, Republican Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana.

US bombs hammered Iraq's infrastructure during the war and looters stripped many public buildings afterward.

The United States has yet to set up an interim government and police work and civil administration is largely handled by US military forces.

Expected oil exports will generate revenue well short of covering Iraq's needs, including its heavy debt load and its damaged infrastructure, Biden said.

By the end of 2004, Iraq will likely generate 19 billion US dollars from oil exports, Biden said, warning the country's needs in that period would be about five

times greater.

"There's a massive bill that's going to land in the laps of somebody, most likely the American people," said Biden, the most senior Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

At a briefing on Capitol Hill, Lugar, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, said he wants to know where the money for the continued US mission in Iraq would come from and how it would be disbursed.

While in Baghdad, the Senate delegation predicted US forces would remain in Iraq for another five years.

The Bush Administration has said it would remain in Iraq as long as necessary, but "not a day longer".

"We need to get over that rhetoric," Lugar said. "We must reorganize our military to be there a long time."

MNA/Reuters

US forces under fire overnight, one Iraqi killed

BAGHDAD, 26 June — US forces came under a string of attacks in Baghdad and other parts of central Iraq overnight and at least one Iraqi was killed in the fighting, residents said on Tuesday.

Gunmen fired assault rifles and grenades at US troops in the volatile town of Falluja, 45 miles west of Baghdad, hitting a power supply facility, witnesses said. One Iraqi man was killed when the soldiers returned fire, they said, but it was not clear if the slain man was one of the attackers. There were no reports of US casualties. Residents of Ramadi, 60 miles west of Baghdad, reported another attack but there was no word on casualties.

A US convoy driving through al-Zawra'a district of Baghdad on Monday night came under attack from unidentified gunmen. Residents said the attack sparked a 15-minute firefight but it was unclear if any one was hurt. There was no immediate comment from the US military on the attacks. — MNA/Reuters

China highlights long-term interests of Iraqi people

UNITED NATIONS, 26 June — The postwar reconstruction of Iraq should aim to ensure the long-term interests of the Iraqi people and a lasting peace and stability in the Middle East region, a senior Chinese diplomat said here Tuesday.

Addressing the Technical Consultation on Reconstruction Needs for Iraq, Shen Guofang, Assistant Foreign Minister of China, said the reconstruction course should adhere to the principles established in Security Council Resolution 1483.

"Resolution 1483 offers a basic framework for Iraq's postwar reconstruction and stresses the fundamental principles for resolving the Iraq issue," he said, listing the principles as maintaining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq, respecting the independent will of the people and giving full play to the important role for the United Nations.

Shen said that as a precondition of Iraq's reconstruction, law and order in Iraq should be restored as early as possible by concerted efforts of all parties.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldiers conduct foot patrol in Ramadi, 80 kilometres west of Baghdad, Iraq, on 25 June, 2003. Security has been stepped up as the US forces have been under increasing target of guerilla-style attacks. Another firefight in Ramadi on Tuesday killed three Iraqis and wounded an American soldier.—INTERNET

New Zealand lowers level of SARS risk in travelling to Beijing

WELLINGTON, 26 June — New Zealand's Ministry of Health has lowered level of SARS risk in travelling to Beijing based on the latest information from the World Health Organization.

An official at Ministry of Health told Xinhua Wednesday that the ministry updated Tuesday its travel advice which is three-tiered to better reflect the level of risk in travelling to different SARS-affected areas of the world.

MNA/Xinhua

ETS to resume testing in China

BEIJING, 26 June — The Educational Testing Service (ETS) of the United States will resume administration of the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) and the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) in China from 14 July, as China has gained control over severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

Sources with the ETS said here Tuesday that testing would resume in 12 of the 14 computer-based testing centres in China. Two centres in Harbin and Xi'an are expected to open later this year.

The testing service centre under the Chinese Ministry of Education, ETS' partner in China, started to arrange business on June 23. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese President meets Indian Prime Minister

BEIJING, 26 June — Chinese President Hu Jintao told visiting Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee here Tuesday that China is ready, together with India and other countries, to make efforts to promote regional and world peace, stability and prosperity.

Hu noted that Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and the Indian Prime Minister held fruitful talks and reached broad consensus Monday, and signed a series of cooperative documents, including a declaration on principles for relations and comprehensive cooperation between China and India.

In order to achieve the goals set forth in the declaration, China and India should increase exchanges, strengthen mutual trust and establish a concrete foundation for the long-term development of bilateral relations, Hu said. — MNA/Xinhua



Women collect water from barrels provided by the local sheik in Jurf Al Nadaf neighbourhood of Baghdad, Iraq, on 25 June, 2003. The neighbourhood has been without electricity three days. — INTERNET

US orders nuke labs to improve security levels

WASHINGTON, 26 June — US Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham ordered Tuesday the nuclear weapons laboratories across the country to improve security in response to recent security problems.

"In light of recent security incidents at the labs... improved security must be aggressive and far reaching," said Abraham.

Abraham directed the National Nuclear Security Administration, which oversees nuclear weapons programmes, "to put in place any immediate changes" deemed necessary to prevent future security problems.

The order came as the General Accounting Office (GAO), Congress investigative arm, issued a report saying that the labs' security upgrades, required by the terrorist threat since September 11, 2001, will not be fully in place and tested for two to five years. — MNA/Xinhua

Jazeera airs tape of attack on US troops in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 June — An Arab satellite channel on Wednesday broadcast footage of what appeared to be an explosion under a US military vehicle in Iraq and said a previously unknown group sent the video tape vowing further attacks soon.

The Qatar-based al-Jazeera television said it also received a statement in Arabic from the group calling itself Mujahidoo al-Ta'ifa al-Mansoura (Muslim Fighters of the Victorious Sect) claiming responsibility for several attacks on US forces in Iraq as well as the cassette of one of the operations.

The statement "urged Iraqis to stay away from US forces for their own safety because the group planned further attacks in the near future", Jazeera said, showing a copy of the brief statement in Arabic.

On Tuesday, six British troops were killed and eight wounded in Iraq in the worst single death toll sustained by British and US forces since March 23, three days into the war.

The hazy footage broadcast by Jazeera showed what looked like a military vehicle parked under a tree as an explosion rocked it.

Jazeera said the group did not clarify the date of the attack in a Baghdad suburb, which the group said was carried out by one of its units, the Martyr Khattab group, or whether there were any casualties. — MNA/Reuters

Bremer says saboteurs cutting off power in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 26 June — Saboteurs linked to former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein have cut off power lines to Baghdad, depriving the war-weary Iraqi capital of electricity, the top US administrator said on Wednesday.

Much of Baghdad has gone without water or electricity in recent days, adding to the hardship of people coping with severe unemployment and a lack of public safety.

"The problem is due to sabotage of the main power line between Beiji and Baghdad," Paul Bremer, leader of the provisional authority in Iraq, told a news conference. "Almost certainly the saboteurs are rogue Baathist elements. They are trying to hinder the coalition efforts to make life better for the average Iraqi person," he said referring to Saddam's Baath Party.

Opponents of the US and British occupation have also attacked soldiers, killing 19 Americans and six Britons since major combat was declared over by the United States on May 1. Oil and gas pipelines also have come under attack.

But Bremer said daily life in Iraq was

improving, in part because the United States and allies have pumped nearly one billion US dollars into the economy over the past five weeks.

With water and power out in Baghdad, tempers are flaring due to traffic jams on streets that lack signals and police. However, Bremer said the traffic was actually "good news". "People have money in their pockets because we have put almost a billion dollars into this economy in the last five weeks," Bremer said, without providing details.

The Americans are paying stipends to civil servants, soldiers are patronizing local businesses, and once frozen Iraqi assets are being put to work repairing the power grid and the Baghdad sewer system.

MNA/Reuters



Dean says anti-Iraq war stand helps presidential bid

WASHINGTON, 26 June — Democratic presidential hopeful Howard Dean said on Wednesday his stand against the war in Iraq showed his strength as a leader, drawing a comparison with President John Kennedy's handling of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis. "I stood up against this administration and even when 70 percent of the American people supported the war, I believed that the evidence was not there and I refused to change my view," he told the Council on Foreign Relations. Saying he had been proven

right on Iraq, Dean questioned critics who claim an anti-war candidate cannot lead Democrats against President Bush in the 2004 campaign.

"I would remind them that during the Cuban missile crisis, President John F Kennedy took on the hawks among the Joint Chiefs of Staff as well as the 'me-tooers' in Congress," the former Vermont governor said in a foreign policy address two days after formally launching his 2004 campaign. — Internet



Map of Iraq locating al-Amarah, where six British soldiers were killed and eight wounded in two separate incidents. — INTERNET

Witnesses said angry Iraqi civilians killed British soldiers

MAJJAR (Iraq), 26 June — Six British soldiers killed on Tuesday were shot dead by Iraqi civilians angry at intrusive searches for weapons in a conservative Shiite Muslim town in southern Iraq, residents said on Wednesday.

Witnesses in the town of Majjar, 18 miles south of Amarah, said the six were killed by residents after days of tension because of methods a British force used to search for heavy weapons.

At least two Iraqis died in Tuesday's clash at Majjar, residents said, adding that the British opened fire with plastic bullets to control a crowd after days of tension.

There was no immediate comment from the British military on the report.

"These British soldiers came with their dogs and pointed weapons at women and children. As Muslims, we can't accept dogs at our homes," Rabee al-Malki told Reuters.

Residents said the soldiers first came to the town to search for weapons on 21 June. They burst into houses with dogs sniffing for weapons and with guns pointing at women and children.

After complaints from locals the British force agreed to halt the intrusive inspections, but two days later they returned with the same attitude, the residents said.

The Iraqis asked to stop the searches and promised to hand over weapons within two months, they said.

When the soldiers returned on Tuesday, thousands took to the streets to protest.

"I yelled at them because they pointed their rifles at a child. I told them 'don't do that' but a soldier hit me with the butt of his rifle in the face," one resident, who refused to give his name, said. "Then the shooting started."

The British forces opened fire with plastic bullets to control the crowd. Iraqis, believing the British were firing live bullets, fired from their AK-47s, killing the soldiers.

MNA/Reuters

IMF considers three-year agreement with Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 26 June — Visiting International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Horst Koehler said here Tuesday that his institution is prepared for a medium-term agreement with Argentina.

The IMF is considering a viable three-year programme, Koehler told a joint news conference with Argentine Economy Minister Roberto Lavagna, who announced that his country will present a bond renegotiation proposal in September.

"We're not thinking of a short-term programme, nor renewing the transition programme" because the government must "deepen and extend structural reforms", Koehler said.

The current accord between the IMF and Argentina is a short-term document effective until the outcome of the country's April presidential elections was known.

Koehler expressed satisfaction with his talks with Argentine President Nestor Kirchner.

"I was particularly impressed by President Kirchner. He has obviously a vision," he said. "I do think that this vision should be implemented. And this will lead this country to strong growth and social cohesion."

Koehler admitted that his visit in Argentina has allowed him to have a better impression of the economic situation of the country, saying he felt "very happy that the Argentine economy had recovered faster and better than we would have expected" although its pace slowed down in the last months. — MNA/Xinhua

WB warns of growing threat of pollution in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 26 June — Indonesia is under threat from air, water, solid and hazardous waste pollution, although some of the country's achievements in pollution management deserve recognition, a World Bank report said.

"There are some significant achievements in pollution management in Indonesia, such as the phase-out of lead gasoline in Jakarta and the reduction in the use

of ozone-depleting substances.

"However, many challenges remain, especially in the effort to improve air quality, increase sewerage

and sanitation coverage, and introduce better waste management," Thomas E Walton, lead environment specialist at the World Bank Office in Jakarta, who led

the team that drafted the report, was quoted Wednesday by *The Jakarta Post* as saying.

The report, entitled "Indonesia Environment Monitor 2003", is supported by information from various sources, including government institutions, non-governmental organizations and unpublished documents.

The report, published on Tuesday, stated that air quality in Indonesia was under threat, causing increasing health problems and productivity losses. "Increasing urban growth, industrialization and motorization are exacerbating air pollution," it said. The main air pollutants in the country were lead and fine particulates, sulfur and nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and ozone.



British soldiers wearing helmets move through Amarah, about 280 kms southeast of Baghdad, Iraq, on 25 June, 2003. The soldiers have started wearing the protective gear after 6 British military police were killed in the nearby town of Majjar al-Kabir on Tuesday. INTERNET

BBC clashes with Blair aide, refuses to back down over Iraq dossier

LONDON, 26 June—The BBC has refused to back down in the face of angry criticism from Prime Minister Tony Blair's communications chief over a government dossier of intelligence on Iraq.

Alastair Campbell told a parliamentary committee on Wednesday that an allegation he "sexed up" a September dossier on Iraq's banned weapons to persuade reluctant legislators to back war on Iraq was blatantly false. He demanded an apology from the British Broadcasting Corp, which aired the claim.

"We do not feel the BBC has anything to apologise for," the Corporation said in a statement late on Wednesday. "We regret that Alastair Campbell has chosen to accuse

(journalist) Andrew Gilligan and the BBC of lying."

It said its allegations that the September dossier had been transformed were made in the context of "general disquiet" among the intelligence community over the government's presentation of intelligence.

"It's still not clear why the assertion that Iraqi weapons of mass destruction could be ready within 45 minutes was given the prominence that it was," the BBC added.

Internet



A local resident write 'No to US. Yes to jihad' on a wall in Majar al-Kabir, 180 miles, 290 kilometres southeast of Baghdad, Iraq, on 25 June, 2003, where four British soldiers were killed during a two-hour gunbattle on Tuesday. — INTERNET

IOM seeks additional money in inter-agency appeal for Iraq

GENEVA, 26 June—The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is seeking a further 11 million US dollars from donors to fund existing and new projects as part of the inter-agency appeal for Iraq, an IOM spokesperson said on Tuesday.

The money will add to the 11 million dollars already received to help internally displaced people in the south and centre of Iraq, and third country nationals fleeing the country to return home, spokesperson Christopher Lom said at a Press briefing here.

Lom said new IOM projects appearing in the appeal include return assistance for Iraqis stranded abroad, the coordination of medical evacuations from Iraq and rehabilitation of the specialist health sector, and capacity building in the psycho-social/mental health sector.

MNA/Xinhua

US soldier dies in "non-combat incident" in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 June — A soldier in the US 1st Armoured Division died on Tuesday in a "non-combat incident", the US military said on Wednesday.

A US statement gave no details but said the incident was under investigation and the name of the dead soldier was being withheld until the next of kin were informed. According to most recent US figures, 38 US soldiers have died in accidents since President George W Bush declared an end to hostilities in Iraq on 1 May.

MNA/Reuters

Blair says Iraq security situation 'serious'

LONDON, 26 June—Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday said the security situation in Iraq was serious and may require more troops, as British forces reportedly gave town leaders 48 hours to surrender the gunmen who killed six British soldiers.

Blair expressed his condolences in the House of Commons for the death of the six troops from the Royal Military Police, whose bodies were recovered Tuesday from the town of Majar al-Kabir, where they had been helping train local police.

"Even at this moment in time, it is particularly important that we make sure that we redouble our efforts to bring stability to that country (Iraq) because that is the surest way of bringing stability to the rest of the world," Blair said.

Blair told lawmakers that the region around Amarah was tense because British

soldiers had tried to disarm locals who routinely carried weapons including machine guns.

Blair also warned that supporters of Saddam's Baath Party remained active, especially in the central and western parts of Iraq, where at least 18 US soldiers have been killed in attacks since 1 May.

The security situation "is still obviously serious, because at the present time, there are groups, former Baathist elements, that are trying to regroup and they pose a threat to our forces, and particularly to the American forces in Baghdad." —Internet

Iraqi oil pipeline ablaze after 3rd blast in four days

BARWANAH (Iraq), 26 June — An oil pipeline feeding a key Iraqi refinery was still ablaze on Wednesday after an explosion on Tuesday night, the third pipeline blast in four days, a Reuters eyewitness said.

The explosion and fire at the pipeline northwest of Baghdad came as the top US administrator, Paul Bremer, accused saboteurs of cutting off power to Baghdad amid worsening attacks on occupying US and British troops.

"The fire is still burning at the oil pipeline," Reuters cameraman Khudier Majeed said at the scene in Barwanah, 150 miles northwest of Baghdad.

Civil defence officials were trying to extinguish the fire, he added. A top oil official said earlier that the pipeline, which supplies crude oil from northern Iraq to the Doura refinery near Baghdad, had been only broken, causing a spill over farm land.

MNA/Reuters

ADB, SEAMEO ink educational cooperation pact

MANILA, 26 June—The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) inked a memorandum of understanding on Wednesday to improve educational cooperation for the benefit of member countries.

Signing the agreement at ADB headquarters in Manila were ADB president Tadao Chino and Edilberto de Jesus, president of the SEAMEO Council and Education Secretary of the Philippines.

"The partnership will complement each institution's knowledge base, build on each other's experience, expand the network of institutions active in education development in these countries and maximize the use of scarce resources while maintaining each one's comparative advantage," says Paul Chang, ADB principal education specialist.

The cooperation agreement is non-exclusive and flexible to take account of the different operating conditions and needs of member countries. — MNA/Xinhua

Fuel-short Zimbabwe bans carrying oil in cans

HARARE, 26 June—The Zimbabwe Government has banned motorists from carrying fuel in containers without state permits in a move aimed at curbing a thriving black market.

Zimbabwe's petrol pumps have been mostly dry since November when a barter deal with Libya for the supply of nearly 70 per cent of its needs collapsed.

The fuel shortage has exacerbated the southern African country's crisis, where President Robert Mugabe faces political unrest and mounting economic problems including inflation riding at over 300 per cent

— one of the highest in the world.

Deputy Energy Minister Reuben Marumahoko was quoted on Tuesday by the official *Herald* newspaper as saying the government had ordered a stop to carrying fuel in containers as part of a drive against a black market where petrol is selling at five times the official price of about 450 Zimbabwe dollars a litre. — MNA/Reuters



Iraqi men line up to apply for jobs at the US administrative headquarters of the coalition forces in Baghdad on 25 June, 2003. High unemployment and a lack of public safety are hampering reconstruction efforts in Iraq where the approximate monthly civil salary ranges from \$50 to \$150. —INTERNET

Thailand focuses on small entrepreneurs

BANGKOK, 26 June — The Ministry of Commerce has announced a shift of tactics in its global marketing strategies for Thai goods, with the focus transferred from large-scale companies to small-scale entrepreneurs. Commerce Minister Adisai Bodharamik said that the ministry was currently considering a shift in its international marketing strategies, aimed at making Thai goods better known and at distributing them to more points across the globe, according to a report of *Thai News Agency* Wednesday.

The minister conceded that large-scale companies had often shown little interest in global marketing campaigns, as they felt that their goods had already made inroads abroad.

The Ministry of Commerce is now overhauling its marketing system, which will now focus on the creation of small-scale corporations, whether Thai or foreign-owned, which will market their goods directly to foreign countries rather than relying on trade exhibitions. — MNA/Xinhua

Yearly decline of poppy production...

(from page 1)

have been ten different occasions where the surrendered poppy pods and seeds were burnt. A total of 165,988 kilograms of seeds surrendered by poppy farmers in a way prevented 101,646 acres of poppy being cultivated that can ultimately produce 45 tons of heroin.

In order to eradicate narcotic drugs, Myanmar and the United States have joined hands to conduct yield surveys. A total of nine surveys have been conducted since 1993 and from 1997 onwards, it was found that there has been a marked decline in poppy cultivation and opium production. Between 2001 and 2002, 26 percent decline was recorded and recent surveys in 2003 indicate that there will be further decline in poppy cultivation.

Similarly, CCDAC and UNODC launched preliminary ground surveys under its joint program to survey illicit cultivation of poppy plants and estimated that 1097 tons of opium was produced during 2001. The following year estimation was 828 tons of opium and this verified that there was a marked decrease in poppy cultivation and opium production during the year 2002. Furthermore, the International Narcotic Control Board (INCB), in its 2002 annual report, recorded a decrease in poppy cultivation and opium production in Myanmar. This INCB report and the data collected from Myanmar—United States joint yield surveys manifest that the decline in poppy cultivation and opium production in Myanmar is the result of a united effort of the regional authorities and all national races with the Government in the lead. Here I would like to reiterate that this yearly decline is not due to unfavourable weather conditions but because of the close cooperation between the nation and its people.

On one hand, there is indeed a decline in poppy cultivation and opium production but on the other, the threat of amphetamine type substances (ATS) is found to be on the rise in Myanmar. Although the amount of

opium and heroin seized had decreased since 1997, an annual increase in seizure of ATS can be observed from 1996 up till 2001. The seizure of ATS tablets was down to 9.4 million during 2002 and for 2003, only 2 million tablets were seized up till April.

The seizure of chemicals used for producing these tablets are reported to be over one hundred and eighty thousand liters in 2001, twenty nine thousand liters in 2002 and around twenty two thousand liters up till April 2003. Ephedrine, Caffeine and other chemicals used for producing ATS tablets are not produced in Myanmar. They are brought in illegally from neighbouring countries like Thailand, China and India and we know that these countries are taking measures to prevent chemicals from diversion into illicit trade. However, unlawful characters are mobilizing all available means to smuggle these chemicals into Myanmar and accordingly, would like to emphasize that there is an urgent need to control these products.

I would like to go on to say that the Chairman of the Central Committee himself attended the 46th session of United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs held in Vienna in April this year and reported on Myanmar's timely fulfilment of obligations set forth in the Political Declaration of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Narcotic Drugs in 1998. These are the measures to be taken by UN member countries in controlling narcotic drugs. Myanmar had already promulgated Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substance Law in 1993 and the Ministry of Health has altogether notified 25 controlled chemicals in 2002. Money Laundering Law was promulgated in 2002 and by-laws have already been drafted for enforcement actions. We have also held two workshops on drafting a law for cooperation between States on trans border crimes.

In addition, we have already signed three UN Conventions on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt cordially greets those attending the 17th destruction of seized narcotic drugs.— MNA



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt and party visit Drug Elimination Museum.— MNA

and will be signing Protocol (1) attached thereto very soon. It's been more than 150 years that we have inherited the history's dire legacy of disastrous narcotic drugs. Due to insurgent problems, subsequent Governments were not successful in fighting against it and only after 1988, the present government was able to bring different armed groups into the legal fold. The resolute efforts made thereafter for the development of border areas and national races resulted in a defeat over drug dependency habits and consequently, Mongla area in Eastern Shan State became an opium free zone in 1997.

(See page 9)



Diplomats and officials attend the 17th destruction of seized narcotic drugs.— MNA



Seized narcotic drugs seen at the 17th narcotic drugs destruction.— MNA



Seized narcotic drugs seen at the 17th destruction.— MNA



Seized narcotic drugs being tested before the destruction.— MNA

Yearly decline of poppy production...

(from page 8)

This incited Kokang and Wa areas to declare their intention to be free of opium by 2003 and 2005 respectively and the local population have joined hands with the Government to work towards this end. In Myanmar, another



MPF Director-General Brig-Gen Khin Yi.— MNA

significant development during the year 2002/2003 is the efforts to turn the areas along the Thai border namely: Tachilek; Kawthoung; and Myawady districts into narcotic free areas. In Tachilek district, anti-narcotics association has been formed, educational billboards erected and with the establishment of drug treatment units and rehabilitation centres, activities are progressing well.

Similarly in Kawthoung district, formation of anti narcotic association, introduction of awareness campaigns among students and youths and construction of educational billboards are well underway and plans are being made for the establishment of a drug treatment unit.

Forming anti narcotic association and conducting awareness campaigns are also part of activities

launched in Myawady district with preparations for establishing a drug treatment unit and erecting educational billboards gaining momentum.

Another noteworthy feature is the intensified cooperation with neighbouring countries as well as with international organizations throughout these years. For Myanmar-China bilateral narcotic control program, we were able to establish border liaison offices at Lwei Gyai in Kachin and at Chin Shwe Haw in Northern Shan States. Also at Tachilek, a border liaison office was established for Myanmar-Thailand-Laos trilateral cooperation and another one at Myawady for Myanmar-Thailand cooperation. In 2002/2003, the cooperation with neighbouring countries led to the capture of 18 drug offenders wanted by China and were handed over in seven occasions out of which two were by the Wa Authorities. These events demonstrate the emphasis Myanmar places for international cooperation.

One of benefits deriving from this Myanmar-China bilateral cooperation is the decrease in the movements of narcotic syndicates and drug traffickers along the two country border.

Cognizant of the fact that Myanmar's efforts alone will not bear much fruit in controlling and preventing narcotic drugs, a new chapter for cooperation at bilateral, trilateral and sub-regional levels is now being opened and carried out.

Within this sub-region, the prominent endeavours of our neighbouring country Thailand directly complement our country's request for drug control and prevention and we on our part will further pursue with vigour.

Here, I would like to bring to your attention that though we have not received international assistance, Myanmar, in line with the directives laid down by senior Government officials and in conformity with prescribed strategies and tactics, has exerted all out efforts to eradicate narcotic drugs utilizing our own resources.

In conclusion, allow me to list some of the seized drugs to be burnt and destroyed during this seventeenth occasion. They are:

Opium	1125.28 kilos
Heroin	219.28 kilos
Marijuana	277.35 kilos
ATS tablets	605173.00 tablets
ATS powder	15.467 kilos
ICE	105.20 kilos
Ephedrine powder	1155.174 kilos
Diazepam tablets	346826.00 tablets

Drugs to be destroyed today, calculated by their street value in United States, is worth around US dollars 862 millions. From the first up to today's seventeenth occasion, the total amount of drugs burnt is worth more than US dollars 12,414 millions. I would now like to invite all our distinguished guests to test the authenticity of the seized drugs before we destroy them.

Then, cough syrup bottles with drugs potency were destroyed by rollers. Next,



Guests test seized narcotic drugs before the destruction.— MNA

Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Singaporean Ambassador Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz and Philippine Ambassador Mme Phoebe A Gomez press buttons to incinerate the seized narcotic drugs.— MNA



ambassadors, charges d'affaires, military attaches, resident representatives of UN agencies and officials tested the narcotic drugs.

CCDAC Chairman Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Deputy Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Singapore Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz and Philippine Ambassador Mme Phoebe A Gomez pressed the buttons to incinerate the seized narcotic drugs.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of CCDAC Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Vice-Chairmen of the Committee Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, ministers, the Attorney-General, deputy ministers, ambassadors, charges d'affaires and military attaches of foreign missions, resident representatives of

UN agencies, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, members of the CCDAC, members of the work groups, senior police officers, officials of social organizations, officials of the Ministry of Information, patron of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club U Hla Htway, President U Sao Kai Hpa and members, correspondents of foreign news agencies and broadcasting stations, prize winners of the short story, article, song, poem, painting, cartoon, poster, computer art and computer poster competitions to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on the first floor of the museum and visited the New Destiny Project booth on the first floor, the educative documentary with Myanmar and English CD-ROM versions and the booth on educative work for students on danger of narcotic drugs on the second floor.— MNA

ing and guests. After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 cordially met with those present.

Then, the Secretary-1 and party and guests viewed the prize winning works of the short story, article, song, poem, painting, cartoon, poster, computer art and computer poster competitions to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on the first floor of the museum and visited the New Destiny Project booth on the first floor, the educative documentary with Myanmar and English CD-ROM versions and the booth on educative work for students on danger of narcotic drugs on the second floor.— MNA



17th Destruction Ceremony of seized narcotic drugs in progress.— MNA



Resident Representative Mr Jean Luc Lemahieu presents K 150,000 to Minister Col Tin Hlaing.— MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects Bokpyin

YANGON, 26 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence inspected the town hospital in Bokpyin, Taninthayi Division, on 22 June.

Accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye and officials, Lt-Gen Maung Bo visited wards, laboratory, X-ray unit and storage. He stressed the need to systematically store the medical equipment and medicines, to effectively launch health care services and to keep the facility and its compound clean.

During tour of the town, he inspected the chosen site to build a jetty and building of new roads. After hearing the reports presented by officials, he spoke of the need to make efforts for completion of the project in time.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo then paid obeisance to Atula Adipati Maha Muni Pagoda. At a religious building of the pagoda, he met with townsmen, social organizations, and

members of the pagoda board of trustees, and fulfilled their requirements.

He also visited Razamuni Pagoda.

MNA



Minister for Labour U Tin Winn presents prize to a winner.— MNA

CCDAC holds press conference on drugs elimination activities

YANGON, 26 June — The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control of Myanmar held a press conference concerning the drug elimination activities carried out by Myanmar at the meeting hall of the Drug Elimination Museum at the corner of Kyundaw Street and Hanthawady Road in Kamayut Township here this morning.

Present on the occasion were the secretary of the CCDAC and members, officials of the Myanmar Police Force, departmental heads, responsible personnel of the News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information, Patron of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Myanmar U Hla Htwe, President U Sao Kai Hpa, members, and guests.

Joint-Secretary of the CCDAC Police Colonel Kham Aung explained matters related to the observance of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit

Trafficking and the 17th destruction ceremony of seized narcotic drugs held in Yangon.

Later, queries raised by journalists were replied

by Police Colonel Kham Aung and member of the CCDAC Brig-Gen Kyaw Thein of the Ministry of Defence.

MNA

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



CCDAC Joint-Secretary Police Col Kham Aung explains matters related to 17th destruction of seized narcotic drugs.— 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

Government striving for total...

(from page 16)

Abuse Control Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Vice-Chairman Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, ministers, deputy ministers, ambassadors of foreign embassies in Yangon, charge d' affaires, military attaches, resident representatives of UN agencies and officials, departmental heads, officials of social organizations, members of the panel of judges for the competitions, prize winners, students and guests.

The CCDAC chairman delivered a speech on the occasion. In his speech, he said that the competitions to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking have been yearly organized for sixteen times with active participation of the entire nation. He expressed his belief that similar ceremonies are also taking place in the world's nations. The aim of the this year's motto, "Let's talk about drugs" is to convince children, families, teachers and organizations at different levels, of the problem of drugs abuse. It depicts solution to drugs related problems through open discussions, he noted.

Efforts for the development of border areas where poppy is being cultivated, for fulfilling the basic needs of poppy cultivators and raising their living standard, and for enabling them to give up poppy cultivation play a vital role in an attempt to eliminate drugs production.

As is known to all, the government has been striving for total elimination of narcotic drugs production after adopting the 15-year project, which started in 1999-2000. The project is under implementation for ensuring total elimination of poppy cultivation in Myanmar by 2013-2014.

The government has been conducting such competitions, part of educational tasks for fighting against narcotic drugs, with a view to enabling the students and youths to possess patriotism, the spirit of safeguarding and defending their own nation, sporting spirit, and the spirit of studying Myanmar literature, music and arts. Myanmar has been making strenuous efforts to eliminate narcotic drugs with great momentum based on its own strength and resources. In this process, he called on the entire people, in conformity with the motto "Let's talk about drugs", to face problems concerning narcotic drugs and then find out solutions to them by holding open discussions.

In conclusion, he

emphasized, in this context, the importance of active and enthusiastic participation of the entire people joining hands with the government.

Then, UNODC Resident Representative Mr Jean Luc Lemahieu read the message to mark the day sent by US Secretary-General Mr Kofi A Annan, and donated K 150,000 for awarding the prize winners to the chairman.

Afterwards, the prize distribution ceremony followed. Minister Col Tin Hlaing presented prizes for painting contest (aged under 10 division) to Ma May Thet Zin (first), Maung Htet Naing Lin (second) and Ma Su Myat Noe Nwe (third), cartoon contest (aged under 10) to Ma Hsu Yamin (first), Maung Ye Zar Ni Aung (second) and Maung Thu Ta Zaw (third), and poster contest (under 10) to Maung Khant Pi Han (first), Ma May Thet Zin (second) and Maung Thet Paing Soe (third).

Minister Col Thein Nyunt presented first, second and third prizes for short story contest to U Soe Myint (Chit Lwan Po-MRTV), Ma Than Than Soe and Daw Win Win Myint, and for article contest to Daw Tin Yee (Phyu Mar Thant), Ma Saw Eindra Thet Maung and Ko Thet Oo (Thet Oo Maung); Minister for Labour U Tin Winn, for poem contest to Warrant Officer-I Moe Aung (Maung Maung Moe Aung), U Soe Myint (Chit Lwan Po-MRTV) and Police Inspector Maung Than and for song contest to U Thein Soe (Thein Soe Moe), U Tin Maung Hlaing (Tin Maung Hlaing) and Maung Tint Lwin (Tint Lwin Oo); Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung, for painting contest (aged 10 to 15) to Maung Kaung Myat Min Soe, Maung Thiha Tin and Ma Khaing Myat Myo Tun Lin and for painting contest (aged 15-20) to Maung Si Thu Aung, Maung Nanda Aung and Maung Ye Ko Ko Aung; Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Aung Thein, for painting contest (aged above 20) to U Aung Moe (Shan Lay Painting), Ma Thet Phyu Win (University of Culture) and Ma Thazin Soe Myint and for cartoon contest

(aged 10 to 15) to Maung Wai Yan Myint, Ma Yamin Naing Wai and Ma May Thin Nwe; Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo, for cartoon contest (aged 15 to 20) to Constable Thura, Maung Ye Ko Ko Aung and Ma May Theint Tun Ni and for cartoon contest (aged above 20) to U Chit Han (Mawlamyine), U Ye Aung Myat (Kyaukseing YAM) and U Aung Moe; Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, for poster contest (aged 10 to 15) to Ma Ei Kay Thwe Tun, Ma Aye Htet Htet Aung and Ma Nanda Lin and poster contest (aged 15 to 20) to Ma Aye Aye Phyu, Ma Aye Ei Soe San and Ma Hay Man Thaw Ta Nyein; Mr Jean Luc Lemahieu, for poster contest (aged above 20) Maung Zami Tun, Ko Lay Aung and Daw Khin Myo Myint Shwe and for computer art contest (middle school division) to Ma Shwe Yi Win, Maung Paing Soe Thun and Ma May Eindra Kyaw; and CCDAC Secretary Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Khin Yee, for computer art contest (high school division) to Ma Tharaphu Aung, Maung Kaung Pyai Win and Maung Aung Khant Zaw and for computer digital contest to Maung Saing Kham Tun Oo, Maung Sein Lin and Maung Saing Richard Wu Baraing.

Then, Member of CCDAC Chairman of Monitoring Committee for Working Groups of CCDAC Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung presented certificates of honour and gifts to the judges who contributed towards the contests through Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association CEC Member U Myo Thant (Maung Hsu Shin), MWJA Secretary Director (News) of the News and Periodicals Enterprise U Hla Tun (Hla Tun-Twantay), MWJA Vice-Chairman U Myint Ngwe (Hinthada Myint Ngwe), U San Tint (Tekkatho Hsan Tint Naing), Myanmar Traditional Artists and Artisans Asiayon Chairman U Thang Han (Painting Thang Han), U Maung Maung Hlaing (Cartoonist Shwe Min Tha), U Soe Myint (Pyay Soe Myint), U Soe Nyunt and Dr Kyaw Thein. — MNA

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ်လစာနီဒုတိယပတ်တန်ဂ်ဇွန်နေ့နှင့်နောက်ဆုံးပတ်တန်ဂ်ဇွန်နေ့ တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပမော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့ ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇွန်လအတွက်

(၂၉-၆-၂၀၀၃) ရက်

၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လအတွက်

(၁၃-၇-၂၀၀၃) ရက်နေ့နှင့် (၂၇-၇-၂၀၀၃) ရက်နေ့

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than...

(from page 16)

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected breeding of 10,000 river catfish and 2,000 tilapia at the local battalion.

At the Yeiktha in Gyobingauk, Director U Tin Maung Ohn of Construction-2 of Irrigation Department reported on the canal system of Bawbin Dam, 70 per cent completion of the dam construction and water supply system and Col Tin Maung Win on cultivation of 2,400 acres of summer paddy irrigated by six river water pumping projects.

In Minhla, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected over-flow of water and road linking villages in Minhla-Monyo region.

They then arrived at Htanbington farmland rec-

lamation and fish breeding camp of Thein Shwe Family Export Enterprise (Agriculture). Managing Director of Thein Shwe Family Export Enterprise reported on reclamation of wetland and low-lying areas in Minhla and Okpo Townships, digging of fish ponds on 1,000 acres of land where cultivation tasks could not be carried out, breeding of fingerlings, arrangements for building the feedstuff factory, cultivation of 149 acres of quality strain paddy in the area of Hsabagan embankment in 2002-2003 and 150 acres of paddy in Thonze, cultivation of late-monsoon paddy, soya bean and sunflower.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on technology to be provided

by Myanmar Agriculture Service to the local farmers and extended digging of fish ponds. Thein Shwe Family Export Enterprise (Agriculture) has obtained 7,283 acres of wetland and low-lying areas, reclaimed 5,015 acres of farmlands and carried out cultivation tasks in 4,216 acres of land.

At the rice mill which can produce 250 tons of rice a day, Bago Division (West) Manager of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trading U Win Myint reported to Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than on breeding of 200 piglets and 4,500 layers. Then, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected the breeding tasks.

Later, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived back here by car in the evening.

MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects fish breeding camp near Inma Village, Pyay District.— MNA



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects breeding of pigs in the compound of 250-ton Rice Mill in Letpadan Township.— MNA

Road, Bridge construction works inspected in Ayeyawady Division

YANGON, 26 June — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein and officials, inspected the construction of Yangon-Pathein Road yesterday.

Senior engineers reported to the minister on progress of the construction of road sections in open season and tasks being carried out. The minister then gave instructions on main-

tenance works and strict supervision.

The minister also looked into the preparatory work for the opening ceremony of soon-to-be-inaugurated Daka Bridge and attended to the requirements.

Next, the minister, together with Deputy Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Tint Swe and technicians from the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement

of River Systems of the Ministry of Transport and Public Works of the Ministry of Construction, conducted feasibility studies at possible places for the construction of Ngawun Bridge (Patheingyi).

Then, the minister gave instructions on approach roads to be constructed and the submitting of reports on the type of bridge as soon as possible.

MNA



Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun inspects construction of Ngawun River Bridge (Patheingyi). — CONSTRUCTION



Victorious Myanmar youth footballers honoured

YANGON, 26 June — Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung hosted a dinner in honour of the Myanmar youth football team which secured the First

ASEAN U-18 Youth Soccer Championship at Wundwin Minyaza Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this evening.

Also present were Min-

ister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win and officials, ambassadors and charges d'affaires of

ASEAN countries and Myanmar youth footballers.

At the dinner, Minister U Win Aung presented gifts to the players.

MNA



Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung addresses the dinner hosted in honour of Myanmar youth football team.— MNA

Railroad sections inspected

YANGON, 26 June — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, accompanied by Deputy Minister

U Pe Than and officials, arrived at the Road Transport administration Department of Loikaw in Kayah State on 22 June. The minister gave instructions to the officials of the departments under the ministry.

On 23 June, the minister inspected railway stations and earth works being carried out along Loikaw-Aungban-Kalaw railroad section and 160-foot-long Bilu Creek Bridge at the milepost No 393/14-15 between Tikyit and Nantaing stations

and attended to the requirements.

The minister inspected the railroad section between Kalaw and Thazi stations by DMC on 24 June.

In the evening, the minister and the deputy minister arrived at Central Institute of Transport and Communications in Meiktila.

The minister gave instructions to the trainees on concerted efforts to be made for the development of the ministry and attended to the needs. — MNA

Ambassador U Thein Lwin presents credentials to PRC President

YANGON, 27 June — U Thein Lwin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the People's Republic of China, presented his credentials to His Excellency Mr Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China, on 18 June 2003, in Beijing.

MNA

Marijuana seized in Pyu highway terminal

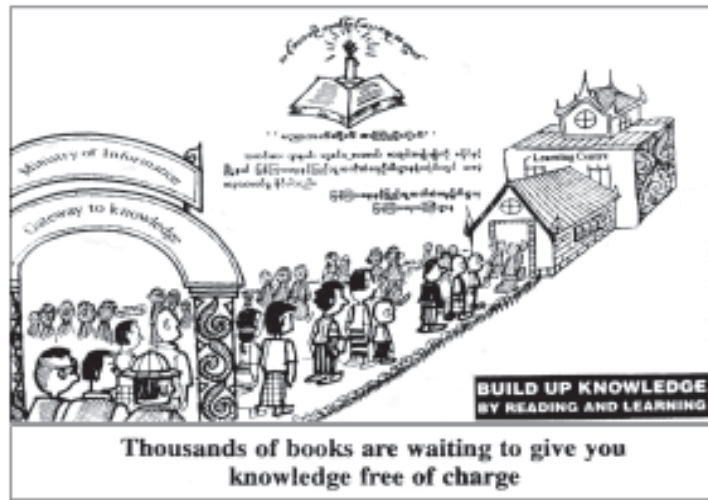
YANGON, 26 June — Members of the Pyu Police Station, Pyu Township, Bago Division, acting on information, searched a passenger bus with number plates 5kha/7016 parked at the highway terminal in Pyu on 30 May and seized 1.2247 kilos of marijuana from a plastic basket belonging to passenger Ma Ei Ei Hlaing.

The police station concerned filed lawsuits against Ma Ei Ei Hlaing, daughter

of U Soe Tint of Natyaykan Ward, Pyu Township; marijuana possessor Ma Hla Hla Win, daughter of U Soe Tint; and accomplice Ma Thin (a) Ma Thin Thin Khine, daughter of U Ah Khun of Bahtoo-3 Street, Pyu Township.

Action is being taken against them under Sections 15/19(A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

MNA



ADVERTISEMENTS

ရိပ်မိတ်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ မြန်မာ့စက်မှုလက်မှုဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေးကော်မတီအနေဖြင့် စက်မှုဇုန်များမှ မော်တော်ယာဉ်ထုတ်လုပ်သည့် စက်မှုလုပ်ငန်းအမျိုးအစားများအတွက် လိုအပ်သော အောက်ပါမော်တော်ယာဉ်အင်ဂျင်နှင့် ဆက်စပ်ပစ္စည်းများ Fully Reconditioned နှင့်အသစ်(၂)မျိုး စလုံးနှင့် Cold Rolled Sheet များကို နိုင်ငံခြားငွေ အခမဲ့ကန့် ခေါ်ယူခြင်း ဝယ်ယူလိုကြောင်း ကြော်ငြာအပ်ပါသည်။

အမှတ် အင်ဂျင်နှင့် စက်ပစ္စည်းအမျိုးအစား ဝယ်ယူမည့်စဉ် ဆက်စပ်ပစ္စည်း သတ်မှတ်ချက် အရေအတွက်
(က) Engine MITSUBISHI 4 D 32 U 500 Nos

(ခ) Power Steering Engine with Air Compressor & Power Pump and Accessories, Complete with Gear Box & Transfer MITSUBISHI, Power Steering Complete Set (Including Steering wheel, Column and Power Unit) L.H.D 500 Nos

(ဂ) Brake System SERVO ASSISTED Hydraulic Type, 10 Tons 500 Nos

(ဃ) ရှေ့တန်းနောက်တန်း (Axle)
(၁) Front TOYOTA DYNA 2 TON Single wheel Type with Axle Ratio 6.16:1 (37:6) 500 Nos
(၂) Rear (For Diesel Engine) 500 Nos

(ဆ) Cold Rolled MS Sheet
(၁) 8' x 4' x 13 Gauge 1500 Sheets
(၂) 8' x 4' x 16 Gauge 6500 Sheets

၂။ တင်ဒါများကို ၁၆-၇-၂၀၀၃ရက်နေ့ နေ့လယ် (၁၂:၀၀)နာရီနောက်ဆုံးထား၍ အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ လိပ်စာအတိုင်း ပေးသွင်းရန်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

အတွင်းရေးမှူး
မြန်မာ့စက်မှုလက်မှုဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေးကော်မတီ
(အမှတ်(၁) စက်မှုဝန်ကြီးဌာန)
အမှတ်၊ ၁၉၂၊ ကမ္ဘာ့အေးဘုရားလမ်း၊
ဧတနု၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။

၃။ သိရှိလိုသည့် အချက်များရှိပါက မြန်မာ့စက်မှုလက်မှုဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေးကော်မတီရုံး အဖွဲ့၊ ဖုန်း-၅၆၆၀၆၃၊ ၅၆၆၂၆၉တို့သို့ ဆက်သွယ်ရစမ်းပေးခြင်းဖြစ်ပါသည်။

မြန်မာ့စက်မှုလက်မှုဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေးကော်မတီ

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that PHARMACIA ENTERPRISE S.A., of 6, Circuit de la Foire Internationale, L-1347 Luxembourg G.D. de Luxembourg is the owner and sole proprietor of the following trademark:-

SOMAVERT

(Reg. No. IV/ 6290/2002)

In respect of: "Pharmaceuticals for use as growth hormone antagonists"—in Class :5

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win, B.Com, B.L. for PHARMACIA ENTERPRISE S.A, P.O. Box No.26, Yangon. Ph. 372416 Dated: 27th June 2003.

Vajpayee lays cornerstone for new embassy in China

BEIJING, 26 June — Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee Monday laid the cornerstone for the new Indian Embassy in China following a speech at Beijing University Monday afternoon.

Vajpayee said he was very glad to have the opportunity to lay the cornerstone for the new Indian Embassy in China and expressed the hope that construction will be completed within four years.

MNA/Xinhua

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that BAYER AKTIENGESSELLSCHAFT of 51368 Leverkusen, Federal Republic of Germany is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademarks:-

DETIGON

(Reg. No. IV/ 4879/1997)

In respect of: "Pharmaceutical preparations; medicines, sanitary substances"—Int'l Class :5

TABCIN

(Reg. No. IV/ 5504/1997)

FOCUS

(Reg. No. IV/ 5505/1997)

In respect of above two trademarks are:- "Pharmaceutical preparations; medicines"—Int'l Class :5

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win, B.Com, B.L. For BAYER

AKTIENGESSELLSCHAFT

P.O. Box 26, Yangon.

Ph. 372416

Dated: 27th June 2003.

US NGOs feel the squeeze from Bush administration

WASHINGTON, 26 June — The Bush Administration is wielding its financial clout to make charitable relief organizations that receive US Government money serve the interests of US foreign policy, the organizations say.

In parallel, the US Agency for International Development this month imposed new conditions on publicity activities when it negotiated a 70-million-US-dollar community action programme in Iraq with five of the organizations, they say.

Three of the five organizations have reached agreements that require them to seek clearance from USAID before they have dealings with the media, they add.

A USAID official said on Tuesday that the Iraqi agreements were a separate issue but confirmed an NGO report that USAID administrator Andrew Natsios believes nongovernmental or-

ပြည်တွင်းဖြစ်တိုးရေးအားပေးပါ

- * တိုင်းကျိုးပြည်ပြု တိုင်းပြည်အကျိုး သယ်ပိုးထမ်းဆောင်လိုသည့် စေတနာ၊ လူငယ် လူရွယ်ကလေးများဗဟုသုတတိုးတက်မှုများစေချင်သည့် စေတနာများကိုဖော်ညွှန်းထားသည့်—
- * မျက်မှောက်ကာလအခြေအနေများ အားလုံးကို စာပေဖွဲ့လျော်စာချစ်သူများသိစေချင်ဗဟုသုတ ရရှိစေချင်သည့် စေတနာအရင်းခံတို့ဖြင့် ဖော်ညွှန်းထားသည့်—

မန်းခင်ခင် ရေးသားသည့် ပါရမီပြည့်မက်များ၏ ခံယူချက်နှင့်

အခြားဆောင်းပါးများ



သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း စာအုပ်ဆိုင်နှင့် သတင်းစာကိုယ်စားလှယ်များ ထံတွင် ဝယ်ယူရရှိနိုင်ပါပြီ။

ရောင်းချေး ကျပ် ၁၅၀

သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း

ဖုံး- ၂၉၄၃၀၆

ဖြန့်ချိလိုက်ပါပြီ။

EU says Bush accusations on biotech policy untrue

BRUSSELS, 26 June — US President George W Bush got it wrong when he said the European Union's rejection of genetically modified (GM) food had aggravated the risk of famine in Africa, an EU spokesman said on Tuesday.

"The suggestions made by the United States are simply not true," European Commission spokesman Gerassimos Thomas told a daily news briefing, adding that the 15-nation EU handed out seven times more development aid than the United States.

The latest war of words in the long-running biotech

dispute came on the eve of an EU-US summit in Washington on Wednesday when the world's two biggest economies hope to mend diplomatic fences after falling out over Iraq.

"It is false that we are anti-biotechnology or anti-developing countries," Thomas said. Bush told a biotechnology conference on Monday the EU should lift its restrictions on GM foods "for the sake of a continent threatened by famine".

Last year, some African countries rejected US food aid as it contained GM grain which they feared could be used as seed which might

threaten future exports to the EU which is setting tight restrictions on imports of GM food. The EU has rejected US calls to reassure developing countries that they should accept GM organisms which are routinely eaten by US citizens but are practically banned in many EU countries.

The United States, Argentina and Canada, which grow 95 per cent of the world gene-altered crops, have launched a trade suit against the EU's unofficial ban on most GM crops which has hampered GM exports to the bloc for the last five years.

MNA/Reuters

Italian researchers say slimmers' pills could damage lungs

ROME, 26 June—Substances commonly used in slimmers' anti-hunger pills can lead to severe lung problems, according to two separate research projects presented at an international conference in Venice on Monday.

Scientists from the universities of Bologna and Paris examined 2,000 people suffering from lung artery hypertension and found that some 30 per cent had in the past taken hunger-blockers containing certain substances.

Fenfluramine, amphetamine and fenpropionolamine were named as the three most risky elements in this sort of slimming product. "These substances release serotonin, which blocks the sensation of hunger," said Italian Bologna University's Nazzareno Galie, who presided over the conference on lung artery hypertension.

He said, "But in certain cases these same substances can have serious repercussions on blood circulation in and around the lungs, provoking the narrowing or even blockage of blood vessels." — MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးဖြင့် ခေတ်မီဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်သော နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တည်ဆောက်အံ့

Russia loses \$400m from illegal alcohol trading

Moscow, 26 June—Russian Interior Ministry announced Tuesday that Russia's economic loss due to illegal trading of alcoholic products may hit some 12 billion roubles (400 million US dollars) every year, *Interfax* reported Tuesday.

"Russia, according to various estimations, loses eight billion to 12 billion roubles annually," said Igor Bulanov, an official with the ministry in charge of economic crimes.

He added that in the first quarter of this year, 50,000 cases of illegal alcohol trading were detected, and 1.03 million litres of alcoholic products were confiscated. A total of 44 organized gangs engaged in the lawless business activities were destroyed during the period.

The ministry foiled 340,000 such cases in 2002, confiscating some 10 million litres of illegal alcoholic products, local statistics show.

Some 36,000 Russian people died of liquor drinking last year, Russian Health Ministry said. A large proportion of Russian men are intemperate in drinking alcohol beverage.

MNA/Xinhua

Donors create basket funds to help Malawi fight "HIV" AIDS

LILONGWE, 26 June—Malawi Finance Minister Friday Jumbe has welcomed the decision by major donor countries to pool their resources together to finance the National AIDS Commission (NAC) to fight HIV/AIDS.

Speaking on Tuesday in Lilongwe at the signing ceremony of the joint memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the pooled funding partners and the Malawi Government, Jumbe said once donor money has been put together in the fight of one cause, the achievement will be more rounding than with individual funding.

"The arrangement will assist the Malawi Government to expand more rapidly and efficiently its national HIV/AIDS programmes in order to achieve its objectives," said the Finance Minister.

Present at the ceremony were representatives from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD), British Department for International Development (DFID) and World Bank. "I am aware that the funds provided under the MoU signed today comes from taxpayers. Consequently, I would like to

assure all our development partners that on our part, we will use the assistance solely for the purpose intended and that these funds will properly accounted for and used in a transparent manner," said Jumbe.

Through the memorandum of understanding, the donor partners will pool together 72 million US dollars for the period 2003 and 2008.

"Increased illness and death among productive Malawians will have the effect of reducing productivity and so slow down economic growth," said the Finance Minister.

NORAD representative, the Norwegian Ambassador to Malawi Asbjorn Eidhammer, said his government would contribute six million US dollars towards the pool.

Eidhammer said he was confident NAC would use the money reasonably enough to reduce the HIV/AIDS pandemic which has affected all age groups of the country.

MNA/Xinhua



A hand out computer graphic image received on 25 June, 2003 shows how a hand-sized crushed Bronze Age gold goblet dating from 1700-1500 BC will look when it is fully reconstructed. The gold cup, which goes on display for the first time on Thursday, will be cone-shaped and stand 14 cm tall when it has been fully reconstructed. The British museum said in a statement that only five such cups had been found in Europe, noting that the similarities in design provided further evidence of the extensive trading networks that covered the continent. — INTERNET

Protection of 2,000-year-old ethnic village improves

CHENGDU, 26 June—Taoping Village of the Qiang ethnic group, dating back some 2,000 years in southwest China's Sichuan Province, is restoring its original appearance as the local government strengthens its protecting measures. Located in Lixian County of the Aba Prefecture, Taoping has long been seen as a "living fossil" of the past prosperity of the Qiang people, whose earliest records can be found in the inscriptions on bones and tortoise shells of the Yin Dynasty more than 3,000 years ago.—MNA/Xinhua

WHO removes Beijing from SARS list, lifts travel advisory

BEIJING, 26 June — The World Health Organization on Tuesday removed Beijing from its list of SARS-infected areas and lifted its travel advisory against the city, saying the risk for travellers to Beijing "is now minimum", and calling the development a "milestone" in the fight against SARS around the world.

The decision took effect immediately, Shigeru Omi, WHO regional director for the Western Pacific, announced here at a Press conference jointly held by WHO and China's Ministry of Health. "WHO has decided that the travel advisory against Beijing is lifted with immediate effect," he said. "WHO concluded that the risk to travellers to Beijing is now minimum." He also announced that Beijing was removed from the list of areas with recent local transmission, "because WHO concluded that the chain of human-to-human transmission in Beijing has been broken".

"Today's development is a milestone for the fight against SARS not only in China but also the world, because from today WHO has no more advisory against anywhere around the world," he said. — MNA/Xinhua

China registers one million drug addicts by end of 2002

BEIJING, 26 June — China had one million registered drug addicts by the end of 2002, up 11 per cent on the figure for 2001, according to an official with the Ministry of the Public Security.

Illegal drug use was recorded in 2,148 cities, counties and districts across China, 97 more than in 2001.

Youths and teenagers made up 74 per cent of the registered drug addicts, and 25,000 drug addicts died from overdoses in recent years.

Statistics indicate 30 per cent of property-related crimes in most provinces and regions of China were committed by drug addicts, with the rate being as high as 70 per cent in some areas. Drug addiction is also a major spread channel for AIDS. Of the more than 40,000 AIDS patients reported in 2002 across China, two-thirds were drug addicts.

MNA/Xinhua

Siamese twins successfully separated in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 26 June — A pair of Siamese twins were successfully separated by the doctors of Islami Bank Hospital in Bangladesh on Tuesday.

This is the first successful operation of Siamese twins separation in Bangladesh, as the former two cases both failed.

The twins, Hasan and Hossain who joined in the belly but have separate organs, were separated on Tuesday in an 80-minute operation in Dhaka by a team of doctors from Islami Bank Hospital.

The hospital source also told *Xinhua* on Wednesday that both babies were fine so far and Hossain was getting better.

Their parents, a rickshaw van driver and his wife shifted the babies to Islami Bank Hospital in the south western district of Khulna after the wife gave birth to the boys on April 28 at a local clinic.

As the younger child developed dyspnoea, the babies were transferred to Dhaka by plane at once for the operation, and the Islami Bank Hospital afforded all the cost under the offer from a board member of the bank. — MNA/Xinhua

Most Russian families with children live in poverty

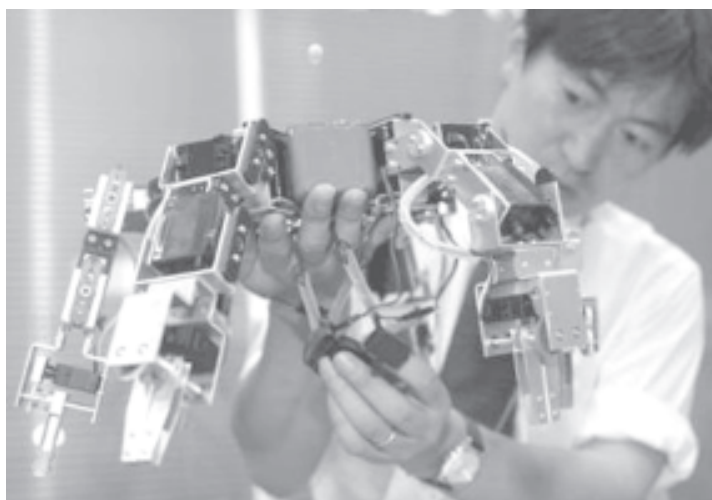
Moscow, 26 June — About 70 per cent of families with children live below the poverty line in Russia, said Russian Deputy Prime Minister Galina Karelova recently.

An estimated 472,845 families in Russia live "in extreme poverty", Karelova was quoted by *Interfax* as saying.

She said that for poverty and other

reasons, 26,220 school-aged children had not attended school by 1 September, 2002, and 1,500 of them have never gone to school at all.

Official statistics show that there are about 866,000 children living in the impoverished families in Russia. Last year, police detained about 681,000 problem children. — MNA/Xinhua



Osaka University research engineer Yasushi Mae adjusts a spider-like search robot in a demonstration of rescue robots in Kawasaki, west of Tokyo, on 24 June, 2003. The four-legged robot has two limbs, one with a sensor attached to its end, for probing disaster wreckage areas in search of trapped people. — INTERNET

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English soccer star David Beckham waves to fans upon his arrival at a stadium in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on 25 June, 2003. Beckham is in Vietnam as part of his weeklong Asian tour.—INTERNET



Venus Williams plays a return to Katarina Srebotnik of Slovenia during their second round match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, on 25 June, 2003. Williams won 6-4, 6-1.—INTERNET

Two more coaches fired in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 26 June— Two more coaches have been fired in Brazil, bringing the total casualties in the first division to 13 since the 24-team championship began on 30 March.

The latest victim was Joel Santana of Vitoria, whose 12 months in charge had made him the longest-serving of the first division coaches until he was sacked on the telephone on Tuesday morning.

"He'd had a year and we thought it was time for some re-cycling," club president Paulo Carneiro told reporters. "We've got great affection for him and great gratitude for everything he's achieved during this time."

Vitoria, 14th in the Brazilian championship with 18 points from 14 games, last week denied that they had fired Santana and agreed terms with former Brazil defender Edinho. But Sunday's 2-1 defeat by Sao Caetano appeared to be the final straw.

Santana followed in the footsteps of Juventude coach Marinho Perez, dismissed on Monday after only eight matches at the helm.

Perez, returning home after two-and-a-half years as coach of Portugal's Belenenses, was philosophical.

"I feel frustration and not shame," he

told the sports daily Lance. "I did everything I could and I sincerely don't believe that another coach could have done better."

"It's very little time, but that's Brazilian football culture. If it makes you angry, then you're better off changing profession."

"The team was getting better despite the defeats but the club couldn't wait."

Juventude, who began the tournament under Cristovao Borges, are 21st in the table with 14 points.

Juventude are the second team alongside Fortaleza to have changed coach twice in the 14 rounds of matches since the championship began.

Fortaleza started it under Luiz Carlos Cruz, who walked out after five days but was re-appointed last week after replacement Fernandinho Teixeira resigned.

Bahia, Sao Paulo, Criciuma, Paysandu, Parana, Goias, Gremio, Figueirense are the other teams to have changed coach.

MNA/Reuters

Beckham welcomed by Vietnamese fans in Ho Chi Minh City

HANOI, 26 June— English soccer star David Beckham attracted about 15,000 fans at a stadium in Ho Chi Minh City on Wednesday as he came to Vietnam for a promotional tour of Asia on behalf of his commercial sponsors.

The crowd roared when the 28-year-old former Manchester United mid-fielder balanced a ball on his head and then on his

back while doing push-ups in the stadium.

Beckham told the crowd around the stadium, "It's a great honour and a great pleasure to be in this country."

Manchester United games are regularly broadcast on Vietnamese television and the team attracts a large number of followers in the country.

MNA/Xinhua

Queiroz takes over at Real Madrid

MADRID, 26 June — Real Madrid named Carlos Queiroz as their coach on Wednesday after the former Manchester United assistant manager signed a two-year contract with the Spanish champions.

The ex-Portugal and South Africa coach was presented to the media later in the day at the club's Bernabeu stadium.

"I'd like to thank Real Madrid for this great honour of giving me the opportunity to coach a great club," Queiroz said.

"It is a club that has been blessed with winning the most titles in world football and has written a great part of the history of football."

"This is the happiest day of the 25 years of my professional life and is a very important moment for me."

Real Madrid president Florentino Perez said Queiroz knew "perfectly what Real Madrid is all about".

"He understands that its fans are accustomed, not just to winning, but also to

providing a great spectacle," Perez said.

"He is a coach with the philosophy and qualities that respond exactly to the needs of Real Madrid."

Real made the surprise decision on Monday not to renew coach Vicente del Bosque's contract, just a day after he led the club to their 29th Spanish League title.

The appointment of Queiroz, formerly Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson's number two, should make it easier for Real's new signing David Beckham to adapt to life at the Bernabeu.

Beckham, who is on a promotional tour in Asia, was bought from Manchester United for 35 million euros (40.27 million US dollars) last week. He is due to be presented by Real on July 2. — MNA/Reuters

Barcelona's Kluivert handed four-match ban

BARCELONA, 26 June — Barcelona striker Patrick Kluivert will miss the start of next season after being handed a four-match ban for aggression against another player by the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF).

The Dutch international was sent off during his side's 2-0 victory over Celta Vigo on Sunday after being involved in a scuffle with opposition defender Angel, who had been dismissed for a foul on Frank de Boer.

Kluivert appeared to push Angel as the pair argued about an incident in which the defender elbowed de Boer as the two players challenged for the ball.

The fact that Kluivert has been involved in similar incidents in the past is likely to have influenced the severity of the RFEF's sanction. Barcelona have not made it clear whether they will appeal.

The club also have a two-match stadium ban hanging over them as a result of

incidents at the Nou Camp during this season's match against arch-rivals Real Madrid.

As a result of a lengthy appeals process they will now have to serve the ban at the start of next season.

The two punishments combine to produce a tricky start for new coach Frank Rijkaard, who replaced Radomir Antic earlier this week.

Barcelona's victory over Celta, combined with Athletic Bilbao's defeat by Real Madrid, meant that the Catalan club secured a UEFA Cup place, preserving their record of never missing a season in European competition.

MNA/Reuters



Fans of Argentine soccer team Boca Juniors cheer their club after its 2-0 victory over Brazil's Santos, in the first leg final match of the Libertadores Cup in Buenos Aires, on 25 June, 2003.—INTERNET

MRTV-3
27-6-2003* (Friday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

- 9:00 Signature Tune
Greetings
Coming up
- 9:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 9:06 Bago Arts Exhibition
in Yangon
- 9:10 National News**
- 9:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes "Stir Sheat
Fish"
- 9:15 National News**
- 9:20 The Unique Pindaya
Shan Paper
- 9:25 A Song of the "Nat"
Spirits
- 9:30 National News**
- 9:35 Myanmar Modern
Song "You can take
me but not my love"
- 9:40 A Pagoda Built with
A Special Objective
- 9:45 National News**
- 9:50 Ayeyawady Dolphin
Expedition (Part-III)
- 9:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"
- 10:00 Close Down

27-6-2003* (Friday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Afternoon Transmission
(13:00 - 14:00)

- 13:00 Signature Tune
Greetings
Coming up
- 13:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma
Panorama &
Myanma Sentiment"
- 13:06 Power Aerobic
Let's Exercise For
Fitness & Health"
- 13:10 National News**
- 13:12 Myanmar Cuisine
"Steamed Eggplant
with Tomato Sauce"
- 13:15 National News**
- 13:20 Wakema Bridge
- 13:25 The Unforgettable
Bonfire Dance
- 13:28 Cultural Museum
(Keng Tong)
- 13:30 National News**
- 13:35 Photo by Artist
- 13:40 Songs On Screen
"Heh! Little Girl"
- 13:45 National News**
- 13:50 King Thayawady's
Bell
- 13:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"
- 14:00 Close Down

27-6-2003* (Friday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Evening Transmission
(18:00 - 19:00)

- 18:00 Signature Tune
Greetings

- Coming up
- 18:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 18:06 Bago Arts Exhibition
in Yangon
- 18:10 National News**
- 18:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes "Stir Sheat
Fish"
- 18:15 National News**
- 18:20 The Unique Pindaya
Shan Paper
- 18:25 A Song of the "Nat"
Spirits
- 18:30 National News**
- 18:35 Myanmar Modern
Song "You can take
me but not my love"
- 18:40 A Pagoda Built with
A Special Objective
- 18:45 National News**
- 18:50 Ayeyawady Dolphin
Expedition (Part-III)
- 18:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"
- 19:00 Close Down

28-6-2003* (Saturday)
Regular Programmes for
Viewers from Abroad
Morning Transmission
(2:00 - 4:00)

- 2:00 Signature Tune
Greetings
Coming up
- 2:02 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Myanma
Panorama &
Myanma Sentiment"
- 2:06 Bago Arts Exhibition
in Yangon
- 2:10 National News**
- 2:12 Easily Cooked Tasty
Dishes "Stir Sheat
Fish"

Fish"

- 2:15 National News**
- 2:20 The Unique Pindaya
Shan Paper
- 2:25 A Song of the "Nat"
Spirits
- 2:30 National News**
- 2:35 Myanmar Modern
Song "You can take
me but not my love"
- 2:40 A Pagoda Built with
A Special Objective
- 2:45 National News**
- 2:50 Ayeyawady Dolphin
Expedition (Part-III)
- 2:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Mingalabar"
- 3:00 National News**
- 3:05 Hninzigone, Home
For the Aged
- 3:12 Myanmar Cuisine
"Steamed Eggplant
with Tomato Sauce"
- 3:15 National News**
- 3:20 Wakema Bridge
- 3:25 The Unforgettable
Bonfire Dance
- 3:28 Cultural Museum
(Keng Tong)
- 3:30 National News**
- 3:35 Photo by Artist
- 3:40 Songs On Screen
"Heh! Little Girl"
- 3:45 National News**
- 3:50 King Thayawady's
Bell
- 3:58 Song of Myanmar
Beauty & Scenic
Sights "Come and
See Myanmar"
- 4:00 Close Down

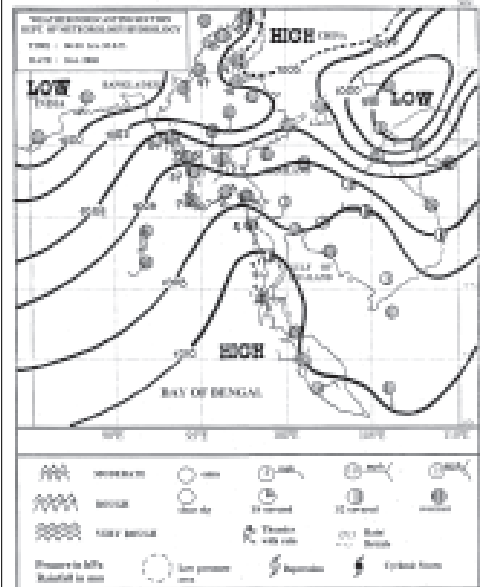
OBITUARY
Sree Bhagat Ram (a) Tu Tu
Aged 60 Years
(Indian Classical Singer)

Sree Bhagat Ram, son of late Dalbir & late Parvathi Dalbir, younger brother of late Rishi Ram, late Muni Ram, elder brother of Mrs Usha Devi, residing at 135/48th Street, Botataung Township, Yangon, passed away on 26-6-2003, Thursday at 7.50 am at YGH.

Funeral cortege will leave the YGH on Friday 27-6-2003 at 1 pm for Yay Way Hindu Cemetery for cremation.

Buses will leave the residence at 12.00 pm.

Bereaved Family & Friends

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas**WEATHER**

Thursday, June 26

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division and rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan, Chin and Kayah States, scattered in Kayin State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in upper Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Myauk Oo (7.13) inches, Kyauktaw (6.10) inches, Maungdaw (4.45) inches, Ann (3.78) inches, Hkamti (3.46) inches, Thandwe (3.35) inches and Sittway (3.31) inches.

Maximum temperature on 25-6-2003 was 29.0°C (84°F). Minimum temperature on 26-6-2003 was 21.0°C (70°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 26-6-2003 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 25-6-2003 was nil. Rainfall on 26-6-2003 was 23 mm at Yangon Airport, 8 mm at Kaba-Aye and 4 mm at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 855 mm (33.66 inches) at Yangon Airport, 904 mm (35.59 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 982 mm (38.66 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 25-6-2003.

Bay inference: Monsoon is generally strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 27-6-2003: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine, Shan and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions and scattered in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 27-6-2003: One or two rains or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 27-6-2003: Rain or thundershowers.. Degree of certainty is (80%).



View today:
Friday, June 27

7:00 am

ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်
ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာ
နာယကအဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊
အဘိဓမ္မဟောရှုပ္ပန်၊ အဘိဓမ္မ
အဗ္ဗမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇာတိက တိပိဋက
ဓရ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိကဆရာတော်
ဘဒ္ဒန္တ ဝိမ္မိတ္တသာရာသီဝံသ၏
ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. ရိုးရာကျေးလက်ကဏ္ဍ:နည်း

8:05 am

6. အတိတ်မြင်ပုံ

8:15 am

7. The mirror Images of
the musical oldies

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. English for Everyday
Use

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Songs to uphold national
spirit

4:30 pm

3. Practice in Reading

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

4:55 pm

5. အဆေးသင်တန်းသို့လံပညာရေး
ရှင်မြင်သကဲ့သို့သင်ခန်းစာ
ဒုတိယပုဒ် (ဓာတုဓာတ်အထူးပြု)
(ဓာတုဓာတ်)

5:10 pm

6. Songs of national races

5:25 pm

7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

5:35 pm

8. Musical programme

5:45 pm

9. ရည်းစားစုံစုံနှင့်

အားကစားအခြေခံ

5:55 pm

10. ဖုလန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြပေ

6:10 pm

11. Discovery

6:30 pm

12. Evening news

7:00 pm

13. Weather report

7:05 pm

14. ကြည့်ရှု:ကျွန်ုပ်တို့ဟာသနှင့်

7:15 pm

15. Song of yesteryears

7:30 pm

16. တိုင်ကျီမြည်ပြကည်ဆောင်မှု

7:40 pm

17. ရွှေစက်မြန်မာ (အပိုင်း-၁)

8:00 pm

18. News

19. International news

20. Weather report

21. Myanmar video

feature:

22. The next day

programme



Tune in today:
Friday, June 27

8:30 am

Brief news

8:35 am

Music

8:40 am

Perspectives

8:45 am

Music

8:50 am

National news/Slogan

9:00 am

Music

9:05 am

International news

9:10 am

Music

1:30 pm

Brief news

1:35 pm

Music

1:45 pm

National news/Slogan

1:55 pm

Music/Article

2:05 pm

International news

2:15 pm

Music

2:20 pm

Article/Music

2:35 pm

ASEAN review

ASEAN functional

cooperation

2:45 pm

Harmony time

9:00 pm

Work of music

Songs from Korea,

Vietnam,

the Philippines

9:15 pm

Article

9:25 pm

Music at your request

9:45 pm

News/Slogan

10:20 pm

Portfolio for easy

listening

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects fish breeding, regional development tasks in Bago Division (West)

YANGON, 26 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Col Tin Maung Win, inspected the growing of shady trees along Pyay-Aunglan Road yesterday morning. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than then met with officers, Tatmadawmen and families at the local battalions in Pyay and Shwedaung.

They next went to the fish breeding camp of the local battalion in Inma Village, Pyay District. In-charge of the camp Major Thein Htut reported on the digging of fish ponds, breeding of fingerlings, arrangements for digging



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets officers, Tatmadawmen and families of Pyay Station.— MNA

more fish ponds, distribution of feedstuff and fingerlings and extension of the ice factory; Head of Pyay District Fisheries Department U Soe Myint, on fish breeding tasks with the

use of bamboo-screen, and the plan to extend fish ponds in Pyay District in 2003-2004; and Chairman of Pyay District Fisheries Group U Hla Moe, on allotment of land for fish breeding of cooperative societies. Chairman of Pyay District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Khin Win and Chairman of Bago

Division (West) Peace and Development Council Col Tin Maung Win gave supplementary reports.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on fish breeding to be carried out on 5,000 acres of fish ponds in coming open season, efforts to be made for meeting the target of 10,000 acres of fish ponds and per-

mission to be given to those wishing to carry out fish breeding tasks. Fish breeding industries are to be carried out on 10,000 acres of land each in Bago Division (West) and Bago Division (East). In Bago Division (West), fish breeding industries will be carried out for meeting the target of 5,000 acres of land each in Pyay

and Thayawady Districts. At present, 3,296 acres of land have been reclaimed for fish breeding industries in Thayawady District and 4,287 in Pyay District. Out of the area in Pyay District, 3,568.20 acres of land have been reclaimed in Inma region and 137.08 acres of land will be reclaimed this year.

(See page 11)



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presents consolation prize to a winner.— MNA

Consolation prizes given to winners of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking commemorative competitions

YANGON, 26 June — A ceremony to present consolation prizes to the winners of Yangon Division in the literature, article, song, poetry, cartoon, poster, computerized drawing, and computer digital poster competitions at central level held in commemoration of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, took place at the meeting hall of the Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Office here this afternoon. Chairman of the Yangon

Division Drug Abuse Control Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe spoke on the occasion and presented prizes to winners.

Present on the occasion were local authorities, members of the Yangon Division DACC, departmental officials, and guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Maj-Gen Myint Swe said that the ceremony was held to present prizes to winners representing

Yangon Division in the competitions to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The Yangon Division DACC, on behalf of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, will present prizes to winners.

The drug problem is an ill legacy left by the colonialists, who allowed the cultivation of poppy capable of destroying the entire mankind in hilly regions. In consequence of it, the poppy cultivation took root in Myanmar and the taking of heroin did dim the national dignity and prestige. The colonialists used the narcotic drugs as a weapon of destruction, he said.

Since the attainment of independence up to now, the successive governments have enacted laws and procedures that conform with times and conditions to eradicate the menace of narcotic drugs. It is necessary, he added, to get the students imbued with sporting spirit, national-defence spirit, and artistic talent.

Later, he thanked the winners for their efforts to give credit for Yangon Di-

vision and urged them to try harder to win first, second, and third prizes, instead of consolation prizes.

Then, Maj-Gen Myint Swe presented consolation prizes to 55 winners of the novel, article, song, cartoon, painting, poster, and computerized drawing competitions. — MNA

Phangran glacier climbers to recount their experiences

YANGON, 26 June — Myanmar Universities Hiking and Mountaineering Association and Yangon University Hiking and Mountaineering Association will recount their experiences on climbing of the Phangran glacier in conjunction with 8th annual get-together at Yangon University Recreation Centre on 29 June. The members of the two associations for the first time successfully scaled the 14,095 feet high Phangran glacier in Putao District, Kachin State, on 20 April, 2003.

The old students of the associations, new generations and enthusiasts may join the occasion. — MNA

Government striving for total eradication of poppy cultivation in Myanmar by 2013-2014

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking commemorated

YANGON, 26 June — The ceremony to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held in conjunc-

tion with prize distribution of literary, article, song, poem, painting, cartoon, poster, computer art and computer digital competi-

tions at the Drug Elimination Museum at the corner of Kyundaw and Hanthawady Streets in Kamayut Township this

morning.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of the Central Committee for Drugs (See page 10)



Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing addresses the ceremony to present prizes to winners in short story, article, song, painting, cartoon, poster, computer art and computer digital poster competitions.— 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.