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Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt views the Jade Buddha image.—MNA

## Myanma Gems Enterprise urged to seek new means to raise national income

YANGON, 27 June — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt took part in the meeting to develop the gems business in Myanmar this afternoon at the Ministry of Mines.

Speaking on the occa-

sion, the Secretary-1 said the world has already known about the jade and gems that are mined and produced in Myanmar. The Myanma Gems Enterprise is organizing gems emporiums twice a year, inviting local and foreign merchants to attend the sole of gems. However, the enterprise still needs to find new means to increase the national income.

Thus, apart from the two annually-held emporiums, new means including special programmes should be found to increase income from the jade and gem business.

Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reported to the Secretary-1 on the

MGE's plans to raise its revenues, the current income from the business, gems mining operations being run under mutual beneficial terms with the State, and the market situation of Myanmar jade and gems.

Chairman of the Central Gems Supervisory Committee Deputy Minister for Mines U Myint Thein explained the designated blocks and reclaimed blocks, mining of jade and gems by the joint-ventures run by the State and the citizens.

The Secretary-1 gave suggestions.

Also present were ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, members of Leading Commit-

tee to Develop the Myanmar Gems Business, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department.

After the meeting, Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt inspected the 18-inch-high jade Buddha image in Dhamma Cakka mudra at the minister's office. The image was carved by the MGE. He also inspected the arrangements to carve a jade Bumiphassa mudra Buddha image that would be 12 inches high, and a jade throne that would be five inches high.

The MGE managing director and officials explained salient points about the tasks. — MNA

### 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

## Construction courses conclude

YANGON, 27 June — Public Works of the Ministry of Construction concluded a junior civil engineer refresher course and a road construction worker course at Central Training School of the ministry this morning.

Present were Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Minister U Tint Swe, directors-general and the managing di-

rector of the departments and the enterprise under the ministry, officials, Principal of the school U Saw Kya Waw Mu, course instructors and trainees.

Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun gave a speech. He also cordially greeted the trainees.

Forty-one trainees attended the two five-week courses.

MNA



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt addresses meeting on development of Myanmar gems business.—MNA

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

# PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 28 June, 2003

## Towards drug-free nation

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, in the compound of the Drug Elimination Museum at the corner of Hanthawady and Kyundaw Streets in Kamayut Township on 26 June.

At the ceremony 1125.28 kilos of opium, 219.28 kilos of heroin, 277.35 kilos of marijuana, 7,605,173 of ATS tablets, 15,467 kilos of ATS powder, 105.20 kilos of ICE, 1155.174 kilos of ephedrine powder, 346826 Diazepam tablets worth over US\$ 862 million US street value were incinerated. From the first up to the 17th occasion, the total amount of drugs burnt is worth more than US\$ 12,414 million.

Besides these seized drugs and chemicals, poppy seeds were destroyed 32 times. The International Narcotic Control Board (INCB), in its 2002 annual report, recorded a decrease in poppy cultivation and opium production in Myanmar. In addition, Myanmar has already signed three UN Conventions on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and will be signing Protocol (1) attached there to very soon. The Ministry of Health of the Union of Myanmar has also designated 25 chemicals as controlled chemicals in 2002.

Problems related to narcotic drugs is the evil legacy of colonialists who allowed poppy cultivation in the mountain regions and thus the tradition of growing poppy has rooted in Myanmar. Poppy cultivation and opium use tarnish the image of Myanmar and is also harmful to human resource development. Therefore, the colonialists used narcotic drugs as a weapon. From the time of regaining independence to this date, successive governments has been fighting against the menace of narcotic drugs by adopting rules and regulations suitable to the time and conditions.

After 1988, the government has built peace with national race armed groups. As a result, peace and stability prevail in border areas. Therefore, border areas development projects have been carried out by laying down strategies and tactics.

Moreover, tasks for border area development and drug eradication have been carried out harmoniously and thus Mongla Special Region-4 in eastern Shan State was declared as drug-free zone in 1997. Poppy cultivation came to a halt in Kokang Special Region-1 in 2003. People of Wa Special Region-2 also pledged to stop poppy cultivation in 2005.

Myanmar, on self-reliance basis, is making all-out efforts for drug eradication as a national duty. The entire people are urged to participate in the drug eradication hand in hand with the Government.



MMCWA President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe delivers an opening address at the drama competition. — MNA

## World Population Day commemorative drama competition held

YANGON, 27 June — Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and the UNFPA organized a drama competition titled "Look for 1,000 billion children through educative talks on health" to mark the World Population Day at the association at the corner of Thanthumar and Parami Roads in South Okkalapa Township this morning.

### 19 armed group members exchanged arms for peace in April, May

YANGON, 27 June — The State Peace and Development Council, upholding Our Three Main National Causes, is striving for national reconsolidation. Remnant armed group members, understanding correct endeavours and genuine goodwill of the government and realizing their destructive acts, have been exchanging arms for peace individually or in groups at the respective military camps in April and May 2003.

Pvt Wi Lein of SURA armed group in Lwetailyan Headquarters, bringing together with him one M-22, one magazine, 30 rounds of ammunition and one walkie-talkie, Pvt Sai Nwam with one walkie-talkie, Cpl Sai Phu and Pvt Sai Tun of No 451 battalion with two pistols, two magazines and 16 rounds of ammunition and Cpl Aik Tun of No 618 battalion with one M-22, four magazines and 190 rounds of ammunition exchanged arms for peace in Triangle Region Command area; Pvt Ti Maw Ti of CNA armed group in North-West Command area; Pvt Khaing Win of the break-away Mon armed group, village chairman in Thaton Township administrative group Pha Non of No 1 Brigade, KNU armed group, with one revolver, one grenade and two detonators, village chairman Maung Gyi of Hpa-an District administrative group with one grenade and Pvt Po Karu (a) Po Ku of Security Company with one .30 carbine, two magazines and 100 rounds of ammunition in South-East Command area; Pvt Ha Ye Dwe, wife Naw Pe Naw and their 10-month old daughter of No 3 Company of No 10 Battalion of KNU armed group with one pistol, one magazine and seven rounds of ammunition, Pvt Aung Lwin and Pvt Htay Than of No 11 battalion, No 4 Brigade, with two grenades, Pvt Sai Hti Hsai (a) Ko Hti of ABSDF armed group with one AK-47, one pistol, two magazines and 57 rounds of ammunition, deputy company commander Abi (a) Tin Ngwe of break-away Mon armed group, Sgt Min Aung and Cpl Win Naing (a) Soe Win Kyaw of NDA armed group with two 79 launchers, 31 40mm grenade shells, two hand grenades and one walkie-talkie in Coastal Region Command area exchanged arms for peace at the respective military camps from April to May 2003.

Officials of the respective military camps warmly welcomed 19 persons who exchanged arms for peace and fulfilled their requirements. It is reported that there are remnants of armed group members who are to follow suit. — MNA

Present on the occasion were members of the panel of judges President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and CEC members, President of Myanmar Red Cross Society Dr Kyaw Win and executives, officials, members of subcommittees, guests, members of State and Division MCWAs and contestants. The president of MMCWA made an opening address. A total of 12 teams from State and Division MCWAs and international social organizations took part in the competition. The first prize went to the youth team representing Mandalay Division MCWA, second prize to Yangon Division MCWA and third prize to MRCS, and consolation prizes to the youth teams representing Supervisory Committees of Mon State, Magway Division and Ayeyawady Division MCWAs. The MMCWA president presented certificates of honour to the teams. The prizes will be presented to the winning teams at the ceremony to mark the World Population Day on 11 July. — MNA

### POEM:

#### Only you are vital

\* In your life, only you  
Are your master, in original thought  
First and foremost, surely  
Cleverly, not depending  
On any other, standing by oneself  
Unshirkingly, with correct stance  
Free, not smothered  
Strongly, in this world.  
\* Path of cessation of all troubles  
Looking toward Nibbana  
The one that trudges is yourself  
Constantly vigilant  
Looking for Vipassana  
Only which will find peace  
And move toward Nibbana  
That's the religious way.  
\* Worldly and religious endeavours  
In all matters, you and you alone  
Must be self-reliant, then only  
Will you achieve.  
\* As an example, in nation-building  
Go by some yardstick in striving  
Aims will not vanish,  
Will get what you want  
Achieve without fail.

May Yu (Trs)

### ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထွန်းပွားနေသော (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ ကာကွယ်ရေး သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

၁။ ယခုအခါ ကမ္ဘာ့နိုင်ငံအချို့တွင် ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထွန်းပွားနေသော (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ ဖြစ်ပွားလျက်ရှိပါသည်။ ဤရောဂါသည် ကိုရိုနာ (Corona) အုပ်စုဝင် ဗိုင်းရပ်(စ်)ဗိုင်းကြောင့် ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အဆိုးဆုံးသည် လူနာချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း၊ နှာချောင်း၊ နှာရည်၊ ရှူသလိုဗိုင်းများမှတစ်ဆင့်သော်လည်းကောင်း၊ လူနာအသုံးအဆောင် ပစ္စည်းများမှတစ်ဆင့်သော်လည်းကောင်း အသက်ရှူလမ်းကြောင်းမှ ခန္ဓာကိုယ်အတွင်းသို့ ဝင်ရောက်၍ ရောဂါဖြစ်ပေါ်ပါသည်။

၂။ ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထွန်းပွားနေသော (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ၏ လက္ခဏာများမှာ-

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

ထိတွေ့သူများနှင့် ထိတွေ့မှုရှိခြင်း  
- ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထွန်းပွားနေသော (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 ဆေးဝါးမှီဝဲသော သွေးချွေး (ဥပမာ-ကော်တီဆို့ ပါဝင်သည့်ဆေးများ၊ ကင်ဆာရောဂါများစသည့်) ဖြင့်
- ၄။ အသက်ရှူလမ်းကြောင်းမှ ကူးစက်သော ရောဂါဖြစ်သဖြင့် ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထွန်းပွားနေသော (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားမှုမှ ကာကွယ်ရန် အောက်ပါအချက်များကို လိုက်နာဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
  - (က) တစ်ကိုယ်ရေသန့်ရှင်းမှုကို ဂရုပြုဆောင်ရွက်ခြင်း
  - (ခ) အဟာရပြည့်ဝသည့်အစားအစာများစားသုံးခြင်း

- (ဂ) ကောင်းမွန်စွာအိပ်စက်အနားယူခြင်း
- (ဃ) ကိုယ်လက်လှုပ်ရှားမှုမှန်မှန်ပြုလုပ်ခြင်း
- (င) နာချေ၊ ချောင်းဆိုးလျှင်လက်ကိုင်ပုလဲဖြင့်ဖုံးအုပ်ခြင်း
- (စ) ကူးစက်မြန်မြန်ထွန်းပွားနေသော (အဆုတ်ရောင်) ရောဂါ လက္ခဏာရှိသူများအား ခွဲစိတ်ခန်းသုံးမျက်နှာမီး (surgical mask) ဝတ်ရုံ (gown) ပလပ်စတစ်ချွေးဖုံးခါးစည်း (apron)နှင့် ပလပ်စတစ်လက်အိတ် (gloves) အသုံးပြုကာ လူနာနှင့်ထိတွေ့ခြင်း၊ လူနာအသုံးအဆောင် ပစ္စည်းများ ကိုင်တွယ်ခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ခြင်း
- (ဆ) ကူးစက်ရောဂါများကို ထိရောက်စွာ ကာကွယ်ရန်အတွက် လက်ကို ဆပ်ပြာနှင့် စင်ကြယ်စွာ ဆေးကြောခြင်း
- (ဇ) လူထုထပ်သောနေရာများနှင့် ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားနေသော နိုင်ငံများသို့ ခရီးသွားလာခြင်းမှရှောင်ကြဉ်ခြင်း
- ၅။ ကိုယ်အပူချိန်မြင့်တက်ခြင်း၊ ကိုယ်လက်တက်ခဲခြင်း၊ ခေါင်းကိုက်ခြင်း၊ ချောင်းဆိုးခြင်း၊ လည်ချောင်းနာခြင်း၊ မောပန်းခြင်း၊ အသက်ရှူကြပ်ခြင်း၊ ရင်ဘတ်အောင့်ခြင်းစသည့်လက္ခဏာများဖြစ်ပွားပါကနီးစပ်ရာကျန်းမာရေးဌာန/ဆေးရုံ/ဆေးပေးခန်းများတွင်ပြသ၍ ဆေးကုသမှုခံယူရန် သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးစံကြီးဌာန



# UN says long uncertainty on Iraq stalled world economy

UNITED NATIONS, 27 June — The long global debate over waging war on Iraq put the world economy on hold for the first several months of this year, delaying and weakening a long-awaited recovery, UN forecasters said on Wednesday.

As a result, the global economy will grow at an annual rate of just 2.25 per cent this year rather than the 2.75-per cent pace predicted just six months ago, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs said in its latest forecast.

The world economy should grow by more than 3 per cent in 2004, the report added. It grew a tepid 1.7 per cent in 2002, according to UN figures.

"The uncertainty that prevailed in the last quarter of 2002 and the beginning of 2003 just discouraged people from spending money, whether they were consumers or investors," said Ian Kinniburgh, the director of UN development policy analysis.

The prolonged global slowdown in trade and investment is still holding

back growth as well as hopes for significant gains in fighting poverty, according to the new UN forecast.

But the world now appears around the bend and on track for a return to strong growth in the second half of 2003, which begins next month, Kinniburgh told *Reuters*.

Policymakers are cutting back on interest rates and pumping money into government spending programmes, manufacturers are replenishing long-depleted inventories and developing countries are benefitting from improving commodity prices, which are rising from historic lows, according to the new UN report. In addition, stock markets are rebounding, business and consumer confidence is recovering and oil

prices are retreating after climbing to levels "far higher than warranted by economic fundamentals" due to fears the US-led invasion of Iraq might disrupt supplies, said the UN report.

At the same time, persistent high unemployment and continued weakness in the international tourism and airline sectors are expected to dampen the pace of recovery, it said.

Among wealthy nations, the United States is benefitting the most from the building recovery as it was the hardest hit by the prolonged uncertainty when Washington carried on its intensive but ultimately unsuccessful campaign to win advance UN approval for its March invasion of Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

## US mulls future oil sales to rebuild Iraq

WASHINGTON, 27 June — Anxious to bolster funds to rebuild Iraq, the Bush Administration is considering the use of Iraq's future oil and gas revenues as collateral for loans for reconstruction projects, a key trade group said on Wednesday.

Edmund Rice, president of the Coalition for Employment Through Exports, said his group was lobbying a proposal to use oil revenues amounting to about three billion US dollars a year as security to borrow money from commercial banks for projects in Iraq.

"We have received strong support from the administration (for this proposal)," said Rice, whose group has among its members some of the key players doing work in Iraq, such as oil giant Halliburton and engineering firm Bechtel.

Rice said using these future revenues would help fill a gaping hole in funding from other countries to rebuild Iraq and lift some of the financial pressure off Washington.

"There really are very limited options for sustaining the reconstruction financially," said Rice.

America's Export-Import Bank said it was also looking closely at the option of using future oil revenues as collateral for the financing of reconstruction projects.

"This is one proposal that a lot of people are interested in and a main focus of the bank," said Bo Ollison, the bank's spokesman, stressing no decisions had been taken.

MNA/Reuters



*This undated British Ministry of Defence handout photograph shows a member of 1 Para on patrol in Ali Al Gharbi in Iraq on 26 June, 2003. This is the first patrol for the Paras in the area since six Royal Military Police were shot and killed near the city of Al Amarah in eastern Iraq on Tuesday, in the worst single death toll since the first days of the war. —INTERNET*

## Indonesia-Japan Friendship Festival to be held in Jakarta

JAKARTA, 27 June — An Indonesian-Japan Friendship Festival will take place in Jakarta from 1 July to 31 July, the Japanese Consulate General announced here Wednesday.

The festival will be held in the Indonesian capital in line with the appointment of Indonesia as host of the ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations)-Japan Exchange Year 2003, the consulate said in a statement as published by the *Antara* news agency.

In addition to various forms of Japan's traditional and modern arts and culture to be staged at the festival, there will also be exchange of business information and knowledge, a football competition and film shows, it said, noting that the festival will be a rare opportunity for the Indonesian people to know more about Indonesia-Japan relationships in the educational, culture and business

sectors.

The appointment of Indonesia as host of the ASEAN-Japan Exchange Year 2003 was based on Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's speech before some ASEAN leaders in Singapore in January 2003.

During the meeting the Prime Minister proposed to build a Cooperation for the Future and the Year 2003 was projected as the Japan-ASEAN Exchange Year. His idea was supported by the ASEAN member countries.

Similar festivals will be held in Laos in August, Vietnam in September, Singapore in October, Cambodia in November and Thailand in December.

MNA/Xinhua

ထုတ်ကုန်နှစ်ဆ တိုးမြှင့်ကြ

## Putin reiterates UN role in rebuilding Iraq

LONDON, 27 June — Visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin reiterated Wednesday that the United Nations should lead the way in rebuilding Iraq, reports reaching here said.

The world should act in harmony and consultation with each other and on the basis of the United Nations, said Putin, who spent much of his second day of a four-day state visit to Britain sightseeing in the Scottish capital city of Edinburgh.

"Whatever Iraqi leadership is created in the future, it will be legitimate, and it will be able to count on support only if the process goes through the UN," Putin told a gathering of Scottish academic, scientific, business and cultural leaders.

Putin, whose country opposed the Anglo-American war against Iraq, also said that differences over the US-led Iraq war should not bring the world back to crisis.

"Those times have gone," he said.

Stressing his countries' strong ties with Britain and the United States, Putin also stressed that Russia is part of Europe. "Nobody in this room should have any doubt that Russia is part of European culture. There is no doubt that Russia is part of Europe." In his speech, Putin also called for British investors to step up their involvement in Russia, claiming that his country was a land of "immense opportunities".

"Russia now offers immense opportunities for our own business and for our partners abroad," Putin said. "We need capital, modern management and technology," he said. "The more we succeed in making our country stable and democratic, the more our economy will be successful." — MNA/Xinhua

## Putin hints he will run for second term

EDINBURGH, 27 June — Russian President Vladimir Putin dropped a strong hint on Wednesday he would stand for re-election for a second term in office next March.

Speaking to a group of Scottish business figures and academics in Edinburgh, he said: "I can say that there will be no third term for President Putin. That I can guarantee for sure."

A third term is in any case excluded under Russia's Constitution, but Putin's words appeared to confirm he had decided to run for a second four-year term from March 2004.

Popular at home atop a high-growth economy and without any real opposition, Putin, a former KGB spy handpicked by his predecessor Boris Yeltsin, seems certain to be re-elected if he stands again. But by indicating he is not considering a change to the Constitution that would allow him a third term in office, Putin has set himself apart from many of his allies within the Commonwealth of Independent States.

MNA/Reuters



*The Taj Mahal is seen in Agra, India in this 1982 file photo. A state-run company pulled back massive cranes and earth filling equipment on 22 June, 2003, following federal government orders to stop building a tourist complex near the Taj Mahal, in violation of laws protecting the 17th century monument. Federal Tourism and Culture Minister Jagmohan, who visited the white-marble Taj Mahal on Sunday, said the new structure could divert the flow of the Jamuna River waters during monsoon rains, flooding a sprawling garden in the area and causing damage to the monument. — INTERNET*

# Blair says troops faced problems disarming Iraqis

LONDON, 27 June—Six British troops killed in Iraq may have run into trouble as they tried to disarm the local population, Prime Minister Tony Blair said on Wednesday.

"There is a background to do with the attempts by British forces to make sure the local population, who regularly carry machine guns and small firearms, were disarmed of those weapons," Blair told Parliament.

"There had been problems in relation to that. That may form part of the background to it but at the moment it's simply too early to say."

Local residents have said Iraqi civilians shot dead the six soldiers and wounded eight others during clashes on Tuesday over intrusive arms searches.

But a British military spokesman, Ronnie McCourt, said the killing of the military police officers in the southern town of Majjar was unprovoked murder.

Witnesses and residents said four Iraqis were killed and 14 wounded in the clashes with the British soldiers in Majjar, 18 miles south of the city of al Amarah.

The clashes followed resentment over weapons searches by British soldiers and erupted after troops fired plastic bullets to try to control thou-

sands of protesters, they said.

Blair said that within 24 hours, he expected to be able to say more about the group that attacked the forces. Earlier, his spokesman said he did not recognize such a portrayal of British forces' actions or "rumours being bandied around".

Blair said there was no question of Britain turning its back on Iraq, despite the losses. More British troops would be sent to Iraq if needed, he added but said local commanders believed they had enough forces. — MNA/Reuters

## Beijing recreation centres resume operation

BEIJING, 27 June—Beijing has decided to gradually re-open its singing and dancing halls, cybercafes, computer games venues and billiard rooms starting from 25 June. The move was good news for local recreation industries, which were suspended due to the outbreak of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) epidemic.

The World Health Organization (WHO) removed Beijing from its list of SARS-infected areas and lifted its travel advisory against the Chinese capital on Tuesday.

The Beijing Cultural Bureau, Beijing Public Security Bureau, Beijing Municipal Bureau for Industry and Commerce and the City Health Bureau have jointly issued a circular on the re-opening of recreation centres and SARS prevention efforts in such public places.

The circular says only those recreation centres which met sanitation and immunity requirements set by the city government were allowed to resume operation.

MNA/Xinhua



Iraqis celebrate the attack on a military convoy by throwing stones at the destroyed vehicles in the Youssefyah area south of Baghdad, Iraq on 26 June, 2003. A big truck hauler carrying a smaller vehicle was directly hit and caught fire. According to an eyewitness, four US soldiers were allegedly in the damaged truck.—Internet

## US still vague on attack along Iraq-Syria border

WASHINGTON, 27 June—Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said last week's lightning late-night strike by elite American troops was "a success".

"He has... had some conversations with the commanders there about, 'Let's get a little bit more information here'," the official, who asked not to be identified, told reporters.

The official provided little new information on the intense air and ground attack by Special Operations troops against what was at the time believed to be a convoy of former senior Iraqi officials fleeing toward Syria early last Thursday morning Iraq time.

"We don't have enough detail now to discuss the issue," he said of the incident, in which US troops took custody of

five Syrian border guards — three of them injured — and have not yet turned them back over to Syria.

Syria has not publicly protested the incident, but has denied US charges that it harboured senior officials from former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's toppled government. The official said he would not describe Rumsfeld as frustrated over his lack of information from the field on the operation, adding: "This is one operation going on in the midst of a lot of operations" by the US military in Iraq.

MNA/Reuters

## N-W China region resumes air routes to Moscow

URUMQI, 27 June—China Southern Airlines re-established its flights between Urumqi, the capital of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, and the Russian capital of Moscow on Wednesday.

A spokesman from Southern Airlines' Xinjiang branch said that there will be a weekly Wednesday flight to Moscow. Air travel to Moscow was suspended in late April due to the outbreak of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in China.

The spokesman said that flights between Urumqi and the Russian city of Novosibirsk had resumed on 6 June, and added that the company's Xinjiang branch is working to re-establish international flights to Kazakhstan's Almaty and Kyrgyzstan's Bishkek.

All five international flights departing from Xinjiang, including those to Moscow, Islamabad, Novosibirsk, Almaty and Bishkek, and with the exception of the flight to Pakistan's Islamabad, were suspended in late April due to SARS. — MNA/Xinhua



## Next Centcom head warns of difficult days for Iraq

WASHINGTON, 27 June—The Arabic-speaking Lebanese-American tapped to replace General Tommy Franks to head US Middle East operations on Wednesday warned of "some difficult days ahead" in Iraq and said he was puzzled that its alleged weapons of mass destruction have not been found.

Army Lieutenant-General John Abizaid, a Middle East expert set to become head of the US Central Command that oversees Iraq and Afghanistan, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that intelligence on Iraq's weapons was "perplexingly incomplete".

But he said he was convinced there was no deliberate distortion of the information that he said had led him to believe US troops would face chemical weapons when they invaded Iraq to topple Saddam Hussein.

Both Republican and Democratic senators said Abizaid's confirmation to head Centcom was assured, calling the scholar with a master's degree in Middle East studies from Harvard who also studied at the University of Jordan in Amman eminently qualified for the post.

Abizaid, Franks' deputy, is set to take the helm at the US Central Command at Tampa's MacDill Air Force Base as Franks prepares for retirement after engineering the swift campaign that ousted Saddam.

Despite the Bush Administration's accusations that Iraq had chemical and biological weapons and a possible nuclear weapons programme, such banned arms were not used in the war and have not been found in the weeks after major combat operations ended.

Abizaid said it was "perplexing to me that we have not found" the weapons, and said he had no explanation for that. Still he said, "I'm confident that we will show there was deception and I'm also confident that at some point it will lead us to actual weapons of mass destruction."

MNA/Reuters

## Philippines denies reports of EC's ban on its fishery exports

MANILA, 27 June—The Philippine Department of Agriculture (DA) denied Wednesday reports that the European Commission (EC) has banned Philippine aquaculture exports to the European Union (EU).

EC's move was reportedly prompted by the alleged failure of the Philippines to submit a report on harmful and contaminated substances affecting the exports, but Agricultural Undersecretary for Fisheries Cesar Drilon told reporters that the EC has already received a report from the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

BFAR attested that it had not detected any harmful substances in the country's aquaculture exports such as prawns, milkfish and tilapia.

Drilon said the country's exports of aquaculture products have not yet met any problems with the EC in terms of the use of harmful or banned substances, adding, "two shipments have arrived at EC ports, and another one is expected to arrive on 30 June."

MNA/Xinhua



Workers from the hotel industry launch a 'yellow ribbon campaign' to welcome back visitors at a ceremony overlooking Shanghai's Bund district, on 27 June, 2003. The tourism industry has suffered in China after travellers kept their distance during the SARS epidemic. The World Health Organization said Friday the world should be free of the deadly SARS virus within the next two to three weeks.— INTERNET

## Iraqis cannot identify British soldiers' killers

**MAJJAR (Iraq), 27 June**— Local Iraqi leaders said on Thursday they could not identify the killers of six British soldiers and warned against any attempt to arrest suspects in a southeastern town seething with resentment.

A British general vowed to bring the killers to justice and said Tuesday's chaotic gunbattle had been sparked by a misunderstanding between troops and residents of the town of Majjar over weapons searches.

Residents of this conservative Shiite Muslim town, about 240 miles from Baghdad, have said troops provoked the violence by conducting intrusive weapons searches in violation of a deal with local leaders.

Majjar has been run by a group of local people with its own militia since the fall of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in April. Western reporters visiting the town were received politely on Thurs-

day but warned that anti-British sentiment was running high.

A teenage guard in civilian clothes, with a rifle over his shoulder, warned one group to avoid the market area. "The people there are simple people," he said at the edge of the dusty town. "They may suspect you're British and shoot you."

Ali al-Rubayee, who helps run a local culture centre, said local leaders had met on Wednesday with a British commander who had demanded the killers be handed over.

"That's impossible because we don't know who killed the British. It was chaos, there were many people,"

he said.

Major-General Peter Wall, commander of British forces patrolling southern Iraq, told reporters in the southern city of Basra his troops had never intended to search for weapons in Majjar on Tuesday as locals had mistakenly thought.

"I can assure you that we will do our utmost to ensure those responsible are held to account," Wall said.

He said cooperation with the town's leaders had been good until recently and he hoped it would resume.

But residents said the British would not be welcome for the moment.

MNA/Reuters

## US tractor-trailer, truck set ablaze in Baghdad attack

**BAGHDAD, 27 June**— An explosion destroyed a US military tractor-trailer carrying a smaller truck on a highway on the southern outskirts of Baghdad on Thursday, witnesses said.

There was no immediate word from the US military on any casualties. Witnesses said the Americans fired back.

A Reuters correspondent who arrived at the scene shortly after the attack said the trailer and truck had been burned out and the tyres were still smouldering. Children were throwing stones at the vehicles.

There were no American soldiers at the scene after the incident. One man selling soft drinks nearby said attackers in a car on the highway may have used a rocket-propelled grenade or some other explosives to blow up the tractor-trailer as it drove in a convoy bringing heavy military equipment into Baghdad.—MNA/Reuters

## New explosion hits key Iraqi oil pipeline

**BAGHDAD, 27 June**— An Iraqi oil pipeline was on fire on Thursday following an explosion, the sixth in the country in two weeks, a senior Iraqi oil official said.

"Early this morning another explosion damaged a pipeline near Al-Sitha near the River Tigris," Adal Al-Kazaz, director general of Iraq's Northern Oil Company, told Reuters. "I expect the incident to be another act of sabotage," Kazaz added.

He said the pipeline was carrying crude oil to Baiji refinery, 260 kilometres north of Baghdad and that the fire was still burning in the damaged pipeline.

It is the latest in a string of similar incidents hampering efforts to revive Iraq's battered oil sector.

Thursday's damage followed a blast on a

crude pipeline on Tuesday near Barwanah. That pipeline carries crude to al-Daura refinery in Baghdad.

Kazaz said oil pumping had been suspended through the 0.375-inch pipeline near Barwanah, which links Kirkuk oilfields with Daura refinery in Baghdad.

He did not know exactly when the pipeline would be repaired but said it would take some time to fix it. It exploded and caught fire on Tuesday and this was blamed on unknown saboteurs.

"We need to clean the area from the leaked crude oil and after that we will start repairing it. Until this moment we are still cleaning the area of crude oil." He said crude to Daura refinery was being supplied from Iraq's southern oilfields.—MNA/Reuters



A column of British army tanks head north from Basra, Iraq on 26 June, 2003. Six British military police were killed June 24, in the village of Majar al-Kabir after a violent demonstration left four Iraqi dead. Coalition forces have given the villagers 48 hours to hand over the culprits and illegal weapons.—INTERNET

## Chinese leaders emphasize studying Three Represents

**BEIJING, 27 June**— Senior leaders of the Communist Party of China (CPC) are insisting that officials and Party members apply the important thoughts contained in the Three Represents to real-life situations to ensure the proper completion of tasks in their daily work.

Jia Qinglin, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, said it is of vital importance to deal with the united front work with the guidance of the thoughts in order to work more effectively towards the goals of national development and reform. Government departments should continue to focus on controlling the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and promoting economic construction, Jia, also chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, said during his recent inspection tour of east Shandong Province.—MNA/Xinhua

## Diabetes victims in Vietnam on rise

**HANOI, 27 June**— The number of diabetes sufferers in Vietnam has registered an increase over recent years, especially in major cities, according to a report of Youth newspaper on Thursday.

The number of diabetes sufferers had surged from 1-2 per cent in 1990 to 4 per cent in 2001 in large cities, including Hanoi, Hue and Ho Chi Minh City.

In 2002, diabetes patients aged between 30-64 were 2.7 per cent, and the number of probably contracted people was 34.3 per cent.

Vietnam has set a target of halving risk factors for diabetes in the community by 2010 by improving its management of diabetes sufferers, raising public awareness on the disease and increasing the capacity of diagnosing and treating diabetes.— MNA/Xinhua

## Senior CPC official meets South Korean guest

**BEIJING, 27 June**— The Hyundai company is still very important to Beijing's economic development, said Liu Qi, secretary of the Beijing Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) here Wednesday.

Liu, also a member of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau, made the remark during a meeting with Chung Mong-koo, chairman and chief executive officer of Hyundai Motor Co., Ltd. of South Korea.

During Beijing's fight against the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), the Beijing Hyundai Motor Company not only maintained high production, but also contributed to SARS prevention and treatment work in Beijing, Liu said.

Now that SARS has been defeated, the service industry in Beijing is recovering, Liu said, underlining Hyundai's manufacturing, including auto production, in Beijing.—MNA/Xinhua



A young man glances up at pre-Columbian Mayan ceramic figures, at Mexico City's famous Anthropology Museum, on 26 June, 2003. The museum's pre-Columbian Maya culture room will reopen next month, after being closed two years for renovations. The renovated Maya room will have 300 new pieces.—INTERNET

## "Xinhua" president meets South Korean guests

**BEIJING, 27 June**— Tian Congming, the president of Xinhua news agency met with Cho Young-dong, director of the Korea Information Service here Thursday.

Tian said Xinhua had friendly relations with media of South Korea including Yonhap news agency and JoongAng Ilbo. He hoped that the South Korea Government and departments concerned would continue to support Xinhua during the process of expanding cooperation between the two sides.

Cho said Xinhua as the largest news agency of China is renowned around the world.

The exchanges and cooperation between Xinhua and South Korean media were very important to enhance mutual understanding and friendship of the two countries and two peoples, he said.

He said he believed that Xinhua's reports of South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun's approaching visit would be conducive to the development of bilateral relations between the two countries.— MNA/Xinhua



# UN experts say child malnutrition rising in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 27 June — Iraq's health care system is operating at less than half capacity and since the war, acute malnutrition rates among children under five have nearly doubled in some areas, UN experts said on Thursday.

The United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF) chief representative in Iraq, Carel de Rooy, said a survey in Baghdad found 7.7 per cent of children under five suffered acute malnutrition, up from 4 per cent before the war. This figure was likely mirrored in other urban areas.

"Based on the fact that there has been a large increase in diarrhoea morbidity compared to records of last summer in the south-center of the country, one can suggest that malnutrition is likely to have increased," de Rooy told Reuters.

Acute malnutrition, which is

believed to have killed hundreds of thousands of young Iraqis during 10 years of economic sanctions imposed on the government of ousted president Saddam Hussein, means a child is wasting away. Iraq's health care system seriously deteriorated over the last decade of Saddam's rule and before the war, one in four children aged under five was chronically malnourished and one in eight children likely to die before their fifth birthday.

Speaking on the sidelines of an Iraq health briefing by the US Agency for International Development, de Rooy attributed many of the current

health problems to a lethal mix of reduced water supplies and poor water quality.

"The combination of less water and worse quality has increased diarrhoea morbidity quite substantially and that leads to increased malnutrition. One can assume looking at all of this that the situation is worse than the prewar one. Definitely, it is not better," he said.

Richard Alderslade, a spokesman on health policy for the World Health Organization, said Iraq's health care system was "extremely fragile" and running at between 30-50 percent of its capacity.—MNA/Reuters

## China's anti-SARS research to address three problems

BEIJING, 27 June — China's anti-SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) research will study SARS transmission patterns and epidemiological prevention, develop vaccines and anti-virus drugs, and develop a diagnostic kit for epidemiological investigation and clinical differentiation.

Li Xueyong, China's Vice-Minister of Science and Technology, spoke at a Press conference on Wednesday.

He said the national anti-SARS research sector, consisting of ten government departments, will shift its focus from urgent research and short-term goals to key problems and medium to long-term projects.

Since its establishment on April 25 this year, the research sector has initiated 95 projects involving 3,000 science and technology staff and 120 million RMB investment, and has made substantial achievements in SARS diagnosis and treatment.

MNA/Xinhua

## Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao jointly destroy drugs

GUANGZHOU, 27 June — The drug control committees of Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions (SAR) jointly destroyed a total of 5,000 kilos heroin, "ice" and pills Thursday, in Guangzhou, capital of south China's Guangdong Province, to mark the International Drug Control Day, which falls on 26 June.

MNA/Xinhua



US soldier views the inside of a van bearing Government plates shortly after unknown men lobbed a grenade at a passing convoy in Baghdad, Iraq on 26 June, 2003. US forces were escorting the two vehicles when the attack happened and two of the Iraqi occupants were instantly killed.—INTERNET

## Heart, lung transplants conducted in central China

WUHAN, 27 June — Doctors at Wuhan Union Medical Hospital successfully conducted heart and lung transplants Wednesday on a 23-year-old man dying of Eisenmenger's Syndrome in Wuhan, in central China's Hubei Province. Hospital sources say the patient, Li Bo, is in stable condition following the four-hour surgery, which was considered nearly impossible given the extremely high difficulty and risk of the operation.

Li suffered from congenital heart disease. With the disease worsening, his heart and lungs had virtually ceased functioning. The only way to save his life was through transplant surgery.

The difficulties of the operation lie in protecting the transplanted organs and guarding against rejection. It is especially hard to prevent the lungs from being contaminated by virus, which may be an important factor in the high mortality rate for such operations.

MNA/Xinhua

## Former US ambassdor says US mishandling postwar Iraq

LONDON, 27 June — An American who spent two months working on a US-led reconstruction team in Iraq accused Washington on Thursday of failing to prepare for the post-conflict situation.

Timoal military mission," added Carney, who had been working with the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA) in Iraq.

Asked whether the White House had thought through the post-conflict situation, he answered: "Clearly not. I'm not aware of any discussion of

post-conflict Iraq taking place before November or December of last year."

The United States and Britain, whose troops toppled Saddam Hussein in their invasion of Iraq, have come under fire since then with aid workers accusing them of leaving the country in a state of anarchy.

The security problems were highlighted this week when six British soldiers were shot dead on Tuesday. The US military has suffered several losses since the war, many at the hands

of Iraqis who oppose the presence of foreign troops.

Carney said "billions of dollars" were needed to fund the reconstruction effort and he said neither the US military nor officials were prepared for the task at hand.

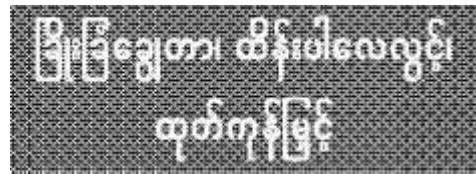
"There is a lack of doctrine on how to do such political military missions and that has caused many of the problems," he said, adding: "There was a great gap in our knowledge of what Iraq was like."—MNA/Reuters

## Husband of Margaret Thatcher dies at 88

LONDON, 27 June — Sir Denis Thatcher, the husband of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, died on Thursday at the age of 88, her private office said.

"He died peacefully at 9.30 am at the Lister Hospital in London, surrounded by his family," said a spokeswoman. He had undergone a heart-bypass operation this year.

MNA/Reuters



## US commando killed, eight injured in Baghdad 'hostile fire'

BAGHDAD, 27 June — (Bloomberg) — One US special operations soldier was killed and eight were injured in what the Pentagon described as a "hostile fire incident" in southwestern Baghdad today.

The US Central Command statement didn't offer details of the fight. The Associated Press reported earlier that an American soldier was killed and another was wounded when a bomb damaged their vehicle on the road leading to Baghdad airport, which is southwest of the city center. It was not immediately known whether the Pentagon was referring to the same incident.

On Tuesday, six British soldiers were killed in the south of the country by Iraqis angered by the deaths of four demonstrators protesting UK arms searches in the town of Majar al-Kabir. Coalition leaders say the attackers consist of both Iraqis still loyal to Hussein and other groups who resent the presence of Western soldiers in Iraq.

Much of the fighting has taken place in central Iraq, a majority-Sunni Muslim area. About 60 percent of Iraq's 24 million people are Shiite and around one-third are Sunni.

Internet

## Two US soldiers kidnapped in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 27 June — Two US soldiers who were staffing an observation post near the Iraqi town of Balad apparently were kidnapped, prompting a search involving Army helicopters, a defence official has said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Army soldiers went missing on Wednesday night, and two AH-64 Apache helicopters were used in the subsequent search.

Approximately five Iraqis, considered potential suspects or people with knowledge of the incident, have been taken into custody, the official said. — Internet



US Abram tank closes the road around a van bearing Government plates shortly after unknown men lobbed a grenade at a passing convoy in Baghdad, Iraq on 26 June, 2003. US forces were escorting the two vehicles when the attack happened and two of the Iraqi occupants were instantly killed.—INTERNET

# Aid agencies say deteriorating security situation impeding their activities

**BAGHDAD, 27 June**—As attacks on coalition troops occur in Iraq on an almost daily basis, many aid agencies say the security situation in the country is deteriorating and that their activities are directly threatened.

International aid groups in Iraq say the security situation is worsening in the country, directly impeding their work.

The feeling of insecurity is shared at all levels, from companies under direct contract to the US government to independent nongovernmental agencies with long experience operating in danger zones worldwide.

Frank Dall, a top official at Creative Associates International, a Washington-based company that has a \$62 million US government contract to help rebuild Iraq's education system, said this week there is an "ad hoc security situation which is extremely dangerous in Iraq."

He told a public briefing in Washington organized by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) that his teams fear becoming what he called "soft targets" as some groups in Iraq continue to attack coalition forces.

Dall added that — amid continuing lawlessness in some areas — his aid teams also are encountering hostility from some of the groups they want to help. He said "there is aggressive behavior toward us.... In one instance, we had car windows removed and smashed by pupils after we had checked out a school."

Internet

## UN not ready to send troops to Iraq

**UNITED NATIONS, 27 June**—The United Nations does not currently have the capacity to send a security force into Iraq, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said Wednesday after talks in London with British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"Until the (UN Security) Council gives us a new mandate, we are not really talking of a UN force and, quite frankly, I doubt that we will have the capacity to take over that responsibility at this stage," Annan said.

"If we don't have the capacity, I wouldn't want to take on the additional role and more responsibility."

Speaking in the wake of the killing of six British troops

in southern Iraq Tuesday, Annan said the "occupying powers" had the responsibility to provide security and effective administration to the people of Iraq.

This should continue to be delivered by the multinational coalition led by the United States and Britain, he added.

Asked by reporters whether he wanted a greater security role for the UN, Annan

said: "We are guided by UN Security Council resolution 1483", passed unanimously in May, "which leaves the responsibility for security and for creating a secure environment to the coalition forces or the occupying power."

"The occupying power does have a responsibility to promote the welfare of the Iraqi people through effective administration of Iraq," Annan added. —Internet



A suspected Iraqi insurgent is blindfolded and taken away by US Army soldiers after he was detained in a raid in Khaldiya, Iraq on 26 June, 2003. Troops from A Company 3rd Battalion 7th Infantry Regiment detained several men wanted for attacking Army patrols with rocket propelled grenades, mostly during night patrols in the area.—INTERNET

## Pakistani lawyers oppose troop deployment to Iraq

**LAHORE, 27 June**—A top Pakistani lawyer Thursday said sending troops to Iraq would be a "national tragedy" after President Pervez Musharraf reportedly said he agreed with the move in principle.

Hamid Khan, president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, warned Pakistan could suffer casualties if peacekeeping troops went to Iraq.

"Sending Pakistan army to Iraq will be a national tragedy," said Khan. "The government should not send a single soldier there."

"The people of Iraq are resisting against US occupation and killing US and British soldiers, therefore Pakistan being an Islamic country

should refrain from participating in any operation in Iraq," Khan told a joint news conference attended by officials from about a dozen lawyers' organisations.

Musharraf, after summit talks with President George W Bush, told the ABC television channel in Washington on Wednesday that Pakistan agrees in principle with sending its troops to Iraq.

President Bush asked

Pakistan to send troops to Iraq during the meeting in Camp David, he said.

But Musharraf said any deployment should be under the auspices of the United Nations, Organisation of the Islamic Conference or the Gulf Cooperation Council.

"The United States wants that soldiers of Muslim countries should be killed in Iraq. We should not become a party in the dirty occupation," Khan said.—Internet

## Bangladesh to apply new method to kill aedes mosquito

**DHAKA, 27 June**— A new facility called "Lethal Ovitrap" to kill aedes will be applied experimentally in five wards in the capital of Bangladesh from 1 July.

Lethal Ovitrap takes advantage of the container breeding habitats of the aedes to track and control this dengue vector mosquito species.

It is a 400 millimetre plastic cup with a "deltamethrin" (a widely used pesticide belonging to the pyrethroid group) treated oviposition strip in it. The cup to be set up in and outside houses will be half full

of water, and a piece of cloth pasted with insecticide will be put in the cup in a way that some part of the cloth drowns in the water while the other part stays outside the cup.

When an aedes comes to lay eggs, it will die if it comes in close contact with the cloth. If it succeeds in laying eggs anyway, the larvae in the water will die at last.

The cost would be only

16 to 25 US cents for each Ovitrap, and the piece of cloth must be changed after one month. Manjur A Chowdhury, an entomologist and Chief Executive Officer of Safeway Pest Control company, told Xinhua the Lethal Ovitrap was originally developed by the US military and was proved effective in many other countries such as Brazil and Thailand. — MNA/Xinhua

## Drug deals in Russia amount to \$10b a year

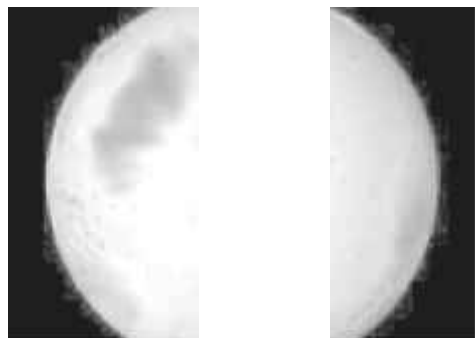
**MOSCOW, 27 June**—Annual turnover of drug deals in Russia totals 10 billion US dollars, Chairman of the State Committee for the Control of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Viktor Cherkosov, said Thursday.

"Experts estimate the size of the world drug market at 200 to 700 billion dollars. The average amount is 400 billion dollars a year. Turnover reaches nine billion to 10 billion dollars in Russia," Cherkosov told a Press conference.

"About four million Russian citizens are drug-dependent. Most of them consume drugs regularly and are drug addicts," Cherkosov said, citing experts' estimates.

The official number of drug addicts is 1.5 million, he noted. "The drug problem is fraught with many threats, whose combination endangers national security," Cherkosov warned, noting "more than 10 per cent of all crimes registered in Russia are related to drugs."

MNA/Xinhua



The frozen layers of Mars' high northern latitudes are shown in this image taken by the NASA's Mars Odyssey spacecraft released on 26 June, 2003. The orbiting spacecraft was designed, in part, to detect water and shallow buried ice on Mars. The blue colors indicate water ice, the Martian equivalent of permafrost, observed by the Odyssey during the northern winter months, when 'dry ice' (carbon dioxide frost or snow) covers the region's surface. Data gathered by the Odyssey has shown that Mars' frozen layers undergo seasonal changes as the layers of 'dry ice' accumulate and then dissipate in the spring, exposing a soil layer rich in water ice. The implications of the Odyssey's data have a bearing on science strategies for future missions in the search for habitats.—INTERNET

## Indonesia, Singapore discuss ways to combat SARS

**JAKARTA, 27 June**—Indonesia and Singapore have been discussing ways to combat further severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) that has haunted a number of Asian countries these past few months.

Indonesian Health Minister Achmad Suyudi and his Singaporean counterpart, Lim Hgn Kiang, are attending the discussion in Indonesia's Batam Island on Thursday, the official Antara news agency reported.

Both Suyudi and the information chief of the Indonesian embassy in Singapore, Chalief Akbar, however did not name the crucial topics being discussed at the meeting, which began Wednesday.— MNA/Xinhua

## Philippine envoy in Libya wants SARS-free proof from WHO

**MANILA, 27 June**—The Philippine Embassy in Libya has requested the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to secure a SARS (the severe acute respiratory syndrome)-free certificate from the World Health Organization (WHO).

In its report to the DFA, the embassy said despite its persistent request, the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) still has yet to lift the travel ban against overseas Filipino workers (OFWs).

Philippine Embassy Charges d'Affaires Benito Valeriano said the Libyan

MFA based its travel restriction on alleged daily reports it has been receiving from the WHO headquarters in Geneva which said the Philippines is still a SARS-afflicted nation.

However, the Philippines was officially delisted by the WHO from its roster of SARS-affected countries

in May.

Until now, Filipinos are still barred from entering Libya unless they present a written permission from the Libyan Embassy in Manila authorizing their travel. Libyan MFA said the travel ban will only be removed if the WHO has delisted the Philippines.—MNA/Xinhua





## Minister inspects construction of Bwetgyi Dam in Aunglan Township

YANGON, 27 June—Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, accompanied by officials concerned, on 25 June morning, inspected Bwetgyi Dam being built by Construction Group-3 of Irrigation Department near Dandaung Village, 26 miles east of Aunglan, Thayet District, where those in-charge of the construction reported on progress of work and future tasks.

Then, the minister and party inspected progress in construction of the 105-foot-wide and 500-foot-long spillway and the 380-foot-long conduit, 4x6 feet sluice gates and earth work for construction of earth embankment.

Next, the minister inspected special Pedisein plantations around Padaukgon Village-tract, Aunglan Township.

Director-General of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Tun Than reported to the minister on work being carried out for boosting the per acre yield of Pedisein, choosing quality strain, minimizing loss and wastage in harvest and research findings.

Then, the minister gave necessary instructions. He called on those who are engaged in cultivation of Pedisein and other crops to follow the research findings and scientific techniques.

Afterwards, the minister and party inspected ground-nut plantation and ground-nut and sunflower double cropping plantations and edible oil-crop plantations near Mausau Village, Aunglan Township and gave instructions to officials. Then, the minister arrived at No10 Sugar Mill of Myanmar Sugarcane Enterprise in Aunglan Township and inspected arrangements being made for running the mill in the coming sugarcane season and overhauling of the machinery.—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addresses the weekly meeting on Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport.— YANGON COMMAND

## Coord meeting held for smooth and secure transportation

YANGON, 27 June — The Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transportation held a work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of Yangon Command, with an address by Supervisory Committee Chairman Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Present on the occasion were No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint, military region commanders, station commanders, local authorities, members of the Supervisory Committee, registrars and officials from universities and colleges, chairmen of bus lines, and guests.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe called on the members of the Supervisory Committee to discuss their respective tasks being carried out for the convenience of

the travelling public from Yangon City as well as from every corner of the country. Next, the members of the Supervisory Committee, university and college registrars and officials, and chairmen of bus lines reported on close supervision for the avoidance of traffic incidents for the convenience of commuters; for timely arrival and departure of buses; for cleanliness of highway terminals, rail stations, jetties, and airports; for cooperation with officials for the comfort of travelling teachers and students; and for bus drivers and conductors to abide by the laws and regulations.

Later, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe gave instructions on awareness of traffic incidents, observance of traffic rules, and action to be taken against law breakers. Afterwards, the commander attended to the needs. — MNA



Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivers an address at the ceremony to honour victorious Myanmar tennis players.— MNA

## Four-monthly work coord meeting of Ministry of CPT held

YANGON, 27 June — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspected materials used in the installation of telephone exchange lines and cable communications, locally produced by FISCA Enterprise, at Myanma Posts and Telecommunications this morning.

Then, Ms Catherine Yang of Huawei Technologies Co Ltd of China called on the minister at his office. Next, the minister attended the first four-monthly work coordination meeting for 2003 held at the meeting hall of the ministry in Ahlon Township.

The minister spoke on the occasion and heard reports on progress of work, future tasks. The managing director and the general manager of MPT, and the director-general of the Directorate of Telecommunications gave supplementary reports. After hearing the reports, the minister gave instructions and made concluding remarks. — MNA

## Minister receives Thai guests

YANGON, 27 June — Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw received President Dr Nongluck Phinaintisart and party of Shin Satellite Public Co Ltd at his office near Hanthawady roundabout on Payay Road this evening. They discussed matters related to satellite communications between the two countries. Also present at the call were officials of the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications. — MNA

## Coordination meeting held for organizing Salon traditional festival

YANGON, 27 June — With the aim of boosting the tourism industry on Myeik archipelago in Taninthayi Division and of making the archipelago and Hsalon nationals known to the international tourism market, a coordination meeting on organizing the traditional festival of Salon nationals took place at the

Asia Plaza Hotel on Bo Gyoke Aung San Street here this afternoon.

Chairman of the committee for the development of Taninthayi Division tourism industry Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw attended the meeting and spoke on the occasion.

Deputy Minister for

Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu reported on arrangements for the holding of the festival.

Local authorities, departmental officials, and hotel and tourism entrepreneurs also reported on their respective activities. Afterwards, the minister and the deputy minister gave instructions. — MNA

## Third-prize winner Myanmar tennis team honoured

YANGON, 27 June— A ceremony to honour selected Myanmar tennis team which won the third prize in the Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Zone Group (IV) 2003 Tennis Tournament in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 16 to 22 June, was held at Kan Yeiktha Restaurant on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township yesterday.

The selected Myanmar tennis players were introduced to the Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee and officials.

President of MTF U Zaw recounted his experience to the audience.

Patron of Myanmar Tennis Federation Maj-Gen

Kyaw Win gave a speech on arrangements for development of tennis event.

Officials of the team answered the queries of the journalists. Then, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint delivered an address. Present at the dinner were Director-General U Thauung Htaik of Sports and Physical Education Department, President of MTF U Zaw Zaw (Max Myanmar Co Ltd) and officials, the leader, the chief coach, the manager and players and guests. The selected Myanmar tennis team included in the Group-B together with Oman, Singapore and Bangladesh teams. Host

Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Brunei and Saudi Arabia included in the Group-A. After the final match, Vietnam won the first, Oman the second and Myanmar and Saudi Arabia tied at the third.

Myanmar took part in the Davis Cup for two times—in 1955 and 1963, and did not win the prize. Taking part for the third time in the 40 years of its history, the Myanmar team secured the third position. The Myanmar team comprising Chief Coach U Maung Maung Lay, Manager U Khin Maung Win and players Zaw Zaw Latt, Min Min and Tu Maung were led by President U Zaw Zaw of MTF.— MNA

## Victorious football team honoured

YANGON, 27 June — The Banner Football Club honoured Myanmar youth football team at a ceremony held at Kan Yeiktha restaurant on 24-6-2003. The Banner Club awarded K 500,000 each to footballers Tun Min Oo and Han Win Aung of the U-18 youth team. Then, the footballers and over 90 guests were hosted to a dinner with Chinese cuisines and presented with Myanmar traditional costumes. The expenses of dinner and

costumes worth over K 500,000 were borne by Paingtha Co and Kan Yeiktha Restaurant. The Kan Yeiktha restaurant is launching sales promotion programme with experienced chefs from China. Its design was drawn by a noted architect in Myanmar. With superb view of Kandawgyi Lake, the restaurant is serving quality foods at fair prices. With no stage show, its entertainment programmes are with Myanmar harp, xylophone and piano. MNA



Minister for Hotels & Tourism Brig-Gen Thein Zaw speaking at the coordination meeting for Organizing Salon Traditional Festival.— H&T

# Precious teak plantations of Bago Yoma

Article by Pyu-Myint Oo; (Photos by Yin Zaw Oo ((Pyu)

We prepared to gather news about plantations on Bago Mountain Range which are being undertaken by Pyu Township Forest Department under the supervision of the Ministry of Forestry and with the arrangements of the Forest Department (Head Office) and Bago Division and Toungoo District Forest Departments.

Under the guidance given by the Head of State on conservation of Myanmar natural resources, officials concerned at different levels from the respective ministries are making field trips to perform their duties and this is well known through media.

Riding three motorcycles Staff Officer U Aung Mya of Pyu Township Forestry Department, Foresters U Soe Naing, U Aye Lwin, U Maung Maung, Photographer Yin Zaw Oo (Pyu) and I, started the journey from Pyu to the teak plantations on Bago Mountain Range on the morning of 5 June 2003 to cover the environmental conservation news in Pyu Township.

As it was the start of monsoon season, there had been rain showers and we had to take special care in riding the bikes on the slippery narrow road. We arrived at Khindanlay Village in Kindangyi Village-tract. It took us over two hours to reach the village. In summer, it takes only about an hour.

While we were taking a break, U Aung Mya explained facts about the thriving teak plantations which had been planted under the yearly project. Then, we continued our journey on foot towards the west of Khindanlay Village. When we reached the top of the village, we saw Bago Mountain Range closely. The natural beauty of Bago Mountain Range attracted our attention. A thought came into my mind that such a beauty as Bago Mountain Range cannot be seen in other countries.

U Aung Mya had to remind me of carrying on our journey as I was deep in thought. On that day, the weather was quite fine and the rays of sunshine helped us to take documentary photos.

During the uphill journey, U Aung Mya and U Maung Maung walked quickly like well-trained athletes as they were used to hiking but the photographer and I, who had poor experience in hiking had to walk slowly. However the two gave us their hands throughout the journey. Then, we reached the Plot No Pha-3/2002 of the Special Teak Plantation on 250 acres of land. The teak plantation was established the previous year and is now under the care of U Aung Mya, and Foresters U Soe Thant Kyi and U Aye Lwin. I was very pleased to see the thriving teak plants. Afterwards, we proceeded to the Plot No Pha-2/2001 of teak plants which were grown on 250 acres of land. I felt very pleased as we saw the thriving two-year-old teak trees. It is learnt that the plot is under close supervision of U Aung Mya, and Foresters U Kyaw Thein Win and U Tin Maung Yi. I was also delighted when I saw the teak trees thriving well. I felt that the plantation would be a good legacy for future generations.

Then, we continued our journey to the teak special plantation Plot No Pha-2/2003. When we arrived at the



Staff Officer U Aung Mya of Forest Department explains thriving of special teak plantation.

plot, we saw over 40 people collectively carrying out tasks of cultivation, weeding and seedling on 250 acres of land on the hill top. Therefore, I felt very pleased to see those people working actively. Under the supervision of U Aung Mya, and Foresters U Soe Naing and U Nay Soe Win, the teak plantation is being carried out.

At 1.00 am, we took a rest in a hut. While taking a rest, U Aung Mya explained the condition of 5,000 acres of teak plantation, land utilization, and afforestation in the township with the use of charts. The following are the land utilization in Pyu Township.

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Evergreen forest                     | 208 acres             |
| 2. Evergreen forest (bloom)             | 13,415 acres          |
| 3. Upper mixed deciduous forest         | 34,760 acres          |
| 4. Upper mixed deciduous forest (bloom) | 237,316 acres         |
| 5. Dry upper mixed deciduous forest     | 31,625 acres          |
| 6. Bamboo forest                        | 1,505 acres           |
| 7. Depleted forest                      | 72,564 acres          |
| 8. Villages                             | 3,749 acres           |
| 9. Cultivated land                      | 175,709 acres         |
| 10. Land underwater                     | 3,042 acres           |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>*573,892 acres</b> |

Forest areas in Pyu Township

|                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Reserved forest         | 251,286 acres        |
| 2. Protected public forest | 128,640 acres        |
| 3. Cultivated land         | 175,709 acres        |
| 4. Villages                | 15,216 acres         |
| 5. Land underwater         | 3,041 acres          |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>573,892 acres</b> |

Reserved forest areas in Pyu Township

|                                      |                      |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Pyu Kon reserved forest           | 159,015 acres        |
| 2. Pyuchaung protected public forest | 70,475 acres         |
| 3. Myayapin reserved forest          | 21,796 acres         |
| 4. Pyu Kon protected public forest   | 128,640 acres        |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>379,926 acres</b> |

A total of 379,926 acres of forest represents 66.20 percent of the area of Pyu Township and the area has been undertaken as the reserved forest.

(Translation: BG & AMS)

(To be continued)



Special teak plantation of the Forest Department in Pyu Township.

## People's Desire

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

## Efficient use of electricity

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

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

## Efficient use of fuel

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



## Myanmar Women's Day

3rd July 2003

## နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်

မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ့

လစဉ် လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်ကာလနေ့နှင့် အောက်ဆုံး ပတ်ကာလနေ့တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မပြန်မနေ သွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စရပ်များအပေါ် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရမည်ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ် ဇွန်လအတွက်

အောက်ဆုံး ပတ် ကာလနေ့နှင့် (၂၉-၆-၂၀၀၃)ရက်နေ့ နှင့်

၂၀၀၃ ခုနှစ် ဇူလိုင်လအတွက်

(၀၃-၇-၂၀၀၃)ရက်နေ့ နှင့် (၂၇-၇-၂၀၀၃)ရက်နေ့

## Project implementation strategy seminar

YANGON, 27 June — With the collaboration between the Forest Department of the Ministry of Forestry and ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization), the project under the title of "Promoting Sustainable Utilization of Bamboo Through Community Participation in Sustainable Forest Management" has commenced since 1-1-2003. The life span of the project is scheduled for 4 years. The aim of the project is to enhance the socio-economic benefits of bamboo to the rural communities through their active participation in sustainable management and utilization of bamboo forests.

A project strategic seminar, one of the project activities, is being held at Yezin on 27 and 28 June 2003. Present on the occasion were personnel from the Forest Department, the Myanmar Timber Enterprise, the Dry Zone Greening Department of the Ministry of Forestry, the Myanmar Foodstuff Industry of the Ministry of Industry, private bamboo enterprises and local farmers.







ဗဟုသုတနှင့် အားကစား နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တစ်နိုင်ငံလုံး

SPORTS

Brazil not a team says midfielder Alex

RIO DE JANEIRO, 27 June—Brazil, who were knocked out of the Confederations Cup in the first round this week, were not a team but a group of players who were thrown together at the last minute, midfielder Alex said on Wednesday.

"To form a team, you need a certain amount of time, time which we didn't have," the Cruzeiro player told reporters as the squad arrived at Sao Paulo Airport.

"We didn't have a team, We had some players who got together the week before in Nigeria."

Due to club commitments the five-time world champions were forced to send a makeshift squad to the tournament, which clashed with the South American Libertadores Cup, the Brazilian championship and the last rounds of the Spanish championship.

The squad, which travelled to Nigeria for a friendly beforehand, included 11 previously uncapped players.

Brazil lost 1-0 to Cameroon, beat the United States 1-0 and drew 2-2 to Turkey, who qualified at Brazil's expense on goals scored.—MNA/Reuters

Brazilian coach Luxemburgo suspended one month for protest

RIO DE JANEIRO, 27 June—Former Brazil coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo, now in charge of the country's First Division side Cruzeiro, has been given a 30-day ban for improper conduct, the club said on Wednesday.

According to the club's official web site, the controversial coach was banned after he ran onto the pitch and tried to protest to the referee following an incident at the end of the first leg of the Copa Brasil final against Flamengo earlier this month.

"You've harmed my team as you always do," yelled Luxemburgo, angry at bookings which resulted in the team's key defenders Edu Dracena and Thiago being suspended for the return match.

Cruzeiro, leaders of the Brazilian championship, won the two-leg tie 4-2 on aggregate to win the Copa Brasil for the fourth time. Luxemburgo coached Brazil for two years, from 1998 to 2000.—MNA/Xinhua



French soccer players celebrate their first goal during the semi-final of the Confederations Cup soccer match France against Turkey, at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, north of Paris, on 26 June, 2003. They hold up their fingers in the sky to pay respect to Cameroon's player Marc-Vivien Foe, Cameroon midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe collapsed on the pitch during the Confederations Cup semifinal against Colombia in Lyon, central France, on Thursday and died afterward, FIFA announced.—INTERNET

Mendieta to return to Lazio after loan spell at Barca

MADRID, 27 June — Spanish international Gaizka Mendieta will return to Lazio after Barcelona decided against using their option to buy the midfielder, following his season-long loan at the Catalan club.

"We have decided that he will not remain with the club," newly-appointed sporting director Txiki Begiristain told Barcelona's web site on Thursday.

"The decision was based on technical reasons, as well as on the economic burden that signing him would have involved." It has been widely reported that Barcelona would have had to pay 24 million euros (27.44 million US dollars) if they had wanted to buy the player from Lazio.

But the terms of the loan deal mean they will still have to pay the Italian club compensation of four million euros (4.57 million US dollars) for not exercising their option to purchase the 29-year-old midfielder.

Mendieta moved to Lazio from Valencia two seasons ago for 41 million US dollars, setting a new record transfer fee for a Spanish player in the process.

However he failed to find the form that made him one of the most respected playmakers in Europe, and spent most of the time on the sidelines at his new club.

He joined Barcelona on a loan deal at the beginning of this season and, although he played in 33 league games, he failed to impress enough to merit a permanent move.

MNA/Reuters

Hagi to coach Turkey's Bursaspor

BUCHAREST, 27 June—Gheorghe Hagi, Romania's greatest ever footballer, is poised to end an 18-month absence from the game by signing a two-year contract to coach Turkish club Bursaspor.

Hagi, out of soccer since coaching the Romanian national side in 2001, hung up his boots in 2000 after spells with Steaua Bucharest, Real Madrid, Brescia, Barcelona and Galatasaray.

"It's time to return to active soccer," Hagi told Reuters in an interview on Thursday. "In a way, I'm going back home to Turkey. I played there for five years."

"I know very well the Turkish soccer, which is making great progress. The people love me, I'll be happy again there." New Bursaspor president Fikret Ustenci pledged to hire Hagi, who captained Galatasaray to four Turkish titles and the UEFA Cup between 1996 and 2000, when he took control of the club on Wednesday.

Hagi spent his year away from soccer acting in commercials and running a hotel on the Black Sea coast.

MNA/Reuters



LYON(France), 27 June—Ten-man Cameroon booked their place in the Confederations Cup final on Thursday with a 1-0 victory over Colombia, but celebrations were overshadowed by the death of their midfielder Marc-Vivien Foe. Foe collapsed in the centre circle at the Stade Gerland about 15 minutes from time, and was carried off on a stretcher with a breathing tube in his mouth. He died around half an hour later.

It was not clear what had happened to Foe but a FIFA spokesman announced later that his heart stopped after he was taken from the pitch. Medical staff tried for 45 minutes to restart his heart, without success.

Cameroon, who will face either holders France or Turkey—playing in Paris later on Thursday—to get through.

Though they looked well in control for 70 minutes, winning all the 50-50 tackles and usually overpowering Colombia's attacking manoeuvres, their deserved lead could so easily have evaporated in the closing minutes.

MNA/Reuters



Peruvian goalie Erick Delgado can't stop a shot on goal by Venezuela's Juan Garcia in the first half, during a FIFA soccer friendly match at the Orange Bowl in Miami, Florida, on 26 June, 2003. The goal was dis-allowed.—INTERNET

Amateur leads the way on Tour debut

ST QUENTIN (France), 27 June — French amateur Eric Chaudouet shared the first round lead on his French Open debut on Thursday, becoming the second amateur to lead on the European Tour this season.

Chaudouet, Britain's Philip Golding and Belgian Nicolas Colsaerts all shot a six-under-par 66 for a one-stroke lead. Colsaerts ran in six successive birdies on the front nine, only two off the European Tour record.

The last amateur to lead in a European Tour event was 17-year-old Spaniard Pablo Martin, who shared top place going into the final round of the Canaries Spanish Open in late April before fading to finish 23rd. Chaudouet is only the fifth to lead since 1981.

Chaudouet, who won last year's French Amateur Championship at this week's hosting Le National club, was delighted to have been given his wild-card chance.

Golding, whose total of 16 visits to the European Tour qualifying school is a record, has turned his career around after nearly retiring at the end of last season.

MNA/Reuters

**ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန**  
**ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသုံးစက်ပစ္စည်းများ၊ ကျော့နှင့်**  
**ပုံနှိပ်ရေးပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရန် တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း**

၁။ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနမှ ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးရုံးရှိ ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား၊  
 ပုံနှိပ်ရေးနှင့်ဆက်သွယ်ရေးစနစ်များနှင့် သတင်းနှင့်ဆက်သွယ်ရေး  
 စနစ်များကို ဝယ်ယူရန် တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း၊ ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသုံး စက်  
 ပစ္စည်းများ၊ ကျော့နှင့်ပုံနှိပ်ရေးပစ္စည်းများကို အဆင့်မြှင့်တင်ရာတွင်  
 ပတ်သက်သည့်—

(က) ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသုံးစက်ပစ္စည်းများ—

- (၁) Extension of News and Production
- (၂) Globecaster Production Studio Product Specifications
- (၃) ENG DVCam Camcorder

(ခ) ကျော့နှင့်ပုံနှိပ်ရေးပစ္စည်းများ—

- (၁) နမူနာပုံနှိပ်စက်
- (၂) အရောင်ဆန်းစက်
- (၃) ခေါ် (Sheetfed C/S Green)
- (၄) ဝတ်စုံနှင့်ခေါ်စက်
- (၅) Embossing Powder (Neutral & Gold)
- (၆) Riso Master Roll & Ink
- (၇) Dampening Roller Hose

၂။ အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသုံးစက်ပစ္စည်းများကို ပြန်စစ်ဆေးခြင်း  
 ပတ်သက်သည့်—

**Cut Editing for Production**

၃။ တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူမှု အဆင့်မြှင့်တင်ရေးအတွက် အလုပ်များကို (၁-၇-၂၀၀၃)  
 ရက်မှ (၇-၇-၂၀၀၃) ရက်ထိ ညနေ (၁၆:၀၀) မှာရှိသည့်  
 အောက်ပါပတ်စာတွင် လာရောက်ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။  
**ပြည်တွင်း/ပြည်ပပစ္စည်းများဝယ်ယူရေးနှင့် ထုတ်လုပ်ရေးဌာန**  
**ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန**  
 အမှတ် ၃၆၅/၃၆၇၊ ဗိုလ်အောင်မကွင်းလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။  
 ဖုန်း- ၂၄၅၆၄၇၊ ၂၄၅၆၄၈

# S P O R T S

## Serena subdues France overcome Turkey Henman steal fighter Callens challenge to reach final centre stage

LONDON, 27 June—A determined Serena Williams moved a step closer to retaining her Wimbledon title, subduing Belgian Els Callens 6-4, 6-4 in Thursday's second round.

The top seed must have hoped this particular Belgian would cause her less trouble than Callens' compatriots Kim Clijsters and Justine Henin-Hardenne, seeded two and three here.

Williams was beaten by eventual champion Henin in the semifinals of the French Open earlier this month, while Clijsters stretched the world number one to the limit at the same stage of the Australian Open in January.

Looking to avenge her defeat to Williams in the third round here last year, the 32-year-old Callens did not go down without a fight.

The Belgian, making her seventh appearance at Wimbledon, did well to hold her own until the fifth game of the first set.

But after going a break down, she was unable to find an answer to the champion's forceful service game.

Despite coming out positively in the second set, leading 40-15 at one point in the first game, she was swiftly broken by Williams, who looked to have the match wrapped up after surging into a 4-0 lead.

MNA/Reuters



Yugoslavia's Jelena Dokic returns to Switzerland's Emmanuelle Gagliardi, during their Women's Singles, second round match on the fourth day of the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon on 26 June, 2003. Dokic won the match 6-1, 6-3.

INTERNET

## Agassi sets up El Aynaoui showdown

LONDON, 27 June — World number one Andre Agassi overcame a tenacious Lars Burgsmueller 6-3, 7-6, 6-3 on Thursday to set up an intriguing third-round Wimbledon showdown with Morocco's Younes El Aynaoui.

Firmly burying the memories of his shock three-set defeat by Paradorn Srichaphan at the same stage exactly a year ago, Agassi overcame a hiccup in the second set to tame his 88th-ranked opponent.

The only former champion left in the field following the demise of holder Lleyton Hewitt in the first round, Agassi will now be hoping to protect his 4-0 record against the 27th seed.

On Thursday, Agassi got off to a flying start on a sun-drenched court one and broke the German in the first game to surge to a 2-0 lead.

With Burgsmueller struggling to find his rhythm and achieving only 38 per cent success on his serve in the first set, a blistering forehand cross-court pass was enough to give Agassi a second break and the set after 34 minutes.

But it was a different story in the second. Taking the pace off his deliveries, Burgsmueller nearly doubled his success-rate on his service and snatched a 2-0 lead thanks to netcord on break point.

Never one to give in easily, Agassi kept

looking for an opportunity to break back and was duly rewarded in the eighth game when Burgsmueller netted the ball.

Despite putting in a dogged performance, the German eventually ran out of steam in the tiebreak to lose it 7-4.

Moving in for the kill, Agassi stepped up the pace in the third and his scorching returns kissed the lines to leave Burgsmueller frustrated at the baseline.

Having grabbed a 2-0 lead, Agassi finished off his opponent with an emphatic smash on his second match point.

Blowing his obligatory kisses to all corners of the court, the oldest man to be ranked world number left the court to a standing ovation, and eyeing to match another record.

The last time only one former winner made it through to the second round of the men's draw was in 1986, when Boris Becker successfully went on to defend his crown.

Agassi will be aiming to repeat the feat 11 years on from his first and only triumph here.

MNA/Reuters

PARIS, 27 June — European champions France overcame their sadness and a strong challenge to tame Turkey 3-2 on Thursday and qualify for the Confederations Cup final.

Following their win, France will defend their title against the African champions in the final in Paris on Sunday. Even though they were without inspirational Zinedine Zidane, France produced their best performance since they were eliminated in the first round of the last year's World Cup.

However, if they ended the match with a collective smile, they certainly began it with tears in their eyes as a minute's silence was observed for Foe before the playing of the national anthems.

France went ahead with a close-range goal by striker Thierry Henry in the 11th minute and he then set up his Arsenal teammate Robert Pires for the second.

Turkey, however, reduced the deficit through midfielder Gokdeniz Karadeniz in the 41st minute.

Another Arsenal man, Sylvain Wiltord, hit back two minutes later to give the European champions a 3-1 advantage at the interval. Turkey, who eliminated world champions Brazil in the group stage, moved up a gear in the second half and striker Tuncay Sanli volleyed their second in the 48th minute.

Three minutes from time, they were given the perfect chance to equalize when Olivier Dacourt was ruled to have fouled Alpay Ozalan in the box, but Okan Yilmaz dragged his penalty wide. — MNA/Reuters

## Swede Dorsin signs with Strasbourg

STOCKHOLM, 27 June — Defender Mikael Dorsin of Swedish First Division champions Djurgarden has signed a three year contract with French First Division club Racing Strasbourg, the Swedish club said on Wednesday.

"As Strasbourg's bid was acceptable, we can only wish 'Mickey' good luck in his future career," Djurgarden chairman Bosse Lundquist said on the club's website.

No fee was disclosed for the 21-year-old Dorsin, who has three caps for Sweden. Strasbourg finished 13th in the French First Division last season. — MNA/Reuters



France's Nicolas Escude shouts in pain after falling in his match against Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero during their Men's Singles, second round match on the Centre Court, on the fourth day of the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon on 26 June, 2003. Shortly after the incident Escude retired from the match.—INTERNET

LONDON, 27 June—Hollywood actors provided the early action on Wimbledon's Centre Court on Thursday, but it was Tim Henman who stole the limelight at the Grand Slam.

Britain's sole hope for a home champion for the first time since 1936 rests on Henman's patched up shoulders and he shrugged off his sluggish tournament start to surge into the third round with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 win over Frenchman Michael Llodra.

The 10th seed was kept waiting for half-an-hour as two actors shot scenes for next year's British movie "Wimbledon" on the main show court, but still put in a confident performance.

It was a showing which kept alive hopes that he can pip actor Paul Bettany to lifting the men's singles crown first.

The shoulder surgery which has hampered Henman's preparations this year may yet prove to be a blessing in disguise.

While never a dark horse at his home Grand Slam, the weight of expectation seems to have been lightened somewhat by his patchy form coming into Wimbledon.

In the women's draw, two former Grand Slam champions showed form of old to advance. Eighth seed Jennifer Capriati thrashed Swiss Marie-Gaiaeh Mikaelian 6-2, 6-1 and, more impressively, unseeded Mary Pierce ousted 14th seed Eleni Daniilidou 6-4, 6-1.

The powerful former Australian and French Open champion, now ranked 86, brushed aside Daniilidou on a sun-bathed court two to set up a showdown with American Lisa Raymond.

The victory was 28-year-old Pierce's second impressive victory of the tournament. She whitewashed her first-round opponent 6-0, 6-0 and is on course for fourth round meeting with reigning French Open champion Justine Henin-Hardenne.

Henin showed she was in great shape by overcoming a powerful challenge from Italy's Flavia Pennetta 7-6, 6-1.

If Henman is to stand a chance of rewriting British tennis history this year, he is likely to have to overcome sixth seed David Nalbandian in the fourth round.

Nalbandian is an Argentine baseliner who has played Wimbledon just once before. However, despite his fondness for lurking at the back of the court, last year he reached the final on his debut.

The burly Argentine showed he is in fine form again in southwest London, pulverizing Brazil's Andre Sa 6-2, 7-5, 6-2 on court one.

MNA/Reuters





## (Programme Schedule)

Morning Transmission  
(9:00 - 10:00)

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| 9:00  | Signature Tune<br>Greetings<br>Coming up  |
| 9:02  | Song of Myanmar<br>Beauty & Scenic<br>Sights "Myanma<br>Panorama &<br>Myanma Sentiment" |
| 9:06  | The Myanmar<br>Turban-unique  |
| 9:10  | <b>Headline News</b>  |
| 9:12  | Easily Cooked Tasty<br>Dishes "Prawn Salad"   |
| 9:15  | <b>National News</b>  |
| 9:20  | Lawka Nanda<br>Sanctuary Garden   |
| 9:25  | The Stage Male<br>Dance   |
| 9:30  | <b>National News</b>  |
| 9:35  | Song "Rice Flower-<br>ing Like a Canal"   |
| 9:40  | Dawei Water<br>Fetching   |
| 9:45  | <b>National News</b>  |
| 9:50  | Ayeyawady Dolphin<br>Expedition (Part-IV)   |
| 9:58  | Song of Myanmar<br>Beauty & Scenic<br>Sights "Come and<br>See Myanmar"                  |
| 10:00 | Close Down  |

28-6-2003\* (Saturday)  
Regular Programmes for  
Viewers from Abroad  
Afternoon Transmission  
(13:00 - 14:00)

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | Signature Tune<br>Greetings<br>Coming up                               |
| 13:02 | Song of Myanmar<br>Beauty & Scenic<br>Sights "Mingalabar"              |
| 13:06 | Power Aerobic<br>Let's Exercise For<br>Fitness & Health"               |
| 13:10 | <b>Headline News</b>   |
| 13:12 | Myanmar Cuisine<br>"Pineapple Salad"                                   |
| 13:15 | <b>National News</b>   |
| 13:20 | Glimpses At<br>Myanmar movies  |
| 13:30 | <b>National News</b>   |
| 13:35 | Preservation and Re-<br>production of Sea<br>Turtle                    |
| 13:40 | Song On Screen<br>"The Brightly<br>Shining Moon"                       |
| 13:45 | <b>National News</b>   |
| 13:50 | Glimpses At<br>Myanmar Movies  |
| 13:58 | Song of Myanmar<br>Beauty & Scenic<br>Sights "Come and<br>See Myanmar" |
| 14:00 | Close Down   |

28-6-2003\* (Saturday)  
Regular Programmes for  
Viewers from Abroad  
Evening Transmission  
(18:00 - 19:00)

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 18:00 | Signature Tune<br>Greetings<br>Coming up |
| 18:02 | Song of Myanmar                          |

|       |  |
|-------|--|
| 18:06 | Beauty & Scenic<br>Sights "Myanma<br>Panorama &<br>Myanma Sentiment"   |
| 18:10 | The Myanmar<br>Turban-Unique   |
| 18:12 | <b>Headline News</b>   |
| 18:15 | Easily Cooked Tasty<br>Dishes "Prawn Salad"                            |
| 18:20 | <b>National News</b>   |
| 18:25 | Lawka Nanda<br>Sanctuary Garden  |
| 18:30 | The Stage Male<br>Dance  |
| 18:35 | <b>National News</b>   |
| 18:40 | Song "Rice Flower-<br>ing Like a Canal"                                |
| 18:45 | Dawei Water<br>Fetching  |
| 18:50 | <b>National News</b>   |
| 18:58 | Ayeyawady Dolphin<br>Expedition (Part-IV)                              |
| 19:00 | Song of Myanmar<br>Beauty & Scenic<br>Sights "Come and<br>See Myanmar" |
| 19:00 | Close Down   |

29-6-2003\* (Sunday)  
Regular Programmes for  
Viewers from Abroad  
Morning Transmission  
(2:00 - 4:00)

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2:00 | Signature Tune<br>Greetings<br>Coming up  |
| 2:02 | Song of Myanmar<br>Beauty & Scenic<br>Sights "Mingalabar"                               |
| 2:06 | The Myanmar<br>Turban-Unique  |
| 2:10 | <b>Headline News</b>  |
| 2:12 | Easily Cooked Tasty<br>Dishes "Prawn<br>Salad"  |
| 2:15 | <b>National News</b>  |
| 2:20 | Lawka Nanda<br>Sanctuary Garden   |
| 2:25 | The Stage Male<br>Dance   |
| 2:30 | <b>National News</b>  |
| 2:35 | Song "Rice Flower-<br>ing Like a Canal"   |
| 2:40 | Dawei Water<br>Fetching   |
| 2:45 | <b>National News</b>  |
| 2:50 | Ayeyawady Dolphin<br>Expedition (Part-IV)   |
| 2:58 | Song of Myanmar<br>Beauty & Scenic<br>Sights "Myanma<br>Panorama &<br>Myanma Sentiment" |
| 3:00 | <b>National News</b>  |
| 3:05 | Myanma Traditional<br>Handiwork of<br>Casting   |
| 3:12 | Myanmar Cuisine<br>"Pineapple Salad"  |
| 3:15 | <b>National News</b>  |
| 3:20 | Glimpses At<br>Myanmar Movies   |
| 3:30 | <b>National News</b>  |
| 3:35 | Preservation and Re-<br>production of Sea<br>Turtle                                     |
| 3:40 | Songs On Screen<br>"The Brightly Shin-<br>ing Moon"                                     |
| 3:45 | <b>National News</b>  |
| 3:50 | Glimpses At<br>Myanmar Movies   |
| 3:58 | Song of Myanmar<br>Beauty and Scenic<br>Sights "Come and<br>See Myanmar"                |
| 4:00 | Close Down  |

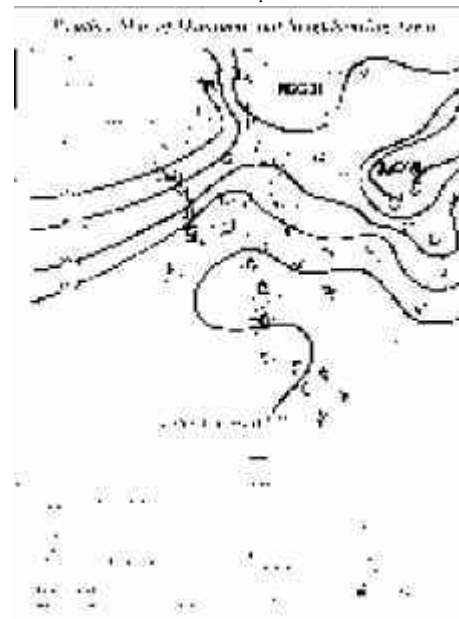
Journalism course trainees visit  
Photolitho Press

YANGON, 27 June — Led by principal U Kyaw Sunn, trainees of the Journalism Course No 1/2003 organized by the News and Periodicals Enterprise made a study tour of the Photolitho Press under the Printing and Publishing Enterprise on Ngahtatkyi Pagoda Road in Tamway Township this morning.

At the press, Head of the press U Han Sein briefed the trainees on the press.

Then, the trainees observed the tasks at the sections of the press.

After the study tour, on behalf of the trainees, Captain Nay Lin spoke words of thanks to the officials of the press. — MNA



## WEATHER

Friday, June 27

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers has been isolated in lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfalls in upper Sagaing, Bago Divisions and Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Hkamti (6.14) inches, Thaton (5.00) inches, Kyauktaw (4.96) inches, Maungdaw (4.29) inches and Shwegyin (3.11) inches.

Maximum temperature on 26-6-2003 was 31.0°C (88°F). Minimum temperature on 27-6-2003 was 22.0°C (72°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 27-6-2003 was 89%. Total sunshine hours on 26-6-2003 was (0.4) hours (Approx). Rainfall on 27-6-2003 was 11 mm at Yangon Airport, 19 mm at Kaba-Aye and 24 mm at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 866 mm (34.09 inches) at Yangon Airport, 923 mm (36.34 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1006 mm (39.61 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 12 mph from Southwest at (14:50) hours MST on 26-6-2003. **Bay inference:** Moonsoon is moderate to strong in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of 28-6-2003:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions, scattered in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). **State of the sea:** Seas will be moderate to rough in Myanmar waters. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** Strong moonsoon. **Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-6-2003:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%). **Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-6-2003:** Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%). **Weather Outlook For Last Weekend of June 2003:** During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon Division and isolated in Mandalay Division.



## View today:

Saturday, June 28

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 7:00 am | 1. မာရ်ဇာပွဲစဉ်က နာရချက်ကို ကျော်ကြည့်။ မိုးခန့်ခွဲချက်ကိုလည်း နားလည်စွာ ကြည့်ရှုရန် အသိပေး အထူးပြောဆိုချက်များကို နားလည်စွာ ကြားနားရန် တောင်းဆိုပါသည်။ |
| 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. Delicacies   |
| 8:05 am | 6. အသံမြို့ဝှက်   |
| 8:15 am | 7. အကယ်ဒမီဆုတံဆိပ်များ  |

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 8:30 am  | 8. International news   |
| 8:45 am  | 9. Grammar made easy  |
| 11:00 am | 1. Martial song   |
| 11:15 am | 2. Musical programme  |
| 11:30 am | 3. News   |
| 11:40 am | 4. Games for children   |
| 12:05 pm | 5. Round-up of the week's TV local news   |
| 1:05 pm  | 6. Weekly international Sports  |
| 1:10 pm  | 7. အကယ်ဒမီဆု (၄)  |
| 1:15 pm  | 8. "စုပေါင်းဆုတံဆိပ်များ" အကယ်ဒမီဆုတံဆိပ်များ မိုးခန့်ခွဲချက် ခန့်မှန်းချက်များကို ခြုံငုံကြည့်ရှုရန် |
| 1:50 pm  | 9. အကယ်ဒမီဆုတံဆိပ်များ  |
| 2:05 pm  | 10. Musical programme   |
| 2:20 pm  | 11. မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာဇာတ်ကားများ  |
| 2:40 pm  | 12. Dance of national races   |

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 2:30 pm | 11. ဂျပန်စာပေဆုတံဆိပ်များ   |
| 2:45 pm | 12. International news  |
| 4:00 pm | 1. Martial song   |
| 4:15 pm | 2. Song to uphold national spirit   |
| 4:30 pm | 3. English for Everyday Use   |
| 4:45 pm | 4. Musical programme  |
| 5:00 pm | 5. အကယ်ဒမီဆုတံဆိပ်များ  |
| 5:15 pm | 6. မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာဇာတ်ကားများ   |
| 5:30 pm | 7. "စုပေါင်းဆုတံဆိပ်များ" အကယ်ဒမီဆုတံဆိပ်များ မိုးခန့်ခွဲချက် ခန့်မှန်းချက်များကို ခြုံငုံကြည့်ရှုရန် |
| 5:45 pm | 8. Musical programme  |
| 6:00 pm | 9. အကယ်ဒမီဆုတံဆိပ်များ  |
| 6:15 pm | 10. Delicacies  |

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 6:30 pm   | 11. Evening news        |
| 7:00 pm   | 12. Weather report      |
| 7:05 pm   | 13. Discovery           |
| 7:25 pm   | 14. Musical programme   |
| 7:35 pm   | 15. အကယ်ဒမီဆုတံဆိပ်များ |
| 8:00 pm   | 16. News                |
| 17. International news  |                         |
| 18. Weather report  |                         |
| 19. "အကယ်ဒမီဆုတံဆိပ်များ" အကယ်ဒမီဆုတံဆိပ်များ မိုးခန့်ခွဲချက် ခန့်မှန်းချက်များကို ခြုံငုံကြည့်ရှုရန် |                         |
| 20. မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာဇာတ်ကားများ  |                         |
| 21. The next day programme  |                         |



## Tune in today:

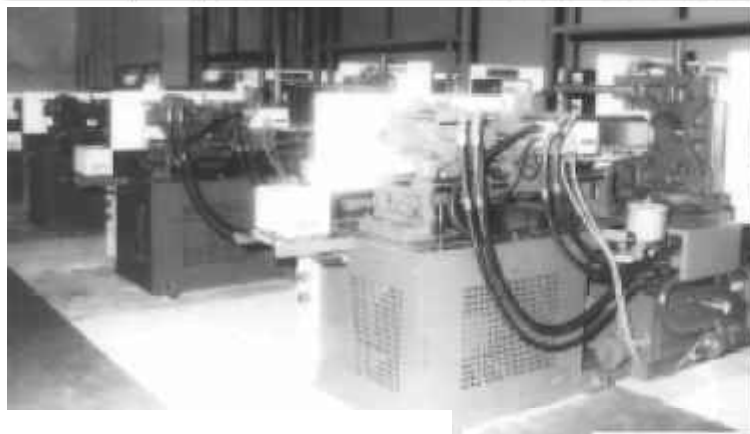
Saturday, June 28

|         |              |
|---------|--------------|
| 8:30 am | Brief news   |
| 8:35 am | Music        |
| 8:40 am | Perspectives |

|         |                               |
|---------|-------------------------------|
| 8:45 am | Music                         |
| 8:55 am | National news/Slogan          |
| 9:05 am | Music                         |
| 9:10 am | International news            |
| 9:15 am | Music (Spotlight on the Star) |
| 1:30 pm | Brief news                    |
| 1:35 pm | Music                         |

|         |                       |
|---------|-----------------------|
| 1:45 pm | National news/Slogan  |
| 1:55 pm | Music                 |
| 2:05 pm | International news    |
| 2:20 pm | Music/Article         |
| 2:25 pm | look Ahead! lesson    |
| 2:30 pm | Music at your request |
| 9:00 pm | Myanmar Culture       |

|                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Digging up the past at Bagan |                              |
| 9:15 pm                      | Music                        |
| 9:20 pm                      | Article                      |
| 9:30 pm                      | Souvenirs                    |
| 9:45 pm                      | News/Slogan                  |
| 10:20 pm                     | Portfolio for easy listening |



Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt inspects Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory.— MNA

## Secretary-1 inspects Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory

YANGON, 27 June — Chairman of the National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt inspected Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory under Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1 in Insein Township today.

Accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Secretary-1 arrived at the factory at 5 pm. They were welcomed there by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the ministers, the deputy ministers, departmental heads and officials.

At the meeting hall of the factory, Minister for Indus-

try-1 U Aung Thaung and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Win reported on medicines manufactured by the factory, and research being carried out for production of traditional medicines for six common diseases in Myanmar, in accordance with the plans of the ministry. The Secretary-1 gave necessary instructions.

Then, the Secretary-1 and party inspected construction of disposable syringe factory of MPF, installation of machines, and samples of syringes. The minister and officials conducted the Secretary-1 and party round the factory.

Then, the Secretary-1 gave instructions to the officials. — 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.

## Fingerlings released to paddy fields in Bago Division



Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko and Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein release fingerlings into paddy fields.— MNA

YANGON, 27 June — A ceremony to release fingerlings to paddy fields, as part of the paddy-plus-fish project, took place at the farm of Myanmar Agriculture Service in Bago Division this morning.

Bago Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Southern Command Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko and Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein attended the ceremony and released the fish.

Also present were Commander of No 77 LID Brig-Gen Than Htay, departmental heads from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, district/township level departmental officials, and farmers. Commander Brig-Gen Ko Ko spoke on the occasion. In his speech, he said it is the custom of Myanmar farmers to catch fish from the paddy field for food.

At the time of harvest, as there is a little amount of water in the paddy fields, catfish, snakehead, perch, and featherback hide in deep water and creeklets. Therefore, these fish can be caught not only for consumption but also for sale. Fish feed on crabs, molluscs, mosquito larvae, and pests in paddy fields. The presence of fish makes the soil soft, and their droppings improve the fertility of the soil, resulting in greater paddy output.

As fish can be bred based on agriculture, the development of rural areas will also improve, he said. He also urged officials to make harmonious efforts to raise the living standard of rural people by releasing fingerlings to paddy fields.

(See page 8)



Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein speaking at the ceremony to release fish for the paddy-plus-fish project. —MNA