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Thursday, 9 June, 2005

**Work to be done efficiently,
independently with own idea without
relying on government assistance**

**Success in sight with skill, investment
and unity of private entrepreneurs**

YANGON, 8 June —

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, flew to Mandalay Industrial Zone in Mandalay by helicopter after attending the opening ceremony of Dokhtawady Bridge (Nawngkhio) on 6 June morning.

They were welcomed by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, ministers, deputy ministers, the Mandalay Mayor and officials.

The Prime Minister and party inspected construction of the Foundry Shop in the industrial zone.

Shop Manager U Khin Maung Soe reported on arrival of machines, installation and



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects installation of machines at Heavy Machinery Workshop Project at Monywa Industrial Zone. — MNA

production procedures.

Next, they oversaw functions of sand mixers and moulding tasks. Similarly, they inspected iron casting and sand filtering tasks at No 2 iron casting machine. Officials explained completion of building the

forging shop & heat treatment workshop and collection of machines for the workshop.

After inspecting progress in construction of the machine shop-2 and collection of raw materials, they cordially conversed with the em-

ployees. Next, they looked into completion of building the machine shop-1 and warehouse.

In Mandalay Industrial Zone, construction of the machine shop-1 at the foundry shop was completed up to 96 per cent and the machine

shop-2, cent per cent. Out of 17 machines, four machines have been installed at the machine shops. Construction of the forging & heat treatment shop was completed by 95 per cent, and 18 machines out of 22 have been installed. Similarly,

95 per cent of the foundry shop has been completed. A total of 28 machines out of 31 have been kept in the shop. The warehouse is under construction.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party (See page 16)



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win views functions of Foundry Shop-2 at Mandalay Industrial Zone. — MNA

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

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 9 June, 2005

Towards deeper bilateral friendship and cooperation

Myanmar has always practised an independent and active foreign policy and attached great importance to friendly relations with other nations, especially neighbours and fellow members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations.

Myanmar and one of her closest neighbours, China, share a long common border and the peoples of the two nations have enjoyed Paukphaw friendship throughout different periods. The establishment of diplomatic ties between Myanmar and China entered the 55th anniversary on 8 June, 2005, and the Heads of State and Government and foreign ministers of the two nations exchanged messages of felicitations on the occasion.

In his message to Mr Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe said that, since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two nations had been strengthened and cooperative relations had developed in various fields and that the 55th anniversary would carry the momentum forward and elevate the existing Paukphaw friendship to a higher plane.

Mr Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China, in his message to Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe, said that China prized the traditional Sino-Myanmar friendship and was willing to make joint efforts with Myanmar to further deepen the bilateral cooperation of mutual benefit in all fields, to promote the all-round and deep development of the friendly cooperative relations of good-neighbourliness between China and Myanmar in the new century, and to be good neighbours, good friends and good partners forever.

Myanmar was one of the earliest nations that established diplomatic ties with the People's Republic of China. During the period of 55 years, under the guidance of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence that was jointly advocated by both nations, the Sino-Myanmar relations have experienced tests with rapid changes of international situations as well as changes of respective domestic situation, and have maintained vigorous vitality all along.

We believe that bilateral friendship cultivated by Heads of State of the two nations will become deeper and stronger and bilateral cooperation in various fields for mutual interests of the two peoples will be enhanced further.

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

U Myo Lwin accredited to Republic of Korea

YANGON, 9 June — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myo Lwin, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Korea. — *MNA*

U Thet Win presents credentials to Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

YANGON, 9 June — U Thet Win, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Commonwealth of Australia, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Major-General Michael Jeffery, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, on 26 May 2005, in Canberra. — *MNA*

U Hla Myint accredited to Japan

YANGON, 9 June — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Hla Myint, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Federative Republic of Brazil, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to Japan. — *MNA*

U Saw Hla Min accredited to French Republic

YANGON, 9 June — The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Saw Hla Min, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to Japan, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the French Republic. — *MNA*

Myanmar delegation returns home

YANGON, 8 June — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein together with Deputy Director-General U Myo Oo and Staff Officer Daw May Thet Win of Directorate of Trade after attending the Kunming Trade Fair 2005 in Kunming, Yunnan Province, at the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China, arrived back here by air this afternoon. They were welcomed back at the airport by Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun, department heads, Economic & Commercial Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy Mr Tang Hai and officials. — *MNA*

Pyu period Buddha statues unearthed



16.5-inch-high Buddha statue with Civarahattha/Abhaya posture.— *CULTURE*



25-inch-high Buddha statue with Civarahattha/Abhaya posture.— *CULTURE*

YANGON, 8 June — U Hla Ohn, 70, of Dagundaing Village, Pyathataik Village-tract, Twantay Township, Yangon Division, unearthed three ancient Buddha statues on 15 May while he was digging down the earth to replace the old front-side post of his house.



13.5-inch-high Buddha statue with Civarahattha/Varada posture.— *CULTURE*

Officials of the Archaeology Department under the Ministry of Culture examined the artefacts.

According to the findings, the standing Buddha statues were cast with bronze and another kind of metal and applied with glaze.

Out of the three Pyu period artefacts, the 25-inch-high one and 16.5-inch-high one are with Civarahattha/Abhaya posture and the 13.5-inch-high one is with Civarahattha/Varada posture. — *MNA*

Instructions of Information Minister clarified

YANGON, 8 June — Managing Director of the Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise U Bo Kyi clarified the instructions of Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan to members of Myanma Motion Picture Asiayon, film stars, experts and producers at MMPE Head Office this afternoon.

The managing director made further clarifications on the instructions, saying that responsible officials are to follow the policies in reconstituting Myanma Motion Picture Asiayon and electing executives at different levels and implementing the five objectives of MMPE.

Director U Thein Tun Aung of the MMPE read out the list of members of the panel of patrons of MMPE, members of the central leading committee and executives at different levels. Next, the managing director delivered concluding remarks. — *MNA*

Information Deputy Minister receives Japanese guest

YANGON, 8 June — Deputy Director Ms Sasaki Mariko of Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) called

on Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein at the ministry this evening.

Present at the call

were heads of department, officials from Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and the head of office. — *MNA*

Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein receives Deputy Director Ms Sasaki Mariko of Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU) of Japan.
— *MNA*



နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင်

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A US soldier stands guard at the scene of a suicide car bomb attack in Baghdad on 7 June, 2005. — INTERNET



Malaysian Deputy PM to visit France

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 June— Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak will kick off a five-day working visit to France on Thursday, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

Top on the agenda would be to strengthen bilateral ties, particularly in defence, trade and investment, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement released here.

"The visit is also expected to further consolidate the close political, economic and trade cooperation between Malaysia and France," the statement said.

At the invitation of his French coun-

terpart Michele Alliot-Marie, Razak, who is concurrently Defence Minister, will also attend the Le Bourget Airshow, otherwise known as Paris Airshow.

The airshow will be officiated by French President Jacques Chirac on 13 June.

Razak will also witness the signing of three MoUs between Malaysian and French companies on defence cooperation.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Chinese top legislator praises cooperation with Canada

BELING, 7 June— The Chinese top legislator said Monday that China will boost its relationship with Canada as the two countries celebrate the 35th anniversary of diplomatic ties this year.

Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China, said China will work with Canada to address issues of mutual concern and push forward the healthy development of the all-round cooperative partnership between the two countries.

Wu made the remarks at a meeting with a Canadian parliamentary delegation headed by Speaker of the Senate Daniel Hays. He praised the development of bilateral relations as "generally good". He said over the past few years, the all-round cooperative partnership between China and Canada has showed a sound momentum. Economic links grew rapidly as two-way trade volume surged. China has become the second largest trade partner of Canada, surpassing Japan. Bilateral cooperation in education, science, technology, culture and other areas have also deepened.

Wu said the NPC has maintained close contact with the Federal Parliament of Canada. Leaders, spe-

cialized committees and friendship societies of the two parliaments have carried out cooperation on various levels. The two sides also conducted effective cooperation on legislative affairs.

Wu expressed the willingness to continue the momentum of Parliament-to-Parliament exchanges and cooperation. He said he wished the two sides will continue to deepen mutual understanding, enhance their friendship and add new content and impetus to bilateral relations. Hays said the relationship between Canada and China is generally good. He said the one-China policy will as always remain as the governing policy of the government and Parliament of Canada. He said Canada places great importance on developing relations with China. He wishes to deepen mutual understanding and explore new areas and ways of cooperation between the two countries during his current visit to China.

MNA/Xinhua

Sudanese Minister arrives in India for energy talks

NEW DELHI, 7 June— Sudan's Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail arrived here Monday to hold talks with India on energy cooperation, *Indo-Asian News Service* reported.

Ismail, who is on a three-day visit to India, will meet Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh.

The Sudanese Minister will work to consolidate relations in energy sector with India on the basis of strategic cooperation of the two countries, according to a Press release from the Sudanese Embassy here.

India is eager to take part in more oil exploration projects in Sudan where it has got stake in three, including the Greater Nile Oil Project.

Indian state-owned oil company ONGC Videsh (OVL), the overseas arm of Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), has showed interest in two projects to be launched this year in Sudan.

Sudan produces 300,000 barrels of oil per day, mainly from the Greater Nile project, a joint venture with India, China and Malaysia, in which Indian company holds 25 per cent stake.— *MNA/Xinhua*

Bush's rosy view on Iraq disputed

WASHINGTON, 7 June — President George W Bush's rosy view on Iraq is disputed by US military commanders in Iraq and many Administration officials who say the guerilla violence is not going to end this year.

Some Administration leaders question the optimism of Bush and Vice- President Cheney and have concluded privately that the violence will not subside through this year, the *Washington Post* said in a report on Sunday. The disconnect between optimism in the Rose Garden, Bush's favourite place for addressing small gatherings, and pessimism in Baghdad stems, according to officials and analysts, not only from Bush's focus on tentative signs of long-term progress but also from the shrinking range of policy options available to him if he is wrong.

Having set out on a course of trying to stand up a new constitutional, elected government with the security firepower to defend itself, Bush finds himself locked into a strategy that, even if it proves successful, foreshadows many more deadly months to come first, analysts said.

Military commanders in Iraq privately told a visiting Congressional delegation last week that the United States is at least two years away from adequately training a viable Iraqi military but that it is no longer reasonable to consider augmenting US troops already strained by the two-year operation, said Senator Joseph Biden, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. —*MNA/PTI*

Chhattisgarh launches helpline as HIV-positive population soars

NEW DELHI, 7 June— Central India's Chhattisgarh Pradesh has launched a helpline to educate the people about AIDS as the country sees fast-growing HIV-positive population, *Indo-Asian News Service* (IANS) reported on Sunday. "Figures from the interior areas are alarming. We have deployed trained male and female counsellors to gather complaints through the helpline number 1097 and give advice on avoiding sexually-transmitted diseases," said RK Rajmani, AIDS project director, of Chhattisgarh, quoted by IANS.

About 20,000 HIV-positive were reported in the state whose population stands at 20.8 million. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Apple customers try out products at a shop in Tokyo on 8 June, 2005. — INTERNET

Thailand on high alert for dengue fever

BANGKOK, 7 June— Thailand's Health Ministry has stepped up surveillance for dengue fever throughout the country as the disease season starts next month.

A big number of people in southern Thailand are reportedly suffering from dengue fever, the director of the local disease prevention office Dr Boonchai Poomborplab was quoted by the *Thai News Agency* as saying Monday.

The highest incidence of the disease is in Songkhla where there are 181 dengue fever patients followed by Trang with 164 cases and Pattalung 103 cases.

As a percentage of the population, Satun, Trang and Pattalung have the highest incidence of dengue fever.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Chinese Vice-President meets Equatorial Guinea's FM

BEIJING, 7 June— Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong said here Monday that China and Equatorial Guinea enjoy sound relationship and suggested the two countries take every opportunity to boost bilateral ties to a new level.

Zeng made the remarks at a meeting with visiting Equatorial Guinea's Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and Francophone Pastor Micha Ondo Bile.

Zeng said the relations between China and Equatorial Guinea have evolved smoothly over the past 35 years despite temporal and international vicissitudes. He said bilateral cooperation in politics, economy, culture and science have produced plentiful consequences. He also expressed China's appreciation for Equatorial Guinea's long-term adherence to the one-China policy and its support for China's reunification cause.

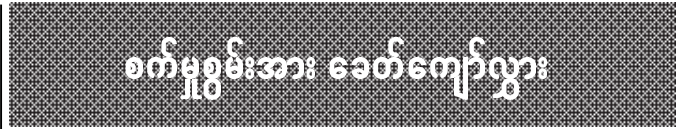
Micha, who is here for a six-day official visit, said the friendly cooperation between China and Equatorial Guinea has brought about benefits for the two peoples.

He said China offered generous help to Equatorial Guinea when the country was going through its most difficult period. "Now Equatorial Guinea's economy has achieved great progress and there should be greater opportunity and potential for further cooperation."

Micha said he hoped more Chinese enterprises would invest in Equatorial Guinea. He also reiterated his government's stalwart adherence to the one-China policy. — MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese worker works at an assembly line for the Lobo automobiles made by Hafei Motor Co at a factory in Harbin, northeastern China recently.—INTERNET



Vietnamese CPV leader visits France to enhance ties

HANOI, 7 June — General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee (CPVCC) Nong Duc Manh left here on Monday morning for a four-day official visit to France to promote bilateral relations.

Manh is scheduled to hold talks with Chirac, who plays the host to him, and other high-ranking French officials to discuss bilateral ties, cooperation within the Francophone community and the upcoming United Nations summit in September, according to diplomatic sources.

Since the official establishment of diplomatic relations in late 1973, Vietnam and France have maintained regular exchange of visits at different levels and signed a range of cooperation agreements in different spheres.

France now ranks the 9th among the biggest importers of Vietnam's products, annually spending around 500 million US dollars on the goods, mainly garments, textiles, footwear and coffee

in recent years, a three-fold increase over 1995. Vietnam annually imports over 400 million dollars worth of French products, mainly machinery, equipment and material for production.

According to the Vietnamese Ministry of Planning and Investment, by 20 May this year, France had 147 valid projects in Vietnam with total registered capital of nearly 2.2 billion US dollars, ranking the 7th out of 70 countries and regions investing in Vietnam.

France has pledged to fund Vietnam to the tune of 400 million dollars this year, becoming the 2nd largest provider of official development assistance for the latter after Japan.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia completes plane delivery to Pakistan

JAKARTA, 7 June — Aerospace industry PT Dirgantara Indonesia on Monday handed over the last of four propeller planes ordered by the Pakistani Government after a 1.5-year delay.

The fourth CN-235 plane was exclusively designed for the Pakistani President and priced at 15 million US dollars, Dirgantara president Edwin Soedarmo said after handing over the aircraft to Pakistani Ambassador Syed Mustafa Anwar Husein in the West Java capital of Bandung.

Edwin said Pakistan has ordered four CN-235 military aircraft and the fourth plane should have been delivered at the

end of 2003.

"Order for all the planes was made in 2001. But Pakistan understands financial constraints facing the company,"

Edwin was quoted by Detikcom online news service as saying.

The other three aircraft were priced at 14 million US dollars. Edwin said the company is now working on two same aircraft ordered by Malaysia.

MNA/Xinhua

Littoral states capable of patrolling Malacca Straits

SINGAPORE, 7 June— Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Dato' Sri Najib Tun Razak on Sunday reiterated his country's position that any measure taken to secure the safety of the Malacca Straits must not impinge on the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the littoral states.

"It is crucial for countries to recognize that littoral states will have to remain in the driver's seat and retain primary responsibility for implementation of measures designed to strengthen security and safe passage in the Straits," said Razak at the fourth IISS Asia Security Conference, also known as Shangri-la Dialogue. Razak, who is also Malaysian Defence Minister, admitted the limitations of the littoral states in bearing this responsibility by themselves, in terms of assets, capabilities and

manpower required.

"Malaysia believes in the need for greater cooperation and wider support, be it financial, operational or strategic, in enhancing security in the Straits of Malacca," he said. Ruling out the suggestion of foreign vessels being escorted by their naval or Coast Guard ships, Razak also called for the control and regulation of the role played by private security companies, which offer escort services for vessels plying the Straits.— MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam eyes higher income per capita

HANOI, 7 June — Vietnam aims to increase its annual income per capita to at least 900 US dollars in the next five years, Deputy Prime Minister Vu Khoan has said at a meeting between local government officials and foreign donors.

At an informal mid-year consultative group meeting which ended in southern Can Tho city on 3 June, the government of-

ficials said the country will encourage the stronger participation of localities, the international community, experts and donors in its socio-economic development in the 2006-2010 period, according to local newspaper *Investment* on Monday.

The country, which has targeted gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of 950-1,000 dollars in 2010, more than doubling the figure in 2000, is likely to reach GDP of 50 billion dollars or GDP per capita of 600 dollars this year.

The Vietnamese Government has just set a target of gaining GDP growth of 8 per cent next year. It has also eyed GDP growth of 8.5 per cent in 2005, compared with 7.7 per cent in 2004.

MNA/Xinhua

Fiji cherishes relations with China sticking to one-China policy

CANBERRA, 7 June — Fijian Prime Minister Laisenia Qarase said on Monday that his country cherishes friendly relations with China and firmly adheres to the one-China policy.

He made the remarks when meeting Wang Jiarui, head of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, in the Fijian capital of Suva.

The Prime Minister said Fiji attaches much importance to ties with China and hopes to consolidate and promote friendly cooperation with China.

Having been adhering to the one-China policy for the past three decades, Fiji will continue to stick to the policy in the future, Qarase stressed. Wang said China highly values relations with Fiji and is willing to push forward, together with the Fijian side, the healthy and stable development of bilateral relations on the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit.

MNA/Xinhua



Japan's yachtsman Kenichi Horie waves to Press as he approaches at the final leg of his round-the-world non-stop solo trip on a yacht Suntory-Mermaid off Nishinomiya port, western Japan, on 7 June, 2005. — INTERNET



South Korean shoppers look around PDP and LCD TVs at an electronics district in Seoul on 5 June, 2005. South Korea is the world's largest supplier of two most popular types of flat-panel screens — plasma display panels (PDPs) and liquid crystal displays (LCDs). — INTERNET

ADB's investment in China reaches \$ 1.2b

YINCHUAN, 6 June— The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has invested 1.2 billion US dollars in China's more than 90 projects, according to a senior economist with the Bank.

Peng Longyun, with the ADB China office, said that the ADB loans mainly went to the fields of communications, energy resources, environment protection and water conservancy, finance and industries, agriculture and natural resources in China.

Apart from public loans, ADB also provided 180 million US dollars in free technical aid, and

more than 185 million US dollars of loans and capital stock investment for Chinese private businesses.

Of all the ADB-loaned projects, 80 per cent are in western China, Peng told the three-day conference on APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) Recycling-based Economy and China's Western Development, which will conclude Sunday in

Yinchuan, capital city of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

As one of the leading stockholders, China took part in ADB in 1986. China and ADB has conducted wider cooperation in economic development, poverty reduction and environmental protection over the past nearly two decades.

MNA/Xinhua

Cathay Pacific expands service with more Indonesia-China flights

JAKARTA, 7 June — Asia's top carrier, Cathay Pacific, will start to serve more flights connecting cities in Indonesia and China on 4 July, citing the potential market of the two countries, local media reported on Monday.

"The new routes we plan to serve are flights from Jakarta, Surabaya and Denpasar to China's industrial town of Shanghai," Cathay's Southeast Asia regional manager Patrick Yeung was quoted by the *Jakarta Post* as saying.

The new flights will add to the existing Surabaya-Hong Kong route the carrier has served

since 1995.

Yeung said the company was upbeat that the move will be welcomed by tourists and business travellers in both nations.

"The flows of cargo should also get a good response," Yeung said, sounding an optimistic note.

After 10 years, the company says, it has flown

some 491,000 Indonesians from Surabaya, the capital city of West Java Province to Hong Kong, in addition to the shipment of about 26,000 tons of cargo.

Richard Reed, Cathay Pacific's country manager in Indonesia, also painted an upbeat outlook despite the continued price hike of jet fuel.

"(High fuel prices) will eventually push carriers to increase their retail ticket fares, although I do not think this will significantly reduce passengers," said Reed.

He pointed to the Surabaya-Hong Kong service as an example. "It's been 10 years now, and we're still looking good."

MNA/Xinhua

Lufthansa to promote on-board Internet service on China route

BEIJING, 6 June— Lufthansa announced Sunday it will promote the on-board Internet service "flynet" on the routes to China in the second half of this year.

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of Lufthansa's first flight to China, all passengers on business and first classes will get free coupon to surf on Internet valid until 31 December, 2005, said Gregor Wende, chief representative of Lufthansa Airlines in China.

Lufthansa and Boeing promoted "flynet" in May

last year, which allowed passengers to obtain instant information and respond to emails on board.

Lufthansa now operated 41 flights to China per week, ranking the first in all European airlines. It also invest in cargo, maintenance, catering and technical service in China.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan welcomes India's participation in gas pipeline projects

ISLAMABAD, 6 June — Pakistani Petroleum Minister Amanullah Khan Jadoon here on Sunday said his country would welcome India's participation in cross-border gas pipeline projects being considered by Islamabad.

Jadoon expressed these views while speaking at the opening of Pakistan-India talks on gas pipeline projects held in Islamabad, an official statement said.

He said that the meeting would review progress for the requirement of import of natural gas to Pakistan and India from the neighbouring gas rich countries such as Iran, Turkmenistan and Qatar.

"In today's competitive world, the affordable energy would guide developing countries to the path of the progress and prosperity," Jadoon said.

He noted that low cost energy was required to raise the standard of living of poor masses by providing them interruptible, environmentally friendly and an affordable fuel for their needs. We are considering the import of natural gas from Iran, Turkmenistan

and Qatar," Jadoon said, adding that the cost of transportation would be determined not only by the distance over which the gas would be transported but also on the cost of financing of the projects.

He said both Pakistan and India should adopt a course of action which could facilitate the transportation of gas at the lowest possible cost and reiterated the government's commitment for providing requisite security measures for smooth transition of the gas pipeline to India. In his response the Indian Oil Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar, who arrived here on Saturday and headed the Indian delegation, said both countries should not only work on pipeline projects but also cooperate in other areas like seminars, workshops and training of experts, the statement said. — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian House member faces eight-year imprisonment for fraud

JAKARTA, 6 June— The Serang District Court was asked here Friday to sentence incumbent member of the House of Representatives Dharmono Lawi to eight years in prison for his alleged involvement in a graft case causing the state to suffer losses amounting to 14 billion rupiahs (about 1.47 million US dollars).

Prosecutor Salim Fizri said that Dharmono, who is a member of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle and also the former speaker of the Banten Legislative Council, was involved in the plundering of the funds allocated by the 2003 regional budget for housing, the website of English daily *Jakarta Post* reported.

Besides Dharmono, the prosecutor

also recommended that the court sentence two other defendants in the same graft case — Muslim Jamaludin, who is former deputy speaker of the Banten Legislative Council from the Golkar Party, and Mufrodi Muchsin, incumbent deputy speaker of the legislative council from the United Development Party to eight years in prison.

MNA/Xinhua



Commonwealth Bank customers in Sydney on 7 June, 2005. The Commonwealth Bank of Australia announced it had received approval to open a representative office in India. — INTERNET

WIPO launches new office in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 8 June — The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) opened its Singapore office on Tuesday, its first office located in a region primarily made up of developing countries.

It is expected that the office will foster closer ties between WIPO and the various intellectual property (IP) offices in Asia Pacific Region, including facilitating constructive dialogue on issues in the international IP agenda and creating a culture of respect for IP.

"The Asia Pacific is rapidly emerging as an exciting region of new growth for IP," said Singapore Senior Minister of State for Law Ho Peng Kee at the opening ceremony, adding that the office will help countries in the region to develop IP as a tool for economic growth. Also on Tuesday, the Asia-Pacific Regional Symposium on Intellectual Property for Development opened here, which is the first major activity organized by the inaugurated office and Singapore's Foreign Ministry. — MNA/Xinhua



A Chinese worker inspects spools at a textile company in Shangrao, east China's Jiangxi Province recently.

INTERNET

Cambodia marks World Environment Day

PHNOM PENH, 7 June — More than 300 people gathered here Sunday to celebrate World Environment Day and the 10th National Environment Day, aimed at enhancing the protection of environment to build a healthier and more friendly environment.

In a speech read out at the gathering, Prime Minister Hun Sen called on the government and relevant ministries to strengthen cooperation to protect and improve the country's environment.

He stressed that the challenge facing Cambodian people was poverty which led some people to damage the forest, fishery and other natural resources to make their living.

"We have only one Earth.

The damage of the environment and natural resources in one country will affect its neighboring countries and the region, even more the whole world," he said.

The Premier also announced that the Cambodian Government has put environmental protection as one of its priorities.

"We are living on the same Earth, we have only one planet, so we have

the obligation to work together to protect the environment," added Hun Sen.

The international theme for World Environment Day is "Green Cities - Plan for the Planet".

Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, has seen improvements in many basic services that are important to human health and social well being over the past 13 years.

MNA/Xinhua

World's largest retailers may troop to India

LONDON, 7 June — World's largest retailers such as Wal-Mart, Carrefour and Tesco, are now eyeing the country as a potential market estimated at 280 billion US dollars after the Indian Prime Minister suggested that India could lift restrictions on foreign direct investment in the retail sector.

The prospect of a Wal-Mart or a TESCO superstore overshadowing the tea stalls and food kiosks of India's crowded metropolises now looks set to become a reality and it may even happen within months, a media report said.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had announced that India could lift restrictions on FDI in the retail sector after he met John Menzer, the president of the International division of Wal-Mart, the world's biggest retail group and owner of

British Asda chain, in New Delhi.

According to Wal-Mart officials, Menzer was leading a preliminary fact-finding delegation to India. But retail watchers who recall a similar Wal-Mart visit to Britain in 1999 — a visit which included a meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair — will know just how serious the retailer is. Just three months after that trip, Wal-Mart swooped to buy Asda for 6.70 billion pounds, *Sunday Telegraph* said.

Mart, French rival Carrefour and Tesco, all of which are active in China, are so attracted to India, the country of one billion inhabitants.

One-third of India's population lives in cities and the disposable income of the country's emerging middle class — estimated at 300 million people — has grown by 20 per cent between 1999 and 2003.

India now has more IT graduates than the entire population of Britain.

"We think India's great. It's a fantastic market," said Beth Keck, Wal-Mart's director of international corporate affairs, who was on Menzer's mission.

Concurring with the view, K S Bhardwaj, Minister in-charge of Press and Information at the Indian High Commission here said: "For some time we have been examining the possibility of opening the retail trade. Big wholesalers and retailers are knocking at the doors of India".

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia likely to dominate US prawn market

JAKARTA, 7 June — Indonesia is likely to dominate the US prawn market by year end, as Indonesia's prawn exporters get an incentive facility from the US Government while those from the competitor countries do not, according to an official of the Maritime and Fisheries Ministry.

Director General of Increasing Capacity and Marketing of the ministry, Sumpeno Putro, said Indonesian exporters need not pay an export bond for entering the US market, but other competitor countries including Thailand, Vietnam, India, Ecuador and Brazil must pay the money due to subjection of the US anti-dumping policy.

"This is a big opportunity, our competitors are now difficult to enter the US market. The export bond is huge," Sumpeno was quoted

Monday by the *Bisnis Indonesia* daily as saying.

He said that the US Government had implemented export-import bond to countries which had been subjected to the US policy, adding Indonesia's product could be competitive in the US market, as it will not be imposed an additional fee caused by the bond.

He said this chance would continue up to the end of this year, as the countries were still facing the obstacle.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese companies spend little on charities

BEIJING, 7 June — China's charities receive little support from the business community with only 1 per cent of domestic companies having ever made donations, according to a China Youth Development Foundation report released Monday.

The report cited by the *Beijing News* on Monday said that only 100,000 of China's 10 million registered companies have donated to charities.

The capital currently owned by Chinese charity organizations totals five billion yuan (about 605 million US dollars), accounting for 0.5 per cent of the country's total gross national product, said president Fan Baojun of the China Charity Federation.

"Because of the capital shortfall, charity organizations can only assist a small number of the needy," he said.

The charity fund do-

nated by companies of the United States averages 670 billion US dollars annually, about 9 per cent of the country's gross national product.

Calling charities "a vital tool to redistribute social wealth and relieve poverty", Fan attributed the reluctance of the Chinese business community to donate to the lack of a charity culture.

After 11 years of development, there are only 100 charities in China, he said. Also, China's tax laws require donors to pay more personal income tax if their donations exceed 3 per cent of the amount of tax to be paid. — MNA/Xinhua

Indian fighter jets to join exercise in France

NEW DELHI, 7 June — India will send its frontline SU-30 fighters to France this month for a joint Air Force exercise, an Indian Air Force (IAF) spokesman has said.

The war game named "Garuda II" will be held at Istres airbase in France from June 16 to 30 as the second

of this kind between the two Air Forces, *Indo-Asian News Service* Monday quoted the Air Force spokesman as reporting.

"The exercise will provide both sides an excellent opportunity to learn from each other's employment philosophies and further cement long-standing friendly relations between the Armed Forces of the two countries," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



Vera Wang holds the award she received for Womenswear Designer of the Year at the 2005 CFDA Fashion Awards in New York, on 6 June, 2005.

INTERNET

Special shoes required for visit to Angkor Wat

PHNOM PENH, 7 June — Tourists will be soon asked to wear special shoes to climb the Angkor temple's stairs in order to protect Angkor Wat from further damage.

The news was announced on Sunday by Cambodia's Apsara Authority, which manages the Angkor Archaeological Park, according to *The Cambodia Daily* on Monday.

"We are preparing this project," Tep Henn, Apsara Authority deputy director-general in charge of tourism, was quoted as saying. But he did not say when the programme would begin or how much they would cost visitors.

Bun Narith, the authority's director general, confirmed the project but said further studies were still necessary. — MNA/Xinhua

Success of Myanmar's anti-narcotics drive

Maung Maung Swe

In this article, I am going to present the success Myanmar has achieved in her drive to wipe out narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Myanmar has launched the anti-narcotics drive not only as a national task but also as a global concern.

The State Peace and Development Council has been implementing the drive in accord with the following two strategies:

(a) To carry out the narcotic drugs elimination drive as a national task;

(b) To raise the social standard of the nationalities of the border areas and to put an end to cultivation of poppy.

It is also applying three tactics and three methods for the success of the two strategies.

The three tactics of the Government are: control and eradication of drugs; production elimination and abuse elimination. The three methods are: to change the belief and conviction of the poppy growers, and drug producers and addicts, and to raise their morale; to facilitate communications and transport between the plains and the hilly regions; and to develop the economy and social life of the nationalities in the border regions.

The Central Committee for Abuse Control has been striving to effectively root out the drug problem. Thirteen work groups have been formed under it to facilitate the functions of the Central Committee.

At the Government meeting No 35/98 held on 7 October 1998, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying, "An announcement is to be made on the launching of a 15-year plan beginning 1999-2000 to wipe out poppy cultivation, and opium production." According to the guidance, the 15-year narcotics elimination plan was laid down and is being implemented. Its period is from 1999 to 2014. The plan is being implemented through three five-year projects.

Thus, the anti-narcotics drive has been achieving success phase by phase. In launching the anti-narcotics drive, Myanmar has been cooperating with the global countries, especially neighbouring nations. Due to the cooperation with those nations, she has been gaining momentum in the drive.

The report of the US Government Drug Strategy issued in 2005 said that poppy cultivation in Myanmar decreased by 34 per cent in 2004 when compared with that of 2003; that the current opium production of the nation was 292 tons, down from 2,560 tons eight years ago; in other words, opium production was brought down by 88 per cent.

As Myanmar has been implementing the

15-year narcotics elimination plan with all-out efforts on self-reliance, she is also participating in the six-nation Sub-Region Action Plan as a signatory. It is also launching the drive with the technological assistance of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

A UNODC report also said, "Today, Myanmar, located in the heart of the "Golden Triangle", is the main opium producer in Southeast Asia.

However, despite its notoriety as a leading producer, during the last decade, Myanmar has demonstrated a steady and remarkable reduction in opium poppy cultivation. While the number of hectares devoted to opium cultivation was estimated at

Myanmar has already made a firm resolve that whether she receives assistance from others or not, the nation will continue to launch the narcotic drugs elimination drive, alternative cropping and farming projects and rehabilitation programmes without fail as a national responsibility till reaching the goal.

160,000 in the mid-1990s, by early 2004, opium poppy cultivation stood at 44,200 hectares a reduction of 73% from the peak in 1996.

"This trend, if sustained, signals a potential end to more than a century of opium production in the Golden Triangle, a fitting close to one of the most tragic chapters in the history of narcotic drugs.

Myanmar must strive to prevent the humanitarian disaster threatening opium-growing families." In this anti-narcotics drive, assistance and support from donor countries is required to enable the families to earn alternative income.

Myanmar's national task to root out poppy cultivation and opium production is helping realise the aims approved by the United Nations. Myanmar is launching her anti-narcotic drugs drive within the framework of the UN resolutions.

Myanmar has already made a firm resolve that whether she receives assistance from others or not, the nation will continue to launch the narcotic drugs elimination drive, alternative cropping and farming projects and rehabilitation programmes without fail as a national responsibility till reaching the goal.

[Source : *Myanmar Opium Survey 2004* issued by UNODC and other relevant documents]

(Translation: TMT)

Kyemon+Myanma Alin: 8.6.2005.

Myanmar-China Friendship Flourishing

* Myanmar-China, China-Myanmar

Like the Swedaw leaf, two halves make one
Eras may change, but love does not go stale
It's been many, many years.

* Tapeng, Shweli, Thanlwin, three names

The clear waters, of the three rivers
Characterize love, as end result

The river begins, in China

Flows into and down, on Myanmar Land
Up-river and down-river, in different places

Water remains undivided, remains as one

Drink same water, no drying up

Cherishing, Paukphaw relations

Bonds of love, firmly tied.

* AD 800, or thereabouts

Myanmar-born, Pyu Prince

With retinue, to China

Journeyed, on goodwill mission

To lilt music, they supply danced

And sweetly, they sang

Musicians, artistes many

They exchanged, each other's cultures

For strengthening, their friendship

A thousand years, have passed.

* When Anawrahta's, palace ruins

Were recently, excavated

Friendship features, the evidence finds

Embodying, Chinese script

Were found, with pottery

If real life, was assessed

Friendly ties, and commerce

In Bagan Era, were pointed out

Equal thoughts, reciprocated

There have been, many years of love.

* In the new world, these days

As if vying in goodwill and love

The leaders, born of two nations

With genuine feelings, have exchanged visits

From then to us, in reciprocation

In addition, to exchange of envoys

Song and music, literature

Truly gifted, scholars

Continually, tie strings of love

And these have been stronger, than before.

* O, Myanmar-China, China-Myanmar

Like the Swedaw leaf, two halves make one

Eras have change, but love does not go stale

It's been many, many years.

Myinmu Maung Naing Moe (Trs)

(In commemoration of 55 years of

establishment of Myanmar-China ties)

Minister inspects railway stations, factories, meets service personnel

YANGON, 8 June — Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min together with Deputy Minister U Pe Than went to Monywa station on 5 June and called on Deputy Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Tin Maung Ohn. The minister inspected security measures at the station and its environs and gave instructions on smooth and secure transport for the travellers, sanitation work at the station and its environs.

On arrival at Ayeyawady bridge (Yadanabon), the minister and party inspected the place chosen for building approach railroad on Mandalay bank. Next, they proceeded to Htonebo quarry and gave instructions on worksite safety and arrival of gravel at rail-

road sections.

The minister and party on 6 June arrived at Ywahtaung Locomotive Shed and met with officials and other ranks of the departments under the ministry. The minister delivered a speech on the occasion. In his speech he said service personnel are to perform office work not to undermine prestige of respective departments, to have sense to avoid corruption while performing departmental functions, to trust among service personnel, to avoid acts that can disintegrate unity of the employees and to carry out the tasks dutifully.

Next, factory manager U Myint Khine reported on necessary assistance for the factory. Gen-

eral manager (Mechanical) U Soe Win and the deputy minister gave supplementary reports.

In connection with the reports, the minister fulfilled the requirements and inspected the functions of the factory. Next, the minister and party arrived at Myitnge. At the briefing hall, general manager U Tun Oo reported on capacity of machines, performance of work plan and necessary assistance.

Afterwards, the minister and party checked progress in building of No 748 Zawgyi bridge included in Yangon-Mandalay double rail tract project and gave instructions on measures for ensuring strong retaining walls and safety on the bridge. — MNA

Work to be done efficiently,...

(from page 16)

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint presented reports on implementation of hydel power projects according to the Chindwin River Valley Development Project.

Next, Minister Maj-Gen Tin Htut reported on machinery to be provided for the project. Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye and Tactical Operations Commander Col Min Swe reported on Progress of regional development.

Next, the Prime Minister discussed matters related to construction of the project with Director-General of the

Hydro-electric Power Department U Win Kyaw and Director-General of the Irrigation Department U Kyaw San Win.

The prime minister said Htamanthi hydel-power project is a significant project for the development of the State. Out of the hydel projects being implemented in the State, Htamanthi project has the largest power generation capacity. It will produce 1,200 Megawatt. The project will use

Chindwin river water. Therefore, the project will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and Ministry of Electric Power.

Afterwards, the prime minister met with townsenders and asked about condition of transportation, education, health and economic sectors in the region.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye presented school uniforms,

stationery, sports gear for the post-primary school of Tazone Village through Headmistress Daw Han Thet Tin.

Later, the prime minister and party inspected the site chosen to build the hydel power station.

Htamanthi Hydel power project will be implemented on Chindwin River near Tazone Village 70 miles north of Homalin Township in Sagaing Division.

The main embankment of the project will

Under the Chindwin River valley development project, there are Htamanthi project, Mawlaik Project and Shwesarye Project which will use Chindwin River water. On completion all projects will produce electricity and they will supply irrigation water.



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win meets with members of Mandalay Industrial Zone Supervisory Committee and industrialists. — MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects power-tillers at Mandalay Power-tiller factory in Mandalay Industrial Zone.— MNA

be 7,700 ft in length and 348 ft in height and 10 generators will be installed.

Under the Chindwin River valley development project, there are Htamanthi project, Mawlaik Project and Shwesarye Project which will use Chindwin River water. On completion all projects, the projects will produce electricity and they will supply irrigation water. Moreover, water transport in Chindwin River and Ayeyawady River will be improved.

Now, pilot engi-

neering work for the Htamanthi project is being carried out.

Afterwards, the prime minister and party flew to Homalin and inspected the 100-bed hospital construction project. Medical Superintendent Dr Myo Myint reported on construction work.

The prime minister and party met with members of Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations and townsenders in Homalin. At the meeting, Chairman of Homalin Township Peace and

(see page 9)



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects the site chosen for Htamanthi Hydel-power Project near Tazone Village, Homalin Township. — MNA

Work to be done efficiently,...

(form page 8)

Development Council U Soe Win reported on location of the township, cultivation of crops, local rice and oil sufficiency, water supply task and rubber plantation in the township.

The prime minister said Htamanthi Hydel-power project is aimed to supply electricity and to contribute to the development of the region.

He continued to

Pantha Village in Mawlaik Township where Tactical Operations Commander Col Htay Win welcomed them.

Deputy Minister U Ohn Myint reported on arrangements for Mawlaik Dam Multipurpose Project to be implemented at the confluence of Chindwin River and Uru River.

Next, Deputy Minister U Myo Myint and Minister Maj-Gen Htay

reported to the Prime Minister on progress in erecting the workshop and installation of machines. They then viewed the samples of products, building of a forging shop, arrival of machinery, installation work and the foundry shop.

At the briefing hall, the Prime Minister met with officials and industrialists, saying, the Government has already provided necessary assist-



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win and party share merits gained for offering rice and edible oil to Pariyatti monasteries in Monywa. — MNA



say that rubber cultivation is successful in Homalin Township. As rubber is

Oo gave supplementary reports and Director of Construction Group-4 of

ance for emergence of foundries and forging shops in Monywa Indus-

trial Zone. The Government on its part has been providing assistance and

encouragement for progress of the industrial sector, especially the pri-

vate sector. Officials and (see page 10)



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win offers alms to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavinda.—MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects progress in construction of Sasana Beikman in the precinct of Shwezigon Pagoda in Monywa.— MNA

marketable in the world market, locals are needed to cultivate rubber as well as tea in a commercial scale, he urged. He also urged the local people to strive for the development of the State and for upgrading of social standard of national races in cooperation with the government.

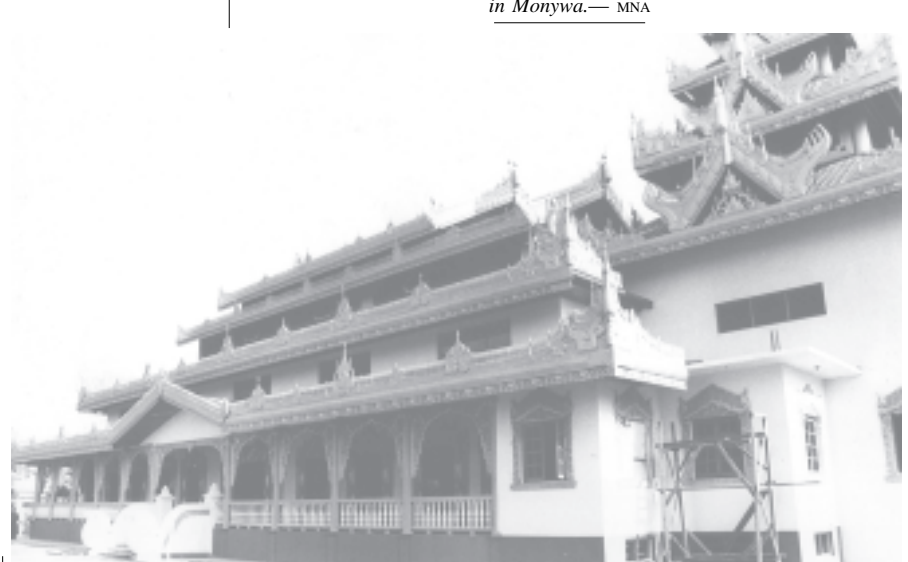
Next, the prime minister cordially greeted departmental officials and members of the social organizations and townselders. After the meeting, the prime minister and party inspected the development of Homalin in a motorcade.

Afterwards, the prime minister flew to

the Irrigation Department U Maung Maung Tin reported on condition of site chosen to build Mawlaik multi-purpose dam.

Feasibility study is under way to implement the Mawlaik Multi-purpose Dam Project on Chindwin River near Mawliak downstream Htamanthi Project covered by Chindwin River Basin Development Project. The estimated power generation of the project is about 500 megawatts.

In Monywa Industrial Zone, the Prime Minister and party inspected the machine shop of the foundry and heavy industry project. Officials



Sasana Beikman building under construction in the precinct of Shwezigon Pagoda.—MNA

Work to be done efficiently,...

(from page 9)
 entrepreneurs should strive for the success of steel industries of the zone. All should strive to run the industries at full capacity to produce standard goods. In addition, they should strive to increase investments and shares in accord with the procedures. They should make efforts to install automatic system and to manufacture finished goods of high quality, with the high objective of installing and operating electronic machines.

for the technological colleges to provide skilled technicians. at the foundry shop and 78 per cent at forging shop. They will start production

All should strive to run the industries at full capacity to produce standard goods. In addition, they should strive to increase investments and shares in accord with the procedures.

The industries and workshops covered by the foundry and heavy industry project have already been completed. Of 31 machines, 18 have been installed, at the end of June or the start of July. This morning, the Prime Minister and party attended the ceremony to present provisions to Pariyatti schools in

rice, oil and offertories to Sayadaws. The congregation shared the merits gained.

The Prime Minister and party inspected the building of Sasana Beikman in the precinct of Shwezigon Pagoda in Monywa. It is being built by donors U Tin Win and Daw Khin Swe Win and families of Tin Win Tun Company. Eighty-five per cent of the work has been completed.

Member of the Panel of Patrons of USDA Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win held



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win meets with service personnel, USDA members and townselders in Homalin. — MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win hears report by Deputy Minister U Myo Myint on Htamanthi Hydropower Project. — MNA

From now on, they should also train the workers to run the machines skilfully. Arrangements should be made

and the factories have started to manufacture goods. Machinery installation has been completed up to 77 per cent

Monywa. Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander, the ministers and the deputy ministers presented

meetings with USDA secretaries, executives, organizers and members during his tour of Mandalay and Sagaing divisions.

He urged them to actively take part in the public welfare undertakings.

The Prime Minister and party arrived back here from Monywa in the morning.

MNA



Homalin People's Hospital (100-bed) under construction in Sagaing Division. — MNA



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects progress of building Homalin People's Hospital (100-bed). — MNA

Information Minister meets with patrons, members of MMPA

YANGON, 8 June— Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan this afternoon met with patrons and members of the Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon at Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise (Head Office) in Bahan Township and gave instructions on future tasks for improvement of Myanmar motion picture.

Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry, patrons of the asiayon and invited guests also attended the

meeting. The minister in his speech said that now all levels under the Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon have been reconstituted and so has the MMPA because it was time for their reorganization, that members of the Myanmar film world reported this to him.

In the process, the number of members in each of the 10 basic levels was designated at least four to 10. Among them, some were elected by basic level bodies and some, by the central body. Three principles were laid down for reorganization of the MMPA — it is to be reconstituted

with 20 representatives; at least one representative from each level; and some representatives are to be selected by basic levels and some by the central level.

The newly reconstituted MMPA is to carry out tasks in accordance with the five objectives and 13 work programmes.

While the MMPA is taking measures for raising the standard of the Myanmar film standard, the State and the ministry will provide necessary assistance. So, all the representatives are to do their best to ensure development of the MMPA

Construction Minister inspects Myitnge bridge construction

YANGON, 8 June— On 6 June morning, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun together with officials of Public Works, attended the opening ceremony of Dokhtawady (Nawngkhio) Bridge. Yesterday morning, he inspected the progress of Myitnge Bridge construc-

tion project on Yangon-Mandalay highway.

At the briefing hall at the project site, the minister heard reports on progress of constructing two approach roads and tarring the road on the main bridge.

Next, the minister gave instructions on timely completion of the

bridge and inspected the approach road and the main bridge. With 6 lanes of RC flooring, Myitnge Bridge is 840 feet long and it can bear 60-ton loads.

The bridge construction has been now completed and the tarring tasks are ongoing.

MNA

and the nation's film standard. The State is making arrangements to import necessary equipment. The Head of State has given guidance and state level leaders, instructions to raise the film standard. He called for cooperation of the members of the nation's

film world. He expressed his belief that the drive will be put into reality through cooperation of the State and the private sector.

Next, MMPE Managing Director U Bo Kyi reported on the list of Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon which is reor-

ganized with Information Minister's permission. According to the list, patrons of the MMPA are U Thu Kha, Bogalay Tint Aung, Gita Lulin U Ko Ko, U Tin Yu, U Tin Nyunt, U Myint Soe, U Khin Zaw, U Nyunt Win and U Sein Tin. There are 20 executives in the MMPA including Film Director U Kyi Soe Tun (Chairman), U Myint Soe (a) U Su Wan (Vice-Chairman), U Tin Aung (Secretary), U Maung Maung Oo (Joint-Secretary) and Daw Swe Zin Htike.

In his concluding remarks, the minister urged the personnel concerned to carry out the tasks of MMPA joining hands with one another.

MNA



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan meets with patrons and members of the newly-reconstituted MMPA. — MNA

Vice-Mayor calls for development works to meet target

YANGON, 8 May— Accompanied by officials concerned, Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa went on an inspection tour of Maungmakan Kantha road being built by YCDC, which links North Dagon and South Dagon Townships and measures for water supply in Yangon this morning.

When they arrived at Maungmakan Kantha road, which is 6,450 feet in length and 48 feet in width, which links with Pinlong road in North Dagon and No 2 Highway in South Dagon, they heard reports on progress in tarring of road, measures for proper drainage on both sides of the road, greening tasks, growing of shade trees and future tasks presented by Head of Engineering Department (Road and Bridge)

of YCDC U Bo Htay.

After checking Maungmakan Kantha road, the Vice-Mayor gave instructions on maintenance of the road for durability. He proceeded to Yangon City Water Supply Project (Ngemoeyeik) worksite near Ahtayu village in Hmawby Township and inspected construction tasks there. The Vice-Mayor was conducted round the worksite by Joint-Secretary of YCDC U Tin Soe, committee member Col Kyaw Soe and officials.

At the briefing hall, Joint-Secretary of YCDC U Tin Soe reported on progress of construction tasks and future tasks, Head of Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) U Thaug Yin and Head of Assessment Department Dr Htun Than Htun on work process for purification of drinking water.

Regarding the reports, the Vice-Mayor gave instructions on measures to be taken for the project works meeting the set standards and performance of public welfare tasks with goodwill.

On arrival at Yeku waterwork station on Yeset road in Mayangon Township, the Vice-Mayor looked into run of waterwork, inflow of water from Gyobu and Hlawga waterpipes and installation of machinery to produce chlorine to be used in purifying water.

At the briefing hall, the Vice-Mayor heard reports on water supply presented by Yeku waterwork station in-charge U Tin Ngwe. After supplementary reports given by Head of Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) U Thaug Yin, the Vice-Mayor fulfilled the requirements. — YCDC

Workshop on National Strategy for Energy Integration and Rural Development held

YANGON, 8 June— An opening ceremony for National Consultation Workshop on the Formulation of a National Strategy for the Integration of Energy and Rural Development Policies and Programs co-organized by Ministry of Energy of the Union of Myanmar and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific Region (ESCAP)

was held at Sedona Hotel this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Resident Representative of UNDP Mr Charles Petrie, Representative of ESCAP Mr Hongpeng Liu, directors-

general, managing directors under the Ministry of Energy, ministries, departments and enterprises related to energy and rural sectors, officials from NGOs and Myanmar Engineering Society and guests. Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Mr Charles Petrie and Mr Hongpeng Liu gave speeches. The workshop ended at 5.30 pm.—MNA



Dignitaries at the workshop pose for a documentary photo. — ENERGY

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MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
ROAD TRANSPORT
INVITATION TO TENDER
TENDER No. 003/TRT/2005-2006

- 1. Sealed Tenders from eligible suppliers are invited for the supply of the following Tyres with Tubes And Flaps. Prices to be quoted in Myanmar Kyats-
(a) 9.00 x 20 - 7886 Sets
(b) 7.50 x 16 - 853 Sets
(c) 10.00 x 20 - 200 Sets
(d) 12.00 x 20 - 4 Sets
2. (a) Tender Documents are available at the Office of Procurement & Stores Department, Head Office, Road Transport, No. 375, Bogyoke Aung San Street, Yangon, Myanmar, Commencing on the 10th June, 2005.
(b) Tender will be closed on 23rd, June, 2005 at (16:00) hours.
(The Road Transport reserves the right to reject any or all Tenders)
3. Detailed information will be available at the office of the Procurement & Stores Department, Phone Nos. 01-252574 (or) 01-376549.

ROAD TRANSPORT

အခြေခံပညာ မူလတန်း၊ အလယ်တန်း၊ အထက်တန်း စာသင်သားများအတွက်
Student's Companion စာစဉ်ထုတ်ဝေမည့်

နယူးလိုက်အောင်မြင်မှုမဟာတင်စာတိုက် စာတည်းအဖွဲ့က သင်ရိုးညွှန်းတမ်းများ နှင့်အညီ ပြုစုထားသည့် အခြေခံပညာ မူလတန်း၊ အလယ်တန်းနှင့် အထက်တန်း ကျောင်းသူ/ကျောင်းသားများအတွက် အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ အထောက်အကူပြု Student's Companion စာစဉ်များကို ၂၀၀၅ ခုနှစ် ဇူလိုင်လဆန်းမု စတင်၍ ပြန်လည်ထုတ်ဝေပါမည်။
ယခင်နှစ်များနှင့်တူ ဇူလိုင်လမှ ဒီဇင်ဘာလအထိ (၆)လတာ ကာလအတွင်း မူလတန်း (သူငယ်တန်းမှ တက္ကသိုလ်တန်း) အတွက်တစ်စောင်၊ အလယ်တန်း (၅/၆/၇/၈-တန်း) အတွက် တစ်စောင်၊ အထက်တန်း (၉ တန်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်တန်း) အတွက် တစ်စောင် တစ်လလျှင် တစ်ကြိမ် နှုန်းဖြင့် ပုံနှိပ်ထုတ်ဝေပါမည်။ စောင်ရေအကန့် အသတ်ဖြင့် ရိုက်နှိပ်ဖြန့်ချိမည့် ဖြစ်ပါ၍ နယူးလိုက်အောင်မြင်မှုမဟာတင်စာတိုက်၊ ပြန်ချိစေ့ရွာနာ၊ အမှတ် ၂၂/၀၇၊ ကမ်းနားလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ မုန်း-၂၉၇၀၉၃ သို့ ဆက်သွယ်မှာယူနိုင်ပါပြီ။

Experts suggest Beijing ration water supply

BEIJING, 7 June — The Beijing Government needs to establish a water management system encouraging residents to use less water, the Beijing News reported Monday.
Citing a research conducted by experts of the Beijing Research Institute on Water Conservancy Plan, the newspaper said Beijing must set detailed water control targets and ration the water supply

immediately because the city's water shortage is worsening.
The city's major water problems include depletion of existing water resources, declining water supply from Guanting and Miyun reservoirs, a rising gap between supply and demand, severer water pollution, inefficient water utilization, unreasonable water pricing and problematic water utilization in the countryside.

Researchers have suggested the Beijing government establish a market access system for water-saving appliances, strengthen water disposal and reduce the possibilities of water leakage during farming and public water supply, said the paper.
To alleviate water shortage, researchers said that the water consumption for gross domestic product of per 10,000 yuan (about 1,209 US dollars)

in Beijing should be limited within 62 cubic metres by 2010, the level of advanced Western countries in late 1990s.
The per capita daily water consumption of Beijing residents should be no more than 110 litres while the utilization rate of recycled sewage must be 50 per cent. Meanwhile, water-saving irrigation facilities should be available in approximately 95 per cent of local farmland, reported the newspaper.
MNA/Xinhua

Tanzanian police seize 1.2m kilos of bhong

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 7 June— Tanzanian police have seized over 1.2 million kilograms of bhong in one of the country's 114 districts in the north during the past four years.
The seizure of 1,211,950 kilograms of bhong in Tarim District, a stimulant in the form of either beverage or cigarette made from the plant of Cannabis sativa, was revealed during a Tanzania Anti-Drugs Control Commission seminar over the weekend. The seizure was made between May 2001 and May this year with 347 people being detained by the police for growing, processing and trafficking the illegal drug.
It was revealed at the seminar that bhong drink-

ing and smoking had become a "very big" problem in Dar-es-Salaam, Arusha, Manyara, Mara, Shinyanga, Iringa, Mbeya, Coast and Tanga regions of the country. Tanzania now has 26 province-like administrative regions.
Quite a few farmers in Tarim have stopped growing cotton and taken to growing Cannabis sativa plants instead in that the latter is more profitable.
Bhong can be processed into either beverages or cigarettes and local youths like the smack of the highness of the plant's narcotic effect. Some medical experts have linked increased usage of bhong to the rise in the incidence of HIV/AIDS in the country.
MNA/Xinhua

Chinese film festival to be held in Manila

MANILA, 7 June — A four-day Chinese film festival will be held on 10 June at the Shang Cineplex in Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, as part of the celebration of 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the Philippines.
Dai Xing Yuan, Chinese Cultural Consul in the Philippines, told Xinhua on Monday that the festival will be jointly held by the Chinese Embassy in Manila, The National Commission for Culture and the Arts of the Philippines, the State Administration of Radio, Film and Television of China and

Shangri-La Plaza in Metro Manila.
Opening the festival on Friday evening will be writer and director Feng Xiaoning's "Gada Meilin", an epic film about Mongolian history.
Another festival entry is "Nuan" by Huo Jianqi, a filmmaker who focuses on sincere relationships between people, establishing a unique unaffected style by minimizing the theatrical elements.
Young director Mu Deyuan weaves the entertaining story of teenager Zhang Shuai who was thrown in prison for robbery in "Judge Mama". Set free after three years, he

Spanish PM vows to tighten screw on ETA

MADRID, 7 June— Spain will tighten the fight against separatist group ETA, said Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero on Monday.
Zapatero made the pledge at a conference of the ruling Socialist Party. He dismissed as groundless the opposition's claim that the government's conditional talks with ETA is surrender.
He said 178 ETA members have been captured in a joint Spain-France operation in the first five months.
Spanish Parliament on 17 May endorsed a government proposal for opening peace talks with ETA if the latter lays down arms, bringing hopes for the end of a 37-year-long turbulence in the Basque region.
The proposal, however, drew fire from the opposition centre-right Popular Party, which called the resolution a premature gesture and a sur-

render to ETA. It organized a huge march against it on Sunday.
ETA, or Basque Homeland and Freedom, was founded in 1959 and listed as a terrorist group by the United States and the European Union. It has been blamed for hundreds of assassinations, kidnappings and bombings in its campaign to establish an independent Basque state in northern Spain and southwestern France.
MNA/Xinhua

Abbas to visit Gulf Arab countries in mid-June

RAMALLAH, 7 June— A senior Palestinian official announced on Monday that Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas is to start a tour in Gulf Arab countries on 12 June.
Palestinian Information Ministry official Ahmed Soboh told a local radio that Abbas' tour is aimed at briefing the Gulf Arab leaders on the results of his recent visit to

the United States.
Abbas will inform the Gulf Arab countries on the efforts the Palestinians have exerted in order to revive the long-stalled peace process with Israel, said Soboh.
Abbas visited the White House late last month in the first trip to Washington by a Palestinian President since peace talks with Israel collapsed in 2000.
On top of a donation

pledge of 50 million US dollars, US President George W Bush sent an unusual harsh message to Israel to stop settlement expansion and any move that might block the peace process.
Soboh said Abbas' Gulf Arab visit would bring him to Kuwait where the Palestinian leader would try to revive the diplomatic ties with the oil-rich kingdom.
MNA/Xinhua

Training course for heads of military academies opens in Beijing

BEIJING, 7 June— A special training course for leaders of Chinese military academies was launched in Beijing on Monday, with the theme of "Implementing a scientific concept of development and improving the capabilities of managing the military academies under the new situation".
Participants of the course come from various academies and training

centres under the Chinese People's Liberation Army and the Chinese People's Armed Police Force.
During the month-long training, the trainees will attend a series of classes, presentations and workshops, as well as listen to lectures by foreign experts. The trainees will also have a chance to travel abroad for academic exchanges and on-site study.
MNA/Xinhua

Saudi King Fahd's health "steadily improving"

RIYADH, 7 June — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd's health is steadily improving, Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz declared on Monday.
"The King's health is steadily improving, thank God," the Crown Prince told the Cabinet's weekly session, quoted by the official Saudi Press Agency.
The report did not give further details.
King Fahd has been hospitalized since 27 May for treatment of pneumonia and respiratory complications.
MNA/Xinhua

မူဘောင်မှ ပြင်ဆင်မှုများကို တက်ရောက်စေရန် နိုင်ငံတော်ကြီး တစ်ချို့အား အကြံပြု

Apple announces plans to adopt Intel chips

LOS ANGELES, 7 June — Apple announced on Monday plans to deliver models of its Macintosh computers using Intel microprocessors in 2006 and to convert all of its Macs to use Intel microprocessors by the end of 2007.

Apple previewed a version of its operating system, Mac OS X Tiger, running on an Intel-based Mac to the over 3,800 developers attending its Worldwide Developer Conference in San Francisco.

Apple's computers are now installed with PowerPC microprocessors from IBM, which are different in design from the popular X-86 chips of

Intel and AMD.

"It's been 10 years since our transition to the PowerPC, and we think Intel's technology will help us create the best personal computers for the next 10 years," said Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO.

Apple announced the availability of a Developer Transition Kit, consisting of an Intel-based Mac development system along with preview versions of

Apple's software, which will allow developers to prepare versions of their applications which will run on both PowerPC and Intel-based Macs.

Paul Otellini, president and CEO of Intel, hailed Apple's decision to adopt Intel chips, saying his company is "thrilled to have the world's most innovative personal computer company as a customer." — MNA/Xinhua

Lavrov lauds meeting with Chinese, Indian FMs

Moscow, 7 June — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov praised on Monday the tripartite meeting with his Chinese and Indian counterparts, and proclaimed a tripartite business forum would be held in India in March, 2006, according to the ITAR-TASS news agency.

The foreign ministers of Russia, China and India held their first separate meeting in Vladivostok, Russia's Far East, on 2 June and adopted joint documents for the first time.

Earlier the ministers of the three countries held tripartite meetings only within the framework of international forums, according to Lavrov.

The documents produced at the meeting declared common principles on the international scene and legalized agreements.

The major principle is "the adher-

ence of Russia, India and China to the multi-polar world with the central role of the United Nations and the collective settlement of regional and global problems," Lavrov stressed.

The ministers reached a consensus on cooperation between police forces, secret services and agencies in fighting against terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking, and the cooperation in energy, transport and high technologies, the Russian minister said.

MNA/Xinhua

Pele's son arrested for drug-trafficking

BRASILIA, 7 June — The son of former soccer star Pele, Edson do Nascimento "Edinho," was arrested on Monday along with 17 other people for their presumed involvement in drug-trafficking and kidnapping in Brazil.

Anti-narcotics officials said Edinho, the former goalkeeper of traditional soccer team Santos, was captured in Santos harbour, as he is supposedly involved in a criminal ring.

With respect to this arrest, Pele's reaction is not known. He is considered as the best player ever.

The Department of Anti-Narcotics Investigation said that 11 automobiles and a number of arms were seized from the ring.

According to the local Press, it is suspected this ring could be involved in the kidnapping of the mother of international Robinho, Marina Souza, who was kept as a hostage for 41 days before being released by her captors, who remain unknown until now.

MNA/Xinhua

IBM, EPFL join forces to study cognitive intelligence

LOS ANGELES, 7 June — IBM said on Monday that it is teaming with a European institute in a research initiative to uncover the secrets of human cognitive intelligence.

Scientists from IBM and the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL) of Switzerland will work together over the next two years to create a detailed model of the circuitry in the neocortex — the largest and most complex part of the human brain, IBM said.

The scientists hope that by expanding the project, nicknamed the Blue Brain Project, to model other areas of the brain, they will even-

tually build an accurate, computer-based model of the entire brain.

Using the digital model created with IBM's Blue Gene super-computer, scientists will run computer-based simulations of the brain at the molecular level, shedding light on internal processes such as thought, perception and memory, IBM said.

The scientists also hope to understand more about how and why certain microcircuits in the

brain malfunction — thought to be the cause of psychiatric disorders such as autism, schizophrenia and depression.

"Modelling the brain at the cellular level is a massive undertaking because of the hundreds of thousands of parameters that need to be taken into account," said Henry Markram, the EPFL professor heading up the project.

Under the initiative, IBM will install a Blue Gene supercomputer at

EPFL, with a peak processing speed of at least 22.8 trillion floating-point operations per second (22.8 teraflops), making it one of the most powerful supercomputers in the world. Markram is the founder of EPFL's Brain and Mind Institute, where more than 10 years of research and wet-lab experiments have produced the world's most comprehensive set of empirical data on the micro-architecture of the neocortex.

MNA/Xinhua

Monthly air ticket sold between Beijing, Shanghai

BEIJING, 7 June — Monthly air ticket began to be sold in June in the business route between Beijing and Shanghai, the first monthly ticket by airline company.

Hainan Airlines and Yoeo travel net promoted the monthly ticket. For one person on board three times per month, it cost 1,500 yuan (175 US dollars) for monthly economic class tickets and 3,540 yuan (410 US dollars) for monthly business class tickets. For frequent air passengers, the monthly ticket can save money as well as time, said Xu Fei, general manager of Hainan Airlines Beijing office.

MNA/Xinhua

Euro-zone finance ministers to boost support for euro

LUXEMBOURG, 7 June — Euro-zone finance ministers tried on Monday to boost support for the single currency at their first meeting after both France and the Netherlands rejected the European Union (EU) Constitution.

Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency, brushed off a call by a junior partner in Italy's government for Rome to pull out of the euro, saying the call "stupid".

"We don't have time to waste. If we were to discuss all kinds of stupid things that are being discussed sometimes in

some countries, we would have to add meetings to our meetings," he said.

The euro, the common currency used by 12 EU countries, dropped to an eight-month low against the US dollar last weekend. But it is still well above its launch value against the dollar, and its recent decline is expected to boost exports in the euro-zone. —MNA/Xinhua

Russia may sign energy cooperation accords with Japan

Moscow, 7 June — Russia may sign accords on energy cooperation with Japan during President Vladimir Putin's visit to Tokyo, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Monday.

The Japanese are interested in the cooperation and "we are prepared to cooperate with them in the field of energy on terms suiting us," Lavrov told a Cabinet session chaired by Putin.

"This line, stretching out to the eastern coast, will substantially broaden our cooperation in this domain, and they are evincing interest in it," Lavrov said of the

planned eastern oil pipeline which the Cabinet approved on 31 December, 2004.

President Putin told the Cabinet that he will meet former Japanese prime minister Yoshiro Mori in the near future and discuss with him cooperation in the energy sector, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported. However, Putin insisted that

it is necessary for the Japanese side to clarify its interest in the pipeline, saying: "This interest should be more concrete".

"The problem is more or less clear with our Chinese partners, but not everything has been settled yet, and if Japan is really evincing interest, it should be made more concrete," Putin said. —MNA/Xinhua

NASA rover out Martian dune

LOS ANGELES, 7 June — After being stuck for over a month in a sand dune, Mars rover Opportunity finally managed to get out, US space engineers said recently.

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) of US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), operator of the Mars explore project, posted a picture titled "Opportunity on the Move Again" this weekend, which shows the rover's wheels freed.

JPL engineers had worked for nearly five weeks to carefully manoeuvre the rover out of the sand dune. Steve Squyres, chief investigator for the Mars Exploration Rovers, reported in a mission update that data from the previous day's activities at the Meridiani Planum on Mars showed all six of the rover's wheels on top of the soil.

In late April, during a southward trek toward a crater, Opportunity's wheels became trapped in

the crest of a 30-centimetre-high sand dune.

Mission managers then took weeks to plot out a strategy for getting the rover out of the dune, going so far as to try out scenarios with a test model of the rover in a simulated Martian sandbox at JPL in Pasadena, California.

The rover team commanded the machine to reposition its wheels, then to go through a series of spins which helped to push it forward an inch at a time.

In the end, Opportunity broke free after making little-by-little progress of some 93 centimetres, a sudden breakthrough similar to what happened in the Pasadena sandbox.

The rover's next task is to survey the surrounding terrain, particularly the dune crest where it got hung up. —MNA/Xinhua

S P O R T S

Bianchi takes over at Atletico Madrid

BUENOS AIRES, 8 June— Former Boca Juniors coach Carlos Bianchi started to be the new coach of Atletico Madrid on Tuesday, said a source close to him.

Following a year of rest and after leaving Boca full of titles and international recognition, the Argentine resumes his work, which will be his second European experience as coach.

As player, Bianchi played for Velez Sarsfield and in the French League. Years later he coached Italy's Rome.

The fruitful negotia-

tions with the Spanish club completely took place at Paris, France, where Bianchi was accompanied by his wife Margarita Pilla, although the conclusion of the operation was celebrated at Madrid.

In the coming hours Bianchi is to go to Germany where he will be an commentator in Confederations Cup for the Mexi-

can television.

Although for the moment the details about the contract signed by Bianchi, he accorded with Atletico to receive 2.0 million euros (2.4 million US dollars) a year, as a base wage, with income taxes being paid by the club.—MNA/Xinhua

“The Year of the Yao” to premiere at Beijing Olympic culture festival

BEIJING, 8 June— NBA center Yao Ming will play a central role in this month's Olympic culture festival in Beijing, not appearing in person but on the screen.

The Chinese version of the movie "The Year of the Yao" will premiere during the cultural festival, according to Tuesday's Chinese Sports Daily.

The documentary movie which chronicles Yao's first year in NBA is one of the 20 sports-themed films to be screened during the cultural festival, which is held annually to promote Olympics in the host city of the 2008 Olympic Games.

Yao has become one of China's biggest sports stars since joining the NBA Houston Rockets in 2002 as the

No 1 draft pick. His performance on the court as well as his grace and wit off it has captured the imagination of the fans in both China and the United States.

"The Year of the Yao" provides many behind-the-screen details and capture a well-rounded view of Yao's personality, his thoughtful nature and his sense of humor.

The Olympic festival culture will open on June 23 and conclude on July 16 in Beijing and Qingdao, the sailing venue for the 2008 Olympics.

MNA/Xinhua

Israel's first Olympic gold medal stolen

JERUSALEM, 8 June— Israel's first Olympic gold medal, won by windsurfer Gal Friedman in the 2004 Summer Olympics, was stolen by thieves during a break-in at his home on Tuesday, local newspaper *Jerusalem Post* reported.

The medal was among the contents of a wall safe stolen during the burglary.

Also taken were the bronze medal Friedman won at the 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games as well as other family valuables.

Police are set to investigate the incident.

Speaking after the break-in, Friedman called on the thieves to return the medals.

"As far as I'm concerned, the medals were the most precious thing in the vault. I hope that they (the burglars) will find a way to return the med-

als," he said.

The chairman of the Olympic committee in Israel, Efraim Zinger, also called upon the robbers to return the medals to their rightful owner, saying the medals "have national value for the people of Israel."

Friedman, 30, made Olympic history for Israel when he earned the country's first-ever gold medal in 2004 after 52 years and 12 Olympics.

MNA/Xinhua

Greece approves bill for using Olympic security expertise

ATHENS, 8 June— The Greek Government on Tuesday approved a draft bill prepared by the Public Order Ministry on the post-Olympic use of security expertise gained during the Athens Olympic Games.

Public Order Minister George Voulgarakis said the bill established a Coordinating Centre for Security Studies that will cooperate with foreign governments and provide advice and know-how obtained during the Olympics to organize security for similar organizations and events.

He said Greece would use the material it had acquired and the studies carried out on a global level, while noting that Greece was already in cooperation with certain countries in this way.

The bill will also reactivate the traffic control centre in order to deal with traffic congestion and emergencies.

On the security cameras installed during the Olympic Games, Voulgarakis said that applications for permission to operate have been submitted to the Authority for the Protection of Personal Data and that, where this permission was given, they will be put into operation.

The minister said

that cameras monitoring vehicle traffic and others involved in the smooth running of the city were currently operating.

MNA/Xinhua

Madrid rates their bid as best after IOC report

MADRID, 7 June— Madrid's bid committee for the 2012 Olympics said that the evaluation report released on Monday showed Madrid has the best bid among all the five candidates.

"We are totally convinced that today we are top-ranked of all the cities bidding for the Games," Madrid mayor and bid leader Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon told reporters.

"The report reflects the reality that with all due respect to the other competing cities the Madrid project is the best and has the highest levels of popular and institutional support of any of the cities."

The report, produced by the evaluation committee of the International Olympic Committee, hailed Madrid's bid as "humanist, sustainable and environmentally friendly Games" while singling out its high-quality transport network and infrastructure for praise. But the report also cited the lack of hotel rooms close to the Games venues.

MNA/Xinhua

Davenport remains WTA rankings leader

WASHINGTON, 7 June— American Lindsay Davenport continued to lead the WTA rankings released on Monday, stretching her margin over second-place Maria Sharapova of Russia from 91 to 261 points.

Belgium's former world number one Justine Henin-Hardenne leapt five places to seventh after beating France's Mary Pierce in the French Open finals.

But Pierce was still the player in the top 20 who made the biggest improvement leaping to 13th from 23rd.

WTA Rankings

1. Lindsay Davenport, United States, 5247 points
2. Maria Sharapova, Russia, 4986
3. Amelie Mauresmo, France, 4285
4. Serena Williams, United States, 3781
5. Svetlana Kuznetsova, Russia, 3212
6. Elena Dementieva, Russia, 3087
7. Justine Henin-Hardenne, Belgium, 3067
8. Nadia Petrova, Russia, 2610
9. Alicia Molik, Australia, 2469
10. Anastasia Myskina, Russia, 2287

MNA/Xinhua

London delighted by IOC evaluation report

LONDON, 7 June— Former gold medalist Sebastian Coe acclaimed a report from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Monday as "springboard" for London to win its bid to host the 2012 Games.

Coe, double Olympic champion and chairman of London's bidding committee, said that while the IOC's glowing write-up of London's candidacy was not in itself enough to bring the Games to the city, it would be a big help.

"It will act as a springboard for the next 30 days," he told a news conference. "A good evaluation on its own is not enough to get you over the line. But we have the confidence to build the momentum this bid has enjoyed over the last year."

"We are in good shape to take the battle even harder and further towards our goal."

London is one of five cities bidding for the Games along with favourites Paris, Madrid, New York and Moscow.

The IOC's Evaluation Commission report, released in Lausanne earlier, described the bids from London and Paris as of "very high quality". It was less complimentary about the bids from the other three cities.

MNA/Xinhua

Golf World leading rankings

LONDON, 7 June— Following are the leading standings from the World Golf Ranking on Sunday (previous rankings in bracket):

1. (1) Vijay Singh (Fiji) 12.59
2. (2) Tiger Woods (United States) 12.47
3. (3) Ernie Els (South Africa) 10.21
4. (4) Phil Mickelson (United States) 9.20
5. (5) Retief Goosen (South Africa) 7.80
6. (7) Sergio Garcia (Spain) 5.46
7. (8) Chris DiMarco (United States) 5.42
8. (6) Adam Scott (Australia) 5.41
9. (9) Padraig Harrington (Ireland) 5.29
10. (10) David Toms (United States) 5.22
11. (11) Kenny Perry (United States) 5.11
12. (12) Luke Donald (Britain) 4.65
13. (14) Angel Cabrera (Argentina) 4.33

MNA/Xinhua

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



Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win meeting with industrialists and members of supervisory committee of Monywa Industrial Zone. — MNA

Work to be done efficiently,...

(from page 1)

proceeded to Mandalay Power-tiller Factory in the industrial zone-1. They inspected manufacturing of parts of power-tillers, cycle-trucks and vehicles.

They oversaw gas cylinder, engine, gear box and join box imported for the CNG-run cycle-truck and parts manufactured at the fac-

toried for implementation of the foundry plant projects. The Prime Minister spoke on stockpiling of necessary raw materials, inviting investment and seeking markets for products for success of modern foundry plants. It is necessary to carry out the tasks with own ideas freely without relying on assistance of the government, he said. Success of

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(See page 8)

Out of the hydel projects being implemented in the State, Htamanthi project has the largest power generation capacity. It will produce 1,200 Megawatt. The project will use Chindwin river water.

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Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded	
(8-6-2005)	
Ye	3.31 inches
Coco Island	2.68 inches
Kawthoung	2.56 inches
Dawei	2.52 inches
Minbu and Myeik	2.20 inches

INSIDE

Myanmar's national task to root out poppy cultivation and opium production is helping realise the aims approved by the United Nations. Myanmar is launching her anti-narcotic drugs drive within the framework of the UN resolutions.

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MAUNG MAUNG SWE



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein shakes hands with Mr Li Jinjun, Chinese Ambassador, at the reception to mark 55th Anniversary of Establishment of Sino-Myanmar Diplomatic Relations at Sedona Hotel on Wednesday. — MNA