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Sunday, 26 June, 2005

Four political objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attends fourth convocation of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University

YANGON, 25 June — The fourth convocation of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University under the Ministry of Religious Affairs was held at the Convocation Dhammay Sasana University (Yangon) on Kaba Aye Hill, here, this morning, attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

MA (Buddha Dhamma) and BA (Buddha Dhamma) graduate trainees recited oaths at Pro-Rector Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Dr Kumarabhivamsa.

Next, the Pro-rector Sayadaw presented certificates of degree and fans to graduate monks and certificates of degree and sashes to graduate lay persons.

Daw Aye Mya offered the gold medal for

the first prize winner in BA (Buddha Dhamma) donated by Bhaddanta

Dr Ardicçavamsa and mother Daw Aye Mya to the Pro-Rector.

The Pro-Rector Sayadaw awarded the gold medal to the first

sons from abroad. After the convocation, the Secretary-1 paid

the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein visits newly-graduated foreign and local monks at the fourth convocation ceremony. — MNA



prize winner.

Later, the Pro-Rector put his signature in the record book of convocation and gave Ovadakatha.

At today's convocation, MA (Buddha Dhamma) degrees were conferred on two monks and one layperson, BA (Buddha Dhamma) degrees on 12 monks, three nuns and 10 lay persons of Myanmar and BA (Buddha Dhamma) degrees on 18 monks, one nun and three lay per-

son from abroad. After the convocation, the Secretary-1 paid

homage to the graduate trainee monks and the fresher trainee monks. Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of

Guru Dawei Sayadaw Bhaddanta Arçinnabhivamsa and member Sayadaws, Ovadaçariya Sayadaws (See page 8)

INSIDE

Myanmar women are very fortunate to be citizens of the nation due to the fact that the Myanmar society has been already facilitated with good foundations needed for all-round development of Myanmar women who love the nation and the people and preserve national prestige and integrity, and the State has been strengthening the foundations.

(Page 11) MOE HTIET MYINT (DELTA REGION)

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 26 June, 2005

Strive in harmony for total eradication of narcotic drugs

Drug abuse, trafficking and storage of drugs and related drug menace have been posing danger to the entire global people. Therefore, every nation and region is launching preventive measures against the dangers of drugs.

In Myanmar, the project for prevention and eradication of narcotic drugs has been laid down as a national task and work is well under way for successful realization of the project.

Narcotic drug did not originate in Myanmar but it was imported from other countries by colonialists. This being so, the habit of poppy growing was rooted in Myanmar. It is a difficult task for eradicating the narcotic drugs that have been deeply rooted in Myanmar as an evil legacy of colonialists.

However, the government, enlisting the strength of the entire national people, is making constant efforts so as to totally wipe out the menace of narcotic drugs from Myanmar soil, regarding it as a national concern.

In accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, the government has been implementing the 15-year drug elimination project since 1999. The project is being implemented phase by phase according to its programme and remarkable progress has been made in this regard.

In an effort to totally eliminate the drug menace in the nation, the government is applying tactics of arresting those involved in drug abuse and trafficking, and taking action against them. In addition, it has laid down and is implementing tasks to put an end to poppy growing.

Meanwhile, the project for development of border areas and national races is being put into practice along with the 15-year drug elimination project and the New Destiny Project.

Cultivation of poppy-substitute crops and establishment of livestock breeding and business are being introduced in regions of border areas, where poppy was grown in the past, for enhancing the socio-economic life of local people.

At the same time, Myanmar entered into an agreement with its neighbours, nations in the region and sub-region and international community, and is cooperating with them in the fight against drugs.

Therefore, Myanmar, with or without aid and cooperation from other nations, is committed to striving along with the entire national people in totally wiping out the menace of drugs, which are threatening the entire mankind, from Myanmar soil.

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

Gyobyu pipeline put into service in Thuwunna

YANGON, 25 June — Hailing the Myanmar Women's Day which falls on 3 July 2005, the ceremony to put new Gyobyu water pipeline into service under the leadership of Thingangyun Township USDA was held at Ward 29 of Thuwunna in Thingangyun Township this morning.



USDA CEC member Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin opens Gyobyu water pipeline.—YCDC

It was attended by USDA CEC members those in-charge of Yangon Division Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Head of Administrative Division of MWAFF Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe and member Daw Khin Nyunt Myaing.

At the junction of Thanthuma and Kauklyin

Roads in Ward 29, the mayor, the vice-mayor, Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe and Daw Khin Nyunt Myaing cut the ribbon to open the new pipeline.

The mayor and the vice-mayor inspected sup-

ply of water at the users' houses. At BEPS No 16, CEC member Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin accepted 1,143 membership applications. Afterwards, they oversaw sanitation tasks to mark the Myanmar Wom-

en's Day, at Khaymathi and Thukhamein Roads and proper flow of water at Thunanda Creek in North Okkalapa Township. Over 500 USDA members participated in the sanitation tasks. —MNA

Boxing tournament in commemoration of IOD held

YANGON, 25 June — Organized by Myanmar Boxing Federation, the boxing tournament in commemoration of the International Olympic Day, was held at the Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna) this afternoon. After the boxing tournament, the prizes were awarded to the winners by officials of MBF and Myanmar Women's Sports Federation.

Altogether 18 athletes took part in the boxing tournament and patrons of MWSF presented K 90,000 to the athletes. —MNA



MBF Executive Col Win Naung presents prize to a winner in Boxing Tournament to mark International Olympic Day.—MBF

Certified Public Accounting Course No 27 (Part I) concludes

YANGON, 25 June—The concluding of the Certified Public Accounting Course No 27 (Part I) of the Myanmar Accountancy Council took place at the training centre of the Auditor-General's Office in Ahlon Township here yesterday afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of MAC Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Vice-Chairman of the Council Chairman of the supervisory committee for training Deputy Auditor-General Daw Thin Thin, officials, teachers and trainees. The MAC chairman delivered a speech. Next, the trainees paid respects to the course instructors.—MNA

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking commemorative talks given

YANGON, 25 June — In commemoration of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, talks were given at No 2 BEHS in Latha Township yesterday morning. Officials gave talks on drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

The officials presented prizes to the school girls and the teachers, winners of the essay, wall magazine, paintings, cartoon and poster competitions to mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.—MNA

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဌာနပိုင် မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရနေ

လစဉ် လ၏ ဒုတိယပတ်(တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)နှင့် နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့)တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေ သွားလာရန်လိုအပ်သည့် ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရနေဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၅-ခုနှစ်၊ ဇွန်လအတွက်

နောက်ဆုံးပတ် (တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့) ၂၆-၆-၂၀၀၅ ရက်နေ့

၂၀၀၅-ခုနှစ်၊ ဇူလိုင်လအတွက်

(၁၀-၇-၂၀၀၅)ရက်နေ့

နှင့်

(၃၁-၇-၂၀၀၅) ရက်နေ့

အချို့မုန့် Monosodium Glutamate (MSG) စားသုံးခြင်း အန္တရာယ်သတိပေးနှိုးဆော်ချက်

- ၁။ ယခင်က သန့်ရှင်းလတ်ဆတ်သော ဟင်းသီးဟင်းရွက်၊ အသား၊ ငါးတို့ကို သဘာဝအတိုင်း ချက်ပြုတ်စားသောက်ကြပါသည်။ ယခုအခါ တွင် သဘာဝမဟုတ်သည့် အချို့မုန့်ကို အစားအသောက်များ ပြင်ဆင်ချက်ပြုတ်ရာတွင် သုံးစွဲလာကြပါသည်။
- ၂။ အချို့မုန့်တွင် လူတို့၏ ကျန်းမာရေးကို ထိခိုက်စေသောဓာတ်များ ပါရှိသည်ကို စစ်ဆေးတွေ့ရှိရပါသည်။ အချို့မုန့်ကို စားသုံးခြင်းကြောင့် အောက်ပါရောဂါများ ဖြစ်ပွားစေပါသည်။
 - ပန်းနာရင်ကြပ်ရောဂါ
 - အရေပြားယားယံခြင်း၊ အမိန့်ထွက်ခြင်း
 - နှလုံးရောဂါနှင့်တူသော ရင်ဘတ်အောင့်ရောဂါ
 - သွေးတိုးရောဂါ
 - နှလုံးရောဂါ
 - နှလုံးခုန်စေခြင်း
 - စိတ်ကယောင်ချောက်ခြားဖြစ်ခြင်း
 - ကျောက်ကပ်အားနည်းသူ၊ ကျောက်ကပ်ရောဂါရှိသူများတွင် ကိုယ်ဖောယောင်ခြင်း
- ၃။ သို့ပါ၍ ဟင်းသီးဟင်းရွက်၊ အသား၊ ငါးစသည်တို့ကို သဘာဝအတိုင်း ချက်ပြုတ်ပြင်ဆင်စားသောက်ကြပါရန်နှင့် အချို့မုန့်ကို ထည့်သွင်းစားသောက်ခြင်း မပြုကြပါရန် နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

Underground casino smashed in Thailand

BANGKOK, 24 June — Thai police have smashed a notorious underground casino in Bangkok in an air-ground combined operation, which netted 353 gamblers and 56 million baht (1.3 million US dollars) in betting money, local Press reported on Thursday.

After two months of planning, some 100 policemen and 10 fully-armed commandos launched a pre-dawn raid on the heavily fortified casino at Bang Sue District of the capital on Wednesday, *Bangkok Post* reported.

Gamblers scurried frantically for escape but only run into policemen who had locked the doors and stood guard. Police arrested all 353 gamblers and impounded 1,115,398 baht (26,500 US dollars) on the gambling tables.

The plan to storm the casino has been kept as a top secret, and a group of policemen gained insight into the casino posing as regular customers before the operation began, said the police.

Police Major-General Vinai hailed the operation as an unprecedented success since the casino has been running for 20 years receiving some 600 customers a day.

The suspects, who were detained at the Crime Suppression Division (CSD) auditorium in the capital, would be charged with illegal gambling. They will face a three-year jail term and be fined a maximum of 4,000 baht (95.2 US dollars) if convicted. Vinai said he was seeking a court order to demolish the casino building.

MNA/Xinhua

India allows free ginger export from Nepal

KATHMANDU, 24 June — Export of Nepali ginger to India has been allowed freely without any import permit, Indian Embassy to Nepal said here on Thursday.

“Although import of fresh ginger into India was restricted and required import permits, the government of India has decided that new fresh ginger can be imported from Nepal freely,” said a Press statement issued by the embassy.

The Indian Government also agreed to give 50 per cent concession on fees charged for quarantine checks in India.

The concession is given as part of continuous efforts to facilitate Nepal’s export to India, the statement noted. “The Indian Government hopes that this special dispensation for Nepal should remove the difficulties being faced by Nepali farmers and exporters of ginger,” the statement added.

MNA/Xinhua



Czech Prime Minister Jiri Paroubek, right, tries out an i-unit, a futuristic environment-friendly vehicle developed by Toyota within the 'Mobility Extending Human Ability' concept, which is put on show at Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan, on 24 June, 2005.— INTERNET

Premier Wen Jiabao meets new 'HK' Chief Executive

BEIJING, 24 June — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao met here on Friday morning with Donald Tsang who had just taken oath of office as the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administration Region (SAR).

Premier Wen sent his congratulations to Tsang, and cited an old Chinese saying: “The task is arduous and the road ahead is long” as an encouragement to Tsang. He expressed the hope that Tsang will live up to the great expectations and high hopes of the Mainland and the Hong Kong people.

Premier Wen said he deeply believed that Donald Tsang will earnestly implement the Basic Law of Hong Kong SAR and lead the HKSAR Government and the Hong Kong people to make fresh contributions to Hong Kong’s prosperity and stability.

Tsang showed his great thanks to the Central People’s Government’s trust in him. He said it is his whole life’s glory to take the post as the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR, which gives him an opportunity to better serve the Hong Kong people and the homeland.

He said he will spare no efforts for Hong Kong’s bright future and the happiness of the Hong Kong people.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia to set up agency on border development

JAKARTA, 24 June — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said on Thursday the government would establish a new institution in charge of coordinating and implementing development programmes in areas that border Malaysia in West and East Kalimantan.

“We’ve discussed the plan and pondered the importance of a political instrument with a legal mechanism to promote development programmes that are accountable,” Susilo was quoted by the *Antara* news agency as saying.

The President made the remarks at the Supadio Airport in West Kalimantan Province, where he made a brief stopover after visiting the Philippines.

Susilo said that the news agency, which would be in the form of a body or an institution, would involve both central and regional governments to help facilitate coordination.

“We are also thinking of how to make use of the border areas, which cover a length of about 2,000 kilometres, for plantation purposes, such as for oil palm,” he said.

The programme is expected to create job opportunities, thereby facilitating economic mobility there, he said.

MNA/Xinhua

1,731 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 24 June—As of Friday, 24 June, 2005, at least 1,731 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an *Associated Press* count. At least 1,333 died as a result of hostile action. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is two higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EDT on Friday.

The British military has reported 89 deaths; Italy, 25; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, 13; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,592 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,224 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.—*Internet*



A US soldier of Delta 464 Company walks between cars during patrol in central Baghdad on 24 June 2005.—INTERNET

Rushing to enlarge Security Council will cause damage to UN

SINGAPORE, 25 June — Rushing to enlarge the Security Council of the United Nations will polarize the global community of nations and cause serious damage to this international organization, Singapore’s Foreign Minister George Yeo said here on Friday.

Speaking at the Foreign Correspondents Association’s luncheon, Yeo reiterated Singapore’s position on the enlargement of the UN Security Council, the issue that has aroused heated international debate recently.

“Singapore has long supported the enlargement of the UN Security Council to broaden its representation,” Yeo

said. “However, Singapore opposes giving the veto to the new permanent members because having 11 vetoes in the Security Council will effectively paralyze its ability to make decisions on any issue of importance,” he stressed.

As a small nation heavily dependent on international trade and investment, Singapore has a strong interest in the proper functioning of a multilateral system and cannot stand any reform that makes the UN less effective, according to Yeo.

MNA/Xinhua



Emmanuel Coindre of France leaves on his rowboat from a marina in Choshi, Japan recently, as he begins his attempt to row non-stop across the north Pacific all the way to San Francisco.—INTERNET

ဝက်ပုဂ္ဂိုလ်အား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

Jamaican PM calls on further south-south cooperation

SHANGHAI, 24 June — Visiting Jamaican Prime Minister Percival Patterson called on developing countries to work together to achieve prosperity and to eradicate poverty here on Thursday.

He made the remark in a keynote speech at China-Jamaica Business Forum opened in Shanghai. Patterson began his formal visit to China right after concluding the G-77 and China meeting in Doha for which Jamaica is chair. He said the major topics

during Doha meeting is about south-south cooperation. He said both Chinese and Jamaican leaders expressed strong willingness to enhance south-south relations.

Patterson said he has signed agreements with China concerning trade,

education, communication and other fields upon his visit, and these documents will further promote the relations between the two countries, and will also become the gateway for China to enter the Caribbean area.

MNA/Xinhua

Singapore, Kuwait finish third round of FTA talks

SINGAPORE, 24 June — The third round of talks on the Singapore-Kuwait Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two governments completed here on Thursday.

Fruitful discussions and substantial progress on key issues concerning the FTA were made during the four-day talks, according to a statement by the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

The two sides discussed trade in goods, rules of origin, trade in services, financial services, investment and government procurement chapters as well as the legal aspects of the FTA.

The next round of negotiations is scheduled to be held in Kuwait in September this year.

MNA/Xinhua

RMB exchange rate likely to be discussed at G-8 plus five summit

BEIJING, 24 June — A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said here on Thursday that the issue of the RMB exchange rate is likely to be discussed at the upcoming G-8 plus five summit.

"If relevant countries are interested in it, I think the issue will be discussed," spokesman Liu Jianchao said in response to questions concerning Hu's topic at the summit.

The G-8 Summit Outreach Session will be held in Britain between the G-8 and leaders of China, India, Brazil, South Africa and Mexico. China's Foreign Ministry has announced that Hu will attend the summit at the invitation of British Prime Minister Tony Blair. Liu said the summit will mainly focus on the global economy and climate change.

He said Hu will elaborate on China's opinions on the two topics. Meanwhile, Hu will also introduce China's policy and relevant measures on its energy demands and the harmoni-

ous development of society and economy, and put forward certain cooperative proposals on that.

The spokesman said Hu's participation into the G-8 plus five summit is aimed at enhancing communication between the developed and developing countries and improving understanding between the two sides on key international issues and common challenges.

When asked whether China's is willing to join the G-8, Liu said "China attaches great importance to the influence and role of G-8 in international affairs. We are willing to improve communication and cooperation with the G-8."

The G-8, evolved from the G-7, comprise the world's seven leading industrial powers — Britain, Canada, France,

Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — plus Russia.

In June 2003, French President Jacques Chirac invited leaders of several developing countries including China, India and Brazil to have informal dialogues with G-8 leaders at the 29th G-8 summit meeting in France. Hu accepted the invitation and joined the dialogue.

On Hu's attendance at the summit meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in the Kazak capital of Astana, Liu said the member states will exchange views on improving cooperation on fighting against the "three evil forces" of terrorism, extremism and separatism, safeguarding regional security and improving economic and trade cooperation among SCO member states.

MNA/Xinhua

HK Science Museum to showcase eight giant robot animals

HONG KONG, 24 June — Hong Kong Science Museum announced on Thursday that eight giant and colourful robot animals will go on display at the museum from 24 June.

A Robot Zoo Exhibition is organized by the museum with the aim to reveal the survival secrets of animals. It will showcase eight giant robot animals including a giraffe, bat, chameleon, housefly, grasshopper, rhinoceros, platypus and squid plus 13 interactive exhibits.

In the Robot Zoo, the

giant robots vividly illustrate the biomechanics of how real animals work in the perspective of nature's engineering and human technology. Apart from the robots, exciting interactive games are set up for visitors to discover more about the tools for survival of animals.

MNA/Xinhua

HK Chief Executive takes oath of office

BEIJING, 25 June — Donald Tsang, took an oath of office as the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) to Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao here at 9:00 am on Friday.

The oath-taking ceremony was presided over by Hua Jianmin, state councillor and secretary-general of the State Council, at the Hong Kong hall of the Great Hall of the People amid the Chinese national anthem. Hua read out State Council's No 437 Decree, which appointed Donald Tsang as the Chief Executive of HKSAR.

After that, Donald Tsang took oath of office to Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. And Premier Wen issued the letter of appointment made by the Central Government to Donald Tsang. — MNA/Xinhua

Suicide bomb attack kills six US troops in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 June — A suicide car bomb attack on a US Marine vehicle in the city of Falluja killed six American troops in one of the deadliest single guerillas on US ground forces in Iraq, the US military said on Friday.

In Washington, President Bush vowed guerillas in Iraq would be defeated.

"The way ahead is not going to be easy," Bush told a White House news conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari.

"The enemy's goal is to drive us out of Iraq before the Iraqis have established a secure, democratic government. They will not succeed," said Bush.

A US official said two Marines were killed and

13 wounded in the bomb attack late on Thursday in Falluja, west of Baghdad.

Another four US troops, thought to be three Marines and a sailor, were presumed dead, suggesting their remains had so far not been identified.

One of those confirmed dead and 11 of the wounded were women, a US military statement said. Female Marines are used to search Iraqi women at checkpoints.

The other Marine confirmed dead was killed

by small arms fire immediately after the bomb attack.

The deaths brought to at least 1,731 the number of US troops killed since the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003 to topple Saddam Hussein.

US officers say insurgents are developing more powerful "shaped" bombs that are capable of piercing if not destroying US armoured vehicles, greatly increasing the deadliness of their attacks.

INTERNET



Iraq policemen inspect the wreckage of a car that was destroyed in a car bomb attack in the Iraq northern city of Kirkuk on 22 June 2005.—INTERNET

China to boost cooperation with SOS on children's welfare

BELING, 24 June — China supports its relevant departments to beef up cooperation with SOS Kinderdorf International (SOS KDI) on children's welfare, said Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu here on Friday.

Hui made the remarks when meeting with SOS KDI President Helmut Kutin, who is here to attend the 20th anniversary celebration for cooperation between China's Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) and SOS KDI.

Hui expressed appreciation for SOS KDI's contribution to China's children's

welfare, and congratulated Helmut Kutin on his being granted the highest award for China's children's welfare by MCA. He also briefed the guest on China's reform and opening-up policy as well as its economic and social development.

Over the past 20 years, SOS KDI has

provided a total of 355 million yuan (42.9 million US dollars) of fund and cooperated with MCA in establishing SOS children's villages in China. So far, China has set up nine SOS children's villages in such cities as Tianjin, Yantai, Qiqihar, Nanchang, Kaifeng, Chengdu, Putian, Urumqi and Lhasa. At present, more than 1,300 Chinese

orphans are receiving family care in the children's villages.

The SOS Children's Village was originated in Austria during World War II, aimed to provide orphans with family care. More than 400 such villages have been established in more than 130 countries, according to the SOS KDI.

MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian Air Force plans to buy 12 Russian jet fighters

JAKARTA, 24 June — The Indonesian Air Force plans to buy 12 Russia-made *Sukhoi* jet fighters in the next two years as an addition to the four *Sukhois* already in service, Air Force Chief of Staff Air Marshall Djoko Suyanto said here on Thursday.

The purchase deal for six *Sukhois* is expected to take place this year and the deal for another six will be signed in 2006, Djoko said in a hearing with the House of Representatives' commission one overseeing defence and foreign affairs.

He said the purchase will cost 666.73 million US dollars. "We hope the commission one can convince the government to materialize our plan," he told the legislators.

He did not elaborate which type of *Sukhoi* would be selected. Indonesia already bought two *Sukhoi 27s* and two *Sukhoi 30s*, all are unarmed, during the Megawati Soekarnoputri administration.

On the occasion, Djoko said the Air Force would need a budget of around 2.3 billion US dollars for fiscal year 2006, but the government has agreed only some 11 per cent of the proposed budget. — MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely



East Japan Railway Company's next-generation bullet train, which is hoped to achieve the world's fastest speed of 360km per hour (224 mph) in commercial service on wheels, is unveiled in Rifu town, northern Japan, on 24 June, 2005.

INTERNET

Thailand's third largest bank to expand branches in China

BANGKOK, 24 June — Kasikornbank, Thailand's third largest commercial bank, will expand and upgrade its branches in China so as to learn more about the Chinese market and make further investment, the bank's CEO said here on Thursday.

During an interview with *Xinhua*, Banthoon Lamsam said Kasikornbank is keeping close contact with Chinese market so that they can know more about the market.

Over the next three years, Kasikornbank plans to lend to small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in China, focusing on medicines, liquor and electronic industries. It is also applying for RMB transaction business in its Shenzhen branch.

Kasikornbank has studied Chinese market for the past several years and is seeking a suitable platform from which to extend loans.

"It is a slow process, and we want it to be a solid one that will generate future progress, future development

meaningful to both parties," he said.

At present, Kasikornbank has two branches in Shenzhen and Hong Kong as well as three representative offices in Beijing, Shanghai and Kunming.

To attract Chinese customers in Thailand, Banthoon said the bank is preparing itself to accept Chinese tourists, businessmen and other people.

"We will continue to make ourselves known to potential Chinese customers so that when they come to Thailand, they come to Kasikornbank for financial services."

Established in 1945, Kasikornbank ranks the third largest commercial bank in Thailand as measured by total assets, loans, and deposits. With

a highly innovative background, the bank is credited with the introduction of a long line of new banking services in the kingdom.

In April, Kasikornbank started to provide network access to China UnionPay (CUP), the largest credit and debit card accepting network in China, using its Electronic Data Capture (EDC) machines at participating shops currently processing Visa and MasterCard transactions.

It is the first Thai commercial bank that provides payment services for CUP cards.

By the end of this year, Kasikornbank plans to expand the number of CUP card accepting shops in Thailand to 2,000 from the current 500.

MNA/Xinhua

Mahathir appointed chairman of IDB vision 2020 commission

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 June — Malaysian former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad has been appointed chairman of Islamic Development Bank's (IDB) 1440H Vision Commission to formulate the Muslim World's Vision 2020, the *Bernama* news agency reported Thursday.

Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi made the announcement at the opening ceremony of the 30th meeting of the IDB Board of Governors in Putrajaya.

The 1440H Vision Commission was established by IDB to formulate the vision that would guide the group to embark upon strategic initiatives and to bring prosperity and development to the Muslim World, Badawi, who was also Chairman of IDB's Board of Governors, said.

"It will embrace the economic, governance and social agenda as well as future development needs," he said, adding that Malaysia would support the vision commission in all its activities.

Mahathir proposed the plan of Vision 2020 in the Year 1991, whose major pursuit was to build Malaysia into a developed nation by the Year 2020.

A financial arm of the Islamic Conference Organization, the IDB aims to foster economic development and social progress among member countries and Muslim communities in accordance with the Islamic law.

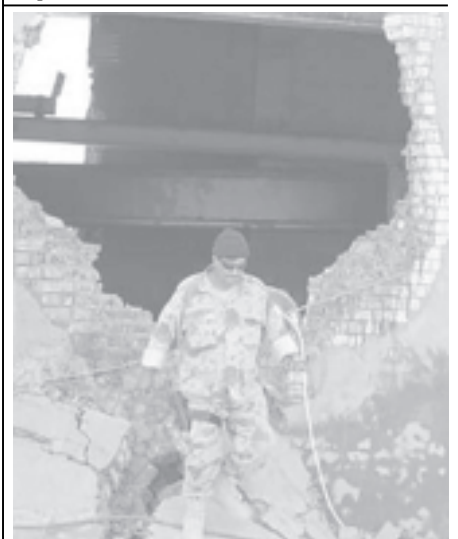
The Board of Governors is the highest policy-making body of IDB. — MNA/Xinhua

Int'l "IT" fair kicks off in Dalian

SHENYANG, 24 June — The Third China International Software & Information Service Fair opened on Thursday in Dalian, a port city in northeast China's Liaoning Province.

More than 800 IT companies from home and abroad, including Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, India, Taiwan and Hong Kong, have brought electronic products, software, communication, integrate circuits, information services, digital entertainment and other relevant technologies and products to the fair. Activities during the four-day fair include a ministerial summit on international IT cooperation, an annual meeting on software outsourcing, an international IT job fair, and a symposium on IT personnel training that will help to enhance exchanges between software developers and consumers.

Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai said at the opening ceremony that China is not only good at making textile products and shoes, "it will also bring a new surprise to the world in the IT sector". — MNA/Xinhua



An Iraqi national guardsman walks past a hole at water works damaged during the U.S. invasion two years ago in Baghdad on 22 June, 2005. — INTERNET

HK to promote use of "e-Cert" for secure e-banking

HONG KONG, 24 June—The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government chief information officer, Howard Dickson, said on Thursday that 12 local banks have decided to adopt e-Cert as their two-factor authentication in personal e-banking.

He made the remarks at a Press conference on Thursday.

In order to give every citizen in the community a chance to use the e-Cert, the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau and the Hongkong Post Certification Authority worked together with the Immigration Department to introduce e-Cert as the first non-immigration application in the multi-application Smart ID card in June 2003.

He said Hong Kong residents can opt to embed a one-year free e-Cert onto their smart ID cards. So far, almost a

million Hong Kong residents have opted to embed an e-Cert on their Smart ID card.

Dickson said one of the objectives of the government in building a critical mass of e-Cert holders is to encourage the business sector to develop new applications and services using e-Cert as a platform for secure electronic transactions.

To encourage the million e-Cert holders to use their e-Cert more often, the Commerce, Industry and Technology Bureau is pleased to support the Hongkong Post Certification Authority and its business partners

to roll out the e-Cert Usage Promotion Programme. The first phase kicks off with e-banking applications, while the next phase will cover the full range of commercial e-Cert applications, he said.

He said, in 1998, the percentage of local households with a PC at home and those with Internet connection was 35 per cent and 12 per cent respectively. The penetration rates have since grown rapidly and increased to 71 per cent for PC and 65 per cent for Internet connection in 2004.

MNA/Xinhua



Visitors walk past a Chinese-made nuclear-capable Dongfeng 2 missile at Beijing's Military Museum on 23 June, 2005. The medium distance missile dates from 1964.—INTERNET

Funds, materials allocated to China's flood-hit south

BEIJING, 24 June—China's Ministry of Civil Affairs and Ministry of Finance on Wednesday allocated emergency disaster relief funds and materials to flood-ravaged Fujian Province in east China and Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region in China's south.

According to the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the two ministries allocated 15 million yuan (approximately 1.8 million US dollars) to Fujian Province and 20 million yuan (approximately 2.4 million dollars) to Guangxi Region. And the Ministry of Civil Affairs has also allocated 2,000 tents to Fujian and Guangxi.

A work team formed jointly by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, the National Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Finance and six other government departments reached Fujian Province Wednesday afternoon to console and extend sympathy and cordial regards of the Party and the central government to flood victims and direct the floods control

and relief work, said an official with the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

"We have taken these substantial measures consistent with a national programme on emergency relief work in natural disasters," he said.

Statistics of the Ministry of Civil Affairs show by 3:00 pm Wednesday, recent floods and calamities caused by flood inundation had resulted in a death toll of 12 and the emergency relocation of 317,000 people in Fujian, caused 36 human deaths, 15 people missing and the

relocation of 25,000 people in Guangdong, caused 27 human deaths, 20 people missing and the emergency relocation of 333,000 people.

"Other losses in these deluges are still being calculated," said the official.

Since 16 June, Zhejiang, Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan, Guangdong and Guangxi, all in southern China, have successively experienced floods, landslides and mudslides. Among them, Fujian, Guangdong and Guangxi are the worst hit.

MNA/Xinhua

EU not push tariff cuts from poor nations

BRUSSELS, 24 June—European Union (EU) Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson has promised that the EU would not push for tariff cuts from the poorest countries as part of the WTO's Doha Round.

Mandelson told the European Parliament that the EU would defend the interests of the poorest countries in the World Trade Organization (WTO), according to a Press release of the EU executive arm European Commission on Thursday.

Mandelson said the EU would allow poor nations to open their markets for goods and services in sensitive sectors at a pace determined by their capacity and their development needs.

He said the EU was also reviewing its rules of origin to make them more development-friendly and to help poor countries to exploit market access to the EU. The EU Trade Commissioner said he was ready to explore the potential for including in agreements specific incentives targeted at improving market access for fair trade products.

The Economic Partnership Agreements with African, Caribbean and Pacific nations were a good test case for this, he added.—MNA/Xinhua

State Council stresses resources conservation, recycling eco

BEIJING, 24 June—The State Council, China's Cabinet, called for building an energy-saving society and developing a recycling economy at its executive meeting presided over by Premier Wen Jiabao on Wednesday.

The meeting noted that the demand of energy and resources will increase significantly as China's industrialization, urbanization and modernization press forward. Therefore efficient and recyclable utilization of energy and resources is of crucial importance.

The meeting set forth key tasks for 2005 and 2006 in building an energy-saving society, including conservation of energy, water, raw materials, land resources, and utilization of mineral re-

sources, industrial waste and recyclable resources.

Macro guidance should be strengthened and scientific research and application of new techniques and products should be promoted, said the meeting.

Meanwhile, it also called for deepening reforms so as to perfect policies on energy-saving industries, formulate and amend relevant laws and regulations.

The meeting urged the governments at all levels to set an example in resources conservation.

MNA/Xinhua



Two monkeys fight for a bottle of drink left by a visitor at a zoo in Hangzhou, east China's Zhejiang Province on 23 June, 2005.—INTERNET

Hu Jintao urges armed police to contribute to social stability

BEIJING, 24 June—General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Hu Jintao urged on Wednesday the armed police force to make further contributions to social stability.

Hu stressed that China's development and reform needs a harmonious and stable environment.

"China needs a peaceful and sound international environment and a harmonious and stable domestic environment to realize its lofty goals in building a well-off society in an all-round way," Hu said in Beijing when he met with delegates to the first Congress of CPC members of the Chinese People's Armed Police Force.

Hu, Chinese President and Chairman of the Central Military Commission, said China's reform and development has entered a crucial stage.

"We should seize and make good use of the major strategic opportunity to develop fast and make us stronger," Hu said.

He expressed congratulations to the convocation of the Congress and sent greetings to all members of the armed police force, saying the force is one that the Party, the government and the people can trust.

Premier Wen Jiabao and Luo Gan, who is secretary of the Committee of Political Science and Law under CPC Central Committee, joined Hu in the meeting with the delegates in the Great Hall of the People.—MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh boosts coconut production

Dhaka, 25 June — A project for planting 10 million coconut saplings by the government of Bangladesh in 61 districts including 26 coastal districts is going on in full swing.

After completing the scheme, more than 500 million coconuts would be produced from those trees within next ten years, *The New Age* reported on Friday.

The project started in 2003 and 4.8 million coconut saplings were planted in the project areas by 2004.

To boost coconut production, young coconut plants were supplied to educational institutions, defense forces, civil defence and law enforcing agencies for planting free of cost or at reduced price.

The monitoring agencies reportedly expressed their satisfaction after observing that 85-90 per cent of the planted coconut saplings were survived.

The coconut trees prevent soil erosion and protect embankments and roads. They also help reduce the intensity of tidal bore and storm.

In 2005, more 5.2 million coconut saplings would be planted in 61 out of total 64 districts of the country and 50 per cent of the saplings would be planted in 26 coastal districts suitable for coconut production.

For the purpose 10,000 coconut seeds would be imported from Sri Lanka, 4,000 from Thailand and 5,000 from Malaysia.

It was found that "Tone" variety of Malaysia and "Doarc" variety of Sri Lanka suit the climate and soil condi-

tions of Bangladesh.

India, Sri Lanka to conclude eco-cooperation agreement

Colombo, 25 June — The Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and Sri Lanka is likely to be ready by the end of this year with a new round of discussions beginning, official *Daily News* reported on Friday.

There were still asymmetries in trade despite the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two nations and the negotiations leading up to the proposed CECA would offer an opportunity to remove concerns of Sri Lankan exporters, Sri Lankan Director-General of Commerce K. J. Weerasinghe was quoted as saying.

He said although the free trade agreement between the two countries has resulted in expansion of exports of both countries to one another, Sri Lanka's exports to India were still limited to a few items.

Weerasinghe said Colombo has set up working groups with a negotiating mandate to look into the entire gamut of issues including trade in services.

The India-Sri Lanka FTA was signed in 1998 and provides for duty free market access to both countries on preferential basis in a phased manner.

MNA/Xinhua

Zambia to host ministerial conference of LDCs

LUSAKA, 25 June — About 41 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) will participate in a ministerial conference to be held in Livingstone, Zambia on Saturday in preparation for the WTO ministerial meeting in Hong Kong this December, local media reported on Friday.

Some 200 delegates from various countries and international institutions will attend the three-day conference at which they are expected to come up with a declaration, Zambia's Trade Minister Dipak Patel was cited by the *Zambia Daily Mail* as saying.

The declaration will summarize LDC trade interests and concerns in the run-up to the Hong Kong conference and outline what LDC expect and hope for at the WTO ministerial meeting.

Patel said trade could serve as a valuable policy tool in stimulating economic growth and supporting poverty reduction efforts, the *Times of Zambia* reported. He further noted that a favourable climate currently existed to support international development challenges although the trade performance of most LDCs had been weak in the past two

decades.

Statistics from the United Nations show that total merchandise exports from all LDCs in 2002 accounted for a mere 0.6 per cent of total world trade.

"Faced with such a minute share of global trade, it is important that the Livingstone meeting consider various ways of securing further gains for the LDCs in international trade," Patel said.

The ministerial conference will focus on five main areas including agriculture, non-agricultural market access, special and differential treatment, trade in services and issues on trade facilitation.

A number of non-LDCs and multilateral institutions have also been invited to the meeting like Argentina, Canada, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Brazil and Sweden, some of which will function as observer delegations. — MNA/Xinhua

India to have independent drugs regulatory body

NEW DELHI, 25 June — Government has decided to revamp the drug regulatory structure in the country and set up an independent authority on the lines of US Food and Drug Administration for quality control of drugs.

Once the regulatory body was put in place, the government would approach the American FDA for an agreement on mutual approval of clinical trials and drugs, Health Minister Anubami

Ramdhoss announced at the 36th meeting of the Drugs Consultative Committee here on Thursday.

"The independent drug regulatory authority would be set up in two years... All the strong points of FDA

would be replicated in the new structure," he said.

The minister had visited US recently and the Drug Controller General of India was to leave for the country soon in this connection. — MNA/PTI

IOC in talks to acquire equity in Singaporean oil firm

NEW DELHI, 25 June — State-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC) on Thursday said it was in talks to acquire equity stake in a Singapore-based oil firm.

"The Board of Directors of the company has accorded in-principle approval to pursue the opportunity for acquisition of equity stake in an oil and gas enterprise based in Singapore," IOC informed the Mumbai Stock Exchange.

A senior company official had on Wednesday denied reports of IOC eyeing acquisition of a stake in Singapore Petroleum Company as part of its plans to become a diversified, transnational, integrated energy major. Today, IOC informed the BSE that the talks were in "preliminary state".

"A financial investor with about 26.5 per cent equity stake in SPC is keen to exit by selling its entire equity to an interested party. There is a possibility of subsequently increasing the stake in SPC to the level of controlling stake and eventually gaining management con-

trol," an IOC paper said. The Singapore stock exchange listed SPC, which has a market cap of 1.1 billion US dollars, has 50-per-cent stake in Singapore Refinery Corp's 273,000 barrels per day refinery and 39 retail outlets in Singapore with 18 per cent market share.

SPC has aviation facilities at Changi, Taipei, Hong Kong and Bangkok airports. It has 15-per-cent stake in Kakap gas field in offshore Indonesia and 40 per cent in Sampang field in offshore East Java, Indonesia. It also has 10 per cent working interest in exploration Block 102 and 106 in offshore Vietnam.

SPC also has ownership interest in the seven-billion-dollar Trans-ASEAN Gas pipeline that is to link Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Sumatra and Brunei.

MNA/PTI

Rainstorms delay 64 airliners in HK

HONG KONG, 25 June — Rainstorms in Hong Kong on Friday morning caused the delay of departure and takeoff of 64 airliners coming and from Hong Kong International Airport.

According to sources from the Airport Authority, 40 planes departing Hong Kong and 24 arrival planes have been delayed at least 15 minutes at Hong Kong International Airport by 12:00 am on Friday.

The Transport Department (TD) said traffic had been affected by flooding at various places in the territory due to heavy rain Friday morning.

Under the red rainstorm warning, Airport Tunnel and various roads were suffering from flooding, resulting in closure of some road lanes. Traffic congestion was observed in Kowloon East and situation could worsen if the bad weather continues. Relevant departments have been trying to drain off excessive water to help resumption of normal road usage.

As roads around Cyberport in Pok Fu Lam were flooded, traffic congestion was also noted at the area.

The department activated the Emergency Transport Coordination Centre Friday morning upon issue of the rainstorm warning by Hong Kong Observatory, to closely monitor the traffic situations and maintain close communications with transport operators and relevant government departments for emergency actions when necessary.

The Education and Manpower Bureau announced Friday morning that as the red rainstorm warning is now in force, schools should implement contingency measures to ensure the safety of students.

The announcement also said that schools which are in session should continue until the end of school hours. But they should ensure that conditions are safe before students are allowed to return home.

MNA/Xinhua



This photo provided by Wired Nextfest shows Rob Innes skimming across the Chicago River in a bionic dolphin on Thursday, 23 June, 2005, to call attention to Nextfest, a futuristic technology show opening this weekend in Chicago. The dolphin, a submersible developed by Innespace, can power two people to 40 mph on the surface and 20 mph below.

INTERNET



ITBMU Pro-Rector Bhaddanta Dr Kumarabhivamsa gives Ovadakatha at fourth convocation of the university.—MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein...

(from page 1)

of ITBMU, Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika Sayadaws, the Pro-Rectors of ITBMU and faculty

members, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, deputy

ministers, departmental heads, officials of foreign missions, title recipient lay persons, graduate trainees of local and abroad, fresher trainees and wellwishers.

MNA



Pro-Rector Bhaddanta Dr Kumarabhivamsa confers MA (Buddha Dhamma) degree on a monk.—MNA



Pro-Rector Bhaddanta Dr Kumarabhivamsa presents gold medal to first prize winner in BA (Buddha Dhamma) Exam.—MNA



Pro-Rector Bhaddanta Dr Kumarabhivamsa confers BA (Buddha Dhamma) degree on a nun.—MNA



Pro-Rector Bhaddanta Dr Kumarabhivamsa confers BA (Buddha Dhamma) degree on a layperson.—MNA

Commander, Mayor inspect beautifying and sanitation tasks in Yangon City

YANGON, 25 June — Accompanied by YCDC Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, inspected beautifying and sanitation tasks, proper flow of water at drains and placing of tiles on the platforms in Yangon City this morning.

At 6.30 am, the commander and the mayor oversaw placing of asphalt concrete on Kyaukyedwin Overpass linking North Okkalapa and Mingaladon Townships.

Next, they inspected sanitation tasks and proper

flow of water at drains at Kyaikkasan Creek, repaving of roads, construction of platforms and cleaning tasks at Central Forest Zone of Kandawgyi

Gardens.

In South Okkalapa Township, they planted toddy palm saplings at the fourth tree planting ceremony of YCDC in Ward

12. They viewed participation of YCDC employees and social organization members in the tree planting ceremony.

MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspect placing of asphalt on Kyaukyedwin Overpass.—YANGON COMMAND

Matters on enhancement of exporting marine products coordinated

YANGON, 25 June —The Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries held the coordination meeting for enhancement of exporting marine products by the way of normal trades at the meeting hall of Fisheries Department on Sinmin Road yesterday evening, attended by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, Director-General of FDU Than Tun and officials, and the chairman of marine products export entrepreneurs association and export entrepreneurs.

First, Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein made a speech on the arrangements for enhancement of the exports, ensuring higher quality of export and fair prices. Afterwards, Commerce Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein dealt with the arrangements on ensuring export trips not to be delayed and systematic measures to be taken using cold storage vehicles.

Next, the ministers and officials answered the queries raised by those present and the meeting ended with the closing remarks by Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein. — MNA

Delegates to MWVOC visit Shwedagon, Defence Services Museum

YANGON, 25 June — Accompanied by the director-general of Border Trade Department and officials, the delegates to Myanmar War Veterans Organization who will attend Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference (2005), visited Shwedagon Pagoda this morning.

The delegates to MWVOC offered light, flowers, water and joss sticks to the pagoda and Buddha images, donated cash totalling K 462, 465 and paid homage to the pagoda circling it clockwise.

Next, they proceeded to the Defence Services Museum on Shwedagon Pagoda Road. They were welcomed by Maj Kyaw Kyaw Myint and officials of the museum and conducted around the museum. Afterwards, they visited Lawkachantha Abhaya Labha Muni Buddha Im-



Delegates to MWVO Conference (2005) on a visit at the Shwedagon Pagoda. — MNA

age on Mindhamma Hill in Insein Township and donated cash totalling K 360,610. Later, they paid homage to the Buddha Image and viewed the religious buildings on the hill. — MNA

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

26 June 2005

On this International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, we celebrate the choice that millions of people around the world have made to live healthily, and we applaud the courage shown by those who have stopped using drugs. In doing so, we send a positive message to all people who use or might be tempted to use drugs: "Value yourself.. make healthy choices".

This day is also an occasion to highlight the fact that nearly 200 million people are still consuming illegal drugs. These drugs might have names that sound colourful or enticing, such as crack, pot, junk, crystal meth, and disco biscuits. But these are little more than tickets to a dead end. For those trapped by addiction, treatment is a way out, and the choice to seek treatment is not only courageous, but often life-saving. Those who have not ventured down the path of drug abuse should learn the lesson from those who have, and firmly choose not to.

Making healthy choices also means choosing a lifestyle that has a positive effect on the body and mind, including, for example, participation in sports to improve health and well-being, teach the value of teamwork and discipline, and build self-confidence.

On this day, let us strengthen our collective resolve to live in a society free of drugs, and let us encourage all our fellow beings to make personal choices to lead healthy lives.—MNA

Increase in seizures of...

(from page 16)

To quote some figures from the joint assessment efforts conducted by Myanmar and the US, there was a 34 percent decline in poppy cultivation in 2004 as compared with 2003. This decline in cultivation was matched by a 40 percent decline in opium production.

In another assessment conducted jointly by the Myanmar and UNODC, it was found that there was a 29 percent decline in poppy cultivation in 2004 and 54 percent decline in opium production. This measurable and visible success achieved attests to the effectiveness of the strategies and tactics laid down by the Myanmar Government and also highlights the active participation, collaboration and commitment of the local authorities and leaders of the ethnic groups.

In addition to the above supply reduction efforts, the various sectors of the Demand Reduction side of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Committee which are, the Treatment Sector, Rehabilitation Sector and the Education and Information Sectors, are also conducting their drug abuse prevention activities in line with their respective work plans of the 15-year Drug Elimination Plan.

The Ministry of Education is undertaking preventive education on drug abuse among the students through incorporation of information of the dangers of drug abuse in the school curricula. Furthermore, drug abuse health education talks, awareness raising activities among students are conducted by holding essay, music, arts, cartoons and poster competitions in commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. All of these campaigns contribute to the prevention of drug abuse by the youths.

In tandem, the Ministry of Health has also established 26 Major Drug Treatment Centres and 40 Minor Drug Treatment Centres around the country in order to conduct drug abuse treatment activities. In townships where there are no drug treatment Centres, the township health departments have been authorized to conduct drug abuse treatment.

Six Drug Abuse Rehabilitation services have also been made available by the Department of Social Welfare in relevant States and Divisions. Moreover, two comprehensive Youth Rehabilitation Centres, Shwe Pyi Thar and Shwe Pyi Aye, have been opened by the CCDAC. This is just an overview of the drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation services which are made available by Myanmar Government in a nutshell. In the Enforcement Sector, the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and relevant Government departments destroyed 9082 acres of poppy cultivation in a collaborative effort during 2004-2005. This is an increase in destruction of 1472 acres as compared to 2003-2004. Moreover, the increase in the seizures of opium and heroin in 2003-2004 indicates to the increase in the enforcement capabilities of the narcotic task forces and the increase in the cross border cooperation with our neighbouring countries. The success of the enforcement efforts is evidenced in the arrests of drug traffickers in other countries and their indictment in Myanmar. In conclusion, each and everyone and the youths in particular, are strongly urged to follow the call of this year's theme "Value yourself...make healthy choices" in order to lead happy and fruitful drug-free lives and to join hands with the Government in the fight against narcotic drugs.—MNA

Prizes presented to ...

(from page 16)

Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi and members, members of Yangon Division Health Committee, Chairmen of District and Township Peace and Development Councils, District and Township Education Officers, heads of Health Department, school heads and teachers. In his address, the commander said regarding the health sector, the government has laid down the objective of uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation and is implementing national health plan systematically for uplift of health standard of the people.

He said school health activities were carried out after the formation of the school health committees at different levels in cooperation with the Ministries of Education and Health. Beginning 1996, WHO

urged the nations to raise the momentum of school health activities under the global school health initiative programme. Such activities were undertaken in Myanmar in 2004, he said. Next, the commander presented outstanding prizes to school heads of No 6 BEHS, Botahtaung, Yankin Education College Practising Middle School and No 3 BEPS, Bahan

Township that won the first prizes three years consecutively at the division level.

Daw Khin Thet Htay, Director-General of Health Department Dr Tin Win Maung, Director-General of Education Planning and Training Department U Bo Win and Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department (Yangon City) U Aye Kyu presented prizes to the school heads.

MNA



Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Patron Daw San San presents first prize to the winner of the 2005 Olympic Day commemorative cycling on 25-6-2005.—NLM



Daw Khin Thet Htay presents prize to a model-prize winning school through an official. — MNA

Billboard to mark Myanmar Women's Day erected

YANGON, 25 June — Organized by Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, a ceremony to erect the billboard marking Myanmar Women's Day which falls on 3 July, was held in front of the City Hall on Mahabandoola Road in Kyauktada Township, this morning.

Present on the occasion were Head of Administrative Department of MWAF Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe and MWAF members, President of Yangon Division Women's Affairs Organization Daw Khi Myo Thu and members, USDA members, members of



Head of Administrative Division of MWAF Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe unveils billboard hailing Myanmar Women's Day.— MNA

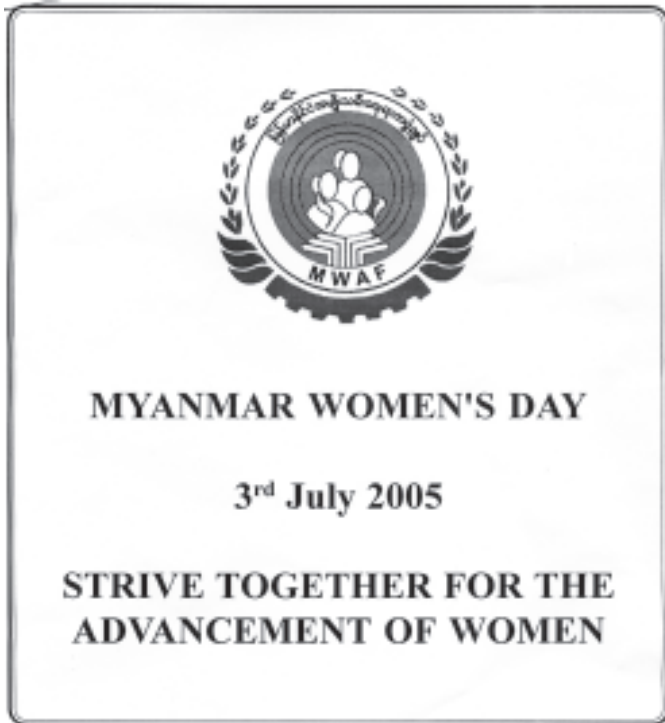
Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and officials.

At the auspicious time, MWAF members formally opened the billboard in commemoration of Myanmar Women's Day.

Afterwards, Dr Daw Khin Hsan Nwe pressed the button to open the billboard and the ceremony ended.

MNA

MNA



Myanmar Women's Day commemorative essay contests held

YANGON, 25 June— Myanmar Women's Day commemorative Essay Competitions at various levels such as University/Degree College/ Institute and Basic Education were held this morning from 9 am to 11 am at respective venues. The contests were organized by the Organizing Committee for essay competitions.

Minister for Education U Than Aung, accompanied by Deputy Ministers U Myo Nyunt and Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min, Directors-General and officials of the Ministry viewed the competitions this morning.

The titles of the essays were "Myanmar Women's Role in the National Development" at University/ Degree College/Institute level;

"Myanmar Women and Culture" at BEHS level; and "The Civilized Myanmar Women" at BEMS level.

Students from 156 Universities/ Degree Colleges/ Institutes, 16,254 BEMS students and 14,273 BEHS students from States and Divisions, 58,731 from 152 BEMSs and 57,536 from 141 BEHSs of Yangon Division took part in the competitions.

The first, second and third prize winners for each level will be awarded at the celebrations of Myanmar Women's Day in states and divisions on 3 July 2005. The first, second, third and consolation prizes will also be presented at their respective universities, colleges and basic education schools.

MNA

Myanmar Women's Day commemorative photo contest

YANGON, 25 June — In honour of the Myanmar Women's Day which falls on 3 July 2005, a colour photo competition will be held soon under the title of "Attributes of elegant Myanmar damsels".

The works are to reflect the attributes of Myanmar women such as duty-consciousness, devoutness, politeness.

The designated size is 10" x 14" and a contestant may submit photos as

many as he wishes. Contestants can use any brands of cameras. Winners will be presented handsome prizes. The entries are to be sent to U Kyaw Zin Oo, Director, Production Division, the Information and Public Relations Department not later than 4 pm on 28 June 2005. Contact U Kyaw Zin Oo (Tel: 371342, 371340) and Mann Tekkatho Ne Myo Win, President of the Myanmar Photographic Society (Tel: 373167).

MNA

Essay contests to mark Myanmar Women's Day held in entire nation

YANGON, 25 June — The Essay Contests to mark the Myanmar Women's Day categorized into three levels — the university/degree college/college level, the basic education high level and the basic education middle level — was held at universities, degree colleges, colleges, basic education middle and high schools under the Ministry of Education in major cities of States and Divisions simultaneously yesterday morning.

A total of 5,700 contestants took part in essay contest at the university/

degree college/college level, 71,809 at the basic education high level and 74,985 at the basic education middle level.

First, second and third prizes will be presented to the winners at the ceremonies to be held in States and Divisions on 3 July. Furthermore, Universities, degree colleges, colleges and basic education schools will hold the prize presentation ceremony for first, second, third and consolation prize winners respectively.

MNA

Measures for replacing...

(from page 16)
To address these problems, the Myanma Industrial Development Bank, the Myanma Livestock and Fisheries Bank and the Cooperative Banks Ltd (private-owned) will provide loans for the owners under automobile insurance system, he added. In the process, proper

rules and regulations will be laid down for the convenience of the owners and to minimize losses and wastage.

Then, the drive will pick up greater momentum and will be realized timely, he said.

He urged those present to contribute towards the implementation of the

drive.

The deputy minister reported on progress of installation of CNG engines in automobiles; Managing Director of the Myanma Industrial Development Bank U Thein Aung, on schedules to provide loans to the owners; and officials, on the number of automobiles of the committees, number of CNG engine-installed cars, number of cars to be installed, and number of cars to be installed with loans.

The commander delivered the concluding remarks.

The bank will disburse loans to car owners starting from 27 July (Monday).

MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 year ago. Second best time is now.

HAILING THE MYANMAR WOMEN'S DAY (3RD JULY, 2005)

Strong force of Myanmar women equipped with nationalistic fervour

Moe Htet Myint (Delta Region)

The emergence of the Myanmar Women's Day (3 July), an auspicious day for the nation, representing the entire national Myanmar Women that make up more than half of the nation's population, has helped enhance Myanmar women's honourable attributes such as prestige, brilliant performances, and preservation of their lineage.

The Government has acknowledged the important role the Myanmar women played in all the struggles in the interests of the nation throughout Myanmar's history. It can be vividly witnessed that the State has placed emphasis on the development of Myanmar women and is organizing them into a strong national force, and giving them a deserving place in nation-building endeavours.

Myanmar women are very fortunate to be citizens of the nation due to the fact that the Myanmar society has been already facilitated with good foundations needed for all-round development of Myanmar women who love the nation and the people and preserve national prestige and integrity, and the State has been strengthening the foundations.

Myanmar women have been enjoying rights in various sectors such as the education, health, social and economic sectors equally with men. Fine traditions have been preserved in the Myanmar society such as mutual understanding and mutual respects between women and men. And both play a complementary role.

The Myanmar society is not constituted with individuals but with families whose members — father, mother and children — live together forever, so mother and father have equal rights to manage the family's affairs.

Having enjoyed the rights equally with men in the Myanmar society, Myanmar women do not need to make any demands for women's rights unlike their female counterparts in other nations. In fact, Myanmar women have enjoyed rights fully since birth, and that brings honour to the State and the people.

The Government has been effectively applying all possible means and ways nationwide to put into reality the visions and drives for the development of national women in all sectors. Under the correct leadership of the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, the mass of Myanmar women are making spectacular contributions towards the government's endeavours, while surmounting all the destructive acts internal and external saboteurs are perpetrating.

Of the unjust acts, the worst is that certain western nations are imposing economic sanctions against the nation because of an individual while ignoring the interests of more than 54 million people of the nation. The imprudent action led to the closure of nearly 160 garment factories and the laying of employees in about 40 other garment factories in Yangon Division.

Subsequently, over 80,000 workers, of whom over 70,000 were women, lost jobs, affecting more than 400,000 family members economically and socially. In addition, that caused adverse effects on related transport services, restaurants, lodging houses, and other services. Among them, some young women who were still pursuing education while working were forced to drop out. Some artless young women fell victim to human trafficking due to deception of unscrupulous persons.

At the time, the US placed Myanmar in Tier 3 of the State Department's clarification of countries that do not comply with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of the US Congress, putting

pressure on Myanmar under the United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act, 2000.

In fact, the Myanmar Government founded the Myawady Reception Camp on 18 February 2002, and is providing necessary assistance for the victims in cooperation with the United Nations Inter-Agency Project-UNIAP, Save the Children (UK), and the World Vision.

Moreover, the Working Committee for Prevention against Trafficking in Persons formed in July 2002 is playing an active role in the drive. From 2002 to 2004, the Committee exposed 474 cases. In connection with the cases, actions were taken against 519 persons, 2,629 victims could be rescued, 722,061 were edu-

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cated regarding the dangers posed by human traffickers and 17,280 were repatriated.

Considering trafficking in persons a serious case, Myanmar has been tackling it through a comprehensive approach at bilateral and multi-lateral levels. And the nation is fighting against such evil acts through the National Plan of Action and legal actions.

The National Plan of Action covers strategies for prosecution, protection and prevention. It formed the Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons, the Working Committee for Prevention against Trafficking in Persons, and the Task Force to draft the anti-trafficking law. The Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Law, a prerequisite for combating transnational organized crimes including trafficking in person, was enacted in 2004. Moreover, as money laundering is linked to trafficking in persons, the Control of Money Laundering Law and Rules were also enacted in 2002 and 2003 respectively. The Central Control Board (CCB) and the financial investigation body have been set up as well.

In the international area of cooperation, Myanmar signed an agreement with Australia to curb human trafficking in Asian region. Myanmar has been cooperating with Cambodia, Laos and Thailand according to the agreement. In March 2004, Myanmar formed an anti-human trafficking group to look into the cases relating to the crime. In addition, Myanmar is a signatory to the Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC), the Protocols to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and the Smuggling of Migrants agreement.

Myanmar hosted the Meeting for the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking in Yangon from 27 to 29 October 2004. All the six countries of the Greater Mekong Region signed the protocol of the meeting. It is an important step for regional cooperation to eliminate human trafficking.

With the cooperation of the United Nations Inter-Agency Project (UNIAP), Myanmar formed the task force to curb trafficking in women and children, and is conducting field study tours and training programmes.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of Myanmar and Thailand and on Cooperation in the Employment of Workers has come

into force since June 2003. The MoU has provided enormous assistance to the work of prevention against human trafficking.

Myanmar is receiving according to the rules and regulations the persons who have been in foreign countries. It is known to all that she has opened reception centres at Myawady near the border with Thailand.

The Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation was formed with the following objectives to serve the interest of the nation and people more and further develop the women's sector:

- to enhance the role of women in the building of a peaceful, modern and developed nation
- to protect the rights of women
- to ensure the economic, health, education and general welfare of women and to provide their life security
- to nurture Myanmar women to adore and value their national, cultural heritage and customs more
- to systematically protect women against violence and provide means for rehabilitation where necessary
- to reduce and finally eliminate trafficking in women and children as a national task
- to collaborate with international as well as local organizations in ensuring the rights of women in accordance with the traditions and customs of the ethnic groups

The MWAFF has formed different bodies at all levels from state and division to ward and village. The Federation also formed the working group of Protection, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Women, the working group of Cultural and Social Affairs, the working group of Raising the Living Standard of Women, the working group of Nationalities Affairs, the working group of Legal Affairs, and the working group of Environment; and also the Department of Mobilization, the Department of Administration, the Department of Disciplinary Concerns, the Department of Finance, the Department of Information, and the Department of International Relations to launch its activities nationwide.

The sub-working group of Violence against Women, the sub-working group Against Trafficking in Persons, the sub-working group of Rehabilitation and Reintegration, and the sub-working group of Girls and Young Women were formed under the working group of Protection, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Women for the MWAFF to get in touch with local women in the entire nation and to make field tours all over the country.

The MWAFF has given priority to preventing against trafficking in persons and cooperating with related institutions and social organizations. Thus, Myanmar's efforts to end human trafficking have been gaining ground.

But some of the Myanmar men and women of all ages are suffering from social hardships because of the lopsided sanctions unjustly imposed against Myanmar. The acts of pointing a finger at Myanmar for her weaknesses, while ignoring the ill effects of the sanctions are nothing more than the application of one-sided pressures on Myanmar.

Myanmar women have adhered to and adored their fine traditions of preserving and safeguarding the lineage and stood firm against the colonization and the attempts to put Myanmar under the western cultural domination. With patriotism and unity, they should beware of the sabotages of the internal and external destructionists and should see that the nation does not fall into their trap.

(Translation: MS+TMT)

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Reg. No. 5054/1999

in respect of "Non-metallic hose pipes, rubber buffers, rubber cushions, rubber dock fenders and all other goods included in International Class 17. Golf balls, golf clubs and all other sporting goods included in International Class 28".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin,
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **Bridgestone Corporation**
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 26 June 2005

OECD says foreign investment falls in industrialized countries

PARIS, 24 June — Foreign direct investment in industrialized countries fell by 11.3 per cent in 2004, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) announced on Thursday.

Foreign direct investment in OECD countries, which groups the world's 30 richest nations, amounted last year to 407 billion US dollars compared with 459 billion dollars in 2003, the OECD said. However, investment by OECD countries to other countries increased by 12.6 per cent to 668 billion dollars in 2004 from 593 billion in 2003. Investment by the United States reached a record 252 billion dollars in 2004, compared to 141 billion dollars in 2003.

Based on this tendency, the influx and outflow of foreign direct investment in OECD countries would increase between 10 and 15 per cent in 2005, according to the Paris-based organization.

MNA/Xinhua

Acquisition of Unocal will not affect US oil, gas market, CNOOC

BEIJING, 24 June — China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) Ltd, China's largest offshore oil and gas producer, on Thursday announced its decision to bid for the Unocal Corporation will not adversely affect the US oil and gas market.

CNOOC Ltd said it was proposing a friendly merger with Unocal, offering 67 US dollars in cash per share for the California-based company.

The offer values Unocal at about 18.5 billion US dollars, representing a premium for Unocal's shareholders of about 1.5 billion US dollars over the value of Chevron Corporation's offer based its closing price on New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on Wednesday, said CNOOC Ltd.

In a public notice offered by the CNOOC Ltd, the company said it is committed to fully integrating Unocal's strong management team and workforce into the combined company.

CNOOC Ltd will seek to substantially retain all Unocal employees, including those in the US. This is in contrast to the proposal of Chevron that it would extract hundreds of millions of dollars of cost savings from the merger annually, including from employee layoffs.

CNOOC Ltd will endeavour to persuade members of Unocal's executive and operational management to join the management team of the combined company.

The transaction will not adversely affect the US oil and gas market since CNOOC Ltd is ready to continue Unocal's practice of selling and marketing all or substantially all of the oil and gas produced from Unocal's US properties in the US market, said CNOOC Ltd.

According to CNOOC Ltd, Unocal's oil and gas production in the US accounts for less than one per cent of the total US oil and gas consumption.

CNOOC Ltd will accept and agree to the terms of Unocal's recent settlement with the Federal Trade Commission of the US relating to its patent rights in reformulated gasoline.

CNOOC Ltd said it is confident that it will obtain Exon-Florio approval.

CNOOC Ltd is willing to divest or take other actions with respect to any of Unocal's non-exploration and production assets in North America to the extent such divestitures and actions would not give rise to a material adverse effect on Unocal, including considering special management arrangements for Unocal's US non-controlling, minority pipeline interests and its storage assets, said the company.

MNA/Xinhua

Cyprus, JRC sing cooperation protocols

Nicosia, 25 June — Cyprus and the EU Joint Research Center (JRC) signed on Friday two cooperation protocols.

The first protocol concerns JRC cooperation with the Cyprus State General Laboratory and the second about cooperation of JRC with the Cyprus Veterinary Services.

Speaking to reporters, JRC Acting Director Roland Schenkel said he was pleased with the signing of the two protocols, one in the area of health and the other related to agriculture. Referring to the Round Table discussion aiming at promoting collaboration between the JRC and Cypriot research organizations held earlier in the day, Schenkel said they had a very successful round table getting people from the organization to-

gether with leading research organizations and ministerial organizations in Cyprus. "We have identified a couple of areas where we will strengthen collaboration for benefit of Cyprus and the EU," he added.

Cyprus Veterinary Services Acting Director George Neophytou said cooperation of Veterinary Services with JRC concerns food security and consumer's demand for safe veterinary food products.

He said that through this programme, there is a better control and combat of various animal diseases which affect people.

MNA/Xinhua

China hopes to launch new round of textile talks with US soon

BEIJING, 24 June — China said on Wednesday that it hopes the second round of talks over the textile trade row with the United States could begin as soon as possible.

Zhao Hong, assistant representative of the Trade Negotiation Office under the Ministry of Commerce, said in an interview with the Xinhua.com, China's largest news web site, that the two sides had briefed each other on their preliminary stances on the clothing trade issue in the first round of technical talks which began last Friday.

The United States imposed limits on imports of seven categories of Chinese clothing in May, and demanded consultations with China, saying the imports surged in the first few months of the year after the quota regime ended worldwide from 1 January this year.

"The two sides both have the intention to resolve the issue through cooperation," said Zhao. "We are working vigorously and hope the second round of talks can begin as soon as possible."

She said China hopes the textile disputes can be resolved through bilateral negotiations, but refused to rule out the possibility of seeking the intervention of the dispute settlement body of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

China joined the WTO in 2001 and has said it has the legitimate right to enjoy the benefits of a free global textile trade. But it has met with export limits from a number of WTO members including the United States and the Euro-

pean Union.

China and the EU reached a deal earlier this month to avert a possible trade war over textile goods and garments. The deal has been hailed as a "win-win" outcome and considered as a good example in resolving similar disputes.

China has stressed that the limit on China's textile goods and garments would harm the interests of not only Chinese businesses, but also consumers, dealers and importers in the United States.

Of the total profit generated from the trade of China's clothing, only 10 to 20 per cent would go to Chinese textile firms while the remaining 80 per cent would go to the US importers, dealers and wholesalers, according to the Chinese ministry figure.

Lu Jianhua, director of the foreign trade department of the ministry, told the web site that US cotton producers may eventually suffer from the limit on imports of Chinese clothing.

China is now the largest buyer of US cotton, as the American cotton accounts for some 56 per cent of China's total imports. Most of the imports are for the manufacturing of clothing.

"After the US set limits (on China's clothing), exports of Chinese textile firms will be reduced and this may result in less import of the US cotton," said Lu.

MNA/Xinhua

Zimbabwe to provide safety visit net for children

HARARE, 24 June — The Zimbabwe Government said on Thursday community outreach programmes are key to ensuring the safety of vulnerable children, especially in the wake of the deadly HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Speaking on the fringes of an interactive visit to vulnerable children in Glen Norah, Health and Child Welfare Deputy Minister, Edwin Muguti, said providing a safety net for children would help them develop into responsible citizens.

The SOS Children Villages Zimbabwe initiated and runs the community programme.

He said the number of children needing care had increased, calling for a doubling of efforts to care for them properly.

A significant amount of children had been left vulnerable due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic which mostly affects breadwinners.

"Many families are now headed by children," Gary Birditt, SOS Zimbabwe national director said.

"The nucleus of vulnerability is a result of loss of families and the children get caught up in the cycle that they are not able to get out of," Birditt said.

He however said their programme did not

include those children that had been displaced by the ongoing clean up exercise which had left some of them with no shelter, education and food.

"The programme only extends to those without families to look after them and not to those who have had their dwellings destroyed," he said.

MNA/Xinhua



A South Korean soldier performs a traditional martial art move with a sword at the war museum in Seoul on 24 June, 2005.—INTERNET

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Power failure paralyzes Switzerland's rail system

GENEVA 24 June— A power failure paralyzed Switzerland's entire state rail network on Wednesday, leaving more than 100,000 passengers across the country stranded on trains or at stations.

Jean-Philippe Schmidt, a spokesman for Swiss Federal Railways (SBB), said the power failure occurred at 6:00 pm (1600 GMT) and that he was not sure when the system will be operating normally. An investigation was under way.

The problem first occurred in southern Switzerland following a drop in the 15,000-volt power supply that spread to the rest of the system, the SBB said. Preliminary

investigation showed that the power failure started in the southern canton (state) of Ticino.

The media speculated that an overloaded power supply system due to the country's prolonged hot weather may have caused the breakdown.

The SBB's 3,000-kilometre-long rail network carries around 253 million passengers and some 58 tons of freight a year. —MNA/Xinhua

Eleven missing in Montevideo harbour fishing boat fire

MONTEVIDEO, 24 June— Eleven people were missing in a fire on Wednesday on a fishing boat in Montevideo harbour, Uruguayan Navy said.

The boat Simeiz flew a Ukrainian flag but owned by a Spanish company.

The missing sailors included the Ukrainian skipper, nine Chinese and an Indonesian. The rest of the 39 crew members were safe.

It was likely that some of the missing sailors were trapped in their rooms and died.

The fire, which started in the early hours of Wednesday, was brought under control but not extinguished.

The Ukrainian boat was docked in Montevideo's piers when it caught fire. Then it was towed away to prevent fire from affecting other ships.

The 160,000 litres of fuel in the fishing boat made it more difficult for firemen to control the fire.

The boat also had on board 6,000 kilograms of ammoniac gas used for refrigeration chambers, which could explode.

MNA/Xinhua

Egypt to build giant museum for 100,000 artifacts

CAIRO, 24 June— Egyptian Culture Minister Farouk Hosni has said a giant museum will be built to display some 100,000 artifacts, the official MENA news agency reported on Thursday.

The first stage of the Grand Egyptian Museum, with an initial cost of 550 million US dollars, has already started, Hosni told reporters at the museum's site at the pyramids area in southern Cairo on Wednesday. He said most of the world organizations concerned have contributed to the building of the museum.

Among artifacts to be displayed in the museum is the mummy of Egypt's most famous Pharaoh Tutankhamun and his valuable treasures.

The building of museum is expected to start later this year and to be completed by 2009, according to the Egyptian Supreme Council for Antiquities.

Hosni said the Egyptians and Japanese are about to agree on all details of financing of the museum project and an international tender for the museum's main building will be announced after the deal is reached.

Egyptian officials hope the new museum will attract an additional three million visitors a year to

the country.

Cairo's existing Egyptian Museum, which turned 100 last year, was originally designed to exhibit about 5,000 artifacts, but limited exhibition space has left many of pharaonic, Coptic, Greco-Roman and Islamic artifacts stored in basements and warehouses.

MNA/Xinhua



A firefighter extinguishes a fire in May 2004 near Temecula, California. Nearly 1,000 firefighters were battling five blazes that have burned nine homes and charred 2,480 hectares (6,200 acres) in southern California, officials said. — INTERNET

Brazil wants Macao to be trade platform with China

BRASILIA, 24 June— The Brazilian Government said on Wednesday that Macao can serve as a platform through which Brazilian products can enter the Chinese market.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva welcomed the role of the Chinese special administrative region in the development of economic and trade relations between Brazil, China and other Portuguese-speaking countries, said Edmund Ho Hau Wah, chief executive of China's Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR).

Lula has vowed to reinforce relations with Macao through the Development, Industry and Foreign Trade Ministry, Ho told a Press conference after talks with Lula.

MNA/Xinhua

Norway gives emergency aid to Malawi

STOCKHOLM, 24 June— Norway has granted 13 million Norwegian kroner (two million US dollars) in emergency aid to Malawi, which has been hard hit by drought, Norwegian Broadcasting reported on Wednesday.

The support will be channelled through the World Food Programme, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Estimates show that more than four million people in the South African

country will need emergency food supplies in the coming year. In addition to drought, the HIV/AIDS epidemic has increased the humanitarian crisis in the country.

MNA/Xinhua



A man waters orchids displayed at Colombia's National Orchid show in Bogota's Botanical Gardens, on 24 June, 2005. Colombia is ranked as one of the top countries for diversity of orchid in the world. In foreground is a Cattleya Trianae, Colombia national flower.—INTERNET

Cypriot biggest dessert to be recorded in "Guinness"

NICOSIA, 24 June — Cyprus announced on Wednesday that its biggest dessert "loukoumi" has secured a place in the Guinness Book of Records.

Geroskipou Mayor Tasos Kouzoupos said an email dated on 20 June sent by Guinness World Records said it had accepted the Cypriot information about the "loukoumi" weighed 2.718 tons and will include the item in the 2006 edition of the Guinness Book of World Records.

Loukoumi, in the category of Turkish delight, is a mouth-watering dessert made of sugar, corn-

flour and almonds.

The record-breaking sweet was made by three food factories last October after two days of work, with more than 2.5 tons of sugar, 350 kilos of corn-flour and 150 kilos of dried nuts as well as smaller quantities of additives.

The previous world record holder for the biggest "loukoumi" is a Turk from Australia, whose item weighed 2.349 tons.

Kouzoupos revealed that the "loukoumi" will soon be included in the European Union official catalogue of certified products of geographical indication.

The mayor also said that Geroskipou Municipality and local "loukoumi" producers will celebrate the "Loukoumi Day" on Friday at Geroskipou Square.

MNA/Xinhua

S P O R T S

Monaco continues to host UEFA Super Cup

PARIS, 25 June— Monaco has been chosen as the venue for UEFA's pre-season gala events and the UEFA Super Cup match for a further three years from 2006.

The European soccer's governing body UEFA confirmed this on Friday, saying that Monaco "has always been a most prestigious and welcoming venue for the start of our European football season".

"We are delighted to be extending our agreement for a further three years to hold the kick-off for the European club football season and the UEFA Super Cup in the principality of Monaco," said

UEFA Chief Executive Lars-Christer Olsson. The European Club Football Gala dinner, in which awards are presented to the top players of the previous season, and Super Cup match between the UEFA Champions League and UEFA Cup title-holders have been taking place in Monaco since 1998.

Monaco beat Geneva and Barcelona in the bid to host the match and its associated events.—MNA/Xinhua

Liverpool to start Champions League defence against TNS

GENEVA, 25 June— Liverpool will start their defence at the Champions League with a qualifying-round game against Welsh champion Total Network Solutions (TNS), according to the draw for the first and second qualifying rounds of the tournament released on Friday.

If they beat TNS, the titleholders will face either HB Torshavn, of the Faroe Islands or FBK Kaunas of Lithuania.

As the ruling champions, Liverpool was given a place in next season's Champions League although it finished fifth in the Premier League.

English Premier League qualified for the European premier club competition.

But Liverpool had to start its defence from the first qualifying round, meaning it will have to play six games before reaching

the lucrative group stage.

Liverpool erased a 3-0 halftime deficit against AC Milan to win the final in Istanbul on 25 May, winning a penalty shootout at the end of a 3-3 tie.—MNA/Xinhua

Roma launches Chinese web site

GUANGZHOU (Southern China), 25 June— Italian football club Roma started to develop its brand in China by launching its Chinese website here on Friday.

"China is a great market with lots of potential and challenges. We set up the website to give Roma access to the Chinese market," said Roma marketing director Andrea Caloro at the website-launching ceremony.

Caloro also promised that Roma will visit China to play friendlies as soon as possible.

"Roma is very interested in playing friendlies in China, but it is impossible this year due to tight schedule. The friendlies might be scheduled from late July to early August next year," Caloro said.

European football clubs have long coveted the Chinese market, with Real Madrid and Manchester United both planning to play local teams this summer.

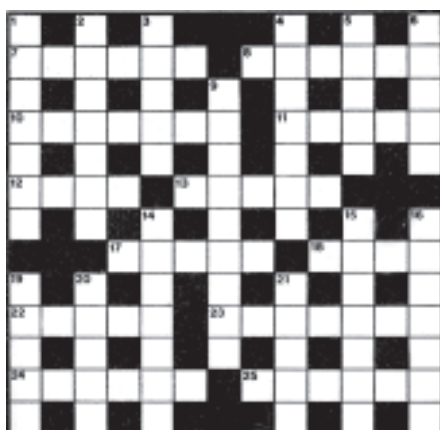
MNA/Xinhua



Japan's Ai Otomo (C) spikes the ball between Poland's blockers Agata Mroz (R) and Milena Rosner during the first set in the World Grand Prix women's volleyball in Tokyo on 24 June, 2005. Japan beat Poland 3-0 (25-16, 25-11, 25-17).

INTERNET

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 7 Summon with hand
- 8 Quarter
- 10 Floral coronet
- 11 Belonging to them
- 12 Space
- 13 Equine attendant
- 17 Conductor's wand
- 18 Prophet
- 22 Steep
- 23 Garb
- 24 Response
- 25 River in India

DOWN

- 1 Unclear
- 2 Eight-sided figure
- 3 Foolishness
- 4 Part
- 5 Avarice
- 6 Coastline
- 9 Sailor's right
- 14 Bore
- 15 To take vengeance
- 16 Object
- 19 Composition
- 20 Closely compacted
- 21 Last of all

Becker backs London's Olympic bid

LONDON, 25 June— Three-times Wimbledon champion Boris Becker expressed his support on Friday to London's bid for the 2012 Olympics, saying that Wimbledon would be a spectacular venue for the tennis tournament.

"I'm a world traveller, and I love being in Paris, I love being in Moscow and so forth. It's just professional-wise and tennis-wise, this particular city, particularly Wimbledon, is obviously very close to my heart," said Becker.

"I call this my second birthplace 20 years ago. I'm a big supporter of Wimbledon, and I'm sure that this tennis tournament here at the All England Club would be spectacular," he added.

London, along with Paris, Madrid, New York and Moscow, is bidding to host the 2012 Games with the winner to be announced on July 6 at the International Olympic Committee's session.

"I had the pleasure of competing at the Olympic Games and at Wimbledon and was fortunate enough to win the gold medal in both events," Becker said.

"Being there, I know from firsthand that both are fantastic events, and I'm sure Wimbledon will host an incredible Olympic tennis tournament."

MNA/Xinhua

Beckenbauer tips Germany to beat Brazil

BERLIN, 25 June— German legendary footballer Franz Beckenbauer said on Friday that it is time for Germany to stop their winless run against the top football powerhouses when meeting Brazil in the Confederations Cup semifinals on Saturday.

"After five years and 13 games it is also time for us to beat one of the world's top teams and they do not come any bigger or better than Brazil," said Beckenbauer, the only man ever to captain and coach a team to World Cup victory.

Since October 2000 when Germany beat England 1-0 in the old Wembley Stadium, they have drawn four times and lost nine matches against top-class international opposition.

The list includes a 5-1 trouncing by England in Munich in 2001, home and away losses to France, two draws and a defeat against Argentina and a draw and loss to Brazil, who beat Germany 2-0 in the 2002 World Cup final.

Beckenbauer, President of the 2006 World Cup organizing committee, expressed his belief that the match against Brazil will be a positive result for Germany.

"I think we have looked stronger as the competition has gone on and I think the fans in Nuremberg are in for a treat," said Beckenbauer.

"There is a fine mood in the (German) camp, they look very good in their preparation and I am optimistic.

"They also have a real desire to win this tournament, whereas I think Brazil are looking tired after a long hard season.

"Of course Brazil have magical players like

Ronaldinho, Kaka and Robinho who can win any match, but they look as if they are in a training routine.

"I think the Germans now have the advantage because they want to win the tournament in front of the home fans and sometimes the schedule helps too.

"Of course, it is not easy to beat Brazil, but I think the Brazilians must improve if they are going to beat us."

MNA/Xinhua



Russia's Elena Dementieva returns the ball to Mashona Washington of the US in their women's singles third round match at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, on 24 June, 2005. Dementieva won the match 7-5, 6-1.—INTERNET

မိုးရာသီတွင် ဖြစ်တတ်သောရောဂါများ ကာကွယ်ရေးနည်းဆော်ချက်

၁။ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံတစ်ဝန်းလုံးတွင် မိုးရာသီရောက်နေပြီဖြစ်သဖြင့် နှစ်ပတ်ပြစ်ဖြစ်တတ်သောရောဂါများ ကာကွယ်တားဆီးရေးအတွက် ပြည်သူလူထုတစ်ရပ်လုံးမှ ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနနှင့်ပူးပေါင်းပြီး ဆောင်ရွက်ကြရန် တိုက်တွန်းနှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

၂။ မိုးရာသီတွင် ဖြစ်ပွားလေ့ရှိသော ရောဂါများမှာ အောက်ပါအတိုင်းဖြစ်ပါသည်။

- (က) ဝမ်းပျက်ခြင်း၊ ဝမ်းလျှော့ခြင်း၊ ဝမ်းကိုက်ခြင်း။
(ခ) အအေးမိချောင်းဆိုးခြင်းနှင့် တုပ်ကွေးရောဂါ။
(ဂ) အသက်(၁၄)နှစ်အောက်ကလေးများတွင် သွေးလွန်တုပ်ကွေးရောဂါ။
(ဃ) အသွေးရောင်အသားဝါရောဂါ။
၃။ ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားရခြင်းမှာ အောက်ပါအကြောင်းများကြောင့်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။
(က) ရေကိုကျိုချက်မသောက်ခြင်း။
(ခ) ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်တွင် ရေမြောင်းများပိတ်နေခြင်းနှင့် ရေဆိုးများရှိနေခြင်း။
(ဂ) ယင်လုံအိမ်သားမသုံးခြင်း။
(ဃ) ဝမ်းနွံ့စားမှု၊ စားခြင်း၊ အမှည့်လွန်သစ်သီးများစားခြင်း။
(င) ရာသီအလိုက်ပေါသော သရက်သီး၊ နာနတ်သီး၊ စသည် အမျိုးမျိုးတို့ပါဝင်သောသစ်သီးများ စားခြင်း၊ ကျွန်းများ အိမ်နားတွင် စွန့်ပစ်ခြင်း။
(စ) ယင်နားစားခြင်း၊ လမ်းဘေးမသန့်ရှင်းသော ဈေးဆိုင်များမှ အစားအစာများစားခြင်း။
(ဆ) မိမိအိမ်တွင် ညှို့ ခြင်း၊ ယင်များကို မနံ့မိနံ့နှင့်ခြင်း။
(ဇ) တစ်ကိုယ်ရေသန့်ရှင်းမှု မရှိခြင်း။

၄။ ဤအထက်ပါရောဂါများကို ကြောက်လန့် စိုးရိမ်ဘွယ်ရာမရှိပါ။ ကာကွယ်တားဆီးလျှင် ရောဂါဖြစ်ပွားနိုင်ဘွယ်ရာမရှိပါ။ သို့ပါ၍ ပြည်သူလူထုတစ်ရပ်လုံးသည် ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနနှင့်ပူးပေါင်း၍ ကာကွယ်တားဆီးကြရန် နှိုးဆော်အပ်ပါသည်။

လှိုင်နာရမည့်အချက်များ

- (က) ရေကိုကျိုချက်ဖြစ်သော်လည်း။
(ခ) ရေမြောင်းများရေစီးရေလွှာကောင်းအောင် ကိုယ်အားကိုယ်ကိုး၍ ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။ လှိုင်နာရပါက စည်ပင်သာယာအဖွဲ့များမှ အကူအညီရယူပါ။ ယင်လုံအိမ်သားသုံးကြပါ။
(ဂ) အမှည့်လွန်သစ်သီးများစားခြင်းမှရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။ စားကြွင်းစားကျန်များကို ဓနတကျစွန့်ပစ်ပါ။ (တွင်းတွင်မြှုပ်ပစ်ပါ)။
(ဃ) မိမိအိမ်တွင် ခြင်း၊ ယင်များရရှိအောင် သင့်ရာနေညီပြင်နံ့မိနံ့ပါ။ ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာနမှ ဆေးဖုန်းအဖွဲ့သည် အခါအားလျော်စွာ ပြည်သူလူထုနှင့်ပူးပေါင်း၍ ခြင်း၊ ယင်များကို နံ့မိနံ့ပေးပါမည်။
(င) ယင်နားစားခြင်း၊ မသန့်ရှင်းသောအစားအစာများစားခြင်းကိုရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
(စ) ထမင်းမစားမီနှင့် ထမင်းစားပြီး လက်ကို စင်ကြယ်စွာဆေးကြောပါ။
(ဆ) ရေချိုးခေါင်းလျှော်သတ်ထားပါ။
(ဇ) မိုးမိလျှင် နွေးနွေးထွေးထွေးနေပါ။
(ဈ) တစ်ကိုယ်ရေသန့်ရှင်းရေးကို လိုက်နာပါ။
(ည) ရုပ်ကွက်သန့်ရှင်းရေးကို အပတ်စဉ် စုပေါင်း၍ဆောင်ရွက်ပါ။
၅။ ဤသို့တားဆီးကာကွယ်နေသည့်ကြားမှ ရောဂါများဖြစ်ပွားလာပါက နှိုးဆော်ဆေးခန်းဆေးရုံများသို့သွားရောက်ပြသ၍ ကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန

NZ economic growth witnessed in first quarter of 2005

WELLINGTON, 25 June — New Zealand economic activity increased 0.6 per cent in the first quarter of 2005, mainly backed by internal demand, Statistics New Zealand (SNZ) said on Friday.

This followed increases of 0.3 and 0.6 per cent in the fourth and third quarters of 2004, respectively, said SNZ.

In the year ended March 2005, the economy grew by 4.2 per cent, up from 3.6 per cent growth in the March 2004 year.

This quarter, internal demand was sustained by a further lift in household spending and business investment. Household spending continued to be buoyant (up 1.8 per cent), following a 1.1-per-cent rise in the fourth quarter of 2004.

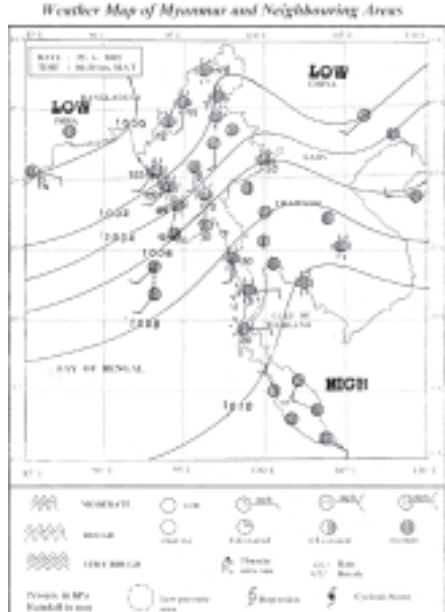
Residential building investment recovered in the first quarter of 2005, increasing 4.4 per cent, following two consecutive quarterly falls.

Partly offsetting this quarter's increase in internal demand were lower export volumes, with merchandise exports down 1.5 per cent and services down 5.8 per cent. The fall in exports was largely the result of a marked drop in

exports of wood and wood products (down 15.0 per cent), and other manufactured goods (down 12.7 per cent), said SNZ.

The rise in internal demand was partly met by imports which rose 1.0 per cent this quarter and were up 13.3 per cent for the March 2005. Imports of services were up 1.5 per cent for the latest quarter and 11.2 per cent for the year, strongly influenced by the increased spending of New Zealanders travelling abroad.

In the first quarter of 2005, economic growth was largely due to increased activity in the service industries (up 1.0 per cent). Most service industries recorded increased activity this quarter, and for the March 2005 year activity in this group was up 4.7 per cent. Activity in primary industries rose marginally this quarter (up 0.3 per cent), while goods-producing industries were flat. — MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Saturday, 25 June, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain has been isolated in Kayah State and Magway Division, scattered in Shan State, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Rakhine State and isolated heavyfall in upper Sagaing Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Sittway (4.92) inches, Hkamti (4.80) inches, Gwa (4.72) inches, Kyaukpyu (4.41) inches, Thandwe (4.13) inches, Maungtaw (4.02) inches and Mawlamyine (2.04) inches.

Maximum temperature on 24-6-2005 was 86°F. Minimum temperature on 25-6-2005 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 25-6-2005 was 97%. Total sunshine hours on 24-6-2005 was (1.5 hours) approx. Rainfalls on 25-6-2005 were (0.43) inch at Yangon Airport, (1.19) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.71) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (22.36 inches) at Yangon Airport, (19.65 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (16.93 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (18) mph from Southwest at (01:50) hours MST on 25-6-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 26-6-2005: Rain will be isolated in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfall in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate rough seas will be experienced at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 26-6-2005: Some rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 26-6-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.



Sunday, 26 June Tune in today:

- 7:00 am 1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Oattamathara
7:15 am 2. တိပိဋကဓရ ဓမ္မာဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ အရမဟပဏ္ဍိတ၊ ဘဒ္ဒန္တသိရိရာ ဘိဝံသ(ယောဆရာတော်)ယော ကြားတော်ပူဇော်သောဥပ္ပါတသန္တိ ပါဠိတော်
7:25 am 3. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am 4. Morning news
7:40 am 5. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am 6. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ (၃၀)ပြာမင်လာ
8:05 am 7. အတိပိုင်ပွဲ
8:15 am 8. အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါး အလွဲသုံးမှု တရားမဝင် ရောင်းဝယ်မှု တိုက်ဖျက်ရေးနေ့တေးများ
8:25 am 9. ဂုလင်ရေလျောင်းတံ
8:30 am 10. International news
8:45 am

- 11. Let's go
11:00 am 1. Martial song
11:15 am 2. Musical programme
11:25 am 3. Round up of the week's International news
11:40 am 4. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဓာတ်ပုံစာနှင့် မိစ္ဆာစွမ်းစား" (အပိုင်း-၁၅)
12:30 pm 5. (၂၃)ကြိမ်မြောက် အရှေ့တောင် အာရှအားကစား ဖြိုင်ပွဲဝင်ပည့် ဖြန့်မာအားကစားအဖွဲ့များ၏ ကြိုတင်ပြင်ဆင်မှုများ (ဘီလီယံနစ် ဇနကာ)
12:45 pm 6. "အထွေးခါးခါး ဘဝမျိုးချို" ကျော်သူ၊ ခွဲနိုင်ဝင်း၊ သူသူဟံသာ ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်
2:10 pm 7. Musical programme
2:20 pm 8. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ
2:30 pm 9. ရန်ကုန်တိုင်း မဟာရာဇဓရာလောင်တံ
2:45 pm 10. International news
4:00 pm 1. Martial song
4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm 3. English for Everyday Use

- 4:45 pm 4. အစားသင့်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -တတိယနံ့ (သတ္တဗောဓ)
5:00 pm 5. Song of national races
5:15 pm 6. မြန်မာစား၊ မြန်မာကစား
5:30 pm 7. Musical programme
5:45 pm 8. Agricultural Source Country's Development
5:55 pm 9. Sing and enjoy
6:30 pm 10. Evening news
7:00 pm 11. Weather report
7:05 pm 12. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်ရတနာစံစီ" (အပိုင်း-၃၄)
7:35 pm 13. အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါး အလွဲသုံးမှုတရားမဝင် ရောင်းဝယ်မှု တိုက်ဖျက်ရေးနေ့တေးများ
7:45 pm 14. "မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးအထိန်းအမှတ်ကြိတ်"
8:00 pm 15. News
16. International news
17. Weather report
18. နိုင်ငံခြားဓာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်သံသရာ"(အပိုင်း- ၅၃)
19. The next day's programme



Sunday, 26 June Tune in today:

- 8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music: -Too fancy
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music: All together now
8:55 am National news/Slogan
9:05 am Music: That's when you know
9:10 am International news
9:15 am Cultural images of Myanmar
1:30 pm News/Slogan
1:40 pm Story for children -The deer-king Nijoda
1:50 pm Songs for children
9:00 pm Weekly news review
9:10 pm Article
9:25 pm Let's improve English through songs -Always on my mind
9:45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

Increase in seizures of opium and heroin indicates higher efficiency of narcotic task forces

YANGON, 26 June—The following is a message sent by Chairman of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, Minister for Home Affairs, Major-General Maung Oo, in commemoration of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which falls today.—ED

Today, the 26th of June, is the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Today, countries all over the world will be commemorating this very important day with ceremonies to increase the awareness of the dangers of drug abuse. Likewise, similar commemoration ceremonies are being held nation-wide in all of Myanmar's States and Divisions.

This year, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has chosen the theme Value yourself, make healthy choices. This theme was chosen with the aim of promoting people of the world to value themselves and to choose a healthy lifestyle which is free from drugs. This theme was aimed especially for the youths, urging them to choose a healthy and drug-free lifestyle. In essence, this year's theme has placed an emphasis on 'Prevention' of drug abuse.

Successive Governments of Myanmar have long addressed the problem of drug abuse with its own available resources. The 15-year Drug Elimination Plan was launched in 1999/2000. The first 5-year phase of this Plan has now been completed with much success. Especially in the Supply Reduction Sector, Myanmar has been able to achieve a significant reduction in the illicit production of opium. This has been validated through Opium Yield Surveys and Illicit Crop Monitoring Program conducted jointly by the Myanmar Government and the US and UNODC respectively.

(See page 9)

Prizes presented to schools for best performance



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe presents prize for schools through an officer. MNA

YANGON, 25 June —Prizes were presented to schools for their best performance in school health activities in Yangon Division for 2004-2005 academic year at Mya Nyi La Hall of No 2 Basic Education High

School in Latha Township this morning.

Present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of No 2 Basic Education High

nal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee wife of the commander Daw Khin Thet Htay, officials of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, Secretary of Yangon (See page 9)

Measures for replacing CNG engines coordinated



Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin delivers a speech at the coordination meeting. — INDUSTRY-2

YANGON, 25 June—The Ministry of Industry-2 held a meeting to coordinate replacement of CNG engines in automobiles took place at the ministry on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of the Myanmar Industrial Development Work Committee Chairman of Myanma Industrial Development Bank Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, departmental heads, officials, members of private bus-line control committees and automobile proprietors.

The minister in his

speech said that the State is implementing its drive to replace fuel engines with CNG ones for the

public welfare, and so are many nations. Some automobile proprietors are facing financial difficulties

due to great expense on installation of CNG engines in their automobiles.

(See page 10)

အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ မူးယစ်ဆေးဝါးအလွဲသုံးစားမှုနှင့် တရားမဝင်ရောင်းဝယ်မှုတိုက်ဖျက်ရေးနေ့

၂၆-၆-၂၀၀၅

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26-6-2005

တန်ဖိုးရှိလှ လူငယ်ဘဝ မူးယစ်ကင်းစင်ကျန်းမာမှု

Value yourself --- make healthy choices

Colonialist Drugs At All Times

- Want to know thoroughly about history Will you tell me, Father?
- Well, my son, you particularly Want me to preach chronicle of drugs Is that true, my son?
- Yes, Father, on airwaves whenever I hear of drugs, Myanmar gets Dragged in, that's why Your son wants to know the truth.
- If the history of drugs My son really wants to know In a nutshell and candidly I'll get to the point.
- Look here my son, and listen well On Myanmar Land In ancient times, there were no poppy plants, What's behind them was the West.
- Now, they turn around, and accuse Our Myanmar of cultivating poppy Remember, that's the preaching on drugs.
- In your mind my son, remember drugs Are colonial in nature at all times You keep that etched in your heart, my son.

Po Wa (Trs)

(Hailing International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking)

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

(25-6-2005)

Sittway	4.92 inches
Hkamti	4.80 inches
Gwa	4.72 inches
Kyaukpyu	4.41 inches
Thandwe	4.13 inches
Maungtaw	4.02 inches