Brahmacariyañca, chastity; this is the way to auspiciousness.

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State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to the Philippines

YANGON, 12 June — On the occasion of the 106th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Philippines which falls on 12 June 2004, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Mrs Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines. — *MNA*

State Peace and Development Council Chairman Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Russian Federation

YANGON, 12 June — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Vladimir V Putin, President of the Russian Federation, on the occasion of the National Day of the Russian Federation which falls on 12 June 2004. — *MNA*

National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee, Management Committee hold coordination meeting

YANGON, 11 June— The National Convention Convening Commission, the National Convention Convening Work Committee and Management Committee held coordination meeting No 9/2004 at Anawrahta Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township at 9.20 am today, with an address by Chairman of NCCC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut and commission members, Vice-Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Attorney-General U Aye Maung and work committee members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and management committee members.

Joint-Secretary of the Commission Director-General U Myint Thein of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office acted as master of ceremonies.

First, Chairman of the commission Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address, saying that in group discussions, the delegate groups are compiling proposals

(See page 9)

Four political objectives

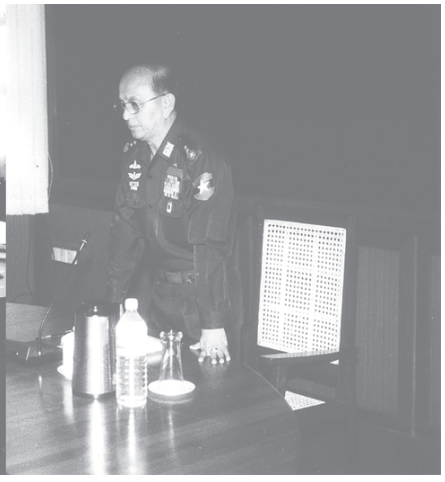
- **Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order**
- **National reconsolidation**
- **Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution**
- **Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution**

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**



National Convention Convening Commission Chairman Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses coordination meeting of National Convention Convening Commission, National Convention Convening Work Committee and Management Committee.— MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects harvesting, cultivation tasks in Namhkham

YANGON, 11 June— Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials, left Muse on 10 June morning and arrived in Namhkam.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe attended the ceremony to harvest 200 acres of Hsinshweli strain summer paddy held in Naungtein Village, Namhkam Township. Also present were the commander, officials, local authorities, local national race leaders and local people.

Officials reported on cultivation of summer and monsoon paddy in Muse District. The commander gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presented prizes to outstanding farmers of Namhkam and Muse Townships in cultivation of Hsinshweli strain of paddy. The commander also gave away prizes to outstanding employees of Myanma Agriculture Service. Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave a speech.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, the commander and the national race leaders inspected harvesting of summer paddy with the use of modern harvesters. Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party posed for documentary photos with the local national race leaders.

At the harvesting ceremony, the per acre yield of the 200-acre plot was 202.21 baskets. Of the 2,374 acres of Hsinshweli cultivated in Namhkam Township for 2003-2004, the per acre yield of five acres was 153.39 baskets. Similarly, of 1,027 acres of other high-yield strains grown in the township, the per acre yield of 57 acres was 107.85 baskets.

In addition, all farmers who cultivated Hsinshweli paddy strain in Namhkam Township could produce over 100 baskets per acre

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PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 12 June, 2004

For strengthening Union Spirit

Since its birth, the Union Solidarity and Development Association has been making contributions towards tasks for emergence of a peaceful, modern and development nation as well as training and nurturing the youths capable of brilliantly undertaking national duties. The USDA has conducted courses on national culture and moral education, and proficiency courses for ten years. Over 2 million youths attended various courses opened in 2004 summer.

In his address at the opening of Myanmar and International Studies Course No 6 and Special Refresher Course No 7 at Pyidaungsu Hall of the USDA Training Centre in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, on 9 June, Patron of the USDA Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe said that the State regards the new generation youths as human resources indispensable for the nation, and so their national and political outlooks, patriotism and Union Spirit play a vital role. The study of Myanmar history shows that Myanmar was capable of standing as an independent and sovereign nation in Asia after establishing a strong nation for three times. In the 19th Century, the colonialists occupied the country through three aggressive wars, resulting in the loss of the nation's sovereignty.

The entire people made collaborative and combined endeavours with a view to throwing off the servitude, restoring the sovereignty and building up a strong nation and as a result, Myanmar regained her independence and could stand again as a sovereign nation in 1948. But, before long, there was a growing disunity due to the sectarianism among the leaders who had taken part in the independence struggle as well as among the national people, leading to disintegration of national solidarity.

After its assumption of the State's duties, the Government adopted the policies suitable for the nation's prevailing conditions and laid foundation for building a new nation.

It gave the top priority to restoration of peace and stability in the country. Taking lessons from the bitter experiences encountered in the past, the Government firmly practised Our Three Main National Causes— non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty— as the national policy.

As the Union of Myanmar is home to over 100 national races, new generation youths are urged to try their best to be equipped with clear national and political outlook and for strengthening of Union Spirit.

နိုင်ငံတော်အစိုးရဥဿုနိုင်မော်တော်ယာဉ်များမသုံးစွဲရန်

လစဉ်လ၏ ၃ တိယပတ် တနင်္ဂနေ့နှင့်နောက်ဆုံးပတ် တနင်္ဂနေ့တို့သည် ရုံးလုပ်ငန်းအတွက် မဖြစ်မနေသွားလာရန် လိုအပ်သည့်ကိစ္စရပ်များမှအပ မော်တော်ယာဉ်များ မသုံးစွဲရန် ဖြစ်သည်။

၂၀၀၄ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇွန်လအတွက် (၁၃–၆–၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့နှင့် (၂၇–၆–၂၀၀၄) ရက်နေ့

Film entertainments to NC delegates

YANGON, 11 June — The Entertainment and Welfare Subcommittee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee organizes entertainment programmes for delegates to the National Convention daily at the gymnasium of Nyaunghnapin Camp.

Yesterday evening, the delegates were entertained with a film entitled "Achit-ein-galay" (little house of love) directed by Kyee Myint and starred by Lwin Moe, Nandar Hlaing, Khin Soe Paing and Tun Tun Win. — *MNA*

People's Desire

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

Minister U Win Aung sends felicitations to Russian Federation

YANGON, 12 June — U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Sergei V Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, on the occasion of the National Day of the Russian Federation, which falls on 12 June 2004. — *MNA*

Minister U Win Aung sends felicitations to the Philippines

YANGON, 12 June — On the occasion of the 106th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Philippines which falls on 12 June 2004, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Mrs Delia Domingo Albert, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines. *MNA*

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi being seen off at the airport. — ENERGY

Energy Minister leaves for Malaysia

YANGON, 11 June — A Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi left here by air this afternoon to attend the 9th Asia Oil and Gas Conference to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, departmental heads under the Ministry of Energy and their families. — *MNA*

Cash and kind donated

YANGON, 11 June— The Myanmar Brewery Ltd donated cash and kind to social organizations at the company on Saya San Road in Bahan Township, here, this morning. Present on the occasion were officials of the News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information, Chairman of Myanmar Sports Writers Association Dr Tin Tun Oo, officials, Myanmar Brewery Co Ltd General Manager Mr David Teng, Deputy General Manager Lt-Col Maung Maung Sein (Retd), and social organizations. The general manager extended greetings, and presented K 3 million to Patron of Kawhmu monastic education school U Thaung Kyi. The staff of the company presented clothes, exercise books and stationery to the school. Officials of the company went to Mary Chapman's School for the Deaf and Dumb. Mr David Teng presented K 3 million and the staff of the company, clothes and stationery to the school through Principal Daw Khin May Hsint. They also went to the Association for Development of Women (Wingabar). Lt-Col Maung Maung Sein (Retd) presented K 3 million and the staff of the company, clothes and stationery to the school through Principal Daw Nyunt Nyunt Khin.

Afterwards, they arrived at the Myanmar Christian Fellowship of the Blind (Khawegyan). Assistant Manager (Personnel Affairs) of the company U Maung Maung Soe presented K 3 million to Secretary of the school U Thein Lwin and the staff of the company, clothes and stationery to Principal Daw Zee Nar Don. — *MNA*

POEM:

Victory of Kalay region

* Two mountain ranges betwixt,
The plain, with two parallel rivers
Flowing incessantly, that's Kalay Region.

* 'Nayrinsara' waterway still pleasant
Near Yasagyo, a dam is built
For power generation, for cultivation
With twin thoughts, in the valley
For long-term interests, it's being built.

* Will climb to Kalay, leave for Tamu
The dark new route, is impediment
To pass over 'Myittha', cross it
New modern bridge, well-crafted
Built and opened with new design.

* Myittha River, and
Nayrinsara, the twin rivers
Do benefit, for good of communities
Earth dam and reservoir
Rising skyward, this iron bridge
Rice plentiful, due silted land
Using hydro power, some day in future
Light and energy, to serve work place
With future prospects, these are arranged
Victory of Kalay Region.

Ko (Tekkatho) (Trs)
(Composed in honour of Yasagyo Dam and Myittha Bridge)

Japanese guests meet UMFCCI President

YANGON, 11 June — The Policy Dialogue Mission on Mekong Region Development 14-member delegation headed by Deputy Director-General of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan Mr Shinichi Nishimiya called on Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry President U Win Myint, Vice-Presidents U Zaw Min Win and U Aung Lwin, General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, Joint Secretary-1 U Myo Nyunt and CEC members at the UMFCCI head office here this morning. They discussed matters on Mekong region development, East-West Corridor and developing SMEs. — *MNA*

Myanmar Brewery Ltd General Manager Mr David Teng presents K 3 million to Principal Daw Khin May Hsint of Mary Chapman's School for the Deaf and Dumb. — MNA

Emami cosmetics introduced

YANGON, 11 June — London based Emami International lotion and powder were introduced in Myanmar for the first time at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road yesterday evening. Country Manager Mr Prashant Goenka of Emami international extended greetings and explained facts about Emami products. Next, he answered the quarries raised by those present and journalists and hosted dinner to them. On the occasion, Emami Naturally Fair lotion, Himami Gold Cream and Emami Golden Beauty Powder were introduced and they will be distributed. — *MNA*

Country Manager Mr Prashant Goenka extends greetings at the launching ceremony. MNA

France, Turkey reject NATO role in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 10 June — France and Turkey have rejected President George W Bush's idea of NATO playing a role in Iraq, with Paris cautioning that the Arab world does not need "missionaries of democracy".

"I do not think that it is NATO's job to intervene in Iraq. Moreover, I do not have the feeling that it would be either timely or necessarily well understood," French President Jacques Chirac told reporters in a video conference from Sea Island, the private resort where the Group of 8 — Western industrial countries, Japan and Russia — are meeting.

He also cautioned the US that the Arab world does not need "Missionaries of democracy," adding that he has "strong reservations on this (Bush) initiative." Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a guest at the summit, expressed himself similarly.

Asked whether NATO, of which Turkey is a member, should have a role in Iraq, Erdogan said: "The concept we have been emphasising is the role of the United Nations." Chirac warned that US efforts to promote democracy in the Middle East run the risk of backfiring. "We must stand ready to help. But we must also take care not to provoke." "For that would be to risk feeding extremism and falling into the fatal trap of the 'clash of civilizations' — precisely what we wish to avoid." Chirac said that instead of missionaries of democracy, what the Arab world needs is addressing conflicts such as the long-running struggle between Israelis and Palestinians.

Chirac also raised another topic that is uncomfortable for the Bush Administration — the gigantic budgetary and trade deficits it is generating. — *Internet*

Iraqis gather around a bullet-riddled Iraqi police vehicle outside the Najaf, police station on 10 June, 2004. — INTERNET

Shiite gunmen seize Najaf police station

BAGHDAD, 10 June—Shiite gunmen raided an Iraqi police station in the holy city of Najaf and held it for two hours Thursday in the first outbreak of fighting since an agreement to end weeks of clashes between US troops and militia forces. Six Iraqis were killed and 29 were injured, including eight children, hospital officials said.

The interim Prime Minister sought to shore up internal political support by promising to honour the interim constitution as authorities prepare for the handover of power from the US-led coalition.

Also Thursday, gunmen claiming to belong to a militant Islamic group displayed four Turks they said were kidnapped in Iraq, demanding that Turkish companies end all business here and pull staff out of the country.

Chaos swept the southern city of Najaf after gunmen loyal to radical clericMuqtada al-Sadr (search)overran the Ghari police station after a 10-hour gunbattle, witnesses said. The station, located 250 yards from theImam Ali Shrine (search), was looted and police cars were burned.

"We sent a quick reaction unit to assist the policemen defending the station, but they were overwhelmed by al-Sadr fighters," said Najaf Gov Adnan al-Zurufi. "We will solve this problem as soon as possible. We will ask for the help of the Americans, if necessary."Hours later, al-Sadr's forces withdrew, and rioters looted the damaged cars.

Later Thursday, Iraqi police traded gunfire with al-Sadr's militia near one of the radical Shiite cleric's houses, said Muhanad Kadhin, a police official. Police went to the nearby al-Hakim hospital after reports that wounded policemen brought there were threatened by al-Sadr fighters. Kadhin said the militiamen started firing first, prompting police to fire back. —*Internet*

G-8 summit concludes

SAVANNAGH (United States), 11 June — The Group of Eight (G-8) concluded its annual three-day meeting Thursday afternoon.

"We have just concluded a very successful meeting," US President George Bush said at a Press conference held here at the International Media Center.

As one of the most important achievement, the G-8 summit on Wednesday adopted the "Partnership for Progress and a Common Future With the Region of the Broader Middle East and North Africa" to promote democratic, economic and social reforms in the Middle East countries, and stressed the need of resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for any progress in the Middle East.

The leaders of the G-8 summit issued a statement on Thursday calling on the Quartet, composed of the United Nations, the United States, Russia and the European Union, to meet this month to revive the stalled Roadmap plan for the Middle East peace process.

During the three-day meeting, the G-8 summit also achieved progress on issues such as nonproliferation, war on terror, travel safety and trade.

MNA/Xinhua

ကုန်းတိုက်ဆိုင်ရာ ဆိုးကျိုးများ

Allawi says attacks on oil facilities cost Iraq dearly

BAGHDAD, 11 June—Iraq has lost more than $US200 million over the past seven months due to 130 attacks on its oil pipelines, Prime Minister Iyad Allawi says.

He blames terrorists and foreign fighters for targeting the vital industry.

"More than $200 million has been stolen out of the pockets of a sovereign Iraqi government through the loss of oil revenues resulting from attacks to pipelines," Mr Allawi said.

Mr Allawi, tapped as premier last month, has pledged to guarantee security in Iraq, tackle the economic crisis and hold national elections.

He is calling on Iraqis to help combat the saboteurs.

"I call on all Iraqi patriots to be vigilant. It is our people that are sitting in the dark and not our occupier," he said.

He underlines the fact that Iraq's oil ministry would be independent after June 30, although the spending of oil export sales will still be monitored by an advisory board set up by the United Nations.

Seen as tough on security and with close ties to the US, the former Baathist dissident hopes to turn the Iraqi people against an insurgency that rose up from the ashes of the 2003 US-led invasion.

On Wednesday, insurgents blew up a section of Iraq's main export pipeline near the northern oil centre of Kirkuk in the second such attack in less than a day.

Since US-led forces ousted Saddam more than a year ago, the authorities have been scrambling to breathe life into the oil sector, which generates more than 90 per cent of the country's revenues.

But their efforts have been hampered by persistent attacks on oil pipelines, which have intensified since the appointment of a new caretaker government last week.

Iraq has the world's second-largest proven reserves at some 115 billion barrels, but production has been sharply reduced by more than two decades of war and 13 years of UN sanctions.—*Internet*

Singapore welcomes UNSC resolution on Iraq

SINGAPORE, 10 June— Singapore on Wednesday welcomed the new UN Security Council Resolution 1546, saying that it will effectively hand over full sovereignty to the Iraqi people on 30 June, 2004.

"Singapore welcomes the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1546, which will effectively hand over full sovereignty to the Iraqi people on 30 June, 2004," a Singapore Foreign Ministry spokesman said in response to press queries.

The spokesman said that the unanimous adoption of the UN Security Council resolution sends a clear message of international unity and determination to win the struggle in the global war against terrorism, of which Iraq has been a central battleground.

On Tuesday afternoon, the United Nations Security Council unanimously endorsed the new resolution to end the US-led occupation of Iraq and hand over power to a new Iraqi Government by the end of June.

The resolution 1546 gives Iraq control over the country's security forces and spells out that the US-led troops, which will remain in the country after 30 June, will stay only at the requestof the Iraqi Government.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam Airlines to increase int'l airfares

HANOI, 10 June — Vietnam Airlines, the national flag carrier, will increase fares for international flights by five US dollars in the next few days due to higher fuel costs, it told *Xinhua* on Wednesday.

However, fares of domestic flights and cargo freight will remain unchanged.

The airlines' fuel cost, which accounts for 19-20 per cent of its operation expenses, has recently soared, as one ton of petroleum products in the world market is priced up to 400 dollars.

Vietnam Airlines has launched 20 direct international routes, including those to Paris, Sydney, Moscow, Beijing, Kunming, Guangzhou, Tokyo and Bangkok, and three indirect routes to Los Angeles, San Francisco and Manila. The single ticket for the Hanoi-Paris route and the Hanoi-Beijing route currently is 804 dollars and 272 dollars, respectively. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Iraqi militants loyal to Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr fire a mortar at US troops in the Baghdad, district of Sadr City on 5 June, 2004. — INTERNET

Annan urges international law in Iraq

CAMBRIDGE, 10 June — UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said Thursday that the war in Iraq has sparked a global crisis that must be resolved through international cooperation.

"What kind of world would it be, and who would want to live in it, if every country was allowed to use force, without collective agreement, simply because it thought there might be a threat?" he said at Harvard University's commencement.

Annan's comments came two days after the UN Security Council voted to adopt a resolution backing Iraqi sovereignty and giving the new leaders clout over a US-led force. The resolution was co-sponsored by the United States and Britain.

"Once again, in recent weeks, the United States found that it needed the unique legitimacy of the United Nations to bring into being a credible interim government in Iraq," Annan said.

He said the United Nations and the United States are facing a crisis over whether force is a legitimate means to prevent attacks. That issue came to a head last year when the Bush administration said fears of international terrorism required the ouster of Saddam Hussein. Critics, including Annan, say the United States should have sought more international approval before attacking.

Annan also cited a "crisis of solidarity" between the United Nations and the United States, which he argued was diverting international attention and resources away from long-standing challenges such as AIDS, education and infant mortality.

Finally, Annan said, the world is facing a "crisis of prejudice and intolerance."

"We must not allow ourselves, out of fear or anger, to treat people whose faith or culture differs from ours as enemies," he said.

Internet

Spanish Oxfam halts Iraq relief

MADRID, 11 June—The Spanish branch of the humanitarian aid group Oxfam has said that it is impossible to continue work in Iraq because of the security situation.

The group said the violence was so bad that half of the money spent in Iraq had to go on hiring security staff.

The organization said the money raised for projects in Iraq, some 870,000 euros ($1m) would now go to Burundi.

Oxfam Spain said if donors were not happy with their cash being diverted they could ask for it back.

"The extreme situation of insecurity that has characterised Iraq over the past year makes it impossible to carry out the projects for which these funds were destined," the organization said.

Ignasi Carreras, director general of Oxfam in Spain, said that of the money raised the group had only been able to spend 183,000 euros.

This money was used to repair bomb-damaged water supplies in Nasiriya, Karbala and Basra, as well as building water tanks for several Karbala hospitals.

But since the danger hampered relief efforts so much Mr Carreras said the money could be used much more effectively and quickly to provide emergency relief in Burundi.

Oxfam, which has its headquarters in the UK, had pulled all of its foreign staff out of Iraq in August last year, following an attack on the United Nations' Baghdad headquarters.

Since then it had been relying on a core team of 50 nationals. —*Internet*

In this image taken from video, Mahdi militants prepare to fire their weapons at American positions in the Sadr City neighbourhood of Baghdad on 10 June, 2004. INTERNET

Kuwait, Iran sign MoU on economic cooperation

KUWAIT CITY,10 June— Kuwait and Iran signed on Wednesday a memorandum on economic cooperation at the conclusion of the seventh meeting of the Joint Kuwaiti-Iranian Committee, reported *Kuwait News Agency.*

Kuwaiti Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Rasheed Al-Tabtabaei said talks between the two sides focused on tariffs, energy, chambers of commerce, central banks, agriculture, industry, media, tourism, and that time-tables have been set up for the implementation of recommendations advanced by the committee talks.

The memorandum was signed by Al-Tabtabaei and his Iranian counterpart Mujbati Khosrowtaj.

MNA/Xinhua

Kuwait welcomes UNSC resolution on Iraq

KUWAIT CITY, 10 June — Kuwait welcomed on Wednesday the new Resolution No 1546 unanimously approved by the United Nations Security Council.

According to *Kuwait News Agency,* an authoritative Foreign Ministry source voiced welcome of the State of Kuwait for issue of Resolution 1546 on Iraq, that was unanimously approved by the Security Council members Tuesday night. The source said in a statement that the resolution represents an important and vital step that reflects keenness of the international community on maintaining security and stability in Iraq and the region in all, beside realizing aspirations of the Iraqi people for a free and united country as well as putting an end for their sufferings that continued for over three decades.—*MNA/Xinhua*

စက်ဗွဲ့ဖိုးသား ခေတ်ကျော်လွှား

A British soldier takes position behind an earth mound following an explosion in Basra recently. — INTERNET

Chirac unwilling to forgive more than 50 percent of Iraq's debt

PARIS,10 June— French President Jacques Chirac said he's unwilling to forgive more than half of Iraq's debt and sees "great risks" in US President George W Bush's call to increase NATO's presence in the Middle East country.

Chirac said he opposes writing off more debt because Iraq is "potentially a rich country" with the world's second-largest oil reserves.

"How would we explain to poor heavily indebted countries or to some highly indebted countries such as Nigeria that we would do in three months more than what we have done in 10 years for the 37 countries that are the poorest and the most indebted in the world?" Chirac said at a press conference at the end of an industrialized nations' summit in Savannah, Georgia.

US President George W Bush's personal appeals failed to win agreement from Group of Eight leaders to reduce Iraq's $120 billion of debt and to send more troops to stabilize the country. The stalemate leaves NATO to consider any request on Iraq and the Paris Club of creditor nations, whose members include both the US and France, to find a compromise on debt.

"We had a complete divergence of viewpoints" with the US over last year's invasion, Chirac said. "I regret this war, which was neither necessary nor useful."

Bush told a separate news conference that he doesn't expect the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, of which France is also a member, to send more troops to Iraq. Chirac said it's too early to consider a Bush proposal to use NATO troops to train Iraqi security forces.

France and Germany have refused to send troops to help the 150,000 that the US, UK and Italy have in Iraq.

Internet

Chirac warns against excessive interference in M-E

SEA ISLAND (Georgia), 10 June — Democracy cannot be imposed from outside and ending Middle East conflicts must be the priority as major industrial nations try to help reform in the region, French President Jacques Chirac said on Wednesday.

Chirac, speaking during a Group of Eight summit, issued a warning against excessive interference in the greater Middle East region, saying provocative behaviour could lead to a "clash of civilizations".

"We must stand ready to help. But we must also take care not to provoke," said Chirac, who was a strong opponent of the US-led war in Iraq. "For that would be to risk feeding extremism and falling into the fatal trap of the clash of 'civilizations:' precisely what we wish to avoid." Chirac made the comments in notes prepared for remarks at a summit lunch also attended by leaders of seven Arab and Muslim nations, including Iraq.

He was speaking about a G-8 proposal to help achieve more democracy and economic growth in the region, to be launched at the annual summit that began on Tuesday in the Georgia resort of Sea Island. The US initiative had angered Arab nations when a draft of version emerged in February because it did not mention the Arab-Israeli conflict and because it appeared to seek to impose reform from abroad.

That and European concerns have produced a scaled back revision of the proposal, now titled a "partnership" for progress in the region. Chirac said the success of the initiative would depend on it being a genuine partnership founded in "pragmatism, respect, confidence and dialogue". While France voted with the rest of the UN Security Council on Tuesday for a resolution approving the handover of power to an interim Iraqi government on 30 June, Paris has been deeply critical of the war and Chirac described the country as "plunged into chaos".

Chirac said the region did not need "missionaries" of democracy and stressed that a priority should be working to end the region's conflicts.

MNA/Reuters

NZ makes contribution to Iraq in support of UN resolution

WELLINGTON, 11 June— New Zealand has contributed three million NZ dollars (about 1.86 million US dollars) to Iraq backing up its support for the UN resolution, *The Dominion Post* reported Thursday.

The 15-nation UN Security Council adopted Wednesday a resolution endorsing a "sovereign interim government" in Iraq and authorizing a US-led multinational force to keep the peace.

New Zealand Foreign Affairs Minister Phil Goff was quoted as saying that the money would be earmarked for UN efforts in electoral assistance and the resettlement of returning refugees.

He said the UN resolution was a positive step toward resolving the situation in Iraq, though it was "far from clear" that this would end the widespread violence.

New Zealand distanced itself from its traditional allies, the United States, Britain and Australia, over the war in Iraq, which it strongly opposed.

MNA/Xinhua

Portugal expresses satisfaction with new UN resolution on Iraq

LISBON, 10 June — Portugal expressed satisfaction Wednesday with the new UN Security Council resolution on Iraq, but did not say whether its troops would remain in the Gulf country.

The Portuguese Foreign Ministry said in a communique that Resolution 1546 "opens a new era for Iraq and its people by confirming that the new government will assume full responsibility and authority to lead national affairs".

The Portuguese Government was glad that the new resolution had described the presence of multinational forces in Iraq as "requested by the interim government of Iraq" and that the resolution made it clear that the forces would remain if Iraq asks for it.

The communique added that the Portuguese contingent of 120 National Republican Guard troops would evaluate and pay special attention to the expressions of the will of the sovereign government of Iraq.

Portugal's Socialist Party asked Wednesday to meet the country's President and Prime Minister to evaluate the withdrawal of Portuguese operatives from Iraq after Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio said last week that National Republican Guard troops would remain in Iraq only if the future interim Iraqi Government requests so. — *MNA/Xinhua*

An armed Shiite militiaman aims a rocket propelled grenade launcher while trying to prevent US forces from entering a neighbourhood of Baghdad, on 10 June, 2004. — INTERNET

Lawmakers start to probe role of British troops in Iraq

LONDON, 11 June— British lawmakers will start a probe into the role of British troops in Iraq and their relations with Iraqi civilians before the June 30 transfer of sovereignty, a parliamentary committee said Wednesday.

The parliamentary Defence Select Committee will also examine the British troops' status under the UN mandate and the likely scale and length of their commitment in Iraq.

However, the lawmakers will not look into specific allegations of abuse, Bruce George, chairman of the committee, said in a statement. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Wetland on increase in China

BEIJING, 11 June— Information from the State Forestry Administration said there are 38.49 million hactares of a wetland across China, of which, natural wetland make up 94 per cent.

That was learned from the national inventory on wetland resources published by the administration on Thursday.

The inventory, the first of the kind, has been conducted since 1995. It targets at lakes, swampland, reservoirs and ponds, seaside and coastal wetland with an area of over 100 hactares and rivers with riverbed's width exceeding 10 metres and with an area of over 100 hactares, as well as other wetlands that have special significance.

According to the inventory, natural wetland totals 36.2 million hactares, 40 per cent of which, or 16 million hactares, has been well protected after being integrated into 353 nature reserves.

However, the inventory also notes in some areas, the main problems including blind land reclamation, unwise use of biological and water resources and serious pollution of wetland still exist. — *MNA/Xinhua*

Study finds More Americans abuse alcohol

WASHINGTON, 11 June— More Americans are abusing alcohol than in the 1990s, but fewer are technically alcoholics, US Government researchers said on Thursday.

They found that the number of American adults who abuse alcohol or are alcohol dependent rose to 17.6 million or 8.46 per cent of the population in 2001-2002 from 13.8 million or 7.41 per cent of the population in 1991-1992.

The researchers cannot say why heavy drinking is up.

"The fact that alcohol disorder rates are highest among young adults underscores the need for concerted research on drinking patterns that initiate in adolescence," said Dr. Ting-Kai Li, Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

The NIAAA study defines alcohol abuse as causing a failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school, or home; interpersonal social and legal problems; and/or drinking in hazardous situations.

Alcohol dependence, also known as alcoholism, is characterized by impaired control over drinking, compulsive drinking, preoccupation with drinking, tolerance to alcohol and/or withdrawal symptoms.

Across the decade, the rate of alcohol abuse increased to 4.65 per cent of the general population from 3.03 per cent, while the rate of alcoholism fell to 3.81 per cent of the general population from 4.38 per cent, Li's team reported in the journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.

The survey was done by the US Census Bureau, which interviewed more than 43,000 people face to face.

The survey found that men were more likely to abuse alcohol than women and people aged 18 to 44 were more likely to abuse alcohol than older people.

"Alcohol abuse is more prevalent among Whites than among Hispanics, Blacks, and Asians. Alcohol dependence is more prevalent among native Americans, Hispanics and Whites than among Asians," the NIAAA, one of the National Institutes of Health, said in a statement.

"That rates of dependence overall decreased is not surprising in light of other surveys that indicate a decline in heavy drinking," said Bridget Grant, who led the study.

"That alcohol abuse seems to be increasing presents intriguing questions. What is clear is that no single environmental cause can explain the increase. Further research is an important public health priority."

MNA/Reuters

An armed Shiite militiaman holds a machine gun while trying to prevent US forces from entering a Baghdad suburb, on 10 June, 2004. — INTERNET

Floating rubbish at Three Gorges reservoir affects navigation

BEIJING, 10 June — Some hundreds of metres-long belts of rubbish floating along the Three Gorges reservoir have affected navigation, according to Wednesday's *Legal Daily*.

A source from the Yichang Maritime Safety Administration was quoted by the newspaper as saying that successively intensive rainfall at the upstream Yangtze River has made the water level of the Three Gorges reservoir dramatically rise and rushed down a great number of branches, weeds and rubbish into the main navigation channel of the reservoir, causing some navigation blocks.—*MNA/Xinhua*

China, Russia sign investment contracts worth $700m

KHABAROVSK (Russia), 10 June — China and Russia here on Wednesday signed 12 contracts worth about 700 million US dollars in efforts to promote cooperation in investment and pursue mutual prosperity.

The two neighbouring countries signed the contracts at the two-day China-Russia Conference on Investment Promotion in the Far East which began on Wednesday.

The signing of the contracts represents the taking of a concrete step in bilateral investment cooperation in the Far East region, said Ma Kai, head of the Chinese delegation and Minister of State Development and Reform Commission.

Ma listed agriculture, fishery, forestry, energy, mining, textile and telecommunications as the investment cooperation priority areas. Russian presidential envoy to the Far East Konstantin Pulikovsky said Russia needs China's investment and he is ready to deal with investment problems for Chinese investors. — *MNA/Xinhua*

China invests $2b overseas in 2003

BEIGJING, 10 June — China invested 2.087 billion US dollars overseas in 2003, up 112 per cent over the previous year, while its number of overseas enterprises grew by 510 last year, a senior foreign exchange administrator said.

Wei Benhua, vice-director of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange, told a meeting earlier this week that the figures show China's overseas development grew by "leaps and bounds" in the past few years.

Zhang Zhigang, Vice-Minister of Commerce, said China's total overseas investment has so far exceeded 30 billion US dollars, covering over 160 countries and regions around the globe.

Chinese firms set up 312 enterprises overseas in 2001, with a combined Chinese investment of 785 million US dollars shortly after the introduction of the country's go-global strategy in the late 1990s, which encourages Chinese firms to invest abroad.

The number of Chinese enterprises set up overseas in 2002 stood at 350 with a combined investment of 983 million US dollars, according to Wei. Wei said the investment involves manufacturing, processing, engineering contracts and labour services.

MNA/Xinhua

Relatives visit an unidentified Iraqi who was injured clashes between guerillas and US Forces at a hospital in Najaf, Iraq, on 10 June, 2004.

Smoke billows from an explosion of an oil well in Kirkuk, Iraq, on 9 June, 2004.

Images of Iraq

An Iraqi man rides his horse cart past a burning truck after a roadside attack on the highway outside of Baghdad, Iraq on 9 June, 2004.

A roadside bomb exploded in the northern city of Mosul, some 370 kms from Baghdad, on 8 June, 2004.

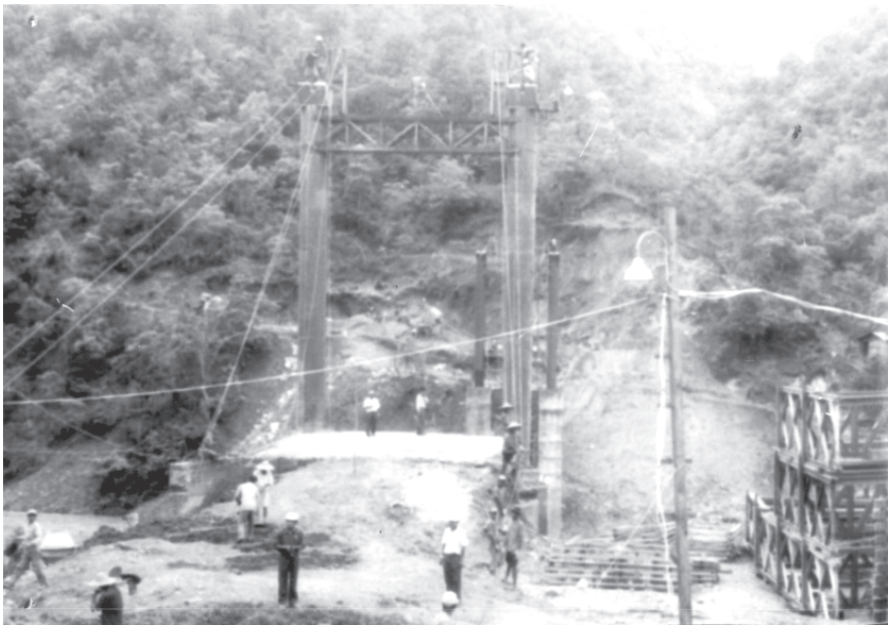
Armed Shi'ite militiamen run while trying to prevent US forces from entering a neighbourhood in Baghdad, on 10 June, 2004.

A wounded youth is brought for treatment to a hospital in Najaf, on 10 June, 2004 after gun battles between Iraqi police and militia.

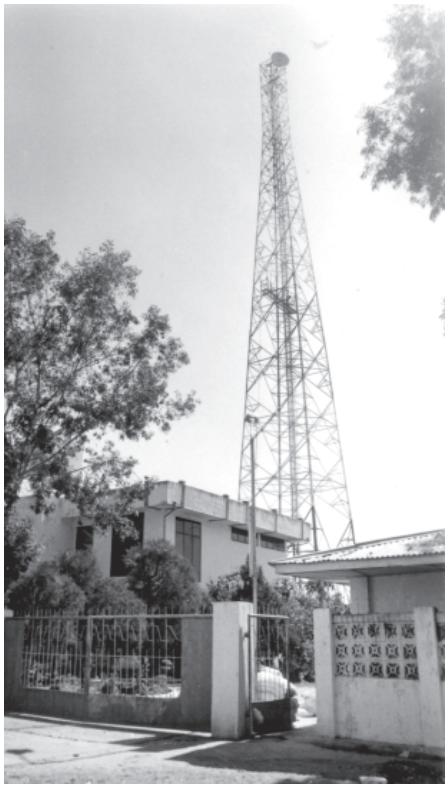
An Iraqi man is treated in a hospital following a car-bomb in Balad Ruz, 50 kms south of Baquba on 8 June.

An Iraqi man and woman sit outside the entrance of the emergency room of the general hospital in Najaf, waiting for the news of injured relative on 10 June, 2004.

New and fast developments throughout Myanmar



Manswang bridge construction site on Tiddim-Reed road in Tiddim Township, Chin State. — CONSTRUCTION

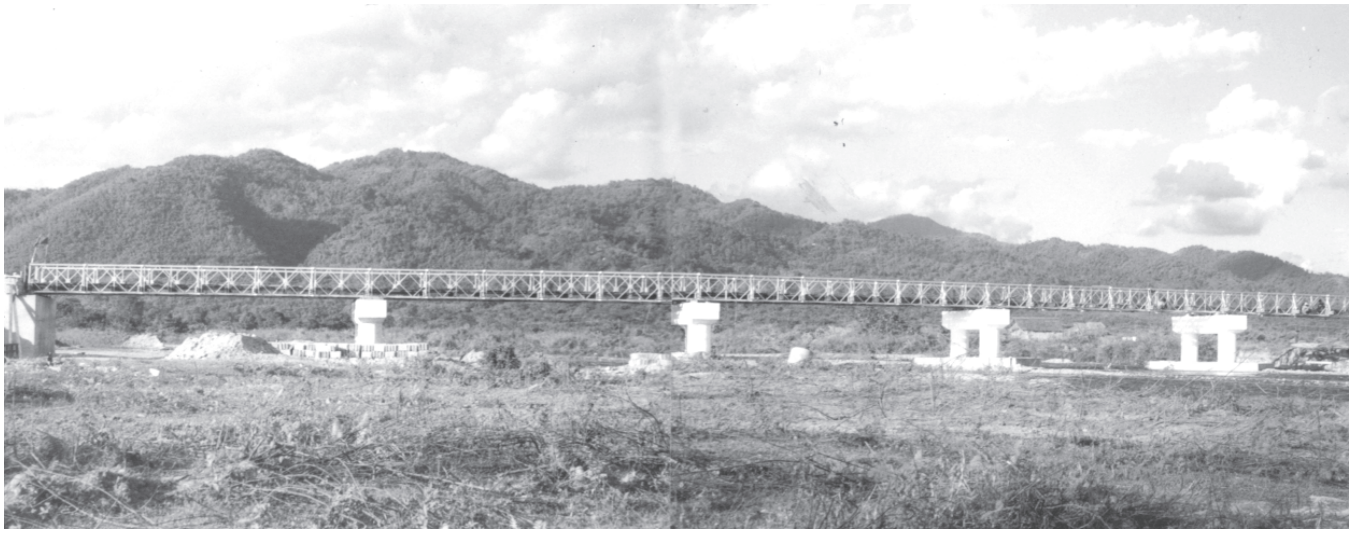


Microwave Station in Loikaw serves the people for their convenience in communication. — MNA

Border and rural area developments

Firewood plantation in Thekkeigyin village, Taungdwingyi Township, Magway Division.— PHOTO: MOEKO (FORESTRY)

Kyaukchaunggyi bridge which is under construction on Pathein-Thabaung road in Ayeyawady Division.— MNA



For the development of border areas, Nampun Creek bridge was built on Tachilek-Tarlay road in Tachilek District, Shan State (East).— MNA

The great grand ceremony in honour of Sasana Azanis (Religious Heroes) who were presented the Title of Tipitakadhara, Tipitakakovida and the Title of Tipitakadhara in the year 2004

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

In order to carefully preserve genuine Theravada Buddhism, multifarious Buddhist people and Government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, hand in hand, are supporting and encouraging to carry out the noble task of the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana at home and abroad.

With a view to promoting and flourishing the Pariyatti Sasana (Learning the Buddha's teachings) mainly contributing to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana throughout the world, the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar is striving to hold the following religious examinations in the Union of Myanmar yearly: —

(1) Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination
(2) Dhammacariya Examination
(3) Pathamagyi Examination
(4) Pathamalat Examination
(5) Pathamange Examination
(6) Abhidhamma/Visudhimagga Examination (only for Laymen and Nuns)
(7) Five Nikaya Examination

Out of these seven kinds of religious examinations, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is the most extensive, most difficult and profound and highest, and so it has been separately held by the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar since 1949 (1310 ME).

Buddhist monks who wish to sit for this Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination must have passed at least the Pathamagyi Examination. In fact, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is quite different from other religious Examinations because the candidates who will sit for this examination must have to take (33) days. They have to meet both oral and written portions as prescribed. The oral portion consists of Pali Texts of (8026) pages of Tipitaka canons and the written portion consists of over (200) books of Pali Texts, Athakatha (Commentaries) and Tika (Sub-Commentaries) of Tipitaka Canons respectively. Only candidates who have got through both oral and written portions of the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination will be presented the Title of Tipitakadhara, Tipitakakovida and candidates who have got through the oral portion will be presented the Title of Tipitakadhara.

It is further learnt that only (11) Sasana Azanis (Religious Heroes) distinctively emerged during (56) years of the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination from 1949 to 2004 (1310 to 1366 ME). In fact, over ten-thousand Buddhist monks appeared for this sacred Examination during the period of (56) years. Out of them, only (11) distinctively got through the oral portion of Pali Texts of (8026) pages of Tipitaka Canons and the written portion of over (200) books of Pali Texts of Tipitaka Canons during the period of (56) years.

The great grand ceremony in honour of three Religious Heroes (Sasana Azanis) and other outstanding Buddhist monks in the 56th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination of 2004.

The 56th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination was held at Vizayadhamma Hall on Kaba Aye Hillock, Yangon from 28 December 2003 to 29 January 2004, and it took 33 days.

It is learnt that altogether (184) Buddhist monk candidates appeared for the 56th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination and out of them, only two candidates distinctively got through both the oral portion of Pali Texts of (8026) pages and written portion of Pali Texts of over (200) books, and one through the oral portion and (79) through respective portions of Pali Texts as prescribed.

The great grand ceremony in honour of three distinctive Sasana Azanis (Religious Heroes) and other (79) outstanding Buddhist monks who were successful in the 56th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination of 2004, was successfully held at the convocation Hall of the State Pariyatti Sasana University on Kaba Aye Hillock, Yangon, Myanmar on 22nd May 2004. The auspicious ceremony was arranged and conducted by the Ministry of Religious Affairs under the guidance and instructions of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar.

The auspicious ceremony was attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Ven Bhaddanta Kesara and Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Ven Bhaddanta Kumara and members, Chairman of the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Ven Bhaddanta Vijayabhivamsa and members and invited members of the Sangha.

Also present on the auspicious occasion were Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Daw Khin Than Nwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann and wife, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Kyaw Win and Lt-Gen Tin Aye of the Ministry of Defence and their wives, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Soe Thein, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, departmental heads, invited guests and wellwishers.

Firstly, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Ven Bhaddanta Vijayabhivamsa administered the Five Precepts to the audience. Afterwards, Ven Bhaddanta Kesara, Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee read out the message of admonition of the Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Ven Bhaddanta Sobhita.

Consequently, on behalf of the Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Ven Bhaddanta Sobhita, Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Agga Maha Pandita Ven Bhaddanta Kesara delivered a sermon to the audience.

After that, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye presented the certificate of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Titles to Ven Ashin Sondara (Religious Hero) of Sunlungu Vipassana Monastery in Thingangyun Township, Yangon Division and Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented the certificate of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Title to Ven Ashin Indapala (Religious Hero) of Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery in Dagon Township, Yangon Division.

Next, Member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann presented the certificate of Tipitakadhara to Indhaçariya (Religious Hero) of Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery in Dagon Township, Yangon Division, and certificates of Mula Abhidhammakovida to two outstanding members of the Sangha, certificates of Dighabhanaka to five outstanding members of the Sangha, certificates of Vinayakovida to nine outstanding members of Sangha, certificates of Vinayakovida to sixteen outstanding members of the Sangha, certificates of Obhatovibhingakovida to four outstanding members of the Sangha and certificates of Obhatovibhingadhara to forty-three outstanding members of the Sangha were respectively presented by members of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, the ministers, the deputy ministers and high-ranking officials.

Afterwards, Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Ven Bhaddanta Kumara delivered a sermon to the audience followed by performing water-libation and sharing of merits gained.

After the auspicious ceremony, Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and wife Daw Mya Mya San, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and wife Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, General Thura Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, members of the State Peace and Development Council and their wives, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the ministers, the deputy ministers, senior military officers, departmental heads and wellwishers offered provisions to the outstanding members of the Sangha.

*****

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

- **Do not be frightened whenever intimidated**
- **Do not be bolstered whenever flattered**
- **Do not be softened whenever appeased**

Heroin possessor seized in Monekoe

YANGON, 11 June— A combined team comprising members of Tatmadawmen, local intelligence unit and Special Anti-Drug Squad inspected suspect Li Fa Zhong (a) Li Hsan, son of Li Che Lint of Chalu Village, Shinthang Village-tract, Honchin, Kokang region, in Monekoe of Shan State (North) on 25 May. The authorities seized 1.0835 kilos of heroin from him.

Action is being taken against him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — *MNA*

Li Fa Zhong (a) Li Hsan seized with 1.0835 kilos of heroin in Monekoe on 25-5-2004. — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects…

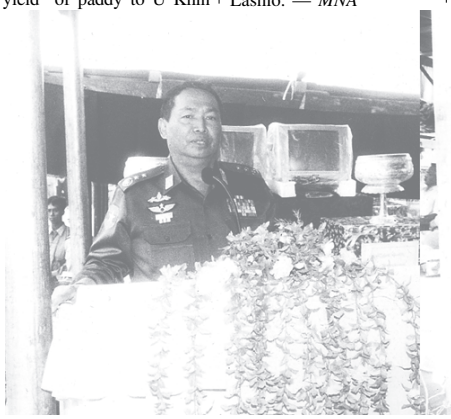
(from page 1)

of paddy which exceeded the target of the State and are making efforts for producing 200 baskets per acre to meet international standard. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party arrived at the briefing hall of the 10-acre plantation of Hsinshweli (F1) in Kunlin Village, Namkham Township, where Namkham Township PDC Chairman Maj Aung Zaw Lat reported on production of Hsinshweli hybrid paddy, cultivation method, estimate cost for per acre yield and estimate profits. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party next inspected the paddy plantation. On arrival at the monsoon Hsinshweli paddy transplanting ceremony in Kunlon Village, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party viewed transplanting and ploughing of paddy. They then greeted local people and went to Naunglaung Village. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected 40-acre and 150-acre Hsinshweli paddy plantations. District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Soe Win reported on agricultural condition of the village, and the commander gave a supplementary report.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions, saying that the agricultural sector will surely promote as Hsinshweli monsoon paddy that yields 200 baskets of paddy per acre is being cultivated the length and breadth of the state. With the promotion of agricultural sector, the incomes of farmers will rise. These fruitful results are due to efforts of local authorities and departmental officials concerned, he said. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presented awards for township agriculture and supervisory committee for cultivation of 15 acres of hybrid paddy to U Maung Maung of Township Administration Department. He also presented awards for township agriculture and supervisory committee which is to engage in the plantation of 200 per acre yield of paddy to U Khin Maung Myint of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications. Next, the commander presented prizes to those who gave assistance for the paddy cultivation. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe then cordially greeted local people.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party headed to 10-acre Hsinshweli paddy plantation where state Agricultural Service Manager U Hla Gyi reported on the yield of paddy. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected 10 acres of Hsinshweli paddy plantation of Muse Township PDC and Administration Department. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party proceeded to Muse District cottage industries in Kuanghmuton village in Muse. At the briefing hall, the commander met with industrialists and gave necessary instructions. Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected farm appliances produced by Hsinshweli general purpose transport vehicle factory of Muse Ya Htaik Co and went to Lashio. — *MNA*

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presents prize to an outstanding farmer at the harvesting ceremony of Hsinshweli summer paddy in Namhkam Township.— MNA



Lt-Gen Aung Htwe addresses the ceremony to harvest Hsinshweli summer paddy in Namhkham Township.— MNA

Minister inspects Divisional, District and Township level Planning Departments

YANGON, 11 June— Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, accompanied by the Director-General of Planning Department and officials, inspected the Planning Department of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township this morning.

The minister met those in-charge of Planning Departments of Yangon Division Planning, Yangon North, West, South and East Districts, Thingangyun, Mingala Taungnyunt, Tamway, South Okkalapa, North Okkalapa, Pazundaung, Dawbon, Botahtaung, Yankin, Thakayta, Dagon Myothit (South), (North), (Seikkan) and (East) townships and staff. Officials of the divisional department and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township reported on implementation of the project target for 2003-2004, extended cultivation of important crops and individual income in rural and urban areas.

They reported on calculation of rural and urban GDPs and important horticultural products region-wise. Next, the minister heard reports on respective sectors of the district and township officials and attended to their needs.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the department is to review strong and weak points and study economic development of the State in cooperation with departments concerned for effectively contributing to development of the nation so as to achieve success in realizing the aims. Personnel must go down field trips to the work sites to gain correct and accurate data and accounts. The staff are to be nurtured for improvement of their quality in subjects on economics, computer application and English language proficiency concerning tasks of the department. And Information and Communication Technology is to be applied for development of the department, he said. — *MNA*

National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee, …

(from page 1)

concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of power in legislative, executive and judicial sectors to be included in drawing the State Constitution clarified by the National Convention Convening Work Committee.

The delegate groups are reading the proposals in the discussions, which will be completed soon.

On completion, the National Convention Convening Work Committee is to plan submitting of the proposals to the plenary meeting of the National Convention.

And, the National Convention Convening Management Committee is also to make arrangements for convenience of the delegates in accommodation, food, health and welfare sectors.

On behalf of the chairman, Vice-Chairman of the Work Committee Attorney-General U Aye Maung reported on progress of compiling the proposals by the delegate groups, presentation of the proposals in the discussions and completion of the proposals to be submitted to the plenary meeting of the National Convention.

Next, Chairman of the Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung reported on health conditions of the delegates, delegate patients being treated at the hospitals, arrangements for excursions and outpass of the delegates in holidays of the National Convention and administration matters.

Afterwards, those present at the meeting took part in the discussions.

Later, Lt-Gen Thein Sein gave the concluding remarks and the meeting came to an end at 11 am.

MNA

NCCMC Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung submits reports at the coordination meeting of NCCC, NCCWC and NCCMC.— MNA

NCCWC Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung submits reports at the coordination meeting of NCCC, NCCWC and NCCMC.— MNA

Our brethren join hands together for the Union

တို့ညီနောင်စု တည်ထောင်ပြု ပြည်ထောင်စုတွက် လက်ချင်းယှက်။

The National Convention, the Voice of the People.

ပြည်သူတို့အသံ အမျိုးသားညီလာခံ။

The National Convention is genuine national politics.

အမျိုးသားညီလာခံသည် စစ်မှန်သော အမျိုးသားနိုင်ငံရေးဖြစ်သည်။

Cash donated to MWAF

YANGON, 11 June — Wellwishers donated cash for students through Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation at the meeting hall of MWAF on Than Lwin street this morning. Present on the occasion were MWAF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-Presidents Professor Dr Daw May May Yi, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, General Secretary Professor Dr Daw Khin Aye Win, advisers and guests.

Next, MWAF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepted K 6,521,070 donated by 162 wellwishers, presented certificates of honour to them and spoke words of thanks. — *MNA*

Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe accepts cash donations from a wellwisher. — MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and wife being welcomed by Russian Ambassador Mr Oleg V Kabanov and wife at the reception to mark National Day of the Russian Federation on Friday evening. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than looks into…

(from page 16)

They headed for the model pepper farm of the Myanma Agriculture Service in Ponnagyun. Officials reported on facts about the farm. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than looked into the farm. They went to the 1,000-acre reclamation project at Yoetayok BEPS at the foot of Bengaya Mountain in Ponnagyun Township. Officials reported on reclamation tasks being carried out and work progress. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions and fulfilled the needs.

They inspected the station hospital in Yoetayok village and attended to the needs.

They looked into Sittway-An Road section-3 (Myaungbwe-Sittway section). Officials reported on work being done and repairing of Sittway-An Road. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than left instructions on ensuring a fine facility serviceable for all seasons.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with Tatmadaw members of Kyauktaw Station and their families at Nawarat Hall of the station.

He also met with departmental officials, social organizations and local senior citizens at the office of Kyauktaw PDC. Officials reported on points on the township, and education, health and social sectors and agricultural sectors of the region. In his speech, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that the government is taking measures thoroughly for rural development. In this regard, respective officials are to make field trips right down to the grassroots level in carrying out tasks for elevating the education, health, social and economic sectors of locals. He called for extension of agriculture and livestock breeding for raising per capita income of local people, exceeding the target of monsoon paddy cultivation, and growing of shady trees and windbreak for beautifying the region.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected Kissapanadi Bridge. Senior Engineer of the Bridge Group-10 U Khin Maung reported on facts about the facility. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on durability of the bridge.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at Kyauktaw.

MNA

Upgrading, extension of roads in Shwepyitha, South Okkalapa inspected

YANGON, 10 June— Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected upgrading and extension of roads in Shwepyitha Township and repaving of roads in South Okkalapa Township.

The mayor and party inspected upgrading of Khayaybin Road linking Mingaladon and Insein Townships and extension of 14,300 feet long section of No 4 Highway from Bogyoke Aung San Street to the entrance road to Yangon University of Computer Studies. After hearing the reports, the mayor gave necessary instructions.

In Ward 14 of South Okkalapa Township, the mayor inspected progress of Myatlay and Thakhin Po Hla Gyi Roads being repaved by Township Union Solidarity and Development Association. — *MNA*

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 11 June— The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in states and divisions where water is scarce. One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diametre tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diametre tube-well costs K 500,000.

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Sagaing Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Magway Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-54657). — *MNA*

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects …

(from page 16)

Local farmers are enjoying higher living standard and regional development as they have been able to freely manage their agricultural produce.

As efforts are being made for building the nation into an agro-based industrial one, departmental officials and local people are to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts for development of industrial sector with added momentum.

Nowadays, Muse District is meeting with success as it has been using industrial power by 71 per cent of agricultural sector. Meanwhile, departmental officials and local farmers are to make strenuous efforts for cultivation of crops the whole year.

After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe greeted departmental officials.

In accord with the Head of State, Shan State (North) is making efforts for boosting the per acre yield after reclaiming virgin and fellow land for self-sufficiency in rice. As a result, it saw 114.38 per cent of self-sufficiency in rice with a surplus of 92,000 baskets in 2003-2004. Arrangements are being made for putting 23,482 acres under monsoon paddy in Muse Township, 13,191 acres under monsoon paddy in Namhkham Township and 36,373 acres under monsoon paddy in Kutkai Township. Starting from monsoon paddy cultivation season, 2,411 farming equipment are being used at 71 per cent of agricultural sector in Muse District.

Thanlwin Bridge (Tapa), 600 feet long and 16 feet and 4 inches wide, linking Muse District and Laukkai District, is being constructed by Public Works. Upon completion, there will emerge better transport in Muse District and Kokang region.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party arrived at Amyekaung plantations in Nampan Village, Muse Township where poppy-substitute crops are being grown on 200 acres of land. Plantations Manager U Tun Tun Win reported on the purpose of the plantations, cultivation of poppy substitute crops and income from the crops.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected thriving of the plantations.

Altogether 14 kinds of poppy-substitute crops were grown on a commercial scale in the plantations beginning 2000.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected thriving of coffee plantations of U Maung Lwin in Nampan Village.

Next, they looked into farming undertakings of U Kyaw Myint and Daw Mya Mya Lwin (97 Co Ltd) in Kaungmudaw Ward, Muse.

After that, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence and party left there and arrived at Shweli Yadana Yeiktha in Muse in the afternoon.—*MNA*

Fourth cash donation for 85 Myanmar monks at Indian Universities held

YANGON, 10 June— The cash donations for 85 Myanmar monks who are learning at 10 universities in India was held at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin Hall on Kaba Aye Hill this morning.

Present were Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Bhaddanta Kesara and members of the Sangha, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, departmental heads and wellwishers.

At the ceremony, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepted US$ 6,000 donated by wellwishers with the auspices of the Sitagu Sayadaw; US $ 1,200 by U Sein Hla Win-Daw Phyu Phyu Khin; and US$ 1,200 by U Than Lwin-Daw Khin Khin Thein. Certificates of honour were presented to the wellwishers.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko presented certificates of honour to U Rajinda (Nalanda University), Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and wife, Maung Weik and Family Co, U Khin Maung Cho-Daw Khin Ohn Cho and U Sein Lin-Daw Hnin Yi.

The minister, the deputy minister and departmental heads accepted K 905,400 donated by Daw Khin Mar Aye, wife of Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, and wellwishers; K 1,160,950 by Daw Kyin Khaing, wife of Minister Col Thein Nyunt, and wellwishers; K 1,100,500 by U Kyi Win and wife and party; K 3 million by Maung Weik Family Co; K 739,510 by U Maung Cho-Daw Khin Ohn Cho and party; K 300,000 by the headmaster and educational staff of Dagon BEHS; US$ 300 by Daw Ni Ni Myint of Latha Township; US$ 200 by Nyaungganaye Sayadaw and disciples; US$ 100 by Daw Htay Htay and family; US$ 100 by wellwishers; US$ 50 by Daw May Thet Khaing; K 200,000 by Daw Oo Oo Aung; K 200,000 by U Myat Win-Daw Cherry; K 190,000 by U Tin Win-Daw Yin Yin Cho and party; K 110,000 by Maha Swamsara Sayadaw and disciples; K 100,000 each by 14 wellwishers, K 800,000 by one wellwisher; K 50,000 each by 19 wellwisher and rupee 3,000 by U Nyo.

Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundalajotika delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

Today's donations were US$ 1,950, rupee 5,150 and over K 9 million.— *MNA*

NCC Management Committee Chairman comforts delegates undergoing medical treatments

YANGON, 11 June—National Convention Convening Management Committee Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Vice-Chairman Director of Supply and Transport of the Ministry of Defence Maj-Gen Than Htay, member Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, and officials, this afternoon asked after the National Convention delegates who are undergoing medical treatments at the Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed) and the Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed) in Mingaladon.

Maj-Gen Lun Maung and party arrived at the DSGH (1000-bed) at 12.30 pm, where they were welcomed by Deputy Director of Medical Services Col Myint Maung, Commandant Brig-Gen Than Sein and officials. Maj-Gen Lun Maung asked after delegates U Than Htaik and U Kan Thein of delegate group of national races, U Mahn Tin Aung Than of Union Kayin League, U Win Mar of Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization, U Kho Pe, U Khin Maung Thein, U Kyaw Aye, U Kyaw Aung, U Khin Maung Myint, U Aung Lin, U Kyaw Win Kyi and U Saw Win of delegate group of national races, and U Soe Win of delegate group of State service personnel, U Htein Lin of delegate group of peasants and presented cash provided by the NCC Commission to them.

They proceeded to the Defence Services Orthopaedic Hospital (500-bed), where they were welcomed by Commandant Lt-Col Tun Tun and officials. Maj-Gen Lun Maung asked after the health of delegates U Thein Lwin of delegate group of peasants and U Khin Zaw of delegate group of national races and presented cash to them. —*MNA*

Chairman of NCCMC Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung presents cash assistance to a delegate being treated at Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed).— MNA

Proposed papers read out for plenary meeting of National Convention

YANGON, 11 June — The delegate groups of representatives-elect, peasants and other invited persons read out their proposals to be submitted to the plenary meeting of the National Convention this morning at designated meeting halls of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township. Likewise, a preliminary paper-reading session of the members of the panel of chairmen and the leaders of paper-compilation groups of the delegate group of national races took place this morning at the hall concerned.

Delegate group of representatives-elect

The group started its meeting at the meeting hall-2 at 11 am. U Yaw Aye Hla of the Lahu National Development Party presided over the meeting, together with U San Tha Aung of the Mro (a) Khami National Solidarity Organization and U Maung Gyi of the Union Pa-O National Organization as members. Deputy Director U Maung Maung Phyu Tint of the working group-4 of the National Convention Convening Work Committee emceed the meeting, together with Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Nwe as co-emcee.

The master of ceremonies declared the meeting open with the approval of the chairman of the meeting as the percentage of delegates present at the meeting stood at 86.67. After the opening speech given by the alternate chairman, U Tun Kyaw, independent representative-elect from Namhsan Township Constituency in northern Shan State, read out his proposed paper on detailed basic principles that should be laid down for the distribution of power in the legislative, executive and judicial aspects that should be included in the framing of the Constitution. Next, he presented the paper to the chairman. The meeting came to an end with the concluding remarks by the chairman.

Delegate group of national races

The members of the panel of chairmen and leaders of paper-compilation groups read out their paper that will be submitted to the plenary meeting of the National Convention in a preliminary paper-reading session held at the Union Hall at 9.10 am today. Present on the occasion were U Mya Sein of Mandalay Division, U Man Ohn Maung of Kayin State, U Kyaw Din (a) U Htay Yai of Kayah State, U Duwa Zok Daung of Northern Shan State and U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of Taninthayi Division, who are members of the panel of chairmen; 14 leaders of the paper-compilation groups, Deputy Director U Thein Tun of the working group-5 of the NCCWC and Assistant Director U Than Tun.

On behalf of the leaders of the paper-compilation groups, U Khun Kyaw Thu of Shan State, Daw Nant Ohnma Mya of Ayeyawady Division, Daw In Bayan Dwebu of Kachin State, Daw Ma Khin Win of Rakhine State and U Aung Tun of Mandalay Division read out the papers that will be submitted to the plenary meeting of the National Convention. The meeting came to an end at 11 am.

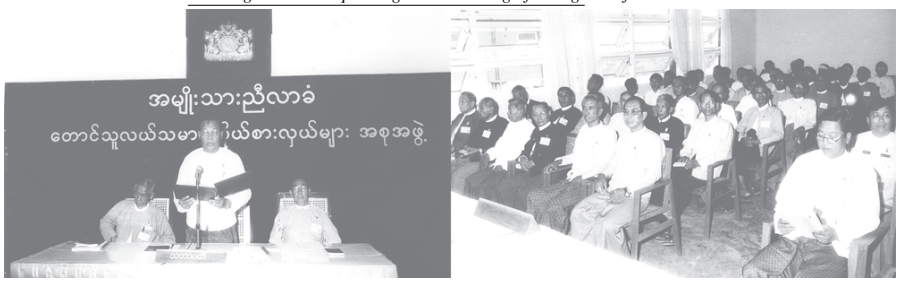
Delegate group of peasants

The group held its meeting at the meeting hall-4 at 9 am today. U Mya Aye of Yangon Division presided over the meeting together with U Sai Tint Aung of Northern Shan State and U Kan Nyunt of Sagaing Division as members. Deputy Director U Myint Thein of the working group-6 of the NCCWC and Assistant Director U Myint Kyaing acted as master and co-master of ceremonies.

With the permission of the chairman, the master of ceremonies announced the start of the meeting as there were 95.7 percent of delegates present at the meeting. Next, the chairman of the meeting gave an opening speech.

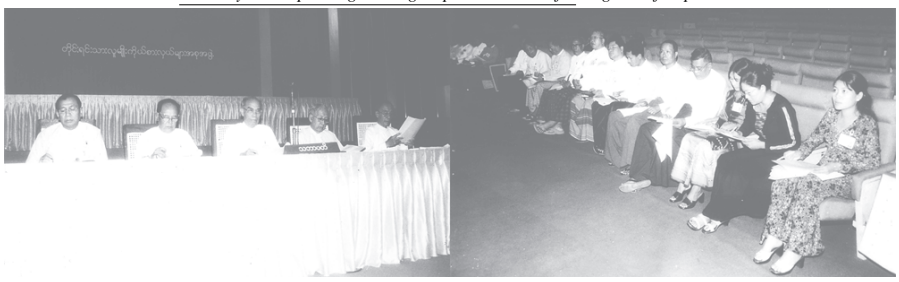
Later, U Kapti Al of Chin State and U Win Shwe of Magway Division read out a paper on the sector-wise clarifications made by the NCCWC regarding the detailed basic principles that should be laid down for the distribution of power in the legislative, executive and judicial aspects that should be included in the framing of the Constitution.

Alternate Chairman U Aung Hkam Hti speaking at the meeting of Delegates of Other Invited Persons.— MNA



Alternate Chairman U Mya Aye speaks at the group discussions of Delegates of Peasants.— MNA

Alternate Chairman U Yaw Aye Hla speaking at the group discussions of Delegates of Representatives-elect.— MNA

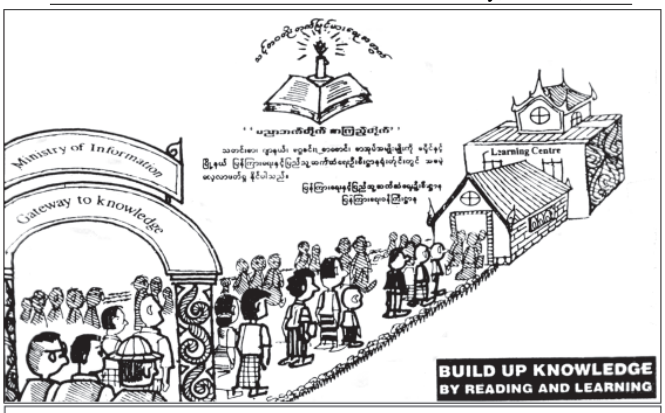


Coordination meeting between members of panel of chairmen and delegates of Delegate Group of National Races in progress.— MNA

The meeting came to an end at 10.23 am with the concluding remarks by the chairman.

Delegate group of other invited persons

The group held a meeting at the meeting hall-8 at 9 am today with U Aung Hkam Hti of the Special Region-6 of Southern Shan State as chairman of the meeting and Myanma History Committee Vice-Chairman U San Aung Tun and Secretary U Tun Aung Chein as members. Deputy Director U Aung Kyi of the working group-10 of the NCCWC emceed the meeting while Assistant Director U Win Myint acted as co-master of ceremonies. With the permission of the chairman, the master of the ceremonies declared the meeting open as the percentage of delegates attending the meeting stood at 92.38. The meeting started with an opening speech given by the chairman. Next, U Min Ein of the Special Region-4 of Eastern Shan State read out a proposed paper, collectively compiled by delegates from the Special Regions 1 and 2 of Northern Shan State and the Special Region-4 of Eastern Shan State, regarding the detailed basic principles that should be laid down for the distribution of power in the legislative, executive and judicial aspects that should be included in the framing of the Constitution. The meeting ended at 10.5 am with the chairman's concluding remarks. — *MNA*



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နယ်စပ်ဒေသနှင့်တိုင်းရင်းသားလူမျိုးများ၏ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်မှု
အကောင်အထည်ဖော်ရေးလုပ်ငန်းကော်မတီအစီအစဉ်ဖြင့်
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၁။ နယ်စပ်ဒေသများတွင် တပ်ဆင်အသုံးပြုရန်အတွက် အောက်ဖော်ပြပါ ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားထပ်ဆင့်လွှင့်စက် စက်ပစ္စည်းများကို မြန်မာကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်–

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ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားထပ်ဆင့်လွှင့်စက်များဝယ်ယူရေးကော်မတီ
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သိမ်ဖြူလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့ ဖုန်း–၃၃၀၀၉၀

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Venezuela to receive $3b in foreign investment in 2004

CARACAS, 11 June — Venezuela's National Investments Promotion Council (Conapri) declared Wednesday that Venezuela will receive three billion US dollars in foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2004, a sharp increase from 1.38 billion dollars in 2003.

"Venezuela is still a country whose oil and gas sectors attract a lot of attention," Conapri President Mercedes Bricelo said at the forum, "Venezuela does compete," launched in Venezuela's capital of Caracas on Wednesday.

MNA/Xinhua

DONATE BLOOD

German Defence Minister taken to hospital

BERLIN, 11 June — German Defence Minister Peter Struck, a senior figure in Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Cabinet, was taken to hospital on Thursday suffering from a heart ailment, the Defence Ministry said.

"The minister had problems with his circulatory system and was admitted to hospital," a spokesman said. He said he had no details on his condition, adding only he was under observation.

N-TV quoted a spokesman as saying that there was no reason for alarm.

Struck, 61, has been Defence Minister for two years, and was being touted as a possible replacement for Finance Minister Hans Eichel in the event of a Cabinet reshuffle. He has even been seen as a possible successor to Schroeder. A reshuffle at some point this year is seen as likely as Schroeder's Social Democrats seek to end their relentless slide in opinion polls. —*MNA/Reuters*

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Dated: 12 June, 2004.

Leading peace institute praises China's role in world security

STOCKHOLM, 11 June — A leading peace research centre has devoted a separate chapter to China for the first time in its yearbook to mark the important role the world's biggest developing country has played in world peace.

Since the late 1980s, China has been increasingly engaged in and even taken initiative in regional and global multilateral security processes, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said in its 2003 yearbook issued on Tuesday.

In the mid-1990s, the country began to hold military exercises with other countries to expand its military exchanges and has since made its contribution to UN peacekeeping missions, SIPRI said.

This is the first time for SIPRI to give a separate chapter to China in its yearbook, SIPRI Director Alyson Bailes told *Xinhua*, speaking highly of China's role in international security.

Last year, the institute even issued its first yearbook in the Chinese language, she said, adding that the Stockholm-based think tank has been attaching more and more importance to China's role in world peace.

SIPRI, founded in 1966, is one of the world's authoritative institutes on international security and arms control research.

Bailes noted that global military expending last year is an issue of great concern in the 2003 yearbook.

Worldwide military spending soared 11 per cent last year, mainly because of the US-led war in Iraq. The US military spending, at 417.4 billion US dollars, accounted for some 47 per cent of the world's total with its missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and the general war on terror, she said.

Countries spent 956 billion dollars on defence last year, a 4-per-cent increase from 2002. — *MNA/Xinhua*

G-8 leaders agree on steps to enhance int'l travel security

SAVANNAH (United States), 11 June — Leaders of the Group of Eight (G-8) countries on Wednesday agreed to take 28 steps to enhance international transportation security, strengthen international counter terrorism cooperation and to protect their borders while facilitating trade and travel.

"Terrorist attacks against the transportation system remain a serious threat to our citizens and to world commerce," the leaders said in a joint statement.

The steps include establishing a 24-hour aviation point-of-contact network for addressing imminent threat, sharing information on suspect travellers; establishing a methodology for assisting port security, and expanding research and collaboration on biometric technology for next generation passenger control.

The measures, contained in the G-8 Secure and Facilitated International Travel Initiative, also include such steps to counter the threat to civil aviation posed by shoulder launched missiles as accelerating efforts to destroy excess and/or obsolete missiles of this kind, strengthening control on the transfer of missile production technology, and developing a methodology to assess airport vulnerability to missile threat and effective countermeasures. At the same time, the leaders said they would move to streamline and standardize security procedures in an effort to limit disruption and delays in the movement of passengers and cargo by land, sea and air.

The leaders of the eight countries — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States — pledged to cooperate to counter terror threat within a framework that fully respects the sovereign rights of states to control their borders and that is in compliance with domestic laws and international obligations relating to privacy.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Ecuador, US talks over FTA negotiations

QUITO, 11 June — US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick met here Wednesday with Ecuadorean President Lucio Gutierrez to sort out issues concerning the negotiations aimed at forming the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the United States and Andean nations.

Both sides analysed the advances and hitches in their negotiating process, local reports said.

During the meeting, Zoellick said that Ecuador would benefit from the FTA package once it is formed because Ecuador would be able to export more to the United States.

Ecuadorean exports to the United States in 2003 accounted for 38 per cent of the trade volume between the two countries. The United States exported 1.4 billion US dollars' worth of goods to the Latin American country last year.

The US Trade Representative added that the expected FTA package would be a boost to the development of the Ecuadorean economy and the country's poverty reduction.

MNA/Xinhua

ပညာရေးဖွင့် ခေတ်စဖွဲ့ပြုတော်မူသော နိုင်ငံတော်ကို တည်ဆောက်မည်

A harbour seal peers at sea kayakers in the water off Henry Island, near Roche Harbour, Wash. Many species in the San Juan Islands and the Salish Sea shy away from humans in noisy boats, but people in quiet, motorless kayaks have a chance to have upclose and personal encounters with seals, birds and orcas, or killer whales. — INTERNET

World "AIDS" Campaign urges G-8 to honour promises

LONDON, 10 June — The World AIDS Campaign (WAC) called on G-8 governments on Thursday to help save millions of lives by honouring commitments they made in signing the United Nations global AIDS compact three years ago.

The WAC urged leaders of the Group of Eight nations to "provide the practical, financial and political support necessary to increase prevention, care and treatment to tackle the HIV pandemic".

"It's easy to make promises but it's much harder to keep them," said Marcel van Soest, WAC's director. "In 2003, the G-8 governments promised to fulfil their shared obligations to deliver on the commitments they agreed to in the UN Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS in 2001. Yet in 2004, AIDS is not even on the G-8 agenda. If anything, we are moving backwards."

The G-8 comprises the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada and Russia. Its national leaders are meeting this week in Sea Island, a resort on the Georgian coast in the southern United States.

In a call for action due to be presented at the summit, the World AIDS Campaign urged governments to ensure integrated approaches to HIV and AIDS programmes and intensify support for research and development into effective and safe medicines.

It also asked governments to increase their funding for overseas development assistance aimed at reducing poverty — a key factor in the spread of HIV across the world.

"Twenty years after the discovery of the HIV virus, the need to bring this devastating epidemic in the developing world under control has never been greater", said van Soest

"With 40 million people infected worldwide, five million new infections and three million HIV-related deaths last year, we cannot wait any longer."

MNA/Reuters

S Korea to keep US beef import ban for now

SEOUL, 11 June— South Korea will keep its ban on imports of US beef in place until scientific food safety guarantees over mad cow disease are available, Agriculture Minister Huh Sang-man told *Reuters* on Thursday.

South Korea's beef consumption this year is projected to fall 15 per cent from a year ago to around 330,000 tons, Huh said, adding there would be no supply shortages even without US beef supplies.

Of total demand, home-grown beef will account for 130,000 tons and the rest will be imported, he said. On the supply side, South Korea has 100,000 tons of imported beef stockpiled and it expects to import another 150,000 tons this year, he added. South Korea, a major beef importer, banned imports of US beef on December 24 last year after a cow tested positive for the brain-wasting mad cow disease, formally called bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The infected cow was later found to have originated from Canada. — *MNA/Reuters*

British Health Minister sparks storm with smoking remark

LONDON, 10 June — Plain-speaking Health Minister John Reid has kicked up a storm in Britain by saying that smoking is one of the few pleasures left in life for the poor.

The remark came as the feisty Scot was addressing a debate in south London about conditions on some of the country's most deprived "sink" public housing estates.

It coincided with growing signs that health-conscious Britain may join the trend set by Ireland and some US cities by banning smoking in public places.

Reid said he did not think the worst problem on the run-down estates was smoking, but that it had become an obsession of the learned middle class.

"What enjoyment does a 21-year-old single mother-of-three living in a council sink estate get? The only enjoyment sometimes they have is to have a cigarette," Reid said.

He also took a swipe at the incessant professional lobbying against smoking.

"Be very careful, that you do not patronise people because sometimes — as my mother used to say — people from those lower socio-economic backgrounds have very few pleasures and one of them is smoking."

A spokesman for the anti-smoking group Ash said that to talk about smoking as a pleasure middle class people wanted to deny others was foolish.

"Smoking in Britain kills about 115,000 people a year. A disproportionate number of those are in social classes D and E, where smoking rates are almost twice what they are in A and B," he said.

He added that Ireland's Health Minister Micheal Martin, a prime mover behind the Irish ban on smoking in the work place and enclosed public places three months ago, could look back on an achievement which will save thousands of lives.

"It would be nice to think that our health secretary had a similar ambition, but unfortunately what he said suggests that maybe he doesn't," the spokesman said.

MNA/Reuters

Malaria kills 100 in two districts in Zimbabwe

HARARE, 11 June—A malaria outbreak has killed more than 100 people in Hwange and Lupane districts in western Zimbabwe in the last two months, local media reported Thursday.

Matabeleland North provincial medical director Gibson Mhlanga was quoted as saying the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare had disbursed more than 25 million Zimbabwean dollars (about 4,719 US dollars) to the two districts to fight the outbreak.

More than 700 people have died of malaria in the country so far this year, a significant increase on previous years, which health officials blame on heavy rains.

"We need a lot of funds and provisions to set up clinics. But considering that the resources are quite stretched, the money will go a long way in helping the staff in the field," said Mhlanga.

MNA/Xinhua

Athens torch arrives in India on final Asia leg

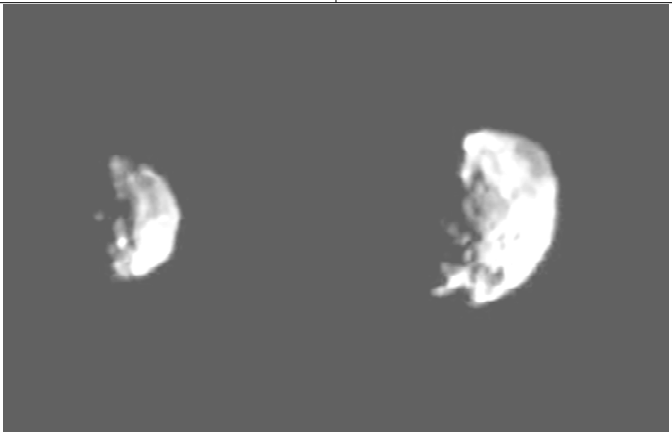
NEW DELHI, 11 June—The Olympic torch arrived at its final Asian destination on Thursday with New Delhi becoming the sixth city to receive the flame on its world tour in the run-up to the Athens Games.

Thousands of people were gearing up in the summer heat to celebrate a torch relay around the city, due to start later in the day and involving several leading athletes and celebrities. The flame, which landed in a special lantern after its private jet *Zeus,* will be transferred to a skittle-shaped torch under the majestic 13th century Qutab Minar, a 239-feet tall sandstone tower, before commencing the 21-mile run.

Over 100 runners will carry the torch in New Delhi, which was also part of the global torch relay for the 1964 Tokyo Games.

Former men's 400-metre runner Milkha Singh, India's most revered athlete, and woman shooter Anjali Vedpathak Bhagwat will run the final legs before the show culminates with a grand cultural show at the national stadium, venue of the inaugural Asian Games in 1951.

The flame will travel next to Cairo for its African leg. — *MNA/Reuters*



Dark, rough and contrary, Phoebe has long been an object of fascination to astronomers, and on 11 June, 2004, NASA's Cassini space probe will fly by this moon of Saturn for the closest look yet. The images shown here were taken 13 hours apart on 10 June. — INTERNET

Celgene says thalomid helps treat multiple myeloma

NEW ORLEANS, 10 June— Celgene Corp said that its leprosy treatment Thalomid showed a high response rate in treating newly diagnosed patients with multiple myeloma, a form of blood cancer, but over a third had to stop receiving the drug due to side effects.

On Monday, the company reported favourable results in a larger late stage study of multiple myeloma patients that received Thalomid with dexamethasone, compared with dexamethasone alone. The latter is a corticosteroid commonly used to treat the condition.

In the Phase II study that combined Thalomid (thalidomide) with Alkeran (melphalan) and the corticosteroid prednisone in newly diagnosed patients, 93 per cent of patients showed at least a partial reduction of myeloma protein.

Complete remissions were seen in 19 per cent of the 42 patients that were newly diagnosed with the disease, said Celgene, which is headquartered in Warren, New Jersey.

In the study, 36 per cent of patients had to discontinue thalidomide due to side effects. Alkeran, which is made by GlaxoSmithKline Plc and marketed in the United States by Celgene, also has severe side effects, which include severe bone marrow suppression with resulting infections and bleeding.

One patient died from blood poisoning and another died from a blood clot in a blood vessel in the lungs.

Thalidomide was once used as a morning sickness treatment for pregnant women in the 1960s, but it was removed from the market when it was found to lead to birth defects. Because of this reason, the drug should never be used by women who are pregnant or can become pregnant. The age of patients in the study, which was presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology's annual meeting, ranged from 61 to 80.

MNA/Reuters

SPORTS

Kahn, Ballack will probably stay at Bayern

BERLIN, 10 June — Germany captain Oliver Kahn and midfielder Michael Ballack will probably stay at Bayern Munich, says the club's executive manager, Uli Hoeness.

"I am assuming that both Kahn and Ballack will stay with us," Hoeness told Wednesday's issue of weekly Sport Bild.

His remarks followed speculation that Bayern's two most influential players might leave the club after a disappointing season.

Goalkeeper Kahn and Ballack are prominent members of Germany's Euro 2004 squad who arrived in Portugal on Wednesday.

Germany are drawn with the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Latvia in Group D. They face the Dutch in their opening game on June 15 in Porto.

Ballack has been linked with Barcelona after the Spanish side confirmed a meeting with an adviser to the 27-year-old earlier this week.

Transfer rumours around Germany players are rife. Kahn, 34, has angered Bayern by hinting he could consider a move abroad. Hoeness said he would not hold on to Kahn at any price.—*MNA/Reuters*

A worker sets up flags of the participating countries in the Euro 2004 European Soccer Championship in Coimbra, Portugal on 10 June, 2004. Coimbra is one of the venues for Euro 2004 that is due to start on 12 June, 2004. Coimbra will host the Group B matches England v Switzerland on June 17 and Switzerland v France on June 21. The other team in Group B is Croatia. — INTERNET

Ahn strike helps S Korea beat Vietnam in qualifier

TAEJON (South Korea), 10 June — A stunning long-range strike by Ahn Jung-hwan helped Group Seven leaders South Korea to a 2-0 victory against Vietnam in a 2006 World Cup Asian Zone qualifier on Wednesday.

The home side, without a head coach since Humberto Coelho stepped down in April following a shock goalless draw against the Maldives, broke the deadlock on the half-hour when Ahn received what appeared to be an innocuous layoff from Lee Eul-yong well outside the box.

The Japan-based striker cooly struck a curling shot high into the right-hand corner of the net past the flailing hands of Vietnam goalkeeper Tran Minh Quang.

MNA/Reuters

China hammer Malaysia 4-0 in World Cup qualifier

TIANJIN (North China), 10 June— Chinese legendary veteran striker Hao Haidong wrote another chapter in his extraordinary soccer career when he scored the first goal to lead China to 4-0 win over Malaysia here on Wednesday.

This is China's third straight victory in 2006 World Cup qualifiers, which reinforced China's top place in the Asian Zone Group Four.

"It's very hard at the beginning. We missed a few opportunities to score, but the player's efforts were rewarded later and we deserve a win. We collected nine points from three games, but we still got three to play," said China's head coach Arie Haan after the match.

"We will continue our strict training for the coming Asian Cup. This win is quite important for us to bolster our confidence and I hope the players can keep their form for coming Asian Cup," added the Dutchman.

China started well this evening and showed plenty of enthusiasm, but squandered a hatful of scoring chances before Hao's powerful low shot in the penalty area breaking the ice in 42nd minute.

The Dalian striker put the home side ahead after Shandong midfielder Li Xiaopeng's 30-metre shot was blocked by a Malaysian defender who just gifted Hao a wonderful chance to score.

In the second half, China imposed Malaysia a 13-minute nightmare spell by netting the visitors three times.

Sun Jihai, English Premier League Manchester City defender, added the second goal by cashing in Malaysian goalkeeper Mohamad Syamsuri's slight clumsy parry with a low dipping shot in the 62nd minute. He then left the pitch for sustaining an ankle sprain.

Just several minutes later, Li Xiaopeng expanded China's advantage to 3-0 with a header from Zheng Bing's accurate air pass. He converted a spot kick in the 75th minute to seal the victory.

The Chinese national squad were far from impressive this year before today's game with narrow 1-0 wins over Kuwait and Hong Kong in their first two World Cup qualifying matches.

On a recent tour of Europe, China were held a goalless draw with minnows Andorra and were thrashed 6-0 by Spanish First Division league runners-up Barcelona before scraping a 1-0 win over Algeria.

Coached by Arie Haan, the Chinese team clinched a 2-1 win over visiting Hungary led by German legend Lothar Matthaus last week in a warm-up game of World Cup qualifiers for both sides. That victory was a bolster of confidence for China.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan crush India 7-0 in World Cup qualifier

SAITAMA (Japan), 10 June — Japan thrashed India 7-0 at home in an Asian 2006 World Cup qualifier on Wednesday to make it three wins out of three for the regional champions.

Defender Yuji Nakazawa scored two second-half goals as Japan completely outclassed an India team ranked 143rd in the world.

Japan, who had struggled to beat Oman and Singapore in their previous matches, top Group Three with a maximum nine points.

Oman need to beat Singapore at home later on Wednesday to keep the pressure on Japan.

Japan coach Zico was unable to call on Europe-based trio Hidetoshi Nakata (groin), Junichi Inamoto (broken fibula) and Naohiro Takahara (lung infection) but his team were never troubled by a lightweight India team that last beat them in 1970.

Striker Tatsuhiko Kubo opened the scoring in rain-swept Saitama with a superb left-foot volley after 13 minutes.

Midfielders Takashi Fukunishi and Shunsuke Nakamura also found the net as Japan took a 3-0 halftime lead.

Substitute Takayuki Suzuki added a fourth goal 10 minutes after the restart before Nakazawa fired home a Nakamura free kick from close range in the 66th minute.

Mitsuo Ogasawara made it 6-0 two minutes later and the dread-locked Nakazawa headed his second of the game in the 78th minute to complete the rout.

MNA/Reuters

Dutch captain believes Germany very unstable

ALBUFEIRA (Portugal), 11 June — Dutch skipper Philip Cocu believes Germany have problems his team can exploit in their Euro 2004 opener with their arch-rivals next Tuesday.

"I think that Germany are a very unstable team... but you could say the same about us. I saw some of their matches and it is tough to find out what we can expect exactly."

"They have some good players in midfield and up front but looking at their defence they might give us some opportunities," said the 33-year-old midfielder.

The Germans have struggled in the run-up to the tournament finishing their warm-up matches with a 2-0 home defeat against a Hungary side coached by former Germany captain Lothar Matthaues.

But Cocu is looking forward to facing Rudi Voeller's team, with Germany having failed to beat the Dutch since a friendly in April 1996 in Rotterdam.

"It's always a special match against the Germans and I love to start the tournament against such a tough opponent."

Cocu is also relieved that the Dutch have made a tactical switch a week before their Group D opener in Porto.

With top class strikers like Patrick Kluivert, Ruud van Nistelrooy and Roy Makaay, coach Dick Advocaat has tried a 4-4-2 system on several occasions but it simply does not work.

After talks with Cocu, Frank de Boer, Edgar Davids and Ruud van Nistelrooy, Advocaat decided to switch and told reporters on Thursday that van Nistelrooy would now lead the attack alone.

"During the talk I had with the coach we generally agreed about the tactical plan we would use but we only spoke about the system and not about filling the line-up," Cocu told Reuters.

"I think that's normal because the coach will decide who will play. It would be a strange situation if I was asked to discus my teammates."

"The system we will use is important but everything and every system works only if you use the right players in form."

During the first training sessions on Wednesday Cocu had already noticed that a 4-3-3 system will suit the Dutch much better than the diamond formation in midfield.

"Yesterday during the training session we played a match and I felt so much more comfortable. It's something that suits us so naturally we don't need any practice matches for this system."

"It's logical that Advocaat tried the diamond in midfield if you have top quality strikers like we do," said Cocu.

"It is hard to understand why the combination between Kluivert and van Nistelrooy didn't work out. I think it bothers them also and they can't explain why it just won't work."

Cocu explained that after two weeks of working hard on their physical condition the Netherlands now will focus on the Germany match and their strategy during the tournament where they will also face the Czech Republic.

"We have to use our own strengths and style and because everyone will pull back into their own half and we shouldn't do that," said the midfielder who signed a two-year contract with his former side PSV Eindhoven on Monday.

MNA/Reuters

Italian referee Pierluigi Collina during a training session for the Euro 2004 European Soccer Championships in Espinho, near Porto, Portugal, on 10 June, 2004. Euro 2004 will kick off at the Dragao stadium in Porto on 12 June, 2004 with the opening Group A soccer match between Portugal and Greece. — INTERNET

Collina to referee opening match of Euro 2004

LISBON, 11 June — The Italian referee Pierluigi Collina was named for the first match of the European Championship (Euro 2004), when Portugal will face Greece on June 12 in Oporto's Fragon Stadium, north of Portugal.

The announcement was made by the UEFA, the highest organ in European football, at Portugal's northern Espinho, the headquarters of the referees.

Collina was the referee of the 2002 World Cup finals between Brazil and Argentina.

Euro 2004 will be held in Portugal from June 12 to July 4.

The Portuguese Football Federation (FPF) announced Thursday that there are still tickets for the game between Portugal and Greece, the first of the championship.

These tickets are free because some people made the reservations but did not confirm the purchase, and they will be available on June 11 at the Football Association of Oporto. The available tickets cost 45, 75 or 140 euros.

MNA/Xinhua

MRTV-3

12-6-2004 (Saturday)
(Programme Schedule)
Morning Transmission
(9:00 - 10:00)

9:00 Signature Tune Greeting
9:02 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
9:06 A Visit to Lwe National
9:10 Headline News
9:12 Ayeyawady First Defile
9:15 National News
9:20 Travelling on the Chin Mountain Ranges
9:25 Lon Yuu Festival Dance
9:30 National News
9:35 Beauty of the Woman of Myanmar
9:40 Song"From the Golden National Convention Towards..."
9:45 National News
9:50 Survey of Hu Koung Valley Tiger (Part-I)
9:58 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

12-6-2004 (Saturday)
Evening Transmission
(15:30 - 17:30)

15:30 Signature Tune Greeting
15:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
15:36 A Visit to Lwe National
15:40 Headline News
15:42 Ayeyawady First Defile
15:45 National News
15:50 Travelling on the Chin Mountain Ranges
15:55 Lon Yuu Festival Dance
16:00 National News
16:05 Beauty of the Woman of Myanmar
16:10 Song"From the Golden National Convention Towards..."
16:15 National News
16:20 Survey of Hu Koung Valley Tiger (Part-I)
16:30 National News
16:35 Myanma Beauty & Myanma Nature Photo Contest
16:40 How to make Chinlone
16:45 National News
16:50 Myanmar Movies Impact "Believing in Love's Heart Beat"
17:00 Weekly News Highlights
17:05 Song "Peace Be With You"
17:10 Illustrious handiwork in Kyeethe
17:15 Weekly News Highlights
17:20 A Thousand Bo-trees from Greening Tropic Zone
17:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Evening Transmission
(19:30 - 23:30)

19:30 Signature Tune Greeting
19:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
19:36 Alms-Food (Soon)
19:40 Headline News
19:42 Export Products of Fish & Prawn
19:45 National News
19:50 Mandalay and its popular Snack
19:55 Htan-Ywet-Padi
20:00 National News
20:05 Current Affairs "Checklist of Myanmar's Rich Bio-diversity"
20:10 Song "Moonlight Flower"
20:15 National News
20:20 Biological Expedition to Hponkan Razi Region (V) (Wang Mung Camps 2 to 4)
20:25 Myanmar Modern Song "Love Boat"
20:30 National News
20:35 Kindness to Pet Animals
20:40 Myanma Traditional Gold Leaf Works
20:45 National News
20:50 Let us preserve the Watershed Areas
20:55 The Unforgettable Bonfire Dance
21:00 National News
21:05 Marine Undertakings of Myeik Archipelago
21:10 Song "To Golden Mandalay"
21:12 The Unique Pindaya Shan Paper
21:15 Weekly News Highlights
21:20 Native of Pa-O Nationals (Kyauktalone)
21:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
21:35 A Visit to Lwe National
21:40 Headline News
21:42 Ayeyawady First Defile
21:45 National News
21:50 Travelling on the Chin Mountain Ranges
21:55 Lon Yuu Festival Dance
22:00 National News
22:05 Beauty of the Woman of Myanmar
22:10 Song"From the Golden National Convention Towards..."
22:15 National News
22:20 Survey of Hu Koung Valley Tiger (Part-I)
22:25 Song On Screen "Love that didn't bring us together"
22:30 National News
22:35 Myanma Beauty & Myanma Nature Photo Contest
22:40 How to make Chinlone
22:45 National News
22:50 Myanmar Movies Impact "Believing in Love's Heart Beat"
23:00 National News
23:05 Song "Peace Be With You"
23:10 Illustrious handiwork in Kyeethe
23:15 Weekly News Highlights
23:20 A Thousand Bo-trees from GreeningTropic Zone"
23:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

12-6-2004 (Saturday) & 13-6-2004 (Sunday)
Evening Transmission & Morning Transmission
(23:30 - 1:30)

23:30 Signature Tune Greeting
23:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Mingalabar"
23:36 A Visit to Lwe National
23:40 Headline News
23:42 Ayeyawady First Defile
23:45 National News
23:50 Travelling on the Chin Mountain Ranges
23:55 Lon Yuu Festival Dance
24:00 National News
00:05 Beauty of the Woman of Myanmar
00:10 Song"From the Golden National Convention Towards..."
00:15 National News
00:20 Survey of Hu Koung Valley Tiger (Part-I)
00:30 National News
00:35 Myanma Beauty & Myanma Nature Photo Contest
00:40 How to make Chinlone
00:45 National News
00:50 Myanmar Movies Impact "Believing in Love's Heart Beat"
01:00 Weekly News Highlights
01:05 Song "Peace Be With You"
01:10 Illustrious handiwork in Kyeethe
01:15 Weekly News Highlights
01:20 A Thousand Bo-trees from GreeningTropic Zone"
01:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

13-6-2004 (Sunday)
Morning Transmission
(03:30 - 07:30)

03:30 Signature Tune Greeting
03:32 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Myanma Panorama & Myanma Sentiment"
03:36 Alms-Food (Soon)
03:40 Headline News
03:42 Export Products of Fish & Prawn
03:45 National News
03:50 Mandalay and its popular Snack
03:55 Htan-Ywet-Padi
04:00 National News
04:05 Current Affairs "Checklist of Myanmar's Rich Biodiversity"
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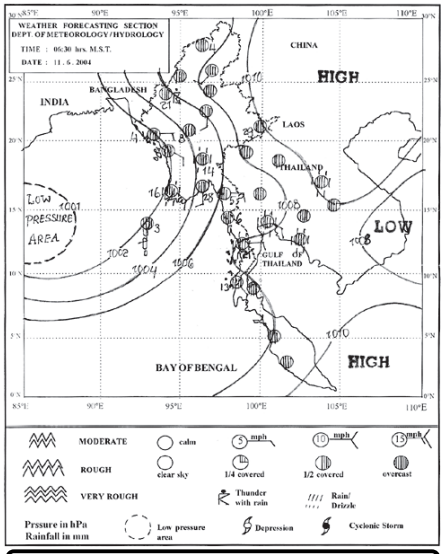
07:25 Song of Myanmar Beauty & Scenic Sights "Come and See Myanmar"

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 11 June, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Yangon (Hmawbi) (1.77) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (1.69) inches and Mindat (1.57) inches.

Maximum temperature on 10-6-2004 was 31.5°C (89°F). Minimum temperature on 11-6-2004 was 20.6°C (69°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 11-6-2004 was 89%. Total sunshine hours on 10-6-2004 was (6.3) hours approx. Rainfall on 11-6-2004 was 43mm (1.69) inches) at Yangon Airport, 31mm (1.22 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 26mm (1.02 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 632mm (24.88 inches) at Yangon Airport and 514mm (20.24 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 662 mm (26.06 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southeast at (11:10) hours MST on 10-6-2004.

Bay inference: According to the observation at (09.30) hours MST today, a low pressure area has formed in the West Central Bay and adjoining Southwest Bay. Monsoon is generally strong in the Bay of Bengal. **Forecast valid until evening of the 12-6-2004:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Shan, Kayah and Chin States, Magway, lower Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Mon State, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface windspeed in squalls may reach (35) to (40) mph. **Outlook for subsequent two days:** The advancement of Southwest Monsoon in Northern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 12-6-2004: One or two rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 12-6-2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Weather outlook for second weekend of June 2004: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon Division and isolated in Mandalay Division.

TV Myanmar

Saturday, June 12

View today:

7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
7:55 am
5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ
8:15 am
6. သင်ပုန်းရေလှောင်တမံ
8:30 am
7. International news
8:45 am
8. Grammar Made Easy
11:00 am
1. Martial song
11:10 am
2. Musical programme
11:30 am
3. News
11:40 am
4. Games for children
12:05 pm
5. Roundup of the week's TV local news
1:20 pm
6. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နက်ရှိုင်းမေမွှာ" (အပိုင်း-၄၉)
1:50 pm
7. ရုပ်ပြည်နယ်(စစ်ကြောင်းပိုင်း)ကွတ်နိုင်မြို့နယ် လှိုင်ဆန်ဆစ်ဒေသမျိုးရေးရုံ
2:00 pm
8. "တို့မြေထဲမှာခုတော့မြင့်မျော်ရာ" ရုပ်ဆောင် ကိုထိုထိုလင်းမောင်၊ မေသန်းနု ယမင်းကိုကို
ဒါရိုက်တာ-အေဝမ်းမောင်လှမျိုး
2:35 pm
9. Dance of national races
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. Musical programme
5:00 pm
5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ -ပထမနှစ် (သချာ်၊ ဓါတုဗေဒ၊ ရူပဗေဒအထူးပြုများ) (သခ္ခါ)
5:15 pm
6. Dance variety
5:30 pm
7. Musical programme
5:40 pm
8. ရုပ်ရိုးရာတစ်စား-ဆင်ယင်မှု
5:45 pm
9. Games for children
6:10 pm
10. Musical programme
6:20 pm
11. အေးချမ်းဆဲဆည် ရုပ်တို့ဌာန် (အရွှေပိုင်း)
6:30 pm
12. Evening news
7:00 pm
13. Weather report
7:05 pm
14. Discovery
7:15 pm
15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "နှင်းမှုန်" (အပိုင်း-၁၉)
7:45 pm
16. ကျေးလက်ဒေသတစ်ခွင် အလှဆင်
8:00 pm
17. News
18. International news
19. Weather report
20. Myanmar video feature: "သဒ္ဒါ" (အပိုင်း-၁)
လွင်မိုး၊ အိမ်ခြံကျော်ခင်
ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဒေါန
10:30 pm
21. Euro 2004 အောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ တိုက်ဆိုင်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ် (ဃေတ္တရာ် နှင့် ဂရီ)
1:15 am
22. Euro 2004 အောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ တိုက်ဆိုင်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ် (စမစ် နှင့် ရွှေး)
23. The next day's programme

Radio Myanmar

Saturday, June 12
Tune in today:

8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music: I love rock & roll
(Britney Spears)
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music: Ain't no particular way
(Shania Twain)
8.55 am National news/ Slogan
9.05 am Music
Love won't wait
(Atomic Kitten)
9.10am International news
9.15 am Music (Spotlight on a star) - Amy Grant
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Request
-Paper roses
(The Osmonds)
-To be with you
(Mr. Big)
-Words (Bee Gee)
9.00 pm ASEAN review
-News
9.10 pm Article
9.20 pm Myanma culture by Dr Khin Maung Nyunt
9.30 pm Souvenirs
- It's easy to remember
(Joni James)
- True (Jim Reeves)
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to the Philippines

YANGON, 12 June — On the occasion of the 106th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Philippines which falls on 12 June 2004, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Mrs Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines. — *MNA*

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to Russian Federation

YANGON, 12 June — General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mikhail Fradkov, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, on the occasion of the National Day of the Russian Federation, which falls on 12 June 2004. — *MNA*

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe meets district and township level departmental officials in Muse. — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects poppy-substitute farming undertakings in Muse District

YANGON, 11 June—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, met with district and township level departmental officials at the meeting hall of Shweli Yadana Yeiktha in Muse, Shan State (North) on 9 June morning.

Chairman of Muse District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Soe Win reported on location and area of Muse District, population, implementation of the five rural development tasks, cultivation of ten major crops, production of Hsinshweli hybrid paddy, arrangements made for production of 200 baskets per acre in 2003-2004, land reclamation, self-sufficiency in rice, arrangements made for transforming conventional farming into mechanised one, elimination of poppy cultivation and destroying of poppy plantations, education, health and regional development.

Next, district and township departmental officials reported on measures taken for regional development and future tasks to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing gave a supplementary report.

In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions, saying that the government has laid down project for development of border areas and national races, the 24-development regions and the five rural development tasks and is implementing them for bringing about harmonious development across the nation.

The Head of State toured states and divisions and constantly fulfilled the requirements for construction projects and regional development. This contributed to further flourishing patriotism and spirit of national solidarity as well as ensuring regional development.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, local authorities are to strive together with the national people for national and regional development.

The government is making efforts for national development with its own resources without relying on others. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State systematic steps are being taken for self-sufficiency in rice and Shan State (North) is meeting with success. When it comes to striving for self-sufficiency in rice, staff of agriculture sector and departmental officials are to provide necessary assistance to farmers.

(See page 10)

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than looks into transport network in Rakhine State

YANGON, 11 June—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, together with Col Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, inspected conditions of road and bridges on Sittway-An Section of Yangon-Sittway Union Highway on 9 June morning.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected the bridge across Kyauktan Creek and earth work for building of a new bridge that can withstand 60-ton loads in Sittway Township. Chief Engineer U Soe Myint of Public Works, Rakhine State Senior Engineer U Thein Kyaw and Chief Engineer U Khin Maung of Bridge Special Group-10 reported on the construction tasks. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions and fulfilled the requirements.

They proceeded to the station hospital (16-bed) in Kyauktan village and comforted the patients and inspected the facility. They looked into the road between Kyauktan Bridge and Minchaung Bridge.

They also inspected Minchaung Bridge. Officials reported on maintenance of the bridge. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on maintenance work for durability of the facility.

They inspected Kinchaung Bridge. They held a meeting with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townselders at the office of Ponnagyun Township PDC.

Township Chairman U Wai Myo Khaing reported on education, health and social sectors of the township, measures being taken under supervision of Township Agricultural Supervisory Committee for meeting the target of the agricultural sector in 2004-2005.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, in his speech, said that the government is implementing the five rural development tasks for development of rural people. Up to now, it has built 29 bridges which are 180 feet or above in Rakhine State. Many other bridges are being built and there are also bridge projects to be implemented in Rakhine State. Thus, locals have enjoyed better transport. Moreover, the government has opened more basic education schools, colleges and universities for raising the education standard of Rakhine State.

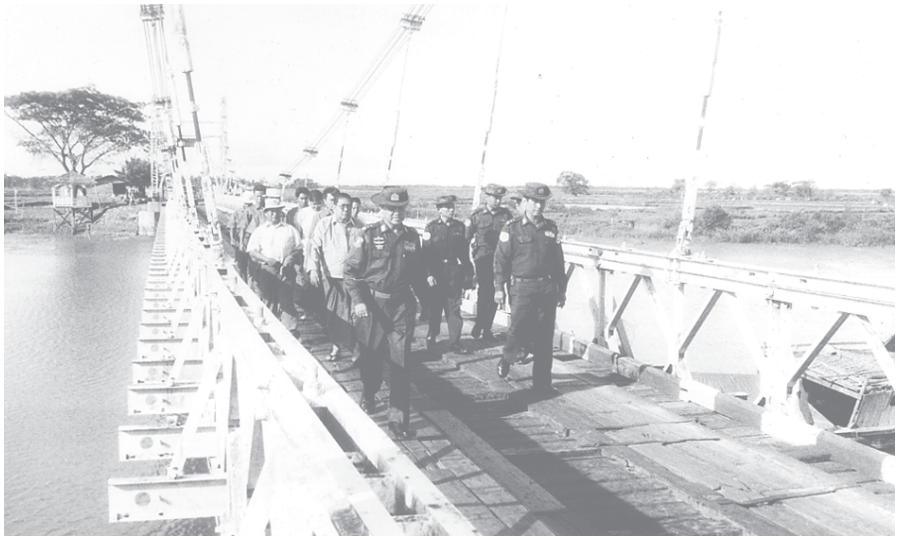
It has also built rural health care centres and hospitals for uplift of health of locals. And it has adopted plans for extension of agriculture and livestock breeding sectors.

Therefore, local residents are to cooperate with officials concerned for further regional development.

On arrival at Ponnagyun Township People's Hospital, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than offered comfort to the patients and inspected the facility. He attended to the needs on building of staff quarters and gave instructions on sanitation work.

In meeting with officers and other ranks and their family members at the local regiment in Ponnagyun Township, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions to the officials to fulfil the requirements of health, education, social affairs and welfare of family members, and conduct agriculture and livestock breeding tasks on manageable scale for raising income of locals.

(See page 10)



Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects Sittway-An section of Yangon-Sittway Union Highway. — MNA

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.