YANGON, 30 June — The Special Projects Implementation Committee held its 1/2003 coordination meeting at the operation hall of the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the Special Projects Implementation Committee, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe.

Also present were Vice-Chairman of the Special Projects Implementation Committee, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army), Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Secretary of the Special Projects Implementation Committee, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, members of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the ministers and invited ministers, heads of departments and officials.

Director-General of the State Peace and Development Council Office Lt-Col Pe Nyein acted as master of ceremonies.

Senior General Than Shwe delivered an address. He said it was the first meeting of the Special Projects Implementation Committee for the present fiscal year. Some projects to be presented at the meeting are under implementation and some are to be implemented soon.

The implementation of the special projects contributes much towards national development and economic progress of the State. He spoke of the need to implement the projects speedily for timely completion.

He also spoke of the need to scrutinize the results after completion of the projects. Ways and means are to be sought if expected benefits are not fully achieved, he added.

He said emphasis is to be placed on speedy implementation of the special projects at low cost for gaining better results and assistance is to be provided to the ministry implementing the project by other related ministries concerned.

He said it would be impossible for a single department to implement the major projects and therefore, all departments are to work together.

He said now the special projects have been implemented one after another. The remaining projects are to be undertaken through better and proper ways based on the experience gained.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported in detail on 16 dam projects and three sluice gates to be implemented by the Irrigation Department and eight river water pumping projects by Water Resources Utilization Department.

Next, the Senior General gave necessary guidance and the meeting ended at 4.45 pm.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported on dam construction projects of the Irrigation Department.

(See page 8)
The greening of environs of Yangon City

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance on round-the-year cultivation of paddy and other crops within 30-mile perimeter of Yangon City. Accordingly, the sub-committees formed with deputy ministers as chairmen under the leadership of the commander of Yangon Command have begun carrying out survey work for growing paddy and various crops in the environs of the city all the year round.

The work coordination meeting on implementation of this plan was held on 29 June and it was attended by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt. In his address on the occasion, the Secretary-1 said that the successful implementation of the plan would increase the present cultivated area in Yangon Division by 440,000 acres, thus contributing a lot to the national economic growth.

Sufficient water supply is the most fundamental requirement for successfully implementing the plan. Therefore, Ngamoeyik, Lagunpyin, Alaini and Tabulla dams were built north of Yangon City. Moreover, the supporting dams for the Ngamoeyik dam, namely Paunglin and Mahuya are being constructed.

The Yangon Command and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation are in coordination with each other to repair the canals of Tabulla dam in the north-west of the city and to implement the Kangalay and Bawle water-pumping projects in the west. Plans are also being made to supply water from Moeyungyi Lake to townships in the east and south of Yangon through canals and to provide Kavany and Thongwa townships with water from the Ngamoeyik dam through concrete canal to be built across the No (2) Yangon-Thanlyin Bridge under construction. Some river water pumping projects have been completed and some are being constructed to irrigate the farmlands in Dalla, Twantay, Kawkhu, Kungyangon and Hlaingtha township.

When there is sufficient water supply for cultivation, it will be possible to grow monsoon paddy, winter paddy and other crops in the townships where only monsoon paddy and cold season crops can be cultivated.

We would like to urge all those responsible to lend themselves to the task of implementing the plan for round-the-year cultivation of paddy and other crops in the environs of Yangon City by making the most of all the land and water resources available.

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**Labour Ministry holds coord meeting**

**Yangon, 30 June** — The first four-monthly work coordination meeting-2003 of departments, committees and boards under the Ministry of Labour was held at the Social Security Board in Ablon this morning. Minister for Labour U Tin Winn addressed the meeting. It was also attended by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Sein, the directors-general of the departments and enterprises under the ministry and officials concerned.

At the meeting, responsible officials reported matters on tasks being undertaken, welfare tasks, agriculture and livestock.

Then, the directors-general reviewed the reports. The meeting will continue tomorrow. — MNA

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**Deputy Minister meets farmers in greening zone-4**

**Yangon, 30 June** — Deputy Minister for Forestry Col Thaik Tun met with local farmers who reside in the No 4 region of the greening zone of Yangon International Airport, at Manaw Thakha Hall of Hlegu Township Peace and Development Council Office this morning. Officials reported on preparations for cultivation of 24,000 acres of summer paddy and collection of data.

The deputy minister spoke on the occasion. He said that it is necessary to cultivate not only paddy but also other crops for full utilization of farmlands the whole season. As officials have managed to dig the drains for availability of water, the farmers are to participate in timely completion of the canals in the farmlands. Later, the deputy minister gave instructions on efforts to be made for greening tasks with the use of various ways all the year round. — MNA

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**Refresher course of MMPE opened**

**Yangon, 30 June** — The Myanma Motion Picture Enterprise of the Ministry of Information held the Refresher Course No 2/2003 at the compound of Feature Film of MMPE in Bahan Township this morning, attended by Deputy Ministers for Information U Aung Thein and Brig-Gen Aung Aung Thein. First, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Aung Thein gave a speech. He said that the training course is opened to implement the policy and aims of the State. Therefore, the officers and staff implementing the aims of the State practically are to try to learn the subjects at the course. Also present on the occasion were directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry, officials, guests and course instructors.

Altogether 43 trainees are attending the course which will last five weeks. — MNA

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**July issue of Myawady Magazine published**

**Yangon, 30 June** — The July issue of 34 year old Myawady Magazine has come out recently. The features on short stories, arts news, articles, general knowledge on English literature and various topics of poems are included in the magazine with the cover of Artist Maung Maung Thaik. — MNA

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**July issue of Shwezarpon Pagoda is also included as Dhamma gift in the magazine. — MNA**
Press says London and Washington ignored Iraq weapons counter-evidence

LONDON, 30 June—London and Washington deliberately overlooked a pre-war report discrediting claims that Iraq had sought to purchase uranium from Niger, the Independent on Sunday newspaper quoted a former US ambassador and CIA investigator as saying.

In a dossier submitted to parliament in September 2002 on Iraq’s alleged weapons of mass destruction, the British government had claimed that Iraq had sought to acquire large quantities of uranium from Africa, despite having no civilian nuclear programme to justify the purchase.

But the British newspaper’s source, who asked that his name be withheld at this stage, claims to have established six months beforehand that two documents attributed to the government of Niger were forgeries.

“My report was very unequivocal,” said the paper’s source, a former member of the US National Security Council under then President Bill Clinton.

He said he had urged the US Central Intelligence Agency to verify whether the British dossier rested upon the Niger allegations and if so to make the facts known to the British public, but that nothing had been done.

“It is hard for me to fathom, that as close as we [Britain and the United States] are and (while) preparing for a war based on weapons of mass destruction, that we did not share intelligence of this nature,” he said.

Asked whether he believed that his findings had been ignored for political reasons, he replied: “It’s an easy conclusion to draw.”

The documents in question carried a forged signature of Niger’s president and that of a figure who last served in government in the 1980s, he said.

The International Atomic Energy Agency later confirmed that the documents were fakes.—Internet

Reporters injured in Iraq grenade attack

Baghdad, 30 June—Insurgents fired a rocket propelled grenade at a military vehicle in the restive town of Fallujah, injuring an “embedded” reporter with NBC News, the military said Monday. Three Iraqis were killed when their pickup truck slammed into a vehicle helping evacuate the wounded reporter.

“Shortly after the attack, while soldiers were securing the area and treating the civilian reporter, a white pickup truck with its headlights off was spotted traveling along the highway toward the Außenber,” the statement said. The pickup truck slammed into an armored personnel carrier that was on the scene of the ambush to help evacuate any casualties.

British FM arrives in Iran for two-day visit

TEHRAN, 30 June—British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw arrived here Sunday for a two-day official visit.

The current situation in Iraq, the US-led Middle East peace process, Iran’s controversial nuclear programme, anti-terrorism will top Straw’s agenda in talks with President Mohammad Khatami, Supreme National Security Council chief Hossein Rowhani and his counterpart Kamal Kharrazi.

Straw would ask Iran’s help in easing security problems in post-war Iraq. He would also urge Iran to use its influence with Iraq’s Sunni Muslim groups to play a “more constructive” role in postwar reconstruction, diplomats said.

Straw would again press Iran to unconditionally sign an additional protocol to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which would allow surprise inspections of Iran’s suspect nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Iran which has repeatedly denied US allegations that is using atomic energy development as a cover for a secret weapons programme, has so far rebuffed the calls to sign up immediately while demanding the US-led sanctions against Iran be lifted.

Straw is also expected to press Iran to show greater transparency on the issue of al-Qeda as Iran has detained a number of senior fugitive members of Osama Bin Laden’s terror network.

Oil price steadies after fall on natural gas

LONDON, 30 June—Oil markets steadied on Friday after falling the day before as traders remained nervous about sharp swings in US natural gas markets.

North Sea benchmark Brent crude oil futures rose 10 cents to 27.14 US dollars per barrel, recovering some of the 61 cents dropped on Thursday, while US crude rose nine cents to 29.10 US dollars.

“The market has stabilised, but the focus is still on natural gas,” said Tony Machacek, a broker at Prudential Bache International.

Natural gas prices in the world’s largest market have slumped 18 per cent in the last three weeks, a move accelerated this week by inventory data showing heavier supply.

Bush urges lawmakers to resolve differences on Medicare

WASHINGTON, 30 June—United States President George W. Bush urged lawmakers Saturday to quickly resolve their differences on Medicare reform legislation and offer seniors prescription drug coverage for the first time in four decades.

“The Congress must now pass a final bill that makes the Medicare system work better for America’s seniors,” Bush said in his weekly radio address. “This is an issue of vital importance to senior citizens all across our country. They have waited years for a modern Medicare system that they should not have to wait any longer.”

Bush said he was eager to sign the bill into law once the Republican-led Congress passes the Medicare bill.

“When health care plans compete for their business, seniors will have better, more affordable options for their health coverage,” Bush said.

The US Senate and House of Representatives approved their respective Medicare bill Friday to give seniors a prescription drug benefit while creating a broad new role for private insurance in the government-run programme.

Tremblay’s research on childhood obesity is widely cited by Health Canada and other health policy makers.

Expert says Canada losing child obesity battle

OTTAWA, 30 June—Obesity is an “epidemic” among Canadian children, and Canada has one of the world’s worst records in the battle of the childhood bulge, says a Canadian expert on childhood obesity.

“In every province in the country, this is increasing,” Mark Tremblay, dean of kinesiology at the University of Saskatchewan told local reporters Friday. Tremblay’s research on childhood obesity is widely cited by Health Canada and other health policy makers.

Travellers are given health declaration, as they pass by a heat sensitive monitor at Beijing airport on 27 June, 2003. China has decided to continue with mandatory temperature checks and health declaration at its borders in an effort to detect the SARS virus, despite getting a clean bill of health form the World Health Organization earlier in the week. The WHO lifted its SARS travel advisory for Beijing on Tuesday.—Internet

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The incident occurred on the second day of a massive sweep that has netted at least 60 suspects in 20 lightning raids across central Iraq.

The sweep, dubbed operation Sidewinder, is designed to capture Saddam Hussein loyalists and curb a wave of attacks on American soldiers.

The rocket-propelled grenade hit an Avenger air defense vehicle—a Humvee equipped with a missile launcher — injuring the reporter who was traveling in the vehicle but leaving the soldiers unscathed, said a statement from US Central Command.

Straw would again press Iran to unconditionally sign an additional protocol to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which would allow surprise inspections of Iran’s suspect nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Iran which has repeatedly denied US allegations that is using atomic energy development as a cover for a secret weapons programme, has so far rebuffed the calls to sign up immediately while demanding the US-led sanctions against Iran be lifted.

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Bremer expects further troop casualties in Iraq

London, 30 June—US and British forces in Iraq will suffer further casualties until supporters of Saddam Hussein carrying out the attacks are stamped out, Paul Bremer, the US civil administrator in Iraq, said Sunday.

But occupying forces in Iraq are determined to capture or kill Saddam and his backers to impose law and order, he said.

"The chances of catching Saddam are very high," Bremer told BBC Television. "We will catch him. I think it is important that we either capture or kill him."

US and British troops seeking to impose law and order in postwar Iraq have come under attack repeatedly in recent weeks.

Uncertainty about Saddam’s fate was allowing his supporters to cow ordinary Iraqis by asserting that he and they would return to power, the veteran US diplomat said.

"There are people who out here, particularly remnants of the old regime...still fighting us," he said. "We will capture and if necessary kill them until we have imposed law and order on this country."

"It is unfortunately the case, we will continue to take casualties. But there is no strategic threat to the coalition here," he said.

An Iraqi civilian was killed and two US military police soldiers were wounded in Baghdad Sunday when an explosion targeted a US convoy, the latest in a series of hit-and-run strikes on occupation forces.

Hours earlier in a separate incident Saturday night, attackers lobbed two grenades near US soldiers guarding the Iraqi National Museum, the soldiers said. Nobody was hurt.

Bremer said attacks on "coalition" troops were coming from remnants of Saddam’s Baathist network and his militias, and possibly militants from neighboring countries.

="Internet"

Iraqi banks want to rejoin banking system

Baghdad, 30 June—Iraq's battered banks are eager to end 13 years of isolation under UN sanctions and expect Arab banks to lead the charge in resuming financial transactions, the most senior central bank official said on Sunday.

A return to normal banking relations between Iraqi banks and their international counterparts would be a shot in the arm for the country’s economy and give the private sector its first chance to do business freely since the United Nations imposed an economic embargo in 1990.

Faleh Salman, acting central bank governor, told Reuters the Security Council’s decision in May to lift sanctions had cleared the way for the resumption of correspondent banking relationships across the world.

"There is no impediment now, so formal relations are likely to start and we expect Arab banks to be at the forefront," Salman said, working from a makeshift office at one of the two central bank buildings that escaped looting and destruction following the ouster of Saddam Hussein on April 9.

One banking source in Baghdad predicted Jordan and Bahrain would lead the way in authorizing full banking relations with Iraq.

But the source, familiar with Iraq’s current system, also said the process of unwinding the sanctions could be lengthy in some other countries, because the end of the curbs would unfreeze billions of dollars worth of claims against Iraqi banks along with allowing access to billions in frozen assets. —Internet

Explosion hits shops, injures 21 in The Hague

THE HAGUE, 30 June—An explosion ripped through three shops in The Hague on Saturday, reducing part of the buildings to rubble and injuring 21 people.

Seven of the victims were seriously hurt in the blast, which was believed to be due to gas leak, said Martin van Bruggen, spokesman for the mayor.

Rescue workers were searching the rubble of a snack bar, a jewellery shop and a clothes shop, but no further victims were expected to be found, he added. —MNA/Reuters

Syria, Iran oppose Indian troops in Iraq

New Delhi, 30 June—India— Iran and Syria— war-torn country as part of a US-led stabilization force, a report said Sunday.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee met June 15 with Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, who opposed the idea of Indian troops serving under US and British command rather than under the UN flag.

New Delhi has been considering sending about 17,000 soldiers to Iraq since a request in early May from the United States, which is hoping to address the growing difficulties in replacing its forces with an international stabilisation force.

While some of Vajpayee’s top aides seem to be leaning towards the US request, there has been stiff resistance from opposition groups and members of the NDA.

The foreign ministry is compiling a report to be submitted to the Prime Minister’s office before Vajpayee begins another round of discussions with opposition leaders on the issue.

New Delhi will also consider the opinions of “friends like Russia and France who are against supporting any US-led stabilisation force in Iraq,” the paper said.

UNICEF says anti-measles campaign in Zambia successful


Stella told journalists that Zambian children have benefited a lot from this campaign, saying that it not only sets a good example for the African region, but for the whole world as well.

According to the Central Board of Health, there were over five million children between six months to 15 years to be vaccinated during the anti-measles campaign, higher than their expectations of 4.5 million to five million.

The nationwide anti-measles campaign, from June 7 to 13, covered all the provinces in Zambia, except for Southern Province, which had a similar exercise last year.

International bodies like UNICEF and the World Health Organization provided close to 4.9 million US dollars for the campaign.

Measles is still one of the major causes of childhood illness and a leading cause of child death in many developing countries, though a safe vaccine has long been available.

Every year, measles claims about 800,000 young lives and at the start of this decade over 30 million cases were reported worldwide, of which more than half were in sub-Saharan Africa. —MNA/Xinhua

Don't smoke

The Helios Prototype, NASA’s solar-powered flying wing which two years ago set an altitude record, was destroyed on Thursday when it crashed about a half-hour into a test flight off Kauai, Hawaii. —INTERNET

Iraqi villagers, armed with AK-47 assault rifles, patrol their village in Fallujah, 50 kilometers west of Baghdad, Iraq on 29 June, 2003. Iraqis are allowed to keep an AK-47 and a pistol at home but are required to get licenses before the guns can be taken out. —INTERNET

Internet
15,000 Nepali children lost every year

KATHMANDU, 30 June — As many as 15,000 children are reported lost every year in Nepal after being mistreated by their parents and harassed by labour agents who force them into inhuman forms of labour, according to a study conducted by the Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Centre.

"Only 30 per cent of the children are recovered, usually from public places and in factories," independent English daily The Kathmandu Post reported Monday quoting the study, which was based on police records and media reports.

During the last four years, 3,022 boys and 2,310 girls were reported lost in the country, among them, 1,194 are below five years of age, 1,598 in the age bracket 6-10, 2,028 in 11-15 and 512 above 15 years.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan minister says no decision yet on sending troops to Iraq

ISLAMABAD, 30 June — Pakistan is considering sending troops to Iraq for peacekeeping duties but there is no decision yet, local English newspaper Statesman reported Sunday.

At a breakfast meeting with Prime Minister Zafarullah Jamali and Parliament members on Saturday, Defence Minister Rao Sikander Iqlab said "it is very clear that there is no decision to send troops to Iraq so far, however, the matter is on the cards still."

It was reported that Pakistan is in contact with a number of Muslim countries on the question of whether to send troops to Iraq and once it gets "three or four" Muslim countries on board the troops will be sent there.

During their meeting at Camp David on June 24, US President George W. Bush asked his Pakistani counterpart Pervez Musharraf to send about 10,000 troops to Iraq to join the coalition forces, which are engaged in the postwar duties of establishing peace.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan consulting Muslim nations on troops for Iraq

ISLAMABAD, 30 June—Amid threats by the Islamist alliance to socially boycott Pakistani troops if they were deployed in Iraq, Islamabad has said it would decide on the request of the US and Britain to send two brigades of its army for peacekeeping operations in Baghdad after consultations with Muslim countries.

"We do not want to see our troops being misconstrued as an occupational force instead of a force for stability that has come to serve the people of Iraq," Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri told reporters yesterday. Elaborating on recent assertions by President Pervez Musharraf that Pakistan is considering the requests to deploy its forces in Iraq, Kasuri said Islamabad preferred a UN cover to send troops and is discussing with Muslim countries on the issue.

Musharraf, who is currently visiting US, said President George W Bush made the request to deploy Pakistani troops for operations in Iraq and his Government is considering various aspects including the financial implications involved in deployment of troops.

MNA/Xinhua

Experts call on Canada to change rules on feed

OTTAWA, 30 June — Canadian officials welcomed a report prepared by a group of experts calling for changes to the way cattle are fed and monitored, it is reported Saturday.

Canadian Agriculture Minister Lyle Vancleave told reporters Friday that he agrees with the "direction" of the international panel's study, but wants to meet with his provincial counterparts before announcing specific changes.

The report, prepared by a group of experts from the United States, Switzerland and New Zealand, suggests Canada immediately ban the use of potentially hazardous cattle tissues in animal feed.

MNA/Xinhua

Air conditioning drains South Europe power grids

LONDON, 30 June—Southern Europeans cranking up their air conditioning to cope with sweltering temperatures are putting a big strain on their power grids, mirroring problems seen in the United States.

Italy suffered its first blackouts in 20 years on Thursday as a heatwave pushed the power system close to collapse and the government urged Italians to cut back on non-essential electricity use. "What is new is the growing use of air conditioning, especially in Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece," said Konstantin Staschus, a member of the statistics working group at European grid operators body Union for the Coordination of Electric Transmission.

“Summer demand is becoming almost as critical as in the winter. In the United States this is already a problem, and now we are seeing this all along the south of Europe.” In Spain, where demand hit a new record earlier this year, supplies will remain tight for the next couple of years until new power stations are built.

MNA/Reuters

US signals Saddam may be alive amid Iraq crackdown

BAGHDAD, 30 June — A top US official signalled Washington believes Saddam Hussein may be alive as US forces launched an operation to crack down on armed resistance that has already involved more than 20 lightning raids and netted at least 60 suspects.

"I'm assuming he's still alive," Paul Bremer, who heads the US-led administration in Iraq, told CNN on Sunday. Asked why it was so hard to find Saddam, Bremer said: "(Iraq is) a big place... He had 30 years to build himself safe houses, palaces, safe havens, we don't know what.

US forces, who declared Saddam's government ousted on power on April 9, attempted during the Iraqi war to kill him in bombing raids based on intelligence but have been unable to verify whether they were successful.

American troops backed by surveillance and armed vehicles launched "Operation Sidewinder" on Sunday to eliminate armed resistance in areas north of Baghdad where Saddam once enjoyed widespread support. Bremer said US-led forces would suffer further casualties until Saddam loyalists were killed or captured. But US Army commander Tommy Franks, who led the swift defeat of Iraq's Army, said recent attacks on US troops did not "spoil the victory.

US forces, who have come under fire almost daily in recent weeks in mainly Sunni Muslim central Iraq and sustained soldiers killed, detained more than 60 people and seized weapons and military documents as part of the crackdown.

MNA/Reuters

Blair under fire in dossier report

LONDON, 30 June—Tony Blair will be given a severe dressing down by a committee of MPs who will accuse Downing Street of deliberately hampering their investigation into the alleged misuse of intelligence in the run-up to the Iraq war.

In a hard-hitting report, which will be published today, the foreign affairs select committee will condemn Downing Street for denying its members access to intelligence officials and papers.

Downing Street will brush off the criticisms because the committee is also likely to clear Alastair Campbell, the prime minister’s communications director, of the damaging charge that he ordered intelligence officials to “sex up” last September's dossier on Iraq's banned weapons.

A combative appearance in front of the committee by Mr Campbell, and a private appearance by the foreign secretary, Jack Straw, has persuaded Labour critics on the committee that Downing Street did not inset a contentious claim that Iraq could launch a banned weapons attack within 45 minutes of an order. The change of heart was signalled yesterday by the Labour MP Eric Hesley, who told LBC Radio: "Alastair Campbell did not exaggerate the first dossier."

The change of mood on the committee persuaded Mr Campbell last night to call a ceasefire in his war with the BBC. In a letter to the corporation’s director of news, Richard Sambrook, Mr Campbell said he was “saddened” that the BBC had failed to answer his questions about a Today programme report which sparked the row.

But he added: “Given how far apart we remain, I see little purpose in continuing our exchanges in advance of the foreign affairs report being published ... I reserve the right to pursue my case further.”

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Iraqis wait at a US checkpoint near Bagoa, Iraq on 30 June, 2003. A massive sweep that has already involved more than 20 lightning raids and netted at least 60 suspects in towns across a wide swath of Iraq moved into its second day Monday as US forces try to mop up resistance and stem attacks.—Reuters

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Canada immediately ban the use of cattle tissues in animal feed.

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MNA/Xinhua

Air conditioning drains South Europe power grids

LONDON, 30 June—Southern Europeans cranking up their air conditioning to cope with sweltering temperatures are putting a big strain on their power grids, mirroring problems seen in the United States.

Italy suffered its first blackouts in 20 years on Thursday as a heatwave pushed the power system close to collapse and the government urged Italians to cut back on non-essential electricity use. "What is new is the growing use of air conditioning, especially in Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece," said Konstantin Staschus, a member of the statistics working group at European grid operators body Union for the Coordination of Electric Transmission.

“Summer demand is becoming almost as critical as in the winter. In the United States this is already a problem, and now we are seeing this all along the south of Europe.” In Spain, where demand hit a new record earlier this year, supplies will remain tight for the next couple of years until new power stations are built.

MNA/Reuters

US signals Saddam may be alive amid Iraq crackdown

Baghdad, 30 June — A top US official signalled Washington believes Saddam Hussein may be alive as US forces launched an operation to crack down on armed resistance blamed on die-hard supporters of the toppled Iraqi leader.

"I’m assuming he’s still alive," Paul Bremer, who heads the US-led administration in Iraq, told CNN on Sunday. Asked why it was so hard to find Saddam, Bremer said: "(Iraq is) a big place... He had 30 years to build himself safe houses, palaces, safe havens, we don’t know what.

US forces, who declared Saddam’s government ousted on power on April 9, attempted during the Iraqi war to kill him in bombing raids based on intelligence but have been unable to verify whether they were successful.

United States this is already a problem, and now we are seeing this all along the south of Europe.” In Spain, where demand hit a new record earlier this year, supplies will remain tight for the next couple of years until new power stations are built.

MNA/Reuters
US lawmakers want international forces in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 30 June—An international force of up to 60,000 troops is needed in Iraq to halt the continuing violence, which will escalate if left unchecked, US Senator Joseph Biden warned on Sunday. On the “Fox News Sunday”, the ranking Democrat on the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee said, “I think we need somewhere between 30,000 and 60,000 other troops.”

“I want to see French, German, I want to see Turkish patches on people’s arms sitting on the street corners, standing there in Iraq,” Biden said. “We’ve got to get over this ideological fixation on the part of Mr (Defence Secretary Donald) Rumsfeld and (Vice-President Dick) Cheney of not letting the Europeans and NATO come in.”

Biden returned recently from a trip to Iraq, where steady attacks have targeted Americans since US President George W Bush declared major combat over on May 1. At least 22 Americans have been killed by hostile fire.

Senator Chuck Hagel, a Nebraska Republican who also made the trip, said the continuing attacks would be “the jarring gong” that forces US involvement in the region. “Time is not on our side. Every day that ticks by is losing ground,” Hagel said on CNN’s “Late Edition” programme. “All the more reason we need help.”

Senior Chris Dodd, a Connecticut Democrat and head of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, also said extra troops were urgently needed. “I don’t have any -- at this point I think we’ve got weeks to turn this around,” Dodd told the CBS “Face the Nation” programme. “And the people on the ground know it. Our military people are exhausted.”

“We need to get that second Army in place over there. We need to invite others around the region as well as the world to help us do that. The longer we wait, the greater risk is going to be posed by Iraq,” Dodd said.

The lawmakers spoke after a week of particularly intense ambushes and hit-and-run attacks. Another explosion in Baghdad on Sunday targeted a US convoy. Biden said the status of US troops there was “in peril. The war is still on.” He said he had been assured NATO was ready to join the US and British troops in Iraq and that NATO should be in.

US forces launch operation against Iraqi fighters

BAGHDAD, 30 June—US soldiers in Iraq backed by aircraft and armoured vehicles carried out more than 20 raids on Sunday in an operation to crack down on armed resistance to their occupation, the US military said.

Troops detained more than 60 people and seized weapons and military documents as part of the mission, called Operation Sidewinder, US Central Command said in a statement. “No coalition forces casualties were reported in the raids. Sidewinder is an ongoing operation,” the statement said.

US forces have come under fire on an almost daily basis in recent weeks, despite ousting Saddam Hussein on April 9. Officers of the US Army 10th Mountain Division in Iraq, on the Tigris River from Baghdad to the town of Samarra, 60 miles to the north of the city, carried out the raids.

US forces have faced the strongest resistance to the north and west of the city and inside the capital itself. But Central Command said it believed the main source of paramilitary activity in central Iraq was located along a stretch of the Tigris River from Baghdad to the town of Samarra, 60 miles to the north.

“The raids target former Baath Party loyalists, terrorists suspected of perpetrating attacks against US forces and former Iraqi military leaders,” its statement said. The military said Sidewinder was the third in a series of operations to “root out elements attempting to undermine coalition efforts to restore basic infrastructure and stability in the region.”

Russian, France favour building integrated greater Europe

MOSCOW, 30 June—Russia and France share an interest in building an undivided greater Europe that will incorporate a single economic, legal and visa-free space, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov said.

Speaking after talks with his French counterpart Jean-Pierre Raffarin on Saturday in St. Petersburg, Kasyanov pointed out the idea of a united Europe was first put forward in 19th Century and “Russia did not stay aside from this process”, Interfax reported.

The Russian Prime Minister deemed the relations between Russia and France are at the highest level of development and more results have been achieved for the past few years than in a decade. Kasyanov said Russia-French interaction was so close today that objectives could be set that had been difficult to imagine before.

“This cooperation is aimed at the development of new technologies, including space research and the aviation industry,” Kasyanov was quoted as saying.

Russian reporter expelled from ex-Soviet Belarus

MINSK, 30 June—Belarus expelled a Russian television journalist on Saturday, accusing him of slandering the government in a news report on the funeral of Vasily Bykov, a writer and opponent of President Alexander Lukashenko.

Pavel Selin, a correspondent for Russia’s NTV, said he had been ordered to quit the country after Lukashenko ordered a probe into the broadcast report. The report included statements that were false, biased, provocative... aimed at destabilizing the government and undermining the authorities, the Belarusian Foreign Ministry said, adding it was seeking an apology from NTV.

Selin has regularly received two official warnings over his news reports aired on Russian television.

“I am sorry that this is happening against the background of Bykov’s death. I am sorry I have been involved in this dance on his grave,” Selin said, “I feel sorry for this country.”

Arab fund says Iraq cannot rebuild without govt

BASEL, Switzerland, 30 June—The head of a fund set up to help finance economic reform in Arab states said on Sunday the lack of a legitimate government in Iraq was the biggest obstacle to its reconstruction.

Jassim Al-Mannai, director general and chairman of the board of the Arab Monetary Fund, said his organization could help in rebuilding Iraq but that the biggest stumbling block was the lack of a clear authority.

“At least you need to see an authority to whom you can talk, and it is still in the process. So everybody is waiting, not only the Arab Monetary Fund,” he told reporters on the sidelines of a gathering of central bankers ahead of Monday’s annual meeting of the Bank for International Settlements.

“I hope this thing will be clarified relatively soon, so we can be of assistance as soon as possible,” he added.

The Arab fund, representing 22 Arab states including Iraq, finances economic reform programmes and trade between member states and helps them develop capital markets.

Putin says state visit to Britain useful

MOSCOW, 30 June—Russian President Vladimir Putin said Saturday that his just concluded state visit to Britain was quite useful.

Putin’s four-day visit to Britain, which ended on Friday, “was quite a useful enterprise not only because it was the first one for the past 150 years,” the President told reporters in Kaliningrad before he returned to Moscow, according to Interfax news agency.

The Russian leader said the visit was intensive, during which many contacts with representatives of various political forces of Britain have been made.

He added that various informal conversations, including talks with Prime Minister Tony Blair, “offer a chance to understand one’s partner more accurately.”
US troops tighten security in Baghdad after attacks

Baghdad, 30 June — Another explosion in Baghdad targeted a US convoy on Sunday as Washington’s top official in Iraq said coalition forces would suffer further casualties until Saddam Hussein’s supporters were killed or captured.

Soldiers imposed tighter measures around military posts, US-led administration offices and ministry buildings in the city of five million, witnesses said. They also stepped up search operations for weapons and wanted Saddam loyalists.

The latest of a series of hit-and-run attacks, an Iraqi civilian died and two US military police soldiers were wounded in Baghdad when an explosion targeted a US convoy.

At least 22 Americans have been killed by hostile fire since US President George W Bush declared major combat over on May 1. Four were found dead in unclear circumstances on Saturday.

Saturday’s deaths took to more than 200 the number of Americans who have died, both in combat or non-combat incidents, since US forces began the war in Iraq on March 21.

In Majar, about 240 miles south of Baghdad, there was no sign on Sunday of British forces in the town where gunmen killed six British soldiers last week.

Britain’s Defence Ministry in London said a force of 500 troops returned to Majar on Saturday where its commanders met a delegation of Shi’ite Muslim clerics and local dignitaries. The British told the people they were there to help them re-establish their community, not to punish them, a ministry spokesman said.

Townsmen told Reuters on Sunday the force, which drove into the town in about 40 military vehicles, had stayed only for three hours before pulling out.

The British had informed the leaders of the town that they had no plans to stay, residents said.

They said the forces checked the police station where most of the soldiers died last Tuesday. At least four Iraqis were also killed in the shooting.

“The situation is stable here. We don’t need the British,” Mohammad al-Shamari, a dignitary, said.

US and British troops seeking to impose law and order in postwar Iraq have come under attack repeatedly in recent weeks.

“She’s the greatest actress of her age and with her passing that whole galaxy of great movie stars has ended,” Grant, who once tinged her screen legend shortly before she died, told Reuters.

He said the cause of death was “simply complications from old age.” — MNA/Reuters

Iran urges foreign troops to leave Iraq

TEHRAN, 30 June — Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said on Sunday urged foreign forces to leave Iraq as soon as possible and called for peaceful settlement of crisis in Iraq.

Speaking at a joint Press conference with his visiting Tunisian counterpart Habib Ben Yahia, Kharrazi said Iran considers the current events in Iraq as “unsatisfactory” and Iran has always sought adopting peaceful methods to deal with Iraqi crisis.

Supporters of armed struggle in Iraq are against presence of foreign troops in the country and “wrong policies of the occupying forces have instigated the Iraqi nation”, Kharrazi said.

“Iraqi people should take control of the country to form a democratic government there in a bid to rebuild the country,” he added.

“Yahia, for his part, said ‘we call for observing the legitimate rights of Iraqi people and the right to determine their own fate’. In reconstructing their country, the rights of Iraqi citizen should be fully observed,” he said.

Referring to the international campaign against terrorism, Yahia said there is no relationship between Islam and terrorism.

“The efforts to link Islam with terrorism is wrong and false and Islamic states should adopt a joint stand in campaign against terrorism,” he said. Yahia arrived in Tehran on Saturday to attend the sixth Iran-Tunisia joint economic commission meeting. — MNA/Xinhua

British police officer to train Iraqi police force

London, 30 June — Britain is to send a senior police officer with experience in dealing with Northern Ireland flashpoints to help train Iraqi police, the Financial Times reported on Monday.

It said that Stephen White, an assistant chief constable from Northern Ireland, will be posted to the southern city of Basra to set up a training programme aimed at continuing the training of British and US forces.

The FT gave no source, but a Foreign Office spokeswoman confirmed that an officer with Northern Ireland experience was going to Iraq.

Last week, six British military policemen training in Iraq were killed and eight soldiers were wounded in two separate incidents near the eastern Iraqi city of Amara.

Back in May, the Chief Constable of Hampshire Paul Kernaghan — as part of an international team of police officers — visited Iraq for a week and provided the British Government with a written report of the security situation in Iraq.

“I do not see an environment in which I can recommend the sending of unarmed British police officers to police the streets...it is too dangerous,” Kernaghan told the FT.
Implementation of special projects ...

Paungnet Dam Project will be implemented at Paungnet Creek near Sithaung Village in Shwegu Township, Kayin State. Due to implementing the Paungnet Dam, about 5,000 acres of farmlands in Shwegu Township will be irrigated. In addition, 2,000 acres of summer paddy and other crops will be cultivated as the double cropping with the use of irrigation facilities. Paungnet Dam Project will be implemented at an estimated cost of K 690 million.

Ma-de Dam Project is being implemented in Kanma Township, Magway Division. The dam is being built near Gyobin Village, Kanma Township, for supplying water to 4,400 acres of farmland in the township. The project started in 2002-2003 and the expenditure of the project will be K 659 million.

Construction of Khawa Dam on Khawa Creek near Chinwyagi Village in Padaung Township, Bago Division, started in 2002-2003. On completion, the dam can irrigate 2,000 acres of farmland. The dam is being built at an estimated cost of K 256 million.

Kye-oh-Kyewa Multi-purpose Dam Project is being implemented in Pwintbyu Township, Magway Division. The dam project is located at Mone Creek near Wunsh Village between about 5-mile up of Mezali Diversion Weir in Pwintbyu Township and about 15-mile down of Mone Creek. The multi-purpose Dam Project in Sedatkha Township is able to generate 60 megawatts of electric tricity from the underground power plant and supplying water to the farmland through canals of Mezali Diversion Weir.

The dam will contribute towards more control for flow of water in Mone Creek. Kye-oh-Kyewa Multi-purpose Dam Project is being built at an estimated cost of K 6,000 million and US$ 56 million.

Taunggyay (Kyettmauktaung supporting) dam project is being implemented in Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Division. The dam, 70 feet high and 3,000 feet long, is an earthen one at Taunggyay Creek near Tebinhte Village, Kyaukpadaung Township. The dam is being built to supply its water to Kyetmauktaung Dam for cultivation of crops in the irrigated areas. On completion, the dam will supply water to Kyetmauktaung Dam as well as to ensure sufficiency of drinking water in the area. At present, Taunggyay Dam Project is being constructed at an estimated cost of K 561 million.

Similarly, Kyaukdaga (Kyettmauktaung supporting) dam project will supply water to Kyettmauktaung Dam for availability of water in the irrigated areas and extended cultivation of crops. Kyaukdaga Dam will be built of earth, 80 feet high and 7,400 feet long, on Kyaukdaga Creek near Kyaukdaga Village, Natmauk Township, Magway Division. The dam project will cost about K 960 million.

The Thinbon dam project near Beestgon Village in Lahla Township, Mandalay Division, has been implemented since 2002-2003. It will supply water into Tuangnpul dam in Mahlang Township and it can reduce the inflow of silt into the dam. Moreover, water could be fully supplied to 7,636 acres of land in the irrigated area of Tuangnpul dam. The Thinbon dam is being built and it will cost an estimated K 332 million.

Similarly, the Ngwetha dam project is being implemented on Chumagyi Creek near Ngwetha Village in Salingyi Township, Sagaing Division. The dam, which was implemented starting 2002-2003, will supply water to about 3,000 acres of land in the township. It is estimated that the dam will cost K 333 million.

The Letpan dam on Letpan Creek near Tawchangyi Village in Myinnu Township is one of the dam projects implemented in 2002-2003. The dam being built at an estimated cost of K 422 million will supply water to 2,500 acres of land and it will complete soon.

To supply water to 1,500 acres of land in Ngazun Township, Mandalay Division, the Natthadaw dam project was implemented starting 2002-2003. The project being implemented at an estimated cost of K 279 million will complete soon.

The Chaungmagyi (Myohla) dam project has been implemented on Chaungmagyi Creek near Zaytsun Village in Yedasse Township in Bago Division to supply water to about 3,000 acres of land. It will cost an estimated K 548 million.

To supply water to Ngajiek dam in Mandalay Division and to supply drinking water to neighboring villages and to supply water to 3,000 acres of land in Kayankoh region in Pyay, Kyarindaw Township, Division, the Chaungmagyi (Pyinnana) dam project has been implemented starting 2002-2003 on Chaungmagyi Creek near Kyetmagyi Village in Pyinmana Township. The project is being built at an estimated cost of K 767 million.

The Chaungmagyi dam project is being implemented on Chaungmangyi Creek near Pannysun Village in Lewe Township, Mandalay Division. The dam will irrigate about 8,000 acres of land. It will cost an estimated K 724 million.

The Ngamoeyeik dam completed in 1995 has been giving out about 200,000 acre feet of water yearly through its spillway. The Muahya (Ngamoeyeik supporting) dam on Mahuya Creek near Bwetgyi Village in Hlegu Township, Yangon Division is being implemented with the objectives to effectively use the current of the Ngamoeyeik Creek, to sufficiently supply water to farmers, and to provide assistance to the water supply system for Yangon City. The project started in 2002-2003.

Similarly, the Paungln dam (Ngamoeyeik supporting dam) is being implemented onPaungln Creek near Ohnheinmin Village in Hlegu township, Yangon Division. The Muahya dam (Ngamoeyeik supporting dam) is being built at an estimated cost of K 375 million and the Paungln (Ngamoeyeik supporting dam) K 466 million.

The Kataik dam project is being implemented on Kataik Creek near Kataik Village in Paung Township, Mon State. It has been implemented since 2001-2002 to irrigate 10,000 acres of land and the lower part of Yinnyein Creek from flooding. The project is being implemented at an estimated cost of K 2,053 million.

Since the time of the Tamarad Government in 1988, the construction projects of dams and sluice gates have been undertaken and now 148 dams have been built to this date. And this benefited the 3 million acres of farmland for farmers and the public.

In constructing sluice gates by the Irrigation Department, Shwe Hla sluice gate is being built near the place, where Hsema Creek and Bago River converge, in Kawa Township in Bago Division, and this project will cost K 650 million. With the construction of Shwe Hla sluice gate, 35,000 acres of land in the township can be prevented from floods, and in summer mixed cropping can be made with the use of river water.

In Waw Township of Bago Division also, Zwepat sluice gate is under construction at Zwephat Creek near Zwepat Village. The project will cost K 275 million. The sluice gate will prevent 40,000 acres of lands in the townships of Waw, Thantapin and Bago and either bank of Bago-Sittoung Cannel from flooding, and mixed cropping can be made with the use of fresh water in summer. Kyohtaw sluice gate is being constructed at the confluence of Kyohhtaw Brook and Kyohntaw Creek in Thaton Township. The construction of the sluice gate will benefit 22,000 acres of land in the township.

SARS prevention

* There is no outbreak of SARS in Myanmar.
* Preventive measures are being taken against the spread of SARS from other countries.
* The people are urged to participate in the project.

On completion of Kyohhtaw sluice gate, creeks and brooks in the township can be prevented from siltage on account of the flows of salty water into them. The sluice gate will be built at a cost of K 530 million.

From 1988 to date, 11 sluice gates have been constructed and it benefits 235,900 acres of land.

Water Resources Utilization Department will undertake the river water-pumping projects in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions in Upper Myanmar and Ayeyawady Division in Lower Myanmar.

These are Magyisauk river water-pumping project (Ayadaw-2) which will irrigate 20,000 acres of farmland in Ngazung Township, Sagaing Division, and Hsinlale river water-pumping project (Ayadaw-3) which will irrigate 40,000 acres of land.

The projects to be implemented in Mandalay Division are Kyaw river water-pumping project benefiting 2,500 acres of farmland in Ngazun Township, Ywathit river water-pumping project benefiting 7,000 acres of farm- lands, Ngmya river water-pumping project benefiting 3,000 acres of farmland in Ngazun Township, Hseiknyan river water-pumping project benefiting 10,000 acres of farmland in Myingan Township and Auknkyint river water-pumping project benefiting 6,000 acres of farmlands in NyangU Township.

The project being implemented in Hinthada Township in Ayeyawady Division, is Datmi river water-pumping project that will benefit 9,000 acres of land.

When the eight river water-pumping projects are complete, a total of 97,500 acres of farmlands will be irrigated. These projects will be implemented at a cost of US$ 231.5 million plus K 14,500 million.

From the beginning of 1995 to March 2003, altogether 265 river water pumping projects have been implemented and a total of 282,108 acres of farmland can be irrigated.

Commander attends Thitseint sapling planting ceremony

YANGON, 30 June — The rainy season Thitseint sapling (Bellaria myrobalan) planting ceremony, organized by Mandalay District Peace and Development Council, was held at the hospital (300-bed) in Chamyathazi Township on 27 June morning.

Present were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Chairman of Central Com- mand Maj-Gen Ye Myint. Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig Gen Yan Than, local authorities, departmental officials, members of Ma- ternal and Child Welfare Association, social organizations, trainees of University of Nursing and guests.

The commander and the mayor planted Thitseint saplings at designated places. Those present also planted 1,000 Thitseint saplings.

In Mandalay District, 37,090 Thitseint saplings against the target of 115,500 saplings have been planted in the rainy season.

The commander then attended the eighth tree planting ceremony in Pathetnyi Township. A total of 3,000 trees were planted at the ceremony.

Next, the commander arrived at Yadanabon Garden in Mandalay. Director-General U Tun Tun of Arid Zone Greening Department reported on upgrading of Yadanabon Garden. Then, the commander inspected planting of trees in the garden and repair of the buildings and gave neces- sary instructions.— MNA
Myitkyina observes International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

Yangon, 30 June — The ceremony to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was held at Myitkyina Education College in Myitkyina on 26 June morning.

Present were Chairman of Kachin State Committee for Drug Abuse Control Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Maung Swe and wife, Myitkyina Air Force Base Commander Brig-Gen Bo Kyi, Brig-Gen Kyaw Oo Maung Maung Lwin of Tanai Station, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen San Tun, senior military officers, local authorities, officials of social organizations, students, teachers and guests. The commander gave a speech. Then, Kachin State Police Force Commander Police Col Tin Maung Maung read out the message sent by Chairman of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing.

Next, the commander presented a prize to Dr Maung Maung Lwin who won the consolation prize in the (central level) article contest to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Officials then presented prizes to the other winners in essay, painting and computer arts contests. After the ceremony, the commander and party viewed the booths to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, at the hall. — MNA

Training course No 1/2003 for electricians opens

Yangon, 30 June — A training course No 1/2003 for electricians of Electrical and Boiler Inspection of Industrial Coordination and Industrial Inspection Department of the Ministry of Industry-1 was opened at the hall of CIID on Kyaikwaing Road in Mayangon Township this morning.

Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung delivered a speech. He said practical and theoretical courses are being conducted constantly for development of human resources that contribute towards production. He said electricity is essential for social, economic, education and health matters. He urged the trainees to learn electrical techniques both in theory and in practice. Present were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thein Tun, the directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises and course instructors. The six-week course is being attended by 86 trainees.

Ancient earthen pot and antiques unearthed in Thabeikkyin Township

Yangon, 30 June — A team of archaeologists led by Director of the Department of Archaeology (Upper Myanmar) U Hla Kyi unearthed an ancient pot on 20 June in Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay Division. The team found the objects in the pot including ashes mixed with soil, bones, burnt human teeth, beads, and four copper bells, a copper ring, pieces of iron ring and two golden butterflies of 0.39 inch in length and width.

The burial urn of Pyu unearthed from the site of Palace in ancient Tagaung City. — CULTURE

Commander attends meeting of Shan State (North) DAC

Yangon, 30 June — A coordination meeting of Shan State (North) Development Affairs Committee was held at the hall of Lashio Development Affairs Department on 27 June morning. It was attended by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint, senior officials of the command, local authorities and officials.

The commander first made an opening speech and Director of Shan State (North) DAC U Kyi Myint reported on the tasks carried out for development affairs in sector-wise in 2002-2003 and future tasks. Then, the commander gave instructions.

On the evening of 28 June, together with the deputy commander and officials, the commander arrived at the project of 1000-acre crops cultivation zone in Lashio where they inspected round the crop plantations and gave necessary instructions to officials.

A drug trafficker gets prison terms

Yangon, 30 June — Members of Yangon Special Anti-drug Squad searched the house of Hla Myint of Malar Maing Street in Pauktaw Ward, Insein Township on 1 March 2002 and found 0.5442 grams of marijuana there. Further investigation led to seizure of 8.328 kilos of marijuana in the house of Hla Hti of Kantha-2 Street in Insein Ward in Mayangon Township, Insein Township on 30 June.

Owing to possession of prohibited objects, the naturalization court handed down 2 years’ imprisonment under Section 15/1 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, and $1,000 of fine on 27 June.

On 10 December 2002, the Office of the Attorney General of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development issued a warrant under Section 15 and 25 years’ imprisonment under Section 19 (A) on Hla Myint for possession of prohibited objects, the naturalization court handed down 2 years’ imprisonment under Section 15 and 25 years’ imprisonment under Section 19 (A) on U Hla Kyi. — MNA

CPT Minister attends opening of training courses, inspects telecommunication works

Yangon, 30 June — The ceremony to open the Basic Digital Electronics Course, the TMX-10 DSS Operation and Maintenance Course, the Postmaster Course and the Spectrum Management Course was held at Communications and Postal Training Centre of the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telecommunications this morning.

Minister for Communications, Posts and Telecommunications Brig-Gen Thein Zaw gave an opening address. Also present were the director-general of Directoie of Telecommunications, the managing director of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and officials.

Then, the minister went to Microwave Communication Ground Station (Toeynganngale). The minister inspected staff quarters in the compound of the station. Next, the minister inspected storage of fuel at the new fuel warehouse. Afterwards, the minister saw over installation of machines at the Domestic Communication Station and gave instructions on maintenance of the machines for long-term use of telecommunication links.

The minister then inspected cultivation of vegetables in the compound of the station. — MNA

Drug traffickers get prison terms

Yangon, 30 June — Members of Yangon Special Anti-drug Squad searched the house of Hla Myint of Malar Maing Street in Pauktaw Ward, Insein Township, under Section 15/19 (A) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, and U Hla Kyi, son of U Ohn, of Kantha-2 Street in Insein Township under Section 15/19 (A)/21. Yangon North District Court handed down 10 years’ imprisonment under Section 16 (C), five years’ imprisonment under Section 15 and 25 years’ imprisonment under Section 19 (A) on Hla Myint to serve separately, and 25 years’ imprisonment under Section 19 (A) on U Hla Kyi. — MNA
Ngwe Hsaung or Myanmar's Langkawi

(Continued from yesterday)

Twenty groups of Myanmar-owned companies who realize the good prospects of Ngwe Hsaung region are investing heavily in the region. These companies are expected to invest K 10,000 million in Ngwe Hsaung and they have already invested K 2,000 million. The 20 groups that invest their money in Ngwe Hsaung region are Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited, Min Min Soe, Chuangthali, Shwe Hinta, Shwe Khayu (Golden Mole), Kanbawza, Shwe Family, Yuzana, National Holdings, Shwe Thazin, Dagon International, Asia World, Nbo, Olympic, Myanmar ABM Exports, Sunny, Ayeya Shewewah, Htoo, Silver View and Woodland Co. Ltd.

The Sound of the waves crashing onto the seashore and the sound of the sea can be heard continuously in Ngwe Hsaung region. One can make a study tour of 9-mile-long beach in Ngwe Hsaung which is located 30 miles from Pathein. Ngwe Hsaung beach is a significant one not only in Myanmar but also in the world.

Construction projects of Woodland Co can be seen in Ngwe Hsaung. Woodland has rich experience in building roads in Central Myanmar. It has invested K 800 million in Ngwe Hsaung. There is a swimming pool in Ngwe Hsaung Woodland. The Woodland has built the Bay of Bengal Golf Resort in Ngwe Hsaung. The resort is to be built at a place overlooking the Bay of Bengal.

Htoo, Ayeya Shewewah and Myanmar ABM Group have also invested their money in Ngwe Hsaung. The significance of this group is that they hire jet-ski in Ngwe Hsaung. Moreover, arrangements are being made to transport people on board a double-decker between Ngwe Hsaung and Chaungtha Beaches. Pleasure-boats will be ready for the trip to the Bird Island. They provide kitchens for visitors to be able to cook their meals by themselves. The wooden buildings are excellent. The rooms of the hotel have large verandahs and the decoration of the hotel will be appreciated by foreigner. Sunny Co has built a hotel with magnificent design in a large compound. It looked like huge thatch hut if it is seen from outside. The hotel of Sunny Co is decorated with Myanmar handicrafts mainly based on wood thereby making Ngwe Hsaung very grand. The main building with 24 bedrooms of Sunny Beach Hotel is something to be proud of.

Yuzana is also trying its best. Its buildings are facing the sea. On the mountain, it has also built rooms and towers. Yuzana has acquired one of the best places in Ngwe Hsaung. Its rooms are built on the mountain from where one can enjoy a good view of the area. The reception hall of Yuzana is built of ala-aster and it is worthy to call Atrium.

Bedrooms in the hotel run by Dagon International, one of the well-known companies, are modern ones which are arranged to suit the taste of foreigner. It is learnt that the decoration is made by a foreigner. Myanmar paintings can be found only in the bedrooms. Inner part of the bedrooms are built with teak and the outer part, Pyinkadoe (a kind of hard wood). Moreover, one can lodge in a tent of Dagon International. In some other hotels, tents are also available.

Kyaukmaunghnna Pagoda stands in front of the Silver View Hotel. Bathing beach of Shwe Khayu Hotel is superior to others. Olympic Group also tries to be the best in constructing its hotel. Ambo, Chuangthali, Shwe Hinta, Kanbawza, Shwe-thazin and Shwe Family decorate their hotels in different styles. At the hotel of Min Min Soe, there is not only a swimming pool but also a tennis court. Arrangements of National Holdings are of significant ones.

As the companies are not following the steps of one another in building hotels and decorating them, there are many different types of hotels in Ngwe Hsaung. The decorations are not inferior to those of the hotels in Yangon. The matter used in the bedrooms are the best ones and there are also, refrigerator, mini-bar, hot and cold water and satellite TV. The lodging fees range from K 2,000 to K 25,000 thereby offering several choices.

The hotel of Economic Holdings Ltd is situated in the southermmost part of the area facing Lovirs' Island. Hotels have been built in the four-mile area of the northern part of the beach and thus natural beauty of the remaining five-mile area is kept intact. If other development programs are undertaken in the remaining area, the hotel of Economic Holdings Ltd will be at the centre of the area. It also has inland water lakes. The Economic Holdings Ltd has attached its reception to the Central Hotel in Yangon to undergo training here.

Under the arrange-

ments of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited, the companies are investing in the region. Within three years, the companies are allowed to invest in the region, tax-free and they have built their hotels on 10 acres of land each. There is a communication station in Ngwe Hsaung and one can contact directly to Yangon without dialing the code-number of the capital. Hotels are being taken to install e-mail and fax.

There is also enough fresh water in Ngwe Hsaung. In the hotel of Min Min Soe, there is not only a swimming pool but also a tennis court. Arrangements of National Holdings are of significant ones.

One of the significant features of the region is that natural grass is growing everywhere. The natural grass fields grown in the roadside are as beautiful as that of Japanese grass. Some hotels use these natural grass to decorate their hotels.

Engineers of Asia World who have had good reputation in building roads in northern Shan State are now engaging with might and main in the Pathein-Ngwe Hsaung road construction. There will be 19 bridges on 30-mile-long road between Pathein-Hsaung and the Ministry of Construction, Ayeyawady Division and Asia World are taking charge of the respective sections. One of the bridges will cost K 1,100 million among these bridges. As Asia World has completed its duties in building bridges, it has laid emphasis on building roads. At Pathein Airport is being extended in Pathein Township in Ayeyawady Division with a view to enhancing better tourist transport between Ayeyawady Division and other parts of the country.

On Pathein-Ngwe Hsaung road, the bridge across Ngawun River is under construction for better transport. Langkawi of Malaysia relied mainly on fishery in the past. Nowadays, tourism industry is booming amazingly in the region. Similarly, Ngwe Hsaung, under the guidance of Head of State, is developing from a fishing village to a bustling place. In the near future, Ngwe Hsaung, Myanmar’s Langkawi, can be seen as a big city that earns foreign exchange for the country most. At present, out of 20 hotels in Ngwe Hsaung beach, 16 are operational. Last year, a total of 21,777 visitors including 20,954 Myanmar citizens and 832 foreigners visited Ngwe Hsaung. This year, 22,636 people—19,084 Myanmar citizens and 3,552 foreigners—visited there and the industry fetched K 74,071,880 and US$ 72,062.

Ngwe Hsaung, in which the Union of Myanmar can take pride, will be famous in the near future. With the encouragement of the people, Ngwe Hsaung beach with crystal clear water and beautiful rocks will be known not only in Myanmar but also in Asia, Myanmar’s Lang-
kawi! That is true. It refers to Langkawi Island of Malaysia. There is an island take like Langkawi in Myanmar. It is called Ngwe Hsaung—Myanmar’s Langkawi.

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 amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

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

More fish in rice field

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 intervening in internal affairs of the State
- Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Myanmar Women’s Day

3rd July 2003

(Translation: BG)
Precious teak plantations of Bago...

(from page 16)

Forest Department is striving to protect deforestation and environmental damage. With forest terraces, a spring water will gush out. Climate depends on forest.

Only lush green forest will make a pleasant environment. Forests produce fresh air. Forests make people happy.

In accord with the above-mentioned motives, Bago Mountain Range will be more pleasant in the near future thanks to the teak plantations in Pyu Township.

*****

(concluded)

Translation:

BG & AMS

(Ye Htun 24-6-2003)

 Saplings planted in Kengtung

YANGON, 1 July—The ceremony to plant saplings to mark the Myanmar Women’s Day was held at the womens’ department of the Information Computer College and Technological College in Kengtung on 28 June morning. Present were officials, members of the Working Committee for Women’s Affairs, social organizations, teachers, students and local people. They planted 3,000 saplings at the designated places. —MYA
The final communiqué of the meetings says the education is a common values and common European contexts and open negotiations with care and determination. The ministers agreed on the need to provide teachers with competences required to meet these challenges and on the importance of initial and particularly in-service teacher education,” according to the community. It also noted that the accession of 10 new member states to the European Union next May would facilitate and promote educational dialogue of the bloc.

The ministers agreed on "the need to provide teachers with competences required to meet these challenges and on the importance of initial and particularly in-service teacher education," according to the communique. It also noted that the accession of 10 new member states to the European Union next May would facilitate and promote educational dialogue of the bloc.

The New Light of Myanmar

European Education Ministers Conference concludes in Cyprus

VATICAN CITY, 30 July — A two-day European Education Ministers Conference concluded here Saturday with resolve to improve education to make Europe the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world, the communique said.

“The ministers agreed on the crucial role of the school in preparing citizens to be active in local, national and European contexts and open to the world,” it said.

“This preparation is aimed at both participation of European citizens and society and the development of European identity based on common values and common cultural traditions,” it added. The ministers agreed on "the need to provide teachers with competences required to meet these challenges and on the importance of initial and particularly in-service teacher education," according to the communique. It also noted that the accession of 10 new member states to the European Union next May would facilitate and promote educational dialogue of the bloc.

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Brazil proposes formation of bigger South American bloc

BRAZIL, 30 June — Brazilian President Luiz "Lula" da Silva has proposed the creation of a greater South American economic bloc to strengthen the region’s position in the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations with the United States.

"The plan is to merge the Andean Community (in South America) with the South American Common Market (Mercosur)," a communique issued Saturday by the Colombian Foreign Ministry quoted Lula as saying on Friday night. Addressing a two-day summit at Caracas, Venezuela, the president said that the Andean Community and the Mercosur, a free trade agreement among Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela, should merge to form a single bloc.

"This establishment of the FTAA is set for 2005, with the participation of all the 34 countries of the Americas, from the North to the South," he said.

While stressing the possibility of negotiations between the Andean Community and the Mercosur for a free trade agreement will be completed this year, Lula called for speeding up these negotiations. He also made a strong call on the Andean Community to continue the FTAA negotiations with care and determination.

In his opinion, fair negotiations mean that the United States should not push for a plan to open its market and remove the obstacles for consumers in which “we have priority on their part, namely, agriculture and textile goods.”

The negotiations must be fair and take into account the different performance of our economies,“ said the Brazilian President. MNA/Xinhua

Buddha’s ashes draws crowd in Catholic Chile

SANTIAGO (Chile), 1 July — Hundreds of Chileans lined up on Saturday to view the ashes of the Buddha, brought to this predominantly Catholic nation as part of a pilgrimage for world peace.

Buddhist monks, escorted by police and security guards, carried a large golden dome containing the 2,500-year-old cremated remains stonemason decorated platform inside a Santiago cultural center, chanting solemnly and waving incense in their procession.

Buddhists are a tiny minority in Chile and were surprised at the large turnout to see the exhibit — a small gold bowl full of crushed bones inside a glass dome.

"It is an opportunity for you only have once in a life time," said Luis Flores, a Chilean Buddhist. The ashes were donated by the state of Sri Lanka and Thailand to the United Nations, which in 1999 officially recognized Buddhism as a world religion.

The historical Buddha, Siddharta Gotama, was born into a royal family in 563 BC in what is now Nepal. His followers say he was “enlightened” at the age of 35 and taught the principles of Buddhism until his death at age 80.

Travelling under strict security, the remains have been exhibited in 15 countries since last year and will permanently rest at UN headquarters in New York from next May.

Lama Gangchen Rinpoche, a Tibetan healer, said he brought the ashes to Chile to repay the kindness of friends, including a group of engineers who helped build a temple to his monastery in Tibet.

"The relics of Buddha, by being here, are not something only for the Buddhists. Its something open to everyone because Buddha himself was open to all of us," he told Reuters.

"The relics help the creation of a non-violent culture," he said. The first two Chilian state-recognized Buddhist platform were police officers, members of the security team.

Buddha’s followers said "miraculous" things had happened since the ashes arrived in Santiago this week.

"In the short time that the relics have been here, I’ve seen total transformations in people that have no idea about Buddha," said Heidi Dettwiler, organizer of the exhibit.

"For example, in the security people helping us and the people in the hotel where we’re staying, things have happened that you could call miracles," she said. MNA/Reuters

Mars Rover launch delayed by fishing boat

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 1 July — A fishing boat forced NASA to miss on Saturday its first opportunity to launch a robotic explorer destined to search for long vanished water sources on Mars, but the space agency will try again early on Sunday.

A fishing boat had wandered into a restricted zone near the launch pad on Florida’s Atlantic seaboard, causing the launch team to lose its 11.56 pm EDT (0356 GMT Sunday) lift-off chance.

A Delta 2 rocket carries the second of two robotic rovers, golf-cart sized robots built to spend at least three months exploring the Martian surface.

NASA has a second launch opportunity at 0930 am EDT (1330 GMT) on Sunday, but weather is also a concern and appears to be getting worse.

"We’ve had a couple of good days of weather, but in Florida in June, that’s not going to last. We do expect showers and thunderstorms to resume," said Joel Tombolato, launch weather officer. The second Mars Rover, to be named Victoria, is set to join its twin, Spirit, which launched June 10, on a seven-month journey to the Red Planet.

They are expected to arrive in early January.

On Earth, life exists wherever natural sources of water are found, which accounts for the space agency’s keen interest in ancient water sources on Mars.

NASA does not expect the rovers to find life. But if the robots succeed, scientific interest is expected to grow.

The six-wheelered rovers have the ability to scoop up soil and drill into rocks, then examine the samples.

Data will be sent back to Earth for analysis by scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, where the mission control will be located.

The twin missions will join the European and Japanese spacecraft already on their way to Mars.

All of the missions are taken to the vicinity of Mars in July and August, and are hoping to arrive at the planet's closest approach to Earth this summer in 15,000 years. That cuts the normal travel time from nine or 10 months to seven — MNA/Reuters
Dhaka to start joint anti-terrorism drive again

Dhaka, 30 June — Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said Saturday that the joint anti-terrorism drive by the members of the Bangladesh Rifles, police and aman (militia) would resume soon across the country to deal with the offenders.

The earlier joint operation against terrorism had yielded very good results that led to marked improvement in law and order, the Prime Minister told a huge gathering in the southwestern Bagerhat according to the official Bangladesh News Agency.

It has now become necessary once again to start the drive against terrorism “in view of resurgence of such acts of terror at the incitement of some parties”, Khaleda Zia said just after opening the second key bridge in the country’s southwest region on the river Daratana to traffic.

The Prime Minister accused the major opposition Awami League for its “misdeeds”, saying that this party had earlier resorted to terrorism and anarchy that created law and order situation on in the country.

The Prime Minister said some quarters, opposed to peace, stability and progress of the nation, were instigating terrorism in the country to impede development endeavours.

The government had deployed the Armed Forces on 16 October last year to jointly undertake combating operations, recover illegal firearms and nab alleged criminals, when crimes had taken and alarming turn in the country.

Malaysia to train unemployed graduates

Kuala Lumpur, 30 June—The training scheme for unemployed college graduates would restart next month with emphasis on making graduates internationally employable, Human Resources Deputy Minister Abdul Latif Ahmad said on Saturday.

The scheme, which was stopped in May last year, had previously aimed to make graduates employable locally and it recorded an 80-per-cent success rate, the Deputy Minister said after briefing 450 unemployed graduates on the scheme in Kota Bharu, north Malaysia.

Under the same scheme, over 10,000 unemployed graduates were trained in foreign languages and Information Technology last year.

This year some 12,700 unemployed graduates would be able to participate in the scheme with a 100-million-ringgit (26.31-million-US-dollar) allocation by the government, he said.

“Among the fields given in-depth training are Microsoft Certified System Engineer, Cisco Certified Network and Professional, as well as Linux System Administor which are needed in the market, especially by countries without the expertise,” he said.

Malaysia National Economic Action Council figures up to early this month state that 35,000 university and college graduates remain unemployed.

To avoid continued unemployment among graduates in the scheme, Abdul Latif said they should be open to changes, including being posted to any location.

“For example, female graduates find it hard to get jobs, this is because of mobility, it is hard for them to move, they prefer to work in their own areas,” he said.

He hoped that unemployed graduates would seize the opportunity to join the scheme as studies showed that employers still prioritized work experience and personality.

UN calls for quick multinational force for Liberia

Geneva, 30 June—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on Saturday for the urgent dispatch of a multinational force to Liberia to halt fighting between government and rebel forces that have killed hundreds.

Annan issued his call in a letter to the UN Security Council, which he said should meet immediately to agree on intervention “to prevent a major humanitarian tragedy”.

In a clear reference to the United States, which has so far declined to act despite the descent into chaos of a country with which it has close ties, Annan said the force should be “under the lead of a (UN) member state”.

Annan’s letter, released by the UN in Geneva which he is visiting, was sent to current Security Council president, Sergey Lavrov of Russia.

“I would... like to request that the Security Council take urgent action to authorize the deployment to Liberia of a highly-trained and well-equipped multinational force, under the lead of a member state, to prevent a major humanitarian tragedy and to stabilize the situation in that country,” it said.

“Our collective interest and our common humanity demand urgent and decisive action from the Security Council. We cannot be oblivious to the warning signs of an imminent possible catastrophe.”—MNA/Reuters

Railway tunnel completed in Chongqing

Chongqing, 30 June—A nine-kilometre tunnel was completed Saturday morning on a trunk railway connecting Chongqing municipality and Hunan Province after 26 months of construction work.

Located in the Wuling Mountains on the outskirts of Chongqing, in southwest China, the 9,108-metre Jindong tunnel is a key infrastructure project of the 625-kilometre Yuhan Railway, which extends to Huaibin City, central China’s Hunan Province.

The tunnel had to pass through many complex geological strata, including gas and coal strata, and water-logged caves, which made the work more difficult.

The construction teams completed the work some 20 months ahead of schedule due to the application of advanced technologies. The tunnel’s completion will pave the way for the timely completion and opening of the entire Yuhui Railway, a major project in the strategic “west campaign” involving investment totalling 19.87 billion yuan (2.4 billion US dollars).—MNA/Xinhua

Moscow, 30 June—Russia and France are embarking on a project to develop a fifth-generation warplane, Russian Prime Minis ter Mikhail Kasyanov announced Sunday.

“Yesterday the French Prime Minister, Jean-Pierre Raffarin, and I had an exchange of opinions on the possibility of developing such a plane,” Kasyanov said during a visit to the first international naval show in Russia’s second largest city of St Petersburg.

He noted that the two sides had signed an agreement on cooperation in the development of the two countries’ military aviation programs.

“The implementation of this project will show a high degree of confidence between our countries,” Kasyanov was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying.

However, he said it remained unclear whether the plane would be based on French or Russian technology.

Another project on development of the MiG-AT training jet “will be definitively certified within the next few weeks and will be ready for delivery in 2006,” Kasyanov was quoted as saying.—MNA/Xinhua

Guatemala on alert for dengue fever in rainy season

Mexico City, 30 June—The Guatemalan government put the country on alert for dengue fever on Saturday after two people were killed and 171 others infected by the disease in the rainy season, according to reports from that country.

The Guatemalan Health Ministry decided to activate epidemiological security measures and called on people to take preventive actions, said the reports.

The ministry also asked people to avoid keeping water in containers such as pots, which could be breeding sites for Aedes, the vector of the disease.

According to officials, dengue fever has reappeared in the Central American country, and left two dead through its hemagogus type this year. One died in the south and the other in the Caribbean littoral. However, among the 1,782 presumptive dengue fever cases, only 171 have been confirmed.—MNA/Xinhua

“เนื่องจากมีคนไข้ที่ได้รับการตรวจพบว่าเป็นเจริญเติบโตทางหัวใจ ดังนั้นแพทย์จึงได้ทำการตรวจสอบและให้คำปรึกษาด้วยว่าการดูแลรักษาอย่างไรในการใส่ยาครั้งนี้”
SPORTS

Henry wins Confederations Cup for France

**PARIS, 30 June** — France retained the Confederations Cup on Sunday when an extra time golden goal by Thierry Henry gave the hosts a 1-0 win over Cameroon in a match dedicated to the memory of Marc-Vivien Foé.

In an emotional post-match presentation, players of both sides stood together by a large poster of the Cameroon midfielder, who collapsed during Thursday’s semifinal win over Colombia in Lyon and died shortly afterwards.

The Cameroon players allowed green shirts with Foé’s name and number 17 stamped on the back while the 52,000 crowd at the Stade de France chanted Foé’s name and applauded.

The evenly-contested match was played in an atmosphere of mutual respect and had few scoring chances in the first 90 minutes.

Henry’s scrambled winner — the first goal Cameroon conceded in the tournament — also made an outstanding Arsenal striker its top scorer with four goals.

France, whose presence in the tournament was due to a Euro 2000 spot, also won with a golden goal, gave their fans a lift after the debacle of a 2002 World Cup exit at the group phase.

For Cameroon’s Indomitable Lions, both the match and the tournament paled into insignificance compared to the loss of Foé.

His wife Marie-Louise sat next to FIFA president Sepp Blatter at the game, with Pele and Cameroon’s 1990 World Cup striker Roger Milla sitting just behind.

Fans of both teams also paid their own respects to the 28-year-old Cameroon midfielder, sitting just behind the goal and turned it wide of the far post.

Henry followed up with a smart turn and shot which keeper Idris Kamenoh smothered as France built on their promising start.

However, Cameroon settled into their rhythm and only an acrobatic save from Fabien Barthez prevented Pius Ndéfié blinking them into the lead.

France continued to live dangerously in the second half but they had only taken the lead when Kamenoh spilled the ball after Ludovic Giuly broke down the right, Cisse dragged it back for Henry but the striker’s reflex shot trickled just wide of an open goal.

Cameroon, the reigning African champions, kept pushing forward and the hosts had a narrow squeak when substitute Samuel Eto'o nearly signalled his remarkable arrival with a goal from his first touch of the ball. — MNA/Reuters

Silence as Cameroon, France remember Foe before final

**PARIS, 30 June** — Cameroon and France linked arms in a circle for a minute’s silence before their Confederations Cup final on Sunday as a mark of respect for Marc-Vivien Foé.

The 28-year-old Cameroon midfielder collapsed during his team’s 1-0 semifinal win over Colombia on Thursday in Lyon and died shortly afterwards.

FIFA scrapped the festivities scheduled for the final at the Stade de France. Instead, players put their arms around each other’s shoulders inside the semi-circle, a player from France standing next to one from Cameroon in turn. Speaking before kick-off Sepp Blatter, president of world soccer’s governing body FIFA, told a news conference: “We are all shocked by the death of the Cameroon in turn.

It’s a tragedy for sport, but there is also hope at such a time. The fact that the Cameroon players have decided to play is a statement of courage and hope.

It will be a match full of emotion, because the French have also been moved by the loss of Foé,” he added.

Blatter also said that Foé’s wife, Marie-Louise, would be present at Sunday’s match. — MNA/Reuters

Lietzke surges four shots clear at US Senior Open

**TOLEDO (Ohio), 30 June** — Bruce Lietzke fired a seven-under-par 64 to be four shots clear after making up seven strokes on Fernandez (71) and six on Watson (70). Three weeks ahead of his 52nd birthday, Lietzke’s 64 was one of only three sub-70 scores in the third round.

At one-under 213, Allen Doyle has the only other par or better score after play in the tournament was due to a Euro 2000 spot.

First round leader Watson was left to rue a string of missed chances.

Lucio’s transfer to Roma in doubt

**ROME, 30 June** — The transfer of Bayer Leverkusen defender Lucio to Italian club AS Roma has run into difficulties over the player’s wage demands, Gazzetta dello Sport reported on Saturday.

Earlier this week, the clubs agreed a price of 15 million euros (17.12 million US dollars) for the Brazilian World Cup winner. However, Roma’s offer of a 2.8-million-euro salary has reportedly failed to satisfy Lucio. “The chances of the deal going through have fallen to 25 per cent,” the player’s agent, Sandro Becker, was quoted as saying.

“The first thing to say is that we’ve never asked for five million euros a season. We know the situation in world foot-
WEATHER

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST

During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in lower Sagain Division, rain or thundershowers has been experienced in Shan and Chin States, scattered in Kachin and Kayah States, upper Sagain, Mandalay and Magway Division, and widespread in the remaining areas which locally have had heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in upper Sagain, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Gwa (7.72) inches, Thandwe (7.13) inches, MyaukOo (7.09) inches, Sittway (7.05) inches, Pyinmana (7.03) inches, MraukOo (6.97) inches, Thaketa (6.93) inches, Kayah (6.89) inches, Kawkareik (6.87) inches, PakokkOo (6.84) inches, Tharrawaddy (6.82) inches, Thaunggyi (6.81) inches, Pyin (6.80) inches, Ye (6.79) inches, Kayin (6.78) inches, Ann (6.77) inches, Kyaukme (6.76) inches, HpaAn (6.75) inches, Pyin (6.74) inches, and Mawlamyine (6.73) inches.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-7-2003:

Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah States, scattered in Shan and Kachin States, scattered in Kachin and Kayah States, upper Sagain, Mandalay and Magway Division, and widespread in the remaining areas which locally have had heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in upper Sagain, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Gwa (7.72) inches, Thandwe (7.13) inches, MyaukOo (7.09) inches, Sittway (7.05) inches, Pyinmana (7.03) inches, MraukOo (6.97) inches, Sittwe (6.96) inches, Kayah (6.89) inches, Kawkareik (6.87) inches, PakokkOo (6.84) inches, Tharrawaddy (6.82) inches, Thaunggyi (6.81) inches, Pyin (6.80) inches, Ye (6.79) inches, Kayin (6.78) inches, Ann (6.77) inches, Kyaukme (6.76) inches, HpaAn (6.75) inches, Pyin (6.74) inches, and Mawlamyine (6.73) inches.

In the short range forecast for Yangon and surrounding areas for 1-7-2003: Intermittent rain, which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (100%).

For Forecast and Mandala and launching area for 1-7-2003: Issued by the Meteorological Department.
New means required to reduce traffic accidents

YANGON, 30 June — Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee held its 103rd meeting at Road Administration Department this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe. Also present were Vice-Chairman of the TRESC Joint Secretary of Yangon City Development Committee U Kyi Win, Secretary of the committee Provost-Marshal Maj-Gen Saw Hla No 2 Military Region Commander Brig-Gen Myo Myint, Director-General of RAD U Hla Thaung Myint, committee members, officials of the respective departments and bus lines, representatives of Myanmar Writers and Journalist Association, Myanmar Music Assayon, Myanmar Motion Picture Assayon and Myanmar Thabin Assayon.

Speaking on the occasion, the commander said loss of human lives and public property can be reduced only if the number of traffic accidents can be brought down. Thus, efforts are required to launch the traffic rules enforcement drive with added momentum. The committee is conducting inspections and giving education to the public, drivers and ticket conductors. But the number of traffic accidents has not decreased satisfactorily yet. In this regard, new means will have to be sought to reduce the number of traffic accidents. The inspection and education programmes must be launched with greater acceleration. As Myanmar is going to host an ASEAN meeting in Yangon, the respective ministries are making preparations for it. The buildings and roads in the city have been renovated to become splendid and clean. Thus, efforts should be made to reduce the number of traffic accidents to raise the dignity of the nation. Preparations should be made from now on to ensure traffic rules. The departments will have to cooperate with the committee.

Joint Secretary of the committee Commander of Wireless and Traffic Police Police Col Aung Naing reported to the meeting on the operations of the committee during the period from April to June 2003. Members of the subcommittees and officials then took part in the discussions.

The commander gave suggestions. — MNA

Precious teak plantations in Bago Yoma

(Continued from 28-6-2003) When we ask about the functions at the teak plantations in Bago Yoma, the staff officer of Township Forest Department explained salient points on the work being carried out at the plantations. Abandoned clearings on which the least amount of other valuable timber such as teak and Pyinkadoe (hardwood) grew were chosen for the teak plantations. The land was chosen only in September and October one year in advance because the saplings were to be nurtured during the two months, the officer explained. It means that for the plot of 2003-2004 plantations which were grown in 2003 was chosen in September and October 2001. Land survey and tasks for allotment of the land were carried out at the chosen site in December of the fiscal year, he added.

A U Aung Mya explained matters relating to slaughtering the farm, fire prevention, collection of teak seeds, nursery, burning, driving stakes, growing, weeding, etc. He also explained that there are three rooms in a teak nut and each room contains one seed and some rooms have no seed. He continued that in sowing the teak nut, it is necessary for the nut cracks as soon as possible. Only when the nut cracks quickly will the sapling be grown. The teak nuts are to be sown in nurseries, half-buried in the sand on which the sun shines the whole day.

The nurseries need constant watering. Then, the nuts crack quickly and begin to sprout and grow into saplings.

In watering the nurseries, it is no need to pour heavily but in moderate amount on the sand to make it hot, dry and wet alternatively. Only then, the teak nut becomes dry, wet and hot and quickly cracks. When the teak nuts are sown in nurseries, other works such as preparing bags for saplings, mixing fertilizer and putting soil into the bags must be carried out simultaneously.

As regards the planting of teak trees in Special Teak Plantations in Bago Yoma, the officer elaborated that the teak special plantations had been established on 5000 acres of land within five years starting from 1998-99 to 2002-2003 as it was targeted to grow teak on 1000 acres of land yearly. The yearly grown teak plantations on 1000 acres of land are divided into four areas each with 250 acres and each plot is supervised by one forester, one forest ranger and one incrementer.

It is learnt that the special teak plantations on 5000 acres of land have been established in the Pyu Kon Reserved Forest-x1 divided into 20 plots.

On 5 June, 2003 we visited teak special plantation No Pha-2/2003 in Pyu Township which is grown on 250-acre land. At the time, Forester U Soe Naing of Pyu Township Forest Department, in charge of the plantation, and forester U Nay Soe Win, forest rangerers Saw Lae Wee, Saw Barbahu, U Kway Thein and Maung Thaung Myint were working full-time on the plantation. I made friends with them. I found that 125 acres of land were planted with thriving teak.

During the rainy season in 2003, 1000-acre teak plantation will be completed at the end of June, 2003. The other tasks of first-time weeding, fertilization, second-time weeding, counting plants, and prevention of fire will also be carried out to complete in time.

Teak special plantation works were being done after laying down the five-year project. The first five-year project has been finished in 2002-2003. Now, the first year of the second five-year project is being implemented in 2003-2004. After a span of 40 years, the trees can be logged and sold.

A total of 5000 acres of land in Pyukon reserve has been put under teak from the rainy season of 1998-99 to the rainy season 2002-2003. They are 2.7 million teak trees thriving on 5000 acres of land.

By practising the directives of the responsible departments, Bago Township (See page 11)