YANGON, 3 June— At the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand His Excellency Dr Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt will pay a working visit to the Kingdom of Thailand in the near future.—MNA

**Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt will pay working visit to Thailand**

**Health facilities put into service in Kyaukse District**

YANGON, 2 June—The opening of a people’s hospital at Thanywa model village in Kyaukse Township, Kyaukse District, Mandalay Division, was held at the hospital yesterday morning, attended by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, arrived by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint, directors-general and deputy directors-general of departments under the Ministry of Health, heads of Divisional Health Departments, medical superintendents, professors, local authorities, officials, villageelders, localspeople, and others totalling over 2,000.

The commander and the minister formally opened the building.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander, the minister and guests viewed the health facility.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the operation theatre, delivery room, women’s ward, nurses recreation room, medical store and laboratory room.

The 25-bed hospital will offer health services for 12,550 local people of Thanywa model village and 11 nearby village-tracts and 15 villages. Thanks to the facility, now local people do not need to go to Kyaukse or Mandalay for undergoing medical treatments. The one-storey reinforced concrete building is 224 feet long and 160 feet wide.

(See page 8)

**Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects building of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon), Myitnge Bridge and Pinchar Bridge**

YANGON, 2 June—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, engineers and employees.

Deputy Supervising Engineer U Hsan Win reported on completion of approach structures from M-1 to G-11, fixing of main steel frames at RP 1 and RP 2. In the briefing hall, Deputy Supervising Engineer U Htan Myint reported on construction matters.

(See page 8)
Towards increased cooperation between Myanmar and Malaysia

Myanmar and Malaysia being the member nations of the ASEAN, their leaders pay reciprocal visits to one another to cement the bilateral relations and to increase economic cooperation.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt of the Union of Myanmar, at the invitation of Malaysian Prime Minister Dato’ Seri bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, paid a goodwill visit to Kuala Lumpur on 1 June.

The special meeting between Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and the Malaysian Prime Minister was held on the fifth floor of the latter’s office in Putrajaya.

Afterwards, the meeting between the Myanmar delegation headed by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and Prime Minister Dato’ Seri bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, ministers and high-ranking officials was held at the meeting hall on the third floor of the Malaysian Prime Minister’s office.

At the meeting, the two prime ministers discussed matters relating to further cooperation in trade, investment, tourism, health and technology in a friendly atmosphere.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that Myanmar greatly valued her relations with Malaysia and expressed his thanks for Malaysia’s support for Myanmar in regional and international affairs. He also added that Myanmar was glad to see that Malaysia played an important role in the development of Myanmar and that his visit was to widen and strengthen the existing bilateral relations.

Malaysian Prime Minister Dato’ Seri bin Haji Ahmad Badawi expressed his wish to extend economic ventures including investments in Myanmar and to enhance bilateral cooperation for mutual benefit.

We firmly believe that Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt’s goodwill visit to Malaysia will not only strengthen the friendly relations between Myanmar and Malaysia but also further the bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Film entertainment to National Convention delegates

YANGON, 2 June — The Entertainment and Welfare Subcommittee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee organizes entertainment programmes for delegates to the National Convention at the gymnasium of Nyaungnuhpain Camp. Yesterday evening, the delegates were entertained with “Ponna Ba Kun”, directed by Kyaw Thu and starring Kyaw Thu, Htet Htet Moe Oo, Sayadaw Mahathera.

The Sayadaw was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Religious Affairs Department, departmental officials, Secretary of Lower Myanmar Sitagu Kappiya Karaka Group U Han and members and disciples. The Sitagu Sayadow will read the message of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee at the final rites to be held at Buddha Vihara Monastery in Birmingham of England on 4 June and administer Desana. — MNA

Sitagu Sayadow leaves for England

YANGON, 2 June — Honorary Professor of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University Chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academy Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhajja Maha Dhamma Kahriska Bahuja Hitadhura Sitagu Sayadow Dr Bhaddanta Nanarsara left here by air this evening to attend the final rites of Presiding Nayaka of Buddha Vihara Monastery in Birmingham of England foreign missionary Sayadow Agga Maha Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Revatadhuma Mahathera.

The Sayadow was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Department, departmental officials, Secretary of Lower Myanmar Sitagui Kappiya Karaka Group U Han and members and disciples. The Sitagu Sayadow will read the message of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee at the final rites to be held at Buddha Vihara Monastery in Birmingham of England on 4 June and administer Desana. — MNA

Sitagu Sayadow Dr Bhaddanta Nanarsara being seen off at the airport. — MNA

Sagaying Division Peace and Development Council Chairman North-West Command Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye delivers an address at the opening ceremony of courses at the University for Development of National Races, 2 June. — MNA

Commander attends opening of training courses at UDNR

YANGON, 2 June — A ceremony to open courses on Master of Education for 2004-2005 academic year, one year course for Bachelor of Education, two-year course for Bachelor of Education, four-year course for Bachelor of Education, teachership diploma course and junior assistant teachership training course of University for Development of National Races was held at the convocation hall of the university yesterday morning. Present on the occasion were Chairman of Sagaying Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, members of council for UDNR, Commander of local LID in Sagaying Station Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung, senior military officers, Director-General of Civil Service Selection and Training Department U Hla Kyi, Pro-rector of University for Development of National Races (Admin) Lt-Col Nyi Nyi San, Pro-rector of UDNR (Academic) Daw Khin Si Si, Sagaying Division Police Force Commander Police Col Tin Maung Maung and officials. Chairman of Sagaying Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Soe Naing, faculty members and trainees.

University Council Chairman of UDNR Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye made a speech on the occasion and Pro-rector of University for Development of National Races (Admin) Lt-Col Nyi Nyi San submitted report on the courses.

Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye presented a prize to Bayintnaung Company for 2003-2004 academic year. After the ceremony, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye cordially greeted the trainees. Altogether 1,426 trainees are attending the respective courses. — MNA

Foreign guests call on UMFCCI General Secretary

YANGON, 2 June — The ambassador of Sri Lanka to Myanmar Mr D M M Ranaraja called on Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry General Secretary U Sein Win Hlaing at the UMFCCI head office on Merchant Street here yesterday afternoon. They discussed matters relating to economic cooperation between the two countries and for Myanmar businessmen to attend the 14th Sri Lanka Gem & Jewellery Show in Colombo from 6 to 8 September 2004.

In the same afternoon Prof Dr Satoshi Kai and Prof Dr Susumu Fukuda called on U Sein Win Hlaing at the UMFCCI head office here. They discussed matters on exports and imports. — MNA

NATIONAL DAY OF ITALY: Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and wife being welcomed by Italian Ambassador Dr Rafaelle Miniero and wife at the reception to mark National Day of Italy. — MNA

People’s Desire

- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy
Tribal Sunni chief will lead Iraq Gov’t

BAGHDAD, 2 June— Iraqi officials prevailed in their choice for President over the candidate favoured by the United States, allowing a UN envoy Tuesday to appoint an interim government reflecting Iraq’s religious and cultural diversity to rule after the return of sovereignty 30 June.

The Department of Defence has not updated its wounded numbers this week due to the holiday. Since the start of military operations, 4,682 US service members have been wounded in hostile action, according to the Defence Department’s numbers of last week. A Marine assigned to I Marine Expeditionary Force was killed in action in Anbar province on Monday while conducting security and stability operations.

India willing to assist reconstruction in Sri Lanka

New Delhi, 2 June— In its highest-level contact with Sri Lanka, the new Indian Government expressed its willingness to assist in the rehabilitation, reconstruction and humanitarian work in the war-ravaged north and eastern parts of the island nation as Colombo favoured New Delhi playing a “suitable” role in the evolution of the peace process.

The tremendous potential of tourism development in China is attracting international hotel managing groups like Accor to expand networks in the country.

Polish construction workers kidnapped in Iraq

WARSAW, 2 June— Unidentified kidnappers seized two Polish construction company employees in Baghdad today, but one was able to escape, Polish officials said.

Several foreigners have been kidnapped in Iraq in the past few weeks. Two are known to have been killed by their kidnappers, some are still missing and others have been freed.

Poland, a close US ally, dispatched 2,400 troops to Iraq, one of the biggest single contingents in US-led forces. Poles initially backed the deployment but public discontent with the mission has been on the rise in the face of mounting violence in Iraq. Four Polish soldiers and two journalists have been killed in Iraq.

The Polish embassy in Baghdad said the kidnappers was identified as Jerzy Kos, a head of Jedynka’s Iraqi office. The fate of the Iraqis was not known, the company spokesman Boguslaw Majewski said.

International hotel groups expanding networks in China

SHANGHAI, 2 June— For Accor, the largest hotel management group in Europe, the year 2004 could be called the “China Year”.

The company invested in its first economy hotel in China in April and put a new five-star hotel in east China’s Anhui Province under its Sofitel series. In addition, it has another eight hotels in China waiting for opening. “We plan to make the logo of Accor appear in every city of the Chinese Mainland,” said Shao Dong, Vice-President of Accor International Hotel Group.

The company has set its feet on not only in Beijing, Shanghai, Hainan, but also in central and western parts of the country, like Chengdu and Xi’an.

The tremendous potential of tourism development in China is attracting international hotel managing groups like Accor to expand networks in the country.

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The tremendous potential of tourism development in China...
Iraqi treasures remain missing

AMMAN, 2 June—Thousands of precious artefacts stolen from the Iraqi National Museum last year remain lost, the head of the museum has revealed.

“Fifteen thousand objects are still missing from the Iraqi museum,” which was looted at the end of the US-led war last year, Donny George told reporters in Amman on Tuesday.

“We are sure that Iraqi antiquities are going out through Turkey and Iran,” he said.

George was speaking on the sidelines of a two-day meeting of customs officials from several of Iraq’s neighbours, as well as US and European law enforcement agents.

He said some of Iraq’s neighbours, including Jordan, Syria, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia had cooperated with Baghdad and seized hundreds of items smuggled through their borders in the aftermath of the invasion to oust Saddam Hussein.

The director-general of Jordan’s department of antiquities, Fawaz Khraysha, said more than 1000 stolen objects had been seized and were being held in safekeeping until the Iraqis request their return.

“We have around 1046 objects, various ones. They have been listed on CDs and copies have been given to Iraq and to UNESCO,” the UN cultural agency, Khraysha said.

George said Syria was holding in safekeeping about 200 artefacts looted during the war while Kuwait managed to retrieve 35 objects stolen from the museum.

“Saudi Arabia told us they have objects but we don’t know exactly how many. We are in contact with them through the ministry of foreign affairs,” George said.

He added that these countries should hold on to the items until stability returns to Iraq.

The missing items include a half-sized, headless statue of Sumerian king Entemena made of diorite as well as an important ivory and gold plaque known as the Lioness and the Nubian, which is inlaid with precious stones.

US Marine killed in western Iraq

BAGHDAD, 2 June—A US Marine assigned to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force has been killed in action in western Iraq, the military said on Tuesday.

The Marine died Monday while on a patrol and security operation in the Anbar province. The area includes such insurgent strongholds as Fallujah, Ramadi and Qaim on the border.

The name of the slain Marine was withheld pending notification of next of kin.

More than 800 service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq.— Internet

Blasts sound in Baghdad, smoke rises in Green Zone

BAGHDAD, 2 June—Blasts echoed across central Baghdad on Tuesday and smoke rose along the Green Zone headquarters of the US-led administration where officials were meeting to name an Iraqi Government to take over from 30 June.

At least four mortar-like blasts rang out and two columns of smoke spiralled into the air just inside the Green Zone, a heavily fortified compound where US, UN and senior Iraqi officials were meeting.

Around 20 minutes later, another barrage of blasts was heard. Guerrillas regularly fire mortars or rockets at the Green Zone, although most attacks only cause superficial damage.

In recent weeks forces opposed to the US-led coalition have stepped up attacks against the US-appointed Iraqi Governing Council, killing the president of the council in a car bomb attack last month.

Singapore’s Deputy PM speaks highly of Suzhou Industrial Park

SINGAPORE, 2 June—Singapore’s Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Tuesday night spoke highly of the progress made by the Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP), a China-Singapore joint venture launched in 1994.

Speaking at a gala dinner to mark the 10th anniversary of the SIP, Lee said that the SIP has made enormous progress since China and Singapore embarked on the project 10 years ago.

Lee described the SIP as a beautiful and well-managed integrated township with thriving industrial activities, excellent infrastructure, and a high quality environment in which 80,000 residents work, live and play.

He noted that the SIP has attracted 16 billion US dollars of high quality investments, including 50 projects by Fortune 500 companies.

The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of SIP has grown an average of 45 per cent per year since 1994, and its current GDP at 36.5 billion Chinese Yuan is equivalent to the GDP of the entire Suzhou municipality in 1992.

Over the years, by working together closely on the project, peoples of the two countries have not only built a warm working relationship based on mutual trust, but also developed close rapport and strong personal friendships, he said, adding that such strong relationships between the two peoples are among the most precious rewards of this project.

“We must continue to build on this strong foundation of friendship and it is especially important to encourage young people from Singapore and China to interact with each other,” said Lee.

On the same occasion, Lee, together with Chinese Ambassador to Singapore Zhang Yun, launched the 2004 China-Singapore Suzhou Industrial Park (CS-SIP) 10th Anniversary Commemorative Coin, which features the “Harmony” sculpture at the CS-SIP that was jointly unveiled by Singapore’s Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew and former Chinese Vice-Premier Li Lanqing in 2001 to symbolize the close bilateral relations of the two countries.— MNA/Xinhua

Philippines supports Bangladesh’s entry into ARF

DILSA, 2 June—Philippines extended its strong support to Bangladesh for full membership of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), reported the private agency United News of Bangladesh on Monday.

Visiting Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Department Delia Domingo Albert gave the assurance when she called on Bangladeshi Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Albert said her country is actively supporting Bangladeshi entry into ARF.

The ARF, established in 1994, draws together 23 countries that have a bearing on the security of the Asia-Pacific Region. It comprises the 10 ASEAN member states, 10 other ASEAN dialogue partners including China, European Union, India, Japan, Russia and the United States, as well as some observers.

During the meeting, the two sides also emphasized strengthening of trade and cultural relations, and exchange of experiences in development sectors.

Albert lauded the massive development programmes initiated by Bangladeshi Government, especially those micro-credit and self-reliance projects for women empowerment and education.

— MNA/Xinhua

Thailand launches no-smoking campaign on World No Tobacco Day

BANGKOK, 2 June—The Ministry of Public Health of Thailand, with the cooperation of the Action on Smoking and Health Foundation (ASH), has launched a no-smoking campaign to observe the World No Tobacco Day, which falls on 31 May.

The campaign with anti-smoking activities, held particularly on May 30-June 1, is aimed at calling on about 10 million regular smokers in the country to give up their habit, which is believed to cause diseases and poverty, the Thai News Agency reported Monday.

The campaign is emphasized on youngsters after figures from a National Statistics Office (NSO) report released recently indicated that about 10.6 million Thais from the age of 11 onwards were addicted smokers last year, of whom 10 million were male.

The majority of smokers were aged 25-29 years but the rate of users in the 15-24 age group was rapidly increasing.

As part of the campaign and anti-smoking activities, the Department of Medical Services has distributed treatment handbooks for those who wish to quit smoking.

The distribution of the handbooks has been made through medical institutes so that healthcare personnel can use them to support cigarette-quitters.

However, the director general pointed out that currently the treatment for smoking-quitters in Thailand is still not implemented widely, and healthcare personnel specialize in this field still need more knowledge and skills in advising smoking-quitters.

— MNA/Xinhua

Armed militiamen loyal to radical Shi‘ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr take position during clashes with US Army forces in Kufa, outside Najaf, Iraq, on 1 June, 2004.— Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 3 June, 2004
Indian External Affairs Minister to visit Nepal in June

New Delhi, 2 June — Indian External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh will make his first appointment abroad after assuming office when he travels to Nepal on June 4-6. “The visit follows an invitation from Nepali Acting Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa during a telephone talk Sunday,” the Indo-Asian News Service quoted local officials as saying on Monday.

Thapa had stressed the importance of strengthening relations between the two nations and said he looked forward to an early visit by the Indian minister to the Himalayan kingdom.

“Singh’s decision to visit Nepal clearly underlines the importance India attaches to its relations with that country,” said an External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson.

India’s historically enjoyed close ties of friendship and cooperation with the landlocked Nepal. Popular and cultural ties between India and Nepal have consistently been close and have reflected the historical, geographical, cultural and linguistic links between the two nations.

Abdullah says Jordan not to send troops to Iraq

AMMAN, 2 June — Jordan’s King Abdullah II on Monday said his country would never send troops to Iraq under any circumstances.

In an interview with Masha’a al-Sarheed, director of Kuwait News Agency Anman branch, King Abdullah said “it is up to the Iraqis and to the Iraqis alone to decide how long the occupation forces could stay in Iraq”.

On the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Abdullah said the roadmap peace plan is still the sole opportunity to establish peace in the region and Israel will never enjoy peace and security as long as it continues occupying the Palestinian land.

It is regrettable to see Israel impeding the implementation of the roadmap, he added.

The King denounced the recent terrorist attacks against Saudi Arabia and reaffirmed Jordan’s total support to the kingdom. He also damned all forms of terrorism and called for a staunch Arab stand to fight terrorism and eradicate all its sources.

On his two-day visit to Kuwait scheduled for Tuesday, King Abdullah said the visit comes within the continuous consultation and coordination with Kuwaiti people.

A US soldier prevents an Iraqi man from crossing the street at the scene of a car bomb explosion in central Baghdad, Iraq on June 1, 2004, outside the offices of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan near the green zone headquarters of the US-run coalition.

US terror warning to divert attention from Iraq

NEW YORK, 2 June — The White House played a role in issuing a warning about possible terrorist attacks on the United States apparently with an aim to divert the public attention from its mishaps in Iraq, a media report said.

With the President’s (George W Bush) poll numbers dropping, the Bush Administration is surely eager to divert media and public attention from Iraq to the terrorist threat, Newsweek magazine said in a report.

The report quoted an Administration official as saying that Bush gave a nod to FBI chief Robert Mueller and Attorney General John Ashcroft’s joint Press conference last Wednesday after conferring with them and Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge. The clarification comes in the wake of reports of differences between Ashcroft and Ridge as the Homeland Security Secretary was not present at the Press meet — MNA/PTI

Iran manufactures first anti-ship missile

TEHRAN, 2 June — Iran has manufactured for the first time ever an anti-ship missile named Kusar, the official IRNA news agency reported on Monday.

Built by the country’s Aerospace Industries Organization, the new missile is a kind of cruise missile designed for defensive purposes, Iranian Defence Ministry announced.

The new missile can target its goals in three different positions such as coast-to-sea, sea-to-air and air-to-sea. But its range was not revealed.

The missile has two designed types, with the first one televised and immune from radar tracing, and the second one radar guided. It has been designed according to geographical features of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, the Defence Ministry said.

Explosion heard near Japanese base in Iraq

Tokyo, 2 June — An explosion was heard on a highway south of the town of Samawa in southern Iraq where Japanese troops are based, with some witnesses saying a Japanese military vehicle may have been in the vicinity, Kyodo news agency said on Monday.

Kyodo also said an ambulance had been sent to the scene of the explosion near Samawa, and that there might be casualties. It added that the vehicle appeared to be a passenger van.

Defence officials in Tokyo said they were checking.

Britain warns poverty goals will be missed

LONDON, 2 June — The targets set by the international community for cutting world poverty in half could be missed by more than a century, Britain’s Finance Minister said on Tuesday.

The Millennium Development Goals were agreed in New York in 2000 and set a date of 2015 to dramatically reduce poverty, cut infant mortality by two thirds and ensure every child has primary schooling.

But Gordon Brown, writing in the Independent newspaper, said on current progress, “we would fail to meet each Millennium Development Goal in Africa not just for 10 years but for 100 years”.

The target for schooling would not be met in sub-Saharan Africa until 2150, he wrote, with 120 million children set to be without a school and targets to cut infant mortality rates and halve poverty would also go unmet in Sub-Saharan Africa until 2150.

The richest countries cannot continue setting targets, failing to meet them and then expecting the poorest countries to trust our word,” he said.

Brown’s warning comes a week before world leaders meet in Georgia, where Brown and British would continue to urge the richest nations to help remove the “burden of unpayable debts”.

It could also set the agenda for Britain’s presidency of the G-8 next year.

“All nations yet reach 0.7 per cent of GDP for aid must move further and faster to higher aid levels and on to that target,” he said.

Britain’s Finance Minister, K Natwar Singh, said that during his talks with his Iraq counterpart in New Delhi on June 1, the two sides reached consensus on export licences, said a Press release from the EU Commission.

“The two sides feel delighted to lightened a friendly and effective solution to the problem,” said the MOC Press office. The EU side once threatened to raise such question to the World Trade Organization.

Coke, a major basic material for steel industry, is in great demand on international and Chinese markets while the world economy recovers and the Chinese steel industry heat up. China is a leading supplier of coke for the EU industry.

China to further consult on coke trade with EU

BEIJING, 2 June — The Chinese Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said here Monday that China would further consult with the European Union on coke trade after one deal had been made to avoid trade conflict.

The MOC Press office said that the newly-forged agreement was in line with the World Trade Organization rules, in the interest of other concerned sides and satisfied the European Union and China as well.

According to the agreement, China will export at least 4.5 million tons of coke to the European Union in 2004, no less than that in 2003 and the two sides have reached consensuses on export licences, said a Press release from the EU Commission.

“I am confident that this agreement will help lower the rising oil prices. We have extra productivity potentials through which we can push up our oil production to 2.4 million bpd... we are attempting to upgrade production seeking the push down of prices and thus we are attempting to attain maximum production,” he said.

According to Kuwait News Agency, the minister said in view of the urgent need to stabilize the world oil market, Kuwait “has upgraded its overall oil production by 150,000 barrels per day ( bpd) to realize this objective.”

He noted that Kuwait “was the first that called for delaying the 1.5 million bpd production cut due to rising prices,” adding that his country would again request raising oil production to be up to the earlier level.

The minister will leave for the Lebanese capital Tuesday for the OPEC meeting scheduled for Thursday. The Beirut meetings are due to discuss possible hike of OPEC production to restore stability in the world oil market and reduce effect of international instability over oil prices.

OPEC’s current output ceiling is 23.5 million bpd, but actual production is about 25.5-26 million bpd, with most members already pumping at their maximum.

Kuwait to upgrade oil production to 2.4 billion BPD

KUWAIT CITY, 2 June — Kuwait Energy Minister Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahd said on Monday the country is attempting to raise its oil output to 2.4 million barrel per day (BPD) to help lower the rising oil prices.

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Czech troops to leave Iraq early next year

Prague, 2 June — The Czech military police contingent serving in Iraq can go home at the beginning of next year, ending its role in the US-led coalition forces, Czech Defence Minister Miroslav Kostela said Monday in Prague.

The Defence Ministry will submit the withdrawal proposal as soon as possible to the Parliament, which will finally decide whether to extend the contingent’s mandate that expires 31 December. Kostela was quoted as saying by the state-run news agency CTK.

The minister, who was visiting the Czech police in southern Iraq near Basra, said the Czech Republic will instead shift its focus to missions in Afghanistan and the Balkans.

Last April, the republic, which backed the US-led war against Iraq, sent a 300-strong field medical team to the country. The team was replaced early this year by a 90-member military police contingent which is now responsible for training local police.

Hu Jintao to confer with Afghan President

Beijing, 2 June — Chinese President Hu Jintao will confer with Afghan Transitional Government President Hamid Karzai at the Tashkent summit meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization scheduled on 17 June.

Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Li Hu said this at a Press briefing on Tuesday morning.

Li said the two heads of state will exchange views on bilateral relations, including cooperation on the fields of security, anti-terrorism and drug fighting.

Karzai was invited by Uzbekistan President Islam Abduganiyevich Karimov to attend the summit. Li said, adding that this was the first time that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization had invited the leader of a non-SCO member state to be present at the summit.

Czech troops from southern Iraq near Basra, 17 June.

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New and fast developments throughout Myanmar
Border and rural area developments

Laukkai in Shan State is developing rapidly. Photo: PBANRDA

Microwave station in Haka, Chin State. Photo: PBANRDA

A dispensary built in Hotaung, Shan State (East). Photo: PBANRDA

A tea plantation in Hsilu region, Shan State (East). Photo: PBANRDA
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects building of Ayeyawady Bridge

Accompanied by Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Mandalay Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein and divisional departmental officials, Lt-Gen Ye Myint proceeded to the site of Myintgwe Bridge Construction Project.

At the briefing hall, Senior Engineer U Soe Min of Bridge Construction Special Group-12 reported on construction process of the bridge. Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspected installation of the beam and building of the bored pile cap. On arrival at the site of Pinchar Bridge Project being built by Public Works, District Senior Engineer U Maung Maung Lwin reported on construction tasks and requirements. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected thriving summer sesame and other crops on both sides of Hanmyintmo-Yegyi rural road. Next, they went to Kinwa river water pumping project in Kyaukse Township. They saw over Zawgyi Pumping Station of Kinwa river water pumping project-2.

At the briefing hall, they met local authorities and officials. The commander reported on supply of water to farmlands through four diversion weirs.

Chairman of Kyaukse District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Tin Ohn reported on assistance being provided for greening of Meiktila District and water availability. Chairman of Meiktila District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Kyaw Kyaw Oo reported on supply of water in the district with irrigation facilities. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

They went back to Mandalay in the evening and arrived back here this morning.

Health facilities put into service...

Similarly, the station hospital (Mongmao) in Mongmao village, Myithta Township, Kyaukse District, was put into service yesterday morning. It was attended by the minister, Commissioner of Mandalay Division General Administration Department U Kyin Lin, Director-General Col Than Aung of the Ministry of Health, Medical Superintendent of Mandalay General Hospital Dr Win Shin, Rector of Mandalay Institute of Medicine Dr Soe Tun, physicians, Head of Division Health Department Dr Khin Maung Tun, officials, health staff, members of social organizations, Red Cross Society, Auxiliary Fire Brigade, local residents and others.

The minister and the commissioner formally opened the hospital. The minister and party inspected the one-storey reinforced concrete facility which is 128 feet long and 99 feet wide. It will benefit 22,980 people of 10 village-tracts and 42 villages including Mongmao village.

Minister inspects industries

YANGON, 2 June — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected production process at blue-green algae production factory of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries in Yekha, Sagaing Division, on 30 May. At a garment factory in Sagaing, he inspected production of mosquito nets, robes for monks and shirts, a noodle factory, No 1 Flour Mill, and Sagaing Textile Mill.

On 31 May, he inspected the production process and newsprint at No 3 Newsprint Factory. He also inspected the Paleik Textile and Finishing Plant and bandage factory.

Minister inspects tasks for upgrading of road in Shan State

YANGON, 2 June — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by officials of Public Works, inspected extension of road shoulders and bridges on Htoo-Taunglaylon section of Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Taichilek Road on 28 May. In the afternoon, engineers in-charge reported on progress in upgrading of Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Taichilek Road at the hall of Public Works of Taunggyi Township. The minister gave instructions on timely completion and fulfilling the standard set and the needs.
Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects...

(from page 16)

U Lu Maw reported on education, health and communication sectors of the region, and cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, and departmental officials, on work progress department-wise. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave necessary instructions.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that measures are being taken for ensuring Sagaing Division to become the rice basket of Upper Myanmar. Only when departmental officials are to be well convinced of the requirements in carrying out regional development tasks, will the regions develop, he said. Sufficient farm implements and machinery are to be employed for ensuring rapid development of respective regions.

Now, Monywa Industrial Zone manufactures tractors, combined harvesters, and more farm equipment is to be used in the region, he said. Myinnma Township’s rice output has not met the target yet, so all possible ways and means are to be employed for water supply for extended cultivation of the crop, he urged.

Therefore, those in charge of respective regions are to make efforts in fulfilling the requirements of the regions in cooperation with local people, he said. Lt-Gen Ye Myint had a cordial conversation with those present.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party proceeded to Kyaukphyaya Dam Project being implemented near Nondwin village in Sagaing Township. Head of District Irrigation Department U Khin Maung Shwe reported on progress of works. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions. Lt-Gen Ye Myint looked into the site chosen for building of a spillway and left necessary instructions.

On completion, the dam will be 700 feet in length and 50 feet in height. They also inspected Htanphutaung rural dam near Shwebo-Mandalay Road at Hanphutaung village in Sagaing Division. Officials concerned conducted them round the site.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party arrived back at Sagaing in the evening.

Sports and education combined courses opened in Mandalay

YANGON, 2 June—A two-storey building of Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) and sports and education combined courses for 2004-2005 were opened at the institute in Mandalay on 31 May.

Present were Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Yan Thein, departmental officials and instructors. First, the commander, the minister and the director-general of No 2 Basic Education Department formally opened the building and the minister formally unveiled the stone plaque.

The building is 120 feet x 40 feet and it was constructed at a cost of K 59.5 million. It includes classrooms, laboratory, computer room and library on the ground floor and the principal’s office, common room and hostels on the first floor.

Next, the commander presented K 5 million for the funds of the institute to the minister. The commander and party greeted trainees. The institute will train altogether 215 trainees in football, volleyball, track and field, boxing, weightlifting, Sepak Takraw, Wushu, gymnastics and swimming courses.—MNA

Don’t smoke
2004 World No-To-Bacco Day observed at Youth Secular House (Pazundaung)

YANGON, 2 June—The World No-To-Bacco Day of Yangon Division, jointly organized by Yangon Division Health Department and Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Maternal and Child Welfare Association, was observed at the Yangon Division Youth Secular House (Pazundaung Township) of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development at 9 am today, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, patron of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for MCWA.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Linn’s wife Dr Daw Khin Hsian Nwe, No. 4 Military Region Commander Col Yan Naing On, members of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, Director of Health Department Dr San Shwe Win and officials, departmental officials, members of panel of patrons of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee of MCWA, district and township level authorities, members of MCWA and Union Solidarity and Development Association, Red Cross and Auxiliary Fire Brigades, teachers and students, band troops and guests.

Patron Daw Khin Thet Htay formally opened the World No-To-Bacco Day of Yangon Division.

Next, a part of the secular house unveiled the signboard bearing the Tobacco Free Zone.

Afterwards, Daw Khin Thet Htay explained the purpose of holding the ceremony. The commander presented first, second and third prizes to Ma Mya Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing and Maung Hein Tin Htut in the article competition. Director (Preliminary Health) Nyo Nyo Kyaing of Health Department gave lectures on Tobacco Control and Poverty, motto of the 2004 World No-To-Bacco Day.

Chairman of Yangon Division Supervisory Committee of MCWA Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint reported on tasks to be carried out for Yangon Division to be free from dangers of tobacco.

Later, Maung Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing briefed those present on dangers of tobacco.—MNA

ASEAN+3 monthly golf game in Yangon West District

YANGON, 2 June —ASEAN+3 Monthly Golf Game, organized by Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was held at Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Golf Club, Selangor Darul Ehsan, on 19 May.

The ambassadors of ASEAN countries, the former ASEAN secretary-general, military attaches of ASEAN countries, senior diplomats from Japan, Korea and China, and Myanmar businessmen in Malaysia, and Malaysian businessmen totalling over 40 took part in the competition.

After the play, Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia U Hla Maung expressed his thanks to participants and hosted a lunch with Myanmar Beer to them.

Next, Ambassador U Hla Maung presented awards to those who stood first, second and third in the competition, as well as to those who won consolation prizes. Lucky draws programmes were also organized and Pawashinhhwa, a kind of rice in Myanmar, was presented as gifts to winners at the programme.—MNA

Tree planting ceremony held in Yangon West District

YANGON, 2 June —With the aim of greening the Yangon City tree planting ceremony for the rainy season took place this morning near the junction of Parami Road and Mindhamma Road in Yangon West District. Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon City Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin attended the ceremony.

First, Head of Parks and Playgrounds Department U Nyunt Pe reported on tasks for planting trees in Yangon City during the rainy season as well as nursing young plants.

Next, the commander, the mayor and officials, together with local people, grew star-flower plants totalling 580. A total of 6,430 trees were planted in Yangon West District this morning.—MNA

Saw mills, teak plantations inspected

YANGON, 2 June —Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, accompanied by Deputy Director-General of Forest Department U Aye Myint Maung and officials arrived at No 104 Saw Mill, Nyaungbintha village, Pyu Township on 30 May.

The minister and party proceeded to Taungdwingyi. At the briefing hall, the minister heard reports on 150 acres of teak plantation established by Dagon Timber Company and 150 acres of teak plantation by Asia World Company under the programme of greening for Bago mountain ranges. The minister instructed officials to try to achieve success of the teak plantations and he grew tea saplings in the plantation. Next, the minister inspected a total of 800 acres of teak plantation—350 acres by Kaungnyat Company, 250 acres by Zarnimya Company and 200 acres by Asia World Company near Phokyar hillside Yedasa.

Yesterday, the minister inspected timber shop of Forest Products Joint Venture Corporation and No 88 Saw Mill in Ottara. The minister, together with Managing Director of Myanmar Timber Enterprise U Win Tun, inspected No 33 and No 38 Saw Mills, Ottwa Forest Nursery and private saw mills in Bago and attended to the needs.—MNA
World Population Day poster, essay competitions to be held


The poster competition will be categorized into five levels. The age group for the first level will be between 6 and 9; the second level, between 9 and 12; the third level, between 13 and 15; the fourth level, between 16 and 18; and the fifth level, between 19 and 21.

The competition for the first level will be held in designated venues in the capitals of States and Divisions on 12 June under the supervision of State/Division Immigration and National Registration Departments. Only 15 x 20 cm entry papers to be issued by the Population Department are to be used in the competitions.

Those wishing to participate in the competitions from the first to fourth levels are to contact the offices of State/Division Immigration and National Registration Departments concerned for enrolment not later than 9 June. The fifth level is designated as an open invitational competition.

Entrants can use any sort of 18 x 24 cm drawing papers and should send their works either to State/Division Immigration and National Registration Departments concerned by 14 June or to the Population Department (Head Office, Yangon) by 27 June. Participants from Yangon Division are to send their entries to the Population department (Head Office) not later than 27 June. Prizes for the competitions from the first to four levels are K 50,000 for first prize, K 40,000 for second prize, K 30,000 for third prize, and K 20,000 each for two consolation prizes. Prizes for the fifth level competition are K75,000 for first prize, K 50,000 for second prize, K 40,000 for third prize and K 30,000 each for two consolation prizes.

Detailed information about the competitions can be obtained at State/Division Immigration and National Registration Departments, and the participants from Yangon Division can obtain detailed information about the competition either at National Registration Departments or Population Department in Yangon Division.

Similar essay (Myanmar Version) competitions in commemoration of World Population Day 2004 will also be held under the title “Pyinnya-kyan-ma Hkwint-lan-tha Pyae-sone-bla-pa Main-kha-lay-bawa Sa-yan-in-bhinn Hnoo-so-pya.” The essay will be classified into two levels — high school level (8th, 9th, 10th grades) and middle school level — 15th, 6th, 7th grades) — held in major towns of States and Divisions from 9 to 11 am on 13 June. Prizes for both levels will be K 30,000 for first prize, K 25,000 for second prize, K 20,000 for third prize and K10,000 each for two consolation prizes. First, second and third winners in central level, will be presented prizes at the ceremony of World Population Day to be held in Yangon and consolation prizes of essay will be sent through respective State/Division Immigration and National Registration Departments to winners.

MIA

Miss Australia Jennifer Hawkins celebrates as she was crowned Miss Universe. — Internet

Quito, Ecuador, 2 June — Miss Australia Jennifer Hawkins was named Miss Universe 2004 in a two-hour pageant in this Andean capital watched by hundreds of millions of television viewers around the world. Hawkins, a five-foot-11-inch-tall blond with blue eyes, was chosen from among 80 beauty queens representing their respective countries. Canada was represented by 18-year-old high school graduate Venessa Fisher of Waterdown, Ont. First runner-up was Miss USA Shandi Finnessey and Miss Paraguay Yanina Gonzalez (L-R). The ceremony took place at a convention centre on the northern outskirts of Quito, where 7,500 spectators gathered to witness the crowning. Three other finalists were Miss Puerto Rico Alba Reyes, Miss Paraguay Yanina Gonzalez and Miss Trinidad & Tobago Danielle Jones. — Internet

The five Miss Universe 2004 finalists, Miss Trinidad & Tobago Danielle Jones, Miss Australia Jennifer Hawkins, Miss Puerto Rico Alba Reyes, Miss USA Shandi Finnessey and Miss Paraguay Yanina Gonzalez (L-R): pose in their evening gowns during the live broadcast of the Miss Universe pageant in Quito, on 1 June, 2004. Miss Australia Jennifer Hawkins, a 20-year-old nude and dance choreographer, won the 2004 title at a dazzling ceremony in Ecuador on Tuesday from a field of 80 beauty queens. — Internet
Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Rail Transportation
Myanmar Railways

INVITATION TO SEAL TENDER

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanmar Railways, for supply of the following Over Head Communication Telephone Cable which will be purchased in Myanmar Kyats:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr. No</th>
<th>Tender No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>14(T)5/MR (S&amp;T)</td>
<td>Over Head Communication Telephone Cable</td>
<td>3300- Meters</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12(T)3/MR (ML)</td>
<td>Round Nose Tools</td>
<td>200- Nos</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>12(T)5/MR (S&amp;T)</td>
<td>Over Head Communication</td>
<td>3300- Meters</td>
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2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanmar Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botataung, Yangon starting from 2.6.2004 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 291982, 201555 Ext-602, 605, 612

Deputy General Manager
Supply Department, Myanmar Railways, Botataung Yangon

Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Rail Transportation
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12(T)4/MR (MC)</td>
<td>Vertical Oil Damper Complete</td>
<td>1000- Nos</td>
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UAE agrees to open FAO regional office

ABU DHABI, 2 June—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has agreed to open a regional office for UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the official WAM news agency reported recently.

UAE Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Saeed Mohammed Alraqabani, announced the decision after talks with FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf, who is currently visiting the country.

The objective of opening the FAO regional office in Abu Dhabi is to transfer the UN organization’s socio-economic development work to the UAE.
Anti-fire chemical spurs toxic fears in Arctic

OLOF, 2 June — Chemicals widely used as flame retardants in homes have been found in polar bears and birds in the Arctic, raising fears that they could pose a health hazard, Norwegian scientists said on Monday.

Norway’s government said it would seek a European Union review of the chemicals, used in everything from computers to clothes, saying their presence was proof scientists need to investigate whether they were damaging for humans and wildlife.

Traces of the compounds were found in tissues of polar bears and in glaucous gulls,” said Geir Wing Gabrielsen, head of a toxicology research programme at the Norwegian Polar Institute.

“This is the first time that this flame retardant has been found in the Arctic,” he told Reuters by the research by the Polar Institute and Norwegian Veterinary Institute on the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard in the north Atlantic. Traces of the so-called deca BDE (Bromodiphenyl Ether) flame retardant, also commonly used in car upholstery and televisions, had previously been found in falcons in Sweden and samples of human blood further south.

But the discovery in Arctic animals, far from sources of pollution and swept north by prevailing winds and ocean currents, is a sign that they may not break down as quickly into harmless units as previously thought, Gabrielsen said.

The European Union will ban two other types of brominated flame retardants — penta-BDE and octa-BDE — later this year because of health worries. Norway, which is not a member of the EU but has close links to the bloc, will also ban the two.

“If we take these findings to the EU and say that we now need a full review (of deca-BDE) so that this does not become the PCB and mercury of the future,” Norwegian Environment Minister Boerge Brende told NRK public television.

PCB was one of a “dirty dozen” toxic chemicals outlawed by an UN convention from May 17 in a crackdown on chemicals blamed for causing cancers and birth defects and damaging the nervous systems of people and animals.

MENA/Reuters

Ireland hails success of smoking ban

DUBLIN, 2 June — Ireland hailed its pioneering smoking ban as a success on Monday, after a report showed nearly all workplaces had complied with the new law.

Widespread scepticism greeted the ban on smoking in virtually all enclosed spaces — including pubs — when it was introduced in March. But the survey from the country’s Office of Tobacco Control (OTC) suggested support had swung behind it.

“The successful introduction of the new measure reflects the widespread public support and goodwill that exists for a healthy, smoke-free environment in the workplace,” Health Minister Micheal Martin said in a statement — MNA/Reuters

Tobacco firms to help fund Mexico health programmes

MEXICO CITY, 2 June — Tobacco firms operating in Mexico will pay 350 million US dollars over three years to help offset the costs of caring for people who become ill from smoking, President Vicente Fox said on Monday.

The companies, starting in August, will contribute according to the number of cigarettes they sell in Mexico. Fox said the fund would total about 350 million US dollars (14 billion pesos) by the time its term ends in December 2006.

“The money will serve to partially compensate the health system for the costs of medical attention due to damage from smoking,” Fox said in marking World No Tobacco Day.

Mexico’s two-billion-US-dollar-a-year tobacco industry is in the hands of Cigam — a joint venture between Philip Morris, a unit of US-based Altria Group Inc., and Mexican magnate Carlos Slim’s conglomerate Grupo Carso — and Cigarrera La Moderna, an affiliate of British American Tobacco.

Mexico spends about 3 billion US dollars a year to care for people with smoking-related illnesses, health officials say. Mexico takes about 1.3 billion US dollars a year in tax revenues from cigarette sales.

MENA/Reuters

Bangladesh to install container-scanning machine at port

DHALA, 2 June — The Bangladeshi Government has decided to install container-scanning machines at Chittagong Port by December this year to check smuggling and combat security threat.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has decided to arrange installation of such machines, costing 25 million to 30 million US dollars each, The Daily Star reported Tuesday.

NBR official said at least one machine will be installed this year.

The decision came after a memorandum of intent signed recently between Bangladesh and the United States in which Bangladesh agreed to protect American interests in the country and extend full cooperation to the United States in identifying individuals or groups suspected of working against US interests. The agreement also directed the law enforcement agencies to intensify their efforts to stop smuggling of illegal firearms and explosives.

MENA/Xinhua

Hunt for Haiti flooding victims widens

PORT-AU-PRIENCE (Haiti), 2 June — Relief workers already feeding and sheltering thousands of Haitians on Monday widened searches to outskirts for more survivors of flooding and mudslides that killed about 2,000 people.

The searches went on even as emergency rations of food, water and other supplies appeared to be sufficient in the worst-hit areas of Haiti to allow suspension on Monday of deliveries by US and Canadian military helicopters, according to a spokesman for a multinational force.

“We are assessing where we are and meeting with UN and (nongovernmental organizations) officials to see where we stand,” said US Marine Lieutenant-Colonel Dave Lapan, a spokesman for a multinational force.

Lapan said flight crews and the helicopters, which had transported over 125 tons of supplies since Tuesday, needed rest or maintenance, especially since other emergencies in the poorest nation in the Americas cannot be ruled out.

MENA/Reuters

Norwegians stub out cigarettes as bar ban starts

OLOF, 2 June — Smokers stubbed out cigarettes across Norway at midnight as the Nordic nation followed Ireland on Tuesday to become the second in the world to outlaw smoking in all bars and restaurants.

“This new law is a terrible idea,” said Siv Eriksten, 25, pretending to sob as she put out a cigarette in an ash tray as midnight struck. “I like to smoke everywhere, all the time.”

In return, a waiter in the Smugnet club handed out red lollipops and placed a sign on a table beside her saying “thanks for a smoke free workplace”. The club auctioned off ashtrays as mementoes, fetching up to 350 crowns ($2 US dollars) apiece.

Like Ireland, Norway is seeking to protect waiters and other restaurant and bar staff from second-hand smoke blamed for causing cancer, respiratory and heart diseases. Smoking is already outlawed in other workplaces, from offices to airports.

Some US states and cities, like California and New York, have similar anti-smoking laws but Ireland was the first to impose a nationwide ban, on March 29, with Norway second. Ireland says its law is being almost universally respected.

The World Health Organization (WHO) says tobacco kills 4.9 million people worldwide every year, or one every 6.5 seconds.

Norway put off the planned launch of its ban from January 1, reckoning it would be unfair to force smokers into bone-chilling temperatures at the start of a new law. Smokers in Oslo plopped out into the streets on the warm summer night.

MENA/Reuters

Fees bar African AIDS orphans from schools

UNITED NATIONS, 2 June — School fees, widely imposed in Africa, are preventing vast numbers of AIDS orphans from getting an education and improving their future prospects, a senior UN official said on Tuesday.

While some African countries have outlawed the fees, they typically recur in other forms such as registration or examination charges, limits on eligibility for subsidies and costly bills for books or uniforms, said Stephen Lewis, the UN special envoy for AIDS in Africa.

Lewis, just back from a tour of Ethiopia, said that the country was among those to have done away with fees, in line with a UN treaty preserving that children get a free primary education. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, which took effect in 1990, has been ratified by all but two of the 191 UN members — Somalia and the United States.

Yet “everywhere my colleagues and I visited, people talked of school fees as a bar to school enrollment,” he said. There are already one million AIDS orphans in Ethiopia, a country of about 67 million people. — MNA/Reuters

A photographer flies over lava from Kilauea Volcano flowing into the Pacific Ocean Tuesday morning, on 1 June, 2004, at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park in Volcano, Hawaii. — Internet

This passer-by looks at a giant football sitting on top of a car in Bangkok on 31 May, 2004. The exhibit was part of a promotion by a sportswear manufacturer for the Euro 2004 soccer tournament. — Internet

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**SPORTS**

**Engeland held to 1-1 draw by Japan**

**Manchester** (England), 2 June—A lacklustre England had to settle for a 1-1 draw with Japan on Tuesday after being outshone in the pre-Euro 2004 friendly.

Striker Michael Owen poached his 25th goal for England in the 22nd minute, but midfielder Shingo Ono deservingly levelled in the 3rd as part of a convincing second-half display by the Japanese.

England coach Sven-Goran Eriksson appeared to end doubts over who would be his first choice for the defensive role in midfield at Euro 2004 by selecting Frank Lampard ahead of Nicky Butt.

Whatever the tactics, however, Eriksson clearly needs England to move up a few gears on their display at the City of Manchester stadium, where Japan looked by far the sharper and more fluid side.

England started well and showed plenty of enthusiasm, but were not helped by a flat performance from Owen’s strike partner Wayne Rooney and some wayward shooting from Paul Scholes.

England gradually faded as the game wore on, leaving Eriksson with plenty of food for thought before the 1-1 draw.

**Dortmund break with coach Sammer**

LIPSE, 2 June—An era ended for Borussia Dortmund on Sunday when the club announced they were parting company with coach Matthias Sammer.

The former German defender had been at the club since 1993 and was a playing member of the Dortmund side who lifted the German Cup in 1997.

The 36-year-old became the Dortmund coach in 2000 and guided the Ruhr Valley club to the Bundesliga title in 2002.

Sammer, born in East Germany, is paying the price for a disappointing season, Dortmund having finished sixth in the Bundesliga, narrowly missing out on a UEFA Cup spot.

Sammer, who had a contract for another two years, is now the favourite to take over from Fussball Magazin VIP correspondent Magazin moving on to Bayern Munich, replacing Ottmar Hitzfeld.

"Together we came to the decision that a separation is the best solution at this point in time, even if it is hard to take for all concerned," Dortmund manager Gerd Neubauer said in a statement.

**Real president confident of keeping Roberto Carlos**

LISBON, 2 June—Real Madrid's Florentino Perez is confident that Roberto Carlos will extend his contract with the club despite the player's complaint that he is being treated more like a product than a footballer.

"I am hopeful that we can find a formula that will allow him to finish his career at Real Madrid," Perez told Spanish state television on Sunday night.

"He has got a year left on his contract with Real Madrid and he is going to fulfil his contract. He is a Brazilian international, who is reported to have been targeted by Chelsea, was critical of the club's negotiating technique in an interview with Brazilian daily O Globo published at the weekend.

"The club have said they will give me two more years and then see how I play before deciding to offer me any more," he said.

"But I am 31 years old and my record won't allow me to accept this sort of thing. I am not a product. When I go out to play I give everything." (David) Beckham sells a lot, but he also earns a lot, just like Ronaldo and Zinedine Zidane. But they shouldn't use products and think they can do what they like with us."

Roberto Carlos joined Real in 1996 from Inter Milan for approximately 7 million US dollars. He has won three league titles and three European Cups with the club.

**PSG president says Manchester United closing on Heineze**

PARIS, 2 June—Paris St Germain's Argentine defender Gabriel Heinze looks to be heading for Manchester United, the Ligue 1 club's president said on Monday.

"Nothing is done today but the Manchester United pay what we ask, yes, we are on the right way," Francis Graille said.

"However, United's officials had better hurry up because we have other contacts with Spanish clubs." Heineze is currently away with the Argentina squad preparing to face Brazil in a World Cup qualifier this week.

"We now what he wants, we know they found an agreement but it does not mean a lot," Graille added.

"Manchester is not a priority over other interested clubs."
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR, Thursday, 3 June, 2004

WEATHER

Wednesday, 2 June, 2004

Summary of observations recorded on 30:09 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Magway Division, scattered in Kachin, Shan, Kayah and Kayin States, Mandalay, Sagaing and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfall in Rakhine and Kachin States. The notable amount of rainfall recorded were Sittway (4.02) inches, Bhamo (2.80) inches, Ann (2.17) inches and Mogok (1.77) inches.

Minimum temperature on 1-6-2004 was 29.0°C (84.2°F). Minimum temperature on 2-6-2004 was 19.5°C (67°F). Relative humidity at 9.30 hrs MST on 2-6-2004 was 79%.

Total sunshine hours on 1-6-2004 was (1.1) hours, Rainfall on 2-6-2004 was 7mm (0.27 inch) at Yangon Airport, 3mm (0.12 inch) at Kaba-Aye and nil at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-6-2004 was 50.84mm (1.99 inches) at Yangon Airport and 457mm (17.99 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 556mm (21.89 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 11 mph from Southeast at (11:30) hours MST on 1-6-2004.

Bay Influence: According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, yesterday’s depression over Southeast Bay moved into West Central Bay and weakened into a low pressure area. Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until end of 3-6-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Chin States, Sagaing, Tenasserim Divisions and isolated to scattered in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls are likely in Kachin, Chin States and upper Sagaing Division. Degree of certainty is (100%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase in rain in the northern Myanmar area.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-6-2004: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbounring area for 3-6-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Storm News

(Missed (at 12.00 hrs) MST today)
National Convention delegate groups of peasants and workers hold meetings

YANGON, 2 June—The meetings of members of the panel of chairmen of the delegate group of peasants and workers were held at the designated meeting halls of Nyaungnangpin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning, attended by members of the panel of chairmen of delegates of peasants and the delegates of workers.

The members of the panel of chairmen of the delegates of peasants held the coordination meeting at the hall-4 at 10 am. Present at the meeting were U Kan Nyunt of Sagoa Division, U Sai Tin Aung of Shan State (North), U Tin Maung Kyaw of Magway Division and U Mya Aye of Yangon Division. Deputy Director U Myint Thein and Assistant Director U Myint Kyaw of group-6 of the National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as masters of ceremonies.

Delegates of Ayeyawady, Magway, Mandalay and Sagoa Divisions and Kayin State, Taninthayi Division, Mon, Chin and Shan States submitted their proposals to the panel of chairmen on matters concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of power in legislative, executive and judicial sectors to be included in drawing the State Constitution clarified by the National Convention Convening Work Committee.

The panel of chairmen discussed the proposals and the coordination meeting came to an end at 10.45 am. Similarly, the delegate group of workers held the meeting at the meeting hall-5 at 9 am. U Kyaw Win Tun of Mandalay Division presided over the meeting together with Dr Myo Than Tin of Yangon Division and U Kyaw Myo Win of Bago Division (West). Deputy Director U Zaw Win and Assistant Director U Aung Win of the work group-7 acted as masters of ceremonies. First, the master of ceremonies announced the start of the meeting with the permission of the chairman as there were 48 delegates listed accounting for cent per cent.

Chairman U Kyaw Win Tun gave an opening speech. Next, U Aung Kyi of Yangon Division and U Tin Sein of Bago Division (West) of proposal compilation group-4 read out the proposal on energy, electric, mining and forestry sector and industry sector concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of power in legislative, executive and judicial sectors to be included in drafting the State Constitution. U Thin Kyu of Yangon Division, U Khin Maung Aye and U Tin Naing of Sagoa Division gave suggestions. Next, the chairman gave the concluding remarks and the meeting adjourned at 9.50 am.

Likewise, delegates from Kachin and Kayah States of the delegate group of national races were compiling the proposals concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of power in legislative, executive and judicial sectors to be included in drafting the State Constitution clarified by the National Convention Convening Work Committee.

MNA

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.

Alternate Chairman U Kyaw Win Tun speaking at meeting of the delegate group of workers. —MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint inspects implementation of Kyaukphaya Dam Project near Nondwin Village of Sagaing Division. —MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party inspected the bank of Chindwin River and gave instructions to the officials on preventive measures against bank erosion near the pagoda. They held a meeting with members of social organizations and local senior residents at the village. Lt-Gen Ye Myint urged them to participate in regional development tasks and cordially greeted them.

In the afternoon, they also met departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsmen in Myintmyo Township. Township PDC Chairman (See page 9)