Ecosystems increasingly being threatened in many parts of the world
Myanmar’s seas contain bountiful supply of fish and pearls and minerals, rich mangrove forests and pristine beaches

World Environment Day observed at MICT Park

Yangon, 5 June—The 2004 World Environment Day, organized by National Commission for Environment Affairs, was observed at Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park in Hline Township at 9 am today, with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. Also present on the occasion were the ministers, the chief justice, the attorney-general, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, members of the National Commission for Environment Affairs, the president and members of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, diplomats of foreign missions, resident representatives of UN agencies and officials, the president of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and members, winners in the World Environment Day commemorative poster and painting contests and guests.

First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address. He said:

The nations around the world hold special events on World Environment Day to highlight the important role of the natural environment in supporting and sustaining human life. I am happy that we in Myanmar are also marking this important day. Since the advent of mankind on Earth, we human beings have harnessed the forces of nature to improve our well-being. From the primitive stone age to the present information age, human ingenuity and hard work have brought about tremendous economic and social developments.

(See page 9)

Prime Minister attends friendly golf tournament of Singapore Association of Myanmar and dinner

Yangon, 5 June—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the prize-presentation ceremony of the 11th anniversary friendly golf tournament of Singapore Association of Myanmar and the dinner reception at Dusit Inya Lake Hotel here at 7 pm today. Also present on the occasion were Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Major General Myint Swe, the ministers, the deputy ministers, ambassadors of foreign embassies, Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Simon Tensing de Cruz and embassy staff, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and SAM and those of companies who gave assistance for the tournament and guests.

First, SAM Chairman Mr Teddy Chia extended greetings and Golf Tournament Organizing Committee Chairman Mr David Teng explained the purpose of the tournament.

Next, the Singaporean ambassador spoke words of thanks and presented K 4 million for Myanmar Education Committee to MEC Chairman Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. Then the dinner was hosted to those present.

Officials presented prizes to Mr Victor Seah who won the first prize in the division-A, Dr Mya Oo who won the first in the division-B and Miss Chan Chan who won the first in the women’s event and other prize winners. The tournament was also sponsored by Tiger, Accel Int’l Co Ltd, Air Mandalay, Rothmans of Pall Mall Myanmar, Pan-West, Grand Mee Yatha and Singaporean companies in Myanmar.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addresses the ceremony to mark 2004 World Environment Day.—MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends the dinner to mark 11th friendly golf tournament of Singapore Association of Myanmar.—MNA

The National Convention is the concern of all our national races.
PERSPECTIVES

Accelerate production of medicines and doing research

The State Peace and Development Council has been enlisting the strength of the entire people in an attempt to build up a modern and developed nation capable of catching up with the world nations.

In this regard, the Government is putting thoroughly a national objective on health into motion — uplift of health and fitness of the entire nation.

Nowadays, the Government has been taking effective measures for such community health care concerns as building or upgrading of hospitals, health care centres and specialist hospitals the length and breadth of the nation including far-flung areas.

Research works and pharmaceutical production play a vital role in raising the health standard of the people and enhancing the medical science.

Vice-Chairman of the National Health Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win inspected the Development Centre for Pharmaceutical Technology and the Myanma Pharmaceutical Factories under the Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries of the Ministry of Industry-1 on 4 June 2004.

Accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Secretary-1 looked into medicines produced by various units and industrial use micro-organism. The Secretary-1 and party also inspected sample products and production process at the Injection Unit and the Vaccine Production Unit. The Secretary-1 held discussions and gave instructions to officials concerned.

The Development Centre for Pharmaceutical Technology, which is made up of Medical Research Unit, Fermentation Research Unit, Herbal Plants Research Unit, and Methodological Research Unit Quality Control Unit, is achieving success in doing research. It has disseminated the new facts, information and methods on production of medicines to the Myanma Pharmaceutical Factory, which manufactures medical products with the permission of the Ministry of Health.

The Myanma Pharmaceutical Factory has been producing and distributing various kinds of tablets, pills, capsules, liquid, lotion, powder, vaccine and other forms of medicines. Thanks to the efforts and innovative measures of its staff, now the factory is able to produce 184 kinds of modern medicines and 16 kinds of traditional medicines.

Officials concerned are thus urged to make greater efforts in manufacturing modern medicines and doing research so as to provide better community health care services to the people.

Film entertainments to National Convention delegates at Nyaungnapin Camp

YANGON, 5 June — The Entertainment and Welfare Subcommittee of the National Convention Convention Management Committee organizes entertainment programmes for delegates to the National Convention daily at the gymnasium of Nyaungnapin Camp.

Yesterday evening, the delegates were entertained with a film entitled "Thamee Maik" (naughty daughter) directed by Khin Maung Oo & Soe Thein Htot and starred by Lwin Moe, Htet Htet Moe Oo and May Than Nu.

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

Meeting to ensure secure and smooth transport of Yangon City held

YANGON, 5 June— Yangon Division Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Secure and Smooth Transport held a coordination meeting at the hall of All Bus-line Central Committee (Yangon Division) in Tamway Township this evening, attended by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were military region commanders, divisional authorities, members of the supervisory committee, registrars and officials of universities and colleges in Yangon, chairmen of bus lines and guests. First, the commander gave a speech. The supervisory committee members, the registrars and officials and bus line chairmen participated in the discussions for convenient travelling of passengers and supervisory works.

Next, the commander gave necessary instructions and fulfilled the requirements.

F & R Minister attends opening of MEB (Shweduaung Branch)

YANGON, 5 June— An opening ceremony of Myanmar Economic Bank (Shweduaung Branch) was held at Shweduaung Township, Pyay District, this morning. The ceremony was attended by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Col Hla Min, Managing Director of MEB Col Hla Tun, Director-General of Internal Revenue Department U Win Naing and officials.

First, the minister and Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council Col Hla Min gave speeches. Afterwards, MEB Managing Director Col Hla Tun presented souvenirs to the minister and the Chairman of Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council. Later, the minister formally unveiled the signboard of Shweduaung branch and the minister and officials inspected the new building.

Development works inspected

YANGON, 5 June— Director-General of the Development Affairs Department Col Myo Myint, accompanied by officials concerned arrived at Myingyan and in-pected the construction of pavements and planting of shady trees along Myingyan-Mandalay Road recently. He then proceeded to Kyaukse and attended the ceremony to plant trees along Zawgyi circular road there. He also inspected the greening tasks, supply of water and water supply stations there. The director general next went to PyinOoLwin and inspected town beautification works and measures for ensuring proper flow of water in drainages. He also inspected the Thabyay Yay gravel road at Thabyay village. The road is 4 miles 1 furlong long and built at K 33.48 million contributed by the State. He also inspected the works for ensuring proper flow of water in drainages along Mandalay-Lashio road.

F & R Minister attends opening of MEB (Shweduaung Branch).

YANGON, 5 June— A combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit and Tachilek Special Anti-Drug Squad, acting on information, on 12 November 2003, searched the house of Ar Sein of No 2/31 in Hsaini Ward (B), Tachilek and arrested him together with 5,600 WY brand stimulant tablets. The Tachilek Police Station filed a lawsuit against Ar Sein, son of U Aik Lwan of No 2/31 of Hsaini Ward (B) in Tachilek under Sections 15/19 (A) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. He was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment by Tachilek District Court under Section 19 (A) on 6 February 2004.

Similarly, a combined team comprising members of local intelligence unit, Bago Special Anti-Drug Squad and Bago Police Station searched Daw Mya Kyi and Ma San Aye on the bus with number plate 4B/4648 at Polan check-point in Bago on 31 July 2003 and seized 3.2 kilos of marijuana. Action was taken against Daw Mya Kyi, daughter of U Aung Thet and Ma San Aye, daughter of U Win Maung at Mdawad village in Kyaukkyi Township under Sections 15/19 (A) /21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Bago District Court handed down 20 years’ imprisonment on Daw Mya Kyi under Section 19(A) of the law and 5 years’ imprisonment and 20 years’ imprisonment to serve separately on Ma San Aye under Section 15 and Section 19 (A) of the law on 19 February 2004.

MINA

Don’t smoke
Five US soldiers killed, 5 wounded in Baghdad attack

Baghdad, 4 June—Five US soldiers were killed and five wounded on Friday when their vehicles were attacked in east Baghdad, the US military said.

The 10 soldiers were members of Task Force Baghdad, which is made up primarily of the Texas-based 1st Cavalry Division, said division spokesman Army Lt Col James Huston. The vehicles came under attack shortly after 1 pm on Palestine Street near the Shiite district of Sadr City. Videos from Associated Press Television News showed the burning wreckage of a Humvee and a huge plume of black smoke rising from the mangled vehicle.

At least three bodies, apparently of US soldiers, lay on the ground nearby. About six other American soldiers were seen loading the bodies onto another Humvee and guarding the site. Also Friday, American and Shiite militia forces agreed to withdraw from the holy cities of Najaf and Kufa and turn over security to Iraqi police, the governor of Najaf Province said. However, hours after the withdrawal was scheduled to begin, there was no sign that fighters loyal to Muqtada al-Sadr had pulled back. Fighters told The Associated Press they had not been given orders to leave but had been asked to conceal their weapons.

In another Friday incident, unknown gunmen attacked a US Army patrol in Baghdad near the Shiite district of Sadr City, and the 1st Cavalry Division said four soldiers were wounded. It was unclear whether the attackers were al-Sadr’s forces or Sunni Muslim guerrillas. —Internet

The ailing pontiff complained about recent “deplorable events,” an apparent reference to the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US troops. In the absence of a commitment to shared human values, “neither war nor terrorism will ever be overcome,” he said, struggling to speak.

However, the pope welcomed the recent establishment of an interim government and called for a speedy transfer of sovereignty to the Iraqis. Not far from the Vatican walls, tens of thousands of protesters took to the streets to demonstrate through central Rome, many with signs demanding Italy withdraw its troops from Iraq. Some scuffled with police, others demonstrated around the capital, threw firecrackers and set a trash can on fire.

Bush had dinner with a top ally on Iraq, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. On Saturday, the president heads to Paris to meet with one of his sharpest war critics, French President Jacques Chirac.

Despite Berlusconi’s backing, and his decision to send 3,000 Italian troops to Iraq, polls show that a majority of Italians oppose the US-led war and occupation of Iraq, a sentiment common throughout western Europe.

Bush is on a three-day trip to Italy and France to help commemorate the June 1944 liberation of Rome and the allied D-Day invasion of Normandy. He was also using the trip and an international economic summit next week in Georgia to try to build more support among leading nations for a new UN resolution to deal with post-occupation Iraq.

But the announcement in Baghdad that five US soldiers were killed and five wounded on Friday when their vehicles were attacked in east Baghdad served as a reminder that Iraq remained an extremely dangerous place.

Seated next to the pope, Bush promised his nation would work for “human liberty and human dignity,” without making any reference to Iraq. He presented the pontif with the presidential medal of freedom, America’s highest civilian award, calling him “a devoted servant of God.”

Nuclear experts criticize US stance on Iran

Vienna, 4 June—The UN nuclear watchdog’s latest report on Iran’s nuclear programme highlights the failures of the US Government to come up with a coherent line on Teheran, non-proliferation experts said on Wednesday.

While praising Iran for cooperating, the International Atomic Energy Agency said in a confidential report obtained by Reuters it did not have enough information to verify that Iran’s atomic programme was strictly peaceful — and not a nuclear arms programme as Washington says.

“The report is a clear indication that the Bush Administration efforts to stop Iran’s nuclear programme are failing,” Jon Wolfsthal, deputy director for non-proliferation at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, told Reuters.

“Iran continues to procure enrichment capability and the US has proven unable to focus international attention on its activities or coerce Iran to convince them to abandon their efforts. The US does not have a clear Iran policy.”

There are two major issues the IAEA says it must resolve. First is the origin of enriched uranium traces found at sites in Iran, which some diplomats on the IAEA board had raised concerns Iran was secretly enriching uranium for use in weapons. The second is Iran’s enrichment programme, especially its interest in advanced P2 enrichment centrifuges capable of making bomb-grade uranium. The report said Iran had admitted importing P2 parts and was interested in parts for thousands of centrifuges, in contrast to what it told the agency previously.

While the IAEA report shows that Iran has been changing its story regarding its research in potentially weapons-related technology, the analysts said there was no clear evidence that Iran was working on atomic weapons. — MNA/Reuters

Australia to forgive Iraq’s debt

Canberra, 4 June—Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile said on Wednesday that Australia has decided to forgive the vast majority of Iraq’s 500-million-US-dollar debt to Australia. Iraq’s debt to Australia is for exports, predominantly wheat, shipped to the country in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The Australian Government made the decision after consulting with Australian grains industry, Vaile said in a statement.

The exact proportion of debt forgiven remains to be determined in negotiations with other countries which will also forgive Iraq’s debt over coming months, according to the statement.

MNA/Reuters

US brands losing shine as Iraq sours sentiment

London, 5 June—Declining global respect for American cultural values is having a serious effect on the image of United States brands such as McDonald’s, Coca-Cola, Nike and Microsoft, a worldwide study of consumer attitudes has found.

According to a report in Britain’s The Guardian newspaper, the number of people who like and use US-branded products has fallen significantly over the past year, while brands perceived to be non-American have remained relatively stable.

The survey, by New York-based NOP World, questioned 30,000 people outside the US between January and March — a period marked by the growing difficulties for American forces in Iraq.

The survey covered Australia but not New Zealand. Although no similar research exists here, some local market researchers are seeing a swing from big brands, many of them associated with the US, to local brands.

From 1998 until 2002, NOP found that brands such as McDonald’s and Coca-Cola were notching up healthy annual growth. But last year NOP found that the growth in popularity of all major consumer brands, including those from Europe and Asia, had stalled.

Over the past 12 months the positive trend has reversed, with US products hardest hit.

NOP says the number of non-American consumers who “trust” Coca-Cola fell from 55 per cent to 52 per cent, while the McDonald’s rating slipped from 36 per cent to 33 per cent.

Nike slipped from 56 per cent to 53 per cent and Microsoft fell from 45 per cent to 39 per cent.

“It’s not like there’s a massive boycott,” says NOP managing director Tom Miller. “Instead, it seems to be an erosion of support. It is clearly a warning sign for brands.” — Internet
UN says coalition troops violated rights in Iraq

GENEVA, 4 June—The United Nations’ top human rights official said on Friday US-led occupation forces had committed “serious violations” of international humanitarian law in Iraq and had ill-treated ordinary Iraqis.

Soros says war makes US perpetrators, not victims

WASHINGTON, 4 June — Billionaire financier George Soros said on Thursday the war on terror turned Americans from victims to perpetrators and had claimed more innocent lives than the September 11, 2001, attacks.

While their contractual obligations remain with the US government, which funds their work, some big companies doing work in Iraq voiced apprehension over elements of the handover of sovereignty on June 29.

Mediators say Iraq’s Sadr tries to shore up truce

BAQUBA, 4 June—Rebel Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr has agreed to new steps to shore up a shaky truce and end weeks of fighting in the country’s holy Shiite cities, Shiite politicians said early Friday after hours of talks.

Soros, who has donated millions of his personal fortune toward defeating President George W. Bush in November, compared the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US troops at Baghdad’s Abu Ghraib Prison to the attacks in New York and Washington.

The pictures of prison abuse in Iraq were “a moment of truth” for the United States and “hit us the same way as the terrorist attack itself,” he said.

“Soros, whose 11.5 billion US dollars Soros Fund Management is one of the world’s largest hedge funds, has donated at least 15 million US dollars to groups like MoveOn.org and The Media Fund, which are working to help Democratic challenger John Kerry beat Bush in November. At the three-day conference of activists sponsored by the liberal campaigns for America’s Future, Soros said Bush entered the war in Iraq under false pretenses and created “an utter disaster for the United States.”

“Al-Sadr insists on “nothing less” than fully elected government

BAGHDAD, 4 June—Radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr didn’t mince words when discussing Iraq’s new government.

Al-Sadr didn’t appear today in the mosque in Kufa where he usually preaches. Instead he sent an aide to deliver the message on his behalf.

Al-Sadr insisted he would settle for “nothing less” than a fully elected leadership, saying the US has shown “impertinence and domination” in appointing a new prime minister and president.

The cleric threatened to stage protests and sit-ins against the UN if it doesn’t change its policy in Iraq.

In terms of contracts there will be no real impact,” said Mark Lumer, a senior US Army procurement official. “There is not going to be any fundamental shift after 30 June.”

Iran commemorates late Khomeini with anti-US demonstrations

TEHRAN, 4 June — Iranians held anti-US demonstrations here on Thursday morning while commemorating the 15th anniversary of the death of Khomeini, founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Enterprise US contractors warn about change in Iraq
government

LAS VEGAS, 4 June—Some prime US contractors in Iraq are wary of the US handover on June 30 and say there are still too many unanswered questions, from the status of private security guards to import tariffs.

Mediators say Iraq’s Sadr tries to shore up truce

NADIF, 4 June—Rebel Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr has agreed to new steps to shore up a shaky truce and end weeks of fighting in the country’s holy Shiite cities, Shiite politicians said early Friday after hours of talks.

They said Sadr had agreed to withdraw his fighters from the city of Najaf within two days, as long as US forces also withdrew. Sadr also proposed that neutral observers monitor the truce, the Shiite politicians said.

The report declared: “It is crucial that protection arrangements be strengthened as a matter of the utmost urgency,” it said. An International Ombudsman or Commissioner for human rights in Iraq should be appointed “immediately.”

It was the report said, “a stark reality that there was no international oversight and accountability in respect of the situation that obtained in Iraq since the invasion.

But the report, which asserted that “everyone accepts” that the US and its allies intended their troops in Iraq to behave well, was criticized by Reed Brody, special counsel to the US-based Human Rights Watch organization.

“It seems very light, and indepentent monitor access the good faith of the US,” he told Reuters by telephone. “I don’t think it is the place of the UN human rights office to evaluate the intentions of a state or group of states.”

While their contractual obligations remain with the US government, which funds their work, some big companies doing work in Iraq voiced apprehension over elements of the handover of sovereignty on June 29.

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Kerry accuses Bush of mismanaging US military

INDEPENDENCE (Missouri), 4 June — Democratic challenger John Kerry on Thursday accused President George W Bush of mismanaging the US military, effectively instituting a “back-door draft” and complicating the mission in Iraq.

The decorated Vietnam War veteran said the United States had gone into Iraq with too few troops to prevent looting and crime and had neglected to secure almost a million tons of conventional weapons now being used against them.

“These mistakes have complicated our mission and complicated our objective — a stable Iraq with a representative government secure in its borders,” Kerry said.

The presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, in a speech on modernizing the US military at the Truman Presidential Library, said change was essential now that the old Cold War enemy had been replaced by threats from groups using “terror as a sword and religion as a shield.”

Kerry proposed to temporarily add 40,000 troops to the 480,000-strong active-duty Army at an estimated cost of between 5 billion US dollars and 8 billion US dollars paid for by halting premature deployment of an “unproven” missile defence system.

Kerry, a senator from Massachusetts and a 20-year veteran of the Foreign Relations Committee, also said he would double US Special Forces capability to about 10,000, provide state-of-the-art equipment to all soldiers and transform the military in order to use it for homeland security.

“We can’t meet the threats of this new century with a military from the last one,” he said. “The rhetoric of toughness is not enough to make us safe. We need tough decisions to strengthen the American military so we can find and get the terrorists before they get us.”

About 20,000 of the two new divisions would be combat troops. The other 20,000 would be individuals with specialties in post-conflict skills, such as civil affairs and the military police in order to relieve the burden on the National Guard and Reserve.

Kerry blasted the Bush Administration’s order preventing thousands of soldiers designated for duty in Iraq or Afghanistan from leaving the military even when their volunteer service commitment expires.

He said the move underscored how overstretched the US military was as the Pentagon tries to maintain adequate troop levels in Iraq and Afghanistan.

CIA Chief resigns amid criticism over intelligence failure

WASHINGTON, 4 June — CIA Director George Tenet, who presided over spectacular intelligence lapses involving the September 11, 2001, attacks and alleged weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, has resigned and will leave in July, President George W Bush announced on Thursday.

Tenet submitted his resignation to Bush at the White House late on Wednesday, after months of mounting calls for his resignation because of his agency’s erroneous intelligence.

“Told him I’m sorry he’s leaving,” Bush said in a surprise announcement shortly before heading to Italy and France.

The longtime Washington insider famously assured Bush on the eve of the March 2003 US-led invasion that the case for war in Iraq was a “slam dunk,” using a basketball expression to portray the weapons evidence as a certainty.

Bush cited Saddam Hussein’s weapons program — a prime reason for the US-led war and occupation of Iraq, where more than 300 US soldiers have died since March 2003. No chemical, biological or nuclear weapons have been found.

Tenet also was sharply criticized for his espionage oversight in the months ahead of the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington, when US authorities picked up heightened intelligence “chatter” about a looming attack.

Tenet’s departure comes at a critical juncture for Bush, who has seen his job approval ratings fall to new lows as he faces a tight re-election battle against Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry.

Tenet tendered his resignation on the day new allegations emerged about damaging intelligence leaks to Ahmad Chalabi, the discredited Iraqi exile, and the White House disclosed Bush had spoken to a private lawyer regarding the criminal probe into the leak of a CIA operative’s name last year.

He is the second-longest serving CIA director, behind Allen Dulles, who served at the height of the Cold War from 1953-1961. Tenet will stay on his post until mid-July, a inside time the CIA deputy director John McLaughlin will serve as the acting director.

Born in 1953, Tenet received a bachelor’s degree from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in 1976 and a master’s from Columbia University School of International Affairs in 1978. He became deputy director of Central Intelligence Agency in July 1995 and was nominated by former president Bill Clinton as CIA director in 1997.

Eight Iraqis killed, 49 wounded in fighting in holy cities

BAQDHUZ, 4 June — Eight Iraqis were killed and 49 others injured early Thursday as street fights broke out between US troops and Shi’ite Muslim militiamen in the holy cities of Najaf and Kufa, an Iraqi official said.

The fighting killed eight people, including one woman, and wounded 49 others including three children,” said Dr. Falah al-Mahana, director-general of the Public Health Directorate in Najaf.

US aircraft flew over the battlefields where the coalition tanks and armoured vehicles took positions inside the two cities, Jawad said.

The centre of Kufa seemed deserted and many shops were closed and residents remained inside their houses as tensions rose, he added.

“Najaf is more like a powder keg than it was a few days ago,” he said.

Mortar attack kills one near Italy’s Baghdad Embassy

BAQDHUZ, 4 June — Mortar rounds landed near the Italian Embassy in Baghdad on Thursday, killing one Iraqi and wounding several others but incurring no embassy staff, Iraqi hospital officials and diplomatic sources said.

An employee at the embassy said the building itself was not hit and no staff were hurt. “The building was not hit, but it appears that passers-by were hurt,” he said.

Guerrillas have attacked the area around the Italian Embassy several times in recent months, mostly causing only minor damage. Last year the embassy was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade.

Italy has about 2,700 troops in Iraq and its nationals have regularly been targeted by guerrillas because of the country’s participation in the US-led coalition. — MNA/Reuters

Prisoners await questioning and trial inside a prison at the Qorja police station in Kirkuk, on 4 June, 2004. — INTERNET

An Iraqi child looks out from a car window as the family wait to cross a check-point to enter the Iraqi town of Falluja on 4 June, 2004. —INTERNET

US House Democrats to probe Iraq prison abuse

WASHINGTON, 4 June — A group of Democrats in the US House of Representatives said on Thursday they would launch their own probe of the Iraq prison scandal, citing what they called a lack of interest by the Republican majority.

The six top Democrats on House committees that could be involved in probing the abuse of Iraqi detainees at Abu Ghraib Prison near Baghdad, wrote President George W Bush to say they intended to investigate the extent of the abuse.

They added they would also look into allegations of abuse in US military prisons in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Despite the magnitude of the Abu Ghraib and other detainee abuses and their enormous ramifications for our effort in Iraq and US foreign policy, no House committees are currently undertaking a formal public investigation,” the Democrats wrote.

“This is a dereliction of Congress’ oversight responsibility that ill serves our nation and our troops.”

MNA/Reuters/Xinhua

MNA/Reuters
Smoke billows in the street in the district of Sadr City, in Baghdad, Iraq after an attack by unknown gunmen on 4 June, 2004.

An Iraqi woman reacts after her 12 year old boy was injured when rockets hit her house in Al-Mahmudia, 40 km south of Baghdad, on 1 June, 2004. According to local witnesses, US planes attacked a residential area in Al-Mahmudia.

An Iraqi woman gestures inside Baghdad's Al Numan hospital waiting to get information on her relatives after a car bomb exploded in Baghdad, on 2 June, 2004 killing at least five people and injuring dozens.

Iraqi doctors and nurses surround a woman inside a Baghdad, Iraq hospital on 31 May, 2004 after she was injured in an explosion in Baghdad.

Images of Iraq

An Iraqi woman kisses the hand of her mother lying in a hospital bed following a car bomb in Baghdad on 2 June, 2004.

Iraqis surround the wreckage, after a car bomb exploded in Baghdad, Iraq on 2 June, 2004.

Iraqis crowded near the scene of a car bomb explosion in Baghdad, Iraq, on 31 May, 2004.

An Iraqi man fans his wounded relative in a Baghdad hospital after he was injured in an explosion in the Iraqi capital on 31 May, 2004.
New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

In the time of the Tatmadaw government, endeavours for all-round development of states and divisions are made. The photo shows scenic view of Thandaunggyi hill station in Kayin State. — MNA

Village-to-village roads and bridges on these roads are being built. The photo shows a bridge built in Zoke Thoke Model Village in Bilin Township, Thaton District, Mon State. — MNA

A tubewell is sunk in Pyibin village, Chauk Township in Magway Division to supply potable water to rural people. — PBANRDA

Border and rural area developments

The station hospital of Panglong region, Shan State. — MNA
Emergence of a constitution is imperative

Aung Moe San

Today, Myanmar is in the process of materializing the seven-point future policy programme for emergence of a new democratic nation. The seven points have been laid down by the democratic elements.

For the National Convention to lay down principles to be formulated as the basis for the emergence of a State Constitution, Drafting a new constitution in accordance with basic principles laid down by the National Convention; Adoption of the constitution through national referendum; Holding of free and fair elections for Pyithu Hluttaw (Legislative bodies); acceding to the Convention; Convening of Hluttaw attended by Hluttaw members in accordance with the new constitution; and Building a modern, developed, and democratic nation by the State leaders elected by the Hluttaw; and the government and other central organs formed by the Hluttaw. The procedures are the most peaceful and least harmful way towards national re-consolidation for the entire nation.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt has already declared the seven points to the world. As a means to enable the entire nation to unite for the establishment of a new constituent Assembly, the Hluttaw will held under the title “Pyinnya-kyan-ma Hkwint-lan-tha Pyae-son-hla-pa Mein-kha-lay-bawa Sa-yin-in-hnint Nhoon-so-pya” in Myanmar Version. The essay will be classified into two levels — high school level (8th, 9th, 10th grades) and middle school level — (5th, 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 the first prize, K 25,000 for the second, K 20,000 for the third and K 10,000 each for two consolation prizes. First, second and third winners at 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. — MNA

World Population Day poster, essay competitions to be held


The chosen title for the poster is “Statistical Girl” in English Version and “Pyinnya-kyan-ma Hkwint-lan-tha Pyae-son-hla-pa Mein-kha-lay-bawa Sa-yin-in-hnint Nhoon-so-pya” in Myanmar Version. The poster competition will be categorized into five levels. The age group for the first level will be between 6 and 8; 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 above. The competitions from the first to fourth levels will be held at designated venues in the cities of States and Divisions on 12 June under the supervision of State/Division Immigration and National Registration Departments. Only 15” x 20” drawing 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 or come forward not later than 9 June. The fifth level is designated as an open invitational competition. Entrants can use any sort of 18” x 24”— drawing papers and should send their works either to State/Division Immigration and National Registration Departments concerned or come forward not later than 9 June. Prizes for the competitions from the first to fourth levels are K 50,000 for the first prize, K 40,000 for second prize, K 30,000 for the third prize, and K 20,000 each for two consolation prizes. Prizes for the fifth level are K 75,000 for the first prize, K 50,000 for the second prize and K 30,000 each for two consolation prizes.

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

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

(Translation: TMT)

(Kyenon + Myanmar Alin: 5-5-2004)
Ecosystems increasingly being threatened ...

(from page 1)

The rise of science and technology in recent decades has resulted in vast transformations all over the world. These changes have had both positive and negative consequences. With the respect to the environment, the changes on balance are negative. The present situation now stands at 6.2 billion. It continues to grow each day. The increase in population means increased demand for food, water, energy, housing, and other basic needs. Humans have regarded the Earth and its resources as inexhaustible. They have been mindlessly exploiting these finite resources to meet their growing needs. In the process they have also taken for granted that the Earth can absorb all the waste generated by men. The irrational actions of mankind have thus degraded the Earth and the environment.

In many parts of the world, ecosystems are increasingly being threatened. Environmental problems such as global warming and climate change, and the depletion of natural resources are global problems that affect not only humans but all other forms of life on this planet. Problems such as haze, acid rain and marine pollution transcend national borders.

In the recent past, efforts have been made at the international and national level to address environmental problems. Over the past three decades, a large number of international conventions related to the environment have been adopted and are being implemented. At the national level, environmental agencies and ministries have been set up to promote effective environmental management. Nevertheless in most nations, due to the lack of enforcement of environmental laws and regulations and absence of political and financial commitments, the environmental continue to deteriorate.

On the positive side, there is growing awareness in the world that economic development cannot be sustained without protecting the environment. The concept of “sustainable development” adopted by the Brundtland Commission has gained worldwide acceptance. As sustainable development rests on three main pillars, namely economic development, social development and environmental protection, it is not only necessary but also imperative to take care of all three.

In Myanmar too, we are paying greater attention to environmental issues in the country. In order to promote effective environmental management, the Environmental Conservation Committee has recently been formed. This Committee and its tasks will implement programmes to effectively address environmental issues in the country.

The theme of this year’s World Environment Day focuses on Oceans and Seas. It is aimed to underscore the fact that saving the World’s oceans and seas, including marine resources, is crucial for the well-being of human beings, and the vitality of the ecosystems. Our planet is in fact a blue planet as two-thirds of the Earth is covered with oceans and seas. Those oceans and seas not only provide food, useful products and avenues of transportation for mankind, but also provide important ecological services.

We are fortunate in that it has vast open seas in the south-western and southern part of Myanmar. The Bay of Bengal lies in the south-west and the Andaman Sea in the south of Myanmar. Myanmar’s coastline stretches for about 1,300 to 2,200 kilometres. Its coastline is in fact a blue planet as two-thirds of the Earth is covered with oceans and seas. Those oceans and seas not only provide food, useful products and avenues of transportation for mankind, but also provide important ecological services.

We in Myanmar too are paying greater attention to environmental issues in the country. In order to promote effective environmental management, the Environmental Conservation Committee has recently been formed. This Committee and its tasks will implement programmes to effectively address environmental issues in the country. The theme of this year’s World Environment Day focuses on Oceans and Seas.
Electronic industry …
(from page 16)

Beginning 2004-2005, the government laid down the objectives for development of industrial sector and it is now the time for achieving progress in the State and the private sectors, he said.

The Secretary-1 said the Head of State gave guidance on basic points regarding the emergence of a modern developed nation. He quoted the Head of State as saying that industrial development is needed for emergence of modern industrialized nation. Without the industry sector, a country will never become industrialized and modern.

Today, industrialized nations are approaching post-industrialized way of life. Developing nations are entering the industrialized level and some parts of the world are leading to a new industrial age.

It is obviously seen that high technology is developing rapidly taking place in economic and social fields. The range of knowledge and technology is wide and changing and every nation is trying to gain knowledge and technology. Knowledge, technology and information systems are basic requirements in making the nation strong and powerful. At such time, the government is making arrangements for future generation to learn modern technology. The private enterprises are cooperating with the State owned sector as well as the private sector are being involved in training technical know-how and views could be exchanged.

After the meeting, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected upgrading of Kawdawgyi Gardens of Yangon City and its environs where ministers, deputy ministers and officials welcomed them at the Relaxation Zone. Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected beautifying measures and construction of Elephant Plaza, Fountain Plaza at the Central Forest Zone, Water Plaza and Water Fountain, recreational facilities at the Recreation Zone and construction of Barbecue Garden and gave necessary instructions to officials.—MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects upgrading tasks at environs of Kawdawgyi Gardens—MNA
Militants rocket US base, flee to Pakistan

LWARA (Afghanistan), 5 June — Suspected Islamic militants fired rockets at a US base in southeastern Afghanistan on Tuesday, then fled across the border into Pakistan, US military officers said.

Several hours later, a suspected al-Qaeda suicide bomber was killed in an explosion that hit a police post in southern Pakistan that also wounded three paramilitary troops and Pakistani forces detained three foreign militants disguised as women. It was not clear if the militants who appeared in Pakistan were part of the group that had carried out the rocket attack, which occurred about 25 miles away, just inside Afghanistan.

Two rockets were heard whooshing over Camp Tillman near Lwarra in the Afghan province of Pakista before dawn. They landed on a hillside causing loud explosions and shaking the ground, but caused no casualties, US military officials said.

Afghan soldiers immediately returned fire with mortars and heavy machineguns but apparently inflicted no casualties on the attackers, said US and Afghan forces then pursued a red pickup truck thought to have fired the rockets until it crossed the border into Pakistan, when they were forced to abandon the chase.

Pakistan to restore peace in Karachi at every cost

ISLAMABAD, 5 June — Pakistan Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat has said that Pakistan Government will restore peace and normalcy in southern port city of Karachi at any cost.

“The government has a very clear policy in connection with Karachi situation. We have to restore peace in the city at every cost,” the official Associated Press of Pakistan as saying Thursday.

Faisal said under the Constitution it is subject of the provincial government to maintain law and order and Federal government therefore until there emerges any instituted grave situation. Presently the situation in Karachi is not immense but certainly it is not normal, he said, adding that the government will take every step which is needed to restore peace in Karachi.

Karachi has been hit by bombings and other incidents of violence several times in the past month.

First ever cellphone fair kicks off in Bangladesh

DINAJPAR, 5 June — The first ever exposition of cellphone sets and accessories in Bangladesh began in Dhaka on Thursday.

The two-day “Mobile Mela” (mobile fair) is sponsored by GrameenPhone, the country’s leading cellphone operator.

Some 13 handset vendors and two accessories vendors are displaying their latest handset and other related products in the show.

The participants include Nokia, Samsung, SonyEricsson, Motorola, Panasonic, Alcatel, Samsung, DBTel, Vtech, Haier and TCL.

The show was inaugurated on Thursday morning and formally open to the public in the afternoon.

The sponsors expected the fair could create an opportunity for cellphone users to have a look of the latest innovations of the handsets, as well as new tariff plans and tips from various packages offered by different operators.

In the first three hours after the show began, the number of visitors have reached at least 10,000 till the correspondent left the fair.

Bangladesh has probably the lowest tele-density in the world, as the statistics of the International Telecommunications Union show that every 100 inhabitants have only 0.55 fixed line phone, while the number of mobile phones per people stands at 1.01.

At present the cellphone connections provided by four joint venture operators in the country have amounted to some 2.3 million, while the GrameenPhone alone secured over 1.5 million users.

Philippine Govt toughens anti-gambling law

MANILA, 5 June — The Philippine Government has set into action a tougher anti-gambling law with increases prison term and fines as much as 5 million pesos (90,090 US dollars) to violators, a local newspaper reported Friday.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina told Philippine Daily Inquirer that the new law, recently approved by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, covers all forms of illegal gambling which uses numbers or combinations as factors in giving jackpots, including the popular jiquet, masino and last-two.

The law, as Lina said, imposes up to 20 years in prison term on public officials and employees serving as collector, agent, controller, supervisor, operator or financier in any illegal numbers game.

They also have to face a fine of 3 million pesos (54,045 dollars) to 5 million pesos and permanent disqualification from holding public office, he added.

According to the law, parents or guardians of minors, wards or disabled persons involved in illegal gambling activities shall be put in prison up to one year fined up to 400,000 pesos (7,207 US dollars) and deprived of authority over their wards.

It also ruled that maintainers, managers and operators of gambling activities with a face imprisonment of up to 14 years, financers of up to 16 years, and protectors and coodlers up to 20 years.

Any new penalties are higher than those provided in the old law, which only imposed prison term of up to 12 years and fines of 400 pesos to 6,000 pesos, the report said.

China “ready” to join MTCR to control missile proliferation

BRITISH, 5 June — China Thursday expressed its willingness to join the Missile Control Technology Regime in an effort to project itself as a responsible missile power in the international community’s efforts to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

After the end of a two-day second round meeting with members of the MTCR and Chinese officials, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said the MTCR has promised to give “positive consideration” to Beijing’s application.

“The Chairman of MTCR, Ambassador Carlos Sersale Di Cesaroni said the delegation will give positive consideration on China’s application.” Liu told reporters here Thursday.

The MTCR is an informal and voluntary association of countries which share the goals of non-proliferation of unmanned delivery systems for weapons of mass destruction, and seeks to coordinate national expert licensing efforts aimed at preventing their proliferation.

Liu Jieying, Director-General of the Department of Arms Control and Disarmament under the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented China during the June 1-2 meeting with MTCR officials and expressed Beijing’s desire to join the group, Liu said.

“Both sides believe that the dialogues have increased mutual understanding and trust and it is of importance for the development of China-MTCR relationship,” the spokesman said.

China’s bid for membership comes at a time when there is increased pressure on Beijing from the US to stop its alleged transfer of missile and nuclear technology to countries like Pakistan.

In the past week China joined the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), a 40-member unofficial grouping engaged in preventing the proliferation of nuclear technology.

The MTCR was formed in 1987 by Canada, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, Britain and the United States to counter the threat of the spread of WMD and maintain vigilance over transfer of missile equipment, material, and related technologies usable for systems capable of delivering WMD.

Since then the MTCR has grown to include 33 countries, all of which have equal standing within the regime.

MNA/PIT
India, US to strengthen defence cooperation

NEW DELHI, 4 June — India and the United States Thursday said they will strengthen defence cooperation in the backdrop of growing convergence of views on security issues, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and cooperation in development of hi-tech weapons.

Marking the first contact between the two countries after the new government took over here, the sixth Indo-US Defence Policy Group meeting, which concluded its deliberations, noted that ground had been laid for strengthening the military to military cooperation.

Awaiting the new government’s response on cooperation in development of an anti-missile shield, the meeting said the two countries had now “growing areas of convergence on cooperation in hi-tech weapons systems, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and security of sea-lanes.

“We have renewed the offer as well as placed moves to substantially increase the content of joint military to military exercises in the meeting,” Douglas J. Feith visiting US Undersecretary of Defence for Policy told newsmen here.

TOP LEGISLATOR SAYS CHINA-EUROPE CLOSER TIES BENEFITS BOTH

Oslo, 4 June — A closer China-Europe relationship will benefit both sides and that cooperation is “inevitable,” top Chinese legislator Wu Bangguo said Thursday when delivering a keynote speech at the Oslo Conference Centre.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People’s Congress, is paying an official good-will visit to Norway. He said peace and development have been challenged by unilateralism, terrorism, regional conflicts and wars, cross-border crimes and widening gap between the developed and developing countries.

“China is determined to work together to face these challenges and difficulties, he said, noting that China will stick to its independent foreign policy, which takes world peace and common development as its goal.

He said China opposes the use of force or the threatened use of force, advocates the democratization of international relations, equal consultation among all parties and extensive participation in the management of issues.

The top legislator said countries of different cultures or pursuing different modes of development should respect each other, coexist in harmony and seek common ground while respecting differences.

“Both the whole world should, said Wu, strengthen cooperation in eradicating poverty and protecting the environment for a better future.

Europe, an important force in securing world peace and development, has no fundamental conflict of interest with China, Wu said, noting China treats and develops the relations with Europe from a strategic perspective.

China and Europe share common interests, and have identical or similar views on and cooperate closely in major issues concerning world peace and development, he said.

Wu said the China-Europe relationship is in a most dynamic and fruitful period, featuring wider mutual understanding, rapid development of business cooperation and remarkable progress in wide-ranging exchanges.

History has proved and will continue to prove that developing relations between China and Europe conforms to the interests of both sides and benefits both regional and world peace and prosperity, he said.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

AstraZeneca AB, a company incorporated in Sweden, has a legal interest in the trademark CONEXION.

In respect of “Pharmaceutical preparations for the treatment of gastrointestinal diseases.”

The company, through its subsidiary NEXIUM, is the legal owner of the trademark.

The company has rights under the Trademarks Registration Act, 1999, to stop any other party from using the registered trademark in relation to the goods and services specified in the registration.

Top legislator says China-Europe closer ties benefits both

Thailand, fried noodles and Thai and foreign chefs

Thai and foreign chefs join hands in cooking the world’s biggest Padthai or fried noodles on Sunday, 3 June. Fifteen chefs, both local and international, gathered around a diameter of 3.5 meters (7.75 feet) pan, cooking the dish with a mixing of 150 kgs (68 pounds) of white noodles, 840 eggs, 140 kgs (63 pounds) of shrimps plus some of the vegetables which can serve 1,200 people sponsored by Thai Restaurant Association to promote the country’s tourism. The fried noodles were served to passers-by free of charge.

In the backdrop of growing convergence of views on security issues, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and cooperation in development of hi-tech weapons.
Russian tax officials raid YUKOS headquarters

MOSCOW, 3 June—Tax police raided the offices of embattled Russian oil firm on Thursday in the latest search for evidence relating to claims of tax evasion by the company, YUKOS said.

“Searches are being conducted in our head office and old offices,” a company spokesman said. “The tax officials are demanding documents relating to YUKOS for 1998-2000.”

The raid is the latest of a string conducted by tax police. YUKOS is contesting a 3.4-billion-US-dollar tax ministry claim relating to the 2000 financial year, which the firm has said it could drive it into bankruptcy.

Philippines to focus on ocean protection on “WED” celebration

MANILA, 4 June —The Philippines Government will join other nations in celebrating the World Environ-
ment Day (WED) on Saturday with the theme as “Wanted! Seas and Oceans-Dead or Alive?” Philippine News Agency (PNA) reported Wednesday.

He also said that the celebration this year will include signing a commitment for the protection of seas and oceans, dragon boat rowing competition, the coastal clean-up, a 34-kilometre cycling for clean air, mangrove planting and photo exhibition.

The World Environment Day is primarily intended to give a human face to environmental issues, empower people to become active agents of sustainable development; and promote an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards the environment, Gorran said.

Hari Kostov becomes Macedonian Premier

SKOPJE, 4 June—The Macedonian Parliament has endorsed former interior minister Hari Kostov as the new prime minister, filling the post vacated by Branko Crvenkovski when he was elected president in mid-May.

The 120-seat Parliament approved Kostov by a margin of 128 votes to 12 in a vote late on Wednesday after three days of debate.

The former banker is Crvenkovski’s handpicked successor. Although not an official member of Crvenkovski’s Social Demo-
cratic Party, Kostov is close-
ly of the new president and became prime chief when his coalition won elections in 2002.

The 44-year-old told members of Parliament on Monday he would continue a policy of economic reform and progress toward European Union and NATO mem-
bership.—MNA/Reuters

Pakistan test fires another missile

ISLAMABAD, 5 June—Pakistan on Friday successfully test-fired a ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads, the second such test in less than a week, a military official said.

“We have conducted another test of Ghauri missiles,” a military official told Reuters. He gave no details.

On Saturday, Pakistan test fired a Ghauri missile capable of carrying all types of war-
heads and travelling up to 900 miles. Pakistan says its weapons programme is in response to that of India, with which it has fought three wars since both countries won independence from Britain in 1947. Analysts say the tests were a signal to the new Indian Government that Pakistan would not lower its guard despite tentative peace moves in recent months.

Both countries, which went to the brink of a fourth war in 2002, have vowed to carry forward their peace process launched last year despite a change of government in India.

The two sides agreed this week that their experts would meet on June 19 and 20 in New Delhi for talks on nu-
clear confidence-building measures, while foreign sec-
urity officials would meet there from June 27-28. Pakistan test-fired the Shaheen II bal-
listic missile, with a range of 1,250 miles, in March. It said the missile was capable of carrying nuclear warheads to every corner of India.

Ghauri and Shaheen are different versions of a Paki-
stani missile series named Haif, which is a reference to an ancient Islamic weapon.

India's has its own ambitious missile programme and plans to test this year the long-
est-range version yet of Agni, its nuclear-capable ballistic missile. The Ghauri missile was developed by Khan Re-
search Laboratories, Pakistan’s main uranium-enrich-
ment facility, which was named for Abdul Qadeer Khan, once revered as the father of the country’s atom bomb.—MNA/Reuters

Meteorite lights up US Pacific northwest sky

SEATTLE, 4 June—A mete-
orte streaked across the clear skies above Washing-
ton State and the Canadian province of British Colum-
bia early on Thursday, call-
ing for clean air, mangrove
preservation, and other annual rite of nerves for chil-
dren.

“A natural phe-
omenon and not a piece of re-
teering space debris,” said Geoff Chester of the US Naval Observatory in Wash-
ington, DC “What we’re looking at here is something that’s about the size of a computer monitor or a large suit-
case.”

Witnesses in British Colum-
bia and Washington State reported the flash at about 2:40 am local time.

Radar rarely catch me-
teorites, said Allen Kenitzer, a standing ovation from the

Two, two week-old wolf cubs play in a zoo in the southern Russian town of Stavropol on 1 June, 2004. The cubs, part of a litter of eight, were shown to the public for the first time on Thursday.—INTERNET

Princess Diana’s mother dies at 68

LONDON, 4 June—The late Princess Diana’s mother died Thursday after a long illness, her family said. Frances Shand Kydd was 68.

“Earl Spencer’s mother passed away peacefully this morning after suffering from a long illness. Now this is private time for the family to grieve,” said a spokesman for Diana’s brother Earl Charles Spencer.

Shand Kydd, who lived in Scotland, was estranged from Diana at the time of her death in 1997 and had not spoken to her daughter for months. But she told biographers that she viewed the rift as temporary.

Indiana boy wins US spelling bee, runner-up faints

WASHINGTON, 4 June—In a new definition of a fainting spell, the runner-up in the National Spelling Bee apparently fainted on Thursday when asked to spell “alopecoid” in the contest eventually won by a 14-year-old Indiana boy.

Aksay Buddiga, 13, from Colorado Springs, Colorado, recovered enough to spell the word correctly and continued into the cham-
ionship round, but he stood out from the crowd by spell-
ing from a seated position, unlike the other competitors, who remained standing as they spelled.

Buddiga lost on the word “schwimmen,” a German term that means adulthood.

He got plenty of that and a standing ovation from the hundreds of defeated spell-
ers, their families, friends and teachers who watched the three-day competition.

The champion was David Tidmarsh, whose fi-
nal winning word was “au- tochthonous,” meaning in-
digenous.

Tidmarsh, from South Bend, Indiana, also tri-
umphed over such spelling nightmares as “sumpsimus,” “sophrosyne” and “serpigi-

tous.”

That feat won Tidmarsh a 12,000 US dollars cash prize and a huge loving cup he seemed barely able to grasp after the strain of spell-
ing. As soon as he realized he had spelled the final word correctly, he covered his face with his identifying placard and acknowledged later he was crying tears of joy.

He said his favourite movie was “Spellbound,” a documentary about the Na-
tional Spelling Bee, an an-
nual rite of nerves for chil-
dren under the age of 16 ad-
ministered by E W Scripps Co and some 250 other spon-
sors.—MNA/Reuters

A colourful fish passes by a coral in Turkey’s coast in the Mediterranean Sea. Cold-
water corals are much more widespread than previously thought but nevertheless face serious threat, the United Nations warned. —INTERNET
Chelsea’s Veron joins Inter on year loan

MILAN, 4 June — Argentine midfielder Juan Sebastian Veron will join Inter Milan from Chelsea on a season’s loan, the Serie A club said on Thursday.

Veron, 29, is the first player to leave the west London Premier League club since Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho promised a clearout after formally taking over on Wednesday.

A Chelsea statement said Veron would join the Milan club for a year from July 1. Veron played in Italy for Lazio, Parma and Sampdoria before moving to Manchester United for a British record fee of £28.1 million pounds ($56.56 million US dollars) in 2001.

He failed to shine at Old Trafford, finding it hard to adapt to the more physical Premier League game. Manager Alex Ferguson favoured him for Champions League ties but often left him out of domestic matches.

Veron joined Chelsea from Manchester United in a 15-million-pound (26-million-US-dollar) deal shortly after Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich bought the club last July, but endured a miserable season because of a back injury, making only 14 appearances.

MNA/Reuters

Beckham dismisses injury concerns

MANCHESTER (England), 4 June — England captain David Beckham confirmed on Thursday he would be fit for England’s Euro 2004 opener on Friday.

Beckham sustained a knock to a cut on his ankle during England’s 1-1 draw with Japan on Tuesday but said he would be available for their final friendly against Iceland on Saturday.

“It is fine. There is a niggles I have had for a few weeks but it is not a problem,” he told reporters.

Beckham almost missed the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea after breaking his foot prior to the tournament. He took part in the finals after intensive treatment but was never fully fit.

MNA/Reuters

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1 Story in installments
4 Mail-boat
7 Offer services freely
9 Persia
10 Cry
11 Swift
13 Guard
14 Hearsay
15 Abstain
17 Coeur
19 Wading-bird
20 Welsh emblem
22 Judge
23 Quarrelled
24 Result
25 Infer

DOWN
1 Sequence
2 Press
3 Noisily
4 Golf-club
5 Ship’s company
6 Lethargy
7 Lacquered
8 Restored
11 Cheeky
13 Teemed
18 Stoat
21 Aerial toy
22 Act

Greek overcome battling Liechtenstein in friendly

ATHENS, 4 June — Greece scored a 2-0 victory over a battlinLiechtenstein in a rain-drenched international soccer friendly at Reinhofpark Stadium in Vaduz on Thursday.

The Greeks opened a tight Liechtenstein defence when Fiorentina striker Zvonimir Vrsac pounced on a loose ball after a Vassilis Tsalas cross in the 24th minute.

In the second half, Greece coach Otto Rehhagel experimented with a more aggressive midfield which paid off two minutes from time when defender Brenner’s Hatacs overpassed after Angelos Basinas crossed from the left.

The Greeks were missing four first-choice players, including striker Demis Nikolaidis and central defender Nikos Dibazas.

Ronaldo erases lab controversy with penalty hat-trick

RIO DE JANEIRO, 4 June — Ronaldo buried memories of Real Madrid’s dismal end to the season and speculation that he is putting on weight with his penalty hat-trick in Brazil’s 3-1 win over Argentina on Wednesday.

Brazilian television commentators have openly derided the Brazil number nine as “a little on the fat side” in recent months, angering Ronaldo.

“My ideal weight is 88 kilos, I don’t know how much I weigh at the moment and I don’t really care,” he said before the World Cup qualifier in Belo Horizonte.

Against Argentina, Ronaldo made the question irrelevant and looked as sharp as ever, scoring all three penalties and then converted them all. Three were awarded in similar circumstances.

Ronaldo tucked the ball midway inside the Argentine half, ran straight at the heart of the Argentine defence and enticed his opponents to trip him up.

On the first occasion, it was Gabriel Heinze who floored him with a late, sliding tackle. Javier Mascherano was next with a reckless challenge from behind and finally.

ANDY MURRAY

First leg of Olympic torch relay starts in Sydney

SYDNEY, 4 June — The first leg of Athens Olympic flame’s global relay started here Friday morning, with Cathy Freeman, the Sydney Olympic 400-metre champion, becoming the first bearer.

The Athens Olympic torch relay will be the first-ever global tour to go through five continents in the Olympic history. It will involve 11,000 torch bearers in 34 cities of 27 countries and regions.

A chartered jumbo jet dubbed Zeus and carrying the flame arrived at the Sydney airport at 6:10 am (2010 GMT).

The flame was received by Australian Acting Prime Minister John Anderson and Australian Olympic Committee President John Coates.

Freeman, who lit the cauldron at the Sydney Olympic Games, raised high her Athens torch before a wall of cameramen and ran hundreds of metres along side the Sydney harbour.

Crowds of people lined along the route and cheered loud and took photos when the torch passed. Radio and TV broadcast live the relay along the way, in front of listen- ers and watchers.

A total of 277 people, including dozens of sports stars, will carry the flame in the Australian leg of the relay, which will go through Melbourne, the host city of 1956 Olympic Games, on Saturday.

MNA/Xinhua

Scolari to continue coaching Portuguese football team

LISBON, 4 June — Brazilian coach Luiz Felipe Scolari denied Wednesday holding contacts with Benfica and said he will continue to coach the Portuguese soccer national team if it reaches the quarterfinals of the European Championship.

Scolari is in the list of Benfica to replace Spanish Jose Antonio Camacho, who recently signed a contract with Real Madrid of Spain.

The Benfica needed an answer that Scolari claimed he could not give for now. “I have a contract with the Portuguese Football Federation till next 31 July and a commitment with its President Gilberto Mada,” Scolari said.

It was revealed that there is a mutual interest in extending the contract till the 2006 World Cup, but that depends on the results that the Portugal team will obtain in the Euro 2004 to be held on their soil from 12 June to 4 July.

MNA/Xinhua

Brazilian soccer star Ronaldo (R) and his teammate Roberto Carlos smile during their practice at San Carlos de Amapoando in Santiago, on 4 June, 2004. The Brazilian national team will face Chile on 6 June for seventh World Cup qualifying match. — Inraeuter
Sights “Mingalabar”

Sunday, June 6, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours

WEATHER

Saturday, June 5, 2004

MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin State, upper Sagain and Ayeayawady Divisions, scattered in Rakhine State, Bago, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, isolated in Shan State, lower Sagain, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Katha (2.36) inches and Kyakphyu (1.93) inches.

Maximum temperature on 5-6-2004 was 20.8°C (60°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 5-6-2004 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 4-5-2004 was (4.8) hours approx. Rainfall on 5-6-2004 was 0.00 inch (0.00 mm) at Yangon, 1.00 inch (25.40 mm) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 5225.40 mm (2067.12 inches) at Yangon Airport and 4583.30 mm (181.03 inches) at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 6 mph from Southeast (10.30 hours) on 4-6-2004. Bay influence: According to the observations at 12:30 hours MST today, a low pressure area has formed over West Central Bay and adjoining Southwest Bay. Monsoon wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 6 mph from Southeast (10.30 hours) on 4-6-2004. Bay influence: According to the observations at 12:30 hours MST today, a low pressure area has formed over West Central Bay and adjoining Southwest Bay. Monsoon wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 6 mph from Southeast (10.30 hours) on 4-6-2004.

Forecast valid until evening of 6-6-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin State, upper Sagain and Ayeayawady Divisions, scattered in Rakhine State, Bago, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, isolated in Shan State, lower Sagain, Mandalay and Magway Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Katha (2.36) inches and Kyakphyu (1.93) inches.

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Weak to moderate monsoon. Forecast for Yangon and neighboring area for 6-6-2004: Likelyhood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Significant Water Level Bulletin

Issued at 12.00 hrs MST on 5-6-2004

According to the 06:00 MST observation today, the water level (582) cm of Chindwin river at Hkamti shows a sharp rise of (204) cm (about 7 feet) within 24 hrs. The Chindwin water level will sharply rise to 180 cm (about 6 feet) above the present water level along Chindwin River during the next 2 to 5 days.
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers an address at City Housing Project Supervisory Committee Meeting.— MNA

Yangon City upgraded and renovated to possess characteristics of an international city

Meeting No 2/2004 of City Housing Project Supervisory Committee held

Yangon, 5 June—Chairman of City Housing Project Supervisory Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt addressed the meeting No 2/2004 of the Supervisory Committee held at the meeting hall of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development under the Ministry of Construction on Bogyoke Aung San Road here this morning. Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon Mayor, deputy ministers, the Vice-Mayor, members of the Supervisory Committee, officials of the State Peace and Development Council, heads of department and others.

In his address, Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said that continued efforts are to be made to complete housing projects under implementation at every opportunity as new housing projects cannot be implemented in the rainy season.

In undertaking housing projects under implementation it is required to maintain the proper flow of drains which can be blocked by a series of the construction work. The Commander of Yangon Command is taking close supervision for proper flow of drains in Yangon City, and those who are engaged in implementing housing projects and departmental officials, on their part, are to provide assistance for successful realization of the project.

Upgrading and renovation measures are being taken for Yangon City to possess the characteristics of a city of international level, and there still much to be done.

Keeping pace with advancement in science and technology there have been changes and developments in methods and techniques of construction. Thus, modern techniques and construction methods are to be applied keeping abreast of the times. Housing buildings undertaken by private sectors need to be magnificent and splendid meeting the set standard while efforts are to be made for renovation of old buildings.

Steps are being taken for greening and beautifying Yangon City to possess the characteristics of a city. Efforts are being made step by step for greening the environs of Inya Lake and for the emergence of a garden of international level in the environs of Kandawgyi.

Moreover, constant efforts are to be made for renovation of drains and platforms in the city to maintain them. Measures are to be taken for renovation of roads and keeping abreast of the times. Housing buildings undertaken by private sectors need to be magnificent and splendid meeting the set standard while efforts are to be made for renovation of old buildings.

Steps are being taken for greening and beautifying Yangon City to possess the characteristics of a city. Efforts are being made step by step for greening the environs of Inya Lake and for the emergence of a garden of international level in the environs of Kandawgyi.

Electronic industry becomes important in efforts to make progress in industrial sector

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects Electronic Products Exhibition

Yangon, 5 June—The Electronic Products Industries Supervisory Committee Meeting 1/2004 in conjunction with the Electronic Products Exhibition was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs on Pyay Road this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win. Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung and member ministers, deputy ministers and senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments concerned and officials of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, officials of organizations and electronic companies and guests.

Chairman of the Supervisory Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win delivered an address. The Secretary-1 said he would explain in brief the State’s policies to emerge a modern developed nation through the development of industrial sectors in meeting with officials of the minorities that are related with manufacturing and use of electronic products. Being an agro-based country, the government is laying emphasis on development of the production of farm equipment and agriculture-based industries leading to establishment of mechanized farming for boosting production of agricultural productive forces, he said.

Establishing the industries which contribute towards both the development of agricultural sector, other industrial sectors needed for the country are to be set up step by step and the country has to be transformed into modern industrialized one, he said.

(See page 10)