Senior General Than Shwe sends condolences to US on demise of former President Mr Ronald Reagan

YANGON, 6 June—Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of condolence to the Honourable George W Bush, President of the United States of America, on the demise of the former President of the United States of America, Mr Ronald Reagan.

A similar message of condolence has been conveyed by Senior General Than Shwe to Mrs Nancy Reagan, wife of the late former President Mr Ronald Reagan.—MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects classrooms of Hlinethaya BEMS No 1.—mna

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attends opening of school buildings at BEMS No 1, BEPPS No 10 in Hlinethaya

YANGON, 6 June—Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt this morning attended the ceremonies to open extensions of No 1 Basic Education Middle School and No 10 Basic Education Post-Primary School in Hlinethaya Township.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, district and township authorities, members of the School Boards of Trustees, Parent-Teacher Associations, townswelders, well-wishers, school heads, teachers, social organizations and students. The ceremony to open the annexe of Hlinethaya BEMS No 1 was held in Yayokkan Ward at 9 am. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min formally opened the annexe.

The Prime Minister and party inspected the new school building and multimedia classroom. Next, the General and party attended the ceremony to open new school building of Hlinethaya Basic Education Post-Primary School No 10 in Ward 20. On the occasion, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min formally opened the annexe.

The Prime Minister and party inspected the new school building and multimedia classroom. The ceremony to open the annexe of Hlinethaya BEMS No 1 was held in Yayokkan Ward at 9 am. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min formally opened the annexe.

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

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

Since the advent of mankind on Earth, human beings have harnessed the forces of nature to improve their 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. 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.

The 2004 World Environment Day, organized by National Commission for Environment Affairs, was observed at Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park in Hlme Township at 5 June, with an address by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. In his address the Prime Minister said that Myanmar is paying greater attention to environmental issues in the country, in order to promote effective environmental management.

The Environmental Conservation Committee has recently been formed and that this Committee and its task forces will implement programmes to effectively address environmental issues in the country.

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. The world population now stands at 6.2 billion. It continues to grow each day. The increase in population means greater 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 demands. 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.

Over the past three decades, a large number of environmental regulations 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 situation continues to deteriorate. On the positive side, there is growing awareness in the world that economic development cannot be sustained with irrational actions of mankind. The rise of science and technology brought about tremendous economic and social developments. The rise of science and technology.

Refresher course for core peer educators concludes

YANGON, 6 June—A closing ceremony of a refresher course for core peer educators took place at the meeting hall of the multi-purpose building of the Myanmar Material and Child Welfare Association, at the corner of Thanthu Street and Parami Road in South Okkalapa Township here this morning. The course was conducted under the juvenile reproductive promotion programme jointly organized by the MMCWA, the UNFPA and the IPPF. Present on the occasion were Vice-President of MMCWA Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint and CEC members, Patron of Yangon Division MMCWA Supervision Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay and members, officials of department of health, course instructors and trainees.

First, President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khan Win Shwe made a concluding speech on the occasion. Next, President of MMCWA, Vice-President and Secretary Dr Daw Wai Wai Tha gave completion certificates to the trainees and the ceremony came to a close.—MNA

Commandar, minister inspects railroad sections, bridges

YANGON, 6 June—Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min accompanied by Deputy Minister U Pe Than met with service personnel under the ministry at Pyay Station in Pyay on 4 June morning. Later, the minister fulfilled requirements. Afterwards, the minister arrived at Myanmar Station via Rangoon and met with officials. He instructed them to run the train on right time and substitute new rail tracks in place of the old ones. On arrival at Myokwin Bridge, he gave instructions on duration of the bridge and prevention of bank erosion. Yesterday morning, the minister and party inspected durability of Natmau Bridge. The minister called on Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and reported matters on bettterment of of Pathin-Hinthada-Kyinngon railroad section. Next, they inspected Yekyi-Athok-Pahtain railroad section.—MNA

Various kinds of health...

When health care services have been upgraded in major cities public health care services are to be extended in conjunction with public health and community health to rural regions. The Ministry of Health envisaging the strength of the related ministries are to strive together with social organizations in launching public health and community health and public health care services.

Regarding rural development tasks systematic steps are to be taken in all health sector such as acquisition to potable water, using fly-proof latrines, sanitation of surrounding areas, further reducing mortality rate of infants and children under 5, obtaining nourishment with local foods, personal hygiene and fulfillment of health staff.

Arrangements are to be made to produce sufficient number of highly-qualified health staff including doctors, nurses and midwives in the whole country. In control of lethal diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB continue efforts are to be made with added momentum for successful realization of the project. Strenuous efforts are to be made to extend school health care services, especially at primary schools in far-flung areas, rural areas and poor suburbs. At a time when marked progress has been made in reducing smoking continued steps are to be taken to reduce over-consumption of alcohol.

The Ministry of Health is to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts together with private sectors to be able to cure every disease by means of sophisticated medical equipment and therapies and to win the trust of the people to rely on its health care services.

As there have been highly-qualified health staff in the nation private sectors are to lend themselves to fulfillment of modern medical equipment and techniques. The government has been giving priority to development of traditional medicines that has been practiced in successive eras and producing them with modern equipment and techniques. Thus, officials of the Ministry of Health, traditional medicine practitioners and traditional medicine entrepreneurs are to be made concerted efforts for successful realization of the project. It is obvious that the Ministry of Health has been able to carry out tasks for ensuring emergency health care services, availability of potable water and prevention of infectious diseases in the natural disaster prone areas. But preventive measures are to be taken in anticipation of such disaster. At the same time, continued efforts are to be made to provide health care services which are carried out season-wise in line with the changes of climate.

Next, Secretary of National Health Committee Dr Kyi Soe reported on implementation of resolutions of the 39th meeting of the Committee.

Afterwards, Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint reported on implementation of the UN Millennium Vision and related matters on betterment of of Pathein-Hinthada-Kyinngon of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council and the ceremony came to a close.—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

President of MMCWA Dr Daw Khan Win Shwe presents a certificate to a trainee. — MNA

POEM:

Sail up, Flag-aflutters our vow
* Seven times, step by step
Carefully thought and planned
Raise the tempo regularly
Sail up against the tide
Plants entwined, creepers gain strength
Prominent Convention
Brethren of same flesh and blood
Of all strata in our land
Victory flag hoisted valiantly
Interest of the Union
Kept uppermost.
* Forward Victory Post Golden Land
Rowing in the same boat
Like triple twine, hands held tight
Both sail and oar employed
If wind should strike the sail
Use the strength of the oar
Let there be impediments
Not worried even if our breaks
Will use hands as oar
Unrelenting resolve.

Kyaw Saw Han (Trs)
Six US soldiers killed in Iraq

Baghdad, 5 June—Five US soldiers were killed during fighting in a Baghdad neighbourhood, as US and British diplomats finetuned proposals in a revised draft UN Security Council resolution.

Five US soldiers were killed when their convoy was attacked on the edge of Sadr City, a Baghdad slum of two million people that includes supporters of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr. The slum is named after the cleric’s father, murdered during the regime of ousted dictator Saddam Hussein. More than 800 US troops have been killed in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion.

of those, 490 have died in action since US President George W Bush declared major combat in Iraq over on 1 May last year.

Meanwhile, a US soldier was killed and three were wounded when a roadside bomb wrecked their vehicle in Baghdad Saturday, a US military spokesman said. “Their vehicle was flipped by an improvised explosive device in northeastern Baghdad,” he said.

A burnt-out Humvee smoldered, blocking plumes of black smoke as military medics tended wounded soldiers and at least two military ambulances could be seen.

Iraqi Minister sees Chalabi role in new government

United Nations, 6 June—Iraqi politician Ahmad Chalabi will have a role to play in the new government taking over in Baghdad on June 30 despite US suspicions he spied for Iran, a top Iraqi Cabinet minister said on Thursday.

“Chalabi still in my view will have a role to play. This is his country,” Foreign Min- ister Hoshyar Zebari said after appearing before the UN Security Council.

“Chalabi is a friend of ours. He was a leading member of the Governing Council. We are sorry to hear all these difficulties, all these rumours, all this investiga- tion going on,” Zehbari told reporters. “We are following this news and develop- ment with great distress.”

Chalabi, a long-time Iraqi exile and Pentagon darling once thought to be a top can- didate to lead Iraq, was forced into exile after the fall of Saddam Hussein, is under fire in Washington af-

Thousands protest in Washington on Iraq

Washington, 6 June—Thousands protested in Washington Lafayette Park across the street from the White House Saturday demanding the return of the troops from Iraq.

The father of Nick Berg, the Philadelphia man beheaded by al-Qaida operatives in Iraq last month, spoke out against the Bush administration’s policies at the protest.

He urged Americans to “act now to stop war and end racism” and to “take non- violent direct action” to “let our leaders know (that) in this democracy, they have to do a better job of representing what we, the American people want, and what we want is peace now.”

Berg said he held “the Bush administra- tion accountable for denying (his) son his civil rights for the 13 days of his illegal detention,” and it of “callous behaviour” which contributed to Nick’s death.”

The demonstration, organized by the ANSWER Coalition, accused Bush and De- fense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld of war crimes. Shouting slogans against the war and demanding an “end to foreign occupation” in Iraq, Haiti, and the Palestinian territories, the protesters continued their march to the resi- dence of Rumsfeld in downtown Washing- ton. Neither Bush nor Rumsfeld were in Washington. —Internet

S Africa says UN requires urgent reform

Cape Town, 5 June—South Africa called on Thursday for urgent reform of the United Nations which it said was fast becoming a tool in the hands of powerful Western states.

South Africa’s Foreign Affairs Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma told Parlia- ment that the United Nations, which France opposed.

“Historically, the United Nations — the Security Council especially — has been an important symbol of the international community’s commitment to peace and security,” she said, without elaborat- ing. “The Security Council is losing its status as an agent of the United Nations. South Africa has led de-

China, ASEAN Senior Officials’ Consultation ends in Cambodia

Shangdongville (Cambodia), 5 June—The two-day 10th China-ASEAN Senior Officials’ Consultation ended here Friday with common understandings following in-depth discussions on further cooperation.

The two sides main- tained that the strategic part- nership between China and the Association of South- East Asian Nations (ASEAN) established in 2003 was a milestone event in the history of the two sides, which marked the re- lationship between China and ASEAN has entered a new high level.

During the meeting, the two sides decided to prepare a Joint Declaration for Ad- vancing China-ASEAN Stra- tegic Partnership, and to lay- out the cooperation between the two sides in various fields in the next five years. The meeting also dis- cussed the promotion of ne-

Thousands rally in Paris against Bush, Iraq war

Paris, 6 June—Thousands of people in the French capital demonstrated against the war in Iraq on Saturday as President Bush met France’s Jacques Chirac ahead of ceremonies commemorating the D-Day landings in Normandy.


Police estimated 12,000 took part in the protest. Organizers were not available to give their own estimate.

Demonstrators chanted “Go home” and “Bush — Assassin,” but were banned from the area around the Elysee presidential palace.

As they met, ceremonies were underway under way in Normandy to mark the 60th anniversary of the Allied D-Day landings in June 1944.

“I hope Chirac stands by France’s oppo- sition to sending troops to Iraq,” said pro-

restler Micheline Entine, 70.

Eugenie Printers, a 23-year-old student, said she wanted the foreign troops in Iraq to be withdrawn. “We feel only regret and pity for Bush. That man cares about nothing but his own interests,” she said.

A delegation of US citizens joined the march through central Paris. Rob Mohl, an American living in the city, carried a US flag adorned with the word “Shame.”

“I love my country. I hate my president.” One American pro-
tester, disguised as the Statue of Liberty in a green tunic and with a fake blue tear glued to her painted face, said: “Bush is an embar-

sion to the United States. It is very important to see how the world is reacting.”

Police sealed off many streets close to the march, and the protests remained peaceful. —Internet

SOUTH AFRICA'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER NKOSAZANA DLAMINI ZUMA TOLD PARLIAMENT THAT THE UNITED NATIONS, WHICH FRANCE OPPOSED. —INTERNET

UN security council especially is losing its status as an agent of the United Nations. South Africa has led de-

Negotiations on China-ASEAN Free Trade Area, speeding up ASEAN integration and the enhancement of coop- eration in security in non-traditional areas.

The participants also ex- changed views on the re- gional and international situ- ation.

MNA/Xinhua

Government accountable for denying (his) son his right to real Council backing.

MNA/Reuters

HUNDREDS OF ANTI-WAR PROTESTERS MARCH THROUGH DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES, ON 5 JUNE, 2004, TO CALL FOR AN END TO THE US-LED OCCUPATION OF IRAQ. —INTERNET

millation to carry out the obligations emanating from the Security Council,” she said.

“The United Nations ur- gently needs to be reformed,” she said, without elaborat-

ing. “The Security Council is losing its status as an agent for our collective security.”

South Africa has led de-

hands for changes to the UN Security Council especially since a United States-led decision to invade Iraq with- out clear Council backing. —MNA/Reuters
Roadside bomb kills two US soldiers in Iraq

Baghdad, 5 June—A roadside bomb killed two American soldiers and wounded two in a series of attacks Saturday against occupation forces and their Iraqi allies, while tensions eased in the Shiite holy cities of Najaf and Kufa just weeks ahead of the transfer of sovereignty to the new Iraqi government.

Meanwhile, radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr met in Najaf with Iraq’s most influential spiritual leader Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani for the first time since the anti-US cleric launched an uprising against coalition forces in April, an aide to al-Sadr said.

Najaf and Kufa were calm as Iraqi police extended their control after a deal announced Thursday to remove gunmen loyal to al-Sadr from the streets.

Elsewhere, violence persisted, underscoring the grave security threat facing occupation forces and the government


determined to take power June 30.

Iraq’s new prime minister, Iyad Allawi, has called for a halt to attacks on Americans and other foreign soldiers, saying their presence would be needed after the transfer of sovereignty to help improve security.

Allawi said in an interview Saturday with Al-Jazeera television that security would be one of the major tasks of his new government. He criticized the US decision last year to disband the Iraqi army after Saddam Hussein’s regime collapsed. “We will try to resolve these problems and we are looking forward to building a strong Iraq, based on love, peace and brotherhood,” Allawi said.

The roadside bombing, which occurred in eastern Baghdad, was the second fatal attack against American troops in the capital in as many days. Five US soldiers were killed and five wounded Friday in an ambush near the Shiite neighborhood Sadr City, an al-Sadr stronghold.

Elsewhere in Sadr City, Al-Sadr’s militia members attacked an Iraqi police station and American soldiers guarding the building returned fire, wounding at least one militiamen, witnesses said.

Assailants also ambushed two civilian sport utility vehicles, favored by Western civilian contractors, on the road to Baghdad’s international airport.—Internet

Vietnam promotes safe usage of medicines

HANOI, 5 June—Seeing many rural residents buy medicines without doctors’ prescription, Vietnam has further promoted propaganda about safe usage of drugs.

To encourage more rural people, especially poor ones to undergo medical checks-up and treatment at hospitals and use drugs with prescription, the country is conducting more campaigns on telling them about the importance of the two activities, local newspaper Family and Society on Friday quoted director of the Institute for Health, Environment and Development, Pham Huy Dung, as saying.

The Ministry of Health has asked healthcare establishments and localities nationwide to foster health insurance, and organize trips to rural and remote areas to give free medical examination and treatment to poor people.

Besides, Vietnamese children up to six years old are to receive medical checks-up and treatment free of charge, according to the newly-revised Law on Child Protection, Care and Education.

Now, many rural people in the country, with yearly income per capita of around 250 US dollars, cannot cover expenses at provincial or central hospitals, so they tend to buy medicines themselves without doctor’s prescription.

On average, poor people, who have to take medicines 5.4 times a year, buy pharmacists by themselves without doctor's prescription.

5.9 times, partly due to being unable to cover hospital expenses, Dung said.

Other reasons for the phenomena include that they are in the habit of purchasing medicines without prescription, take medical advice from their relatives and friends, find it more convenient to go to pharmacies, and have low awareness of the necessity of using drugs with prescription, he added.

Vietnam’s pharmaceutical industry recorded annual growth of 15 percent in recent years. Its annual spending per capita on pharmaceuticals increased to 7.6 US dollars in 2002.—MNA/Reuters

Former US President Ronald Reagan dies

WASHINGTON, 5 June—Former US President Ronald Reagan has died after a decade-long battle with Alzheimer’s disease.

His vice president, who forged a conservative revolution that transformed American politics, died on Saturday at the age of 93.

His wife, Nancy, and family members had gathered at his bedside at his house in the Bel Air district of Los Angeles.

A US TV networks broke into programming to announce Reagan’s death just after 16.45 (20.45 GMT) on Saturday.

Reagan suffered from the brain-wasting Alzheimer’s disease since 1994, a condition is believed to have worsened in the past week. Reagan was US president from 1981 to 1989.—Internet

China to make Shanghai World Expo most successful

BEIJING, 5 June—China will try its best to make the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai one of the most successful, most attractive and most memorable international events in history.

Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi made the remarks here Thursday at the first meeting of the organization committee of the Shanghai World Expo, which also marked the inauguration of the organization committee.

Wu, also member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and Chen Liangyu, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee, addressed the meeting attended by officials from concerned departments.

Wu, also head of the organization committee, said the World Expo is a great event for people of all countries to enhance exchanges and cooperation. To successfully hold the Shanghai World Expo is of vital importance to speeding up China’s reform and opening-up process and boosting the cooperation and exchanges between China and other countries.

At present, she said, the organization committee of the Shanghai World Expo should set down the action program and carefully carry out the preparation work, including choosing the song and emblem of the Expo, and promoting publicity.

China looks forward to the Expo to be a success and admits that the Expo could not be held without the support of the world.—MNA/Xinhua

Scientists say develop new SARS tracing method

SINGAPORE, 5 June—Scientists in Singapore on Friday they had developed a faster method of detecting strains of the deadly SARS virus.

A new chip containing a “genetic fingerprint” reduces the length of molecular testing of the flu-like disease to three days from about one week, the Genome Institute of Singapore said.

The faster a strain of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is pinpointed, the quicker health workers can identify the origin of an outbreak and who else may be infected — critical steps in bringing outbreaks under control.

“It can help to tell where and when an infected individual may have contracted the disease,” said Dr. Edison Liu, executive director of the institute, referring to the new chip.

The development is seen as a breakthrough in technology that could lead to rapid testing for the SARS virus and reduce the time needed to trace the number of people infected.

Virus strains have been linked to outbreaks in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a top Russian diplomat said.

In an exclusive interview with the media, the official unveiled that Russia was set to finalize important joint projects in the near future with Gulf states as part of a new drive targeting the region. Russia has made great strides in technolog- y over the years, particularly in the area of oil and gas. The technology is cost-effective and of top quality in the same time.

Russia is able to make a breakthrough in technology trading field, it would really boost the already excellent bilateral relations between the two countries, said the Russian official.

The bilateral trade between Russia and the UAE is seen at around 350 million US dollars annually, which can be increased manifold since economic liberalization in Russia, he added.

In releasing the updated figures, the figure provided no information about the people, places or times involved. In the past, military officials have cited concerns about privacy rights and judicial process to justify keeping disclosures to a minimum.

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Bangladeshis burn US flags before Rumsfeld visit

DHAKA, June 5 — Bangladeshi Islamic activists burned American flags and chanted anti-US slogans on Friday to protest against a visit by US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and stress their opposition to Bangladeshis troops going to Iraq.

Rumsfeld, on a visit to Asia, told reporters traveling with him that he did not intend to press countries to provide peackeeping forces for Iraq, and Bangladeshis Government officials have said they would not send troops to Iraq on anyone’s behalf.

Nevertheless, some Bangladeshi officials and the protesters on the streets of the capital, Dhaka, after Friday prayers, said they believed Rumsfeld would ask for troops for Iraq when he arrives for a visit on Saturday.

The leader of one radical Muslim group said any troop dispatch would be vehemently opposed.

“If Bangladesh sends troops to Iraq to please the United States...the revolutionary Muslim people of Bangladesh will resist the move at all costs,” Jafurrula Khan, secretary of the Bangladeshi Khelafat Andolan, told followers outside the city’s main Baitul Mukarram mosque.

Bangladesh has a tradition of sending troops to trouble spots under UN control.

While Rumsfeld said he would not press any country directly for troops, he said Asian states were aware of US desires for such support.

The United States and Britain are pressing the UN Security Council for a new resolution on Iraq under which the United Nations could issue a mandate for an international peacekeeping force.

Foreign Minister Mohamed Morshed Khan told reporters on Friday Bangladesh would not send troops to Iraq or any other country “on behalf, or against, anyone.”

“We won’t send our troops to kill people or to be killed,” he said, adding that Bangladesh would only ever act under a UN mandate.

Police set up barbed-wire barricades near the Baitul Mukarram mosque to contain the noisy protesters from among the five radical Islamic groups.

“Bangladesh should not host a war criminal and enemy of mankind like Rumsfeld who not only killed thousands of innocent Iraqis, but was also responsible for abusing Muslim prisoners,” said Moulana ATM Hemyetuddin, a leader of the Islamic Constitution Movement.

Police dispersed the protesters after the flag burning and prevented them from regrouping, witnesses said.

MNA/Reuters

Bush faces Italian anger over Iraq on Rome visit

ROME, June 5 — Italians greeted American soldiers as liberators when they marched into Rome 60 years ago but President George W Bush faces deep anger on his visit on Friday over the actions of a new generation of US soldiers in Iraq.

Bush arrived in the early hours of Friday in a city gearing up for the possibility of violent demonstrations.

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi said he was worried about violence during Bush’s two-day visit and urged protesters to show “maturity and understanding of history”.

While Berlusconi has been among Bush’s closest allies, most Italians opposed last year’s US-led invasion of Iraq and there have been many calls for Rome to withdraw its some 2,700 troops.

Bush said on Tuesday that “the special investigation, which also included relatives of the prisoners, were not legally entitled to the pension and that the law at issue does not allow for such lawsuits.”

The lawsuit had been filed in April 2002 by 17 of the American troopers held captive in Iraq during the war and by 37 of their immediate family members.

They sued Iraq, Saddam and the Iraqi Intelligence Service, claiming personal injuries caused by torture during their captivity and citing the suffering by their family members. Iraq never responded to the lawsuit.

The judgment was awarded by a federal judge in July last year after the US-led war resulted in Saddam’s ouster.

The three-judge panel ruled the plaintiffs’ allegations (in this case) “were not legally entitled to pension because they were not legally entitled to this judgment and that the law at issue does not allow for such lawsuits.”

According to the ministry, more than 790 people have contracted pneumonia and 36,200 others suffered from serious respiratory diseases in the area.

The ministry said that the temperature in Cusco, a high-altitude mountainous region, will drop to 27 degrees Celsius below zero in the coming days, and health authorities are taking preventive measures to keep pneumonia from further spreading.

MNA/Xinhua

Cold current kills over 30 children in Peru

LIMA, June 5 — The Peruvian Health Ministry announced Thursday that over 30 children under five have been killed by pneumonia caused by cold current in the central region of Cusco since April.

According to the ministry, more than 790 people have contracted pneumonia and 36,200 others suffered from serious respiratory diseases in the area.

The ministry said that the temperature in Cusco, a high-altitude mountainous region, will drop to 27 degrees Celsius below zero in the coming days, and health authorities are taking preventive measures to keep pneumonia from further spreading.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan seizes 927 kilos of morphine near Afghan border

ISLAMABAD, June 6 — The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in southwestern Pakistan said Friday that they have seized a huge quantity of morphine from the area close to Pakistan-Afghan border.

The special investigation cell of the anti-narcotics force, Islamabad in collaboration with regional directorate ANF Quetta has successfully seized 927 kilos of morphine from the north of district Chaghi, an ANF statement said.

“Then narcotics were dumped with an intention to transport it abroad, particularly to Europe,” said the statement.

The traffickers were in search of an opportunity to transport the narcotics to various destinations as different consignments.

MNA/Xinhua

US court dismisses suit against Iraq by 1991 POWs

WASHINGTON, June 5 — A US appeals court on Friday threw out an award of more than $95 million US dollars in damages against Iraq, Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi Intelligence Service and dismissed a lawsuit by 17 American prisoners of war held during the 1991 Gulf War.

The lawsuit had been filed in April 2002 by 17 of the American troopers held captive in Iraq during the war and by 37 of their immediate family members.

They sued Iraq, Saddam and the Iraqi Intelligence Service, claiming personal injuries caused by torture during their captivity and citing the suffering by their family members. Iraq never responded to the lawsuit.

The judgment was awarded by a federal judge in July last year after the US-led war resulted in Saddam’s ouster.

“We are mindful of the gravity of the (plaintiffs’ allegations) in this case,” Judge Harry Edward wrote in the ruling. That they “endured this suffering while acting in servicing their country is all the more sobering,”

He added.

Edward said the court cannot ignore the magnitude of the judgment and its impact on the US foreign policy when the law is “indisputably clear” that the plaintiffs “were not legally entitled to this judgment.”

MNA/Reuters

Accused US soldier wants Cheney, Rumsfeld evidence

DENVER, June 5 — An American woman soldier at the centre of the Iraq prison abuse scandal has asked Vice-President Dick Cheney and Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld to testify on her behalf, her attorneys said on Thursday.

The soldier, Private First Class Lynndie England, is due to appear at a preliminary hearing in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where she is based, on June 22.

England appeared in at least two notorious photographs taken at Abu Ghraib Prison outside Baghdad, in one of which she holds a leash attached to the neck of a prostate, naked Iraqi man.

England’s lawyer Rose Mary Zapor told a news conference that Cheney and Rumsfeld were on a list of more than 130 people that the defence would like to call as witnesses.

Zapor said England’s defence that she was only following orders could be bolstered by evidence from Rumsfeld and Cheney. “The vice-president would have knowledge of Iraq policy’s impact,”

He added.

England’s defense team also wants to question Rumsfeld, who not only killed thousands of innocent Iraqis, but was also responsible for abusing Muslim prisoners,” said Moulana ATM Hemyetuddin, a leader of the Islamic Constitution Movement.

Police dispersed the protesters after the flag burning and prevented them from regrouping, witnesses said.

MNA/Reuters

Pakistan seizes 927 kilos of morphine near Afghan border

ISLAMABAD, June 6 — The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in southwestern Pakistan said Friday that they have seized a huge quantity of morphine from the area close to Pakistan-Afghan border.

The special investigation cell of the anti-narcotics force, Islamabad in collaboration with regional directorate ANF Quetta has successfully seized 927 kilos of morphine from the north of district Chaghi, an ANF statement said.

“Then narcotics were dumped with an intention to transport it abroad, particularly to Europe,” said the statement.

The traffickers were in search of an opportunity to transport the narcotics to various destinations as different consignments.

MNA/Xinhua
Radical Iraqi cleric rejects interim government

Kuwait, 5 June — Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr rejected Iraq's new interim government on Friday but agreed to stand down after a shaky truce with American forces after weeks of clashes.

Sadr's men have fought fierce battles with US troops in and around the holy city of Najaf, but the area was quiet for the first time in days on Friday after Shiite leaders helped broker a fresh truce attempt.

A new interim government was appointed by the United Nations on Tuesday after consultation with the US-led administration and Iraqi leaders, and is due to take over from US occupiers on June 30.

"I do not want to have anything to do with this government," said a statement issued by Sadr and read out by Sheikh Jader al-Khafaji at Friday prayers at a mosque in Kufa, near Najaf.

"I don't believe any Iraq would accept this appointment of a government by the occupier. There is no freedom or democracy without independence," he said, speaking to several thousand worshippers gathered at the mosque where Sadr normally preaches.

"Which country has accepted the UN appointing its rulers except for Afghanistand and Iran?" Leave us to decide our fate as a unified people, not under submission to the occupier," he said.

Sadr also called for elections to determine the country's next government. Under current plans, polls are planned for January 2005 to elect members of a transitional government that will draft a new Constitution. More polls will then be chosen constitutionally elected government, perhaps in early 2006.

Shiite politicians said earlier on Friday that 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 after hours of talks with the firebrand preacher in Najaf, 100 miles south of Baghdad.

A truce attempt last week failed to take hold and there have been frequent skirmishes around Najaf.

Iraqi top Shiite religious leaders have been highly critical of Sadr for fighting in holy cities — but have also said the US military response was heavy-handed.

Washington is keen to see a truce before the June 30 handover of power.

—MNA/Reuters

Russia lifts ban on imports of EU meat

Brussels, 5 June — The European Union (EU) said Friday that Russia had agreed to lift its ban on meat imports from EU member states after shipments were suspended last week by Moscow after a dispute over veterinary certificates.

European Commission spokesman Reijo Kemppinen said meat exports would be resumed "very soon" after Commission President Romano Prodi and Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov held telephone talks Thursday.

Both sides agreed to continue technical negotiations on export certificates covering EU meat exports to Russia by the end of September, Kemppinen said.

Fradkov "promised that the Russian Government will lift these restrictions and will allow trade in foodstuffs to continue freely," he said.

On Tuesday, Russia's Agriculture Ministry suspended meat imports from the EU after the 25-nation bloc failed to adopt a single veterinary certificate.

Russia demanded that the EU provide a uniform certificate instead of certificates issued by its individual member state from 1 May but later extended the deadline to June 1.

Kemppinen said the Russian ban affects 1.3 billion euros (1.6 billion US dollars) of European exports annually.

—MNA/Xinhua

Indian FM arrives Kathmandu for official visit

Kathmandu, 5 June — Indian Foreign Minister Shyama Prasad Mukherjee arrived here Friday afternoon for a two-day official good-will visit to Nepal at the invitation of the Nepali Government.

Talking briefly to journalists at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Singh said, "Nepal is one of our closest neighbours and friend. In the common minimum programme of the United Progressive Alliance, the first priority of our foreign policy is further improving and strengthening our relations with our neighbours."

"It is no coincidence that Nepal is the country I am visiting after assuming office as India's external affairs minister," Singh said in a written statement.

—MNA/Xinhua

Kuwaiti Oil Minister says oil prices to fall to $30 per barrel

Kuwait City, 6 June — Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah predicted Thursday that the world oil prices will fall to some $30 US dollars per barrel following OPEC's meeting in Beirut, Kuwait News Agency reported.

As for the reasons leading to the hike of prices, Sheikh Ahmad said that the prices are subjected to the supply and demand and if the market needs oil, then the prices will increase to 30-40 dollars, but if there is no demand, then they will fall to 15 dollars.

He indicated that the real problem is related to the derivatives, not the crude.

He stressed the necessity that the oil producing states have plans to increase the production. Kuwait’s share of OPEC’s production is currently 2.5 million BPD and if there is a need this would increase to 2.5 million BPD, the minister said.

—MNA/Xinhua

Army investigates US soldier in slaying of Iraqi

Washington, 5 June — The US Army has opened a criminal investigation against a US soldier who fatally shot at close range an Iraqi man who already was grievously wounded in a vehicle after a high-speed chase near the city of KuFA, US Central Command said on Friday.

The Army Criminal Investigation Command will look into whether the US soldier, from the 1st Armoured Division, shot the Iraqi in the May 21 incident to try to end the man's suffering from serious wounds, officials said.

One official said soldiers "don't get to make those kinds of decisions", and Central Command called the incident "a potential violation of US rules of engagement."

In a statement, Central Command said US forces came across a motorcade in which the Iraqi was driving one of the vehicles. Central Command did not specify the nature of the motorcade.

"A high-speed chase ensued and during the course of the encounter, the Iraqi vehicle was engaged with gunfire. The driver was seriously injured and a passenger was less seriously wounded. Reports indicate that the injured driver was shot at close range by a US soldier and died," according to the statement.

—MNA/Reuters

Bangladesh, India mend fences through dialogue

Dhaka, 5 June — Foreign Minister M. Morshed Khan on Friday said Bangladesh and India have decided to mend their fences on all bilateral issues through dialogue instead of resorting to bilateralism and decision by any side.

Talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport on his return from a three-day visit to India, he said the two sides also decided to jointly address and resolve the security concerns through mutual discussion.

The foreign minister had been in India as special envoy of Prime Minister Begum Khaleeda Zia carrying her message for Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and all India Congress president Ms. Sonia Gandhi.

Referring to his meeting with Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh, Morshed Khan said "we have expressed our concern about anti-Bangladesh activities from Indian soil" while assuring Bangladesh’s stand that it never allowed any one for carrying out anti-Indian activities from its soil.

—MNA/Xinhua

US Marines sailors guard while tankers load Iraqi oil at Iraq's Al Basra offshore oil terminal on 5 June, 2004. Marines are guarding the terminals, where two American sailors and a coastguard member were killed in an April suicide attack. —INTERNET
New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

People’s hospital in Kanpaikt, the border town of Myanmar at the border with China. The town is located 85 miles from Myitkyina, Kachin State. —MNA

TV retransmission station in Haka, Chin State. PBAKDA

Development of Kawthoung, a border region, in Taninthayi Division.—MNA

Gombo Bridge, 440 feet long, built on Sakkhu-Pauk-Kyuakhtu-Kangyi-Mindat Road in Kyaukhtu Township, Gangaw District, Magway Division.—CONSTRUCTION
Railroad of sweat and train of smiles

Yadanasi Sayadaw (Loilem)

On top the human body, that measures five feet or over in the past, let alone building railroads, even motor roads were not constructed in the remote area, and history stands witness to the fact that the lives of the local people were miserable. The Tatmadaw Government after assumption of the State duties, laid down the four political objectives, and the national re-consolidation. Because of its nation-building endeavours and the peace initiative, the smiles of Myanmar people are famous all over the world.

Myanmar is a new dreamland or an ideal place for tourism. Tourists visiting her, as they feel at home because of the peace and stability in the past, let alone building railroads, even motor roads were not constructed in the remote area, and history stands witness to the fact that the lives of the local people were miserable. The Tatmadaw Government after assumption of the State duties, laid down the four political objectives, and the national re-consolidation. Because of its nation-building endeavours and the peace initiative, the smiles of Myanmar people are famous all over the world.


The chosen title for the poster is “Statistical Girl” in English Version and “Pyinnya-kyan-ma Hkwint-lan-tha Taung-yn-yee-ni” 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 for enrollment not later than 9 June. The fifth level is designated as an open invitation 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 by 14 June or to the Population Department (Head Office, Yangon) by 27 June. Participants from the first to fourth levels are to send their entries to the Population departments to the Population departments to the Population Department (Head Office) not later than 27 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 15,000 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.


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 K10,000 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.

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

Efficient use of fuel

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

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt

(continued from page 1)

wide and it is an RC three-storey building. Students can apply the teaching aid such as multimedia and language lab were installed at the school this academic year. In addition to supply of power, such school facilities as a football ground, a canteen, chairs and tables, the prayer hall, staff quarters and toilets were built in the compound of the school.

SMI Co Ltd had donated to build BEPPS No 10. While Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspecting the factory of SMI Co Ltd in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone, Chairman of the company donated K 35 million to the funds of the education sector in Hlinethaya Township. And, arrangements were made for construction of the school buildings after taking instructions from the Prime Minister.

Basic Education Post-Primary School No 10 where a large number of students are learning education was chosen to start construction tasks. Though the wellwishers limited to donate K 35 million for construction tasks, other wellwishers added to the donations totalling about K 124.4 million and it was built of steel structure and aluzinc roofs, fibre doors and fibre sliding doors.

Deputy Director Col Aung Win handed over documents related to the building to Director-General U Aye Kyu of No 3 Basic Education Department.

Next, the commander accepted K 1 million donated to the funds of the BEMS No 1 by Daw Nan Aye Myint; K 500,000 by Tokyo Pipe and Benbur Co; K 500,000 by Great Wall Medicine and Construction Co; K 500,000 by Hlinethaya Industrial City Management Committee; K 300,000 by Daw Aye Aye Thin (AYN Co Ltd); and K 210,000 by U Thein Han; K 500,000 each by U Maung Maung Aye; U Aung Myat (Mother Trading Co Ltd); U Tin Oo (OK Brother Co Ltd); U Ohn Sai (New Golden Gate); U Kyaw Aung (Benbur Co Ltd); U Kyaw Kyaw Soe (SEC Co Ltd); and U Ko Ko Gyi (Diamond CO Ltd); and K 200,000 by U Aung Thein (Aung Thiha Co).

Afterwards, the commander handed over the donations to respective schoolheads. No 1 BEMS Headmaster U Tin Aye expressed gratitude.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party inspected the new school building and classrooms.

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party proceeded to Shwepyitha Bridge. On the bridge, the General Nyunt attended ...

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Wen Jiabao says macro-economic regulation begins to pay off

BEIJING, 5 June — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said Thursday that China’s bid to improve macro-economic regulation, which focuses on curtailing excessive growth in fixed-asset investment, has begun to produce tangible results.

In a report on the situation of the country’s economy to about 1,100 members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Chinese Academy of Engineering, the Premier said the country’s economic situation is generally good.

He explained that the country’s economy is growing fast, its economic returns continue to improve, the rural situation is comparatively good, and industrial growth remains relatively fast while the growth momentum of foreign trade is strong. The income of the country’s residents is growing at a relatively fast pace, and domestic consumption is growing in a stable but accelerating way, said the Premier.

Facts have shown the macro-economic measures adopted by the central authorities to regulate the economy are timely, correct, and effective, said the Premier.

“So long as the measures and policies are truly implemented, the economy can surely grow in a stable and relatively faster pace,” he said.

China has moved to prevent its economy from overheating during the past year, using such means as tightening money supplies and bank loans to the overheating sectors, such as steel and cement, and real estate. Blind investment in those sectors also suggested shortage of energy supply and related raw materials.

Wen said China would strive to maintain its economic growth in a sustainable, coordinated, fast and healthy way through macro-economic regulation and scientific and technological progress.

The next target offered the Premier was to “improve economic efficiency while keeping the economy growing at a faster pace”.

Malaysia, Thailand to enhance cooperation in border security

KUALA LUMPUR, 5 June — Malaysian Armed Forces would enhance cooperation with Thai forces in patrolling the common border, its Army Chief General Mohamed Azumi Mohamed said on Thursday.

The Armed Forces of the two countries discussed cooperation in patrolling the Malaysia-Thailand border, as Army Chief General Mohamed Azumi Mohamed said after meeting visiting Commander-in-chief of the Thai Army General Chaoit Shimawart in north state of Penang.

The two sides also discussed opening of more border posts along the common border, to strengthen bilateral cooperation.

Malaysia’s economy is growing at a relatively fast pace, and domestic consumption is growing in a stable but accelerating way, the Premier said.

The economy is expected to grow at 4.5-5 per cent in 2005. To fulfill the targets, the government is striving to push up growth of the industrial and agricultural sectors, speed up equitization of state enterprises, improve quality of goods and services, and actively prepare for international economic integration.

Earlier, the Thai commander-in-chief visited the Defence Ministry in Kuala Lumpur.

Commander-in-chief visited Defence Ministry in Kuala Lumpur.

The visit of the Thai commander-in-chief was to reciprocate the recent visit by senior Malaysian officers to Thailand.

Japan calls for development of safety-related technology

TOKYO, 5 June — A Japanese Government white paper called on Friday that Japan should pay more attention to technology concerning safety on which the public interest is growing.

The fiscal 2003 white paper on science and technology said that a public survey showed the Japanese are willing to hear talks by scientists and engineers about safety-related technology in a wake of continuous terrorist threats and the outbreak of bird flu.

The white paper suggested the build-up of human resources to deal with unexpected risks.

About 70 per cent of respondents said Japan should develop sophisticated scientific technology to guarantee safety.

Vietnam targets GDP growth of 8-8.5% next year

HANOI, 5 June — Vietnam has targeted the gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 8-8.5 per cent next year, the Vietnam News Agency on Thursday quoted Prime Minister Phan Van Khai as saying.

It has also planned to increase export turnover by 12-14 per cent, value of agriculture, forestry and fishery by 4.5-5 per cent, and industrial production by 15.5-16.5 per cent in 2005.

To fulfill the targets, the government is striving to push up growth of the industrial and agricultural sectors, speed up equitization of state enterprises, improve quality of goods and services, and actively prepare for international economic integration.

Khai urged local bodies to improve the economy’s competitiveness by lowering costs and raising product quality, and develop foreign investment in accordance with improving the processing industry and expanding local and foreign markets. He called for accelerating equitization of state-owned enterprises, including large ones in key fields such as electricity, banking and telecommunications.

He also requested agencies to actively implement signed international commitments, and create an equal, transparent and stable environment for foreign businesses.

Besides, Khai reminded sectors and localities to take some other measures such as enhancing administrative reform, boosting cultural and social activities and consolidating national defence and security.

Vietnam, which posted GDP growth of 7.24 per cent in 2003, plans to increase economic growth by 7.5-8 per cent in 2004.

UN helping 250,000 hungry Ethiopians

ADDIS ABABA, 5 June — The World Food Programme is stepping up its operations to help more than 250,000 hungry Ethiopians left hungry after volunteering for a controversial relocation programme, the UN agency said on Thursday.

The agency said in a statement it was providing supplementary food rations for more than 250,000 people living at 50 resettlement sites in Ethiopia’s southern Oromia region. The aid programme would last until October 2004, it said.

Ethiopia, sub-Saharan Africa’s second most populous country after Nigeria, plans to move more than two million volunteers from drought-prone areas to more fertile land in a bid to avoid a repeat of a 1984 drought in which one million people died. — MNA/Reuters
Grenade attack on job seekers wounds 17 Iraqis

Most (Iraq), 6 June — Guerrillas fired rocket-propelled grenades at Iraqis queuing up outside an Army recruitment centre in the northern city of Mosul on Saturday, wounding 17 people in the second such attack in a month.

Undeterred assailants fired rocket-propelled grenades at a line of civilians waiting at the gate of the recruiting centre to get jobs in the new Iraqi army. Army Captain Ahmad Al-Deen said: “Sixteen civilians have been wounded, as well as one security guard.”

Guards said the attackers fired the grenades from a car before driving away. Last month a mortar attack on the recruiting centre killed four people and wounded at least 15.

Anti-American guerrillas have frequently targeted Iraqis joining new government-aided security forces such as the police. Saddam Hussein’s 375,000-strong Armed Forces were disbanded after their defeat last year. But in anticipation of a return of sovereignty to an Iraqi interim government on June 30, US commanders are overseeing recruitment to a new army — MNA/Reuters

Kuwait FM reaffirms importance of cooperation in combating terrorism

Kuwait City, 6 June — Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Sabah Al-Saleem Al-Sabah reaffirmed Saturday the importance of cooperation and solidarity of the international community in combating terrorism, which has become a danger to the whole world, according to Kuwait News Agency.

In his opening statement to the 19th meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) ministerial council held in Jeddah, Sheikh Mohammad condemned the terrorist operations that recently took place in Saudi Arabia, stressing the importance of standing up to it through cooperating with the international community.

Sheikh Mohammad commended the results of the meeting of GCC ministers of interior held in Kuwait in early May, as well as signing the GCC agreement for combating terrorism.

The foreign minister congratulated the new Iraqi President Ghazi Yawar and members of the interim government, wishing them success in fulfilling their obligations towards their country so as to reassume Iraq’s effective role in regional, Arab and international arenas.

He added that the Iraqi people should be supported so as to maintain Iraq’s independence, territorial integrity and regional security and that GCC solidarity with the Palestinian people has also been stressed.

The Foreign Minister also stressed the importance of Arab solidarity in the interest of all nations, alluding to the results of the 16th Arab summit held in Tunisia in which major issues were discussed, including the Arab League reform. — MNA/Ahmad
OPEC likes oil price drop, will not want crash

BEIRUT, 5 June — OPEC producers said on Friday they were pleased to see oil drop below US $50 a barrel and predicted prices could ease further on rising export flows.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed on Thursday a two-stage increase of 2.5 million barrels a day in July and August, raising formal supply quotas by 11 per cent.

“We hope to reach a reasonable and acceptable price and OPEC members is reasonable for everybody,” said Qatar Oil Minister Abdullah al-Attiyah. He was referring to an OPEC index price now valued just under 36 US dollars a barrel.

This is the first time OPEC wants to see the price in a downtrend,” said Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh.

US oil, worth a three-US-dollar premium over OPEC crude, eased 53 cents to 38.75 US dollars a barrel after an 80-cent drop on Thursday.

A two-stage increase in quotas reflected concerns among some OPEC members about triggering a price crash and many in the cartel appear keen to keep prices above 30 US dollars a barrel.

“We hope with this decision to be close to 35 US dollars for the OPEC basket,” Zanganeh said.

“When you’re trying to find the right balance you have to take it in steps,” he said.—MNA/xinhua

India to test-fire 3,000-km “Agni III” missile

NEW DELHI, 5 June — India has started integrating the 3,000-kilometre range Agni III Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM), an adviser to the Indian Defence Minister said Friday.

“We have started integrating it (Agni III). In this kind of high-end technologies, it is very difficult for me to indicate a time,” “the Press Trust of India quoted V K Aatre, Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister as saying Friday.

Aatre also said the new missile will be tested in a “one-stage” and a “two-stage” increase of 2.5 million barrels a day in July and August, raising formal supply quotas by 11 per cent.

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Strong winds slam into N-W China basin, causing great losses

Urumqi, 5 June — Gale force winds whipping up northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region have torn down trees, blown up growing fruit and vegetables and caused fires that burned hundreds of houses and cattle, the local government said Friday.

The whole gale, with a maximum speed between 49 to 56 miles per hour, stroke Turpan and Toksun City on Friday. Two people were killed and four others injured when they were struck by lightning strike on May 27, killing a cowherd named Wu at the scene and knocking five others down. One of them, sur

3. Tender Documents and detail information are available through birth but later in life through sickness or injury.

Abilities, either physical or mental, will rise given that the structure was yet to be decided.

Participants in all aspects of life, respect for difference and with disabilities, their full inclusion as equal citizens and

Study finds Vitamin C may worsen arthritis

WASHINGTON, 5 June — High doses of vitamin C may worsen arthritis, at least in guinea pigs. US researchers reported on Friday. The finding by a team at Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina contradicts previous studies that suggested large doses of the vitamin may protect against osteoarthritis.

Dr. Virginia Kraus, an associate professor of medicine who led the study said the vitamin may help prevent the chemical reactions that cause pain. It may also help reduce pain in the short term, but become damaging in the long term.

“It’s possible that brief exposure to high levels of vitamin C offers antioxidant effects with a minimum of side effects, while prolonged exposure results in deleterious effects,” said Kraus.

Recommended intakes of C for men are 90 milligrams per day and for women are 75 milligrams per day. A diet that includes five servings of fruits and vegetables a day should supply about 200 milligrams per day of vitamin C. Some supplements contain 500 milligrams of C. — MNA/Reuters

UN treaty on the disabled ready for signing next year

UNITED NATIONS, 5 June — A global treaty protecting and promoting the rights of the world’s approximately 600 million people with disabilities could be ready for signature next year, the chairman of a United Nations committee drafting the convention said Friday.

“We could have something substantive in September or early October,” said the treaty draft chairman.

Meanwhile, he said that there were still many substantive and procedural issues to be negotiated before an agreed text would be ready.

Ghoshda said the numbers of people living with disabilities, either physical or mental, will rise given that the population is aging and many people acquire disabilities not through birth but later in life through sickness or injury.

The convention, according to the chairman, would contain a monitoring body to help enforce its provisions, but its structure was yet to be decided.

The 24-article draft is based on the principles of the dignity individual autonomy and independence of persons with disabilities, their full inclusion as equal citizens and participants in all aspects of life, respect for difference and acceptance of disability as part of human diversity, equality of opportunity, and nondiscrimination, according to the chairman. — MNA/xinhua

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“When you’re trying to find the right balance you have to take it in steps,” he said.—MNA/xinhua

Strong winds slam into N-W China basin, causing great losses

URUMQI, 5 June — Gale force winds whipping up northwest China’s Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region have torn down trees, blown up growing fruit and vegetables and caused fires that burned hundreds of houses and cattle, the local government said Friday.

The whole gale, with a maximum speed between 49 to 56 miles per hour, stroke Turpan and Toksun City on Friday. Two people were killed and four others injured when they were struck by lightning strike on May 27, killing a cowherd named Wu at the scene and knocking five others down. One of them, sur

3. Tender Documents and detail information are available

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of 6.000t±10% Metric Tons HSD (Gas Oil Regular 0.5%):

CATION JAPAN POLYCHEM CORPORATION, of 10-1, Yurakacho 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the Owner of the follow-

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The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) announced here Thursday that the next world-wide television exhibition, ITU TELECOM WORLD 2006, would be held in Hong Kong.

The announcement came following an evaluation on May 28 of the final offers received from Geneva and Hong Kong, the two cities which applied to hold the event.

"Despite significant cost reductions in both offers, the one from Hong Kong gives a clear and distinct advantage to both the organization of the next world event stakeholders and ITU," ITU Secretary-General Yosio Ushimi said in a statement.

"We are most pleased to understand where (cold water corals) are and what their role is... (they) may also harbour important compounds and substances that could be the source of new drugs," he added.

Environmentalists trying to persuade governments to cut back on fishing to protect reefs and precarious fish stocks are up against a formidable enemy — a voracious international appetite for seafood.

From sushi in Tokyo to fish and chips on Britain’s beaches, consumer demand drives a massive market — worth an estimated 75 billion US dollars a year — and also supports jobs in coastal areas of many countries where other employment options can be limited.

Fishing of more usual commercial species is depleting stocks at an alarming rate. According to the United Nations, over 70 per cent of the world’s commercially important fish stocks are over-exploited, depleted, fully fished or slowly recovering.

But tumbling numbers of traditional favourites like cod only encourage some fishermen to turn to more exotic deep sea options like orange roughy or blue lug.

The fate of these fish is intimately tied to that of the slow-growing cold-water corals they live in and around, and it can be hard to catch them without damaging or destroying the reefs.

The announcement was made one day after a woman who survived terrible injuries, including injuries to her abdomen, lungs and intestines, when she was among the 2,750 people who died in the September 11, 2001, attacks was awarded 8.6 million US dollars by the US Victims Compensation Fund, her lawyer said on Friday.

She was hospitalized for more than a year, underwent repeated reconstructive surgery and needs more operations.

"It’s not like she won the lottery," attorney Gay Smiley said. "She’s not jumping for joy. She feels at least comfortable that her economic future is secure."

The fund has settled more than 2,500 personal injury claims. The average award to relatives of victims is about 1.85 million US dollars. — MNA/Reuters

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Raul upbeat about Spain's chances

Madrid, 5 June — Spain captain Raul was in upbeat mood about his side's chances at Euro 2004 as the squad made its final preparations before departing for Portugal on Sunday.

"Physically we are in optimum shape, we have been training really well and now we have to reflect that in the tournament itself," the Real Madrid striker told a news conference at the team's training base in Las Rozas on Friday.

"Apart from the injury to Michel (Salgado) we’ve had a very positive time here and we really believe that if we do things well we can beat any team in Portugal."

"Obviously if we don’t do that we’ll be on our way home, but there’s no doubt that we will be doing everything we can to fight for Spain and for Spanish football."

Raul said the side's experience of having to earn their place at Euro 2004 via the playoffs had brought the squad together and the strength of the team spirit had become evident during their week-long training camp.

Deschamps stays at Monaco for two more years

Monaco, 5 June — Didier Deschamps announced on Friday he would continue as Monaco coach for two more seasons, ending speculation that he might take over as France manager.

Deschamps said he had obtained the “sporting and financial guarantees” allowing him to lead “an ambitious project” at the club.

The former France captain, who joined the principality club three seasons ago, has renewed his contract until 2007.

It was announced on Thursday that France manager Jacques Santini would quit at the end of Euro 2004 to take over at English Premier League side Tottenham Hotspur.

Deschamps said Santini’s announcement was “regrettable” for the team, the coach and the federation.

He added: “It’s not going to bring back credibility. Now France must still do well at Euro 2004.”

Deschamps, who captained France to the European title in 2000 and who has just taken Monaco to the Champions League final, went on: “The adventure continues (at Monaco) and we’re going to try to keep a competitive team as well as the players who have been approached like Jerome Rothen and Ludovic Giuly.

“Our great campaign last season must give us the ambition to do even better the next.”

Rothen has been linked with Paris St. Germain and Guiso with Barcelona.

Investors announced this week they would pour 50 million euros (61.08 million US dollars) into the club, roughly equal to its estimated debts — MNA/Reuters.

Mokhtar, Naybet miss Morocco World Cup tie

Beauneux, 5 June — Morocco will be without Yousef Mokhtar and captain Noureddine Naybet for their opening World Cup qualifier away to Malawi on Saturday.

Coach Badou Ezaki said both were injured, along with striker Jawad Zairi, another member of the squad who finished runners-up at this year's African Nations Cup finals in Tunis.

Mokhtar, from German Second Division club Wacker Burghausen, was joint top goalscorer in the tournament.

Botswana, Guinea, Kenya and Tunisia are the other sides in Group Five of the African zone qualifiers.

The group winners qualify for the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany.

Answer for yesterday’s Crossword Puzzle

S E R I A L  P A C K E T

E R O U R E A O

R V O L U N T E E R R

I R A N D T E E W

E R F L E E T C O H N

E R S E N T S Y R O U M

I I D E S I T " P I R A T E R I"

H I E R O N T U R

L E E K N U D E E M

A D I S A G R E E D I T

T N E N E F F E C T D E D U C E

MNA/Reuters

Real told to pay extra eight million euros for Ronaldo

Lausanne (Switzerland), 5 June — Real Madrid were ordered on Friday to pay Inter Milan an extra eight million euros relating to their purchase of Brazil striker Ronaldo in 2002.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) issued the decision following a hearing on Thursday at which Real had appealed against an order by world body FIFA to pay a 10-million-euro settlement to Inter.

Ronaldo moved to Spanish side Real in August 2002 in a deal worth 35 million euros which also included midfielder Santiago Solari in part-exchange.

The 35 million was paid but Argentine Solari refused to move to Inter in January 2003, prompting the Italian club to appeal to FIFA.

FIFA ordered Real to pay Inter 10 million euros for the incomplete move of Solari, but Real appealed to CAS in March 2004 over the decision.

CAS said in a statement on Friday: “Real Madrid and Inter Milan...have decided to settle the controversy related to the interpretation of the transfer agreement of Ronaldo to the Spanish club, and concerning the position of the player Solari.

“Real Madrid shall pay eight million euros to Inter Milan, divided as follows: seven million euros by June 30, 2004 and 1 million euros by June 30, 2005.

“The judgment has been approved by both Real Madrid and Inter Milan, CAS said.

Qatar pledges to host best Asian Games in 2006

Singapore, 5 June — Qatar on Friday that will take place in its capital of Doha in 2006.

Speaking at a Press conference here on Friday, Abdullah Yousef Al Mullak, Director of Protocol and International Relations at the Doha Asian Games Organizing Committee (DAGOC), said that the numerous international world-class sporting events staged in the Qatar capital have given Doha “the confidence to keep reaching higher and thinking bigger and better.”

“The Doha Asian Games 2006 will show the world the dedication and capabilities of the people of Asia and how we, in this great continent can collaborate to achieve our aspirations,” he said.

“The success of the Doha Asian Games is not only good for the State of Qatar, it is for this strong and beautiful continent we call Asia,” he added.

Briefing the Press on the progress Qatar has made in infrastructure projects,

Belgium’s pair Olivier Rochus, left, and Xavier Malisse hold the cup after defeating France’s Michael Llodra and Fabrice Santoro in the men’s double final of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, on 5 June, 2004. Rochus and Malisse won, 7-5, 7-5. —INTERNET

Italy’s del Neri to take over as Porto coach

Lisbon, 5 June — Italy’s Chievo Verona coach Luigi del Neri will replace Jose Mourinho at Champions League winners Porto, Portuguese newspapers said on Friday.

O Jogo and A Bola sports newspapers quoted Porto Chairman Jorge Pinto da Costa as saying del Neri had agreed to a three-year contract.

The club was not immediately available for comment.

Mourinho, who steered Porto to a 3-0 win over Monaco in the Champions League final last week, was named manager of English Premier League club Chelsea on Wednesday.

MNA/Reuters

Anastasia Myshkina of Russia (Front) and her compatriot Elena Dementieva hold the trophy after the women’s final of the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros stadium in Paris, on 5 June, 2004. Myshkina won the final 6-1, 6-2. —INTERNET

Mula said that Doha’s progress so far indicates that it will exceed all expectations, with 2.8 billion US dollars being invested to ensure that the 10,000 athletes and officials from the continent are subjected to the best and highest standard of sporting excellence.

The Qatar DAGOC official promised that all the infrastructure projects will complete before July 2006, with 22 competition venues in addition to numerous training venues that have already been specified.

On the same occasion, Ng Ser Miang, Singapore’s member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said that Doha has accepted this arduous task and stands committed to delivering the most successful Asian Games ever.

“We are happy that the Doha Asian Games Organizing Committee with the full support of the Qatar Government and National Olympic Committee of Qatar are totally committed and sparing no resources to ensure the success of the Asian Games. We look forward to a great Games in Doha,” he said.

The 15th Doha Asian Games, to be held from December 1 to 15, 2006, is expecting athletes from 45 countries and regions in 33 competitive sports.

The first Asian Games took place in New Delhi, India in 1951, and the last one was held in Busan, South Korea in 2002.

MNA/Xinhua

Real told to pay extra eight million euros for Ronaldo

MNA/Reuters

Qatar pledges to host best Asian Games in 2006

MNA/Reuters
Various kinds of health care services to be provided to different regions in conformity with different environments

In his address, the Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt said arrangements for promotion of quality of health care services for the citizens were formulated at the NHC meetings. The present meeting was to review the implementation of the resolutions passed at the previous meeting and to lay down the future tasks. He said Myanmar which has a population of over 52 million is a country of a considerable population ratio among the South East Asian nations. The regions in the north and north-eastern part of the country are mountainous and there are heights situated over 6,000 feet or 7,000 feet above sea level. In the central part of the country there are dry zones. The regions in southern part of the country are wet and get much rain. Climate changes occur as there are three seasons in Myanmar. He spoke of the need to provide various kinds of health care services to the different regions in conformity with the spread of population, dry, cold and rainy regions and different environments.

He said the amount of the tasks for promotion of quality of health care services for the citizens are great and very delicate. In the past, systematic health care services could not be provided to border areas due to instability in the region. Now those regions are at peace and arrangements are being made for providing health care services to them.

He said the Union of Myanmar is promoting the tasks for health standard in cooperation with WHO, ASEAN member countries and other friendly nations. Therefore health care services in Myanmar are becoming wider and wider and more and more delicate. He called on officials of health sector to make efforts for promotion of health care services after realizing this point.

Fruitful results can be seen in some sectors on account of the success of health care services. He said there are still much to be done for successful implementation of the health care services.

Continuing, he said the government has laid down border area and national races development project, 24 special region project and five rural development tasks and the health sector is included as a major one in the three projects. With the successful implementation of these projects, health care services can cover the whole country, he said.

He went on to say that Myanmar is a Union formed with states and divisions where over 100 national races reside. With the equal provision of health care services to hilly regions, border areas and inner regions, national solidarity will be strengthened and the Union will exist forever.

The government opened rural health care centres and sub-centres in states and divisions, general hospitals and upgraded them in accordance with the requirements of the respective regions.

Nowadays, 16-bed hospitals have been upgraded into 25 ones in most townships. Likewise, hospitals in states and divisions and those from special development regions have been upgraded into at least 200-bed facilities.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects construction of bypass in Myeik

Yangon, 6 June —Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Ohn Nyo and officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departments concerned, arrived in Myeik on 4 June morning.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party were welcomed there by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Nyo, Deputy Commander Col Hon Ngaing, senior military officers and departmental officials.

Accompanied by the commander, Lt-Gen Maung Bo arrived at the junction of Palaw-Mazawbyingyi-Thamok Road. Chief Engineer (Road) U Kyaw reported on completion of Myeik bypass and future tasks. Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions on timely completion of the bypass. They also inspected preparations for laying gravel at mile post 7 and completion of Papyin Bridge.

They saw over extension of the road sections and dredging of drains. Next, they inspected driving of piles at the construction site of Alechaung Bridge. Afterwards, they arrived at Myeik bypass construction site. In the briefing hall, Deputy Superintendent Engineer U Khin Maung Kyaw and Chief Engineer (Road) U Kyaw Tint reported on preparations for laying gravel at mile post 7 and completion of Papyin Bridge.

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Next, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein reported on a plan to fulfil the machinery and fuel for timely completion of the bypass. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo urged the officials concerned to make efforts to complete the bypass and Taninthayi-Bokpyin Road by December. As the bypass is a part of the Union Highway, responsible officials also need to step up efforts for timely completion of the construction and requirements.

Out of 25 miles and four furlongs long Daw-Mazawbyingyi road section, earth work of eight miles and one furlong section was completed. Out of 13 miles and four furlongs of the Boke-Papyin-Daw road section, 10 miles and six furlongs were paved with gravel. Two miles and six furlongs Daw-PinO-Kabin Road section and one mile and four furlongs section of Daw-Mazawbyingyi Road have been paved with gravel. —MNA