In endeavours for emergence of ASEAN-China Free Trade Area
private sector will serve as driving engine
Third Annual ASEAN-China Business Council Meeting, 16th
ASEAN-CCI Conference & 61st Council Meeting open

YANGON, 7 June—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended and addressed the opening ceremony of the Third Annual ASEAN-China Business Council Meeting and 16th ASEAN-CCI Conference & 61st Council Meeting held at the Grand Ballroom of Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here at 9 am today.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the SPDC Office, departmental officials, ambassadors of foreign embassies and embassies of ASEAN countries, the president, CEC members and advisers of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the presidents of ASEAN-CCI and CCPI, representatives of ASEAN countries, the president of Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and special guests.

First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered a speech. He said:

It gives me great pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates from ASEAN Chambers and from the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), led by Excellency Mr. Wan Jifei, to this auspicious Third ASEAN-China Business Council (ACBC) Annual Meeting and the 61st Annual Conference of ASEAN Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Southeast Asia and China represent 17 billion consumers with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) two trillion US dollars. Moreover, the two regions are regarded as among the most economically vibrant areas in the world today. The growth of their economies, as well as increasing purchasing power, have dramatically increased their trade and economic ties.

In the previous year, I am fully confident that this growing trend will prevail in the years to come and ASEAN-China trade will achieve the target of 100 billion dollars by 2005. Moreover, the development of ASEAN-China trade will contribute towards the acceleration of the establishment of ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA).

In this context, I am delighted that ASEAN-CCI networking... It is my belief that this important ASEAN-China Business Council Third Annual Meeting will bring forth practical ways and means for further development of the private sector and business in ASEAN and China within the framework and in the context of ACFTA. In short, this Third Annual Meeting will positively push forward the follow-up measures to the decisions taken at the last Business Council Meeting in Bali in October 2003, the ASEAN leaders agreed on the creation of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) to achieve deeper economic integration of the region, as outlined in the Roadmap for Integration of ASEAN (RIA) and Vision 2020. In short, ASEAN will become a single market and productive base, with a freer flow of goods, services, investment, labour and capital.
Speed up efforts for total elimination of narcotic drugs

Narcotic drugs are a grave threat to the existence of the entire human beings. Therefore, every nation and region in the world is making serious endeavours to totally wipe out the menace of these narcotics. The Government of the Union of Myanmar is also carrying out the narcotic drugs elimination tasks with the national outlook and with the cooperation of national races.

In accordance with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, the 15-year drug elimination plan was started in the fiscal year 1999-2000. As the first phase of the plan from 1999-2000 to 2003-2004 has been successfully implemented, the implementation of the second phase of the plan has now begun in the year 2004-2005. To be able to speedily and successfully implement the tasks of the 15-year plan, a new project, known as the New Destiny Project, is also being implemented.

According to the New Destiny Project, poppy plantations are being destroyed and at the same time necessary assistance provided to the farmers so that they can grow substitute crops. Local farmers are being provided with seeds of substitute crops, strains of livestock and cultivation and livestock breeding methods.

The implementation of the New Destiny Project is successful, especially in Shan State (North), Shan State (South) and Shan State (East) where poppy growers, of their own volition, surrender or torch poppy seeds.

All the necessary measures should be taken for the development of education, health and social infrastructures to ensure the higher living standard of farmers who have given up poppy-growing and to make cultivation of poppy-substitute crops, livestock breeding and manufacturing industry successful.

As the first phase of the 15-year drug elimination plan and the tasks of the New Destiny Project are very successful, there has been a remarkable drop in production and demand of narcotic drugs. Moreover, it is important to make constant efforts so that stimulant tablets cannot rear their ugly head.

We would like to call upon the entire national people to enthusiastically cooperate with the Government for total elimination of narcotic drugs, a serious danger to mankind.
Suicide bomb attack outside US base leaves nine dead

BAGHDAD, 7 June—Nine Iraqis were killed and 64 injured yesterday when a suicide bomber blew himself up in a car outside a security base at Taji, north of Baghdad, part of a wave of attacks in and around the Iraqi capital.

And, in a separate attack, a British security contractor was killed in a drive-by attack in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, the Foreign Office confirmed yesterday. Craig Dickens, an Armour Group International Ltd, was shot when gunmen opened fire on Saturday on a convoy of vehicles. Mr Dickens’ age and home-town were not released.

Three other employees—Peter Lloyd, Stephen Baigent and David Leach—were injured, but were recovering.

The bombings and ambushes are being carried out in Sadr districts, as well as Sunni. In the past three days, seven US soldiers have been killed near the enormous Shia slum known as Sade City in east Baghdad.

The bomb exploded outside the base of the Iraqi Civil Defence Corps, a 40,000-strong paramilitary group that the US has been seeking to build as an auxiliary force to aid the 138,000 US troops in Iraq. The surge in attacks may be connected with the approaching handover of sovereignty to an Iraqi interim government on 30 June, but the pattern is changing.

Four civilian contractors killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 6 June—Assailants ambushed a convoy of security contractors travelling to Baghdad’s airport, killing two Americans and two Poles working for a US security company in Iraq, their employer said Sunday.

Gunmen opened fire with automatic weapons as the security guards working for Blackwater USA (search) travelled to the airport to pick up a client, a company official in Baghdad said while speaking on condition of anonymity.

Four men died on the spot, but three others managed to fight their way to the other side of the road, flag down a passing car, and travel to safety with US coalition forces at their headquarters in the Green Zone (search) central Baghdad.

A spokesman for Moyock, NC-based Blackwater, Chris Bertelli, said the convoy was “attacked from a couple of different angles by four or five vehicles with four or five people each.”

“They at least had automatic weapons if not RPGs,” or rocket-propelled grenades, Bertelli said.

Bertelli declined to identify the two Poles and two Americans killed in the attack. He said they and three other Blackwater guards who survived the attack were working for a delivery subcontractor for Texas-based KBR, a division of Halliburton (search). The subcontractor, called ESS, generally transports food and kitchen equipment within Iraq.

Though the major road is heavily travelled, it “seems to be one where ambushes are not unheard of in that area,” Bertelli said.

In Warsaw, Boguslaw Majewski, the spokesman for Poland’s Foreign Ministry, also reported the deaths.

Majewski said an “ineffective search” for the attackers was under way. He said another Pole was also slightly injured in the attack, but gave no other details.

Blackwater is one of the biggest and best-known private security firms working in Iraq.

Four other civilian security personnel from Blackwater were killed 31 March after their vehicle was hit by rocket-propelled grenades in Fallujah. Their bodies were mutilated and burned, and two were hung from the framework of a bridge across the Euphrates river.

China’s temperature could rise up to 8.9 degrees in 21st Century

BEIJING, 6 June—Due to global warming, temperatures in China might rise 1.3 to 8.9 degrees Celsius in the 21st Century, and the average precipitation will increase by over 10 per cent, a Chinese meteorologist said here Friday.

The conclusion was drawn from some 40 climate forecasting models, said Liu Hongbin, a researcher with the National Meteorological Centre of China Meteorological Administration.

“The models show that if the emissions of greenhouse gases cannot be brought under effective control and the global population growth stays at a high speed, temperatures in China will rise 5.5 degrees Celsius on the average by the end of this century, and the precipitation will increase by 14 per cent,” Liu said.

However, if the global population growth could be well controlled and further achievement be made in science and technology, China’s average temperature will rise by 3.4 degrees Celsius and the precipitation will rise by 9 per cent, Liu said.

The global temperature will increase by 1.4 to 5.8 degrees Celsius in the 21st Century, according to forecasting models.

The 20th Century was the warmest century in the past 1,000 years, and the last 20 years were the warmest years of the past 100 years. With more greenhouse gases emitted to the air, the global temperature will keep on rising, said Qin Dahe, director-general of China Meteorological Administration.

World’s oldest bilateral fossil found in China

NANNING, 6 June—Chinese scientists have discovered the world’s oldest bilateral fossil, which provides valuable clues on the origin of early life.

After holding a rally in front of the home of US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld to call for an end to the US occupation of Iraq, protesters walked almost 90 minutes through downtown Washington to Rumsfeld’s house, demanding an end to the war.

Becker said the Defence Secretary’s home was the target of the march because it was the event.

“The US should leave Iraq immediately,” said Brian Becker, a coordinator for International End Racism, an activist group that organised the event.

“My own father was killed in Iraq when the US came to Iraq,” he said. “And the chaos will end only when the US comes out and points a finger and says, ‘You are accountable,’ he said.

Policy experts that a precipitous exit from Iraq by US forces could spark a violent reaction in and around the Iraqi capital.

“We have to be accountable,” he said.

International End Racism is an American-led occupation of Iraq.

China’s military police secure the area following a road side ambush on a convoy along the main Baghdad airport highway on 6 June 2004.—INTERNET

Internet

Internet

Four civilian contractors killed in Iraq

KBR, a division of Halliburton Co (search). The subcontractor, called ESS, generally transports food and kitchen equipment within Iraq.

Though the major road is heavily travelled, it “seems to be one where ambushes are not unheard of in that area,” Bertelli said.

In Warsaw, Boguslaw Majewski, the spokesman for Poland’s Foreign Ministry, also reported the deaths.

Majewski said an “ineffective search” for the attackers was under way. He said another Pole was also slightly injured in the attack, but gave no other details.

Four other civilian security personnel from Blackwater were killed 31 March after their vehicle was hit by rocket-propelled grenades in Fallujah. Their bodies were mutilated and burned, and two were hung from the framework of a bridge across the Euphrates river.

Internet

China’s temperature could rise up to 8.9 degrees in 21st Century

BEIJING, 6 June—Due to global warming, temperatures in China might rise 1.3 to 8.9 degrees Celsius in the 21st Century, and the average precipitation will increase by over 10 per cent, a Chinese meteorologist said here Friday.

The conclusion was drawn from some 40 climate forecasting models, said Liu Hongbin, a researcher with the National Meteorological Centre of China Meteorological Administration.

“The models show that if the emissions of greenhouse gases cannot be brought under effective control and the global population growth stays at a high speed, temperatures in China will rise 5.5 degrees Celsius on the average by the end of this century, and the precipitation will increase by 14 per cent,” Liu said.

However, if the global population growth could be well controlled and further achievement be made in science and technology, China’s average temperature will rise by 3.4 degrees Celsius and the precipitation will rise by 9 per cent, Liu said.

The global temperature will increase by 1.4 to 5.8 degrees Celsius in the 21st Century, according to forecasting models.

The 20th Century was the warmest century in the past 1,000 years, and the last 20 years were the warmest years of the past 100 years. With more greenhouse gases emitted to the air, the global temperature will keep on rising, said Qin Dahe, director-general of China Meteorological Administration.

World’s oldest bilateral fossil found in China

NANNING, 6 June—Chinese scientists have discovered the world’s oldest bilateral fossil, which provides valuable clues on the origin of early life.

After holding a rally in front of the home of US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld to call for an end to the US occupation of Iraq, protesters walked almost 90 minutes through downtown Washington to Rumsfeld’s house, demanding that the Bush administration withdraw US troops.

“The US should leave Iraq immediately,” said Brian Becker, a coordinator for International ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism), an activist group that organised the event.

Becker said the Defence Secretary’s home was the target of the march because Rumsfeld had become the “face of this war.”

“Just because Donald Rumsfeld owns an expensive house does not mean that the American people do not have a right to go there and point a finger and say, ’You are accountable,’ “ he said.

Despite predictions by some foreign policy experts that a precipitant exit from Iraq by US forces could spark a violent civil war, Becker said the ongoing occupation would only deter the country’s fight for political stability. “The chaos came to Iraq when the US came to Iraq,” he said. “And the chaos will end only when the Iraqi people have full, undiluted control over their own affairs.”
Australian opposition renews pledge to withdraw troops from Iraq

SYDNEY, 6 June—Opposition Labour leader Mark Latham stood by his pledge to pull Australian troops out of Iraq by Christmas, saying it was in the country’s best interests despite what US President George W Bush thinks.

Bush has been widely accused of exceeding authority in pulling out the remaining 1400 Australian soldiers by December 2004.

Mr Latham’s position on Iraq policy has been seen as a vote winner.

Mr Latham said the Iraq policy had failed and had put Australians at greater risk of a terrorist attack, as well as diverting resources from the real priority of dismantling Al-Qaeda and catching its leader Osama Bin Laden.

“Is the thing I am worried about is the reason why we need alternative strategies to avoid the terrible mistakes the government has helped to create in Iraq,” Latham said.

Whether the criticism by the US President had harmed him politically was a matter for the commentators, he said.

“One thing about the Labour Party — we make policies in Australia’s national interest, always Australia first.”

Howard, who was with Bush in Washington when the attack was launched, said he did not know whether the attack would create a backlash against his conservative Liberal-National coalition.

“I have never looked at the polls when it comes to Iraq,” he said. “I’ve taken a position that has been out of favour at various stages because I believe in it very strongly and I will continue to maintain that position, irrespective of what the opinion polls say.”

Howard, whose government faces election by the end of this year, repeated his declared view that winning a fourth term of government is going to be very tough and his government is clearly the underdog.

Pope leaves for Switzerland

Rome, 6 June— Pope John Paul left Rome on Saturday for Switzerland where he will address crowds of adoring Catholic youths during a 36-hour visit.

The 84-year-old Pope, who has Parkinson’s disease, will travel to the capital Bern to preside at a jamboree of tens of thousands of Catholic youth, amid tight security and tens of thousands of Catholic youths adoring the Pope. The Pope’s plane left Rome’s Fiumicino Airport at 10.09 am (0809 GMT).

Oman plans to change phone numbers to eight digits from July

ABU DHABI, 6 June—Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel) has revealed a well-structured plan for introducing an 8-digit phone numbering system to be changed to eight digits instead of six or seven from July, the Times of Oman reported Saturday.

Omantel said that the new plan is a “simple-to-follow and easy-to-remember” theme. The implementation of the new numbering plan for the fixed telephone service will start in July 2004, while for the GSM, including the O2 mobile network, the transition will commence in August.

The new plan is in compliance with the directive from the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority as part of the sector’s liberalization strategy, which will see more telecom operators in Oman.

Omantel is committed to making the process as easy as possible to reduce or eliminate any negative impacts.

Tourism promotes harmony between Chinese cities, rural areas

HANGZHOU, 7 June— More and more urban Chinese choose to go for rural tours after long hours of brain work, which stimulates China’s tourism and boosts the exchange between cities and villages, said Liu Hongyu, a travel agency employee from east China’s Jiangxi Province, who is attending the China Domestic Travel Mart.

Some urban people are willing to pay for their farming work. Wang Yan, 37, said he went to rural areas every two weeks. His wife also grew an interest in the agricultural tourism activities.

When fruit-reap season came, they usually paid 40 yuan (five US dollars) to local farmers for picking some fruit. If they stayed in farmers’ houses overnight, they had to pay another 70 yuan (eight US dollars).

Mr Latham concurred, saying Australia’s terrorism policies would be “disastrous” and should aim to dissuade the local population from joining a terrorist attack.

Thailand eyes up South Korean tourist market

BANGKOK, 7 June — The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is organizing a Thailand Festival in the South Korean capital Seoul later this month in a bid to promote tourism in the country.

The festival, which will run from June 17-21, is being organized by the TAT’s Seoul office in conjunction with the Thai Embassy, the Ministry of Commerce and Thai Airways International, the Thai News Agency reported Sunday.

The TAT hopes that the festival will lay down the routes for its latest marketing campaign, which projects Thailand as Asia’s tourism capital.

By doing so, the government hopes to generate more foreign revenue and increase the tourism competitiveness of Thailand’s public and private sectors, while promoting tourism in conjunction with other countries in the region.

The festival will consist of a range of tourism promotion activities, including traditional puppet shows, demonstrations of khon mask making techniques, the sale of One Tambon One Product (OTOP) goods and spa products, as well as a Thai food festival and a tourism trade meet, the agency said.

The TAT will also organize a Thai food promotion at Seoul’s Sofitel Hotel from June 10-17, and will encourage the promotion of Seoul’s 26-plus Thai restaurants over the next four months.

Oman plans to change phone numbers to eight digits from July

Two killed in Japan’s highway vehicle pileup

TOKYO, 6 June—Two people were killed and four others were injured Friday night in a five-vehicle pileup on a highway in northern Japan, police said Saturday.

A truck crashed into a station wagon from behind on a highway in Miyagi Prefecture shortly after 10 pm (1300 GMT), killing two men and seriously injuring three others who were in it, the police said.

The truck driver has been arrested on suspicion of professional negligence resulting in injuries.

The accident involved another truck, a passenger car and a minivehicle that were in front of the station wagon, the police said. A woman in the minivehicle sustained light injuries.

British contractor killed in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 6 June—A British contractor has been killed after an attack by gunmen on a civilian convoy in northern Iraq.

The Foreign Office said the man killed in the ambush near Mosul on Saturday was security guard Craig Dickens.

Three other Britons were injured. In the past two months there has been an increase of attacks against foreign civilians in Iraq. Four British contractors were killed in May, with 11 deaths since the end of the war last year.

In a separate attack just outside Baghdad, two Poles and two American private contractors were killed in a roadside ambush. And at least six Iraqis have been killed in a suspected car bomb attack north of Baghdad.

Two American soldiers were among several people injured in the blast at Taji, a US military officer said.

Several Iraqi policemen were also reported to have been killed in an attack on a police station south of Baghdad late on Saturday. The wave of violence comes with the 30 June handover date looming, when power will transfer from the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) to an interim Iraqi government.

Pope leaves for Switzerland

Rome, 6 June— Pope John Paul left Rome on Saturday for Switzerland where he will address crowds of adoring Catholic youths during a 36-hour visit.

The 84-year-old Pope, who has Parkinson’s disease, will travel to the capital Bern to preside at a jamboree of tens of thousands of Catholic youth, amid tight security and with police braced for a protest against the visit.

The Pope’s plane left Rome’s Fiumicino Airport at 10.09 am (0809 GMT).
Russia still not fully satisfied with revised resolution on Iraq

MOSCOW, 6 June — A top Russian diplomat said Saturday that Russia is still not fully satisfied with the new US-British revised resolution on Iraq, noting it requires additional coordination.

Yury Fedotov, Russia’s Deputy Foreign Minister, said on Friday that the new revised resolution did take into account and addresses concerns that Russia and other Security Council members expressed earlier.

However, Russia “cannot say now that it fully satisfies us, and therefore we believe it is necessary to continue its coordination,” the Interfax news agency quoted Fedotov as saying.

“Besides the contents of the draft resolution itself, it’s necessary to bear in mind how the adoption of this document would actually influence the situation in Iraq and whether it would lead to its radical improvement,” Fedotov noted.

“Ist this from viewpoint that we are assessing the situation and continuing intensive consultations with our partners in the UN Security Council,” he said.

The United States and Britain presented a new revised

Iraqi police patrol Najaf as truce takes hold

N A JAF, 6 June — Iraqi police returned to duty on the streets of the holy city of Najaf for the first time in weeks on Saturday in an agreement that a truce between US troops and Shi’ite militia may be taking hold, witnesses said.

US forces and radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr agreed on Friday to pull back from Najaf and turn control of the city over to the Iraqi police in a fresh attempt to end weeks of fighting after clashes undermined an initial truce deal last week.

“People now feel relieved and safer, they have missed the police,” said police officer Omar Abdul Hassan standing by his patrol car near traffic lights on a main street.

“Hopefully the city will now enjoy real calm,” he said, in between talking on his hand-held radio.

There was no visible sign of Sadr’s Mehdi Army forces on the streets, where the sight of guerrillas brandishing rifles or grenade launchers has been a common sight for weeks. US Colonel Brad May hailed the agreement as a “breakthrough on Friday that would help end the clashes. Washington had been keen to resolve in the run-up to a June 30 handover of power to an interim Iraqi government.

Under the deal, police were supposed to take up key positions closest to holy shrines in the city, where fighting between Sadr’s militia and US forces has offended religious sentiment among Iraq’s 60 per cent Shi’ite majority.

2,500-year-old blast blower discovered in N-W China

U RUMQI, 6 June — Archaeologists claim that as early as 2,500 years ago people living in the northwestern Xinjiang Autonomous Region had begun to use blast blowers, as they discovered a bronze blowlip in the Yanghai Tombs in Turpan.

“The function of the blowlip is much like that of the blast blowers which people are using now,” said Lu Enguo, a research member with the Xinjiang archaeological research institute.

Although we discovered bronze blow-pipes several years ago in Kuqa County and the northern part of Xinjiang, they were all made in the Han (206 B.C.-220) and the Tang (618-907) dynasties,” said Lu.

“Rut after research we concluded that the blast blowers discovered in the Yanghai Tombs in Turpan in the Warring States period (475 B.C.-221 B.C.), the oldest one we ever discovered in this region,” said Lu.

“Proves that as early as 2,500 years ago the local

Iranian police take over one kilos of heroin from teenagers’ stomachs

TEHRAN, 7 June — Iranian anti-drug police took 1.3 kilos of heroin from stomachs of three teenagers in the central province of Isfahan on Saturday, the official IRNA news agency reported.

The drug traffickers, aged between 14-15, intended to transfer the haul from Zahedan City in the eastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan to the capital of Teheran. IRNA quoted police source as saying. Iran sits in the crossroad linking drug producing Afghanistan and Pakistan and markets in the Persian Gulf states, Central Asia, Western Europe and other regions.

The country accounts for 80 per cent of the opium and 90 per cent of the morphine intercepted worldwide, according to the International Narcotics Control Board.

Millions of dollars of cannabis seized in Australia

CANBERRA, 6 June — Australian police have seized 640 kilograms of cannabis with a street value of 8.4 million US dollars, in Perth, capital of Western Australia state.

It was believed to be one of the biggest hauls of the drug in Australia. After being alerted to a suspicious container at a container repair facility earlier this week, police officers dismantled the container and found there was a false floor, a spokesman for Justice and Customs Minister Chris Ellison said on Friday. — MNA/Xinhua

David Kay calls Iraqi WMD “delusional”

LONDON, 7 June — The alleged weapons of mass destruction (WMD) do not exist in Iraq and it is “delusional” to think they will be found, former US weapons inspector David Kay said on Saturday.

Former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein had intended to reconstitute his weapons programme at some point and had acted illegally, but there were no actual new WMD stockpiles, Kay told the BBC Radio 4’s Today programme.

“In my view it is the only defensible position to take,” Kay said.

He added that the evidence of the banned weapons in Iraq had been a “fantasy,” and urged the ISG to “not get involved”.

“I don’t see any future in looking for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, at least in the time frame we are talking about,” Kay said.

Iraq had possessed WMD. He said he was “very concerned” about US claims of WMD in Iraq.

“I don’t think it’s going to be the biggest surprise ever,” he said.

He added that the evidence of the banned weapons in Iraq had been a “fantasy,” and urged the ISG to “not get involved”.

“I don’t see any future in looking for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, at least in the time frame we are talking about,” Kay said.

He added that the evidence of the banned weapons in Iraq had been a “fantasy,” and urged the ISG to “not get involved”.

“I don’t see any future in looking for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, at least in the time frame we are talking about,” Kay said.

He added that the evidence of the banned weapons in Iraq had been a “fantasy,” and urged the ISG to “not get involved”.

“I don’t see any future in looking for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, at least in the time frame we are talking about,” Kay said.
Iraqi children are seen through a bullet-riddled windscreen in the southern town of Amarah, 365 kms south of Baghdad, after it was hit by British troops on 5 June.


Iraqi women grieve the death of a deceased relative in Kufa, near the Southern Iraq city of Najaf, on 31 May, 2004.

An Iraqi man carries his wounded daughter out of a Baghdad hospital after she was hurt in an explosion in the Iraqi capital on 31 May, 2004.

Images of Iraq

Smoke billows following an explosion rocked central Baghdad on 1 June, 2004.

An Iraqi man points to bullet holes in the wall of his family home in Najaf, on 3 June, 2004 after clashes between US forces and Iraqi guerillas.

Firemen extinguish one of two vehicles burnt on the Baghdad airport highway on 5 June, 2004.

Iraqi men carry a child from a hospital in Baghdad on 31 May, 2004.
New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

Border and rural area developments

Aerial view of development of Panwa, Kachin State. — MSS

Nyamaung bridge linking Kokang and Wa regions in northern Shan State was built across Nanttain creek for better transportation in the region. — PBANRDA

A scenic beauty of the Karkai-Muse section of Lashio-Muse Road. — MSS

A drilling machine in action to supply potable water to rural people in Magyitone village, Paduang Township in Bago Division (West). — PBANRDA

People’s hospital in Namtit, Shan State (North), is providing health care services to rural people. — PBANRDA
In endeavours for emergence of ASEAN-China...

(From page 1)

context, ASEAN-CCI’s functional role has become all the more significant. Similarly, the ASEAN Business Advisory Council also assumes a greater role. In view of the recent successes, ASEAN will surely be able to reach the goals set out in ASEAN Economic Community. Allow me to take this opportunity to express Myanmar’s support for the emergence of the ASEAN Economic Community.

Myanmar believes that the development of ASEAN-China economic linkages is of great importance to Southeast Asia and China as it will bring great benefit to the people of both areas. Sharing common borders with two Southeast Asian countries, namely Thailand and Laos as well as with China, it can be said that Myanmar can serve as a transportation link to South Asia since Myanmar has common borders with India. Moreover, it also serves as a transportation link to South Asia since Myanmar has common borders with India.

Today, there already exist land transportation linkages between Myanmar and Inde, China and Thailand. Moreover, we are in the midst of establishing trilateral road linkages that will promote trade and commerce, tourism and people contacts. We believe that Myanmar can serve as an important transportation hub for the region.

With peace and stability as well as growing prosperity, Myanmar looks forward to making further meaningful contribution to regional peace and progress.

Before I conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the accomplishments of the ASEAN-CCI Yangon and UMFFCCI that had served as Chair of ASEAN-CCI and all National Chambers of the ASEAN for their support and cooperation.

I am confident that the outcome of today’s meeting will be productive and consolidate the ASEAN-China friendship through further confidence and friendship among ASEAN-China business people. I wish you every success in your deliberations and a pleasant stay in Myanmar.

Next, UMFFCCI President U Win Myint said with the founding of ASEAN-CCI in 1972, there has been progress in economic cooperation not only in the region but also EU and NAFTA. ASEAN private businesses have also met with success due to the assistance of ASEAN countries. In addition, mutual trade and investment have developed in China, he noted. The ACFTA will stand as a big market with 2 billion consumers within a decade. With the holding of the third annual meeting of ACBC, there will emerge significant developments in undertaking the activities of ACFT, he said. As Myanmar shares the borders with China, Thailand and Laos, border trade can be enhanced. Besides, China Kunming Export and Import Commodities Fair, ASEAN-CCI Trade Fair and GMS Trade Fair were held in Myanmar due to the efforts of UMFFCCI.

The UMFFCCI will promote its business co-operation with ASEAN-CCI, ABAC and ACBC. CCPI President Mr Wan Jifei and ASEAN-CCI President U Pyone Maung Maung expressed greetings.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party posed for a documentary photo together with presidents of respective industries. The meetings and the conference continue till 10 June.

--- MNA
National Convention delegates entertained

YANGON, 7 June.—The Entertainment and Welfare Sub-committee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee organizes entertainment programmes for delegates to the National Convention daily at the gymnasium of Nyaunghnapin Camp. Yesterday, evening, the delegates were entertained with songs by singers, actors and actresses to the accompaniment of the Aurora Music Band. Chairman of the National Convention Convening Committee, Maj-Gen Lun Maung, and committee members were also entertained. Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presented cash awards provided by NCCC to artists through officials. Next, Secretary of the Myanmar Music Association, Kantkaw U Myo Aung accepted cash awards for the Aurora Music Band presented by Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung. After the concert, Lt-Gen Tin Shwe and party cordially greeted the artists. —MNA

Proposals read...

(from page 16)

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents a cash award for artistes through an official. —MNA

Chairman of NCCMC Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung. —MNA

NCCC Secretary Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan. —MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan invites persons held the coordination meeting at the plenary meeting of the National Convention. —MNA

Delegate group of State service personnel

The panel of chairmen of the delegate group of State service personnel held the coordination at the meeting hall. The meeting was presided over by Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence. —MNA

Delegate group of national races

The proposal of the delegate group of national races concerning the proposals concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for the sharing to be included in drafting the State Constitution. The meetings ended with the concluding remarks by the meeting chairman at 10 am. —MNA

Delegate groups of workers

The panel of chairmen of the delegate group of workers to coordinate at the meeting hall. The meeting was presided over by Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence. —MNA

Delegate group of other invited persons

The panel of chairmen of the delegate group of other invited persons held the coordination meeting at the plenary meeting of the National Convention. —MNA

Delegate group of workers

The cooperation of the delegate group of workers to coordinate at the meeting hall. The meeting was presided over by Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence. —MNA

Delegate group of State service personnel

The panel of chairmen of the delegate group of State service personnel held the coordination at the meeting hall. The meeting was presided over by Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence. —MNA

Delegate group of national races

The proposal of the delegate group of national races concerning the proposals concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for the sharing to be included in drafting the State Constitution. The meetings ended with the concluding remarks by the meeting chairman at 10 am. —MNA

Delegate group of workers

The panel of chairmen of the delegate group of workers to coordinate at the meeting hall. The meeting was presided over by Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence. —MNA

Delegate group of other invited persons

The panel of chairmen of the delegate group of other invited persons held the coordination meeting at the plenary meeting of the National Convention. —MNA

Delegate group of State service personnel

The panel of chairmen of the delegate group of State service personnel held the coordination at the meeting hall. The meeting was presided over by Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence. —MNA

Delegate group of national races

The proposal of the delegate group of national races concerning the proposals concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for the sharing to be included in drafting the State Constitution. The meetings ended with the concluding remarks by the meeting chairman at 10 am. —MNA

Delegate group of workers

The panel of chairmen of the delegate group of workers to coordinate at the meeting hall. The meeting was presided over by Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence. —MNA

Delegate group of other invited persons

The panel of chairmen of the delegate group of other invited persons held the coordination meeting at the plenary meeting of the National Convention. —MNA

Delegate group of State service personnel

The panel of chairmen of the delegate group of State service personnel held the coordination at the meeting hall. The meeting was presided over by Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence. —MNA

Delegate group of national races

The proposal of the delegate group of national races concerning the proposals concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for the sharing to be included in drafting the State Constitution. The meetings ended with the concluding remarks by the meeting chairman at 10 am. —MNA

Delegate group of workers

The panel of chairmen of the delegate group of workers to coordinate at the meeting hall. The meeting was presided over by Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence. —MNA

Delegate group of other invited persons

The panel of chairmen of the delegate group of other invited persons held the coordination meeting at the plenary meeting of the National Convention. —MNA

Delegate group of State service personnel

The panel of chairmen of the delegate group of State service personnel held the coordination at the meeting hall. The meeting was presided over by Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence. —MNA

Delegate group of national races

The proposal of the delegate group of national races concerning the proposals concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for the sharing to be included in drafting the State Constitution. The meetings ended with the concluding remarks by the meeting chairman at 10 am. —MNA

Delegate group of workers
Railroad of sweat and train of smiles

Yadanasi Sayadaw (Loilem)

(Continued from yesterday)

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint wished health and happiness for all the local people attending the ceremony including the Minister and the Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation and officials.

He quoted Head of State Senior General Than Shwe as saying, “Plans should be laid down and implemented for improvement of roads in the border regions to narrow the development gap between the rural and urban areas.”

In accord with the guidance, the railroad has been built to facilitate transport between villages or places lying in the southern part of Taunggyi District and Loilem District,” he pointed out.

He continued to say, “The Government has been playing a leading role in building a new modern and peaceful nation, and to reach this end, it is carrying out the 24-development-zone project as well as the five rural development tasks for harmonious progress of the whole Union. It built a university in Pangleong town, in Loilem District, two colleges, one 200-bed specialist hospital and a digital auto-exchange station in Loilem. It has been implementing a hydroelectric power project in Kengtawng and Dahseik River Water Pumping Station in Langkho Township. Hence, the situation of the whole region has changed, and it is achieving significant progress when compared with the past.

In conclusion, the commander urged all the regional people to collectively safeguard and maintain the regional developments thus achieved.

In his address delivered at the ceremony, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min said, “In serving the public interest, the Myanma Railways has built a number of railroads, and up to now there are 3,011.98 miles of railroads in the nation, up from 1,976.35 miles in 1988. Moreover, the railroads under construction are: the 52.48-mile Kaunghsai-Hitiri railroad; the 26-mile Yemyetni-Kyaw tunnel-passing section of the ChaungU-Dahseik section; the 3.33-mile Okpou-Thalin University railroad; and the five-mile Kyeni-Chauk railroad.”

The MR is striving as a considerable force in the interest of the Union”, the minister pointed out, stressing, “Not only the MR staff, but also the regional people should strive to maintain the existing railroads for their long-term existence.” U Sai Nyunt, an ethnic Shan from Mong Hseek village, on behalf of the regional people, thanked the Government.

As soon as the commander and the minister had formally opened the railroad by cutting a ribbon, the local people at the ceremony cheered with joyous applause, and the dance troupes and musical troupes started to give cultural performances. The commander and the minister cordially greeted the local people and posed for souvenir photos together with them.

At that moment, the special train that would carry the commander, the minister and other guests to Kaunghsai on the other end of the railroad section, blew the horn, and slowly rolled to the station where the pandal of the ceremony was located. After everybody got on the coaches, the train started to roll towards the destination. The commander, the minister and party and the local people at the ceremony and all along the railroad standing on both sides exchanged smiles and greetings. Thus, there were smiles everywhere in the region.

The train carrying people with smiling faces and that helped make local people happy with smiles was running smoothly on the 10.23-mile railroad built by the Tatmadawmen with much sweat till reaching Kaunghsai on the other end.

The Tatmadawmen were continuing to build the 9.19-mile Kaunghsai-Nantheik section; the 6.2-mile Nantheik-Taunggaing section; and 12.16-mile Taunggaing-Ponchaung section with energetic efforts. All the three remaining sections have been built on a rough terrain, with gorges, steep mountain slopes, wild creeks flowing through it, mountain ranges posing as barriers, and rocky areas. Hence, they have been facing and overcoming a lot of difficulties and hardships, building bridges across the creeks, filling gravel and earth to raise and harden the low-lying areas and cutting through the rocky terrain to build the railroad. Of all the three sections, 65 bridges have been built, 75,252,400 cubic feet of earth have been filled and 5,369,100 cubic feet of pebbles have been produced at the Kaunghsai-Nantheik section; 36 bridges have been built, 64,547,300 cubic feet of earth have been filled, and 6,188,900 cubic feet of pebbles have been produced at the Nantheik-Taunggaing section; and 60 bridges have been built, 116,475,200 cubic feet of earth have been filled and 47,208,200 cubic feet of pebbles have been produced at the Taunggaing-Ponchaung section.

Moreover, the railroad has been built in accord with the ASEAN standards: maximum allowable extent for inclines, 1:80 (1.25 per cent); and maximum allowable extent for curves, 11.65 degree. Thus, all works including ground preparation, rail laying and rock filling have been done in accord with the standards for the emergence of an accident-free and hazard-free railroad.

The Tatmadawmen are making energetic efforts, overcoming a lot of difficulties and hardships for completion of the railroad. The MR staff are also rendering assistance to them. At the time when the railroad is completed, national brethren residing in areas closely will be able to meet one another frequently after overcoming the natural barriers.

The sweat of the Tatmadawmen at present will help make local people happy with smiles was running smoothly on the 10.23-mile railroad built by the Tatmadawmen with much sweat till reaching Kaunghsai on the other end.

The railroad they have built.

Because of the smiles that will appear on the faces of the Tatmadawmen for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min said, “In implementing a hydroelectric power project in Kengtawng District, two colleges, one 200-bed specialist hospital and the 24-development-zone project as well as the five rural developments thus achieved.

World Blood Donor Day

(14-6-2004)

An artist from Kyayayik Hospital stores Blood, a gift for life. Thank you
Minister inspects factories in Bago Division

YANGON, 7 June — Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, accompanied by officials, arrived at Myanmar General and Maintenance Industries in Shwegyin Township, Bago Division, this morning. At the briefing hall, the factory manager reported on the area of Sittauk rubber farm, the number of plants, average per-acre yield, annual requirement of fertilizers and raw materials. Managing Director of MGI U Theik Tun gave supplementary reports to the minister.

Following the reports, the minister gave instructions on measures for increased supply of machinery and manpower to ensure development of the farm and fire-preventive measures. The minister inspected the manufacturing process of rubber.

Next, the minister and party went to Khun Theik rubber farm, where they inspected plantations and gave instructions on arrangements for taking fire preventive measures. At the meeting hall of the General Administration Department in Shwegyin Township, the minister met with departmental employees and locally and gave instructions on extended cultivation of rubber trees. At the briefing hall of Myanmar Foodstuff Industries in DaikU, the minister heard reports on cultivation of tapioca and its products. Managing Director of MFI Col Soe Hlme also gave additional reports. After giving instructions on thorough preparation of farmland, the minister inspected trial plantations of tapioca. At the glucose factory, the minister inspected the production process of glucose.

O, What goodwill

* In a foreign land, divided by water and land
  Those born there, with different attitude
  Those persons with different race and caste
  Pretending to see one another as proster
  Using this guile, create concoction
  To create doubts among brethren

* Seeking to create bad blood
  Main reason is for our Myanmar nation
  They organize to create goodwill
  That’s what they say.

* Forsaking motherland, for another’s
  Looking for master, to settle there
  To obtain the good life
  These persons, those activists
  Are marring acts of patriots, relatives
  Working to be prosperous, for nation to be good

* Endavouring among brethren
  Who are discussing, deliberating
  They very act, they’re impeding
  Concoctions to man the schools path
  They’re still talking ill, but claim
  They’re working for Myanmar
  Who reside in their own land
  To enjoy goodwill, they’re finding words
  And talking in good path, they say

* Well, their goodwill
  Is frightful, it really is.

— Byen Hlwar

China trade fair attracts businesses from ASEAN

KUNMING, 7 June — The annual China Kunming trade fair opened Sunday in this capital of southwest China’s Yunnan Province, with 1,100 businesses from 18 countries and regions attending. The 11-year old trade fair, held annually in Kunming of Yunnan, was renamed as China Kunming Import and Export Commodities Fair in this year. Its previous name was China Kunming Export Commodities Fair. Yunnan is a province bordering Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar, three countries from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The five-day fair is under regional spotlight as a China-ASEAN free trade area is moving forward as economic and trade cooperation between the two sides is fast expanding. The ASEAN hall is a major focus of the fair. All 10 member countries of the ASEAN set up a total of 237 display stands at the fair. Vietnam alone has 100 stands for its enterprises, the largest ever in its history of attendance, the fair organizers said.

The fair for the first time set up a South Asia hall for enterprises from South Asian countries, according to organizers.

Over 4,000 businessmen from ASEAN and South Asian countries are attending the fair, according to the calculation of the organizing committee. The fair was cosponsored by the governments of Chongqing, Municipality, provinces of Sichuan, Yunnan and Guizhou, the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, the Tibet Autonomous Region and Chengdu, the capital city of Sichuan.

Laotian Vice-Prime Minister Boua Sone and Li Zhaohou, vice chairman of National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference attended the opening ceremony on Sunday. — MNA/Xinhua

No earthquakes caused by water storage of Three Gorges Project

Scale was rarely seen, according to Wang Qiang, director of the Chongqing Municipal Seismological Bureau. The earthquakes failed to exert any disastrous influence on the Three Gorges Project, which is designed capable of resisting earthquakes measuring 7 on the Richter Scale, Wang said.

— MNA/Xinhua
Japan passes pension bill

Tokyo, 6 June — Japan’s Parliament passed a contentious pension bill on Saturday despite a long struggle by the main opposition party to kill it, a play for support a month before elections in which pension policy will be a hot topic.

But the battle in Parliament, which delayed voting for nearly a day by using several ruses, may have backfired by increasing voter distrust of politicians still further.

“It is undeniable that such an important thing be decided in this form,” the daily Mainichi Shimbun said in an editorial before the bill passed, adding, “In this way, only distrust of politics is left.” The bill aims to hike premiums and cut benefits and is disliked by a public angered by revelations that lawmakers on both sides failed to pay into the national pension scheme at a time when the government is urging ordinary citizens to do so.

Opposition lawmakers, led by the largest opposition Democratic Party, used the “ex walk” tactic, stepping slowly towards the dais where they cast their ballot, a traditional delaying move.

They also submitted several motions to relieve lawmakers of key positions, along with a non-binding censure motion against Health Minister Chikara Sakaguchi. All were voted down. Occasional scuffles erupted, with lawmakers shouting at each other on the floor of Parliament amid angry shouts.

In the end, the bill, which coalition leaders had hoped would be enacted on Friday by being passed by the Upper House, did not pass until Saturday morning.

It went through the Lower House last month. This is very unfortunate,” Akira Imaiizumi, a Democratic lawmaker in charge of Upper House policy, told reporters. “Why must everything be rushed through so fast?”

MNA/Reuters
Omani company plans investment for 266-kilometre pipeline

Asi Dibah, 6 June—Oman Refinery Co (ORC) is planning to invest around 119 million US dollars for the construction of a 266-kilometre crude oil pipeline to provide feedstock for Sohar Refinery Co (SRC), the Times of Oman reported Saturday.

The new crude oil pipeline will start in ORC area at Mina Al Fahal and end at SRC located at Sohar in the port area. It will be one of the biggest of its kind in Oman when construction is completed.

The new 24-inch pipeline will go via Al Batinah coast from ORC’s Mina Al Fahal facility to Sohar with initial required capacity of 396,000 barrels per day (BPD) of mixed crude oil and long residue.

This capacity will be increased in the future to accommodate 160,000 BPD of Oman export blend crude oil. The pipeline will be operated and managed by ORC through state-owned Oman Gas Company (OGC). OGC have managed and operated similar projects in the past like the 32-inch gas pipeline from Fahud to Sohar, the pa-

Coal mine safety made priority in Shanxi Province

Taiyuan, 6 June—North China’s Shanxi Province, a leading coal producer of China, has stepped up its efforts in recent years to improve conditions at coal mines to guarantee production safety.

Vice-Governor Jin Shanzhong said that the provincial government had made it clear that no coal mines with an annual capacity of 300 thousand tons and in violation of technical upgrading projects would be approved. To guarantee production safety, the province has urged all local coal mines to complete the construction of gas-monitoring systems in the first half of the year. According to a provincial level production safety emergency rescue centre will be set up within the year to improve the province’s ability to deal with serious accidents.

Statistics show that the province has shut down 6,692 small coal mines and 1,275 non-coal mines, which have no production permits, which are improperly distributed or do not meet the requirements set by the government for safe production over the past six years.

The number of coal mines in the province had dropped to 3,828 by the end of March this year from over 10,000.

Last year, 1,357 people held responsible for coal mine accidents were punished, 92 of whom were brought to court. —MNA/Xinhua

Almost half of Beijing homes have access to Internet

Beijing, 7 June—Forty-seven per cent of Beijing’s homes have access to Internet by the end of March this year, a survey has found.

According to a report by CWIC Research, an institute, 62 per cent of the families in eight downtown districts in Beijing were connected to the Internet, with three of the 21.9 per cent in the rural part of Beijing.

Broadband Internet access dominated the market in Beijing, as 63.8 per cent of Beijing homes had access to Internet through broadband network.

France launches web site on war victims

Cain (France), 6 June—The French Government has launched a new web site to enable web surfers to find more information on victims of past wars.

The web site was inaugurated by Defence Deputy Minister for Veterans Hamlaoui Mekacher, according to a Press release received here Saturday.

The web site was designed for better access to information concerning the place where about 420,000 French and foreign victims were buried in the military cemeteries during the 1870 war, the First World War, the Second World War and other conflicts of the 20th Century.

The success of the ‘Mmoire des Hommes’ (men’s memory) web site, and the numerous questions for information about the place of burial of French First World War victims, along with a growing interest for these places, have encouraged the French Ministry to propose a wider and easier ac-

Tunis, 6 June—The Tunisian Coast Guard found the bodies of six migrants who drowned after a boat carrying them and five others to Italy sank off the Tunisian coast, the North African country’s main newspaper reported on Saturday.

“Six bodies were recov-

y for serious burn injuries.

The boat sailed from a coastal village in Sfax and 150 miles south of Tunis, early on Friday before sinking a few hours later in bad weather, the newspaper said.

The only survivor swam to the shore.

China donates famous writer’s book to China

Beijing, 6 June—The Cuban Embassy to China here Friday donated the book Chinese and Cuban Independence by well-known Cuban writer Gonzalo Quesada to the Chinese National Museum, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Cuban revolution and even died for the Cuban Independence War.

Alberto Rodriguez Anxe, Cuban Ambassador to China, said at the donat-

Int’l film gala opens in Shanghai

Shanghai, 7 June—Some 1,000 film stars, directors and critics gathered here Saturday night to kick off the Seventh Shanghai International Film Festival, a fiesta that was put on a year due to the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003.

Sixteen films, nine from Europe and seven from Asia, will compete for the Jia Jue Award at the nine-day festi-

Cuba donates famous writer’s book to China

Beijing, 6 June—The Cuban Embassy to China here Friday donated the book Chinese and Cuban Independence by well-known Cuban writer Gonzalo Quesada to the Chinese National Museum, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Cuban revolution and even died for the Cuban Independence War.

Alberto Rodriguez Anxe, Cuban Ambassador to China, said at the dona-

Int’l film gala opens in Shanghai

Shanghai, 7 June—Some 1,000 film stars, directors and critics gathered here Saturday night to kick off the Seventh Shanghai International Film Festival, a fiesta that was put on a year due to the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003.

Sixteen films, nine from Europe and seven from Asia, will compete for the Jia Jue Award at the nine-day festival, which will end on June 13. Another 10 new film from Asian countries will also vie for the award.

The six-member judges panel for the Jia Jue Award includes committee president and noted Chinese di-

Manfred Wong, French di-

Nine killed as fire engulfs bus in Bangladesh

Dhaka, 6 June—At least 12 people were killed when fire engulfed a double-decker bus in the Bangla-

Tunis, 6 June—The Tunisian Coast Guard found the bodies of six migrants who drowned after a boat carrying them and five others to Italy sank off the Tunisian coast, the North African country’s main newspaper reported on Saturday.

“Six bodies were recover-

France launches web site on war victims

Cain (France), 6 June—The French Government has launched a new web site to enable web surfers to find more information on victims of past wars.

The web site was inaugu-

China donates famous writer’s book to China

Beijing, 6 June—The Cuban Embassy to China here Friday donated the book Chinese and Cuban Independence by well-known Cuban writer Gonzalo Quesada to the Chinese National Museum, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Cuban revolution and even died for the Cuban Independence War.

Alberto Rodriguez Anxe, Cuban Ambassador to China, said at the donat-

Int’l film gala opens in Shanghai

Shanghai, 7 June—Some 1,000 film stars, directors and critics gathered here Saturday night to kick off the Seventh Shanghai International Film Festival, a fiesta that was put on a year due to the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003.

Sixteen films, nine from Europe and seven from Asia, will compete for the Jia Jue Award at the nine-day festival, which will end on June 13. Another 10 new film from Asian countries will also vie for the award.

The six-member judges panel for the Jia Jue Award includes committee president and noted Chinese di-

Manfred Wong, French di-

Nine killed as fire engulfs bus in Bangladesh

Dhaka, 6 June—At least 12 people were killed when fire engulfed a double-decker bus in the Bangla-

Tunis, 6 June—The Tunisian Coast Guard found the bodies of six migrants who drowned after a boat carrying them and five others to Italy sank off the Tunisian coast, the North African country’s main newspaper reported on Saturday.

“Six bodies were recover-

France launches web site on war victims

Cain (France), 6 June—The French Government has launched a new web site to enable web surfers to find more information on victims of past wars.

The web site was inaugu-

China donates famous writer’s book to China

Beijing, 6 June—The Cuban Embassy to China here Friday donated the book Chinese and Cuban Independence by well-known Cuban writer Gonzalo Quesada to the Chinese National Museum, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Cuban revolution and even died for the Cuban Independence War.

Alberto Rodriguez Anxe, Cuban Ambassador to China, said at the donat-

Int’l film gala opens in Shanghai

Shanghai, 7 June—Some 1,000 film stars, directors and critics gathered here Saturday night to kick off the Seventh Shanghai International Film Festival, a fiesta that was put on a year due to the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003.

Sixteen films, nine from Europe and seven from Asia, will compete for the Jia Jue Award at the nine-day festival, which will end on June 13. Another 10 new film from Asian countries will also vie for the award.

The six-member judges panel for the Jia Jue Award includes committee president and noted Chinese di-

Manfred Wong, French di-

Nine killed as fire engulfs bus in Bangladesh

Dhaka, 6 June—At least 12 people were killed when fire engulfed a double-decker bus in the Bangla-

Tunis, 6 June—The Tunisian Coast Guard found the bodies of six migrants who drowned after a boat carrying them and five others to Italy sank off the Tunisian coast, the North African country’s main newspaper reported on Saturday.

“Six bodies were recover-

France launches web site on war victims

Cain (France), 6 June—The French Government has launched a new web site to enable web surfers to find more information on victims of past wars.

The web site was inaugu-

China donates famous writer’s book to China

Beijing, 6 June—The Cuban Embassy to China here Friday donated the book Chinese and Cuban Independence by well-known Cuban writer Gonzalo Quesada to the Chinese National Museum, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Cuban revolution and even died for the Cuban Independence War.

Alberto Rodriguez Anxe, Cuban Ambassador to China, said at the donat-

Int’l film gala opens in Shanghai

Shanghai, 7 June—Some 1,000 film stars, directors and critics gathered here Saturday night to kick off the Seventh Shanghai International Film Festival, a fiesta that was put on a year due to the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2003.

Sixteen films, nine from Europe and seven from Asia, will compete for the Jia Jue Award at the nine-day festival, which will end on June 13. Another 10 new film from Asian countries will also vie for the award.

The six-member judges panel for the Jia Jue Award includes committee president and noted Chinese di-

Manfred Wong, French di-

Nine killed as fire engulfs bus in Bangladesh

Dhaka, 6 June—At least 12 people were killed when fire engulfed a double-decker bus in the Bangla-

Tunis, 6 June—The Tunisian Coast Guard found the bodies of six migrants who drowned after a boat carrying them and five others to Italy sank off the Tunisian coast, the North African country’s main newspaper reported on Saturday.

“Six bodies were recover-

France launches web site on war victims

Cain (France), 6 June—The French Government has launched a new web site to enable web surfers to find more information on victims of past wars.

The web site was inaugu-
**SPORTS**

**Gilardino double helps Italy win Olympic spot**

**BERLIN, 6 June —** Two goals from Parma striker Alberto Gilardino helped Italy book a place at the Olympic soccer tournament by beating Portugal 3-1 in the semifinals of the European Under-21 championship on Saturday. Italy will play the final on Tuesday against Serbia & Montenegro, who also won a ticket to the Olympics by beating Sweden on penalties in the other semifinal.

The two finalists and the winners of the third-place playoff, also being played on Tuesday, qualify for the Olympics in August in Athens.

Gilardino scored a goal in each half for Italy in the game in Bochum. Midfielder Gianpietro Pinzi also contributed to the victory of the winners of four of the last six editions of the tournament.

Portugal, who eliminated Germany by beating the hosts in the group stage, were trailing 2-0 when striker Pedro Oliveira scored their goal in the 28th minute. In the other semifinal, played in Oberhausen, midfielder Haralanpos Stefanidis, who had put Sweden in the lead on 35 minutes, missed the decisive penalty to give Serbia & Montenegro a 6-5 win in the shoot-out.— MNA/Reuters

**Portugal ease to 4-1 win over Lithuania**

**SETTAL (Portugal), 6 June —** Portugal eased to a 4-1 victory over Lithuania on Saturday in a satisfying final warm-up match before they begin their quest for a home victory at Euro 2004.

A header from Fernando Couto and a deft finish from Paulenta Resendes put Luis Felipe Scolari’s side 2-0 up by the 13th minute.

Lithuania got a goal back after 74 minutes with a penalty from Donatas Vencevicius but Nuno Gomes scored with nine minutes to go and Helena Postiga headed in in injury time to complete a comfortable win for the home side.

Scolari fielded what is likely to be his starting line-up when the hosts get the tournament underway with a Group A match against Greece on June 12 in Porto.

Portugal were ahead as early as the third minute when Luis Figo swung over the top of the goal and Jonathan De Guerreiro beat on-rushing goalkeeper Ramazan Mas Sorensen after 27 minutes to put the Croatians ahead in the penalty.

The Swedes came on even stronger in the second half and defender Jakobsson made it 3-1 and substitute Ebbe Sand put the 1992 European champions back in the game when he scored in the 56th minute.

The Valencia-based side, who cannot now finish lower than third in the Spanish Second Division, lead the table on 75 points, five ahead of Getafe, who beat Ciudad de Murcia 2-0 on Saturday, and seven ahead of Alavés, who play fellow promotion hopefuls Numancia on Sunday.

Levante’s promotion completes a year-long triumphing for the small sister, in the top flight thanks to a 2-0 home defeat by Ireland on Saturday. Robbie Keane sealed the deserved win just before halftime with a powerful, precise shot from a corner kick by midfielder Kim Källstrom.

The first-half performance fully vindicated Eriksson’s decision to scrap the diamond-shaped midfield which had flopped in Tuesday’s 1-1 draw with Japan, with commanding performances from Lampard and Steven Gerrard in the centre.

The changes enabled Eriksson to substitute midfielder Beckham to head to a Manchester hospital for treatment to remove a cyst from his right foot.— MNA/Reuters

**Roooney hits two in 6-1 England win**

**MANCHESTER (England), 6 June —** Teenage striker Wayne Rooney scored twice as England limped up for Euro 2004 in style with a crushing 6-1 victory over Iceland on Saturday.

Frank Lampard opened the scoring with a deflected shot after 25 minutes and 18-year-old sensation Rooney followed up with one neat side-foot and a glorious 25-metre p father-ahead in the 36th minute before Heidar Helguson pulled one back for Iceland.

Coach Sven-Goran Eriksson made nine changes for the second half and England’s reserves rose to the challenge with two goals from striker Darius Vassell and defender Wayne Bridge’s first for his country.

The first-half performance fully vindicated Eriksson’s decision to scrap the diamond-shaped midfield which had flopped in Tuesday’s 1-1 draw with Japan, with commanding performances from Lampard and Steven Gerrard in the centre.

The changes enabled Eriksson to substitute midfielder Beckham to head to a Manchester hospital for treatment to remove a cyst from his right foot.— MNA/Reuters

**Levante back in Spain’s top flight after 39 years**

**AMSTERDAM, 6 June —** Ten days before their Euro 2004 opening game against Germany, Dutch confidence took a big knock as a 1-0 home defeat by Iceland on Saturday.

Robbie Keane headed the winning goal just before halftime, ending a fine 40-metre run with a powerful, deflected shot from just outside the box.

The Dutch disappeared in their last warm-up before Portugal, proving harmless up front. Their best chance came 15 minutes from time but Shay Given brilliantly saved a Roy Makaay header.

The Irish had gone close to an opening goal after only three minutes when Keane intercepted a header away by Giovanni van Bronckhorst but his shot narrowly missed the target.

On ten minutes the Dutch had their first chance but Patrick Kluivert failed to cash in.

On 20 minutes the impressive Keane was unlucky with a bicycle kick that struck the crossbar.

After the break Dutch coach Dick Advocaat paired Rafael van der Vaart with Ruud van Nistelrooy while Clarence Seedorf replaced the totally out of form Kluivert.

The changes enabled Eriksson to substitute midfielder Beckham to head to a Manchester hospital for treatment to remove a cyst from his right foot.— MNA/Reuters

**Malibaza guides South Africa to unconvincing win**

**BUJA, 6 June —** Captain Mubele Malibaza scored twice in South Africa’s unconvincing 2-1 win over the Cape Verde Islands at the start of their 2006 World Cup qualifying campaign on Saturday.

The Tottenham Hotspur player blasted home a free kick just before halftime and then netted a spectacular long-range shot in the second to give South Africa all three points in new coach Stuart Baxter’s first game.

The Baxter admitted his side were not impressive and had panicked and lost discipline after the islanders pulled a goal back in the 76th minute when Janicic scored with a stunning shot from outside the box.

The 144th-ranked islanders then pressed in the final 10 minutes to grab an equalizer, with Calo missing after rounding South African goalkeeper Hans Vonk, who then dropped a ball in the final minute which Lito failed to capitalize on.— MNA/Reuters

**Sivanchez guides African champions to first win in 77 years**

**BUJA, 6 June —** Ten days before their Euro 2004 opening game against Germany, Dutch confidence took a big knock as a 1-0 home defeat by Iceland on Saturday.

Robbie Keane headed the winning goal just before halftime, ending a fine 40-metre run with a powerful, deflected shot from just outside the box.

The Dutch disappeared in their last warm-up before Portugal, proving harmless up front. Their best chance came 15 minutes from time but Shay Given brilliantly saved a Roy Makaay header.

The Irish had gone close to an opening goal after only three minutes when Keane intercepted a header away by Giovanni van Bronckhorst but his shot narrowly missed the target.

On ten minutes the Dutch had their first chance but Patrick Kluivert failed to cash in.

On 20 minutes the impressive Keane was unlucky with a bicycle kick that struck the crossbar.

After the break Dutch coach Dick Advocaat paired Rafael van der Vaart with Ruud van Nistelrooy while Clarence Seedorf replaced the totally out of form Kluivert.

The changes enabled Eriksson to substitute midfielder Beckham to head to a Manchester hospital for treatment to remove a cyst from his right foot.— MNA/Reuters

**Croatia beat Denmark 2-1 in last warm-up**

**COPENHAGEN, 6 June —** Croatia beat Denmark 2-1 away in the two teams’ final warm-up on Saturday before the start of Euro 2004 in Portugal next weekend.

Striker Tomislav Sokaib Sokolov Denmark keeper Thomas Sorensen after 27 minutes to put the Nordics ahead against their lacklustre hosts at the Parken Stadium.

Croatia went up two before halftime when Ivica Olic crookedly headed into the net from Nenad Bjelica’s corner kick. Denmark came out a different team in the second half and substitute Ebbe Sand put the 1992 European champions back in the game when he scored in the 56th minute.

Sand had been denied a few minutes earlier when Croatia’s Stipe Pletskosa a shot from just inside the penalty box.— MNA/Reuters

**Inspired Sweden outclass Poland 3-1**

**STOCKHOLM, 6 June —** Sweden outclassed Poland 3-1 with goals by Henrik Larsson, Andreas Jakobsson and Marcus Allback in a warm-up friendly on Saturday, their last before the European championship.

Larsson, who announced his return to the national team in April, gave Sweden the lead in the 41st minute after Liverpool goalkeeper Jerzy Dudek of Aalesund put the ball back from a corner kick by midfielder Kim Källstrom.

Dudek made a rare mistake in the 72nd minute when he tried to clear a cross back to his head but instead sent it straight to substitute Allback two metres out and the Aston Villa striker fired Sweden’s third.— MNA/Reuters

**Martins gives Nigeria 2-0 victory over underdogs Rwanda**

**ABUJA, 6 June —** Two goals by Jermaine Jenas and Empose Martins secured Nigeria three points in their World Cup African zone Group Four qualifier against Rwanda in Abuja on Saturday.

Both goals came in the second half after Nigeria’s expensively assembled overseas-based team were successfully contained in the first period by a nervous Rwandan side.

Martins, playing in his first home international, scored his first goal with his favoured left foot on 56 minutes, tucking the ball into the net after cleverly escaping an offside trap.

The second goal in the 57th minute was similar to the first. Martins avoided another offside trap before breaking clear of the back line on the finishing goalkeeper Ramazan Nkunziingoma.

Rwanda lacked bite in attack and rarely posed a threat to the Nigerians who curiously restricted most of their play to the midfield.— MNA/Reuters
Tuesday, June 8, 2004

View today:

7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittaw by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottama

7:15 am
2. ທີ່ມີນາຍຸ້ນໍາ ຕັດພັດທະນາ

7:30 am
3. To be healthy exercise

7:40 am
4. Morning news

8:00 am
5. Nice and sweet song

8:10 am
6. ຄະນະລູກສາ

8:30 am
7. ອານນັກສົດທະສາດ

8:45 am
8. ມາດການລາຄ

9:00 am
9. ປະສັກ

9:15 am
10. ປະສັກ Ngang Thit Hla Pa

9:30 am
11. ປະສັກ Ngang Thit Hla Pa

9:45 am
12. ປະສັກ Ngang Thit Hla Pa

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

WEATHER

20:35 Quality Rice Produce-

17:12 The World's Biggest

8:45 am
20. ມາດການ Ngang Thit Hla Pa

8:45 am
21. ມາດການ Ngang Thit Hla Pa

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been fairly cloudy in Magway Division and Kyain State and rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and Kayin States, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay Divisions, scattered in upper Sagaing, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kawthoung (2.01) inches, Bago (1.65) inches and Mogok (1.42) inches.

Maximum temperature on 6-6-2004 was 33.1°C (91.6°F). Minimum temperature on 6-6-2004 was 22.8°C (73.0°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hr MST on 7-6-2004 was 84%. Total sunshine hours on 6-6-2004 was 4.5 hours approx. Rainfall on 7-6-2004 was 23mm (0.91 inch) at Yangon Airport, 3mm (0.12 inch) at Kaba-Aye and nil central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 562mm (22.13 inches) at Yangon Airport and 461mm (18.15 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 592 mm (23.06 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 5 mph from Southwest at (11:45) hours MST on 6-6-2004.

Bay influence: According to the observations at 06:30 hrs MST today, yesterday’s low pressure area over West-Central Burma becomes important. This system is fea-

ble in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of the 9-6-2004. Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Kayah State, lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Bago and Yangon Divisions and scattered in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%): Sea state: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Weak to moder-
ate monsoon. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-6-2004: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (90%).

Earthquake Report

(issued at 10-00 hrs MST on Today)

An earthquake of slight intensity (3.9) Richter Scale with epicenter located about (1.8) miles West-southwest of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (03) hrs (53 min) (56 sec) MST on 7th June, 2004.
Prime Minister attends third convocation of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University

YANGON, 7 June—The third convocation of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University was held at the Convention Dhammyagon of the State Pariyatti Sangha University (Yangon) on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill this morning, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Present were State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee member Sayadaw led by Deputy Chancellor of ITBMU Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Ratha Guru, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammojika Magway Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kumara, Ovadacariya Sayadaws of ITBMU, Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovid title recipient Sayadaws, Rector and pro-rector (Teaching) of ITBMU and heads of faculty.

Also present were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon mayor, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, ambassadors, pro-rector (Admin) of ITBMU and professors, trainee members of the Sangha, wellwishers and guests.

Trainee members of the Sangha who will receive B.A (Buddhism) degrees on members of the Sangha from home and abroad and presented fans with the emblem of the university. The Sayadaw also conferred degrees on laymen and nuns from home and abroad.

The Sayadaw signed in the record book and delivered an Ovadakatha. At the convocation, 24 members of the Sangha, seven nuns and 13 laymen received B.A (Buddhism).

Maha Saddhammajotia, Maha Dhamma Majjihissa, Maha Dhammahita Missionary University and sangha who received degrees and new trainee members of the Sangha who received degrees and new trainee members of the Sangha.

Coord meeting of NCCC, Work Committee, Management Committee held

NCCC Chairman Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein makes an address at the coordination meeting of NCCC, Work Committee and Management Committee. — MNA

YANGON, 7 June—The Coordination Meeting No 7/2004 of National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee and Management Committee was held at the meeting hall of Anawratha Yeikha, Nyuung Hpapin Camp, Hmawby Township this morning with an address by Chairman of NCCC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Li-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present were Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsuan and members, Secretary of the Work Committee U Thaung Nyunt and members, Chairman of the Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members. Joint-Secretary-2 of NCCC Director-General of Pyithu Hluttaw Office U Myint Thein acted as master of ceremonies.

First, Chairman of NCCC Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address. In his address, he said that priority is being given to tasks for holding the National Convention as they are the national concerns. Thus strenuous efforts are to be made for successful holding of the meeting. There will be different issues since the Convention is being attended by a wide array of national races. Constructive and sound ideas capable of serving the interests of the State and the people are to be accepted in accord with the six objectives of the Convention and 104 basic principles. He urged officials concerned to make efforts with goodwill and a sense of duty for the welfare of the delegates.

Next, Secretary of NCCC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsuan reported on matters relating to permission of outpass of the delegates and their arrival on time to their respective hostels from 4 to 6 June and visiting the Shwedagon Pagoda and Lawka Chantha Abhaya Labha Muma Image by the delegates on 5 June. Afterwards, on behalf of the Chairman of NCCC, Secretary U Thaung Nyunt reported on paper compilation of the delegates, Chairman of the Work Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung on health of delegates and those undergoing medical treatment and administrative measures for the delegates.

This was followed by a general round of discussions. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by NCCC Chairman Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein — MNA

YANGON, 7 June—U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Col Hla Min of the Ministry of Defence who attended the 3rd IISS Asia Security Conference held in Singapore from June 4 to 6 arrived back here by air this afternoon.

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and Col Hla Min of the Ministry of Defence were welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Mr Simon Tenseng de Cruz, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to Myanmar and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

Proposals read, meeting of panel of chairmen held

YANGON, 7 June—The proposals presentation of delegate groups of political parties, national races and State service personnel and coordination meeting of panel of chairmen of delegate groups of other invited persons and workers to the National Convention were held at the respective venues of Nyaunghpain Camp in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division, this morning and this evening, attended by members of the panel of chairmen and delegates.

Delegate group of political parties

Meeting of the delegate group of political parties was held at the meeting hall-1 this morning. U Tun Yin Law of National Unity Party presided over the meeting. Deputy Director U Khin Maung Pyu and Assistant Director Daw Yin Than of the working group-3 of the National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as master and co-master of ceremonies.

First, the master of ceremonies announced the start of the meeting with the (See page 9)

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs arrives back

YANGON, 7 June—U Khin Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Col Hla Min of the Ministry of Defence who attended the 3rd IISS Asia Security Conference held in Singapore from June 4 to 6 arrived back here by air this afternoon.

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win and Col Hla Min of the Ministry of Defence were welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Mr Simon Tenseng de Cruz, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to Myanmar and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — MNA

The group meeting of other invited persons in progress. — MNA

Prime Minister Khin Nyunt pays respects to members of the Sangha at Third Convocation of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt pays respects to members of the Sangha at Third Convocation of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt pays respects to members of the Sangha at Third Convocation of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt pays respects to members of the Sangha at Third Convocation of International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University. — MNA