Prime Minister inspects development of townships in Rakhine State, relief measures for storm victims

YANGON, 8 June— Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments and officials, arrived in Sittway by air on 7 June. The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Oo, military and civilian officials and social organizations.

The Prime Minister and party and commander arrived in Pauktaw Township where they were welcomed by local authorities, departmental personnel, social organizations and local people. Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party went to Basic Education High School in Pauktaw Township where they were welcomed by members of School Board of Trustees, Headmistress Daw Oha Tin, teachers and students. The Prime Minister inspected the storm-hit school buildings and computer rooms and fulfilled the requirements. The Prime Minister met members of Township Peace and Development Council, departmental officials, social organizations and townswomen at the meeting hall of Township General Administration Department.

Member-2 of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Police Commander of Rakhine State Police Col Win Kyi reported on conditions of houses, hospitals, schools, religious structures and departments damaged by the strong winds on 19 May, loss of cattle and relief measures including health care services and supply of drinking water.

Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Kyaw Zaw Hla also reported on education, health, roads and jetties and requirements. The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements on relief, education, health and construction of jetties, communication and roads for regional development. He said houses, departments, prawn breeding farms, hospitals and schools were destroyed, cattle were also lost due to the strong winds hit on 19 May in Pauktaw Township.

He said natural disasters usually occurred when the weather changed and people lost their property. The government made arrangements for providing assistance to those who faced natural disaster. National people living in other states and divisions of the Union also provided assistance to them, he said.

He said it is the tradition of Myanmar to help those who encountered difficulties. This noble tradition existed in the Union of Myanmar long ago. He said that as soon as the chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council and also the commander of Western Command learned the occurrence of the natural hazard in Rakhine State, he formed necessary bodies, and started to carry out relief programmes. (See page 9)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspect Basic Education High School at Pauktaw in Rakhine State, which was hit by the storm. — mya.

The three-storey building of the Government Technological College being built in Sittway, Rakhine State. — mya.

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

Brahmacariyañca, chastity; this is the way to auspiciousness.
PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 9 June, 2004

Towards successful implementation of national education plan

At a time when the world is changing rapidly, the Union of Myanmar is taking appropriate measures by studying the international situation with national vigilance so that it can keep abreast of other nations in the world.

The Government is also taking systematic measures for development of science and technology, strong national economy, turning out intellectuals and intelligentsia for national development and preservation and promotion of national character, traditional cultural and social norms.

The special four-year national education promotion plan and the long-term national education plan being carried out in the education sector are parts of the strategic plan for national education reforms. One of the national aspirations in carrying out the educational reforms is for the emergence of a peaceful, developed and modern nation. And these reforms have begun to take shape.

Now, e-Education has been launched by upgrading the curricula in the basic and the higher education sector and by establishing modern laboratories, science practical rooms, libraries, learning centres and resource centres. Teachers, on their part, should strive unitedly with national awareness for nurturing highly-qualified human resources, for higher national education standard and for the emergence of a constant-learning society.

Education is the name of the game for the development of a nation. Development of a nation is measured by the education, health and social standards of its people and education is an index of the dignity of a nation and its people. We would like to call on all those responsible, parents and teachers to strive for national development, for strong national economy, for the nation’s existence as a sovereign state, for development of science and technologies and for turning out highly-qualified technicians by trying to implement the national educational plan successfully.

Basic fire-fighting course opened

YANGON, 8 June — Jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the basic fire-fighting course No 1/2004 of the Ministry of Health was opened at the meeting hall of the Health Department (Head Office) on Theinbyu Road here this morning, with an address by Minister Dr Kyaw Myint. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Dr Kyaw Myint said with the application of electrical appliances more and more at departments and hospitals, there may occur problems leading to the outbreak of fire. Fire may break out on account of careless use of them. For this reason, the course is conducted. He urged departmental officials concerned to disseminate what they will have to learn at the course to their subordinates. The course was attended by directors-general of the Ministry of Health, deputy directors-general, rectors, directors, deputy directors, medical superintendents, deputy medical superintendents, members of the auxiliary fire brigades of departments, medical universities and hospitals. — MNA

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World Blood Donor Day (14-6-2004)

Blood, a gift for life. Thank you

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A giant dinosaur figure in front of the Natural History Museum.

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

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POEM

Alert as we are for benefit of National Cause
* Famous and noble our future
As a reflection of which we must build
Brethren of same blood
Fellow Union citizens
Helpful and united, gathered together
Look for concurrence, seek solution
New and refreshing Nyaunghnain Camp
Clearly pleasant in that place
Myanmar blood-brothers
Will benefit much
— National Convention
— Alert as we are
— For benefit of National Cause
We are making it a reality.
Yan Naing Oo (Trs)

Film entertainments to NC delegates

YANGON, 8 June — The Entertainment and Welfare Subcommittee of the National Convention Convention Management Committee organizes entertainment programmes for delegates to the National Convention starting at 7 pm daily at the gymnasium of Nyaunghnain Camp. Yesterday evening, the delegates were entertained with a film entitled “Thamee Shin” (Mother of daughters) directed by Khin Maung Oo & Soe Thein Htut and starred by Yan Aung, Dway, Khin Than Nu and Myo Thanda Tun. — MNA

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The Internet room for children at the Natural History Museum to widen their scope of knowledge.

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Green and pleasant scene in the Zoological gardens is the natural beauty in the heart of Yangon.
US contractors in Iraq face dangerous, ambiguous tasks

WALNUT CREEK, 7 June—Thomas Rose Haley brought a souvenir home from work last week: an armour plate with a deep gouge carved by a bullet fired at him during an ambush in the desert.

A few weeks earlier, his close friend and co-worker, Michael Price of Concord, Calif., was killed on the job. Rose Haley’s wife, caring for their new baby, wanted him home. The ambush cinched it.

This was just too hard on my family,” he said on his first day back after four months in Iraq. “Mike going down was what did most of the damage.”

Rose Haley, 28, called it quits for reasons he can’t explain. The former Navy Seal was among thousands of private security contractors pulling in well over $10,000 a month, often tax free, for jobs in Iraq that until recently went largely unnoticed amid daily reports of insurgent attacks and G.I. deaths.

But lately, their work in Iraq with the military, government agencies or private contractors has drawn intense scrutiny, both for the peril they face and what critics call a troubling lack of clear, enforceable rules or hiring standards. The deaths of four American security contractors in a March ambush, Price’s death in a roadside bomb attack and others, have brought home the dangers for an estimated 20,000 private security workers now spread across a country beset by violence.

The parallel work of battle reconstruction and reconstruction has swelled demand for former military personnel and law enforcement officers to fill roles that a downsized military no longer can or wants to do.

Contractors are protecting key leaders, escorting convoys, guarding military installations or oil pipelines, training Iraqi forces, interrogating prisoners. Far from simple guard duty, some have become ensnared in firefights, pressed into the work of war.

Chinese Vice-Premier calls on whole society to save energy

BEIJING, 7 June—Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyuan Sunday appealed to the whole society to develop and spread energy-saving technologies and enhance the awareness of energy conservation, saying that China’s electricity strain has not been relieved.

When inspecting an energy-saving products showcase booth in Beijing, Zeng carefully asked about the market prospect of energy-saving products and watched a performance played by children on energy conservation.

He said China has 1.3 billion people. If one citizen saves one kilowatt-hour of electricity every day, the country will reduce 200 million tons of coal consumption for one year. Therefore, great efforts should be made to encourage every citizen and every family to use electricity-saving products.

Recently, students from 10 Beijing’s primary schools made a proposal, calling for students nationwide to save electricity. Zeng wrote back to the students, hoping in his letter that primary school students all over the country could respond to the call to save energy from childhood. —MNA/Xinhua

Thailand hosts ASEAN cosmetic conferences

BANGKOK, 7 June—Eighty delegates from member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) are arriving in Bangkok to discuss codes of conduct, the Thai News Agency reported Sunday.

The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), which oversees the quality standard of cosmetic products in Thailand, will host the Second ASEAN Cosmetics Committee Conference, and the first ASEAN Cosmetics Scientific Body in Bangkok between June 7-9.

The two conferences will be attended by Singapore and Thailand respectively. The three projects are intended to lay down the infrastructure necessary for ASEAN members under the Cosmetics Regulation by 2008, the agency said. —MNA/Xinhua

60% believe Iraq war spending ‘a waste’

LONDON, 8 June—Sixty per cent of people think Government spending on the war on Iraq was “a waste of money”, and should have been spent on overseas aid, a new poll shows. The survey shows that most Britons would have preferred the billions spent on invading and occupying Iraq to be channelled towards helping the world’s poor.

Women were particularly angry about the use of taxpayers’ money to invade Iraq. Two-thirds of women believe the money set aside for Iraq should have been spent on aid, according to the YouGov poll. The Government has reserved £3.8bn for the Iraq war but some estimate the war in the country could cost the British taxpayer up to £6bn.

The poll comes as world leaders gathered today at the G8 meeting of leading industrialised nations in the state of Georgia, in the United States. The YouGov poll also shows that Tony Blair’s foreign and domestic policies are unpopular with majority of Britons. Fifty-seven per cent of people disapprove of the Government’s international policies while 51 per cent disapprove of his domestic agenda.

The poll, commissioned by the charities Oxfam, ActionAid, Christian Aid, DATA and Save the Children, could not come at a worst time for the Prime Minister as he fights to defend his stance on Iraq ahead of this week’s elections. He acknowledged on Sunday that Iraq would prove to be a “problem” for Labour in this week’s European, local and London elections.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, said Iraq was a cloud over the election campaign. The YouGov poll, which involved interviews of over 2000 adults throughout the UK, found that disapproval of Labour’s policy on Iraq could seriously affect turnout.

It found that an increased commitment to overseas aid would persuade more young people not to stay at home. One-in-six 18- to 29-year-olds would be more likely to vote in a general election if it would benefit people in poor countries.

Charities campaigning on aid issues yesterday said Mr Blair should spend money on a military invasion rather than help poor nations showed a skewed set of priorities. “This isn’t just aid agencies complaining. It’s what voters want,” said Justin Forsyth, Oxfam’s director of policy and campaigns.

Aid agencies said that cash could have lifted 27.7 million people in the third world out of poverty permanently. “Although Mr Blair has personally pledged to do more to help Africa, the debt relief delivered by rich countries to Africa is less than 1 per cent of the amount that the coalition spent on the Iraq war. The cost of buying five stealth bombers, around $1bn (£550m) each, could get all the world’s 100 million children not in school into education. “For the money the British Government has committed to the Iraq war we could have doubled aid,” said Matt Phillips of Save the Children. —Internet

820 US troops killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 7 June—As of Monday, 7 June, 820 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq in March 2003, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 603 died as a result of hostile action and 217 died of non-hostile causes.

The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, four; Poland, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia and the Netherlands have reported one each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 682 US soldiers have died — 494 as a result of hostile action and 188 of non-hostile causes, according to the military’s numbers as of Monday. —Internet

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US soldiers wait on a bridge inspecting a plume of black smoke on the outskirts of Fallujah, on 7 June, 2004.—INTERNET
Military families protest Iraq services

WASHINGTON, 7 June—More than two dozen people, wearing yellow ribbons and pictures of relatives in the Army Reserves, took their discontent to the top Monday to protest their loved ones’ extended deployments in the Iraq war zone.

They said they were satisfied with results of the session, even though Lt Gen James Helmy, chief of the Army Reserves, gave them no assurances that the 94th Military Police Company will be brought home by the Fourth of July.

“They’ve been deployed for a very long time. They’re tired, and they feel like they’ve done their part,” said Bob Wennestrand of Norwood, Mass, whose son, Derek, 20, left home soon after his high school graduation and has been gone for 1 1/2 years. “We asked the general to look into it, and the general has agreed to do that.”

Army Reserve spokesman J. Schiff said specialized companies like the 94th, which provides combat support and escorts convoys, were kept in Iraq longer because of their particular expertise.

Helmy told the families he is going to Iraq soon and will visit the unit and its service time. He also told them, however, that he “can’t guarantee their return dates; this is war.”

Family members came off their bus at the Pentagon on Monday loaded with lists of other military police units that have served and come home and talk of active duty soldiers who served one-year missions and left Iraq.

Members of the 94th have had their military missions extended twice. Should they return home in October, as currently scheduled, they will have served 685 days, just short of two years.

They came aching close to tears at home at Eater Michael Lee already had mailed his personal belongings to his wife in Reading, Mass. The company’s equipment was loaded, and the reservists were 10 hours from boarding a plane, when the order came to wait.

During the long, 10-hour bus ride from Tewksbury, Mass., family members made the photo buttons they wrote into the meetings. Some carried 8-by-10-inch photos of their soldiers. Some wore patriotic pins.

Another Puerto Rican soldier killed in Iraq

ARECIBO, 7 June—Sgt Melvin Mora Lopez, a 28-year-old native of Arechibo, was killed in Baghdad in Iraq, joining the ranks of Puerto Rican casualties of the United States’ War on Terror.

Jose Pagan, local US Army spokesman, said Lopez was killed when a mortar exploded near him.

“The incident occurred during a surprise attack on Camp Cooke, were the Sgt Mora Lopez was stationed,” said Pagan in a press release.

Camp Cooke, which was established in the former Al Taqi Air Base, is 27 km northwest of Baghdad.

Vitria is the 16th Puerto Rican soldier killed in the United States’ war on terror.

Five British soldiers quizzed over Iraqi death

LONDON, 7 June—Five British paratroopers have been questioned over the death of a 17-year-old boy in Iraq earlier this year, according to the Mail on Sunday newspaper.

Military police also want to interview three other members of the 2nd Battalion Parachute Regiment who have since left the unit, it added. The alleged killing is believed to have happened in southern Iraq when the eight paratroopers were patrolling in two vehicles, the paper said.

The unidentified boy was alleged to have been attacked when the unit stopped near several Iraqis in a car. The Ministry of Defence in London refused to confirm or deny whether any parachute regiment soldiers had been questioned.

Several investigations are ongoing and it would be inappropriate to confirm details,” he said.

Members of the battalion were stationed around the southern city of Basra. It was not immediately clear whether the latest allegation was new or whether the boy’s case was among others already being probed.

Last month, human rights group Amnesty International accused British soldiers of killing several civilians, and lawyers for 12 Iraqi families who allege their relatives were unlawfully killed have begun a High Court action in London. MNA/Reuters

Cambodia ready for Emerald Triangle tourism project

SIEM RIEP (Cambodia), 8 June—Cambodia supports and is ready for the tourism development of a three-countries Emerald Triangle project which includes Cambodia, Laos and Thailand, an official said on Monday.

“This triangle area has a lot of potential in tourism including cultural, historical and natural tourism,” Thong Khon, Cambodia’s secretary of state of the Ministry of Tourism, told reporters Monday. “We are trying to make this project successful.”

“Three governments from Cambodia, Laos and Thailand support the project,” Thong Khon said at the 41st Meeting of the World Tourism Organization (WTO) Commission for East Asia and the Pacific. “Our plan is until 2020.”

Cambodia will need to improve road infrastructure and clear the mines as priorities, Khon said. “Mines are gradually being cleared and Anlong Veng area (near the border of Cambodia and Thailand) is already cleared,” he said.

Khon said the project will cover three of Cambodia’s provinces like Preah Vihear, Oddar Meanchey and Stung Treng.

The 41st WTO meeting will discuss some concerns and activities in tourism related sectors in East Asia and the Pacific, as well as to formulate the regional project for the Emerald Triangle for Cambodia, Laos and Thailand.

Moreover, the Project of Heritage Necklace, which focuses on cooperation among Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, will also be on the agenda.

Representatives from more than 20 countries and regions and some organizations attended Monday’s meeting.—MNA/Thmou
US casualties in multiple Iraq attacks

Baghdad, 7 June—A US soldier was killed and two more wounded in a roadside bomb attack on their vehicle south of Baghdad while a US base comes under intense mortar fire.

Quoting a US military source, Aljazeera’s correspondent in Baghdad said the ambush took place near al-Iskandariya on Monday morning.

A US spokesperson was not able to provide the names of those injured, but confirmed that other US occupation units in Baghdad had also come under attack. Iraq resistance fighters also launched a mortar attack on the presidential palace in the Adhamiya district—a building used by US military headquarters.

US military authorities would not comment on casualties or provide details.

Earlier on Monday, a roadside bomb wounded three civilian security contractors working in northern Iraq for the London-based firm Global Risk Strategies, the US military said.

The firm has about 1,100 mercenaries on the ground in Iraq—mainly armed former Nepalese and Filipino soldiers.

The incident is the second attack against armed contractors in as many days in Mosul, a major city in northern Iraq.

The British Foreign Office said that a British mercenary was killed and three colleagues were wounded in a drive-by shooting Saturday in Mosul.

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France says Iraq resolution still needs adjusting

Paris, 8 June—France believes negotiations on a UN Security Council resolution on Iraq are heading towards a conclusion, but the draft still needs a number of adjustments, Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said on Monday.

“We are on the way to closing this subject. There are still a number of important points regarding the sovereignty of the Iraqi people to which France is very attached. There are still a number of points to finalize,” Raffarin told LCI television.

He said France had received the backing of Germany, Russia and two other heavyweight countries with which it lined up last year to oppose the US-led war in Iraq.

“There is a consensus emerging among these positions. That is why the resolution is evolving in the right direction,” Raffarin said.

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Libya wants Western compassion in “AIDS plot” case

TALLINNS (AP), 7 June — Western countries criticizing Libya for sentencing five Bulgarian nurses to death should show compassion for the 426 children they were convicted of infecting with the deadly HIV virus, Libya said on Sunday.

Speaking at a symposium in the Lake Annecy resort town of Talloures in eastern France, Libyan Prime Minister Shokri Ghanem denied he was offering a deal to ease the death sentence by firing squad, which he said was handed down last month after a fair trial by a court in Benghazi.

He also suggested a deal, but a show of compassion so the families of the victims at least will feel that people are sharing with them the suffering inflicted on them,” Ghanem told journalists.

He declined to elaborate on how this could be done and what effect it could have.

Tripoli, which has been seeking closer ties to the West and has promised a quick solution to the issue, was under strong pressure from families of the children infected by blood contaminated with HIV; the virus that causes AIDS, he said.

The European Union, the United States and the human rights group Amnesty International have joined Bulgaria in denouncing the sentence as unacceptable.

The Bulgarian nurses dispute is a hurdle to Libya joining an EU economic partner-

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Oil official shot dead by gunmen in southern Iraq

Nasiriyah, 6 June—The director of oil distribution in the southern Iraqi province of Dhiqar, Ali Jamail, was shot dead by gun-

men in Nasiriyah on Sunday, the deputy governor of the region said.

“Ali Jamail was driving to his office when unknown men fired at his car, killing him at 9:00 am in Nasiriyah”, a city 375 kilometers south of Baghdad administered by Dhiqar, the official, Adnan Chraifi, told AFP.

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Singapore says sea piracy could cripple world trade

Singapore, 7 June—Attacks on ships by sea pirates in Southeast Asia are resembling military operations—growing bolder, more violent and fuelling fears of an attack that would cripple the world trade, Singapore said on Sunday.

As the United States considers plans for a Regional Maritime Security Initiative to tighten surveillance of Southeast Asia’s busy Malacca Strait, through which a third of world trade passes, Singapore said the risk of a devastating attack was growing.

“We have been alarmed not only by the increase in the number of pirate attacks in the sea lanes of communication in this part of the world, but also in the nature of the piracy attacks,” said Singapore’s Coordinating Minister for Security, Tony Tan.

In previous years when you had a piracy attack, what it meant is that you have a sampan or a boat coming up to a cargo ship, pirates’ throw-
ing up some ropes, scrambling on board, ransacking the ship for valuables and then running away,” he said.

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China tightens trade ties with new EU members

Beijing, 8 June—With ten new member states and a total population of 455 million, the European Union, already China’s second largest trade partner before the expansion, is attracting more and more interest.

One of the trends in the Chinese Customs showed that the trade volume between China and the ten new EU members registered a 50.2 per cent increase in 2003 on a year-on-year basis to 7.65 billion US dollars and the figure rose by 49 per cent in the first four months this year to 3.29 billion US dollars.

We will encourage Chinese enterprises to increase investment and set up facto-
ries in the Central and east European nations so as to improve bilateral economic and trade ties with the area,” an official from the Ministry of Commerce said.

Meanwhile, experts said Chinese President Hu Jintao’s upcoming visits to Poland, Hungary and Roma-

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Attack on US convoy kills civilian driver in Iraq

Baghdad, 7 June — A roadside bomb attack on a US military convoy northeast of Baghdad on Saturday killed a civilian contract driver and wounded an American soldier, the US military said on Sunday.

It said the attack happened in Haditha, 125 miles northwest of Baghdad. A US military statement said the wounded soldier was from the 13th Corps Support Command. It did not give the nationality of the contractor who was killed.

The military also said the death toll from a roadside bomb attack in Baghdad on Saturday had risen — two soldiers were killed and two wounded. Initially the Army said one soldier had been killed. — MNA/Reuters

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Iraqis pick through the rubble of destroyed police station in the Sadr City district of Baghdad, on 7 June, 2004. —INTERNET

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 9 June, 2004 5
**Inspectors say Iraq weapons sites destroyed**

UNITED NATIONS, 7 June — A number of sites in Iraq known to have contained equipment and material that could have been used to produce banned weapons and long-range missiles have been either cleared out or destroyed, UN weapons inspectors said Monday.

The inspectors’ report said they didn’t know whether the items, which had been monitored by the United Nations, were at the sites during the US-led war in Iraq, UN inspectors were pulled from Iraq just before the war began in March 2003 and the United States has refused to allow them to return, instead deploying its own teams to search for weapons of mass destruction. “It is possible that some of the materials may have been removed from Iraq by boosters of sites and sold as scrap,” the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission said in its quarterly report to the UN Security Council.

UNMOVIC said its experts and a team from the International Atomic Energy Agency, which was responsible for dismantling Iraq’s nuclear programme, were jointly investigating items from Iraq that were discovered in a scrap yard in the Dutch port of Rotterdam. Through photographs taken during an initial IAEA investigation, UNMOVIC said it discovered that SA-2 engines used in Iraq’s Al Samoud 2 banned missile programme were among the scrap. Commission experts examined one missile engine at the site and discovered from the serial number that it had been tagged by UN inspectors in the past and had not been declared as having been fired. Representatives at the scrapping site indicated that between five and a dozen similar engines had been seen there in January and February and that more could have passed through the yard unnoticed, the report said.

Company staff said other items made of stainless steel and other corrosion-resistant metal alloys bearing the inscription “Iraq” or “Baghdad” had been observed in shipments delivered from the Middle East since November 2003, it said.

**Saudi Arabia says no troops until Iraq has legitimate gov’t**

JEDDAH (Saudi Arabia), 7 June — Saudi Arabia said on Sunday Iraq must have what it called a legitimate and independent government before Arab countries would consider sending forces.

The new Iraqi interim government, which the United Nations helped form, is set to take over from US-led occupation authorities on June 30 and hold office until national elections due in January.

Saud Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal said he welcomed the interim government and hoped it would “respond to the aspirations of the Iraqi people for a country properly. “For Arab states to be capable of sending forces to Iraq there must be a request from a legitimate and independent Iraqi government,” Saud told a news conference.

The request cannot come from a government which does not have full sovereignty,” he said.

Saud officials have said they want Arab troops to replace US-led forces. The Arab League has said there was a possible role for Arab forces only once foreign occupiers left. Washington has said its troops will remain in Iraq after June 30 to help combat guerilla attacks.

Saud said Riyadh would establish diplomatic ties with Baghdad once security returned to Iraq — MNA/Reuters

**Chinese scientist says set up policy on climate change**

BEIJING, 7 June — One of China’s leading meteorologists suggested here Sunday that the country need to set up a uniform policy on climate change, in order to coordinate diplomatic, economic and social measures for ensuring the country’s sustainable development.

Qin Dahe, chief of China Meteorological Administration, who attended the 12th conference of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) academicians, said that the global warming brought about unceaseable, irreversible and sustained effect to the Chinese economic and social development.

However, he said, there is still no plan to draft any strategy or policy fighting the global warming trends.

“We need to comprehensively study the effects from climate change and take appropriate measures accordingly,” said Qin, who is also a CAS academician, adding that a national policy is desperately required.

He appealed to the country to invest more funds into long term research on climate change. Meanwhile, he said a nationwide observation network on climate system would be useful.

The China Climate Observation System (CCOS) might help the Chinese garner more specific data of the globe.

The existing climate observation network is only available for weather phenomena, while the CCOS surveys physical, chemical and biological changes and human activities which could result in climate change.

Emission of greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide primarily caused the global warming in the past half century.

MNA/Xinhua

**13 Iraqis killed, 10 wounded in blast south of Baghdad**

BAGHDAD, 7 June — Thirteen Iraqis were killed and 10 wounded when guerrillas blew up the front of a police station in al-Musayyib, 50 kilometres south of Baghdad, early Sunday, Qatar-based al-Jazeera TV channel reported.

A group of guerrillas attacked the police station at 4:20 am (0020 GMT) with small arms fire and explosives that partly demolished the building, the channel said.

The guerrillas disguised as policemen entered the building in the town of Musayyib and killed the victims before planting explosives in the police station, the channel quoted witnesses as saying.

Guerrillas have regularly targeted the Iraqi police who are seen by some as collaborators with the occupiers.

Also on Sunday, a car bomb blew up at the gate of an Iraqi security force base just north of Baghdad, killing six Iraqis and wounding at least 20 others. — MNA/Xinhua

**G-8 summit aims to bridge gap on Iraq debt**

OTTAWA, 7 June — Leaders of the Group of Eight nations want to decide how much of Iraq’s estimated $120-billion-US-dollar debt should be forgiven when they meet next week, Canadian Finance Minister Ralph Goodale said on Saturday.

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“There is a view — at least on the part of some European countries — that something in the order of 60 to 65 per cent would be appropriate. There are some other countries, including the United States, that would argue for a substantially higher number in the 90 to 95 per cent range,” Goodale told Reuters.

“They’ll discuss it. Whether it’ll be ripe for conclusion remains to be determined,” Goodale added.

Iraqi Finance Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi said this week he expects up to 90 per cent of the debt to be forgiven. Ottawa favours a higher, rather than lower, percentage of debt forgiveness.

The International Monetary Fund said last month an analysis of Iraq’s debt had been given to Paris Club members, which will help creditors to decide how much could be written off.

“Our Canadian view would be that something toward the higher end of the range would be most appropriate and we could also argue very strongly that this does need to be accomplished under the auspices of the Paris Club,” Goodale said.

The IMF analysis painted different scenarios for dealing with the war-shattered country’s debt, and it is due to be discussed at a meeting of creditors in this month.

World Bank President James Wolfensohn has said at least two-thirds of Iraq’s debt would have to be forgiven to rebuild the country properly.

“We’re not publicly putting a figure on it. We’re trying to be helpful in the (G-8) discussion here,” Goodale added.

The Group of Seven economic powers agreed last year to reach a deal on forgiving Iraqi debt by the end of 2004.

The G-7 and Russia hold the bulk of the debt owed to the Paris Club, which includes 19 of the world’s wealthiest nations.

MNA/Reuters

**Chinese scientist suggests set up policy on climate change**

BEIJING, 7 June — One of China’s leading meteorologists suggested here Sunday that the country need to set up a uniform policy on climate change, in order to coordinate diplomatic, economic and social measures for ensuring the country’s sustainable development.

Qin Dahe, chief of China Meteorological Administration, who attended the 12th conference of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) academicians, said that the global warming brought about unceaseable, irreversible and sustained effect to the Chinese economic and social development.

However, he said, there is still no plan to draft any strategy or policy fighting the global warming trends.

“We need to comprehensively study the effects from climate change and take appropriate measures accordingly,” said Qin, who is also a CAS academician, adding that a national policy is desperately required.

He appealed to the country to invest more funds into long term research on climate change. Meanwhile, he said a nationwide observation network on climate system would be useful.

The China Climate Observation System (CCOS) might help the Chinese garner more specific data of the globe.

The existing climate observation network is only available for weather phenomena, while the CCOS surveys physical, chemical and biological changes and human activities which could result in climate change.

Emission of greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide primarily caused the global warming in the past half century.

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

**Border and rural area developments**

*Pudagyi Model Village Primary School in Kyauktan Township, Yangon Division. — Myanma Alin*

*Phayachaung Bridge linking Myoma Ward and Phayachaung Village in Bagoay Township, Ayeyawady Division. — Myanma Alin*

*People’s Hospital in Myanggyingyi region, Kayin State. — PBANRDA*

*Drilling machines at work to get potable water for local people in Kantha village, Budalin Township, Sagaing Division. — PBANRDA*

*A dispensary built in Parsinakun village in Kokang region, Shan State(North). — PBANRDA*
World Population Day poster, essay competitions to be held


The poster competition will be categorized into five levels. The age group for the first level will be between 6 and 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 send their entries to the respective Immigration and Registration Departments concerned for enrollment not later than 9 June. The fifth level is designated as an open invitational competition. Entrants can use any sort of drawing papers and should send their works either to State/Division Immigration and National Registration Departments concerned for enrollment not later than 27 June.

Detailed information about the competition can be obtained at State/Division Immigration and National Registration Departments concerned, 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 competitions in commemoration of World Population Day 2004 will also be held under the title “Pyinnya-kyan-ma Hkwint-lan-tha Pyae-son-hla-pa Mein-kha-lay-bawa Sa-yan-in-hnint Nhoon-so-pya.” The essay will be classified into two levels — high school level (8th, 9th, 10th grades) and middle school level (5th, 6th, 7th grades) — held in major towns of States and Divisions from 9 to 11 am on 13 June. Prizes for both levels will be K 30,000 for the first prize, K 25,000 for the second, K 20,000 for the third and K 10,000 each for two consolation prizes. First, second and third winners at central level, will be presented prizes at the ceremony of World Population Day to be held in Yangon and consolation prizes of essay will be sent through respective State/Division Immigration and National Registration Departments to winners. — MNA

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 provision
* Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a few volts will reduce power consumption by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

Efficient use of fuel

* Saving one gallon of 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 flattered
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered

RFA, a rumour factory

Kyaw Win

The entire national peoples of the Union of Myanmar have been longing for the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation for many years since they had experienced the bitter experience throughout the course of Myanmar history.

People of national races born in Myanmar had suffered various kinds of troubles in servitude that lasted over one hundred years. Despite the restoration of independence, the colonialist seed sows discord among national brethren. In consequence of it, there surfaced upheaval and underground multi-coloured insurgents across the country, leaving the people in grief.

Throughout the successive ages, measures for national development had been proved ineffective on account of the lack of stability and security.

The unrest in 1888 broke out due to instigation of political hypocrites who wanted to seize power in short cut. A multitude of aboveground and underground destructive elements within and without the country also fomented the unrest in various ways. With the circumstances getting uncontrollable, the country was in a mess. All the people were in a state of panic in the absence of the rule of law and security.

To alleviate public suffering and erase social problems with which the people were faced, the leadership of the Tatmadaw assumed the responsibility of the State on 18 August 1945. Keeping in the fore One of the Main National Causes: “non-disintegration of the Union, non-integration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty” and making a guiding star the four political objectives and the four social objectives, the Tatmadaw took effective measures and realized them practically. Thanks to these efforts, incredible success gained within a span of 15 or 16 years can be witnessed in various aspects such as national stability, rule of law, education, economy, social advancement and culture. Apart from the emergence of smooth and secured transport system, irrigation facilities, power plants, factories, schools, roads and bridges, and new markets are now mushrooming not only in the plains but also in the hill regions throughout the country.

As long as we succeeded at such achievements, the aboveground and underground destructive elements inside and outside the country, the colonialists and their subordinates turned a blind eye to them and aired fabricated new reports to make the people in countryside believe in some foreign news agencies. Apparent are these acts when listening to them.

Media are responsible to collect the news of global reach, they should not act as a mouthpiece of aboveground and underground destructive elements inside and outside the country, the colonialists and their subordinates. It is of especial importance to broadcast the news taking into account the history of the reporter concerned. Any news agency that fails to do so will no doubt be regarded as a news agency engaged in fabricating news and lying to the peoples of the world.

In Myanmar, now is the time when the Government, political parties, delegations of national races, and delegates of the people from all walks of life are gathering at the National Convention and coordinating as to the establishment of a peaceful, developed and democratic nation.

When listening to the news about Myanmar aired by some foreign news agencies such as the BBC, the VOA and the RFI, they are constantly spreading rumours about Myanmar. Their invented news reports are intentionally designed to deceive the peoples of the world, and Myanmar nationals living in foreign countries for various reasons.

On the morning of 29 April 2004, the US-based RFA news agency aired a fabricated news about Dalla, where I live. It aired blatantly an article of U Htein Lin, a columnist of the RFA.

The news said that Dalla had not yet made progress although it was one of the townships nearest to Yangon City. U Htein Lin did not seem to know that the development condition of Dalla at the present Tatmadaw Government has been much different from what it was before 1988 when the Tatmadaw assumed the responsibility of the State. The columnist himself would know best where he got such news and how he created them. Let alone to put the blame on the reporter, why did the RFA broadcast the news without scrutinizing whether the news authentic or not? Columnist U Htein Lin lied to the RFA, which in turn did the same thing to the peoples of the world. It was crystal clear that the liar hand in glove with the cheaters deceived all its audience all over the world.

To reveal the objective condition of Dalla, this article is written. It is true that Dalla was not developed much before 1988. At that time, it had no characteristics of a town when it came to education, health, social transport and regional development sectors. Dalla was divided into 17 wards. As houses were constructed in an improper order, there were no specific lanes, which were in such conditions that even bicycles and tricycles could not use, not to mention cars. The township was packed with monasteries and schools surrounded by dwellings.

Dalla-Twantay motor road was the only tarred road in the township. The light of electricity was dim and twinkleling. Autotonephone lines were unheard of them. What was worse, there was not a single graveyard designated for the deceased. Following are the brief account of how developed Dalla has been at the time of the present Tatmadaw Government.

(To be continued) (Myanmar Alin + Kyemon: 7-6-2004) (Translation: KTV+ST)
Prime Minister inspects development of …

(from page 1)

Similarly, at the central level, the groups led by the Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Minister and the deputy minister toured the areas affected by the storm and provided necessary assistance to the victims. The Prime Minister led a team comprising the regional head and ministers visited Rakhine State to give comfort and encouragement to the victims, who are the nationalities.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by wellwishers from Yangon, and they are going to provide assistance for the victims to relieve their sufferings. The Prime Minister and party met with township level officials, and fulfilled the necessary requirements.

Necessary assistance will be provided for the victims with immense goodwill to relieve their physical and mental pains and sufferings.

Moreover, the team will tour the villages in the region to practically implement the five rural development tasks.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented bags of rice, relief items, medicines, clothing, personal goods and others for storm victims of Pauktaw Township to the Chairman of the Township Peace and Development Council and the ceremony ended.

Next, Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspected wards, operation theatre, medical store, laboratory and wards for members of the Sangha of Pauktaw Township Hospital and attended to the needs.

Next, the Prime Minister greeted the local people.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party arrived back in Sittway in the afternoon.

Next, the second ceremony to donate cash and kind for storm victims in Rakhine State was held at U Ottawa Hall of Sittway yesterday afternoon, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

After the ceremony, the Prime Minister and party looked into development of Sittway by car.

Later, the Prime Minister and party viewed the sales of rice shops on Strand Road in Ohdan Ward, Sittway and met with rice merchants there.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party proceeded to No 1 Jetty of Myanmar Port Authority in Sittway where they were briefed by Managing Director of Myanmar Five Star Line U Khin Maung Kyi on berthing of coasters and Managing Director U Thein Htay of MPA on renovation of No 1 Jetty and construction of Sittway-Phaungdawgyi bridge. Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint gave a supplementary report. After fulfilling the requirements, the Prime Minister inspected No 1 Jetty.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected Strand Road and bridges up to the view point of Sittway by car.

After that, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Sittway University construction project site where they were welcomed by Rector of the university U Wan Tin, the Pro-rector, professors/heads of department, associate professors and faculty members.

Rector U Wan Tin reported on background history of the university, courses being conducted, subjects taught, number of students, IT classrooms complete with 119 sets of computers, strength of staff and academic and management matters.

Minister for Education U Than Aung gave a supplementary report.

Next, District Senior Engineer of Public Works U Khin Maung Aye reported on progress of construction of six two-storey lecture halls, two lecture halls each holding 300 students, water supply and electricity, platforms, entrance road to Convocation Hall and others, work being carried out and future tasks. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gave necessary instructions.

Next, the Prime Minister and party looked into construction of two-storey lecture halls.

Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party inspected construction of the three-storey main building of Government Technological College (Sittway).

The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions. Next, the Prime Minister and party arrived at the guesthouse in Sittway.

In the evening, the Prime Minister and party arrived at Lawka Nanda Pagoda where they paid homage to the Buddha images.

Next, the Prime Minister and party paid homage to Cakkja Muni Buddha image and made cash donations and arrived back at the guest house in Sittway. — MNA
Prime Minister attends tree-planting ceremony

YANGON, 8 June — Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman and Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, departmental officials, and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Chairman Daw Khin Thet Htay attended a monsoon tree-planting ceremony, organized by Taikkyi Township Peace and Development Council at Kungyangon village in Taikkyi Township. The commander also inspected a collective ploughing ceremony near Kungyangon village conducted by a timber plantation and encouraged the participants in the ceremony. He distributed a variety of herbal plants to the employees of Taikkyi MCWA.

Commander attends tree-planting ceremony

YANGON, 8 June — Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife, and CMDSC Chairman Daw Khin Thet Htay attended a monsoon tree-planting ceremony, organized by Taikkyi Township Peace and Development Council at Kungyangon village in Taikkyi Township. The commander also distributed a variety of herbal plants to the employees of Taikkyi MCWA. The commander also inspected a collective ploughing ceremony near Kungyangon village conducted by a timber plantation and encouraged the participants in the ceremony. He distributed a variety of herbal plants to the employees of Taikkyi MCWA.

Now is the time when efforts are being made on a self-reliant basis for national development. Consequently, remarkable progress has been achieved in the Union. The State is making progress cumulatively. But the nation still lags behind in development compared to the neighbouring countries due to economic and political pressures of western countries. The State has built roads and bridges in Rakhine state for ensuring smooth and secure transportation. Therefore, marine products can be sent to local and foreign countries via Yangon-Sittway road. Moreover, there have been frequent closer relations among the people. Similarly, the State has provided necessary assistance for communications, transportation, education, health, agriculture and livestock breeding in the region. In conclusion, he said, the State has been making arrangements for equitable development in all regions of the Union. These measures contribute towards the realization of State’s seven-point future policy programmes. United efforts are to be made for the perpetuation of the Union.

National Convention Convening Work Committee meets

YANGON, 8 June — The National Convention Convening Work Committee held its meeting No 4/2004 at its meeting hall in Nyaungnapin Camp, Hmayway Township, this afternoon. The meeting was attended by NCCWC Chairman Justice U Aung Toe, Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Secretary U Thaung Nyunt, joint secretaries, and members. U Aung Toe presided over the meeting.

Delegation leaves for Philippines

YANGON, 8 June — Brig-Gen Than Htay, Deputy Minister for Energy, left here by air this morning to attend the 22nd ASEAN Energy Ministers Meeting and the 1st ASEAN+3 Energy Ministers Meeting to be held tomorrow in the Philippines, and the 6th ASEAN Energy Industries Meeting to be held on 10 June. The deputy minister and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by departmental heads, officials, and their families. The deputy minister was accompanied by Deputy Assistant Director U Tin Zaw Myint of the Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise.

Li Gen Maung Oo accepts cash donation from a wellwisher

National Convention Convening Work Committee Chair Justice U Aung Toe delivers an address at the meeting.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt hands over bags of rice, medicines, clothes and consumer goods to the Township Peace and Development Council chairman.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt accepts cash donation from a wellwisher.

Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay being seen off at the airport.
By Lt-Gen Aung Htwe.

The coordination meeting between the panel of chairmen of delegations of groups of State service personnel and leaders of proposals compilation groups was held at the meeting hall-7 at 9 am. Members of the Panel of Chairmen Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the Ministry of Defence, U Ko Ko Kyaw of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Ko Ko Kyaw of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Myint Hlaing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint of senior military officers, officials, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations and national cultural troupes, leaders and members of the groups for cultivation of paddy and locals.

Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Brig-Gen Hla Myint reported on measures for production of paddy seeds. Officials concerned also reported on arrangements for the project. In his speech, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe said that in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, Shan State is striving for ensuring regional rice sufficiency this year. In that regard, more farm implements and machinery are to be used to meet the target, he said. Thanks to the assistance rendered by the State and combined efforts of respective officials and local farmers, agricultural success has been achieved in the agricultural sector, he said.

He called for maintaining the already-achieved development momentum and urged officials concerned to disseminate agricultural methods and distribute high-yield strains. Local farmers are to contribute towards the project through collaborative endeavours, he said.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe handed over the paddy seeds to respective group leaders. After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe looked into samples of hybrid paddy strains and Hsinshweli high-yield sunflower seeds.

Discussion of panel of chairmen and proposal compiling group of peasants in progress. — MNA

Submission of proposals, discussions of panel of chairmen continue

YANGON, 8 June—Proposals were submitted by delegate groups of representatives-elect, peasants, State service personnel, and other invited persons to the National Convention, and discussions held by the panel of chairmen at the respective venues of Nyaungmyapin Camp in Hmaeby Township, this morning, attended by members of the panel of chairmen and delegates.

Delegate group of representatives-elect

The meeting of the delegate group of representatives-elect took place at the meeting hall at 10 am. U Maung Gyi of Pa-O National Organization presided over the meeting with U Law Hin Kun of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party and U Yaw Aye Hla of Lahtu National Development Party. Deputy Director U Maung Maung Maung Phyu Tint of National Convention Convening Work Committee Group-4 emceed the meeting together with Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Nwe.

He announced the proceedings of the meeting and the meeting came to an end at 10.45 am.

Delegate group of State service personnel

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Discussion of panel of chairmen and proposal compiling group of peasants in progress. — MNA

Our brethren join hands together for the Union
Beijing invests heavily in environmental protection

BEIJING, 7 June — The national capital of Beijing has invested 10 billion yuan (1.2 billion U.S. dollars) each year during the past five years to improve the local environment, governmental statistics show.

Last year, the city poured 14.6 billion yuan (1.76 billion U.S. dollars) into the construction of facilities serving environmental protection, harnessing industrial pollution, and other environmental projects. The investment was 9 per cent higher than that in the previous year and accounted for 4 per cent of the city’s GDP for last year. MNA/Xinhua

Germany meets war enemies at Normandy in peace

Cæs (France), 7 June — Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder paid a historic visit to Normandy on Sunday, joining Germany’s erstwhile enemies for the first time in a tribute to victims on both sides of the pivotal World War II battle.

Schroeder, an infant when the Allies stormed French beaches in the D-Day landings 60 years ago that hastened the war’s end, said Germany would never forget its debt and vowed to keep working closely with France in their campaigns for peace.

“France’s memories of June 6, 1944 are different from Germany’s—yet they still flow into the same joint conviction: We want peace,” he said. “We Germans know we unleashed a heinous war. We’re aware of our responsibility and take it seriously.”

“Thousands of Allied soldiers died in a single, grim day and some paid the ultimate price for freedom,” he said in a speech at D-Day ceremonies in the northwestern town of Caen.

“German soldiers died because they were sent on a murderous campaign to crush Europe. But in death all soldiers were united regardless of the uniform they wore—in the grieving of their parents and wives, brothers and sisters. Their pain unites us all.”

Schroeder, whose 32-year-old father was killed in combat four months after D-Day, said the Allies and the Liberals of France share the same statement. “Less than 0.5 per cent of the population died in the war,” he said.

Malaysia opposes foreign presence in S-E Asia to fight terrorism

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 June — Malaysia’s Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak on Sunday voiced his country’s opposition to the presence of foreign forces in Southeast Asia to jointly fight terrorism.

“What we should avoid is the involvement of foreign forces in Southeast Asia to help us deal with this threat, not because we distrust those from outside the region, but because foreign military presence will set us back in our ideological battle against extremism and militancy,” said Najib Razak while addressing the third Asian Security Conference, which opened here on Friday.

However, Najib Razak, who is also Malaysia’s Defence Minister, stressed that Malaysia will continue to cooperate with all governments without compromising on the legitimate rights and sovereignty of others and its own, adding that Malaysia will expand anti-terror efforts with the United States in areas such as intelligence sharing and fighting terrorists’ financial and logistical networks.

Describing Malaysia as “a help and constructive critic” of the way the campaign against terror has been executed, Najib Razak said Malaysia is concerned that powerful countries may not be going about this campaign in ways that will win the hearts and minds of millions of ordinary people around the world, and build a lasting peace for all. He noted that the lessons of Iraq should be clear to people that “ill-conceived liberation of a country and the failure of good intentions” can cause great damage to social and political stability.

MNA/Xinhua

UN urges fish havens as world marks green day

BARCELONA (Spain), 7 June — The United Nations urged the creation of ocean parks to protect depleted fish stocks on Saturday as activists marked World Environment Day by freeing turtles, planting trees and decrying global warming.

“Science cannot any longer view the world’s oceans as a convenient dumping ground for our waste, or as an unlimited source of plenty,” UN Secretary-General Koﬁ Annan said in a call for urgent action. He noted that governments agreed at an Earth Summit in Johannesburg in 2002 to try to restore depleted fish stocks by 2015 and to set up more protected marine areas, like wildlife parks on land, by 2012.

“The last and specially important,” he said in a statement. “Less than 0.5 per cent of marine habitats are protected, compared to 11.5 per cent of global land area.” About 75 per cent of fish stocks, from cod to tuna, are now fully depleted or overfished and will never recover, he added. “We cannot breed, and every year plastic waste such as supermarket plastic bags kills millions of animals and countless fish.”

Some 3.5 billion people, more than half the world’s six billion population, rely on seas for their main source of food.—MNA/Reuters
Telik drug shrinks ovarian, lung tumours in trials

NEW ORLEANS, 7 June— Patients with lung and ovarian cancers who had previously failed to benefit from standard treatments saw their tumours shrink considerably when an experimental drug made by Telik Inc was added to their chemotherapy, researchers said on Saturday.

Results of three small mid-stage trials of the medicine funded by Telik were presented at an annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology in New Orleans.

One trial involved 21 patients who were given the drug, called Telcyta, in combination with carboplatin, a standard initial treatment for the disease. The patients had failed at least one round of chemotherapy.

After about one year of treatment, 56 per cent of the patients saw their tumours shrink by at least 50 per cent, with no sign of cancer remaining in three of the patients, said Dr. Jehan Kavanagh, an oncologist at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Centre in Houston.

Telcyta was not tested by itself against carboplatin, a drug that Telik chief executive Michael Wick said typically produces shrinkages in only about 10 per cent of such patients with advanced ovarian cancer.

“The data are so strong that we have decided to begin a late-stage trial this summer” testing Telcyta in perhaps 200 such ovarian cancer patients, Wick said in an interview.

Another trial described on Saturday involved 21 ovarian cancer patients given Telcyta in combination with Doxil, a Johnson & Johnson drug typically given only to patients who have failed many rounds of chemotherapy.

All patients had previously taken platinum-based chemotherapy, typically carboplatin.

About 46 per cent of patients getting the combination saw their tumours shrink, and with no side effects beyond those typically seen with Doxil, or liposomal doxorubicin, by itself.

Doxil as a stand-alone treatment typically shrinks tumours in only about 12 per cent of patients, Wick said.

OAS calls poverty worst enemy of Latam stability

QUITO (Ecuador), 7 June— Poverty and economic inequality pose the greatest threats to democratic stability in Latin America and must be tackled for the region to progress, the chief of a regional organization said on Sunday.

At the opening of a two-day summit of foreign ministers in Quito, Organization of American States Secretary General Cesar Gaviria said the region had advanced in political and human issue but not in economic fairness.

“We need a system of greater solidarity and with a larger humanitarian component. We have advanced in political and security issues but not in social ones,” Gaviria told foreign ministers from across the region.

Gaviria is ending his decade-long tenure at the head of the hemispheric organi-

Teenager to run Nigerian commercial capital for one day

LAGOS, 7 June— A 16-year-old Nigerian teenager, Tolulope Esan, is expected to assume governor of Nige-

No earthquakes caused by water stored a year ago

CHENGQIN, 7 June— The Three Gorges Project, which is designed capable of resisting earth-

Colorado man goes on rampage in armoured bulldozer

DENVER, 7 June— A man riding an armour-plated bulldozer went on a rampage in a Colorado mountain town and smashed into city hall, a bank and other buildings before being found dead early on Saturday morning, police said.

Authorities in Granby, a community of 1,500 people 60 miles northwest of Denver, identified the dead man as Marvin Heemeyer, 52, a local businessman who held a grudge against town officials after losing a recent zoning dispute.

Heemeyer drove the bulldozer, which was fortified with steel and concrete, through Granby's main street on Friday afternoon, plowing into buildings and causing severe dam-

A 10,000 policemn to come to Istanbul for NATO summit

ANKARA, 7 June— Turkish Interior Minister Abdullah Aksoy said on Sunday that 10,000 policemen would come to Istanbul from other provinces of Turkey as backup for this month's NATO summit.

“Many heads of state and government, ministers and high-ranking military officials will attend the summit of NATO in Istanbul between June 28 and 29,” Aksoy was quoted by Anatolia News Agency as saying in Abant, 200 kilometres west of Ankara.

“Even the most unlikely things were taken into consid-

Turkey captures 470,000 illegal immigrants in 5 years

ANKARA, 7 June— Turkish Interior Minister Abdullah Aksoy said on Sunday that Turkish security forces had captured 470,000 illegal immigrants from 63 different countries in the last five years as they were trying to proceed to European countries via Turkey.

“About 4,000 human smugglers were also captured. Human smugglers often cooperate with terrorist organizations,” Aksoy was quoted by Anatolia News Agency as saying in Abant, 200 kilometres west of Ankara.

Turkey is a key route of illegal migration due to its geographical location lying between Asia and Europe and as rugged mountainous eastern and southeastern borders.

Illegal immigrants from Middle Eastern, Central Asian and Eastern countries generally use this route to sneak into European countries. —MNA/Reuters

About 46 per cent of patients getting the combina-

Prominent shot putter Saba Hopa won the 2004 World Shot Put title at the outdoor world championships in Helsinki.

No earthquakes caused by water stored a year ago

CHENGQIN, 7 June— The Three Gorges Project, which is designed capable of resisting earth-

The Three Gorges Project, believed to be the world’s largest multi-purpose power project, did not induce any strong earthquakes since it began to store water a year ago.

Though the number of earthquakes in reservoir areas of the Three Gorges Project increased since it started to store water on June 1, 2003, the number of earthquakes measuring 2 or above on the Richter Scale were rarely seen, according to Wang Qiang, director of the Chongqing Municipal Seis-

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MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
Zidane grabs late winner for France

PARIS, 7 June — A goal two minutes from time by Zinedine Zidane handed European champions France a 1-0 victory over Ukraine on Sunday in their last warm-up match before they start the defence of their title in Portugal.

In a tight match, Zidane scored home after Thierry Henry knocked down a cross by substitute defender Willy Sagnol.

Jacques Santini’s team dominated for most of the match but had looked set for a third goalless draw from four matches after goalkeeper Olekseks Shovkovsky saved two clear chances which fell to Zidane and midfielder Robert Pires.

France, who are now on a 18-match unbeaten run and have not conceded a goal for almost a year, start their Euro 2004 campaign next Sunday against England in Group B.

France dominated the first half with Zidane displaying his breathtaking skills but he was often left frustrated as three defenders tracked his every move.

He only managed to outmanoeuvre Ukraine’s solid defence once before the break but his shot from outside the box was saved by Shovkovsky in the 18th minute. — MNA/Reuters

Ukraine’s Oleh Huzhey (yellow jersey) tries to tackle France’s Zinedine Zidane, right, during their friendly soccer game at Stade de France in Saint Denis outside Paris, Sunday, June 6, 2004.—INTERNET

Germany stunned 2-0 at home by Hungary

KASERLÄTTEN (Germany), 7 June — Germany were jeered off the pitch after slumping to an embarrassing 2-0 home defeat by Hungary in their final warm-up for Euro 2004 on Sunday.

Two first-half goals from striker Sandor Torghelle gave the visitors, coached by former Germany captain Lothar Matthaeus, a surprise victory.

Germany, who had already worried their fans with a traumatic 5-1 defeat by Romania in April, will need dramatic improvement if they are to trouble the Netherlands in their first Euro 2004 game on June 15 in Oporto.

They also face the Czech Republic and Latvia in a tough Group D in the finals in Portugal.

Hungary, who failed to qualify for Euro 2004 and were missing several players through injuries, made a furious start.

A shaky German defence had already struggled a few times when Torghelle, poorly marked by Christian Wronn, raced into the box to surprise Oliver Kahn with an angled shot from 11 metres on seven minutes.

Germany, who looked clumsy and short of ideas throughout the first half, were pressing hard in search for an equalizer when a swift counter-attack caught their defence off guard. Again it ended with Sorgelle holding the ball on his chest before beating Kahn from close range in the 31st minute.

The three-times world and European champions stepped up a gear after the interval but were denied a string a great saves from Gabor Kiraly. The Hungary goalkeeper was notably tested by a diving header from midfielder Michael Ballack eight minutes into a lively but goalless second half.

MNA/Reuters

Latvia held to 2-2 draw by Azerbaijan

RIGA, 7 June — Surprise Euro 2004 qualifiers Latvia were held to a 2-2 draw at home by Azerbaijan on Sunday, failing to give the small Baltic nation a confidence boost before the Portuguese finals.

Latvia, in their final warm-up friendly before their Group D opener against the Czech Republic on June 15, struggled in an uneven first half in which the visitors created the only two scoring chances.

But Latvia came out from the break looking much more aggressive. Dynamo Kiev striker Maris Verpakovskis giving the hosts the lead in the 53rd minute with a diving header. Azerbaijan equalized just two minutes later when Emir Gulyevi led a scorched shot from 25 metres into the top left corner.

MNA/Reuters

Cameroon fight back to beat Benin

YAUZOU, 7 June — Cameroon beat Benin 2-1 on Sunday in their first 2006 World Cup African Zone group three qualifier.

Benin took a surprise lead after 11 minutes when Romuald Mposso, 45 metres out, caught goalkeeper Carlos Karineni off his line and the ball went in off the underside of the bar. Amid jeers from the 60,000 crowd, Cameroon upped their game and scored twice in the second half, just before halftime through Samuel Eto and a header from captain Rigobert Song.

Song had been under a six-point penalty for the qualifiers after the team wore a controversial one-piece kit during this year’s African Nations Cup, but FIFA changed their mind last month.

The rest of the group comprises Egypt, Ivory Coast, Libya and Sudan.

MNA/Reuters

Five-goal Colombia hand Uruguay another World Cup defeat

BARRANQUILLA (Colombia), 7 June — Colombia lifted themselves off the bottom of the South American group table by hammering Uruguay 5-0 on Sunday, sending their opponents slumping to their third successive World Cup qualifying defeat.

Midfielder Victor Pacheco, making his first international appearance for seven years, scored twice and Tressor Moreno added the other as Colombia swept into a 3-0 halftime lead.

John Restrepo notched a brilliant individual goal in the 81st minute and Sergio Herrera added a fifth late in the match, the 14th goal for Uruguay to have conceded in three outings.

Colombia, who have seven points from the same number of games, moved above Uruguay, who also have seven, on goal difference, and Bolivia, who have six.

Coach Reinaldo Rueda made five changes to the Colombia team which started the 2-1 defeat by Ecuador on Wednesday.

His opposite number Jorge Fossati, who was in charge for the first time against Peru on Sunday, made six alterations.

Pacheco, who plays for Mexican club Atlante, broke through in the 18th minute after finding a gap in the defence and placing a left-foot shot beyond goalkeeper Gustavo Munua.

Two minutes later, Pacheco turned provider as he chipped a pass over the defence for Moreno to hook the ball past Munua. It was the second goal in a row Uruguay had gone two goals down in 20 minutes.

Uruguay, beaten at home by Venezuela and Peru in their last two games, were in more trouble in the 32nd minute when Gerardo Bedoya slpped the ball inside the penalty area to Pacheco, who flicked the ball up and volleyed home.

The visitors brought Diego Forlan on for Oswaldo Canobbio at halftime and nearly pulled a goal back when Javier Chevanton went past goalkeeper Miguel Calero but had his shot blocked by Mario Yepes.

Forlan had a volley turned over by Calero but Colombia also went close when Herrera found the ball on his chest before beating Kahn in the 31st minute.

Restrepo crowned Colombia’s day when he picked the ball up in midfield, jegged his way through a pack of defenders, dribbled around Munua and slid the ball home.

Five minutes later, Colombia again carved open the Uruguay defence, leaving Herrera with a simple job of tapping the ball into an empty net.

MNA/Reuters

Argentina held to 0-0 draw by 10-man Paraguay

BUENOS AIRES, 7 June — Argentina were held to a frustrating goalless draw at home by 10-man Paraguay in a World Cup qualifier on Sunday, a result which increases the pressure on their beleaguered coach Marcelo Bielsa.

Argentina fielded four forwards, gave Barcelona’s Javier Saviola a rare start, laid siege to the Paraguay goal but could not find a way past inspired goalkeeper Justo Villar.

Not even a red card for Paraguay midfielder Angel Ortiz in the 61st minute, for a second bookable offence, could help the 1978 and 1986 World Cup winners. Argentina, beaten 3-1 by Brazil on Wednesday, have 12 points from seven games in the South American group while Paraguay have 11.

Bielsa, who was surprisingly kept on as coach despite Argentina’s first-round elimination at the 2002 World Cup, has become increasingly unpopular with the public, who believe he is not making the most of the team’s potential.

The coach has been repeatedly insulted by the crowd at the River Plate stadium, even though Argentina have lost only once in seven qualifiers. Sunday’s game was again played in a half-empty arena, with Paraguay supporters making up a sizeable contingent.

Saviola and Hernan Crespo started a game together for the first time under Bielsa while goalkeeper Roberto Abbondanzieri was given his international debut at the age of 31 as he replaced Pablo Cavallero, who picked up a thigh strain during practice on Friday.

Argentina, who have not beat Paraguay at home in a World Cup qualifier since 1973, sliced through the visitors’ defence in the first half but could not find a way past Villar.

MNA/Reuters

Angelucci earns Venezuela a point in Peru

LIMA, 7 June — Venezuela held Peru to a goalless draw away to Peru in Sunday’s World Cup qualifier thanks to an inspired performance from goalkeeper Gilberto Angelucci.

Peru, hoping to capitalize on last Tuesday’s 3-1 win away to Uruguay, dominated the match but was repeatedly found Angelucci in their way.

The result kept Venezuela, who have 10 points from seven games, one point ahead of Peru in the South American qualifying group.

“I don’t think we won the game but we didn’t work out,” Peru coach Paulo Autuori told reporters.

“The first half, we tried to use the speed of our forwards. In the second, we lost our way and used the long-ball approach, which made life easier for our opponents.”

MNA/Reuters

Argentina’s Carlos Tevez (L) kicks the ball away from Paraguay’s Julio Enciso during second half of their World Cup qualifying match in Buenos Aires, June 6, 2004. The game ended in a 0-0 tie.—INTERNET
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers an address at the ceremony to make donations for storm victims of Rakhine State. — MNA

Prime Minister attends cash and kind donation ceremony for storm-hit townships in Rakhine State

YANGON, 8 June — A ceremony to donate cash and kind for the second time to the storm-hit townships in Rakhine State was held at U Oktama Hall in Sittway yesterday afternoon, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

Present on the occasion were member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, members of division, district and township PDCs, members of social organizations and wellwishers from Yangon.

First, Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo reported on conditions of damages to houses, departmental and religious buildings, basic education schools, dams of the Irrigation Department, embankments of farmers, prawn-breeding ponds in Sittway, Pauktaw and Myaybon townships in Rakhine State due to the storm occurrence, sinking of motor boats and rowing boats, loss of lives, relief measures being taken by Rakhine State PDC, conducting the field trips for relief measures by ministers, deputy ministers and departmental heads, relief measures being taken for the whole storm-hit area, raising of relief funds and supplies by foreign and local organizations, private business entrepreneurs, public wellwishers, UN agencies and NGOs and tasks for water supplies.

Then, cash and kind were donated to storm victims. Today’s donations included K 396,534,000 (396 million) by seventy five wellwishers from companies, K 45,868,500, US$ 134,800 and other supplies worth ¥ 11.29 million by UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR and BAJ. The Prime Minister, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, the commander and the ministers accepted the donations and presented certificates of honour to the donors.

Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo and ministers accepted donations and presented certificates of honour to wellwishers.

Today’s donations were K 2.5 million by Kachin State Peace and Development Council, K 3 million by Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council, K 2.5 million by Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council, K 2.5 million by Shan State (Shan State) Peace and Development Council, K 2.5 million by Mon State Peace and Development Council, K 5 million by Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council, K 1.2 million by Kayin State Peace and Development Council, K 2.5 million by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council, K 2.5 million by Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council, K 2.5 million by Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council, K 1 million by Magway Division Peace and Development Council, K 2.5 million by Bago Division (West) Peace and Development Council and K 2.5 million by Bago Division Peace and Development Council.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt made a speech on the occasion. In his speech, he expressed his thanks to donations of wellwishers to victims, national races, who encountered the natural disaster in Rakhine State, on behalf of the State and Rakhine nationals. Most of the donors were from Yangon. Such donations show the spirit of national consolidation and the Union. UN organizations such as UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, BAJ and NGOs as well as wellwishers from Rakhine State also took part in the donations. Owing to changes of weather, there occur natural disasters sometimes not only in Myanmar but also in other countries in the world. Some countries had encountered such disasters for several times and there had been heavy damages. Such disasters can rarely be found in Myanmar. In 1968, there had been floods in Rakhine for one time. Now Rakhine state was hit by storm for the second time. Values of losses were less than those of other countries owing to mutual respect and belief in respective religions, loving kindness to each other, Union spirit and goodwill.

Sittway, Pauktaw, Kyaukpyu and Myaybon were hit by the storm. Schools, hospitals, prawn breeding ponds, salt works, some cattle and motor boats were also destroyed or damaged. National races have been residing unitedly in the Union of Myanmar since time immemorial. There is also a custom of helping each other if necessary. If something occurs in a region, there is a tradition of providing assistance from one region to another under the leadership of the Government. The commander of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council and the ministers of ministries concerned provided necessary relief assistance to the victims rapidly. Wellwishers were invited from Yangon to render assistance to the victims. Today’s donations totalled over K 300 million. Shan, Kachin, Kayin, Kayah, Mon states, Taninthayi, Bago, Mandalay and Ayeyawady divisions also took part in the donations.

Yangon Zoological Gardens

This peaceful and scenic spot is in the Yangon Zoological Gardens.

Built in 1901 with the contribution of the public, the Yangon Zoological Gardens was inaugurated in December 1906. Therefore, it will turn its centenary by 2006. The Natural History Museum was opened in 1966. Dopyitha Enterprise Ltd built the Sport Grounds meeting international standard on 12.13 acres of land south of the Zoological Gardens. Inaugurated on 7 October 1997, it has been popular with the children up to date since then.

The Yangon Zoological Gardens has intended to ensure public recreation and relaxation, to provide general knowledge, to help students acquire botanical and zoological knowledge, to impart knowledge of environmental conservation, to carry out research work, and to reproduce rare species which are on the verge of extinction. With the success achieved, the Zoological Gardens can now survive on its own income.