State Peace and Development Council Chairman

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to the Philippines

YANGON, 12 June — On the occasion of the 106th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Philippines which falls on 12 June 2004, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Mrs Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines. — MNA

State Peace and Development Council Chairman

Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Russian Federation

YANGON, 12 June — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Vladimir V Putin, President of the Russian Federation, on the occasion of the National Day of the Russian Federation which falls on 12 June 2004. — MNA

Four political objectives

* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee, Management Committee hold coordination meeting

YANGON, 11 June — The National Convention Convening Commission, the National Convention Convening Work Committee and Management Committee held coordination meeting No 9/2004 at Anawrahta Hall of Nyaunghaupin Camp in Hmawby Township at 9:20 am today, with an address by Chairman of NCCC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Minister for Electric Power Maj-Gen Tin Htut and commission members, Vice-Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Attorney-General U Aye Maung and work committee members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Luon Muang and management committee members.

Joint-Secretary of the Commission Director-General U Myint Thein of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office acted as master of ceremonies.

First, Chairman of the commission Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address, saying that in group discussions, the delegate groups are compiling proposals (See page 9)

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects harvesting, cultivation tasks in Namkhkam

YANGON, 11 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlai, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials, left Muse on 10 June morning and arrived in Namkhkam. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe attended the ceremony to harvest 200 acres of Hsinshweli strain summer paddy held in Naungzai Village, Namkhkam Township. Also present were the commander, officials, local authorities, local national race leaders and local people.

Officials reported on cultivation of summer and monsoon paddy in Muse District. The commander gave a supplementary report.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presented prizes to outstanding farmers of Namkhkam and Muse Townships in cultivation of Hsinshweli strain of paddy. The commander also gave away prizes to outstanding employees of Myanmar Agriculture Service. Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave a speech.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, the commander and the national race leaders inspected harvesting of summer paddy with the use of modern harvesters. Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party posed for documentary photos with the local national race leaders.

At the harvesting ceremony, the per acre yield of the 200-acre plot was 202.21 baskets. Of the 2,374 acres of Hsinshweli cultivated in Namkhkam Township for 2003-2004, the per acre yield of five acres was 153.39 baskets. Similarly, of 1,027 acres of other high-yield strains grown in the township, the per acre yield of 57 acres was 107.85 baskets.

In addition, all farmers who cultivated Hsinshweli paddy strain in Namkhkam Township could produce over 100 baskets per acre (See page 9)

The National Convention is the concern of all our national races.
For strengthening Union Spirit

Since its birth, the Union Solidarity and Development Association has been making contributions towards tasks for emergence of a peaceful, modern and development nation as well as training and nurturing the youths capable of brilliantly undertaking national duties. The USDA has conducted courses on national culture and moral education, and proficiency courses for ten years. Over 2 million youths attended various courses opened in 2004 summer.

In his address at the opening of Myanmar and International Studies Course No 6 and Special Refresher Course No 7 at Pyidaungsu Hall of the USDA Training Centre in Hmawby, Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Departmental Heads under the Ministry of Information, Chairman of the USDA and General Manager (Retd), and Social Organizations (Chairman), introduced the courses and activities. The Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi left here by air this morning. They discussed with Technical Secretary-1 U Myo Nyunt and CEC members at the UMFCCI Head Office here this morning. They discussed matters on Mekong region development, East-West Corridor and developing SMEs. — MNA

Minister U Win Aung sends felicitations to Russian Federation

YANGON, 12 June — U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Sergei V Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, on the occasion of the National Day of the Russian Federation, which falls on 12 June 2004. — MNA

Minister U Win Aung sends felicitations to the Philippines

YANGON, 12 June — On the occasion of the 106th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Philippines which falls on 12 June 2004, U Win Aung, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Mrs Delia Domingo Albert, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines. — MNA

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi being seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi

Minister U Win Aung sends felicitations to the Philippines

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi being seen off at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi.

Poem: Victory of Kalay region

Japanese guests meet UMFCCI President

Cash and kind donated

Emami cosmetics introduced

Film entertainments to NC delegates

Country Manager Mr Prashant Goenka extends greetings at the launching ceremony. — MNA

People’s Desire

- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Minister U Win Aung sends felicitations to Russian Federation

Minister U Win Aung sends felicitations to the Philippines

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi

Victory of Kalay region

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Manpower needed in tourism sector

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France, Turkey reject NATO role in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 10 June — France and Turkey have rejected President George W. Bush’s idea of NATO playing a role in Iraq, with Paris cautioning that the Arab world does not need “missionaries of democracy”.

“I do not think that it is NATO’s job to intervene in Iraq. Moreover, I do not have the feeling that it would be either timely or necessarily well understood,” French President Jacques Chirac told reporters in a video conference from Sea Island, the private resort where the Group of 8 — Western industrial countries, Japan and Russia — are meeting.

He also cautioned the US that the Arab world does not need “missionaries of democracy,” adding that he has “strong reservations on this (Bush) initiative.” Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a guest at the summit, expressed himself similarly.

Asked whether NATO, of which Turkey is a member, should have a role in Iraq, Erdogan said: “The concept we have been emphasising is the role of the United Nations to help the Iraqi people.” He said the US efforts to promote democracy in the Middle East run the risk of backfiring. “We must stand ready to help. But we must also take care not to provoke.”

Allawi says attacks on oil facilities cost Iraq dearly

BAGHDAD, 11 June — Iraq has lost more than $US200 million over the past seven months due to 130 attacks on its oil pipelines, Prime Minister Iyad Allawi said.

He blames terrorists and foreign fighters for targeting the vital industry. “More than $200 million has been stolen out of the pockets of a sovereign Iraqi government through the loss of oil revenues resulting from attacks to pipelines,” Mr Allawi said.

Mr Allawi, tapped as premier last month, has pledged to guarantee security in Iraq, tackle the economic crisis and hold national elections.

He is calling on Iraqis to help combat the saboteurs. “I call on all Iraqi patriots to be vigilant. It is our people that are sitting in the dark and not our occupier,” he said.

Underlines the fact that Iraq’s oil ministry would be independent after June 30, although the spending of oil export sales will still be monitored by an advisory board set up by the United Nations.

Seen as tough on security and with close ties to the US, the former Baathist dissident hopes to turn the Iraqi people against an insurgency that rose up from the ashes of the 2003 US-led invasion.

On Wednesday, insurgents blew up a section of Iraq’s main export pipeline near the northern oil centre of Kirkuk in the second such attack in less than a day.

Since US-led forces ousted Saddam more than a year ago, the authorities have been scrambling to maintain security. The single ticket for the Paris-Beijing route currently is $804 dollars and 272 dollars, respectively.

Vietnam Airlines to increase int’l airfares

HANOI, 10 June — Vietnam Airlines, the national flag carrier, will increase fares for international flights by five US dollars in the next few days due to higher fuel costs, it told Xinhua on Wednesday.

However, fares of domestic flights and cargo freight will remain unchanged.

The airlines’ fuel cost, which accounts for 19-20 percent of its operation expenses, has recently soared, as one ton of petroleum products in the world market is priced up to 400 dollars.

Vietnam Airlines has launched 20 direct international routes, including those to Paris, Sydney, Moscow, Beijing, Kunming, Guangzhou, Tokyo and Bangkok, and three indirect routes to Los Angeles, San Francisco and Shanghai. The single ticket for the Hanoi-Paris route and the Hanoi-Beijing route currently is 804 dollars and 272 dollars, respectively. — MNA/Xinhua

Shiite gunmen seize Najaf police station

BAGHDAD, 10 June — Shiite gunmen rained an Iraqi police station in the holy city of Najaf and held it for two hours Thursday in the first outbreak of fighting since an agreement to end weeks of clashes between US troops and militia forces.

Six Iraqis were killed and 29 were injured, including eight children, hospital officials said.

Also Thursday, gunmen claiming to belong to a militant Islamic group attacked a police station in Najaf, killing a policeman and wounding two others.

The interim Prime Minister sought to shore up internal political support by promising to honour the interim constitution as necessary “to resolve” the crisis, which has been labelled a “civil war”.

He also cautioned the US that the Arab world does not need “missionaries of democracy”, adding that he has “strong reservations on this (Bush) initiative.”

Iraqis gather around a bullet-riddled Iraqi police vehicle outside the Najaf police station on 10 June, 2004. — Internet

G-8 summit concludes

SAYANNAVAR (United States), 11 June — The Group of Eight (G-8) concluded its annual three-day meeting Thursday afternoon.

“We have just concluded a very successful meeting,” US President George Bush said at a press conference held here at the International Media Center.

As one of the most important achievement, the G-8 summit on Wednesday adopted the “Partnership for Progress and a Common Future With the Region of the Broader Middle East and North Africa” to promote democratic, economic and social reforms in the Middle East countries, and stressed the need of resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for any progress in the Middle East.

The leaders of the G-8 summit issued a statement on Thursday calling on the Quartet, composed of the United Nations, the United Nations Security Council, the European Union, to meet this month to revive the stalled Roadmap plan for the Middle East peace process.

During the three-day meeting, the G-8 summit also achieved progress on issues such as nonproliferation, war on terror, travel safety and trade.
Annan urges international law in Iraq

CAMBRIDGE, 10 June — UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said Thursday that the war in Iraq has sparked a global crisis that must be resolved through international cooperation.

“What kind of world would it be, and who would want to live in it, if every country was allowed to use force, without collective agreement, simply because it thought there might be a threat?” he said at Harvard University’s commencement.

Annan’s comments came two days after the UN Security Council voted to adopt a resolution backing Iraqi sovereignty and giving the new leaders clout over a US-led force. The resolution was co-sponsored by the United States and Britain.

“Once again, in recent weeks, the United States found that it needed the unique legitimacy of the United Nations to bring into being credible internation government in Iraq,” Annan said.

He said the United Nations and the United States are facing a crisis over whether force is a legitimate means to prevent attacks. That issue came to a head last year when the Bush administration said fears of international terrorism required the ouster of Saddam Hussein. Critics, including Annan, say the United States should have sought more international approval before attacking.

Annan also cited a “crisis of solidarity” between the United Nations and the United States, which he argued was diverting international attention and resources away from long-standing challenges such as AIDS, education and infant mortality.

Finally, Annan said, the world is facing a "crisis of prejudice and intolerance."

"We must not allow ourselves, out of fear or anger, to treat people whose faith or culture differs from ours as enemies," he said.

Spanish Oxfam halts Iraq relief

MADRID, 11 June—The Spanish branch of the humanitarian aid group Oxfam has said that it is impossible to continue work in Iraq because of the security situation.

The group said the violence was so bad that half of the money spent in Iraq had to go on hiring security staff.

The organization said the money raised for projects in Iraq, some 870,000 euros ($1m) would now go to Burundi.

Oxfam Spain said if donors were not happy with their cash being diverted they could ask for it back.

"The extreme situation of insecurity that has characterized Iraq over the past year makes it impossible to carry out the projects for which these funds were destined," the organization said.

Ignasi Carreras, director general of Oxfam in Spain, said that of the money raised the group had only been able to spend 183,000 euros.

"This money was used to repair bomb-damaged water supplies in Nasiriya, Karbala and Bastra, as well as building water tanks for several Karbala hospitals. But since the danger hampered relief efforts so much Mr Carreras said the money could be used more effectively and quickly to provide emergency relief in Burundi.

"Oxfam, which has its headquarters in the UK, had pulled all of its foreign staff out of Iraq in August last year, following an attack on the United Nations' Baghdad headquarters. Since then it had been relying on a core team of 50 nationals."—Internet

Chirac unwilling to forgive more than 50 percent of Iraq’s debt

PARIS, 10 June—French President Jacques Chirac said he’s unwilling to forgive more than half of Iraq’s debt and sees “great risks” in US President George W. Bush’s call to increase NATO’s presence in the Middle East country.

"We are facing a war, which was neither necessary nor useful," Bush told a separate news conference that he doesn’t expect the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, of which France is also a member, to send more troops to Iraq. France had announced its readiness to consider a Bush proposal to use NATO troops to train Iraqi security forces.

France and Germany have refused to send troops to help the 150,000 that the US, UK and Italy have in Iraq.

Kuwait, Iran sign MoU on economic cooperation

KUWAIT CITY, 10 June—Kuwait and Iran signed on Wednesday a memorandum on economic cooperation.

Kuwaiti Undersecretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Rashed Al-Tabtabaai said talks between the two sides focused on tariffs, energy, chambers of commerce, banking, privatization, border issues, and the temporary establishment of a joint authority to be launched later.

Kuwait welcomes UNSC resolution on Iraq

KUWAIT CITY, 10 June—Kuwait welcomed on Wednesday the new Resolution No 1546 unanimously approved by the United Nations Security Council.

According to Kuwait News Agency, an authoritative Foreign Ministry source voiced welcome of the State of Kuwait for issue of Resolution 1546 on Iraq, that was unanimously approved by the Security Council members Tuesday night. The source said in a statement that the resolution represents an important and vital step that reflects keenness of the international community on maintaining security and stability in Iraq and the region in all, besides realizing aspirations of the Iraqi people for a free and united country as well as putting an end for their sufferings that continued for over three decades.—MNA/Khousa

Chirac warns against excessive interference in M-E

SEA ISLAND (Georgia), 10 June—Democracy cannot be imposed from outside and economic growth in the Middle East conflicts must be the priority as major industrial nations try to help reform in the region, French President Jacques Chirac said on Wednesday.

Chirac, speaking during a Group of Eight summit, issued a warning against excessive interference in the greater Middle East region, saying provocative behaviour could lead to a “clash of civilisations”.

“We must stand ready to help. But we must also take care not to provoke,” said Chirac, who is a strong opponent of the US-led war in Iraq. “For that would be to risk feeding extremism and falling into the fatal trap of the clash of civilisations: precisely what we wish to avoid.” Chirac made the comments in notes prepared for remarks at a summit lunch also attended by leaders of seven Arab and Muslim nations, including Iraq.

He was speaking about a G-8 proposal to help achieve more democracy and economic growth in the region, to be launched at the summit that began on Tuesday in the Georgia resort of Sea Island. The US initiative had angered Arab nations when a draft of version emerged in February because it did not mention the Arab-Israeli conflict and because it appeared to seek to impose reform from abroad. That and European concerns have produced a scaled back revision of the proposal, now titled a “partnership” for progress in the region. Chirac said the success of the initia- tive would depend on it being a genuine partnership founded in “pragmatism, re- spect, confidence and dialogue.”

While France voted with the rest of the UN Security Council on Tuesday for a resolution approving the handover of power to an interim Iraqi government on 30 June, Paris has been deeply critical of the war and Chirac described the country as “plunged into chaos.”

Chirac said the region did not need “missionaries” of democracy and stressed that a priority should be working to help the Arab states of the region to find a solution to their own conflicts. MNA/Reuters
Study finds More Americans abuse alcohol

WASHINGTON, 11 June—More Americans are abusing alcohol than in the 1990s, but fewer are technically alcoholics, US Government researchers said on Thursday.

They found that the number of American adults who abuse alcohol or are alcohol dependent rose to 17.6 million or 8.46 per cent of the population in 2001-2002 from 13.8 million or 7.41 per cent of the population in 1991-1992.

The researchers cannot say why heavy drinking is up.

"The fact that alcohol disorder rates are highest among young adults underscores the need for concerted research on drinking patterns that initiate in adolescence," said Dr. Ting-Kai Li, Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

The NIAAA study defines alcohol abuse as causing a failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school, or home; interpersonal social and legal problems; and/or drinking in hazardous situations.

Alcohol dependence, also known as alcoholism, is characterized by impaired control over drinking, compulsive drinking, preoccupation with drinking, tolerance to alcohol and/or withdrawal symptoms.

Across the decade, the rate of alcohol abuse increased to 4.65 per cent of the general population from 3.03 per cent, while the rate of alcoholism fell to 3.81 per cent of the general population from 4.38 per cent, Li's team reported in the journal Drug and Alcohol Dependence.

The survey was done by the US Census Bureau, which interviewed more than 43,000 people face to face. The survey found that men were more likely to abuse alcohol than women and people aged 18 to 44 were more likely to abuse alcohol than older people.

"Alcohol abuse is more prevalent among Whites than among Hispanics, Blacks, and Asians," said Grant, who led the study.

"That rates of dependence overall decreased is not surprising in light of other surveys that indicate a decline in heavy drinking," said Bridget Grant, who led the study.

The number of alcoholics, the NIAAA said, declined to 8.91 million US adults or 3.81 per cent of the population from 9.44 million or 4.38 per cent of the population in 1991-1992.

The number of alcoholics, the NIAAA said, declined to 8.91 million US adults or 3.81 per cent of the population from 9.44 million or 4.38 per cent of the population in 1991-1992.

"That alcohol abuse seems to be increasing presents intriguing questions. What is clear is that no single environmental cause can explain the increase. Further research is needed to understand public health priorities," Grant said.

MNA/Xinhua

Wetland on increase in China

Beijing, 11 June—Information from the State Forestry Administration said there are 38.49 million hectares of wetland across China, of which, natural wetland make up 94 per cent.

That was learned from the national inventory on wetland resources published by the administration on Thursday.

The inventory, the first of the kind, has been conducted since 1995. It targets at lakes, swampland, reservoirs and ponds, seaside and coastal wetland with an area of over 100 hectares and rivers with riverbed's width exceeding 10 metres and with an area of over 100 hectares, as well as other wetlands that have special significance.

According to the inventory, natural wetland totals 36.2 million hectares, 40 per cent of which, or 16 million hectares, has been well protected. The rest are being integrated into 353 nature reserves.

However, the inventory also notes in some areas, the main problems including blind land reclamation, unreasonable use of land and water resources and serious pollution of wetland still exist.

MNA/Xinhua

Lawmakers start to probe role of British troops in Iraq

London, 11 June—British lawmakers will start a probe into the role of British troops in Iraq and their relations with Iraqi civilians before the June 30 transfer of sovereignty, a parliamentary committee said Wednesday.

The parliamentary Defence Select Committee will also examine the British troops' status under the UN mandate and the likely scale and length of their commitment in Iraq.

However, the lawmakers will not look into specific allegations of abuse, Bruce George, chairman of the committee, said in a statement.

China invests $2b overseas in 2003

Beijing, 10 June—China invested $2.087 billion US dollars overseas in 2003, up 112 per cent over the previous year, while its number of overseas enterprises grew by 510 last year, a senior foreign exchange administrator said.

Wei Benhui, vice-director of the Ministry of Foreign Exchange Administration, told a meeting earlier this week that the figures show China's overseas development grew by "leaps and bounds" in the past few years.

Zhang Zhigang, Vice-Minister of Commerce, said China's total overseas investment has so far exceeded 30 billion US dollars, covering over 160 countries and regions around the globe.

Chinese firms set up 312 enterprises overseas in 2001, with a combined Chinese investment of 785 million US dollars shortly after the introduction of the country's go-global strategy in the late 1990s, which encourages Chinese firms to invest abroad.

The number of Chinese enterprises set up overseas in 2002 totalled 365 with combined investment of 983 million US dollars, according to Wei. Weisaid the investment involves manufacturing, processing, engineering contracts and labour services.

MNA/Xinhua
Images of Iraq

An Iraqi man is treated in a hospital following a car-bomb in Balad Ruz, 50 kms south of Baquba on 8 June.

Smoke billows from an explosion of an oil well in Kirkuk, Iraq, on 9 June, 2004.

An Iraqi man rides his horse cart past a burning truck after a roadside attack on the highway outside of Baghdad, Iraq on 9 June, 2004.

A roadside bomb exploded in the northern city of Mosul, some 370 kms from Baghdad, on 8 June, 2004.

Armed Shi’ite militiamen run while trying to prevent US forces from entering a neighbourhood in Baghdad, on 10 June, 2004.

A wounded youth is brought for treatment to a hospital in Najaf, on 10 June, 2004 after gun battles between Iraqi police and militia.

An Iraqi man and woman sit outside the entrance of the emergency room of the general hospital in Najaf, waiting for the news of injured relative on 10 June, 2004.
New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

Microwave Station in Loikaw serves the people for their convenience in communication. — MNA

Border and rural area developments

For the development of border areas, Nampan Creek bridge was built on Tachilek-Tarlay road in Tachilek District, Shan State (East). — MNA

Firewood plantation in Thaikkyinin village, Taungthongyi Township, Magway Division. — Photo: Moe Ko (Forestry)

Kyaukchaunggyi bridge which is under construction on Pathein-Thabaung road in Ayeyawady Division — MNA

Manswang bridge construction site on Tiddim-Reed road in Tiddim Township, Chin State. — Construction

Manswang bridge construction site on Tiddim-Reed road in Tiddim Township, Chin State. — Construction
The great grand ceremony in honour of Sasana Azanis (Religious Heroes) who were presented the Title of Tipitakadhara, Tipitakakovida and the Title of Tipitakadhara in the year 2004 —

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

In order to carefully preserve genuine Theravada Buddhism, multifarious Buddhist people and Government of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, hand in hand, are supporting and encouraging to carry the auspicious ceremony was attended by Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Ven Bhaddanta Kumara and Secretary of the State Peace and Development Council, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, the ministers, high-ranking officials.

Afterwards, Secretary of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Ven Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Agga Maha Pandita Ven Bhaddanta Kumara delivered a sermon to the audience followed by performing water-libation and sharing of merits gained.

The auspicious ceremony was arranged and conducted by the Ministry of Religious Affairs under the guidance and instructions of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar.

The ceremony which is a major bridge across Ayeyawady River.

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US$ 5.5 million in a year.

Efficient use of fuel

* Do not be softened whenever appeased
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever apprehended

Efficient use of electricity

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

PREVENTING waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, a four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.
of paddy which exceeded the target of the State and are making efforts for producing 200 baskets per acre to meet international standard. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party arrived at the briefing hall of the 10-acre plantation of Hsinshweli (F1) in Kunlon Village, Namkhham Township, where Namkhham Township PDC Chairman Maj Aung Zaw Lat reported on production of Hsinshweli hybrid paddy, cultivation method, estimate cost for per acre yield and estimate profits. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party next inspected the paddy plantation. On arrival at the monsoon Hsinshweli paddy transplanting ceremony in Kunlon Village, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party viewed transplanting and ploughing of paddy. They then greeted local people and went to Naunglaung Village. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspected 40-acre and 150-acre Hsinshweli paddy plantations. District PDC Chair Lt-Col Soe Win reported on agricultural condition of the village, and the commander gave a supplementary report.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions, saying that the agricultural sector will surely promote as Hsinshweli monsoon paddy that yields 200 baskets of paddy per acre is being cultivated the length and breadth of the state. With the promotion of agricultural sector, the incomes of farmers will rise. These fruitful results are due to efforts of local authorities and departmental officials concerned, he said. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presented awards for township agriculture and supervisory committee for cultivation of 15 acres of hybrid paddy to U Maung Maung of Township Administration Department. He also presented awards for township agriculture and supervisory committee which is to engage in the plantation of 200 per acre yield of paddy to U Khin Maung Myint of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications. Next, the commander presented prizes to those who gave assistance for the paddy cultivation. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe then cordially greeted local people.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party headed to 10-acre Hsinshweli paddy plantation where state Agricultural Service Manager U Hla Gyi reported on the yield of Hsinshweli hybrid paddy, Chairman Maj Aung Zaw Lat reported on the yield of Hsinshweli summer paddy in Namhkham Township.

National Convention Convening Commission, Work Committee

NCCMC Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung submits reports at the coordination meeting of NCCC. NCCWC and NCCMC — MNA.

NCCWC Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung submits reports at the coordination meeting of NCCC. NCCWC and NCCMC — MNA.

The delegate groups are reading the proposals in the discussions, which will be completed soon.

On completion, the National Convention Convening Work Committee is to plan submitting of the proposals to the plenary meeting of the National Convention.

And, the National Convention Management Committee is also to make arrangements for convenience of the delegations in accommodation, food, health and welfare sectors.

On behalf of the chairman, Vice-Chairman of the Work Committee Attorney-General U Aye Maung reported on progress of compiling the proposals by the delegate groups, presenta- tion of the proposals in the discussions and completion of the proposals to be submitted to the plenary meeting of the National Convention.

Next, Chairman of the Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung reported on health conditions of the delegates, delegate patients being treated at the hospitals, arrangements for excursions and out-of-town delegates in holidays of the National Convention and administration matters.

Afterwards, those present at the meeting took part in the discussions.

Later, Lt-Gen Thein Sein gave the concluding remarks and the meeting came to an end at 11 am. — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe addresses the ceremony to harvest Hsinshweli summer paddy in Namkhham Township. — MNA.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presents prize to an outstanding farmer at the harvesting ceremony of Hsinshweli summer paddy in Namkhham Township. — MNA.

Minister inspects Divisional, District and Township level Planning Departments

YANGON, 11 June—Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, accompanied by the Director-General of Planning Department and officials, inspected the Planning Department of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township this morning.

The minister met those in charge of Planning Departments of Yangon Division Planning, Yangon North, West, South and East Districts, Thingangyun, Mingala Taungnyunt, Tamway, South Okkalapa, North Okkalapa, Pazundaung, Dawbon, Botataung, Yanmik, Thakayta, Dagon Myothit (South), (North), (Seikkan) and (East) townships and staff. Officials of the divisional department and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township reported on implementation of the project target for 2003-2004, extended cultivation of important crops and individual agriculture in rural and urban areas.

They reported on calculation of rural and urban GDPS and important horticultural products region-wise. Next, the minister heard reports on respective sectors of the district and township officials and attended to their needs.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the department is to review strong and weak points and study economic development of the State in cooperation with departments concerned for effectively contributing to development of the nation so as to achieve success in realizing the aims. Personnel must go down field trips to the work sites to gain correct and accurate data and accounts. The staff are to be nurtured for improvement of their quality in subjects on economics, computer application and English language proficiency concerning tasks of the department. And Information and Communication Technology is to be applied for development of the department, he said. — MNA

Our brethren join hands together for the Union
Cash donated to MWAF

YANGON, 11 June—Wellwishers donated cash for students through Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation at the meeting hall of MWAF on Than Lwin street this morning. Present on the occasion were MWAF President Dr Daw Khin Win Slowe, Vice-Presidents Professor Dr May May Yi, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Than Nwe and Daw Khin Khin Win, General Secretary Professor Dr Daw Khin Aye Win,visers and guests. Next, MWAF President Dr Daw Khin Win Slowe accepted K 6,521,070 donated by 162 wellwishers, presented certificates of honour to them and spoke words of thanks. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than looks into…

(from page 16)

They headed for the model pepper farm of the Myanmar Agriculture Service in Ponnagyun. Officials reported on facts about the farm. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than looked into the farm. They went to the 1,000-acre reclamation project at Yeotayok BEPS at the foot of Bengaya Mountain in Ponnagyun Township. Officials reported on reclamation tasks being carried out and work progress. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions and fulfilled the needs. They inspected the station hospital in Yeotayok village and attended to the needs. They looked into Sittway-An Road section-3 (Mwayngabe-Sittway section). Officials reported on the various works in the road and give the necessary instructions. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected Kissapunadi Bridge. Senior Engineer of the Bridge Group-U Khin Maung reported on facts about the facility. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on durability of the bridge. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at Kyauktaw.

Upgrading, extension of roads in Shwepyitha, South Okkalapa inspected

YANGON, 10 June—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Major Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin this morning inspected upgrading and extension of roads in Shwepyitha Township and repaving of roads in South Okkalapa Township. The mayor and party inspected upgrading of Khayaybin Road linking Mingaladon and Insein Townships and extension of 14,300 feet long section of No 4 Highway from Sittway-An Road. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected Sittway-An Road section-3 (Sittway-An section). Officials reported on work being done and repairing of Sittway-An Road. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than left instructions on ensuring a fine facility serviceable for all seasons. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with Tammawad members of Kyauktaw Station and their families at Nawar Hall of the station. He also met with departmental officials, social organizations and local senior citizens at the office of Kyauktaw PDC. Officials reported on points on the township, and education, health and social sectors and agricultural sectors of the region. In his speech, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that the government is taking measures thoroughly for rural development. In this regard, respective officials are to make field trips right down to the grassroots level in carrying out tasks for elevating the education, health, social and economic sectors of locals. He called for extension of agriculture and livestock breeding for raising per capita income of local people, exceeding the target of monsoon paddy cultivation, and growing of shady trees and windbreak for beautifying the region. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected Kissapunadi Bridge. Senior Engineer of the Bridge Group-U Khin Maung reported on facts about the facility. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on durability of the bridge. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party arrived at Kyauktaw.

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 11 June—The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in states where water is scarce. One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000. Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director (General) (Tel: 01-245420 & 253086), the Deputy Director (Director-Development Division Affairs Committee) (Tel: 01-240118), the Director, (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Sagaying Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-21012), the Director (Magway Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 063-21164) and the Director (Mandaly Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel. 02-54657). — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects…

(from page 16)

Local farmers are enjoying higher living standard and regional development as they have been able to freely manage their agricultural produce. As efforts are being made for building the nation into an agro-based industrial one, departmental officials and local people are to make integrated and well-coordinated efforts for development of industrial sector with added momentum. Nowadays, Muse District is meeting with success as it has been using industrial power by 71 per cent of agricultural sector. Meanwhile, departmental officials and local farmers are to make strenuous efforts for cultivation of crops the whole year. After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe greeted departmental officials. In accord with the Head of State, Shan State (North) is making efforts for boosting the per acre yield after reclaiming virgin and fallow land for self-sufficiency in rice. As a result, it saw 114.38 per cent of self-sufficiency in rice with a surplus of 92,000 baskets in 2003-2004. Arrangements are being made for putting 23,482 acres under monsoon paddy in Muse Township, 13,191 acres under monsoon paddy in Namkhamb Township and 36,373 acres under monsoon paddy in Kawkai Township. Starting from monsoon paddy cultivation season, 2,411 farming equipment are being used at 71 per cent of agricultural sector in Muse District.

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Fourth cash donation for 85 Myanmar monks at Indian Universities held

YANGON, 10 June—The cash donations for 85 Myanmar monks who are learning at 10 universities in India was held at Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabn Hall on Kaba Aye Hill this morning.

Present were Vice-Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddharmajotika Bhaddanta Kesara and members of the Sangha, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko. departmental heads and wellwishers.

At the ceremony, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung accepted US$ 6,000 donated by wellwishers with the auspices of the Sitagu Sayadaw; US$ 1,200 by U Sein Hla Win-Daw Phyu Phyu Khin; and US$ 1,200 by U Than Lwin-Daw Khin Khin Thein. Certificates of honour were presented to the wellwishers.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko presented certificates of honour to U Rajinda (Nalanda University), Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt and wife, Maung Weik and Family Co, U Khin Maung Cho-Daw Khin Ohn Cho and U Sein Lin-Daw Hnin Yi.

The minister, the deputy minister and departmental heads accepted K 905,400 donated by Daw Khin Mar Aye, wife of Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lung Tha; and wellwishers; K 1,106,950 by Daw Kyin Khang, wife of Minister Col Thein Nyunt, and wellwishers; K 1,100,500 by U Kyi Win and wife and party; K 3 million by Maung Weik Family Co; K 739,510 by U Maung Cho-Daw Khin Ohn Cho and party; K 300,000 by the headmaster and educational staff of Dagon BEHS; US$ 300 by Daw Ni Ni Myint of Latha Township; US$ 200 by Nyaungmaganayie Sayadaw and disciples; US$ 100 by Daw Htu Hua and family; US$ 100 by wellwishers; US$ 50 by Daw May Thet Khang; K 200,000 by Daw Oo Oo Aung; K 200,000 by U Myat Win-Daw Cherry; K 190,000 by U Tin Win-Daw Yin Yin Cho and party; K 110,000 by Maha Swarnsara Sayadaw and disciples; K 100,000 each by 14 wellwishers; K 800,000 by one wellwisher; K 50,000 each by 19 wellwisher and rupee 3,000 by U Nyo. Vice-Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kundalajotika delivered a sermon, followed by sharing of merits.

Today’s donations were US$ 1,950, rupee 5,150 and over K 9 million. — MNA

Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung and wife being welcomed by Russian Ambassador Mr Oleg V Kabanov and wife at the reception to mark National Day of the Russian Federation on Friday evening. — MNA
Proposed papers read out for plenary meeting of National Convention

The delegates groups of representatives-elect, peasants and other invited persons read out their proposals to be submitted to the plenary meeting of the National Convention this morning at designated meeting halls of Nyaungshapin Camp in Hma Ramway Township. Likewise, a preliminary paper-reading session of the members of the panel of chairmen and the leaders of paper-compilation groups of the delegate group of national races took place this morning at the hall concerned.

Delegate group of representatives-elect

The group started its meeting at the meeting hall-2 at 11 am. The master of ceremonies declared the meeting open as the percentage of delegates attending the meeting stood at 92.38. The meeting started with an opening speech given by the alternate chairman, U Tun Kyaw, independent representative-elect from Namhsan Township Constituency in northern Shan State, read out his proposed paper on detailed basic principles that should be laid down for the distribution of power in the legislative, executive and judicial aspects that should be included in the framing of the Constitution. The meeting came to an end at 10.5 am with the chairman’s concluding remarks by the chairman.

Delegate group of national races

The members of the panel of chairmen and leaders of paper-compilation groups read out their paper that will be submitted to the plenary meeting of the National Convention in a preliminary paper-reading session held at the Union Hall at 9.10 am today. Present on the occasion were U Mya Aye of Yangon Division, U Kyaw Aung Lin, U Kyaw Win Kyi and U Saw Win of delegate group of national races, and U Soe Win of delegate group of State service personnel, U Htein Lin of delegate group of peasants and presented cash to the chairman, the master of ceremonies declared the meeting open as the percentage of delegates attending the meeting stood at 92.38. The meeting started with an opening speech given by the alternate chairman, U Tun Kyaw, independent representative-elect from Namhsan Township Constituency in northern Shan State, read out his proposed paper on detailed basic principles that should be laid down for the distribution of power in the legislative, executive and judicial aspects that should be included in the framing of the Constitution. The meeting came to an end at 10.23 am with the concluding remarks by the chairman.

Delegate group of peasants

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Chairman of NCCMC Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung presents cash assistance to a delegate being treated at Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed).—MNA

Alternate Chairman U Aung Khai Min speaking at the meeting of Delegates of Other Invited Persons.—MNA

Alternate Chairman U Mya Aye speaks at the group discussions of Delegates of Peasants.—MNA

Alternate Chairman U Aung Kyai Min speaking at the group discussions of Delegates of Representatives-elect.—MNA

Chairman of NCCMC Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung presents cash assistance to a delegate being treated at Defence Services General Hospital (1000-bed).—MNA

Coordination meeting between members of panel of chairmen and delegates of Delegate Group of National Races in progress.—MNA

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Venezuela to receive $3b in foreign investment in 2004

CARACAS, 11 June — Venezuela’s National Investment Promotions Council (Conapre) declared Wednesday that Venezuela will receive three billion US dollars in foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2004, a sharp increase from 1.38 billion dollars in 2003.

“Venezuela is still a country whose oil and gas sector attract a lot of attention,” Conapre President Mercedes Briceno said at the forum. “Venezuela does compete,” launched in Venezuela’s capital of Caracas on Wednesday.

President Chavez, in response to an increase in oil prices, said: “Venezuela will receive $3 billion in direct investment this year.”

The $3 billion in FDI is divided into $1 billion in industrial projects, $1 billion in services, and $1 billion in tourism.

The $3 billion in FDI is expected to create 200,000 jobs and increase the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 4.5%.

In March, Venezuela’s National Development Council (CND) announced that it will receive $18 billion in foreign investment in 2004.

Ecuador, US talk over FTA negotiations

QUITO, 11 June — US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick met here Wednesday with Ecuadoran President Lucio Gutierrez to sort out issues concerning the FTA negotiations aiming at forming the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the United States and Andean nations.

Both sides analysed the advances and hitches in their negotiating process, local officials told reporter.

During the meeting, Zoellick said that Ecuador would benefit from the FTA package if it is formed because Ecuador would be able to export more to the United States. Ecuadoran exports to the United States in 2003 accounted for 38 per cent of the trade volume between the two countries. The U.S. is Ecuador’s main export market. US dollars’ worth of goods to the Latin American country last year.

The US Trade Representative added that the expected FTA package would be a boost to the development of the Ecuadoran economy and the country’s poverty reduction.

G-8 leaders agree on steps to enhance int’l travel security

SAVANNAH (United States), 11 June — Leaders of the Group of Eight (G-8) countries on Wednesday agreed to take steps to enhance international travel security, strengthen international counter-terrorism cooperation and to protect their borders while facilitating trade and travel.

“Terrorist attacks against the transportation system remain a constant threat to our citizens and to world commerce,” the leaders said in a joint statement.

The steps include establishing a 24-hour aviation point-of-contact network for addressing imminent threat, sharing information on suspect travellers; establishing a methodology for assisting port authorities and that is in compliance with domestic laws and international obligations relating to privacy.

Leading peace institute praises China’s role in world security

STOCKHOLM, 11 June — A leading peace research centre has devoted a separate chapter to China for the first time in its yearbook to mark the important role the world’s biggest country has played in world peace.

Since the late 1980s, China has been increasingly engaged in and even taken initiative in regional and global multilateral security processes, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said in its 2003 yearbook issued on Tuesday.

In the mid-1990s, the country began to hold military exercises with other countries to expand its military exchange, and has since made its contribution to UN peacekeeping missions, SIPRI said.

This is the first time for SIPRI to give a separate chapter to China in its yearbook, SIPRI Director Alyson Bailes told Xinhua, speaking highly of China’s role in international security.

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The New Light of Myanmar Saturday, 12 June, 2004

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**World “AIDS” Campaign urges G-8 to honour promises**

**LONDON, 10 June —** The World AIDS Campaign (WAC) called on G-8 governments on Thursday to help save millions of lives by honouring commitments they made in signing the United Nations global AIDS compact three years ago.

In a call for action due to be presented at the summit, the World AIDS Campaign urged governments to ensure integrated approaches to HIV and AIDS programmes and intensify support for research and the development of effective and safe medicines.

It also asked governments to increase their funding for overseas development assistance aimed at reducing poverty — a key factor in the spread of HIV across the world.

"Twenty years after the discovery of the HIV virus, the need to bring this devastating epidemic in the developing world under control has never been greater," said Van Soest.

"With 40 million people infected worldwide, five million new infections and three million HIV-related deaths last year, we cannot wait any longer."

— **MNA/Reuters**

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**British Health Minister sparks storm with smoking remark**

**LONDON, 10 June —** Plain-speaking Health Minister John Reid has kicked up a storm in Britain by saying that smoking is one of the few pleasures left in life for the poor.

The remark came as the feisty Scot was addressing a debate in south London about conditions on some of the country’s most deprived “sink” public housing estates.

It coincided with growing signs that health-conscious Britain may join the trend set by Ireland and some US cities by banning smoking in public places.

Reid said he did not think the worst problem on the run-down estates was smoking, but that it had become an obsession of the learned middle class.

"What enjoyment does a 21-year-old single mother of three living in a council sink estate get? The only enjoyments sometimes they have in to have cigarette,” Reid said.

He also took a swipe at the incessant professional lobbying against smoking.

"Be very careful, that you do not patronise people because sometimes — as my mother used to say — people from those lower socio-economic backgrounds have very few pleasures and one of them is smoking.”

A spokesman for the anti-smoking group Ash said that to talk about smoking as a pleasure for middle class people was to want to deny others was foolish.

"Smoking in Britain kills about 115,000 people a year. A disproportionate number of those are in social classes D and E, where smoking rates are almost twice what they are in A and B,” he said.

He added that Ireland’s Health Minister Micheal Martin, a prime mover behind the Irish ban on smoking in the workplace and enclosed public places three months ago, had lost his job back on an achievement which will save thousands of lives.

"It would be nice to think that what our health secretary had a similar ambition, but unfortunately what he said suggested that maybe he doesn’t,” the spokesman said.

— **MNA/Reuters**

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**S Korea to keep US beef import ban for now**

**SEOUL, 11 June —** South Korea will keep its ban on imports of US beef in place until scientific food safety guarantees over mad cow disease are available, Agriculture Minister Huh Sang-man told Reuters on Thursday.

South Korea’s beef consumption this year is projected to fall 15 per cent from a year ago to around 130,000 tons, Huh said, adding there would be no supply shortages even without US beef supplies.

Of total demand, home-grown beef will account for 130,000 tons and the rest will be imported, he said. On the supply side, South Korea has 100,000 tons of imported beef stockpiled and it expects to import another 150,000 tons this year, he added.

South Korea, a major beef importer, banned imports of US beef on December 24 last year after a cow tested positive for the brain-wasting mad cow disease, formally called bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

The infected cow was later found to have originated from Canada.

— **MNA/Reuters**

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**Malaria kills 102 in two districts in Zimbabwe**

**HARARE, 11 June —** A malaria outbreak has killed more than 100 people in Hwange and Lupane districts in western Zimbabwe in the last two months, local media reported Thursday.

Matabeleland North provincial medical director Gibson Mhlanga was quoted Friday by local media as saying the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare had disbursed more than 25 million Zimbabwean dollars (about 4,719 US dollars) to the two districts to fight the outbreak.

More than 700 people have died of malaria in the country so far this year, a significant increase on previous years, which health officials blame on heavy rains.

“We need a lot of funds and provisions to set up clinics. But considering that the resources are quite stretched, the money will go a long way in helping the staff in the field,” said Mhlanga.

— **MNA/Xinhua**

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— **MNA/Xinhua**
**Kahn, Ballack will probably stay at Bayern**

Berlin, 10 June — Germany captain Oliver Kahn and midfielder Michael Ballack will probably stay at Bayern Munich, says the club's executive manager, Uli Hoeness.

"I am assuming that both Kahn and Ballack will stay with us," Hoeness told Wednesday's issue of weekly Sport Bild.

He noted that Bayern's two most influential players might leave the club after a disappointing season.

Goalkeeper Kahn and Ballack are prominent members of Germany's Euro 2004 squad who arrived in Portugal on Wednesday.

Germany are drawn with the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Latvia in Group D. They face the Dutch in their opening game on June 15 in Porto.

Ballack has been linked with Barcelona after the Spanish side confirmed a meeting with an adviser to the 27-year-old earlier this week.

Transfer rumours around Germany players are rife. Kahn, 34, has angered Bayern by hinting he could consider a move abroad. Hoeness said he would not hold on to Kahn at any price. — MNA/Reuters

**Japan crush India 7-0 in World Cup qualifier**

Saitama (Japan), 10 June — Japan thrashed India 7-0 at home in an Asian 2006 World Cup qualifier on Wednesday to make it three wins out of three for the regional champions.

Defender Yuji Nakazawa scored two second-half goals as Japan completely outclassed an India team ranked 143rd in the world.

Japan, who had struggled to beat Oman and Singapore in their previous matches, topped Group Three with a maximum nine points.

Oman need to beat Singapore at home later on Wednesday to keep the pressure on Japan.

Japanese coach Zico was unable to call on Europe-based trio Hidetoshia Nakata (goal), Junichi Inamoto (broken fibula) and Naohiro Takahara (lung infection) but his team were never troubled by a lightweight India team that last beat them in 1970.

Striker Tatsuhiko Kubo opened the scoring in rain-swept Saitama with a superb left-foot volley after 13 minutes.

Midfielders Takashi Fukunishi and Shunsuke Nakamura also found the net as Japan took a 3-0 halftime lead.

Substitute Takahara added a fourth goal 10 minutes after the restart before Nakamura fired home a Nakamura free kick from close range in the 66th minute.

Mitosu Ogawa put the result beyond doubt two minutes later and the dread-locked Nakazawa headed his second of the game in the 78th minute to complete the rout. — MNA/Reuters

**China hammer Malaysia 4-0 in World Cup qualifier**

Taipai (North China), 10 June — Chinese legendary veteran striker Hao Haidong wrote another chapter in his extraordinary soccer career when he scored the first goal to lead China to a 4-0 win over Malaysia here on Wednesday.

This is China's third straight victory in 2006 World Cup qualifiers, which reinforced China's top place in the Asian Zone Group Four.

"It's very hard at the beginning. We missed a few opportunities to score, but the player's efforts were rewarded later and we deserve a win. We collected nine points from three games, but we still got three points," said China's head coach Arie Haan after the match.

"We will continue our strict training for the coming Asian Cup. This win is very important for us to bolster our confidence and I hope the players can keep their form for coming Asian Cup," added the Dutchman.

China started well this evening and showed plenty of enthusiasm, but squandered a hatful of scoring chances before half-time.

Coached by Arie Haan, the Chinese team, led by German legend Lothar Matthaus last week by German legend Lothar Matthaus last week by German legend Lothar Matthaus last week, made a tactical switch a week before their Group D opener in Porto.

With top class strikers like Patrick Kluivert, Ruud van Nistelrooy and Roy Makaay, coach Dick Advocaat has tried a 4-3-3 system on several occasions but it simply does not work.

After talks with Cocu, Frank de Boer, Edgar Davids and Ruud van Nistelrooy, Advocaat decided to switch to 4-4-2 system where they will also face the Czech Republic.

"We have to use our own strengths and style and because everyone will pull back into their own half and won't do that," said the midfielder who signed a two-year contract with his former side PSV Eindhoven on Monday.

— MNA/Reuters

**Ahn strike helps S Korea beat Vietnam in qualifier**

Taipai (South Korea), 10 June — A stunning long-range strike by Ahn Jung-hwan helped Group Seven leaders South Korea to a 2-0 victory against Vietnam in a 2006 World Cup Asian Zone qualifier on Wednesday.

The home side, without a head coach since Humberto Coelho stepped down in April following a shock goalless draw against the Moldives, broke the deadlock on the half-hour when Ahn received what appeared to be an innocuous pass from Lee Eul-yong well outside the box.

The Japanese-based striker coolly struck a curling shot high into the right-hand corner of the net past the flailing hands of Vietnam goalkeeper Tran Minh Quang.

— Internet

**China hammer Malaysia 4-0 in World Cup qualifier**

China started well this evening and showed plenty of enthusiasm, but squandered a hatful of scoring chances before half-time.

Coached by Arie Haan, the Chinese team, led by German legend Lothar Matthaus last week by German legend Lothar Matthaus last week, made a tactical switch a week before their Group D opener in Porto.

With top class strikers like Patrick Kluivert, Ruud van Nistelrooy and Roy Makaay, coach Dick Advocaat has tried a 4-3-3 system on several occasions but it simply does not work.

After talks with Cocu, Frank de Boer, Edgar Davids and Ruud van Nistelrooy, Advocaat decided to switch to 4-4-2 system where they will also face the Czech Republic.

"We have to use our own strengths and style and because everyone will pull back into their own half and won't do that," said the midfielder who signed a two-year contract with his former side PSV Eindhoven on Monday.

— MNA/Reuters

**Japanese squad's 6-0 win over Malaysia a shot in the arm**

Japanese coach Zico was unable to call on Europe-based trio Hidetoshia Nakata (goal), Junichi Inamoto (broken fibula) and Naohiro Takahara (lung infection) but his team were never troubled by a lightweight India team that last beat them in 1970.

Striker Tatsuhiko Kubo opened the scoring in rain-swept Saitama with a superb left-foot volley after 13 minutes.

Midfielders Takashi Fukunishi and Shunsuke Nakamura also found the net as Japan took a 3-0 halftime lead.

Substitute Takahara added a fourth goal 10 minutes after the restart before Nakamura fired home a Nakamura free kick from close range in the 66th minute.

Mitosu Ogawa put the result beyond doubt two minutes later and the dread-locked Nakazawa headed his second of the game in the 78th minute to complete the rout. — MNA/Reuters

**Dutch captain believes Germany very unstable**

Albufeira (Portugal), 11 June — Dutch skipper Philip Cocu believes Germany have problems their team can exploit in their Euro 2004 opener with their arch-rivals next Tuesday.

"I think that Germany are a very unstable team... but you could say the same about us. I saw some of their matches and it is tough to find what we can expect exactly.

"They have some good players in midfield and up front but looking at their defence they might give us some opportunities," said the 33-year-old midfielder.

The Germans have struggled in the run-up to the tournament finishing their warm-up matches with a 2-0 home defeat against a Hungary side coached by former German captain Lothar Matthaues.

But Cocu is also relieved that the Dutch have not seen much of the team they might give us some opportunities," said the 33-year-old midfielder.

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"I think that Germany are a very unstable team... but you could say the same about us. I saw some of their matches and it is tough to find what we can expect exactly. — MNA/Reuters
Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt sends felicitations to the Philippines

**Yangon, 12 June** — On the occasion of the 106th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Philippines which falls on 12 June 2004, General Khin Nyunt, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Mrs Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines. — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe meets district and township level departmental officials in Muse. — MNA

**Yangon, 11 June** — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe has visited the Ministry of Defence, together with Col Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, inspected conditions of road and bridges on Sittway-An Section of Yangon-Sittway Union Highway on 9 June morning.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected the bridge across Kyauktan Creek and earth work for building of a new bridge that can withstand 60-ton loads in Sittway Township. Chief Engineer U Soe Myint of Public Works, Rakhine State Senior Engineer U Thein Kyaw and Chief Engineer U Khin Maung of Bridge Special Group-10 reported on the construction tasks. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions and fulfilled the requirements. They proceeded to the station hospital (16-bed) in Kyauktan village and comforted the patients and inspected the facility. They looked into the road between Kyauktan Bridge and Minchaung Bridge. They also inspected Minchaung Bridge. Officials reported on maintenance of the bridge. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on maintenance work for durability of the facility.

They inspected Minchaung Bridge. They held a meeting with departmental officials, members of social organizations and townsmen at the office of Pyayngyun Township PDC.

Township Chairman U Wai Myo Khaing reported on education, health and social sectors of the township, measures being taken under supervision of Township Agricultural Supervisory Committee for meeting the target of the agricultural sector in 2004-2005.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, in his speech, said that the government is implementing the five rural development tasks and is implementing them for bringing about harmonious development across the nation. The Head of State toured states and divisions and constantly fulfilled the requirements for construction projects and regional development. This contributed to further flourishing of patriotism and spirit of national solidarity as well as ensuring regional development.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, local authorities are to strive together with the national people for national and regional development.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than looks into transport network in Rakhine State

**Yangon, 11 June** — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, senior military officials, officers of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of department, met with district and township level departmental officials at the meeting hall of Shweli Yadana Yeiktha in Muse, Shan State (North) on 9 June morning.

Chairman of Muse District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Soe Win reported on location and area of Muse District, population, implementation of the five rural development tasks, cultivation of ten major crops, production of 200 baskets per acre in 2003-2004, land reclamation, self-sufficiency in rice, arrangements made for transforming conventional farming into mechanised one. Elimination of poppy cultivation and destroying of poppy plantations, education, health and regional development.

Next, district and township departmental officials reported on measures taken for regional development and future tasks to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing gave a supplementary report.

In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions, saying that the government has laid down project for development of border areas and national races, the 24-development regions and the five rural development tasks and is implementing them for bringing about harmonious development across the nation.

Li-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, together with Col Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, inspected on location and area of Muse District, population, implementation of the five rural development tasks and is implementing them for bringing about harmonious development across the nation. The Head of State toured states and divisions and constantly fulfilled the requirements for construction projects and regional development. This contributed to further flourishing of patriotism and spirit of national solidarity as well as ensuring regional development.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, local authorities are to strive together with the national people for national and regional development.

The government is making efforts for national development with its own resources without relying on others. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State systematic efforts are being taken for self-sufficiency in rice and Shan State (North) is meeting with success. When it comes to striving for self-sufficiency in rice, staff of agriculture sector and departmental officials are to provide necessary assistance to farmers.

(See page 10)

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects Sittway-An section of Yangon-Sittway Union Highway. — MNA

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(See page 10)

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.