Prime Minister inspects developments in Sagaing Division

YANGON, 14 June—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and party and Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye went to Kalewa People’s Hospital after attending the inauguration of Myittha Bridge (Kalewa) in Kalewa Township on 12 June.

Head of Township Health Department Dr Tun Shwan reported on rural health care services, lay out plan of Township People’s Hospital, strength of health staff, common diseases in the township, treatment, X-ray room and operational equipment and other supplies.

The Prime Minister then fulfilled the requirements.

The Prime Minister and party inspected wards, operation theatre, X-ray room and medical store. They proceeded to Pale in Sagaing Division where they were welcomed by members of Township Peace and Development Council, departmental officials, social organizations and local people. They visited Pale People’s Hospital where they were conducted round the wards, medical store, operation theatre, X-ray unit and laboratory by Medical Superintendent Dr Khin Maung. The Prime Minister fulfilled the requirements of the hospital. Next, he met members of Township Peace and Development Council, departmental officials, social organizations and local people at Pale Yadana Hall.

Chairman of Pale Township Peace and Development Council U Htin Kyaw Aye reported on location and area, set-up of the township, the number of houses and households, cultivation of monsoon paddy and cold season crops, local food and edible oil sufficiency, implementation of education and health and regional requirements.

After fulfilling the requirements, the Prime Minister said that during his tour of townships in Sagaing Division in the past he did not reach Pale Township and thus this time he did come to visit the township despite bad weather and fulfilled the requirements on agriculture, livestock breeding, education and health sectors in the township. He said the government provided the regions with necessary assistance for regional development and strong economy. He spoke of the need for local people, service personnel, social organization to work hard in unity. He said local people are to implement regional development tasks in cooperation with government departments. There are some weaknesses in paddy production in the township for local food sufficiency. Therefore, all-out efforts are to be made for boosting production of rice, he said. He said the committees formed are to implement the tasks for local rice sufficiency. He said local people are to implement regional development tasks in cooperation with government departments. There are some weaknesses in paddy production in the township for local food sufficiency. Therefore, all-out efforts are to be made for boosting production of rice, he said. He said the committees formed are to implement the tasks for local rice sufficiency. Therefore, all-out efforts are to be made for boosting production of rice, he said. He said the committees formed are to implement the tasks for local rice sufficiency.

Chairman of National Health Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspect Kalewa People’s Hospital, Sagaing Division on 12 June. — MNA

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and party inspect chosen site for building of dam near Shwesaye Village, Budalin, Sagaing Division on 12 June. — MNA

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

Tuesday, 15 June, 2004

Development of ASEAN-China economic linkages — great benefit to the people of both areas

Southeast Asia and China represent 1.7 billion consumers with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of two trillion US dollars. Moreover, the two regions are regarded as among the most economic vibrant areas in the world today.

The growth of their economies, as well as increasing purchasing power, have dramatically increased their trade and economic ties. ASEAN-CCI and China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) share common goals and are working in close cooperation. In the endeavours for the emergence of the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area, the private sector, acting in concert with the policy decisions of the ASEAN and Chinese leaders, will serve as the driving engine. Therefore, it is imperative for both sides to strive for the strengthening of both ASEAN-China Private Sector linkages and networking.

The opening ceremony of the Third Annual ASEAN-China Business Council Meeting, the 16th ASEAN-CCI Conference and the 61st Council Meeting were held at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 7 June and it was attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt. In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister said, “It is my belief that this important ASEAN-China Business Council Third Meeting will bring forth practical ways and means for further development of the private sector and business in ASEAN and China within the framework and in the context of ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) and this Third Annual Meeting will positively push forward the follow-up measures to the decisions taken at the last Kunming Meeting.”

The Union of Myanmar views ASEAN-CCI as an umbrella Chamber of the ASEAN region, representing and advocating regional business interests, facilitating, helping and leading the ASEAN private sector.

At the Summit Meeting in Bali in October, 2003, the ASEAN leaders agreed on the creation of ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) to achieve deeper economic integration of the region, as outlined in the Roadmap for Integration of ASEAN (RRIA) and Vision 2020.

ASEAN will become a single market and productive base, with a freer flow of goods, services, investment, labour and capital and the functional role of ASEAN-CCI and the ASEAN Business Advisory Council will become all the more significant. The Union of Myanmar fully support the emergence of the ASEAN Economic Community and believes that the development of ASEAN-China economic linkages is of great importance to Southeast Asia and China as it will bring great benefit to the people of both areas.

Yangon, 14 June — The delegate group of political parties and delegate group of national races to the National Convention read out their proposals to be submitted to the plenary meeting of the National Convention and the members of panel of chairman of delegate group of representatives-elect and proposal papers compilation group held coordination meeting at the designated meeting hall of Yung Naphin Camp in Hmawby Township this morning. The members of panel of Chairman of respective delegate groups and National Convention delegates attended it.

Delegate group of political parties

The delegate group of political parties held its coordination meeting at the meeting hall-1 at 9 am. Alternate Chairman was U Tin Yin Law of National Unity Party and Deputy Director U Khin Maung Phyu of the working group-5 under the National Convention Convening Work Committee and Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Than acted as master of ceremonies and co-master of ceremonies. Master of ceremonies announced that the meeting was attended by 93.10 percent of delegates and the meeting started with the permission of the Chairman. Next, the Chairman U Tin Yin Law delivered the opening address.

U Nyipalope of the Wa National Development Party submitted the proposed paper of the party on detailed basic principles that shall be laid down for power-sharing sectors such as legislation, executive and judiciary over the clarification of the National Convention Convening Work Committee and matters related to compilation of papers.

The meeting ended at 9.55 am after the Chairman’s concluding remarks. Delegate group of National Races

The delegate group of National Races held its coordination meeting at the Union Hall at 10 am. Duwa Zokedaung of Shan State (North) presided over the meeting together with U Man Ohn Maung of Kayin State and U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Mynoit of Taninthayi Division as members. Deputy Director U Thein Tun of the group-5 under the National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as master of ceremonies and Assistant Director U Than Tun as co-master of ceremonies. The meeting was attended by 61.02 percent of 633 delegates and started at 9.68 percent of delegates were attended it. Alternate Chairman Duwa Zokedaung of Shan State (North) gave an opening speech and the proposal of delegates of national races regarding the power-sharing sector legislation in to be included in the framing of the constitution to be submitted to the plenary meeting of the National Convention were read by U Khon Kyaw Thu of Shan State, Daw Ebrangedwebu of Kachin State, Daw Nan Oo Hema Mya of Ayawady Division, Daw Makhin Win of Rakhine State and U Aung Tun of Mandra Division. Then the meeting ended in the afternoon with concluding remark of the Chairman.

Delegate group of representatives-elect

The delegate group of representatives-elect held its coordination meeting of members of panel of chairmen and resources persons at the meeting hall-2 at 11 am. Present at the meeting were members of panel of chairman U San Tha Aung of Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization, U Maung Gyi of the Union Pa-O National Party, U Yaw Aye Hla of the Lahu National Development Party, U Law Sin Kwan of the Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, resource persons and Deputy Director U Maung Maung Phyu Tint of the working group-4 under the National Convention Convening Work Committee and Assistant Director Daw Tin Tin Nwe. The members of panel of chairmen and resources persons discussed the executive proposal collectively compiled submitted by 6 independent delegates of representatives-elect group on power-sharing sectors such as legislative, and judiciary over the clarification of the National Convention Convening Work Committee and matters related to compilation of papers. The meeting ended at 3pm.

Alternate Chairman Duwa Zokedaung makes a speech at the coordination meeting of the delegate group of national races. — MNA

Delegate Groups meeting continues

Alternate Chairman U Tun Yin Law makes a speech at the coordination meeting of the delegate group of political parties. — MNA

A&I Minister inspects river water pumping project in Myinmu Township

Yangon, 14 June — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin on 12 June morning arrived Pyawhtwa river water pumping project near Pyawhtwa Village in Myinmu Township, Sagaing District. On completion, the project will irrigate 5,000 acres of farm land throughout the year.

Director-General of the Water Resource Utilisation Department U Win Shin reported to the minister on tasks being carried out to supply irrigation water with the use of river water and underground water, and the implementation of river water pumping projects.

Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin urged the officials concerned to extend the sown acreage of paddy and give instructions on greening of the region and development of rural areas. — MNA

Delegate group of representatives-elect holds its coordination meeting of members of panel of chairmen and resources persons. — MNA
US warns of increasing threats in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 13 June—Iraqi leaders will face increasing threats of violence as the 30 June transfer of political power nears, Bush administration officials said Sunday after two assassinations in Baghdad.

Iraqi President also said he feared the infamous Abu Ghraib prison, as President Bush has suggested, would be reactionary and a waste of money, and that Saddam Hussein would go on trial in the summer.

They’re not going to succeed,” Condoleezza Rice told CNN’s “Late Edition “.

The weekend assassinations “are very sad events when Iraqi patriots are gunned down by these traitors and by these terrorists,” Rice said. “And indeed, there will come a day in Beijing.

Kuwait Energy Ministry to update regulations on oil protection

KUWAIT CITY, 13 June—The Kuwait Ministry of Energy said it is going ahead with its plan to update regulations on the protection of petroleum resources aimed at maintaining oil installations, Kuwait News Agency reported Saturday.

The project aims to improve executive regulations of the petroleum resources maintenance law in order for the Kuwaiti oil sector to be as advanced as and in line with the international oil industry. The changes are intended to design inspection systems and supervision on oil installations with consideration to the environment and the safety of workers in the oil sector, Al-Loghani said.

The updating also aims to prepare and train national cadres to professionally carry out inspection and other supervisory tasks, he said.

China playing more important role in international affairs

BEIJING, 13 June—Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former secretary-general of the United Nations (UN), said China has become an important world intermediary and is playing a more and more important role in international affairs.

Boutros-Ghali made the remark in reply to reporter’s questions in a joint interview with Chinese media Saturday in Beijing.

The former secretary-general said it is very hard to play an intermediary to help solve the complicated and sometimes even conflicting international disputes, expressing his appreciation to China’s constructive role played in the Korean nuclear issue and the two rounds of six-party talks.

Putin says no need for “purge” of Russian banks

MOSCOW, 13 June — President Vladimir Putin told Russia’s Central Bank chief on Friday that he wanted order to be brought to the country’s banking system but warned against any wide-scale action against banks.

“I beg you to act precisely. You are not planning, I hope, any imminent mass purges of the banking system,” Russia’s Interfax news agency quoted him as telling Central Bank head Sergei Ignatyev on Friday.

The comments come hours after the Central Bank announced moves to push liquidity into the banking sector, lowering banks’ obligatory reserve requirement and cutting the refinancing rate by one percentage point to 13 per cent.

Putin said he did not see the need for a “purge” of Russian banks.

The agency quotedIgnatyev as saying the coun-

try’s banking system was healthy. He also said the long-awaited rise in interest rates in Western countries would not trouble Russia.

“The market is expect-

ing this,” MNA/Reuters

European voters punish ruling parties over Iraq, other grievances

LONDON, 13 June — European voters punished leaders in Britain, Italy and the Netherlands for getting involved in Iraq, but also turned their ire on the war’s chief opponents German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and French President Jacques Chirac over local issues, projections showed Sunday.

The 25-country vote, which was spread out over four days, also revealed anxieties about an issue close to home: the newly expanded European Union itself. In among the few that did well were Spain’s Socialists, who recently withdrew troops from Iraq after a backlash over a 11 March terrorist attack. The Socialists, surprise victors in elections days after the bombings, won a new stamp of legitimacy by emerging on top in the European parliamentary vote as well.

The continent-wide democratic exercise, which ended with 19 countries voting Sunday, came at a crucial time in the development of the bloc. The EU has just added 10 members, largely from eastern Europe and Israel, and the bloc is due to agree on a new constitution later this month.

Across Europe, the outcome highlighted anxieties about the expanding union, with anti-EU parties projected to do well in Britain, Sweden and even the Czech Republic and Poland, former communist countries participating in their first EU-wide vote.

“The anti-integration parties won,” Czech Prime Minister Vladimir Spidla said.

Overall, centre-right parties won, taking between 247 and 277 seats in the 732-member European Parliament, according to pre-

liminary projections. The centre-left group, which includes legislators from British Prime Minister Tony Blair’s Labour Party and Schroeder’s Social Democrats, finished second, with an expected 189 to 209 seats.

The 44.6 per cent turnout was the lowest ever in a European Parliament election, and just 28.7 per cent voted in the 10 newest states. Blair’s party also came in third in local elections held simultaneously in the Netherlands, and Wales earlier this week. Some party officials said they feared they might lose the next national election, expected next year.

Internet

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The changes follow concerns about low liquidity last week when the forced wind-

ing-up of two small banks sparked fears the Central Bank could be embarking on a drive to clean up Russia’s fragmented banking sector.

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try’s banking system was healthy. He also said the long-awaited rise in interest rates in Western countries would not trouble Russia.

“The market is expect-

ing this,” MNA/Reuters

US warns of increasing threats in Iraq
Fourteen die as Iraq is hit by fresh spate of killings

Baghdad, 14 June—A suicide car bomber killed up to 12 Iraqis near a United States-Iraqi base in Baghdad yesterday, and gunmen killed a senior Iraqi civil servant and a university professor in a new spate of assassinations.

Police at the scene of the car bombing said their colleagues had tried to stop a vehicle racing on the wrong side of the road towards an Iraqi military college in south-east Baghdad, where many US soldiers are also based.

Abdul Razzak Kadhem, a senior police officer, said that two police cars had interrupted the vehicle, which then exploded.

The US military said the blast killed eight Iraqi civilians and four police, and wounded 13 people.

Two charred bodies could be seen in the burnt wreckage of one police car. All that remained of the bomber’s car was a blackened engine in the road. Several civilian vehicles were damaged. Blood stained the driver’s seat of a white pick-up.

“One car was blown across the street,” said Abdel Hasan al-Labbar, an off-duty civil defence worker.

The man inside had blood pouring from the top of his head.

Guerrillas detonated another car bomb outside Taji, north of Baghdad, during an attack on US troops, killing one American soldier and wounding two others. One attacker was killed when troops returned fire, an army spokeswoman said.

The Iraqi civil servant, Kamal al-Jarrah, 63, who headed the education ministry’s cultural relations department, was shot in his garden in the western Ghazaliya district of the capital.

He died in hospital, an education ministry official said. Mr Jarrah’s wife, who was with him in the garden, was unhurt in the shooting.

In a similarly precise attack on Saturday, gunmen in a car killed Bassam Qubba, a senior foreign ministry official.

French President to visit China in autumn

Paris, 13 June—French President Jacques Chirac will visit China in autumn to mark the opening of the French Year in China, announced Friday French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin after talks with Chinese Vice-President Zeng Peiyan.

The French President’s visit is scheduled at the beginning of October, nine months after Chinese President Hu Jintao’s visit to France, and will be officially announced later in the day during the meeting between Chirac and Zeng at the Presidential Palace of Elysee.

“It is very important to prepare President Chirac’s visit to China in autumn after receiving the Chinese President in Paris,” Raffarin said.

“If each time we meet we sign as many agreements with such as many jobs behind these agreements, I believe our cooperation with China will be very fruitful. It already is,” Raffarin said after the signings of nine contracts and agreements worth billions of dollars between French and Chinese companies.

MPs urge Blair ‘to admit to mistakes on Iraq’

London, 13 June—The Government should seek to win back public trust by admitting its mistakes over Iraq, Labour MPs urged today.

The advice came in a series of ‘memos’ to the Prime Minister in the wake of Labour’s ‘managing in the local council polls.

Four MPs, David Drew, Ann Cryer, Richard Burden and Kevin Brennan, criticised Government policy in relation to Iraq, Europe and the United States, but none called on Tony Blair to stand down.

They instead urged ministers to concentrate on convincing voters that record investment in public services was starting to pay dividends.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4’s ‘World This Weekend,’ Mr Drew, MP for Stroud, warned: “We lost heavily on Thursday because voters expected revenge over Iraq and have yet to be persuaded that public service delivery is right. “On the former we have to put our hand up to say that we got it wrong, as much as anything so that we convince the wider electorate that intervention on occasions is appropriate.”

The Government must also persuade voters that huge investment in public services was paying dividends.

“This is not as easy as it sounds because until and unless we recover the voters’ trust in what we say this will be difficult to achieve and the legacy of the strength of the economy will count for nothing.”

He added: “Don’t also underestimate how unpopular the EU is. We must adopt a slightly more sceptical approach.”

Ms Cryer said Britain must stop following US foreign policy. Privatisation of public services must also end.

Iraqi diplomat, Lebanese hostage killed in Iraq

Baghdad, 14 June—Gunmen killed a top Iraqi diplomat on Saturday in the first high-profile assassination in Iraq since an interim government took over on 1 June.

Attacks by Shi’ite guerillas, who often target I in Baghdad on Thursday, a Lebanese diplomat said.

Foreign Ministry sources in Beirut said the bodies of the men, who worked for a Lebanese telecommunications company, had been dumped between Fallujah and Ramadi, west of the capital.

Ironic! Japanese companies won deals with China in 2004

Sao Paolo (Brazil), 13 June—Developing nations see some signs of agreement in world-trade talks on the eve of an important meeting with rich nations to avert an impasse.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim said on Saturday.

Reform of farm trade lies at the heart of the informal “G-20” dialogue involving rich nations to avert an impasse, some signs of agreement in world-trade talks on the eve of an important meeting with rich nations to avert an impasse, some signs of agreement in world-trade talks on the eve of an important meeting with rich nations to avert an impasse.

Poor nations see signs of agreement in trade talks

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Amorim said the G-20 needed assurances that nations which is supposed to be concluded this year, could be lost if the United States, European Union, India and Australia on the sidelines of the United Nations Conference on Development and Trade in Sao Paolo.

All momentum for the Doha Round of WTO trade talks, based.

In south-east Baghdad, where many US soldiers are also based.

The impasse came as the G-20 pushed to centre stage its

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American shot dead in Riyadh

CAIRO, 13 June— An American national was shot dead by suspected militants in the Saudi capital Riyadh on Saturday, news reports said.

Qatar-based al-Jazeera television station reported that an American male was believed to have been killed in a shooting attack, quoting US Embassy officials in Saudi Arabia.

Dubai-based pan-Arab television channel Al Arabiya said police were chasing suspected militants in the east of the city. “A resident holding the American nationality was shot dead in Al-Malaz District at 4.00 pm (1300 GMT) Saturday,” Riyadh’s police chief was quoted by the official Saudi news agency SPA as saying.

He added that the incident was being investigated by Saudi security authorities. The attack was the third of such kind in a week after another American citizen was shot dead in Riyadh Tuesday and an Irish cameraman was killed in another shooting in the city Sunday. — MNA/Xinhua

Seven Turkish hostages released in Iraq

BAQubah, 13 June— Seven kidnapped Turkish construction workers in Iraq are on their way home after being released, the Turkish Embassy here said Saturday.

“They have been released, they are in good health,” a diplomat of the embassy noted.

Serdar Adali, a director of the Turkish construction company Serka Limited, confirmed that the seven men were released in Fallujah and were travelling to the northern city of Mosul.

He told CNN Turk television that all seven were well and would speak to their families as soon as they reached Mosul, where the company had an office.

The Turks were kidnapped in the restive town of Fallujah on 7 June. But it was not clear who had abducted them or why they had been seized.

S Korea eyes easing restriction on foreign films

SOUTH KOREA, 13 June— South Korea is considering easing restrictions on foreign movies, the Culture Ministry said Saturday, which may help remove a hurdle to a free trade agreement with the United States.

Under a “screen quota” law, designed to shield the domestic industry from Hollywood blockbusters, cinemas must show homegrown movies 40 per cent of the time.

The United States wants South Korea to scrap the restriction as part of preparations for an investment treaty aimed at levelling the playing field for investors in both countries.

Minister of Culture and Tourism Lee Chang-dong said the restriction on foreign films was being reconsidered, not because of the treaty with the United States, but to help the South Korean industry.

“For the future of the South Korean film industry, it is time to consider a cut and change to the screen quota,” Lee said, according to a ministry statement.

Removing the restriction on foreign films would increase the variety of films South Koreans could enjoy and would stimulate creativity in the domestic industry, he said.

The remarks by the former prize-winning film director represented a major turnaround. Lee told Reuters in an interview in March that is time to consider a cut and change in the screen quota system brings a severe shrinkage in the South Korean film industry, we need to restore it,” Lee said.

The minister asked representatives of the domestic film industry at a Friday meeting to consider the plan, but they balked at the proposal, the ministry said in the statement. — MNA/Reuters

Roman sculpture exhibition staged in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 13 June— An exhibition of Roman sculptures and other cultural items dating back to 100 to 300 AD started Friday in this east China metropolis.

The exhibition “Men and Gods in the Rome of the Caesars” is staged at Shanghai Museum and features effigies of well-known Roman emperors such as Augustus, Hadrianus, Traianus, Commodus and Caracalla and other royal celebrities.

Sculture of human beings constitute a very important part in the ancient Roman society and many families juxtaposed effigies of emperors and gods to show their loyalty to the kingdom.

Another 390 Roman cultural treasures such as coins, diamonds, glassware, pottery, theatrical masks, stone cofins and urns were also put on show at the same time, providing visitors a rich display of the political, economic, cultural, military and religious life in the ancient Roman kingdom. — MNA/Xinhua

Jackie Chan hopes to become “true actor”

LOS ANGELES, 13 June— Chinese movie star Jackie Chan has said he hopes to become a “true actor” by changing his image as a world-famous action star, US media reported Saturday.

During a promotion of his latest movie “Around the World in 80 Days” in Hongkong, Dubai and Moscow, Chan said he wants to shed his action star image in favour of meatier roles that require dialogue and emotion instead of punches and kicks. — MNA/Xinhua

US director mulls movie about Blair’s role in Iraq war

LOS ANGELES, 13 June— US anti-war filmmaker Michael Moore said he wants to make a movie about British Prime Minister Tony Blair’s role in Iraq war as he has done to US President George W. Bush.

In an interview published Saturday, Moore, director of the Oscar-winning documentary “Fahrenheit 9/11,” the controversial documentary which last month won prestigious Palme d’Or award at the Cannes film festival, said “he personally hold Blair more responsible for this war in Iraq than I do George W. Bush, and the reason is Blair knows better.” “Fahrenheit 9/11,” which will hit US theaters on 25 June, links the family of President Bush and the powerful Saudi Arabian family of Osama bin Laden, the No 1 terrorist being sought by the US Government.

Many academics and intellectuals have been murdered since US occupation troops entered the Iraqi capital in April 2003. More than 2,000 professors and academics have fled Iraq since the US-led war. Academics now fear that a deliberate “brain drain” is being executed through murder as professors from various fields, including science, journalism, political science and even literature, were believed to be targeted.

On Sunday also, Kamal al-Jarrar, director of cultural relations at Iraq’s Education Ministry, was shot dead in front of his house, one day after deputy foreign minister Bassam Qubba was shot dead as he was heading to his work. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi university professor shot dead in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 14 June— A Baghdad University professor was shot dead Sunday while leaving a college building, Qatar-based al-Jazeera reported.

Sabi al-Bayati, a professor of telecommunications, was killed in the Bab al-Muhandham area in central Baghdad, the channel said.

Many academics and intellectuals have been murdered since US occupation troops entered the Iraqi capital in April. — MNA/Xinhua

Crew survives crash of Army chopper in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 13 June— A US Army OH-58 helicopter crashed today north of Baghdad, but the two-member crew was reported in good condition, the US command said.

The military said the observation helicopter came down about 3.30 pm near the Taji air base about 12 miles north of Baghdad.

A statement said there was “no indication” the aircraft crashed due to hostile fire but no reason was given. The cause is under investigation, the command said.

The US Army has lost about 20 helicopters to hostile fire since June 2003. — Internet

An Iraqi boy looks over the damage to a truck after a suicide car bomb attack in the capital Baghdad on 13 June, 2004. A suicide car bomber blew up his vehicle as police tried to stop him reaching a US and Iraqi base in Baghdad on Sunday, killing at least eight civilians and four police officers, according to the US military. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraq police investigate the scene of a car bombing in the northern city of Mosul on 8 June, 2004. A suspected suicide car bomb killed nine civilians and wounded at least 25 near the mayor’s office in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, the US military, Iraqi police and witnesses said. — Internet

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WTO chief still confident of trade deal in July

GENEVA, June 13—World Trade Organization (WTO) chief Supachai Panitpakhdi expressed confidence on Friday that global trade talks would meet a July deadline for a key deal. “I am not thinking about any plan ‘B’. There has to be an agreement. (and) I am still confident that it can be done,” he told Reuters in an interview.

The WTO director-general, who will be attending next week’s conference of the United Nations’ trade and development agency, UNCTAD, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, said planned talks between ministers on the fringes of that gathering could be crucial for the outcome of current negotiations in Geneva.

They would be “important, if not decisive” for what kind of agreement would be possible in agriculture, the most contentious area of trade reform despite accounting for only a tiny slice of global commerce.

WTO states are racing to complete outline deals, or frameworks in trade parlance, for a number of key areas of the Doha Round of free trade negotiations, in trouble almost from their launch in late 2001. The collapse of a ministerial conference in Cancun, Mexico, last September almost derailed the negotiation, and the July deals aim to put trade liberalisation, which economists say could be worth $1 trillion in new world currency, back on track.

Asked the price of failure, the quietly spoken former Thai rice merchant and UN official said “it would really be inaviable,” he said.

After July, the United States will be distracted by November presidential elections and the European Union will also see sweeping change in its Executive Commission.

But probably more importantly, all momentum for the talks, which were supposed to be concluded by the end of 2004, could be lost, leaving the timing of any resumption an open question.

“I have said it could be years,” Supachai added.

From Sao Paulo, Supachai said he hoped to see more from the G-20 developing country alliance, led by Brazil, which was supposed to be concluded by the end of 2004, could be lost, leaving the timing of any resumption an open question.

Thaksin Shinawatra is due to attend a meeting in Sao Paulo on Saturday, and a Thai delegation will also attend.

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Thaksin Shinawatra is due to attend a meeting in Sao Paulo on Saturday, and a Thai delegation will also attend. Perus sees trade pact with Thailand by year-end

LIMA (Peru), 13 June—Peru and Thailand hope to sign a free-trade deal by the end of the year, increasing trade flows across the Pacific, the two countries said on Friday.

With three rounds of negotiations left, an accord could be signed as early as mid-November, when Thailands’s Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is due to make an official visit to Peru, trade ministers of the two countries said.

But it could be delayed until December if differences over agriculture slow talks down, they added.

Peru is a small, developing free-trade pact Peru signs with an Asian nation with which it would be the first accord in the Americas. Peru’s Foreign Trade Minister Alfredo Ferrero told a news conference Ferrero’s counterpart, Kantathi Suphamongkhon, who ended a second round of trade negotiations with Peru on Friday, said he hoped to wrap up talks by November. They began in January.

Trade is small between the two countries, but officials hope the agreement will help Peru export more than $2 billion US dollars in cars alone, he added.

We think that Thailand could serve as a hub from which to start business with the rest of the countries in the Asia Pacific region,” Ferrero said. — MNA/Reuters

Rumsfeld approved methods regarded as torture against inmates

WASHINGTON, June 14—US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, in a memo, had approved various methods of interrogating terror suspects, in a memo which would have been discussed by US military interrogators at Guantanamo Prison could put prisoners in “stress positions” for four hours, hound them and subject them to 20-hour-long interrogations.

The approval, first in December 2002 and later in a January 8, 2003 memo allowed for inflicting “fear of dogs” and “mild non-injurious physiological contact”, the Wall Street Journal reported Thursday.

The list contained in the memo, the paper said, was in effect for about 100 days from month until complaints about the severity of the techniques from some military officers prompted Rumsfeld to request a high-level review of interrogation policy January 17, 2003.

The Defence Department has refused to disclose how many of the methods remain on a new list Rumsfeld approved in April 2003, a list that officials say is still in use at the offshore prison”, the paper said.

It is not clear if the rules were applied in military prisons in Iraq or elsewhere.

“Some of the practices described in this memo,” Ferrero’s counterpart, Kantathi Suphamongkhon, who ended a second round of trade negotiations with Peru on Friday, said he hoped to wrap up talks by November. They began in January.

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New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

The outpatient ward of People’s Hospital in Haka, Chin State.

The government’s rural water supply project ensures potable water for Pa-O nationals of the Pinya Model Village in Kyauktalone region.

Tarring a rural road linking Kyakansu village in Hmawby Township and Ngazataung village in Hlegu Township in Yangon Division.

Heavy machinery at work to drill tube-wells at Natyegan village, Magway Township, Magway Division.

Sanepauk Bridge on Yangon-Kyaunkpyu Road in An Township, Rakhine State.
Prime Minister inspects development in Sagaing…

(from page 1)

They proceeded to the site of Chindwin River (Shwesaye) Dam in Budalin Township.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported on the current speed of Chindwin River, reliability of the river water for agriculture on both banks, the findings of the feasibility study conducted for construction of a dam near Shwesaye region, the type of the dam, and the prospects of generating 600 mega watts of electricity by the dam on completion. Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint also reported on findings of the geological survey conducted at the chosen site for construction of the dam near Shwesaye region and the arrangements for construction of the dam by means of diverting the water from Chindwin River.

After hearing the reports, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gave instructions, and, together with his party, proceeded to the site of Chindwin River (Shwesaye) Dam in Budalin Township.

The findings of the geological survey conducted at the chosen site for construction of the dam near Shwesaye region. The Prime Minister met with local authorities, departmental personnel, members of social organizations, and townsenders.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister heard reports on cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, beans and pulses, edible crops, kitchen crops, cotton and other crops; arrangements for extension of paddy-owned acreage and increased output, local food sufficiency, measures for education and health sectors, and water supply tasks.

After fulfilling the requirements for regional development, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt gave an address. He said he came to Budalin as he had never been there although the township was not far from Monywa. He also spoke of the need to cultivate more paddy and produce more rice so as to ensure local food sufficiency. He continued that the projects for local rice sufficiency should not remain only on paper, instead they should be implemented effectively.

Although the country is not rich, the magnitude of investment poured into the development of Sagaing Division is not small. Infrastructures for agriculture, industry, education, health, transport and human resources have been built. Such infrastructures have also been established in other remaining states and divisions.

The harmonious and equitable development between one region and another, between urban and rural areas and between border areas and inland areas will help raise economic and social standards of national races, thereby strengthening national solidarity.

Later, the Prime Minister called upon officials concerned and the locals to work hard with perseverance and volition for their regional development and then for that of the country.

Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented a TV, a video player and a set of computer for Budalin BEHS through the school head. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win and party arrived back in Monywa in the evening. — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe attends…

(from page 16)

and Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and wife to members of Sangha.

Today, a total of 23 wellwishers donated cash amounted to K 59 million. A total of K 231.7 million has been received as of 11 June.

At the ceremony, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint, Police Col Win Naing and Project Manager U Tin Koo of Asia World Co Ltd reported on timely completion of the construction work, progress of the construction and future plans, and use of machinery, and fuel respectively.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing attended to the needs.

Afterwards, the tree planting ceremony followed. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, the Commander and officials planted Gangaw trees totalling 80.

Later, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party proceeded to Hsinshewli 50-bed home for the aged construction project in Lashio. Secretary of Shan State (North) PDC Lt-Col Kyaw Shwe reported on progress of work and future plans.

They then went to Yanaungmyin pagoda where they were welcomed by Committee for Pagoda Renovation Lt-Col Than Tun briefed on renovation work and future tasks. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe urged officials concerned to make efforts for timely completion of work meeting the set standards. — MNA

Myanmar delegation leaves for ROK

YANGON, 14 June — Myanmar delegation led by Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin left here on 12 June for Seoul, Republic of Korea, to attend a seminar on educational and training aid for money laundering in Asia and Pacific on 14-17 June. Among those who saw the delegation off at the Yangon International Airport were Deputy Attorney-General U Myint Naing and officials.

Dr Tun Shin was accompanied by Director of the Drug Elimination Unit of CCDAC of Myanmar Police Force Police Col Sit Aye, Deputy Director of the Attorney-General's Office U Khin Maung Win and Deputy Director of the Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Khin Saw Os. — MNA
**Delegates entertained with dances**

Yesterday evening, the delegates were entertained by artists of Fine Arts Department.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Chairman of the Management Committee, Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and committee members also enjoyed the entertainment.

Next, Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung presented cash awards to the performers.

**World Blood Donor Day held**

YANGON, 14 June — Jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and Japan International Cooperation Agency, a ceremony to mark World Blood Donor Day, was held at International Business Centre on Pyay Road, here, this morning, with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Also present on the occasion were directors-general, deputy directors-general and directors of the Departments under the Ministry of Health, rectors, officials of Directorate of Medical Services, those of social organizations at home and abroad, blood donors and guests.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint made a speech. He said that the Ministry of Health has adopted the three tactics—to impart the health education right down to rural regions, to prevent the outbreak of diseases and to give effective treatment in case of outbreak of the diseases.

In giving effective treatment, arrangements are being made for fulfilment of skilled service personnel and experts, fulfilment of modern medical and hospital equipment and construction of buildings in the suitable places.

With advancement in science and technology, effective treatment can be given effectively by means of blood transfusion. In this connection, blood is imperative in the treatment since artificial blood cannot be made yet. Therefore, blood can be regarded as life.

Loss of blood owing to injury, illness and other diseases can be live-threatening and blood transfusion has to be done inevitably. As life can be saved through blood transfusion, donation of blood amounts to donation of life.

Accordingly, blood donors are urged to organize those around them to donate blood.

The Ministry of Health, responding the gratitude of blood donors, has been holding the ceremonies to mark the Blood Donors Day and to honour blood donors. In addition, the government presents medals for outstanding performance in social field to blood donors annually.

The motto of World Blood Donor Day which fell on 7 April 2000 is “Safe blood starts with me, Blood saves lives”.

This reflected the importance of blood and contributed to increasing the number of blood donors.

Most countries are required to swiftly lay down the national tactics for safe blood transfusion as developing countries are not in a position to guarantee safe blood transfusion.

In conclusion, the minister, on behalf of those who had a chance to survive through blood transfusion, thanked blood donors.

Moreover, the Ministry of Health, he said, also thanked blood donors who saved many lives.

The ceremony to present prizes to award winners of World Blood Donors Day essay competitions followed.

The Minister presented the first, second and third prizes to the winners and Resident Representative of JICA Mr Takahiro Sasaki the consolation prizes to winners.

The Minister and party viewed exhibitions on World Blood Donor Day after the ceremony.

“Blood, a gift for life. Thank you,” is the motto for the World Blood Donor Day this year. — MNA

**Ibaraki Prefecture of Japan donates 6 fire engines, 5 ambulances**

YANGON, 14 June — A ceremony to donate six fire engines and five ambulances by Ibaraki Prefecture of Japan was held at Mayangon Township Fire Services Department at 9 am today. It was attended by Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlements Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlements Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint and senior military officers.

Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yuji Miramoto, officials of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and wellwishers attended the ceremony to mark World Blood Donor Day after the ceremony.

Mr Nagai Nobuo of Tokyo Myanmar Association presented books on Japanese child tales in Myanmar version to Daw Kyin Khine and Daw Htay Htay of MWCA. Minister for Health to Minister Dr Kyaw Myint.

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**Beautifying tasks implemented**

YANGON, 14 June — The Pinyaung Township Development Affairs Committee is implementing the project for beautifying the region such as growing landscaping trees and shady trees, and dredging drains for proper drainage. On 5 June, personnel of the committee and ward dwellers unblocked and dredged the drain in Zaydan Ward under supervision of the officials concerned.

**Coord meeting of NCCC…**

(from page 16)

the NC delegates to the storm victims in Rakhine State and cash and kind donations by well-wishers in honour of National Convention. Afterwards Chief Justice U Aung Toe reported on progress in group-wise paper compilation, submission of proposal papers to the panel of chairman and to the work committee. Attorney-general Maj-Gen Lun Maung then reported on measures being taken for health of the delegates and management affairs.

Next, those present participated in discussions, followed by a general round of discussions. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by NCCC Chairman Secretary-2 Li-Gen Thein Sein— MNA
The Tatmadaw’s strength and the Union railroad

Yadanasi Sayadaw (Loilem)

The inauguration of Mongsoeik-Kaunghsai section of Shwenyaung-Namhsan Railroad in Shan State (South). — MNA

(Continued from yesterday)

The master of ceremonies invited the minister for Rail Transportation to deliver an opening speech. First, he wished the commander, departmental heads and townswolders sound health.

Myanmar is a country festooned with loving kindness. No one can deny the fact that Myanmar is becoming a peaceful, modern and developed country, wrangled up with the genuine goodwill of Venerable Sayadaws of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, of other members of the Sangha, of the leadership of the State and of departmental heads and the people.

In his speech, the minister said the railroad reached as far as Shwenyaung in southern Shan State in the past. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on exerting efforts to bridge the development gap between the rural and urban areas and to implement projects for the emergence of better and secured transport system in border areas that lagged behind in development.

According to the guidance, railroads were constructed and put into commission. Inaugurated on 24-12-97, the railroad section between Shwenyaung and Taunggyi was 20.81 miles long; Inaugurated on 27/7-96, the railroad section between Taunggyi and Phamon was 6.2 miles long; Inaugurated on 4-6-96, the railroad section between Taunggyi and Phamon was 27.42 miles long; inaugurated on 30-4-2001, the railroad section between Banyin and Haikhaung was 7.63 miles long; and inaugurated on 27-3-2003, the railroad section between Haikhaung and Pyinthaya was 16.8 miles long.

The minister also talked of the role Myanma Railways and Union Spirit. — MNA

Director-General of MRTV leaves for Singapore

Yangon, 14 June—

Myanmar delegation led by Director-General of MRTV U Khin Maung Htay left here for Singapore by air this afternoon to attend CommunicAsia 2004 Exhibition which will be held from June 15 to 18 in Singapore.

The delegation was seen off at Yangon Inter-national Airport by Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Directors-General of Departments under the Ministry, officials and their families. Deputy Chief Engineer of MRTV U Win Thu accompanied the Director-General. — MNA

Traders Hotel staff donate blood

Yangon, 14 June—

The 4th blood donation ceremony of staff of Traders Hotel to mark the World Blood Donor Day organized by General Manager of Traders Hotel Mr Raymond J. Bragg and Head of personnel department Daw Ma Ma Naing was held at Konhaung hall of Traders Hotel on Sole Pagoda road here this afternoon.

Over 50 staff donated blood and medical superintendent Dr Thida Aung of the Ministry of Health accepted blood. The blood donors were given refreshments. — MNA

Efficient use of electricity

- Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Efficient use of fuel

- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever appeased
- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State

All this needs to be known

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
Second best time is now.
Coordination meeting for tree planting ceremony held

YANGON, 14 June — A coordination meeting for tree planting ceremony to mark Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July 2004 was held at the hall of Myanmar Women Affairs Federation office this afternoon. Present on the occasion were President of MWAF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-Presidents Dr Daw May May Yi, Daw Khin Lay Thei, Daw Thaw Than Nwe, Daw Khin Win, Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win, advisers, Patron of Yangon Division Women Affairs organisation Daw Khin Thet Hui, executives, chairman of tree planting association U Than Swe and officials.

Next, Department of Planning and Statistics of Ministry of Forestry Director-General U Than Swe reported on tree planting of year 2004. Later, those present at the meeting discussed general matters.

Afterwards, the President of MWAF fulfilled requirements and the meeting came to an end — MNNA

Cash donated for renovation of Lemyethna pagoda

YANGON, 14 June — Cash donation ceremony was held for the renovation of Lemyethna pagoda.

WHO South-East Asia Advisory Committee on Health Research Meeting held

YANGON, 14 June — The Twenty-ninth Session of WHO South-East Asia Advisory Committee on Health Research commenced here this morning with an address by Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint.

Among those who attended the opening ceremony of the health research meeting were Dr Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director of the SEARO and officials, Resident Representative of WHO Dr Stephan Paul Jost and officials, committee members of Bangaladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand, and invited personnel from Switzerland, Egypt and the Philippines.

First, Health Minister Dr Kyaw Myint delivered an opening address. In his address, he said the turn of this century witnessed rapid socioeconomic, political and technological changes. These compelled us to review the existing strategies of health research in South East Asian Region. We know there is a world-wide mismatch between the burden of illness, overwhelmingly among the poor, and investments in health research which is largely focussed on problems of industrialized countries. There is no doubt that all state holders including development agencies as well as the research community should intensify their collaboration in health research, in policy analysis and in building up capacities in Science and Technology. Strategic health research systems should be an integral part of national health development. Health research systems should play a pivotal role in the development of national health systems in developing countries. I am very pleased to know that WHO has made significant contributions to research development at the global, regional and country levels, leading to effective means for health protection and promotion. There are still many challenges to meet, many issues to tackle, many new problems to overcome. I am sure that this meeting of distinguished delegates with expertise in research and varied experiences in different aspects of health systems management will provide further momentum to regional and national initiatives for realizing optimum impact of health research. The South-East Asia advisory committee on health research meeting has also undertaken reviews and analyses of various health research issues and provided policy advice to WHO and its member states, he said. Dr Samlee Plianbangchang also made an address and the opening ceremony came to an end. The meeting continues till 16 June. — MNNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo tours…

Yuzana Co.

At the briefing hall of the Ministry for Culture, Maj-Gen Kyi Aung accepts donations of US$ 10,000 and K 9,061,510. Major Thaung Sein (Red) and his family, K 500,000 by Cho Zaw Company, K 200,000 by U Zaw Min of Mingalar Garden, K 200,000 by Association of Chinese Traders. Today donation totalled at US$ 10,000 and K 9,061,510. Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung and Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung accepted the donations and gave the certificates of honour to the donors. — MNNA

President of Myanmar Women Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe makes a speech at coordination meeting for tree planting ceremony to mark Myanmar Women’s Day. — MNNA

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint addresses 29th Session of WHO South-East Asia Advisory Committee on Health Research. — MNNA

POEM:

Our Union of Myanmar

* Four million years is the duration
That was the origin of Myanmar land
Distinctively Stone Age man
Lived here according to evidence
The Pondauk finds provides evidence
Undeniably strong
Myanmar Land is amazing

* Myanmar originated in Tagaung, it is said
Myanmar’s image, ancient
Tagaung City, was there over 2,000
Plus six hundred years
With new vigour, pride of race overwhelms
With own monarchy, peaceful and solid
Peaceful and prosperous were the cities
Myanmar is truly astonishing.

* Anawrahta, Bayintnaung, U Aungzeya
Born patriotic citizens
Distinct honor is assembled
Myanmar land was, by colonialists
Unserved for a period, enslaved by them
Nevertheless, citizens all
Each with own strength, with own sword and spear
For cause of brethren, blood of the Union
Red as red can be, and we fought
Myanmar regained independence
Nation’s honour at its pinnacle, fragment
With Panglong Spirit as basis.

* Today, Myanmar land
Has hands held, no division
Whoever comes to divide will be crushed
Loving and united, all of us will be

"This Union
This sovereignty
This unity of all citizens”

Only solidarity is being thought of
In the Constitution
Equality, we envision.
Our Union of Myanmar.
History provides evidence.

Tekkatho Nyo Min Aung (Trs)
China’s MT Wudang popular for ancient architecture

WUHAN, 13 June — Mount Wudang in central China’s Hubei Province has been attracting a growing number of tourists not only for being a sacred place for Taoism and Taoist-inspired arts such as boxing, but also for boasting a legion of ancient Chinese architectures.

In the first five months of the year, the number of visitor arrivals to Mount Wudang, situated inside Shiyan City, Hubei Province, totalled 450,000, almost double that for the same period last year, said an official with the Office of the Mount Wudang Special Economic Zone.

The number of tourist arrivals to the mountain was 800,000 in 2002, including 12,000 overseas tourists. And tourist arrivals to the sacred place for Taoism from January to May that year stood at 280,000.

Adjoining the Qinling Range to the northwest and Shennongjia Primitive Forest Nature Reserve to the south, Mount Wudang stretches over 400 kilometres and consists of 72 peaks, 36 cliffs and 24 valleys.

Mount Wudang, which has a long historical association with Taoism, was included by UNESCO into the World Cultural Heritage List in 1994 for housing a large number of palaces and temples which exemplify the architectural and artistic achievements of China’s Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties and represent the highest standards of Chinese art and architecture over a period of nearly 1,000 years.

Experts say giant pandas’ latest number “very close to fact”

CHENGDU, 14 June — Chinese experts believe China’s latest survey on giant pandas is “very close to the fact,” though some scientists cast doubt on the overburdened species’ actual number.

The State Forestry Administration (SFA) has announced that China has at least 1,590 giant pandas living in the wild, a sharp rise from 1,100 reported in a general survey conducted in 1988. “The latest figures of giant pandas from the third census are much closer to the actual wild giant panda population, given improved and more complex survey methods,” said Yu Jiaqiu, a giant panda expert who is also deputy director of the Chengdu Giant Panda Protection Research Base in Sichuan Province.

Experts said the increases found in the coal pit to 10.

China’s Hubei Province has a long history associated with China’s Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties and represents the highest standards of Chinese art and architecture over a period of nearly 1,000 years.

TRADEMARKS CAUTION

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The Chinese President congratulates Russia on National Day

BUDAPEST, 14 June — Chinese President Hu Jintao on Saturday extended congratulations to his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Russia’s National Day.

In his message sent to Putin, Hu, who just ended a two-day visit here, said that on the occasion of the Russian Federation’s National Day, he, on behalf of the Chinese people and in his own name, congratulated Putin and the Russian people on the National Day and expressed his good wishes for Russia.

In recent years, he said, China and Russia have realized mutual social stability, fast economic growth and apparent improvement of people’s lives. As a friendly neighbour and strategic cooperative partner, China hopes that Russia will make greater progress in strengthening the country and enriching the people.

Richard Sear, an expert on China-Russia relations, said the partnership of strategic cooperation between the two nations is showing a good momentum of energetic development. Top-level contacts are intensifying, the pragmatic cooperation fields are continuously moving forward and consultation and coordination in international and regional affairs are becoming more active, Hu noted.

In a written speech delivered upon his arrival at the airport, Hu said his visit aimed at “promoting the full-range cooperative relationship between China and Romania to a higher level”.

He said China and Romania respect each other’s sovereignty, trust, understood and supported each other over the years and their cooperation has been fruitful since the establishment of full diplomatic relations 55 years ago.

Hu will stay in the country overnight and travel Sunday to Bucharest, the capital city of Romania, where he will meet President Ion Iliescu, who paid a state visit to Beijing last year, and other Romanian leaders.

Cautions and warnings

China News Agency (CNA) offers tips to ensure safety during your travels.

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Project to curb landslide at Three Gorges reservoir improved

BEIJING, 14 June — The project to curb land slide at Three Gorges reservoir has proved effective, according to the Ministry of Land and Resources.

An expert team sent to central China’s Hubei Province where part of the Three Gorges project is located, has finished the examination on the effect of the second phase of the project which cost the Chinese Government four billion yuan.

The project is working well in Hubei Province and landslides happened less frequently than previous years. It guarantees the safety of the reservoir and shipping along the Yangtze River.

Five more bodies found at coalmine fire site

WAIBAO (Jilin), 13 June — Five more bodies of the miners who had been reported missing in a coalmine explosion Thursday in northeast China’s Jilin Province were found Saturday, bringing the total number of bodies found in the coal pit to 10.

Only one miner remains missing. The fire, caused by high-voltage electrical system explosion, occurred at 2:40 a.m. in Waibao Coal Mine when 34 miners working underground were caught up in the explosion. Twenty-two escaped and another five miners were found dead later.

China’s Hubei Province has been attracting a growing number of tourists not only for being a sacred place for Taoism and Taoist-inspired arts such as boxing, but also for boasting a legion of ancient Chinese architectures.

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In the first five months of the year, the number of visitor arrivals to Mount Wudang, situated inside Shiyan City, Hubei Province, totalled 450,000, almost double that for the same period last year, said an official with the Office of the Mount Wudang Special Economic Zone.

The number of tourist arrivals to the mountain was 800,000 in 2002, including 12,000 overseas tourists. And tourist arrivals to the sacred place for Taoism from January to May that year stood at 280,000.

Adjoining the Qinling Range to the northwest and Shennongjia Primitive Forest Nature Reserve to the south, Mount Wudang stretches over 400 kilometres and consists of 72 peaks, 36 cliffs and 24 valleys.

Mount Wudang, which has a long historical association with Taoism, was included by UNESCO into the World Cultural Heritage List in 1994 for housing a large number of palaces and temples which exemplify the architectural and artistic achievements of China’s Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties and represent the highest standards of Chinese art and architecture over a period of nearly 1,000 years.

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Russians mark end of Soviet era

Moscow, 13 June—To Soviet-era music, Russians marked with marches and gun salutes on Saturday the beginning of the end of the Soviet Union 14 years ago, even though many people could not quite recall the event they were celebrating.

Soviet military songs echoed across Moscow and artillery blasts rumbled in a cloudless sky. Hundreds of troops, some in camouflage and some in period uniforms from Russia’s imperial past, slow-marched across Red Square past a podium where President Vladimir Putin took the salute.

The Soviet anthem—re-introduced by Putin in 2000 with new words—reverberated across the square in front of the Kremlin walls and dancers from ethnic minorities performed.

The holiday, commonly known to Russians as “Independence Day”, marks the date of the Soviet Union’s December 1991 dissolution.

A failed coup attempt the following year led to Putin’s predecessor, Boris Yeltsin, pushing aside Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and phasing out the Soviet Union.

Hundreds of retired soldiers in period uniforms also marched slowly into Moscow and artillery blasts rumbled in a cloudless sky.

Einstein’s “miraculous year”

Physics.

Byron Hall told ABC TV the animal would have been in extreme amounts of pain and bursting its internal organs and crushing its skull. The animal would have been in extreme amounts of pain and it’s just totally unacceptable,” Hall said.

For the mice to have been present, the stunt would have had to be premeditated, he said.

The men were competing for a 500-Australian-dollar (345-US-dollar) holiday weekend on Queensland’s Gold Coast. They now face fines of up to 75,000 Australian dollars or two years in prison. — MNA/Reuters

HK to establish memorial site for promoting SARS fighting spirit

HONG KONG, 13 June—The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government prepares to establish a memorial site to promote the spirit and values shown by the whole community in the fight against SARS.

The HKSAR Government on Saturday announced the progress made on the activities and programmes recommended by the Advisory Committee on the Promotion of the Fighting Spirit against SARS.

The Advisory Committee suggested the government identify a suitable venue to set up a memorial site to commemorate those who gave their lives in the fight against SARS and promote the values manifested in the SARS crisis. The government has designated a site in Hong Kong Park as the venue for such purpose.

“Any suggestions on the name are welcomed,” Ho said.

The government will work with the community on the building of the memorial site. With the professional assistance of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, the Kowloon Rotary Club will organize an open design competition. The winner’s design will be adopted as the theme monument.

A Chinese model poses with a Ford GT sports car at the Beijing Auto Show in China’s capital on Tuesday, 15 June, 2004. China’s booming economy has led to rocketing car production and sales, with car makers from all over the world seeking a piece of the action. — Internet

India, Pakistan to prevent drug trafficking

ISLAMABAD, 14 June—India and Pakistan would hold a series of talks on a wide range of issues next week, beginning with a dialogue between top officials of the two countries to prevent drug trafficking and smuggling.

A high-level Indian delegation headed by Director General of Narcotic Control Bureau M K Singh would arrive in Pakistan on June 14 to attend the meeting of the Committee on Drug Trafficking and Smuggling to be held here on June 15 and 16, Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesman Masood Khan told a media briefing on Saturday.

The committee meeting will discuss steps to prevent smuggling of drugs and narcotics between the two countries. After that a Pakistani delegation, headed by Additional Secretary of Pakistan Foreign Office, Usman Haider would go to New Delhi to attend talks on nuclear CBMs to be held there from June 19 and 20. Khan said another Pakistan delegation would go to New Delhi towards the next weekend to attend the official level talks to be held there on June 21 and 22 to resolve differences over the construction of power project by India on the River Chenab at Baglihar in northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The talks will be held at the level of Secretaries of Water and Power to discuss Pakistan’s objections over the projects. The Indus Basin Water Commissioners of both countries would also be part of the delegation. — MNA/PTI

Two face charges after chewing live mice in Australia

SYDNEY, 13 June—Two men in their 20s are expected to be charged with animal cruelty after chewing live mice in a “jackass competition” in an Australian bar.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said the men engaged in an outrageous act of cruelty by accepting a challenge in front of a cheering crowd to place the mice in their mouths and bite off their tails.

RSPCA chief inspector Byron Hall told ABC TV the extreme amounts of pain and bursting its internal organs and crushing its skull. The animal would have been in extreme amounts of pain and it’s just totally unacceptable,” Hall said.

For the mice to have been present, the stunt would have had to be premeditated, he said.

The men were competing for a 500-Australian-dollar (345-US-dollar) holiday weekend on Queensland’s Gold Coast. They now face fines of up to 75,000 Australian dollars or two years in prison. — MNA/Reuters

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The men were competing for a 500-Australian-dollar (345-US-dollar) holiday weekend on Queensland’s Gold Coast. They now face fines of up to 75,000 Australian dollars or two years in prison. — MNA/Reuters
French PM hails Zidane, Barthez

PARIS, June 14— Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin, who was on the losing side in French political polls on Sunday, applauded his country’s soccer players after their extraordinary, last-gasp 2-1 win over England at Euro 2004. “You have to stir it up, it is the result of hard work. We have to set precise goals that we will achieve,” said Raffarin, who added that every player gave his best to secure the victory.

Barthez says saving penalty not just about luck

LISBON, June 14— France goalkeeper Fabien Barthez contributed hugely to France’s dramatic 2-1 victory over England at Euro 2004 on Sunday by saving a David Beckham penalty. “You can say that saving a penalty is just luck but luck doesn’t occur all the time,” said Barthez. “You have to be ready to take your own chances.”

Ballack warns team should not rely on one single player

ALMAMICE (Portugal), 14 June— Michael Ballack, the fulcrum of Germany’s Euro 2004 team, warned his teammates that one player alone could not dovetail too much. “I know that the German fans expect a lot from me, but I have no problem with that,” Ballack, instrumental in Germany’s run to the 2002 World Cup final, said in a press conference. “The team should not rely on one single player, thinking he will do it alone.”

Men-of-the-match to receive beer-style trophy

PORTO, June 14— UEFA president Lennart Johansson unveiled a draught beer-flavored man-of-the-match award for the European Championship which starts today. Johansson, clutching the silver trophy on board a sailing boat ahead of the opening match, said one player in each of the 31 matches would receive the award from a fan. “For this championship we have a unique element in that fans cannot only have a say in who wins but will also have the opportunity to present this award to their football heroes,” said Johansson.

The winners of 31 competitions held in 18 countries around the world have been flown to Portugal and given the red carpet treatment. “They will present the award, they will go to the Press conferences and will be behind the scenes as well,” an official for award sponsors Carlsberg said.

The solid metal design, standing 52 centimeters tall, and slightly resembling the old UEFA Cup Winners Cup, will be awarded after an Internet-based vote and a decision by UEFA’s technical committee.


England appeared to be holding on for a 1-0 victory before Zidane curled in a free kick in the first minute of added time and converted a penalty with almost the last kick of the game after David James brought down Thierry Henry.

France, who had not conceded a goal in nearly a year, dominated the first half before midfielder Frank Lampard headed a 38th-minute David Beckham free kick past goalkeeper Fabien Barthez. Beckham, the England captain, should have put the result beyond doubt in the 73rd minute after teenage striker Wayne Rooney won a penalty but Barthez brilliantly pushed the shot away.

Both sides lived up to their billing at the Estadio da Luz with Zidane, the World Player of the Year, and his teammates oozing class while England showed commitment and no shortage of skill. France applied the early pressure, exploiting the pace and dribbling skills of winger Robert Pires in his battle on the right with Paul Scholes playing in a familiar role on England’s left.

Figo, Deco put brave faces on Portugal defeat

PORTO, June 14— Portugal midfielders Luis Figo and Deco tried to put on brave faces after the hosts’ shock 2-1 defeat by Greece in the opening Euro 2004 Group A match on Saturday. “We couldn’t get the second ball. We were unable to dominate the midfield. In the second half we ended up suffering a goal at the start that upset the game’s rhythm. It was very much tougher after that.”

“We had a 2-0 advantage, they possessed themselves well, they defended well. We didn’t have any opportunities.”

The goals were not a reflection of the game, he said. “To concede goals in a competition in that way is very difficult to come back from.”

“We don’t have time to lose heart. Now the job we have to do is going to more psychological than training.”

“The second ball was difficult for them. The second half was more psychological.”

When we started to play well we suffered the penalty.”

The result was frustrating for both sides as they had set out to claim victory knowing their next games are against the group favourites France and England.

Barthez earlier saved a penalty from England captain David Beckham to keep France in the match.

Zidane’s late double shatters England

LISBON, June 14— France captain Zinedine Zidane struck twice in injury-time to ambush England 2-1 in an extraordinary Euro 2004 showdown on Sunday.

England appeared to be holding on for a 1-0 victory before Zidane curled in a free kick in the first minute of added time and converted a penalty with almost the last kick of the game after David James brought down Thierry Henry.

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Barthez earlier saved a penalty from England captain David Beckham to keep France in the match.

France’s captain Zinedine Zidane, left, puts the shoulder of England’s captain David Beckham at the end of the Euro 2004 Group B soccer match between England and France at Luz Stadium, in Lisbon, Portugal, on Sunday, June 13, 2004. While Beckham missed a penalty, Zidane scored from the penalty spot in the last minute to clinch a 2-1 win for France. Switzerland and Croatia are the other teams in Group B.

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Ten-man Swiss hold Croatia to goalless draw

LISBON (Portugal), 14 June— Ten-man Switzerland battled to a goalless draw with a disappointing Croatia side in an ugly opening Euro 2004 Group B clash on Sunday.

The result was frustrating for both sides as they had set out to claim victory knowing their next games are against the group favourites France and England.

Switzerland were reduced to 10 men when defensive midfielder Johann Vogel was sent off four minutes into the second half for a second bookable offence. Vogel had been shown a yellow card after only 30 minutes for a foul on Niko Kovac and was dismissed when for another infringement in a melee of players just after the break.

The PSV Eindhoven man’s yellow card was the sixth of the game that became increasingly disrupted by stoppages, several of them for simulation.

This was a very long flow of football from either side with the Croatians seemingly intent on breaking up the game and trying to snatch a goal on the counter-attack.

This produced several ugly individual clashes and plenty of theatrical gestures as the card count rose steadily.

Swiss keeper Joerg Stiel was cautioned for dissent and Benjamin Hugell for a foul while Dado Prso, for diving, joined Nenad Bjelica, substitute Milan Rapaic and captain Boris Zivkovic who were booked for fouls and Ivica Morlar for diving.

Switzerland looked lively in attack and striker Alexander Frei warned the play for Sweden after coming out of the field, Tomislav Butina with a crisp low shot, Tomislav Sokota replying in kind for Croatia.

Croatia quenched the pace at times, Kovac heading over the bar from a corner and then Ivica Olcic clipping the bar from close range after Stiel had beaten out a Josip Simunic effort.

Prso had a half chance with a shot on the turn saved by Stiel and the keeper almost misjudged a bounce from a clearance, but in further conditions, chances were few and far between.

Croatia’s Ivica Olcic (18) and Switzerland’s Bernt Haas battle for the ball during their Group B Euro 2004 first round match on Sunday.
**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR, Tuesday, 15 June, 2004**

**WEATHER**

**Tuesday, June 15, 2004**

**8:45 am**
- 8. Grammar Made Easy
- 9:00 pm
- 10. prayer

**8:50 am**
- 11. national news
- 11:00 am
- 11:30 pm
- 12. national news
- 12:00 pm
- 12:30 pm
- 13. national news
- 13:00 pm
- 13:30 pm
- 14. the mirror images of musical oldies
- 14:00 pm
- 14:30 pm
- 15. "sea" of the world
- 15:00 pm
- 15:30 pm
- 16. national news
- 16:00 pm
- 16:30 pm
- 17. news
- 17:00 pm
- 17:30 pm
- 18. international news
- 18:00 pm
- 18:30 pm
- 19. weather
- 19:00 pm
- 19:30 pm
- 20. national news
- 20:00 pm
- 20:30 pm
- 21. national news
- 21:00 pm
- 21:30 pm
- 22. national news
- 22:00 pm
- 22:30 pm
- 23. national news

**6:30 pm**
- 11. evening news
- 11:00 pm
- 11:30 pm
- 12. weather report
- 12:00 pm
- 12:30 pm
- 13. national news
- 13:00 pm
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- 21. national news
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- 23. national news

**Tuesday, June 15, 2004**

**Tuning in today:**
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- 8:35 am
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**Monday, June 14, 2004**

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally cloudy in Kachin and Kayah States, rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Shan State, Magway and Bago Divisions, and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Mon State. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Ye (4.09 inches), Mawlamyine (3.70 inches) and Dawei (2.80 inches).

Maximum temperature on 13-6-2004 was 31.5°C (88.7°F). Minimum temperature on 14-6-2004 was 20.0°C (68°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 14-6-2004 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 13-6-2004 was 5.8 hours approx. Rainfall on 14-6-2004 was 2mm (0.08 inch) at Yangon Airport, 5mm (0.20 inch) at Kanya Aye and 23mm (0.90 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 779mm (30.67 inches) at Yangon Airport and 675mm (33.29 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kala-Aye) was 48 knots from Southwest at (14:20) hours MST on 13-6-2004.

**Bay inference:** According to the observations at 09:30 hours MST today, yesterday's depression over Bay of Bengal has crossed Coast, about (280) miles Southwest of Kolkata, (India) last night. Monsoon is generally strong in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until 15-6-2004 is rain or thunderstorms will be isolated in Kachin State, scattered in Shan, Chin and Kayah States, Tayawaddy, Mandaly and Magway Divisions, and widespread in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**State of the sea:** Occasional squalls with moderate to strong winds are likely off Myanmar Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40)mph. Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain are likely over Eastern Myanmar Coast.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 15-6-2004:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 15-6-2004: One or two rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (20%).
Li-Gen Aung Htwe attends third cash donations presentation ceremony for Yantaingaung Hsutaungpyi MyoU pagoda

YANGON, 14 June — Third cash donations presentation ceremony for construction of Yantaingaung Hsutaungpyi MyoU pagoda to be located on Wizaya Bumi Maha Aungmyin Mingala hill Lashio, Shan State (North) in conjunction with tree planting ceremony was held at Yantaingaung Dhammayon near archway leading to Lashio on 11 June morning. Present on the occasion were State Ovvaracaritya Lashio Kannain Kyaungtaik Presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Munindha and members of Sangha, Member of State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and wife, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint and senior military officers, local authorities, members of social organizations and local people.

First, the ceremony was opened with three-time recitation of Namo Tassa and the congregation received the Nine Precepts from the Sayadaw and members of Sangha. Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presented offerings to Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Munindha. (See page 8)

Lt-Gen Maung Bo tours Myeik, inspects regional development

YANGON, 14 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Coastal Region Command Commander Brig-Gen Oth Myint, responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials, left Myeik for Lutlut Village by car on 11 June morning. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party arrived at Lutlut sea prawn breeding project, jointly undertaken by the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and Tha Htoo Aung Co., Ltd. At the briefing hall of the project, officials reported on tasks being carried out. In giving instructions, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that Taninthayi coastal region being a place crucial for marine products, it is therefore necessary to undertake fish and prawn breeding industries in the region.

With the increasing number of companies coming to the region to make investment in the fish and prawn breeding industries, the job opportunities for local people are on the rise. As a result, the region has become prosperous. Therefore, it is incumbent on local people to provide assistance to these companies. After cordially greeting those present at the get-together Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected progress of digging prawn ponds in the project. There will be altogether 48 ponds on 420 acres of land. Among them 18 have been dug; 10 being dug and 20 remaining to be dug. A total of 10-day-old 300,000 prawns will be bred in each pond. These tasks will be carried out by Tha Htoo Aung Co., USDA, Tha Htoo Toe Co., (See page 11)

Coord meeting of NCCC, Work Committee and Management Committee held

YANGON, 14 June — The Coordination Meeting (No 10/2004) of National Convention Convocation Commission, Work Committee and Management Committee was held at the meeting hall of Anawratha Hall, Nyaunghnapin Camp, Hmawby Township this morning with an address by Chairman of NCCC Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein. Also present at the meeting were Secretary of NCCC Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and members, Chairman of NCCCWC Chief Justice U Aung Toe and members, Chairman of the Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and members. Joint-Secretary-2 of NCCC Director-General of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office U Myint Thein acted as master of ceremonies.

First, Chairman of NCCC Lt-Gen Thein Sein delivered an address. In his address, he said that the National Convention has been convened for five weeks. The plenary meeting of National Convention will be soon convened and delegates will submit their group-wise proposals. Now, compilation papers are being read by delegate groups. So, the NCCCWC is urged to make arrangements for the convenience of the delegates when they submit their proposal papers on legislative, executive and judiciary and power sharing sectors at the plenary meeting of National Convention. Regarding the management affairs, the needs of the delegates have been fulfilled, he said. He also stressed to fulfill the needs for health of the delegates. Next, Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan reported on arrangements for the cash assistance to be rendered by the NCCCWC. (See page 9)

Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects cold storage of Ahaaungkaung Industries Co Ltd in Myeik. — MNA

Lt-Gen Maung Bo tours Myeik, inspects regional development