YANGON, 15 June—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and members and Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, left Mongyeyaw by helicopter on 13 June morning and arrived at Magyeesauk Village in Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Division at 8.15 am.

The Prime Minister and party were welcomed there by members of the District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials, members of social organizations, and local people.

Next, the ceremony to open and hand over the new building for Magyeesauk Village Basic Education High School was held at the school at 8.30 am. It was attended by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, Vice-Chairman of MEC Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye, ministers, the Chief of Staff (Navy), deputy ministers, officials at the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of department, members of the District and Township Peace and Development Councils, departmental officials, members of social organizations, well-wishers U Shan-Daw Khin Than and family of Mandalay, the director-general of No 2 Basic Education Department and officials, members of the School Board of Trustees, the headmaster and teachers, students and guests.

The ceremony to open the new building for the school was held in front of the building and Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt and well-wisher U Shan formally opened the facility. After that, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt unveiled the stone inscription of the facility.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected the building and commissioned the new building for Magyeesauk Village Basic Education High School. Additionally, the Prime Minister and party inspected the school building constructed at a cost of K 80 million to the school. The Prime Minister and party viewed the skill demonstrations of the students at the music room.

Afterwards, the ceremony to hand over the new building continued at the hall of the building. Well-wisher U Shan explained the purpose of donation of the school building. Next, well-wisher U Shan handed over documents related to the new school building constructed at a cost of K 500,000 donated by U Maung Kon-Daw Mi Mi and family, K 325,000 by U Aung Soe-Daw Hla Hla Win and family, K 300,000 by U Kyaw Khin-Daw Shu Wa and family, K 100,000 by U Kank-Daw Yin Shwe and family, K 100,000 by U Kyo-Kin-Daw Aung Moe Hlian and family, K 100,000 by U Tun Wai and family, K 100,000 by U Win Soe-Pang, K 300,000 by U Kauk-Daw Saw Khin and family, K 50,000 by Ko Khin Maung Myint-Ma Tin Tin Shu and family, K 50,000 by U Tun Aung-Daw Mya Mya and family and K 30,000 by Daw May Kyu and U Win Shwe-Daw Moe Kyi and family totaling K 1,850,000 to the trust fund of the school.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint accepted K 200,000 by U Sein Win-Daw Win Win and family, K 100,000 each by U Maung Gyi, U Khin Maung Myint-Ma Tin Tin Shu and family, K 50,000 by Ko Khin Maung Myint-Ma Tin Tin Shu and family, K 30,000 by Daw May Kyu and U Win Shwe-Daw Moe Kyi and family totaling K 1,850,000 to the trust fund of the school.

To those who want they said they want to see people of Myanmar make progress (Page 2)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt inspects reconstruc- tion of Shwebon Yadana Mingala Palace of King Alaungphaya on 13-6-2004. — MNA

Established 1914

Volume XII, Number 61 14th Waning of Nayon 1366 ME Wednesday, 16 June, 2004

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

Leading Patron of Women Chapter of MMA Dr Daw Khin Win Shoe honours a fund-raiser. — MNA

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi being welcomed back at the airport. — MNA

Film entertainments to NC delegates

YANGON, 15 June — The Entertainment and Welfare Subcommitteee of the National Convention Convening Committee is organizing entertainment programs for delegates to the National Convention daily at the gymnasmium of Nayangnaing Campus. Yesterday evening, the delegates were entertained with a film entitled “Thakayun Mahtan Pyi” (Never fell under servitude) directed by Kyi Soe Tun and starred by Nyunt Win, Kyaw Thu, Lwin Moe, Kyaw Ye Aung and May Than Nu. MNA

MoU signed for fishery JVC

YANGON, 15 June — A ceremony to sign memorandum of understanding for formation of Myanmar PPP Inter-Assets Holding JVC Ltd was held at the meeting hall of the Fisheries Department on Hsin Min Road, Ahlom Township, on 10 June morning. Director-General of Fisheries Department U Than Tun and Myanmar PPP Inter-Assets Holding JVC Ltd President Mr Surachai Na Pompejara extended greetings. Managing Director of Physo Pyei Phyco Co Ltd U Aung Kyaw On and Mr Surachai Na Pompejara signed the memorandum. Mr Surachai Na Pompejara donated K500,000 for storm victims of Rakhine State. Minister for Livestock & Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein accepted the donation and spoke words of thanks. — MNA

Opening ceremony of the course in progress. — UMFCCI

International Trade Course opens

YANGON, 15 June — The International Trade Course (Programme 2) (batch-3), organized by the UMFCCI (Educational Affairs Committee) was opened at the UMFCCI head office on Boon Pau Road. Here this morning UMFCCI Vice-President U Aung Lwin delivered an address. Education Work Committee Chairman U Sein Win Hlaing explained facts about the course. The nine-day course is being attended by 60 trainees. — MNA

YANGON, 15 June — A shooting contest in commemoration of the International Olympic Day for 2004 to be held by Myanmar Olympic Committee was opened at the shooting range from 18 to 20 June 2004. Myanmar make progress

- Only when mother is healthy
- The embryo inside the womb
- Will be strong and intellectually sound
- Completely strong and cheerful when born surely
- If mother who is carrying the embryo
- Is not strong, but frail
- Child who is weak and not sound
- Intellectually, could be built
- Physically strong and intellectually sound
- Is the breed of child desired
- Mother who is carrying child
- Must be strong and cheerful
- That is first and foremost priority
- Consider related matters.

Byan Hlwaw (Trs)

* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation

The Kalay Region is at a strategic point between Sagaing Division and Chin State. However, the Kalay Region and other towns, namely, Mawlaik, Kalewa and Kani, on the west bank of the Chindwin river lagged behind in development as they were difficult of access. Therefore, the Kalay Region was designated as a development zone and a 200-bed hospital, a university and colleges were built there so that young people not only in the region, but also in Chin State can pursue higher education. Moreover, to improve the transportation in the region, the Kalay airport was extended in order that passenger jets can land there and the Kalay-Gangaw railroad and the Kalay-Gangaw motor road constructed and the Tamu-Kalay-Kalewa motor road upgraded.

The Kalay region is now enjoying all-round development as it is the gateway to Chin State (North) as well as the hub of border trade between Myanmar and India. The Myittha Bridge (Kalewa) on the Kalay-Monywa motor road was inaugurated on 12 June and the opening ceremony was attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt himself. In extending greetings to the local people, the Prime Minister said that, as the entire nation was working hard in concert under the leadership of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, new roads and bridges have been emerging one after another, peace and stability prevailing all over the nation and the economic life of the people becoming stronger. Built across the Myittha river, the Myittha Bridge (Kalewa) is situated on the Monywa-Yargyi-Kalewa motor road. Because development belongs to the people, the Prime Minister directed by Kyi Soe Tun and starred by Nyunt Win, Kyaw Thu, Lwin Moe, Kyaw Ye Aung and May Than Nu. MNA
Car bomb kills five foreigners in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 14 June—A car bomb tore through a convoy Monday in central Baghdad, including an American and four other foreigners working to rebuild Iraq power plants. A crowd gathered, shouting “Down with the USA!” and dancing around a charred body.

The dead included three employees of Granite Services Inc, a wholly owned, Tampa, Fla-based subsidiary of General Electric, and two security contractors, said GE spokeswoman Louise Binns in Brussels.

Passions boiled over as the crowd of youths taunted American troops and Western journalists who rushed to the scene near Tahrir Square. American troops beat one man with a stick, but after failing to restrain the crowd, the troops and police withdrew.

One civilian bystander — missing a finger from the bomb — ran up to Western reporters and shouted at them to leave.

The blast, which destroyed eight vehicles and turned nearby shops and a two-story house to rubble, is the second bombing in as many days to kill a dozen people and comes nearly two weeks before the formal end of the US-led occupation. “Nothing is more important than the safety of our employees and those supporting our efforts,” Binns said in a statement.

Frantic Iraqis scooped up the wounded and loaded them into private cars to be taken to hospitals.

The US military said the dead included both British, one Frenchman, one American and a foreigner of undetermined nationality. More than 60 people, including 10 foreign contractors, were injured, the military said.

The bomb went off as three SUVs carrying the contractors were passing through the square. Five other vehicles were also destroyed.

The attack unleashed fresh anger at the United States. Crowds chanting “Down with the USA!” and burning an American flag.

In Iraq's oil sector was in limbo due to be completed before the formal end of the US-led occupation, said a statement. Binns acknowledged that the "smallest of our efforts, had the military said.

Some released Guantanamo prisoners at Guantanamo has come under scrutiny since the abuse of prisoners in Iraq by US troops was revealed in April, when pictures emerged of bound prisoners being sexually humiliated and threatened by dogs.

The military has acknowledged that the techniques were used in Iraq after recommendations from the former Guantanamo prison chief on ways to get more information from detainees.

Some released Guantanamo prisoners have said they were shackled in “stress” positions for hours while they were questioned and that threatening dogs, strobe lights, freezing air and other methods were used.

But officials who spoke with reporters visiting the prison this week portrayed the exchanges at Guantanamo more as a battle of wits than a confrontation.

They denied reports of ill-treatment and said that unlike Abu Ghraib Prison in Iraq, Guantanamo was tightly controlled and the military police were highly trained. Brigadier-General Jay Hodde, commander of the task force that runs the prison operation, said the prisoners were treated in compliance with the Geneva Conventions and that the camp was run in a “safe, secure and humane” manner.

The camp’s senior interrogator, a Marine and Navy veteran who is a homicide detective in civilian life and who spoke on condition he not be identified, portrayed his work as a subtle psychological battle to get prisoners to tell what they might know about terrorist plans. “It’s a mental chess game,” he said. “About 99 per cent of what we do down here is not even close to the general definition of interrogation — confrontation, adversarial and hostile,” he said.

Uruguay, Iran sign trade accord
MONTEVIDEO, 14 June — The governments of Uruguay and Iran have signed in Montevideo, Uruguay’s capital, a trade accord seeking to promote bilateral relations.

The accord was inked Friday by Uruguayan Foreign Minister Didier Opertti and Iranian Trade and Industry Minister Mohammad Shariatmadadi, who arrived here Thursday.

G-20 says agricultural negotiations central to Doha Round
SAO PAULO (Brazil), 14 June — Trade ministers from the Group of 20 (G-20) agree here on Saturday that negotiations on agriculture are central to move the Doha Round to a successful and timely conclusion.

Trade in agricultural products continues to be hindered by all sorts of barriers and distortions and true liberalization in agricultural trade must include reforms to address these problems, the ministers said in a communique.

To this end, the ministers pledged to maintain a high-level coordination of G-20 positions as well as a constant dialogue with other interested groups. The ministers called for an early establishment of modalities capable of ensuring substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support, substantial increase in market access, phasing-out with a view to elimination of all forms of export subsidies. — MNA/Xinhua

Britain to court martial four soldiers over Iraq abuses
LONDON, 14 June — Britain is to court martial four soldiers for allegedly beating and sexually abusing prisoners in Iraq, Attorney General Peter Goldsmith’s spokesman said Monday.

The Army Prosecuting Authority (APA), which handles such cases independently from the military, had ordered the trial of four soldiers from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers on 11 June.

It is the first legal proceeding ordered against any British soldiers over allegations of mistreatment in Iraq.

“The charges against the four men accused, indecent assault which apparently involves making the victims engage in sexual activity between themselves, and a military charge of prejudicing good order and military discipline,” the spokesman said. — Reuters

Delays hit US-funded Iraq oil projects
BAGHDAD, 14 June—US-funded projects to repair Iraq oil industry have run into severe delays, damaging efforts to raise needed funds to pay for postwar reconstruction, according to an internal Oil Ministry report.

So many acronyms are little time. Take the pain out of managing your music, movies, and photos.
The report, seen by Reuters, shows that work has begun on only 119 out of 226 post-war projects, most of which were awarded to US oil giant Halliburton or its subsidiaries.

No project has been finished and only half the work has been completed in 94 of those under way, the recently prepared report says.

A senior industry insider said many of the problems were not security-related, although violence in Iraq has aggravated them. “These projects were due to be completed between July last year and April,” he said.

Halliburton officials in Baghdad and Kuwait were not available for comment.

Iraq’s oil sector was in poor shape after last year’s US-led invasion because of post-war looting, combined with the effects of more than 12 years of UN sanctions and damage suffered in three wars in a quarter of a century.

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US unit reported mistreatment of detainees at Abu Ghraib

New York, 15 June — Internal US military documents show an interrogation unit reported mistreatment of detainees at Abu Ghraib Prison in November 2003, two months before military officials have said they learned of prisoner abuses, The New York Times reported on Monday.

The newspaper, citing interviews with military personnel who worked in the prison, said the abuse allegations included one of several unidentified military intelligence military soldiers interviewed in Germany and the United States as saying.

At least 20 accounts of mistreatment were included in the documents, the newspaper cited military personnel as saying.

Some detainees described abuse at other detention facilities before they were transferred to Abu Ghraib, but at least seven incidents said to be in the documents took place at the prison, the newspaper reported.

The abuse allegations were cited by members of the prison’s Detainee Assessment Branch, an interrogation unit, in routine weekly reports to military judge advocates and others, the Times said.

The unit’s reports were to be sent for final approval to a three-member board that included Brigadier-General Janis Karpinski, who was in charge of US-run prisons in Iraq during the abuse, and Major-General Barbara Fast, the top Army intelligence officer in Iraq, the newspaper said.

Military officials in Baghdad acknowledged on Sunday that lawyers on a magistrate board reviewed the reports, but they could not confirm Karpinski and Fast had seen them, or whether any action had been taken to investigate the incidents, the Times said. — MNA/Reuters

China to intensify public security work

Beijing, 14 June — A Chinese senior leader recently highlighted the importance of public security, saying a harmonious and stable social environment is essential to the country’s reforms and economic development.

Luo Gan, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made the remark at a national conference on coordinated measures for maintaining law and order, which was held in Hangzhou, the capital city of east China’s Zhejiang Province, from Friday to Saturday.

He urged local public security departments to send officials down to the grassroots to help solve problems when they are just brewing.

MNA/Xinhua

Kerry calls on Bush to reverse stem cell policy

PITTSBURGH, 14 June — After a week of political silence to honour Ronald Reagan, Democratic presidential hopeful John Kerry called on Saturday for a White House policy change to allow more research into Alzheimer’s, the brain-wasting disease that afflicted the former president.

The Senator from Massachusetts joined a growing chorus, including the voice of Reagan’s widow, Nancy, in urging President George W. Bush to reverse restrictions on embryonic stem cell research that could help combat Alzheimer’s.

“We must lift the barriers that stand in the way of science and push the boundaries of medical exploration so that researchers can find the cures that are there, if only they are allowed to look,” Kerry said in the Democrats’ weekly radio address.

Bush has placed limits on stem cell research and opposes using stem cells from most embryos.

Embryonic stem cells have the ability to produce cells that make any kind of tissue at all, and the hope is to train them to produce tissues and organs on demand.

But their origin is controversial, to some people because they are taken from tiny embryos left over from IVF or test tube fertilization attempts. They can also be made using cloning technology.

A White House spokesman said the President “continues to believe strongly that we should not cross a fundamental moral line by funding or encouraging the destruction of human embryos.”

Ending a self-imposed campaign hiatus that began with Reagan’s death last Saturday, Kerry said: “We must look to the future not with fear, but with the hope and the faith that advances in medicine will advance our best values.”

The presidential campaign would overturn the ban on federal funding of research on new stem cell lines and allow the exploration of their full potential with ethical oversight.

MNA/Reuters

New Zealand troops under fire in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 15 June — At least two British soldiers suffered minor injuries and a New Zealand supply hut was damaged in the early morning attack (about midday New Zealand time yesterday). The mortar attack was targeted at a military base housing 61 New Zealanders in Basra.

The New Zealand Defence Force confirmed on Monday that heavily fortified FOB (forward operating bases) were targeted in the operation.

No New Zealanders were hurt. A spokesman for Defence Minister Mark Burton said the deployment remained under constant review but that it had been given to withdrawing the troops.

Commander Sandy McKee of the Defence Ministry said contact with the base was difficult and few details were available.

A portable cabin used by the New Zealanders had been damaged.

Heavy fire was a fact of life in the war-torn region: “It is a high-risk area. Our people are aware of that.”

It was the first mortar attack on the base. In April the base went into “lockdown” after a series of simultaneous mortar attacks in Basra, killing at least 40 people.

Troops were confined to base during Easter, when Iraqi militants seized a number of foreign hostages and violence intensified against coalition forces. They are due home in September.

Internet

Anti-American sentiment grows among Kurds in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 14 June — In the days since the UN Security Council passed a resolution governing the restoration of Iraqi sovereignty that has no overt mention of Kurdish concerns, something has been brewing in the streets here that was unheard of just a few weeks ago: Anti-American sentiment.

While the Kurds note that they are forever indebted to the US for establishing a no-fly zone in 1991, they also say that the Americans have neglected them.

“We have been betrayed by the Americans,” said San Karim Mohammed, 32, a law student. “If America doesn’t solve these problems now, I don’t know how we are going to make any progress in the future. The Shia are going to turn Iraq into an Islamist state like Iran.”

Iraqi Kurds proudly point out that their army, the peshmerga, fought with the Americans and helped establish a northern front when coalition forces invaded Iraq last year. They also point out that they have long suffered from being refused nationhood by the British in the 1920s to seeing thousands killed by chemical weapons at Halabja.

“We have such a long history of suffering and waiting,” said Ihsam Hassen, 40, a history teacher. “That is what makes this UN resolution so difficult to deal with.”

Internet

Malaysian minister says Asean to create regional companies

KUALA LUMPUR, 14 June — Asean is discussing the possibility of creating regional companies as part of the strategy for integration, Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz has said.

The possibility was expected to be realized at the Summit of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) in Laos in November, she told reporters after launching her ministry’s Family Day here on Sunday.

Asean, now grouping 10 countries in the region, was set up in 1967 to boost regional cooperation.

The objective of creating regional entities was to enable Asean companies to compete with others at the international level, she said, while calling on big companies in the region to merge with each other into regional entities.

She said there were 11 major sectors that could be developed by regional entities, including the wood, automotive, textile, electronic and cosmetic sectors.

MNA/Xinhua

Malaysian minister says Asean to create regional companies
Blair loses again at polls as eurosceptics rise

London, 14 June — Prime Minister Tony Blair suffered further electoral trauma on Monday, losing to his Conservative opponents at European polls as support surged for a fringe party that demands Britain withdraw from the EU.

With results for 68 of Britain’s 78 seats in the European Parliament declared, the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) had snatched 12, capitalizing on the British public’s traditionally eurosceptic views.

The Conservatives won 25 seats and Blair’s Labour Party a palette 17 — another damaging result for the prime minister, who has already admitted his decision to wage war in Iraq has taken a heavy electoral toll.

Britons voted on Thursday in the first day of a four-day 25-nation poll that ended on Sunday. The remaining 10 seats, for Northern Ireland and Scotland, will be announced later on Monday.

“The results look as though they are going to be very disappointing, not just for us but for all the main political parties,” Blair’s Trade Secretary, Patricia Hewitt, told BBC television. She cited Iraq as a major factor. In local government election voting on Thursday, held at the same time as the European polls, Blair received a drubbing.

In terms of share of the vote, Labour was pushed into third place by the Liberal Democrats — an unprecedented reverse for a governing party in Britain. Blair has already called on his fellow Londoners to hold their nerve as some disaffected Labour voters of a by-election stand aside, something he has resolutely refused to do.

Analysts say taken as a whole, this week’s elections sound a serious warning to Blair that he cannot take a third general election victory for granted. A vote is expected next year.

But the Conservatives have also failed to show they can overturn Blair’s massive majority in Parliament. “Although this is a bad night for the Labour Party, no question about that, that is not being mirrored by a very good night for the Conservative Party,” said Anthony King, professor of government at Essex University. “UKIP is making inroads and it is making inroads mainly into the Conservative vote.”

“Unfortunately the tough stands [Bush] has taken have made us less secure. He has negated the war on terrorism for the war in Iraq. And while we agree that we are in unprecedented times and we face challenges we didn’t even know about before, these challenges require the cooperation of other countries. We cannot do it by ourselves,” the statement says.

Those signing the document include 20 former US ambassadors, appointed by presidents of both parties, to countries including Israel, the former Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia.

Others are senior State Department officials from the Carter, Reagan and Clinton administrations and former military leaders, including Joseph Hour, the former commander of US forces in the Middle East under President Bush’s father.

It is unusual for so many former high-level US military officials and career diplomats to issue such an overtly political message during a presidential campaign.

But one senior Republican strategist familiar with White House thinking said he did not think the group was sufficiently well-known to create significant political problems for the president.

The strategist also said the signatories were making an argument growing increasingly obsolete as Bush leant more on the international community for help in Iraq. (MNA/Reuters)

Ex-US diplomats say Bush should be defeated in elections

Los Angeles, 14 June — A group of 26 former US diplomats and military leaders, upset by US President George Bush’s foreign policy, have signed a statement saying that Bush should be defeated in November presidential elections, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

The signatories, several of whom appointed key positions by Republican presidents Ronald Reagan and George HW Bush, plan to issue a joint statement Wednesday arguing that President Bush has damaged America’s national security and should be defeated in November, the report said.

The group, which calls itself Diplomats and Military Commanders for Change, will explicitly condemn Bush’s foreign policy, according to William Harrop, the ambassador to Israel under President Bush’s father and one of the group’s principal organizers.

Bush’s policy has weakened American security by strangling traditional alliances and shifting resources from the war against al-Qaeda to the invasion of Iraq, the statement will declare.

“We have now authorized voluntary departure of non-essential staff and dependents from our missions,” he said.

Saudi militants have carried out six attacks on Westerners in the country in six weeks, sending shockwaves through the expatriate community in the world’s largest oil exporter and prompting fears of mass exodus.

The spokesman stressed that travel advice on Saudi Arabia was under constant review and said Sunday’s announcement was not due to any particular event. (MNA/Xinhua)

Britain allows some embassy staff to leave Saudi Arabia

London, 14 June — Britain’s Foreign Office said on Sunday it had authorized non-essential staff at the British Embassy in Saudi Arabia and their relatives to leave the country if they wish.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the overall travel advice on the kingdom remained that “all but essential travel to Saudi Arabia” should be avoided.

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A crowd of Iraqis carry an injured man from a damaged building after a car bomb exploded in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 14 June, 2004. A car bomb tore through a convoy Monday in central Baghdad, killing at least 12 people, including three foreigners working to rebuild Iraq’s power plants. — INTERNET

U.S. NAVY BASE (Guantanamo Bay, Cuba), 14 June — Officers at the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay have turned over to US officials videotape showing guards subduing prisoners and forcibly moving them from cells, senior officials said.

The tapes are expected to be released in a few weeks to Pentagon and congressional investigators examining abuses of prisoners by US troops, and many will likely be made public, the officials told journalists visiting the base in the past week.

Most of the almost 600 prisoners at the base in Cuba were captured in late 2001 during the US-led war in Afghanistan; most have not been charged with a crime.

The United States five-member teams of guards subduing prisoners who break cama were designed to avoid bodily waste at guards or refuse to leave their cells when or- dered to, said Colonel Nelson Cannon, who serves as the prison warden.

They document 500 to 600 instances where the teams, called the Immediate Response Forces or IRFs, were called in to move or restrain prisoners, Cannon said.

“Forty-five per cent of IRFs are ones who don’t want to go interrogations,” Can-

non said. “Sometimes you’ve got to carry them all the way.”

Some prisoners released from Guantanamo said detainees were beaten during that process and some suf-

fered broken limbs. Guantanamo officials denied that and said they were con-

fident the tapes would show the guards do not rough up the prisoners. They con-

firmed former prisoner re-

ports that pepperspray was sometimes used.

The treatment of the pris-

oners at Guantanamo has come under scrutiny since the abuse of prisoners in Iraq by US troops was revealed in April, when pictures emerged of bound prisoners being humiliated and threat-

ened by dogs.

“Given events around the world and the great interest in how the detention and in-

telligence-gathering mission is being conducted, nearly every aspect of our opera-

tion here has been reviewed by one group or another,” said Brigadier-General Jay Hood, who commands the task force running the prison. “I have no concerns about providing those [tapes],” he said.

The unnamed IRF team members wear padded suits like police SWAT teams and each of four guards on one prisoner’s arms and legs. The fifth handcuffs and shackles the prisoner, base officials said.

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The strategist also said the signatories were making an argument growing increas-

ingly obsolete as Bush leant more on the international community for help in Iraq.

(MNA/Reuters)

Iraqis burn an American flag at the scene of a car bomb in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 14 June, 2004. — INTERNET

The signatories, several of whom appointed key positions by Republican presi-
dents Ronald Reagan and George HW Bush, plan to issue a joint statement Wednesday arguing that President Bush has damaged America’s national security and should be defeated in November, the report said.

The group, which calls itself Diplomats and Military Commanders for Change, will explicitly condemn Bush’s foreign policy, according to William Harrop, the ambassador to Israel under President Bush’s father and one of the group’s principal organizers.

Bush’s policy has weakened American security by strangling traditional alliances and shifting resources from the war against al-Qaeda to the invasion of Iraq, the state-

ment will declare.

“Unfortunately the tough stands [Bush] has taken have made us less secure. He has negated the war on terrorism for the war in Iraq. And while we agree that we are in unprecedented times and we face challenges we didn’t even know about before, these challenges require the cooperation of other countries. We cannot do it by ourselves,” the statement says.

Those signing the document include 20 former US ambassadors, appointed by presi-
dents of both parties, to countries including Israel, the former Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia.

Others are senior State Department officials from the Carter, Reagan and Clinton administra-
tions and former military leaders, including Joseph Hour, the former command-
er of US forces in the Middle East under President Bush’s father.

It is unusual for so many former high-

level US military officials and career diplo-

mats to issue such an overtly political mes-

sage during a presidential campaign.

But one senior Republican strategist fa-
miliar with White House thinking said he did not think the group was sufficiently well-known to create significant political problems for the president.

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ingly obsolete as Bush leant more on the international community for help in Iraq.

(MNA/Reuters)
Iraqis survey the scene of destruction after a car bomb explosion in the centre of Baghdad on 14 June, 2004.

Smoke billows from the scene of a car bomb in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 14 June, 2004.

A car bomb killed at least 12 people, including five foreigners, and wounded 50 other people in a busy Baghdad street on 14 June, 2004.

Iraqis rush to the scene of a car bomb attack in the centre of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on 14 June, 2004.

An Iraqi boy who was injured in a car bomb explosion outside the US military camp in Baghdad on 13 June, 2004, seen receiving treatment in a Baghdad hospital.

Images of Iraq

Iraqi rescuers approach a destroyed building after a bomb attack in the centre of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad on 14 June, 2004.

An injured man is examined at Al-Kindi Hospital, after a car bomb exploded in central Baghdad, Iraq, on 14 June, 2004.
New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

Rural houses are being built for the convenience of the village people living in Moguang village, Aunglan Township in Magway Division. —PPLANEDA

Part of Mongpan-Kengtawng Road in Shan State, which was constructed for border area development. —MYANMA ALIN

An affiliated high school in Pinya Model Village in Kyauktalone region. —MYANMA ALIN

New roads are being built in rural areas for better transportation. The photo shows gravelling of roads in Thonekhwakyun village, Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Division. —PPLANEDA

Township Development Affairs Committee is sinking a tubewell to supply potable water to rural people living in Paukkon village, Moenyo Township, Bago Division. —PPLANEDA

Border and rural area developments

Lweliyan Bridge on Namti-Tanai Road in Moguang Township, Kachin State. —MSA
Prime Minister attends "Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presses the button to unveil the stone inscription of the new building of Magyeesauk Village Basic Education High School (Branch) in Ayadaw Township, Sagaing Division, on 13-6-2004. — MNA"

from page 1

U Kyaw Nyunt-Daw San, U Thaung Sein-Daw Kyi Aye, U Tin Cho-Daw Su, U Nyunt Way-Daw Pyon; U Kyaw Myo Lwin; and U Aung Pyo-Daw Nyunt Tin totalling K 1.3 million for the trust funds of the school.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Tha Aye accepted K 500,000 by U Thein Huak-Daw Paw Kyi and family of Mandalay and the local leaders for the land and buildings. Deputy Chief Justice U Khin Maung Latt accepted K 500,000 by Daw Taw of Mandalay for the trust funds of the school.

Next, Deputy Minister U Mio Nyunt accepted K 100,000 by Dr Aung Kyaw Myint and Daw Peck; K 100,000 by U Win Myint Thein-Daw Aye Sandra Win; K 50,000 by U Tin Lwin; K 20,000 by U Tin Ngwe and K 30,000 by U Myo Thein-Daw Pyin.

The IDP camps and villages are important for development of the township. So, the five rural development tasks are to be carried out effectively. Respectively, the ministry and affairs committees are responsible not only for development tasks but for rural water supply and upgrading of rural roads. In conclusion, the Prime Minister called on those in charge of townships to make collective efforts for development of the entire township.

The Prime Minister presented a TV set, a video cassette player and a computer set to the computer set of Mu river.

Next, Director General of Water Resources Utilization Department U Win Shwe reported on Mu river water pumping project site.

At the briefing hall, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported on current of Mu river after construction of Thaphanekse Dam in Sagaing Division and implementation of Ayadaw-1, Ayadaw-2 and Ayadaw-3 river water pumping stations based on water volume of Mu river.

The General held a meeting with local authorities, departmental officials, members of social organizations and locals.

On arrival at Ayadaw People’s Hospital, the General looked into the wards, operation theatre and X-ray room, and thanked the staff. U Nu Gyi, Head of the school. The Prime Minister and party proceeded to Ayadaw-2 river water pumping project, construction of main canal and distributaries, cultivation of 200 acres of summer paddy and arrangements being made for cultivation of 1,000 acres of monsoon paddy, implementation of Ayadaw-3 river water pumping project and potential benefits for Ayadaw region upon completion of Ayadaw-1, Ayadaw-2 and Ayadaw-3 river water pumping stations.

The Prime Minister called on those in charge of townships to make collective efforts for reconstruction of the Shwebon Yadana Mingala Palace of King Alaungpaya who built Yadana Theinga Palace, in Shwebo. Deputy Director-General of the Archaeology Department U Aung Kyaw and Engineer In Charge of Public Works U Zaw Win reported on work progress, and rebuilding tasks. The Prime Minister gave instructions on keeping the already-rebuilt buildings by respective ministries and adopted future tasks.

The Prime Minister and party paid obeisance to Nan Thaung, principal. The Prime Minister and party went to the project sette player and a computer set to the school through the principal. The Prime Minister and party went to the project sette player and a computer set to the school through the principal.

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The Prime Minister, the Secretary-1 and party went to Shwebo People’s Hospital where they were welcomed by Medical Superintendent Dr Mya Thein, specialists and doctors. They inspected wards, operation theatre and X-ray room. The Prime Minister gave instructions on renovation of the hospital.

The Prime Minister met members of District and Township Peace and Development Council departmental officials, social organizations and townsmen at Yangyiaung Hall in Shwebo.

Chairman of Shwebo District Peace and Development Council Li-Co Win Naing reported on location and area, set-up of wards and village-tracts, households and population, cultivation and yield of summer paddy for 2003-2004, harvesting of paddy, cultivation of ten major crops, targeted development for monsoon paddy and crops, targeted development for cultivation, local rice sufficiency, measures undertaken for education and health and requirements. The Prime Minister inspected the campus, and the hospital. In his tour of Magyeesauk village water pumping project in Ayadaw Township on 10 September 2002.

The General fulfilled the requirements, saying that it be taken out to tasks with the concept that health care services are to be provided instantly for the people.

With respect to the township’s economy, the region is mainly engaged in agriculture, but up to now, the crops produced mainly engaged in agriculture, but up to now, the crops can provide instantly for the people.

The government has implemented Ayadaw water pumping project Nos 1, 2 and 3 for promotion of the region’s agricultural sector. On completion, the projects will be able to expand over 70,000 acres of arable land.

Measures are to be taken for boosting agricultural production and rural development through harmonious and minister’s efforts in charge of township GADs, agricultural staff and farmers. Development of rural regions is important for development of a township. So, the five rural development tasks are to be carried out effectively. Respectively, the ministry and affairs committees are responsible not only for development tasks but for rural water supply and upgrading of rural roads. In conclusion, the Prime Minister called on those in charge of townships to make collective efforts for development of the entire township.

Prime Minister attended to the needs, saying that the State has already used a large amount of finance to implement necessary tasks in Sagaing Division. More schools have been opened and the existing ones upgraded, and their numbers increased. Understanding the State’s goodwill efforts for the uplift of the living standard and development of the socio-economy of the people, township level officials should give priority to rural development tasks. They should try to understand the needs of the rural people. Towns will develop, only when there is progress in the rural areas. Collective efforts are needed for development of the township and promoting the living standard of local people. In YeU, the Prime Minister met with local authorities, departmental personnel, social organizations and local elders. Officials concerned presented reports on the town’s ongoing projects and achievements. At the township, road and bridge construction and repair works, crop cultivation including summer paddy, crop yield, agricultural plans, food production, forest conservation, transmigration and education of the township. The Prime Minister presented a TV, a video player and a computer for the Shwebo Township Basic Education High School.

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Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects road sections and bridges on An-Sittway road

Yangon, 15 June — State Peace and Development Council member Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence during his inspection tour of Minbya Township of Rakhine State, accompanied by Col Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station and officials, arrived at Ramong Bridge construction project site on 11 June morning. Officials concerned reported him on progress of work in section (2) of An-Sittway Road (Yawchaung-Maungbwe road section) construction.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions. The road section (2) of An-Sittway road will be 46 miles 4 furlongs long between Myaybon and Minbya townships.

Along the road, 48 wooden bridges are scheduled to be turned into concrete ones. So far 7 bridges have been turned into concrete ones. Thirteen wooden bridges out of the rest will be built into concrete ones at the end of this rainy season. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected the Ramong Bridge and left necessary instructions. The Ramong bridge is 1,300 feet long and was opened in 1999.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party proceeded by car to Maungchaung Hill and inspected Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo and officials, arrived at Kyett Creek Dam near Kanni village of Minbya Township.

The dam is located four miles from Kanni village with watershed area of 0.3 square mile. The earthen dam is 38 feet high and 420 feet long. It can store 20 million gallons of water.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the regional battalion of Kya-in Hill and met with Tainadaw officers, other ranks and families. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the renovation of a new school of the village. Local authorities reported matters relating to the village.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, together with Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Chairman Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo and officials, arrived at Kyett Creek Dam near Kanni village of Minbya Township.

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Emerging Infectious Diseases: a threat of global health

Once many people believed the age-old battle of humans against infectious disease was virtually over, with humankind the winners. The events of the past two decades have shown the fool-hardiness of that position. At least a dozen "new" diseases have been identified (such as AIDS, Legionnaire disease, and hantavirus pulmonary syndrome), and traditional diseases that appeared to be "on their way out" (such as malaria and tuberculosis) are resurgent. Globalization is maintaining the leading threat of disease and death, and they are the major cause of death in Myanmar. Clearly, the battle has not been won and infectious diseases have already posed, is posing and will continue to pose a public health threat to the humankind.

There is no simple definition of an emerging infectious disease. In general, it can be a completely new disease or an old disease in a new location, from a new host, or with new presentations; or is newly resistant to available treatments. Emerging infectious diseases can be defined as diseases that (1) have not occurred in humans and newly appeared in a population (this type of emergence is difficult to establish and is rare); (2) have occurred previously but affected only small numbers of people in isolated places (AIDS and Ebola hemorrhagic fever are examples); or (3) have occurred throughout human history but have only recently been recognized as distinct diseases due to an infectious agent (lyme disease and gastric ulcers are examples). One reason these diseases are difficult to identify is that once were major health problems globally or in a particular country, and then declined dramatically, but are again becoming health problems for a significant proportion of the population in Southeast Asia and Europe (new examples). Many specialists in infectious diseases include re-emerging diseases as a subcategory of emerging diseases.

Among recent examples of emerging infectious diseases are HIV/AIDS, hantavirus pulmonary syndrome, Ebola hemorrhagic fever, Lyme disease, hepatitis C, Australian bat lyssavirus, haemolytic streptococcal infections (Escherichia coli 0157:H7 infection), Vibrio cholerae 0139, Helicobacter pylori, Hendra and Nipah virus infections, prion diseases, hand, foot and mouth disease (enterovirus 71), Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-covirus) and avian influenza. Among recent examples of re- emerging infectious diseases are malaria, tuberculosis, measles, schistosomiasis and yellow fever. Factors responsible for re-emergence of infectious diseases can be broadly categorized as follow: (1) Demographic factors; (2) Breakdown in public health measures; (3) Ecological and environmental changes; (4) Commercial or industrial activities; (5) Changes and adaptation in host and viral genetic characteristics and (6) Host susceptibility to emerging pathogens. These factors can be grouped conventionally in terms of agent, host and environmental factors with the categories 1 to 4 being environmental factors.

Most emerging diseases are caused by changes in "microbial traffic" that is, the introduction of existing pathogens to new places or from new host species or from new species or with new presentations; or is newly resistant to available treatments. The direct influence of demographic factors is obvious for those diseases that are primarily transmitted from person to person. The prevalence of these diseases may actually decrease in populations of older age, while younger age populations of either sex will be more severely affected.

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Myanmar saw a total of 56 malaria outbreaks in the decade of 1991-2000 with the population migration being the most important factor of those outbreaks. Transmission of malarial parasites from people residing at the borders with Thailand can be attributed to population movements between Myanmar and neighbouring countries.

Globalization and some of demographic pressures, the breakdown or failure of standard sanitation and public health practices can lead to the emergence of disease. Most cases of cholera outbreaks in Myanmar occurred as result of contaminated water and food. Another good example showing the seminal role of public measures like epidemic preparedness and response is SARS which spread rapidly in some Asian countries in recent years because its epidemic potential was not realized in initial stage and necessary responses were not initiated promptly.

Natural environmental events, such as weather changes, influence disease transmission. Such events can especially affect a class of disease referred to as 'vector-borne' diseases in which a part of the life cycle of the infectious agent is typically carried out in an arthropod (e.g., mosquitoes and ticks) or mollusk, such as freshwater snails. The role of the vector is to amplify and transmit the pathogen to the human and the vector. Likewise, environmental changes can significantly affect "zoonoses" - communicable diseases of animals that may be transmitted to man. An example is river blindness (onchocerciasis) affecting any people in the segment of the natural cycle might lead to the emergence or reemergence of infectious diseases.

The construction of homes and other projects, with consequent alteration of water distribution patterns, often results in changes to mosquito vector populations. Over 30 years ago, there were some instances of malaria outbreaks due to construction of a new dam in central Myanmar. Such consequences can be prevented by early and continuous collaboration between development agencies and health sector.

Deforestation and land use associated with the development of new communities also have directly influenced disease emergence. As settlers in developing countries erect new villages and agricultural developments under conditions of crowding, they expose themselves to the vectors and hosts of emerging viral, parasitic, and bacterial agents. Some 10 years ago, some residents from and rural regions of Central Myanmar moved to and established new settlements in north western part of Myanmar where they contracted malaria with some fatalities. Likewise, the extension of gold mining activities into the jungles in the north western part of Myanmar along Chindwin and Ayeyarwady basins contributed to the increase in malaria among the gold miners.

For centuries, the history of disease has documented how changing commercial practices, such as increased international trade, can lead to introduction of a pathogen to new populations or to expansion of the range of vectors, and thus result in the appearance of a new disease in an area. The spread of smallpox and yellow fever by early sailing ships is a well-known example. Recent spread of SARS is a notable example of cross-country rapid transmission of infections as a result of improved international travel.

In addition, commercial changes may indirectly alter the environment in such a way as to influence disease emergence. Commercial refuse (e.g., tires and disposable needle containers) and international travel.

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The reemergence of diseases that had previously been controlled by antibiotics and other drugs may occur in response to selective pressure from overuse of those drugs. The development of resistance is influenced by several factors, including inappropriate use and prescribing practices, increasing human mobility, and amplification of resistance by person to person and common source transmission in crowded settings such as hospitals or institutions. Health professionals of Myanmar are concerned that some antibiotics in Essential Drugs may become less effective because of irrational prescribing practices, occurrence of infections caused by drug-resistant strains, and inappropriate and inappropriate use of antibiotics by some patients.

Worldwide hospital are faced with an ever-increasing number of infections caused by multidrug-resistant microorganisms. Strains of Staphylococcus aureus resistant to methicillin and other antibiotics are endemic in hospitals. This scenario is no exception for hospitals in Myanmar.

The widespread availability of a relatively inexpensive drug has contributed to the emergence of chloroquine resistant malaria in most parts of the world. The global situation for treatment and prophylaxis of the standard and drug-resistant type of malaria, caused by Plasmodium falciparum, is desperate in malaria-endemic areas like Myanmar. The widespread emergence of chloroquine resistance has rendered these drugs useless for prophylaxis in some regions of the world. According to WHO, by 1994 the only malaria endemic countries that did not report some level of resistance to chloroquine were in Central America, the Caribbean, and the Indian subcontinent. The situation for treatment and prophylaxis of the most severely affected countries (e.g., Indonesia, India, and third generation antimalarial drugs and reduced efficacy of quinine.

Failure to complete a lengthy treatment regimen, combined with the immunosuppression associated with the developing HIV epidemic, led to the emergence of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB). Outbreaks of MDR-TB have occurred at sites in the United States. These drug resistant strains are as contagious as those that cause drug susceptible TB. MDR-TB is more difficult and vastly more expensive to treat, and patients may remain infectious longer due to inadequate treatment.

Microbes may suddenly emerge as disease threats by altering the host's natural ability to mount an effective immune response. From the perspective of the host, the infection results in changes to microbial infectivity and virulence. The result is that the host is rendered more susceptible to disease.

Humyn immunity is suppressed by diseases like HIV like HLV infection and chronic use of such drugs as steroids for management of arthritis and other chronic disease. The introduction of transplanted organs and antacancer drugs. Such immunocompromised individuals are particularly susceptible to "opportunistic" pathogens. Such opportunists include normal host bacteria from the skin and intestinal tract and fungi such as Candida, Aspergillus, and Cryptococcus.

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Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than meets officials, townswelders in An

Yangon, 15 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence met officers and other ranks and their families from An Station at An Yoma Hall on 12 June morning. Present on the occasion were Rakhal State PDC Chairman, Western Command Commander Maj-Gen Maung Oo and officials. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave instructions on measures to be taken by officials for fulfillment of education, social, health and welfare needs, boosting family incomes and raising of livestock on a manageable scale. He next cordially greeted those present.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and the commander viewed around An by car and went to An Township PDC office where they met with departmental staff, members of social organizations and townswelders. The township PDC chairman reported on township education, social, health and economy issues, monsoon paddy cultivation and distribution of paddy strains. In his speech, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said the State is striving for balanced development of the whole country by establishing 24 development regions, border areas development programs and five rural development tasks. In Rakhine State also, measures are being taken to ensure the equitable development in not only urban but also rural areas. Universities, colleges, basic education schools, hospitals, dispensaries and health care centres are also being opened. And, one 100-bed hospital will be opened soon, he said. For the better transport, it has been arranged for An-Maei-Taungup Road to become the all-weather one. Plans are under way to implement Agricultural and livestock breeding tasks. It is needed to cultivate regional crops and extend winter paddy, besides summer paddy. Altogether 1 million acres of land will be put under monsoon paddy in Rakhine State. Locals are to extend the cultivation of pepper and Thitsein and the breeding of livestock especially local chickens. Thus, incomes of the local people will rise. As An is the very central township, it is required for officials and townswelders to cooperate in making the township possess characteristics of a city.

Then, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party went to the 100-bed hospital construction site and gave necessary instructions to officials. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the by-pass of An by car and Mibhu-Maei-Swittawgyi Junction. He next looked into paving of gravel road at mile post No 1.00 on An-Padekyaw-Maei Road. Engineers of Public Works reported on construction works. After inspecting the extension of road at mile post No 6/6 and earth works at mile post No 7/4, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than fulfilled the needs.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party drove to the site of Han Creek Bridge where officials reported on construction tasks. The bridge will be 100 feet long. At mile post No 12/5, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspected the road with use of heavy machinery. Then, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected earthworks on top of Awezay Mountain between mile posts No 19/2 and 20/0. On arrival at Tattaung-Maei-An junction, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than instructed officials to extend the road up to 40 feet. Then, he inspected extension of An-Padekyaw-Maei road at mile post No 23/o and attended to the needs. The road will be serviceable all weather. They proceeded to the briefing hall of Yangon-Kyaikkyu Project (Maei-Minkyaung section) where officials reported on progress in construction tasks. Then, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than left necessary instructions.

GAD opens instructor course

Yangon, 15 June — General Administration Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs this morning opened the instructor course No 3 at the training school of the department here with an opening address by Home Affairs Minister Col Tin Hlaing.

It was also attended by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, the directors-general of the unit and departments under the ministry, responsible officials and trainees.

In his address, Col Tin Hlaing said training courses under the GAD are being conducted for the staff to realize administration and management with firm belief and concepts. The trainees are to conduct multiplier courses in respective States and Divisions where they are assigned duties to turn out qualified and skilled administrative and technical staff. It being the information technology age, the trainees are to make attempts to know well how to apply modern technologies so as to enable the staff of multiplier courses to be equipped with knowledge and invaluable experiences. In conclusion, the minister urged the trainees to make efforts in discharging duties in order to become reliable administrators and organizers. A total of 73 trainees are attending the six-week course.

National Convention delegate groups’ meetings continue

Yangon, 15 June — The delegates group of chairman re-presentatives-elect and proposed papers compilation group to National Convention held coordination meeting and the designated group of intellectuals and intelligentsia read out their proposals to be submitted to the preparatory meeting of the National Convention this morning at designated halls of Nyaungshin Camp in Yangon Township.

Delegates group of representatives-elect weighs the proposals to be submitted to the preparatory meeting of the National Convention.

Delegates group of intellectuals and intelligentsia weighs the proposals to be submitted to the preparatory meeting of the National Convention. — MNA

Nyaungshin Camp — victory venue

* At Nyaungshin Camp, victory venue
Success is to be made as envisioned
Papers are being compiled.
* For its our Union, our cause
We brethren, with our thoughts
Are deep in decision-making.
* No matter who else may say what
No matter what policies be voiced
Our decision is the main
Interferers move out of our way
* Because those who criticize will be left afar
The success of the Constitution
Let’s move toward it, Union citizens.

Nyaungshin Camp opens

Nyaungshin Camp held an opening ceremony with full civil and military honours surrounded by a military band and a military choir.

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Tekkatho Tin Kha (Tsr)

The meeting of delegates group of intellectuals and intelligentsia in progress. — MNA
Peru, Thailand set sights on year-end FTA deal

BANGKOK, 14 June — Thailand is set to sign a free trade area (FTA) agreement with Peru at the end of the year, designed to boost trade between the two regions, Thai Trade Representative Kantathir Suphamongkhon revealed.

Kantathir, who completed a second round of negotiations with the Peruvian Government on Friday, was quoted by the Thai News Agency as saying Sunday that negotiations were expected to be finalized between mid-November when the Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra will pay an official visit to Peru - and December.

While conceding that trade between Thailand and Peru was relatively low, he expressed hope that the FTA deal would help give bilateral trade a boost.

Peru currently imports around 60 million US dollars worth of goods from Thailand each year, the bulk of these products being machinery and capital goods.

The deal is likely to be the first such free trade agreement signed between Peru and an Asian country, and between Thailand and a Latin American country, the agency said.

UAE launches bond to finance airport expansion projects

ABU DHABI, 14 June — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has launched a 750 million US dollars Islamic Sukuk bond to finance airport expansion projects, the Gulf News reported Sunday.

The Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) in Dubai has awarded the world’s largest Islamic finance package to Dubai Islamic Bank (DIB) to raise funds for the 4.1 billion dollars Phase II of the expansion of the Dubai International Airport.

DIB has been appointed as lead manager, arranger and bookrunner for the Islamic Sukuk which will have a five-year maturity and is planned to be listed and traded at the Dubai Financial Market (DFM).

The DCA has been considering several funding options for Phase II and decided to work with DIB because of its expertise in Islamic finance and ability to work closely with local, national and international banks.

DCA is committed to finance the project from external sources and repay it from income generated by the airport operation.

This was the first time an Islamic bank has been given the sole mandate to act as lead manager, arranger and bookrunner for a global Sukuk for DCA, an official source was quoted as saying.

There are many planned projects in UAE and it is hoped that this issue will encourage similar ones and help expand the pool of interested investors.

In recent times Sukuk has been one of the most innovative forms of Islamic financial instruments that are acceptable to both conventional and Islamic investors, in the global capital market.

The DCA’s decision to issue Sukuk should encourage further international deals to be developed in the global Islamic capital market.

The total Sukuk market stands at 3.5 billion US dollars to date including DCA’s latest announcement.

Car accident kills 6 in Thailand

BANGKOK, 14 June — Six people were killed Sunday in an accident in Thailand’s central Nonthaburi Province, local newspaper Nation reported here on Monday.

A speeding truck carrying six people crashed into a 10-wheeled lorry parked on Talat-Chan-Suburg Road in Bang Yai district of the province, and all of them were killed, said police.

The driver of the truck, identified as Alongkorn Pumarin, 24, was found to have just watched the live broadcast of the Euro match between Russia and Spain, which ended on early Sunday, according to the police.

They also suspected the driver fell asleep at the wheel since he appeared to have only a little sleep before the group started.

Meanwhile, a 44-year-old male died of breathing problems after he was hit by the Portugal-Greece opening match.

BPS says jobs in Indonesia’s key sectors drop

JAKARTA, 14 June — The number of jobs in Indonesia’s key industries such as manufacturing, construction and trade has contracted significantly as an unfavourable labour environment has prompted companies to hire fewer workers and cancel investment plans, showed the latest government labour data.

The 2003 National Labour Force Survey (Sakernas) report published by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) also suggested that more women quit their jobs, particularly due to retrenchment costs.

The Jakarta Post quoted the report on Monday that the number of jobs in the manufacturing sector shrank by 9.76 per cent to 10.93 million last year from 12.29 million in 2002.

The number of jobs in the construction and trade sectors (retail, hotel and restaurant), declined by 3.9 per cent and 5.34 per cent to 4.11 million and 16.84 million, respectively.

For many years the above sectors have been the main providers of jobs, particularly in the heavily populated island of Java.

According to the labour report, open unemployment in 2003 increased to 9.45 per cent from 9.37 per cent in 2002.

The numbers, however, said to be not so representative.

The number of jobs in the finance, insurance and real estate sector increased by 30.67 per cent to 1.3 million jobs. These, particularly banking, started to recover from the impact of the late 1990s economic crisis.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing sectors have grown by 1.5 million new jobs last year.

Another bizarre development, according to the report, is that the work force in a country of 218 million people declined to 49.3 million people from 90.95 per cent (9.13 million) the previous year.

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**Malaria kills 800 people in Zimbabwe this year**

Harare, 14 June — Malaria has claimed 800 lives in Zimbabwe since January this year, with almost half a million other people falling ill from it, according to the Sunday Mail newspaper.

A total of 39 deaths were reported last week, with Lupane and Gokwe North and South districts in western Zimbabwe being the worst affected.

The total number of deaths so far has risen by 74 compared to the number of deaths recorded during the same period last year and at least 450,504 cases of malaria were reported throughout the country and 13,489 of them occurred last week.

Minister of Health and Child Welfare David Parirenyatwa said the government would soon reintroduce the insecticide dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT) to kill malaria vectors in all malaria risk districts to control the outbreak.

**New Zealand to reduce passport validity**

Wellington, 15 June — New Zealand wants to cut the time its passports are valid from 10 years to five in a bid to stay ahead of counterfeiters, Internal Affairs Minister George Hawkins said Monday.

Passports would no longer be issued for 10 years under a newly proposed legislation because “counterfeiting techniques have become more and more sophisticated,” Hawkins said in a statement.

“The longer a passport has been in circulation, the greater the chance that its security features will become outdated and easily altered and duplicated,” Hawkins said.

In general, New Zealand passports are valid for 10 years from the date of issue, or five years if the holder is under 16 years of age.

The move follows Prime Minister Helen Clark’s announcement of a passport security review in the wake of the arrest of two Israeli men in April for allegedly trying to obtain a New Zealand passport by fraud.

The newly proposed legislation will also increase to five years from three years the standard period an immigrant must live in New Zealand to qualify for citizenship.

“This will ensure consistency with New Zealand’s immigration policy and provide a sufficient basis for assessments of applicants’ suitability for citizenship,” Hawkins said.

But the legislation would create the new offences of unlawfully issuing a citizenship document and unlawfully altering citizenship records.

These offences would carry a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment or a fine of 50,000 New Zealand dollars (about 31,000 US dollars), according to the minister.

The communication went without a glitch,” said a South Korean Defence Ministry spokesman.

He also reported successful use of flag signalling between the two navies at a point closer to the Northern Limit Line (NLL), the de facto maritime border between the two Koreas drawn up by the United Nations Command at the end of the Korean War.

The 1950-53 War ended in truce rather than a full peace treaty.

North Korea has never recognized the line as the border and has demanded a new one further to the south.

The line in the Yellow Sea runs through rich fishing grounds that have been the scene of naval gunfights in past years.

Senior military officers from the two Koreas agreed on June 4 on measures to prevent naval clashes and on stopping propaganda broadcasts along the land border.

High-speed patrol vessels from both sides sailed to about 10 nautical miles from the Northern Limit Line on either side to open communication at a frequency agreed to by working-level officers on Saturday, the ministry official said.

The militaries will also cease propaganda campaigns beginning at midnight on Tuesday and begin removing loudspeakers and sign boards along the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone (DMZ).

All propaganda tools are due to be removed by August 15, the anniversary of Korea’s independence from Japanese colonial rule in 1945.

**Jordanians improve attitudes towards blood donation**

Amman, 15 June — Jordanian National Blood Bank Director Janet Merza said people’s attitude towards blood donation is improving in the country as the number of blood donors increases noticeably every year, Jordan Times reported Monday.

Marking the World Blood Donors Day, Merza was quoted as saying that statistics for 2003 showed that an estimated 135,500 individuals donated blood in Jordan.

So far this year, 40 per cent of blood donors are regular volunteers, Merza said, and the remaining 60 per cent fall under family replacement donation: donating in exchange for blood units given to a relative patient.

“We want voluntary blood donation to increase, so that one day we don’t have to ask for family replacement blood at that time,” Merza added.

Thereby, she insists that the Blood Bank needs a lot of cooperation to get its message across to everyone through advertisements and national campaigns.

The awareness campaign are concentrated in schools and universities.

“We believe we should start with the young generation for the message to be effective,” she added.

The first Blood Bank in the country was established in 1957, and the late King Hussein was the first to donate blood at that time.

Currently there are a total of 37 blood banks across the kingdom, all with sufficient daily supplies of blood.

The World Blood Donors Day is celebrated on the birthday of Karl Landsteiner, laureate of the Nobel Prize in medicine in 1930 for his discovery of human blood groups.

This year’s theme “Blood… a gift of life” stresses on the importance of voluntary blood donation that is the source of safe blood supply.

**Tokyo still world’s dearest city**

London, 14 June — Tokyo is still the world’s most expensive city, while London has moved up to second place, according to a lifestyle survey published on Monday.

Moscow was third followed by Osaka in Japan and Hong Kong, the survey by Mercer Human Resource Consulting found.

Ascension in Paraguay was the least expensive of the 144 cities to feature in the survey, for the second year running.

“There have been some dramatic movements in the rankings this year which are largely due to currency fluctuations,” said Marie-Laurence Sepede, senior researcher at Mercer.

The survey measures the comparative cost of 200 items in each city, including housing, food, clothing, entertainment and transport.

Using New York as a base city with a nominal score of 100, Tokyo scored 130.7, London 119 and Ascension just 36.5.

New York was the costliest city in the United States, and 12th overall, followed by Los Angeles, Chicago and San Francisco.

Geneva was the second most expensive place in Europe, ahead of Copenhagen and Zurich.

**Two Koreas make first military radio exchange**

Seoul, 15 June — Navy ships from the two Koreas made the first radio communication between active military units since the 1950-53 Korean War on Monday, part of an agreement to reduce tensions in disputed waters off the peninsula.

A long-running disagreement over the maritime border off the west coast of the divided peninsula has been the cause of many naval clashes that have killed or wounded dozens on both sides.

South Korean sailors opened radio communications on Monday morning and received a reply from a North Korean vessel sailing north of the disputed sea border.

The communication went without a glitch,” said a South Korean Defence Ministry spokesman.

He also reported successful use of flag signalling between the two navies at a point closer to the Northern Limit Line (NLL), the de facto maritime border between the two Koreas drawn up by the United Nations Command at the end of the Korean War.

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**Ugandan Health Ministry estimates over 250,000 people blind**

Kampala, 15 June — Over 250,000 people in Uganda are blind while an unspecified number have visual impairment, a senior official from the Ministry of Health has said.

Stanely Bubikire, national coordinator of the eye care programme, was quoted by local media on Monday as saying that over 60 per cent of the cases of blindness and visual impairment in the country are caused by cataracts.

This is a big burden of eye disease in the country. We don’t have exact figures but estimates show that about one per cent of the population are blind,” the official said.

He said old age is the most common cause of the cataract disease, which also occurs due to hereditary factors and injury.

Bubikire said that trachoma is the second biggest cause of blindness, which also occurs due to hereditary factors and injury.

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S O R T S

Gerrard vows to make up for “silly error”
Liverpool midfielder Steven Gerrard

LISBON, 15 June—England midfielder Steven Gerrard has vowed to make amends for his “silly error” which led to France’s injury-time winner at Euro 2004.

France’s Zinedine Zidane struck twice in stoppage time in Sunday’s 2-1 win, curling home a free kick and then converting a penalty after Thierry Henry had latched on to Gerrard’s wayward backpass and been tripped by goalkeeper David James.

“I am so disappointed over the back pass, I hadn’t seen Thierry Henry. It was a silly error by me,” said the midfielder, who missed the 2002 World Cup after groin surgery. “It really hurts because we did not lose the game wrapped up, but we gave away a silly free kick for the equaliser and then I did what I did.”

MNA/Reuters

Swedish striker Henrik Larsson (R) heads into the net during Sweden’s opening match of the Euro 2004 championships. Sweden got their campaign off to a strong start with a 5-0 breathing of Bulgaria including two goals from Larsson on his international comeback. — INPI

Zidane praises quality of England match
Lisbon, 14 June—France captain Zinedine Zidane, whose goals sank England in their last-gasp 2-1 win at Euro 2004 on Sunday, said it was one of the best matches he has played in.

In injury-time the French playmaker curled home a free kick from outside the area and scored with a crisp penalty.

“It’s certainly one of the best games I’ve ever played in along with the ones at Euro 2000,” said Zidane looking back on the last-gasp 2-1 win. “It was a far superior match compared to the double pean Championship and this obviously boosts your morale.” Asked the rout in stoppage time.

French goalkeeper Fabien Barthez who saved a David Beckham penalty in the second half said: “I am devastated and allowed us to stay 1-0 down and gave us the possibility to keep believing in our chances.”

MNA/Reuters

Nikolaidis says Spain are better than Greece
VILA DO CONDE (Portugal), 15 June—Spain have better players, a stronger team and are firm favourites to win Wednesday’s Euro 2004 match against Greece, according to Greek striker Demis Nikolaidis.

“Spain not only have better players than us, they also are a better team and they are the favourites, for sure,” he told reporters after a training session on Monday. “But this must be shown on the pitch.”

Greece, also considered massive underdogs in their shock 2-1 victory over tournament hosts Portugal on Saturday, top Group A with the Spaniards on three points.

“The work we have done the past two years is now visible and we will play to win,” Nikolaidis said. “Denmark when they won the European Championship in 1992 did not have a better team than us and they did exceptional things, so anything is possible,” he added.

Greece beat Spain 1-0 a year ago on their way to automatic qualification for the tournament leaving Inaki Saze team to negotiate a two-legged playoff against Nor-

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**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR** Wednesday, 16 June, 2004

**WEATHER**

- **Tuesday, 15 June, 2004**
  - Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in Kayah State and Mandalay Division, rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Kachin State, Magway, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions, scattered in Shan and Rakhine States, Sagay Division and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavy falls in Tanintharyi Division. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Kawkhoma (5.20 inches) and Haingkhaw (1.61 inches).
  - Maximum temperature on 15-6-2004 was 21.8°C (71°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 15-6-2004 was 88%. Total sunshine hours on 14-6-2004 was 4.30 hours approx. Rainfall on 15-6-2004 was 1.04 inch at Yangon Airport, nil at Kaba-Aye and 3.0 mm at central Yangon. Total rainfall from 1-6-2004 was 78mm (30.71 inches) at Yangon and 657mm (25.87 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 33mm (03.03 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) on 04:00 am from South at 34 knots. **Forecast:** for Monday 14-6-2004, Rain or thunderstorms will be isolated in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Chin, Shan and Kayah States, Mandalay and lower Sagaing Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%)!

- **State of the sea:** Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35mph).

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**Easy And Happy Ways For Children And Beginners**

4:00 pm 1. Marital song
4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm 3. Practice in reading
4:45 pm 4. Musical programme
5:00 pm 5. Condoleance Meeting (Arranged by Miss Mal). (Fortnightly)
5:15 pm 6. Song of national races
5:30 pm 7. National News
5:40 pm 8. Classical song
5:55 pm 9. Condoleance Meeting (Arranged by Mr. Aung Zaw). (Fortnightly)
6:00 pm 10. Evening News
6:15 pm 11. Discovery
6:30 pm 12. Musical programme
6:30 pm 13. Evening news
7:00 pm 14. Weather report
7:05 pm 15. Strong and healthy Myanmar
7:15 pm 16. Musical programme
7:30 pm 17. Concert of Trumpet
7:40 pm 18. Condoleance Meeting (Arranged by Mr. Aung Zaw). (Fortnightly)
8:00 pm 19. News
8:15 pm 20. International news
8:20 pm 21. Weather report
8:35 pm 22. Condoleance Meeting (Arranged by Mr. Aung Zaw). (Fortnightly)
9:00 pm 23. The Nilkumar
9:15 pm 24. Euro 2004
9:30 pm 25. Euro 2004
9:45 pm 26. The next week's programme

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**Wednesday, June 16**

**Tune in today:**

**8:30 am** Brief news
**8:35 am** Music: All the small things (Atlantic)
**8:40 am** Special programme
**8:45 am** Music: Fine Line (Madusa)
**8:50 am** National News
**8:55 am** Myin Thaw (Slogan)
**9:05 am** Music: Sonora (Tobey)
**9:10 am** International news
**9:15 am** Music: Woman in me (Jessica Simpson)
**9:20 am** Music: Slogan
**1:00 pm** Lunch time music
**1:05 pm** How could I (Mark Anthony)
**1:30 pm** Try again (Westlife)
**2:00 pm** Always on my mind (Beyonce)
**2:15 pm** Mother's Day (Jules Mcintyre)
**4:00 pm** Variation on a theme
**6:00 pm** Always on my mind
**6:15 pm** Love won't wait (Asimic Kitts)
**8:00 pm** Some day you will

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Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Japanese guests

YANGON, 15 June — Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar General Khin Nyunt received President of Sojitz Corporation, Mr Kazunori Teraoka and party at Zeya Thiri on Kommyintha here this evening.

Present at the call were Minister for Finance & Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Khin Maung Win, Director-General of Government Office U Soe Tint and Director-General of Protocol Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Thura U Aung Htet. — MNA

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe tours Kyaukme District

YANGON, 15 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of the Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of the North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and senior military officers, on 12 June morning arrived in Kyaukme in Kyaukme District.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party inspected threshing of summer paddy and preparations for monsoon paddy cultivation at Konkauk Village, 28 miles from Kyaukme. Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party also inspected ATP tea factory. They proceeded to Mongngot where they were welcomed by departmental officials, townelders, teachers and students.

In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe met with departmental officials and local people at the Mongngot Basic Education High School and discussed the regional development tasks.

At the meeting, Mongngot Village-tract PDC Chairman U Than Win and Headmistress of BEHS Daw Nan Thein Shin briefed on facts about the village and education sector.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe fulfilled the requirements and gave necessary instructions.

Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe presented teaching aids for the BEHS through the headmistress and inspected the preparations for opening of multi-media classrooms.

Afterwards, they went to Mongngot station hospital. At the hospital, they comforted the patients and presented cash assistance.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing presented K 100,000 for the funds of the hospital.

They then arrived at milepost No 9/0 on Kyaukme-Mongngot-Momeik Road. At the briefing hall, Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Min Thein reported on renovation of Kyaukme road section and Momeik road section, extension of road, renovation of old bridges and preparation for construction of new ones.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing also reported on arrangements for ensuring smooth and secure transportion and tasks being undertaken.

Next, Chairman of Namtwe Village PDC in Namhsan Township U Kyaw Nwe briefed on the facts about the village including education and health sectors.

After hearing the reports, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe made an address. He said the government is striving with added momentum in all spheres for transforming the nation to a peaceful, modern and developed one. The transport sector plays the main role in doing so.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, it is speeding up implementation of road and railroad projects to ensure a transport network throughout the Union. Thanks to the emergence of village-to-village roads, the national brethren have enjoyed fruitful results of further development and they can travel anywhere in convenience at any time, thereby further cementing amicable relationship and fortifying national solidarity.

On completion of the Mongngot-Momeik road, the shortest way linking Momeik and Kyaukme, regional development tasks can be carried out with added momentum and it will raise the socio-economic life of local people. He called for timely completion of the project, worksite safety, meeting the standard set, and erecting road signs.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and Shan State Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Min Thein presented cash donations for water supply of Namtwe village to officials. Superintending Engineer U Kyaw Min Thein also presented gifts of local products to Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and the commander.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe also looked into Mongngot-Momeik section and presented cash award to the staff.

He cordially greeted Palaung nationals. At the meeting with officers and other ranks and their families at the local regiment in Kyaukme, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe elaborated on agriculture and livestock breeding on a manageable scale, growing of seasonal and perennial crops in the compound, welfare services, and education and health sectors.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe also met departmental officials, members of the agricultural supervisory committee, social organizations and local senior citizens at the office of Kyaukme District PDC and dealt with regional development. Officials reported on facts about the region and agricultural matters.

The commander gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe said that the government is endeavouring for equitable development of all parts of the nation and better socio-economic life of the people.

Now, the people have enjoyed fruitful results of development in social, economic, education and health sectors.

He called on officials to make concerted efforts in cooperation with local people for regional development.

Next, members of Kyaukme District Agriculture Supervisory Committee and departmental officials viewed paddy fields of the North-East Command.

Lt-Gen Aung Htwe and party spent the night in Kyaukme.

MNA