Daw Kyaing Kyaing plants gangaw tree to hail Myanmar Women’s Day

YANGON, 20 June—Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and Honorary Patron of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation attended the tree planting ceremony hailing Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July 2004, organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, in the compound of Thatbyinnyu Stupa in Mayangon Township this morning and planted a tree there.

At 9 am, Daw Kyaing Kyaing, accompanied by Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Maung Aye and Honorary Patron of the MWA, arrived at the place where the tree planting ceremony was to be held. They were welcomed there by wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt Patron of MWAF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo Adviser to the Federation Daw Khin Than Nwe, the vice-presidents, advisers and officials.

Daw Kyaing Kyaing planted a gangaw tree (Mesua ferra) at the designated place.

Next, Daw Mya Mya San planted a star-flower tree. President of the federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-President of the federation Daw Khin Than Nwe a gangaw tree at the designated places.

Vice-President of the federation Daw Khin Lay Thet, wife of member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Vice-President Dr Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, Vice-President Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lu, wife of the Commander of Yangon Command Patron of Yangon Division Organization for Women’s Affairs Daw Khin Thet Htay and wives of the ministers planted various kinds of 71 trees.

After the ceremony, Daw Kyaing Kyaing paid homage to Sisupan Buddha Image being kept on the third floor of Gandakutti Taik of the Stupa.

On the first floor, Daw Kyaing Kyaing and party presented five bags of rice and five viss of edible oil donated by MWA to President of Nayaka of Dharmmesaka Nunnerhy Agga Maha Ganthavaça Paedita Daw Dharmmesi Pandita Daw Dharmmesi.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe attends tree planting ceremony to hail Myanmar Women’s Day

YANGON, 21 June—A tree planting ceremony to hail Myanmar Women’s Day which falls on 3 July 2004, organized by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, was held at National Races Village in Thakayta Township this morning, attended by President of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe.

Also present were Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Htwa, the Deputy Ministers, the advisers, Patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Organization Daw Khin Thet Htay planted gangaw trees (Mesua ferra).

Those in charge of state, division, district and township organizations for Women’s Affairs and NGOs planted various kinds of trees at the designated places.

After the ceremony, President of MWAF Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, the Vice-Presidents and members and party toured the National Races Village and cordially greeted those present at the ceremony.

A total of 500 various kinds of trees was planted at the ceremony.

The National Convention is the concern of all our national races.
For the Union to stand tall among nations of the world

As the Union of Myanmar is home to national races who have been living in the country unitedly, the Government, enlisting the strength of the people, is making all-out efforts for the entire Union to be a peaceful, modern and developed. In building the nation, the Government is encouraging the private sector in the development of agriculture and all-round development of other sectors of the economy, human resource development and development of health, education and transportation.

While building infrastructures that are needed for development of the country, the Government is encouraging the private sector in the economic. As a result, there has emerged such entrepreneurs as national private farm entrepreneurs, construction entrepreneurs, oil palm entrepreneurs and fish and prawn breeding entrepreneurs. Moreover, these entrepreneurs are running their businesses with greater efficiency than ever before.

With the development of the agriculture sector, the Government, is encouraging the industrial sector for its development. Altogether 19 private industrial zones including Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi, Monywa and Kalay industrial zones have been set up. In addition to these, there are separate industrial zones running their industries with foreign investment.

An endeavour of individual state or division or region alone cannot help reach the goal of building a modern and developed nation but concerted efforts of all the national people living in the Union can. On 14 June, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt together with Secretariat-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win and officials met local authorities, service personnel, members of social organizations and town elders at Monywa City Hall in Sagaing Division. On the occasion, the Prime Minister said that collective efforts are required to develop the socio-economic life, improve living standard and cement national unity.

The Seven-point Policy Programme has been laid down and is being implemented phase by phase in accord with the national situation for ensuring a certain future, perpetuation of the Union, to practise a genuine discipline-flourishing democratic system. At the time when efforts are being made for the Union to stand tall among nations of the world, all the national people are urged to lend themselves to endeavours for national development with firm Union Spirit.

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

NPE Sub-printing House opened in Lashio

YANGON, 20 June—
With a view to enabling the residents of those townships and villages in northern Shan State to read the newspapers early in the morning, the Printing and Publishing Enterprise under the Ministry of Information this morning opened a sub-printing house in Humon village of Lashio Township.

Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Chairman North-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein formally opened the new sub-printing house.

The first part of the opening ceremony was held at Lashio Town Hall at 7.30 am. Present on the occasion were Acting Managing Director of the PPE U Thein Soe, Director (Admin) of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Soe Win, Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Secretary Lt-Col Kyaw Shwe, local authorities, personnel of social organizations and local people.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing delivered an address. He said that newspaper is an effective medium informing the people of economic, education, health and economic development of the country. In building a modern and developed nation, the Government is making all-out efforts for bringing about development all over the country including border areas.

Reports of such endeavours are carried in newspapers and now the sub-printing house opened today in Lashio will enable the residents to read the newspapers early in the morning without having to wait for them to be sent via Mandalay. In accordance with the guidance of the Head of State, the Ministry of Information had already opened the sub-printing houses in Mandalay, Taunggyi, Magway, Kengtung, Kalay, Myitkyina and Sittway.

Next, on behalf of the Prime Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein delivered an address. He disclosed that a new sub-printing house will soon be opened in Myitkyina Division. Through print media and electronic media, the Ministry of Information is launching activities for educating, entertaining and informing the public on par with the passage of time for realizing the aims of the State. Then, PPE Acting Managing Director U Thein Soe and Information and Public Relations Department Director-General U Chit Naing explained matters on the sub-printing house after which the ceremony ended.

The second part of the opening ceremony was held at the sub-printing house in Humon village.

The commander formally unveiled the signboard and the deputy minister formally opened the sub-printing house by cutting a ribbon. Then, the commander, the deputy minister and guests inspected the printing of newspapers.

The commander and the deputy minister also gave necessary instructions.

MNA

Ambassador calls on Minister

YANGON, 20 June—
Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Israeli Ambassador Mr Yaakov Avrahami at his office at 3 pm today. Also present at the call were Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of the Ministry of Information, Deputy Director-General U Khin Maung Htay of the Myanmar Radio and Television, Managing Director Col Soe Win of the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Managing Director U Bo Kyi of the Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise, Head of Office Ma Ye Tint and officials.

Minister receives Malaysian guests

YANGON, 20 June—
Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Adviser to Binariang Ambassador calls on Minister.
Iraq oil exports still idle, foreigners attacked

BAGHDAD, 19 June — Guerrillas bent on disrupting Iraq's transition from US-led occupation killed a Portuguese security man on Saturday as technicians strove to repair a sabotaged pipeline and restore vital oil exports.

An overnight blast in the turbulent Sunni Muslim city of Falluja, west of Baghdad, in April. Truce arrangements put an Iraqi force in charge of security.

In southern Iraq, police said a roadside bomb exploded on a road southwest of Basra, as a vehicle of the type used by a security company protecting Iraqi oil facilities drove by.

A Portuguese guard and an Iraqi policeman were killed when the blast sent their vehicle somersaulting off the highway.

A spokesman for the British military in Basra said an Indian and another Iraqi had also been wounded in the attack. Iraq has been unable to export any oil since sabotage attacks crippled two southern pipelines earlier this week.

An oil official said welders working in searing heat on the Faw peninsula south of Basra had run into delays but might complete repairs to one of the pipelines later on Saturday.

Anti-US insurgents have mounted what appear to be concerted attacks on the oil industry and Iraq's nascent security forces ahead of the US troop withdrawal to an interim government on June 30 when the postwar occupation formally ends.

The guerrillas have also stepped up assassinations of government and security officials, as well as attacks on U.S. and other foreign forces trying to stabilize Iraq.

Philippines conditionally removes ban on deployment of OFW in Iraq

MANILA, 19 June — The Philippine Government Friday conditionally removed the ban on deployment of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in Iraq.

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) began to greenlight overseas recruitment agencies to continue pooling manpower from the Philippines to Iraq, acting Labour Secretary Manuel Imson said.

“I have authorized the POEA to allow manpower pooling under certain conditions,” Imson said.

According to Imson, the conditions for allowing the deployment are: Only agencies with valid job orders may undertake manpower pooling; advertisements for these jobs should clearly say that there is no deployment yet, and no fees will be collected.

Imson said that the decision, jointly made by acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Jose Brillantes and head of the Middle East Preparedness Committee Roy Cimatu, would convince foreign employers that the Philippines was serious in its intent and commitment in participating in rebuilding Iraq.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo last month ordered the indefinite suspension of the deployment of Filipino workers who intended to work in Iraq on the fluid and volatile security situation in the war-torn country.

However, as Imson said, the POEA had been still receiving job orders for Iraq despite the ban.

“We need to start manpower pooling and registration of workers in order not to delay mobilization schedules when the ban is lifted,” he said.

Imson said the POEA and his office would discuss with Cimatu and Brillantes the short-and long-term strategies for Iraq, including the possibility of deployment in areas where security conditions are favourable.

The Philippine Government Tuesday urged OFWs in Iraq to return as attacks on US and foreign installations in Baghdad escalated.

Uruguay hopes to expand cultural cooperation with China

MONTEVIDEO, 19 June — Uruguay and China should strengthen future-oriented cultural cooperation in order to boost the continuous and steady development of bilateral ties, Uruguayan President Jorge Batlle Ibanez said Thursday.

Uruguay and China have maintained frequent political and economic contacts these years, but conducted comparatively fewer cultural exchanges, Batlle noted at a meeting here with a visiting Chinese delegation led by Deputy Culture Minister Chen Xiaoguang.

In a certain sense, said the President, cultural exchanges are more important for two countries to promote their relationship as such interaction can make bilateral ties more deepened and persistent.

The two nations ought to attach special significance to enhancing cultural exchanges between their young people and teenagers, in order to further develop bilateral relations, he stressed.

China has vast prospects for development and contacting and knowing China has become an urgent need to the world, Batlle said. He proposed the two countries start cooperation in the field of Chinese language schools in Uruguay as studying Chinese is a key means to understand Chinese culture.

Chile will not trade territory for Bolivian gas

SANTIAGO, 19 June — The Chilean Government said Thursday it would not consider the possibility of giving away apart of its territory in exchange for a product, alluding to Bolivia's gas-for-sea access proposal. "I have not known that we are about to sell territory or sea for any price. Never have I known that that is our foreign policy and I do not think it will be," Chilean Economy Minister Jorge Rodriguez told radio Cooperativa.

Bolivian President Carlos Mesa said Thursday that negotiations could be immediately opened on the re-establishment of Bolivian-Chilean diplomatic relations if Chile accepts its proposal of exchanging Bolivian natural gas for a portion of Chile’s territory with a sea access. — MNA/Xinhua

Tunisia denies intention to send forces to Iraq

TUNISIA, 19 June — Tunisia yesterday denied their intention to send forces to Iraq. This was following statements by an Arab minister who asked to be anonymous, on the sideline of the ministerial meeting of the Organiza- tion of the Islamic Conference OIC in Istanbul this week on the readiness of the two states to send forces to Iraq.

The Tunisian Foreign Ministry announced that Tunisi- sia will not take a unilateral decision in this matter, denying this matter has been debated at the Arab League or the Organization of the Islamic Conference. A statement issued by the ministry said that "In light of what we noted concerning the media on the possibility of dispatching forces to Iraq by certain Arab and Islamic states, Tunisia stresses that this issue was not debated, nor studied. — Internet

‘Second great lie’ of Howard Government

BAGHDAD, 19 June — Labour has hit back at the Prime Minister’s attack on its Iraq policy and alliance with the US, claiming his comments were “the second great lie” of the Howard Government.

Last night Prime Min- ister John Howard accused federal Labor leader Mark Latham of the risk of an Australian ter- rorist attack by adopting an isolationist foreign policy.

Today, Opposition for- eign affairs spokesman Kevin Rudd labelled Mr Howard’s claims “plainly ri- duculous”.

“You can be buying attacking us yet again on national security,” said Mr Rudd.

“What we increasingly see is a negative, carping Prime Minister who can only at- tack our policies.”

“The key thing I want to emphasise is that Mr Howard’s comments are the second great lie of the Howard Government.

“ ‘The first great lie was children overboard the second great lie of the Howard Government was Iraq. ‘He has said that our policy will increase terror- ism in South East Asia that’s a lie. The truth is that our decision under John Howard to go into Iraq has increased the terrorist threat in South- East Asia.”

Mr Rudd said that Aus- tralia’s involvement in the Iraq war made it easier for JI operatives to recruit in South East Asia and directly in- crease Australia’s chances of a terrorist attack.

US Army soldiers release a group of five Iraqi detainees at Camp Victory, near Abu Ghraib, Iraq, on 19 June. 2004. The detainees were among 17 arrested two days earlier in a raid in nearby Agar Kuf. — Reuters

Iraqis gather around a hole in the ground caused by a rocket which landed overnight in Iraq’s western city of Falluja, on 19 June, 2004. — Internet

Chen Xiaoguang.
Edwards says Bush to blame for Iraq aftermath

HOUSTON, 18 June—U.S. Senator and possible Democratic vice-presidential candidate John Edwards blasted the Bush administration on Friday for the chaotic aftermath of the Iraq war and said President Bush, not his underlings, is to blame.

“If you look at what’s happening, there’s a lot of discussion and debate around the country about Don Rumsfeld and whether the secretary of defense should be fired and whether he should resign,” Edwards said in a fiery speech to the Texas Democratic Party annual convention.

“Let me say this very simply — the person who is responsible is the commander in chief,” he said to loud applause from the enthusiastic crowd in Bush’s home state.

“Where I come from, we say a fish stinks from the head down,” said Edwards, who is from North Carolina.

Edwards is considered one of the top candidates to be Sen John Kerry’s running mate in the November election.

He praised Kerry pro-fusely and urged the del-egates to work hard for his election.

At one point, his speech was interrupted by chants of “VP, VP” which brought a smile to his face, but no com-ment.

Prominent Texas trial lawyer John O’Quinn, wearing a necktie that looked like a U.S. flag, spoke after Edwards and criticized Republicans for questioning the patriotism of Democrats.

He ripped off his tie, held it up and said: “They can put that idea where the sun don’t shine.”

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Russia reiterates call for clarification on WMD in Iraq

MOSCOW, 19 June—Russia reiterated on Friday its call for the clarification on weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in Iraq saying the work can only be done by international inspectors.

“No answer has been given to the question of whether there are weapons of mass destruction or some of their components in Iraq,” Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Yury Fedotov was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying.

“We believe this problem must be resolved, especially taking into account that, in the final analysis, it was the reason for launching the war against Iraq,” Fedotov said.

He urged the return of international in-spectors to Iraq so they can “finish their work and submit their conclusions”.

“International inspectors can definitely complete their mission only when they can return to Iraq,” he said, adding that “it is only based on their conclusion that the UN Security Council can turn the page and finally shut the Iraqi weapons dossier”.

Russia, a steadfast opponent of the US-led war against Iraq, has been critical of coalition forces for their failure to find WMD, a key factor used by the US and its allies to justify the war that toppled Saddam Hussein’s regime.

Russia also insists on a central UN role in the reconstruction pro-cess in postwar Iraq.

S Africa, Congo sign military cooperation agreement

JOHANNESBURG, 19 June—South Africa has agreed to help train Army and sell military equipment to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in an effort to restore regional peace, South African media reported on Friday.

According to an agree-ment signed by the two coun-tries, South Af-rica will help train the new DRC Army once all that country’s existing forces had been withdrawn, the Sunday Times said.

The deal, said by South African Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota and his DRC counterpart Jean Pierre Mosiuoa Lekota and his DRC counterpart Jean Pierre Opondeke, came after re-newed fighting in the DRC indirectly claimed the lives of two South African sol-diers who formed part of the United Nations peacekeep-ing force in the DRC (MONUC).

“This agreement will fur-ther strengthen mutual co-operation in the field of de-ence with the aim of maintaining lasting peace and se-curity between our coun-tries,” Lekota said.

The two countries planned to formulate proce-dures for military coopera-tion between their Armed Forces, promote cooperation in the training of mili-tary personnel and to con-duct combined military ex-ercises especially for peace-keeping.

“The exchange of mili-tary personnel at all levels will also be encouraged,” Lekota was quoted as saying by the SAPA report.

He added that South Af-rica’s new military role would fall outside the ambit of MONUC, as it was the result of a bilateral agree-ment between the two coun-tries.

South Africa’s initial role would be to help integrate the numerous fighting bod-ies in the DRC into one uni-ted defence force whose size still had to be deter-mined, said Opondeke.

Both ministers believed the agreement, which would include the sale of military equipment to the DRC by South Africa, would hasten the peace process and bring stability to the Great Lakes region.

US airstrike kills 22 in Iraq

FALLUJAH, 19 June—A U.S. plane has fired missiles at a house in the restive Iraqi city of Fallujah, killing 22 Iraqis, witnesses and hospital officials say.

They said the victims were crushed under the rubble after two missile strikes demolished the house on Satur-day morning.

Residents brought 22 bodies for burial at a cemetery after the blast. The US military had no immediate infor-mation.

In April, hundreds of Iraqis were killed in fierce fighting between US Marines and guerrillas in Fallujah, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad.

A truce was later agreed, under which an Iraqi force was put in charge of security in the city.

EU summit maps out steps for developing ties with Iraq

BRUSSELS, 19 June—The European Union (EU) summit, which opened here Thursday, has mapped out steps to foster up its relations with Iraq.

A document entitled “Presidency Conclusions” which was issued Friday by the summit, said the EU lead-ers agreed that “the EU as a whole should work in part-nership with the Iraqi Interim Government and the Iraq people”, recommending the following steps to this ef-fort:

Continued provision of technical, economic and reconstruction assistance;

Establishing close en-gagement with UN teams;

Including preparations for elections;

Enhancing the represen-tation of the EU in Iraq, as circumstances permit;

Beginning a process of political dialogue; and

Using the EU’s dialogue with Iraq’s neighbours to encourage positive engagement and regional support for the political and reconstruction proc-ess in Iraq.

The summit asked the EU Council to hold a Troika meeting with the new Iraqi Government “as soon as pos-ible”, and to invite the Iraq Prime Minister to address the EU Council.

The document said the EU looks forward to the restoration of Iraqi sover-eignty by 30 June and wel-comes the formation, with the help of the UN, of a fully sovereign Iraqi In-terim government which will assume full authority from that day.

The summit, or the Euro-pean Council in the EU’s jargon, also welcomes the unanimous adoption of the UN Security Council Reso-lution 1546, which mandates the UN to play a leading role in the political transition of Iraq.

India, Pakistan hold talks on confidence building measures

NEW DELHI, 20 June—India and Pakistan began Saturday their two-day expert-level talks on nuclear confidence building measures (CBMs) in New Delhi.

The talks are aimed at narrowing differences and finding common ground on nuclear risk reduction.

Tariq Osman Hyder, additional secretary in the Pakistan Foreign Office, is lead-ing the Pakistani delegation for the discussions with Sheel Kant Sharma, additional secretary in Indian External Affairs Ministry, and other officials.

The talks, which precede the foreign secretary-level composite dialogue process scheduled to begin in New Delhi next week, are expected to concentrate on the respective nuclear doctrines, strategic stability, nuclear crisis management and risk reduction.

“New Delhi’s basic approach is to understand Pakistan’s nuclear doctrine and related issues and develop measures which will reassure and not take away confidence,” the local official sources said.
Sadr warns Iraq govt to heed Iraqis, not US

KUFA, Iraq, 19 June — Rebel Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr said on Friday he would support Iraq's new interim government if it paid more heed to Iraqi public opinion and less to US-led occupiers.

Sadr's comments appeared to mark a softening of his position towards the government which he had initially rejected after it was formed on June 1 to lead Iraq out of US occupation.

"I want to direct my words at the so-called interim government, which is part of Iraqi society, for in my view it has made mistakes," Sadr's deputy Sheikh Jalal al-Khafaji said in his Friday sermon, speaking on behalf of Sadr.

"This government spends most of its time abroad. The government and rulers must draw closer to the people and not the opposite, which harms both sides. Like any son among the Iraqi people if I find you cooperating with the people, I shall be with you," he told worshippers in Kufa, near the holy city of Najaf.

In a separate development, Ghazi Yawar urged Sadr this week to lay down his arms and enter politics, a prospect which US President George W Bush said he would not oppose.

US forces had previously vowed to kill or capture Sadr, who launched a revolt against US forces in April that engulfed southern Iraq and Shiite Islam's holiest shrines. Hundreds of people were killed in the fighting.

Sadr ordered his fighters to return home this week in what appeared to mark the end of the 10-week rebellion, having agreed to a truce with US forces in early June under pressure from Shi'ite leaders appalled by fighting near holy shrines.

The US-led administration says Sadr must answer to an arrest warrant issued by an Iraqi court over the murder of a rival cleric in Najaf last year. Leaders in Iraq's interim government say Iraqis will resolve the matter.

Khafaji warned the interim government, due to formally come into being in June, that it would gain no support by issuing "hasty" rulings which harm militias in Iraq.

Iraq announced a deal this month in which nine militias, not Sadr's Mehdi Army, agreed to disband. The deal bans militia members from politics for three years after leaving a militia — MNA/Reuters

Iraq pipeline fix delayed

BAHRAID, 19 June—Iraqi engineers have run into delays while repairing a sabotaged southern oil pipeline and now hope to resume partial exports Sunday, officials said. "We are having problems, including gas that is delaying welding," said one oil official, who asked not be named.

"We hope to finish repairs and conduct test runs tonight if the gas problem is surmounted. Such repairs are unpredictable by nature," he said.

The same official had said Friday that oil exports could resume Saturday at a rate of 700,000 barrels per day (bpd) if welding finished and test runs on the 42-inch line succeeded. Coalition Provisional Authority spokesman Dominic d'Angelo said the exports could resume on Sunday at a rate of 500,000 to 600,000 bpd if the repairs were completed. "Pressure has to build up in the pipeline first," he said. —Internet

Bush commits strategic mistake by invading Iraq

BAHRAID, 19 June—President Hosni Mubarak's expectations that waging war on Iraq would create scores of Al-Qaeda-style terrorist organizations have turned out to be true, said Richard Clark, the terrorism combat department chief during Bill Clinton and George W Bush's administrations.

Speaking in an interview with French magazine Le Nouvel Observateur, published Friday, Clark said that President Mubarak's expectation has been materialized, adding that since the 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington, terrorist acts have almost doubled.

He accused Bush of committing a strategic mistake by invading Iraq, noting that the biggest mistake Bush has made is attributed to his dogmatic belief that the United States is capable of changing the political geography of the Middle East region.

WTO again rules for Brazil in cotton row with US

GENEVA, 19 June—The World Trade Organization (WTO) on Friday ruled the United States broke global trade rules by lavishing subsidies on its cotton farmers, backing Brazil in a high-profile dispute with Washington, a trade source said.

The lengthy decision, which was given only to the parties involved, could have a big impact on free trade negotiations underway in Geneva, the WTO reaffirmed an initial April ruling that US policy seriously hurt Brazilian cotton producers, said the source, who had had access to the confidential report.

"Basically, the conclusion was that US policy is not line with WTO rules, said it would appeal the ruling. The lengthy decision, which was given only to the two sides, will not be made

Siemens pulls staff out of Iraq on safety concerns

BERLIN, 19 June—The German technology group Siemens has again pulled some of its staff out of Iraq because of concern about deteriorating security, the newspaper Welt am Sonntag said in its edition to appear Sunday.

A company spokesman declined to comment on the report for security reasons. The newspaper said only German employees were pulled out and those from other countries were remaining at their posts.

The company is constructing a mobile telephone network on behalf of a Kuwaiti-based group, and is renovating two electricity generating plants on behalf of the US Bechtel Corporation.

Siemens evacuated some employees in April, but never said how many, nor does it say how many people it currently employs in Iraq, again citing security as the reason for secrecy. —Internet

Indonesia orders pirates, sea terrorists shot on sight

JAKARTA, 19 June—Indonesia's naval chief has ordered his commanders to shoot dead armed terrorists or pirates operating in key waterways including the busy Strait of Malacca, which carries a third of world trade.

Navy Chief of Staff, Bernard Kent Sondakh, would also meet soon with his counterparts from Malaysia and Singapore to seek ways to increase joint patrols in the Strait, officials said on Friday.

The Malacca Strait is a 500-mile channel through which about 50,000 commercial vessels pass each year, including ships ferrying 80 per cent of Japan's oil needs.

"In the future, every chief or terrorist at sea has to be shot dead and this should be publicized by the mass media to teach a lesson," Sondakh said in a statement. —MNA/Reuters

White House accused of intimidating media, lawyers

NEW YORK, 19 June—A leading American lawyer accused the White House on Friday of intimidating reporters, attorneys and judges who question the Bush Administration's "relentless pursuit of power."

The lawyer, Michael Tigar, made his comments during a pre-trial hearing involving his client Lynne Stewart, a civil rights lawyer charged in a terrorism case. The hearing centered on arguments by news organizations hoping to quash government subpoenas aimed at forcing reporters to testify at the trial.

Giving his support to news organizations, Tigar said that even in the best of times, the "independent voice" of the media and lawyers was always in danger.

But these are not the best of times. Under the Bush's Ashcroft/Rumsfeld administration, the independent Press and the independent bar have been in particular danger," Tigar said in an impassioned voice.

"This administration has tried to intimidate, manipulate, harass, and if necessary punish any independent voice that questions its relentless pursuit of power," he said.

Tigar is one of the nation's top defence lawyers and represented convicted Oklahoma City bomber Terry Nichols. —Internet

Iraqi women march through the street in the Sadr City district of Baghdad, Iraq, to protest against US military forces entry into the neighbourhood and to show support for the Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr on 19 June, 2004. —INTERNET

Siemens pulls staff out of Iraq on safety concerns
Rice says 9/11 report cited no Iraqi “control” of al-Qaeda

WASHINGTON, 19 June — In publishing a report that cited no evidence of a collaborative relationship between Saddam Hussein and al-Qaeda, the September 11 commission actually meant to say that Iraq had no control over the network, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said on Friday.

As the White House strove to curb potential damage to US President George W. Bush's credibility on Iraq, his closest aide on international security denied any inconsistency between the bipartisan panel's findings and Bush's insistence that a Saddam-Qaida relationship existed.

"What I believe the 9/11 commission was opening up was operational control, an operational relationship between al-Qaeda and Iraq which we never alleged," Rice said in an interview with National Public Radio.

"The President simply outlined what we knew about what al-Qaida and Iraq had done together. Operational control to me would mean that he (Saddam) was, perhaps, directing what al-Qaida would do."

Intelligence reports of links between Saddam and the group blamed for the 2001 attacks formed a cornerstone of Bush's rationale for the invasion and occupation of the turbulent Arab country, where 833 US soldiers died after 14 months of violence.

The chairman and vice-chairman of the September 11 commission differed with Rice's characterization of their panel's findings in separate interviews with Reuters.

"We don't think there was any relationship whatsoever having to do with 9/11. Whether al-Qaida and Saddam were cooperating on other things against the United States, we don't know," Commission Chairman Thomas Kean said.

"The word 'control' is not a word I would use," Hamilton said.

"The President talks in terms of a relationship between the two. The Vice-President talks in terms of a tie between the two. We talk in terms of contacts and interaction between the two," he added.

"All of those words are similar, but clearly relationship and ties suggest more than contacts."

The September 11 commission's staff report said there had been contact between Iraqis and al-Qaeda members including a Sudan meeting between al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and Iraqi intelligence officials.

"But the panel concluded that Saddam's government never responded to a bin Laden request for help and said there was no evidence of a 'collaborative relationship'."

Baghdad blast injures three

BAGHDAD, 20 June — A small roadside bomb blew up on the eastern side of the Tigris River by Baghdad's al-Shuhada Bridge today, wounding three people.

A white cloud of smoke billowed into the sky at 7.27am local time (12.27am ET) when the bomb exploded as locals headed to work.

The blast wounded three people travelling in a mini-bus and a large bus, a police major said.

The two damaged vehicles remained at the scene. There was shattered glass and a trace of blood on the ground.

Helicopters hovered overhead. The bomb exploded between a tunnel and the bridge.

Iraq has been rocked by at least 20 car bombs so far this month, as well as smaller roadside bombings, in the countdown to Iraqi sovereignty on June 30.

A suicide car bombing in Baghdad on Thursday killed 35 people and left 141 wounded at an army recruiting centre. — Internet

Interrogator turns witness on Iraq prisoner abuse

WASHINGTON, 19 June — A professional interrogator, Torin Nelson brought his skills to Iraq to ask questions and persuade prisoners to open up. Now he's the one doing the talking—helping investigators who are conducting a broad review of military intelligence operations.

The 35-year-old Nelson went to Iraq and the Abu Ghraib prison as a civilian contractor around November, a few weeks after the New Yorkers lack confidence in state government legislature

NEW YORK, 20 June — A considerable part of New Yorkers have serious misgivings for their state government, with a clear majority believing the government failed to handle economic issues efficiently enough and sexual misconduct is a 'serious' problem in the legislature, according to a poll released Friday.

The Quinnipiac University survey found that 67 per cent of voters said the state government is broken and mired in partisan bickering and "must be fixed" after it has failed to adopt an on-time budget for the 20th straight year.

Fifty-six per cent of voters also said sexual misconduct is a "serious" problem in the legislature, where Michael Boxley, the former chief counsel to Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver recently pleaded guilty to sexual assault after having been twice accused of rape.

Besides the rape allegations against Boxley, Assemblyman Adam Clayton Powell IV is under investigation for allegedly raping a 19-year-old intern. — MNA/Xinhua

Norway reshuffles Cabinet, names new Oil Minister

OSLO, 19 June — Norway's Prime Minister reshuffled his Cabinet on Friday to prepare for elections in 2005, changing key ministers including those overseeing energy and industry.

Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik appointed conservative parliamentarian Thorlild Widvey, a deputy foreign minister since 2003, as Oil and Energy Minister. Norway is the world's number three oil exporter, pumping about 2.3 million barrels a day.

"The government has felt a need for renewal and modernization," Bondevik told a news conference of his first Cabinet overhaul since the three-party centre-right coalition came to power in 2001.

Widvey, 48, will replace Einar Steinebø, a close ally of Bondevik who will return to parliament. Steinebø and Social Affairs Minister Rolf Schou were the only ministers leaving government while several others would get new jobs.

Widvey, who has little background on oil, had previously worked at the fisheries ministry. She also lived from 1997-2002 in London and wants Norway to join the European Union.

Among other changes, Industry and Trade Minister Ansgar Gabrielsen would take over the Health portfolio and be replaced by Environment Minister Boerge Brende. — MNA/Reuters

Indian, Pakistani artists to perform together in New Delhi

NEW DELHI, 19 June — Indian and Pakistani poets as well as singers will perform in New Delhi this weekend. The artists will share stage in a special peace concert aimed at encouraging peace and cultural exchange between the two nations, the Indo-Asian News Service reported Friday.

Renowned artists like Indian poet-filmmaker Gulzar, Sufi singer Kailash Kher and fusion band Indian Ocean will perform at the Pragati Maidan fair ground, along with Pakistani artists like singer Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, poet Farhat Shah and rock band Fuzon in a concert Saturday called "Sarhadon ki Jugalbandi," or "Duet across Borders."

Rahat Fateh Ali Khan is the nephew of legendary Pakistani Sufi singer, the late Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. He has recently sung in the Hollywood film "Paap".

The warming of relations between India and Pakistan that began at the January summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation has produced tangible results.

An improvement in India-Pakistan relations raises hopes for greater political and cultural exchanges between the two nations. — MNA/Xinhua

Infamous photos of prisoners being menaced and abused were taken.

"It was fairly chaotic from the first day I got there," Nelson said in an interview with The Associated Press in which he recounted some of his experiences and observations.

Before Iraq, Nelson had spent eight years in the Army and four with the United National Global, specialising in interrogations both the United Nations Global Coalition and CACI International Inc, Nelson's employer in Iraq, confirmed his time with them.

ThereportonAbuGhraib by Maj Gen Antonio Taguba cites him as a witness.

Nelson, who lives in Utah and spoke to the AP during a recent trip to Washington, DC, ticked off a list of problems at the prison. There was too much involvement between military police and intelligence gatherers, and the facilities were badly overcrowded, with poor supervision, he said.

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New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

New school building in Shanywaley Village Basic Education Primary School in Kyakmaraw Township, Mon State. — mna

Rural house in Shwepyigon Village, Yedathe Township, Bago Division. — PRKED

To provide better health care for local people, annex to People’s Hospital was built in Kalay, Sagaing Division. — KALAY WIN THU

A station hospital built in Asemathaya village, Okpo Township, Bago Division. — IRD

A bridge on Hpa-an-Naunglon-Kyondoe road in Kayin State was built for the convenience of people. — IRD
Minister attends opening of annex for e-library (Kyauktan)

YANGON, 20 June — A ceremony to open the annex for e-library (Kyauktan) of Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information was held at the library on Minkyaung Street in Alepaing Ward, Kyauktan Township, Yangon Division, this morning.

Also present on the occasion were Minister at the Prime Minister’s Office Maj-Gen Thein Swe, the directors-general and managing-directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Information, departmental officials, the chairman of Kyauktan Township Peace and Development Council and the Olympic Committees of the two countries.

The first session of the ceremony was held in front of the annex. Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Managing Director U Tint Hsan of Ace Co formally opened the annex.

The second session of the ceremony followed at the hall of the library. In his address, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said that the annex opened today is the original library that was upgraded in accord with the instructions of Prime Minister General Khin Maung Win.

He said that the library would hold free reading for the old and the young. He said, “This library is to be widely held through the library. In conclusion, the minister thanked wellwishers, townselders and the people who contributed their shares in construction of the annex and called on them to make concerted efforts for durability of the facility.

Next, Managing Director U Tint Hsan explained matters related to construction of the annex. After that, the managing director handed over documents related to the annex to member of e-Library (Kyauktan) Supervisory Committee U Aung Myint. Next, member of Information Working Group of MWFAY Sayama Ma Sanda presented publications donated by IWG to member of e-Library (Kyauktan) Supervisory Committee U Aung Myint.

Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan and Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe and officials accepted donations for the e-library which included K 11 million by U Tint San (Ace Co), K 500,000 each by U Win Myint (Golden Dragon Co) and U Htet Myint (Yuzana Co), K 300,000 each by Dr Ko Ko Gyi (Diamond Star Co), U Nyo Min (Minzani Co), U Zaw Zaw Naing (Maykhal Co), U Aung Zaw Ye Myint (Yetagon Construction Co) and U Maung Maung Tin (Shwe Kaba Maung Maung Co). Next, Dr U San Thein, on behalf of the people of Kyauktan, thanked the donors. The e-library is armed with 20,395 books, novels, magazines and journals, 431 CDs, computer and television.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan formally unveils the signboard of the e-library in Kyauktan. — MNA

Myanmar-Thai friendly, commemorative walking races

YANGON, 20 June — Hailing Olympic Day 2004, the 11.5-km friendly race and walking race, jointly organized by Myanmar Olympic Committee and Thai Olympic Committee, were held this morning in Tachileik and Maesai, the border towns of the two countries.

Among the spectators were MOC Chairman Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Committee member Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Myint Kyu, Myanmar Yachting Federation Secretary U Moe Myint, MOC Joint-Secretary Sports and Physical Education Department Director U Thant Zaw, officials of various sports federations, Chairman of Tachileik District Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Zaw Aye and officials, the Chairman of Thai Olympic Committee and officials of the Thai Tourism and Sports Ministry. First, Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint and the Thai Olympic Committee Chairman delivered speeches.

Next, they exchanged pennants of the Asia Olympic Council and the Olympic Committees of the two countries on Friendship Bridge No.1.

More than 8,000 participated in the races. Aung Thila of Myanmar was first in the men’s event and Pa Pa of Myanmar, first in the women’s event.

The old and the young take part in the Olympic Day friendly race and walking race in Maesai. — MNA

**Efficient use of electricity**

- Use daylight as the main source of light
- Use the least possible amount of electricity only if there is not enough natural light
- Use the least possible amount of electricity required in production and service enterprises
- Preventing waste of electricity benefits the user and others

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp everyday by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity a 20-megawatt power station can supply.

All this needs to be known

- *Do not be frightened whenever intimidated*
- *Do not be bolstered whenever flattered*
- *Do not be softened whenever appeased*

Efficient use of fuel

- Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
- Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US$ 5.5 million in a year
- The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River
Secretary-I Lt-Gen Soe Win attends ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw atop Nayset Laset Pagoda in Loikaw

YANGON, 20 June— A ceremony to hoist the umbrella atop Nayset Laset Pagoda built on the hill near Myakalat Hill in Loikaw, Kayah State, was held at the pagoda on 19 June morning, attended by Secretary-I of the State Peace and Development Council Col Myint Oo. Secretary-I Lt-Gen Soe Win attended the ceremony.

Also present on the occasion were Loikaw Shwedawu Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pandhasami, members of the State Central Working Committee of the Sangha, Loikaw M inkyaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Maha Saddhamma Jotikadha Bhaddanta S etthulabhivamsa and Nanphe Missionary Monastery Sayadaw Maha Saddhamma Jotikadha Bhaddanta Patabbhasa, Chairman of Kayah State Sangha Nayaka Committee Wimokti Thukha Yeikth Monastery Sayadaw Maha Kammathani cariya Bhaddanta Kesara dajjha and members of the Sangha, member of Kayah State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htw, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Chairman of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min, Brig-Gen Myo Lwin of Phekho Station, Chairman of Kayah State Peace and Development Council Col Myint Oo, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, departmental heads, local authorities, members of the Shwehtidaw hoisting organizing committee, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, social and religious organizations, wellwishers and local people.

Kayah State Law Office U Myint Aung acted as master of ceremonies. Loikaw Shwedaung Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pandhasami administered the Nine Precepts and members of the Sangha recited the Nine Precepts.

At the auspicious time, Minister Maj-Gen Kyi Aung laid the nine-gems casket in the middle of the foundation. Later, the minister and party inspected the site chosen to build the office of the Department of Archaeology in ancient Tagaung city.

At 9 am, the minister and party arrived at Wayongon Village and accepted cash donated by local people to renovate Raza Mun Pagoda in the village. The minister handed over the donation to pagoda trustees. In the evening, the minister and party viewed the rehearsal of cultural concerts by the Fine Arts Department at the National Theatre (Mandalay).

They arrived back here the next morning. — MNA

Culture Minister lays cornerstone of Laymyethna Pagoda in Tagaung

YANGON, 20 June— Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Kyi Aung on 18 June attended the renovation ceremony of ancient Laymyethna Pagoda in Tagaung, Mandalay, built by King Anawrahta in 11th Century AD. It was also attended by Sayadaw of Shwesali Monastery Bhaddanta Vepulla, Sayadaw of Utaik Monastery Bhaddanta Kosalla, Laymyethna Monastery Bhaddanta Pandita Nanda and members of the Sangha, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Archaeology (Upper Myanmar) Aung Kyaing, Deputy Director-General of the Fine Arts Department U Ngwe Tun, Lt-Col Myint Lwin of Tagaung Station, officials and local people.

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They arrived back here the next morning. — MNA

Secretary-I meets officials…

He urged them to try to win respects and admiration of local people and to bring about the interest of the people.

Next, Lt-Gen Soe Win presented TV, VCD and computers to the Basic Education High School, Pruhso, and exercise books to the schools in the township through township education officer and the headmistress of the high school.

Similarly, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung presented supplies to township Peace and Development Council chairman.

The minister and party proceeded to township People’s Hospital and inspected X-ray unit, operation unit, patient ward and store.

Afterwards, they arrived at Basic Education High School, Pruhso, and inspected the multi-media rooms and class rooms and fulfilled the requirements.

When they arrived at the BEHS, Dimawhso, they were welcomed by headmistress, teachers and students.

Next, Lt-Gen Soe Win met with departmental officials, townswelders, members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, social organizations and local people.

Chairman of the township Peace and Development Council U Taw Rae and officials reported on facts about the township and education and health matters.

After hearing reports, Secretary-I Lt-Gen Soe Win attended to the needs for upgrading of the schools and hospital and others. Next, he spoke at length on success of ceremonies. Loikaw Shwedaung Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pandhasami administered the Nine Precepts and members of the Sangha recited the Nine Precepts.

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Council U Taw Rae and officials reported on facts about the township and education and health matters.

After hearing reports, Secretary-I Lt-Gen Soe Win attended to the needs for upgrading of the schools and hospital and others. Next, he spoke at length on successful convening of national convention and making efforts for the development of the State making use of economic, education, health and transportation infrastructures built by the State.

Next, Myanmar Education Committee Vice-Chairman Secretary-I Lt-Gen Soe Win presented computers, VCD and TV for the BEHS, Dimawhso, through township Education Officer U Tun Yi and Headmistress Daw Khin May Win.

After the ceremony, Vice-Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-I Lt-Gen Soe Win and party inspected the People’s Hospital of the Dimawhso Township.

In the afternoon, they arrived back to Loikaw and inspected Ngwekku Lwin in Dimawhso Township.

Afterwards, they arrived at Loilemlay Village in Loikaw Township and inspected Nan-Kabi Bridge and thrilling of crops and Hsukha Bridge.

At BEHS in the village, Headmaster U Win Hein reported on condition of the school buildings, strength of teachers, students and needs to be fulfilled.

Next, Lt-Gen Soe Win fulfilled the requirements and presented teaching aid equipment.

Afterwards, Secretary-I and party proceeded to Loilemyaw Station Hospital and gave necessary instructions.

They then went to SR-456 summer paddy cultivation in Phekho Township, Shan State, where an official reported on irrigation from Moebye Dam, thriving of summer paddy and arrangement for distribution of Shweyinaye paddy strains.

At 9 am, they inspected the pilot cultivation of Hsinshwe summer paddy in Moebeye Village-tract, they arrived back to Loikaw.

Member of Panel of Patrons of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Secretary-I Lt-Gen Soe Win, together with USDA CEC members Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Brig-Gen Thein Aung, met with state district/township level USDA members in Loikaw, Pruhso, Dimawhso townships and gave instructions. — MNA

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.
MWAF Honorary Patron Daw Kyaing Kyaing, wife of Senior General Than Shwe, offers rice and edible oil to Nun Daw Dhammesi. — MNA

MWAF Honorary Patron Daw Mya Mya San, wife of Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, plants a star-flower tree. — MNA

MWAF President Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, wife of Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, plants a star-flower tree. — MNA

MWAF Adviser Daw Khin Than Nwe, widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, plants a gangaw tree. — MNA

MWAF Vice-President Daw Than Than Nwe, wife of Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Soe Win, plants a sapling at the tree planting ceremony. — MNA

Labour Minister arrives back
YANGON, 20 June — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Labour U Tin Winn arrived back here by air yesterday evening after attending the 92nd Annual Conference of International Labour Organization held in Geneva, Switzerland. The minister and party were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Deputy Minister for Labour Brig-Gen Win Sein, departmental officials of the Ministry of Labour and families. Members of the delegations, Director-General U Soe Nyunt of Labour Department, Director-General U Win Moe of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director-General U Yu Lwin Aung of the Office of Central Inland Freight Handling Committee, UMFCCI Vice-President of U Win Aung and Assistant Director U Win Myint of Labour Department also arrived back. MNA

Nursery Market Festival continues
YANGON, 20 June — The Nursery Market Festival continued at Myay Padetha Park in Bahan Township here today with the aim of providing necessary assistance to growers and attracting the public to be interested in agriculture, horticulture, livestock breeding and vegetable farming. — MNA
March toward New Golden Nation
* Relying on your own stamina and strength
Sharpen your own sword, play your part
Do your duty, build your own road
Only if you strive on your own path
Will you find the right one
We lead toward the peaceful golden land.
* Set up a snare, ready the trap
Use devious ways, lay the persuasion
Only if you’re ever on guard
Will you be free from entanglement.
From being overshadowed
And will our own sovereignty
Be perpetuated till the end of the world.
* “Persuasion”, “Threat”, “Blackerde”, “Blockade”
“Blind accusation”, “Divide”, “Wedge-in”
“Aggressive”, “Interferes”, “Destructive danger”
Against all these we shall protect
With constant vigilance
Keep eyes open, ears picked up
With ever vigilant, internal strength
Repulse and remove, internal and external enemies
We shall totally uproot them
March towards the new nation.

Yar Than (Mann Taing) (Tr)

Clinton says Bush timing on Iraq was wrong
New York, 20 June — US President George W Bush made the right decision to go after Saddam Hussein but the timing of the invasion was wrong, Bill Clinton said in an interview with Time magazine re-leased on Sunday.

“I have repeatedly defended President Bush against the left on Iraq, even though I think he should have waited until the UN inspections were over,” the former president said.

“I would not have done it until after (former UN chief weapons inspector) Hans Blix finished his job.”

Clinton spoke to Time days before the release of his memoirs, My Life, on Tuesday. It was his first print inter-view as part of the high-profile publicity campaign.

“We went in there because (Bush) bought the Wolfowitz-Cheney analysis that the Iraqis would be better off, we could shake up the authoritarian Arab regimes in the Middle East, and our leverage to make peace between the Palestinians and Israelis would be increased,” Clinton told Time.

The results have been mixed so far, he said.

“I think right now, getting rid of Saddam’s tyranny, ironically, has made Iraq more vulnerable to terrorism coming from in the outside,” Clinton said. “But any open society is going to be more vulnerable than any tyranny to that.”

During a two-hour interview conducted on Thurs-day, Clinton also touched on his affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky and his battle with independent counsel Ken Starr.

“I was involved in two great struggles at the same time: a great public struggle over the future of America with the Republican Congress and a private struggle with my old demons. I won the public one and lost the pri-vate one,” Clinton said. “I don’t think it’s much more complicated than that.”

Of Starr, Clinton said the special prosecutor represented “the new right that runs the Washington Republic-an Party.” “This was not about evidence. This was about a struggle for power. I think that they really saw us as usurpers. They thought the only reason they lost the elec-tion to Jimmy Carter was Watergate,” he said.

US lacks votes for immunity from war crimes court
UNITED NATIONS, 20 June — UN Secretary-Gen-eral Kofi Annan and key UN Security Council mem-bers intensified their opposition to a US draft resolu-tion that would renew the exemption of American soldiers from international prosecution.

Consequently, the Bush Administration on Friday still lacked the required nine votes to renew the measure that would give US troops immunity from the new Inter-national Criminal Court. The previous resolution expires on June 30. “We’re going to be coming back to the Coun-cil by Tuesday with a final plan — with our position in terms of next steps,” said US representative Stuart Holliday.

The resolution was first approved in 2002 after the United States vetoed a UN peacekeeping mission in Bosnia, and threatened to oppose others, one by one.

The immunity would be extended to all nations not among the 94 countries that have ratified a treaty establish-ing the court, set up to prosecute the world’s worst atrocities — genocide, mass war crimes and systematic human rights abuses.

But this year the abuse by US troops of prisoners in Iraq is largely responsible for opposition among the 15 Council members, diplomats said. The court steps only in when a nation refuses or cannot carry out its own probe, making it highly unlikely US citizens would ever appear before the tribunal.

No Council member is expected to veto the resolution but a significant number of abstentions would kill the measure. China’s UN Ambassador Wang Guangya told Reuters on Friday he decided to abstain, adding Germany, France, Spain, Brazil, Chile, Benin and Romania.

The only sure “yes” votes at the moment come from Britain, Russia, Angola, the Philippines as well as the United States. Pakistan and Algeria were undecided, Council sources said.

Annan appealed for the second consecutive day to Council members to oppose the resolution, distributing a memo at their monthly luncheon on Friday. He said the measure undermined International Law and sent an “un-fortunate signal any time — but particularly at this time”.

The memo, obtained by Reuters, “strongly urges the Council not to renew this measure.” — MNA/Reuters

20th Meeting of ASEAN National Tourism Organizations
5th Meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and Korea National Tourism Organizations
3rd ASEAN-India Tourism Consultations

Taunggyi, Union of Myanmar
30 June — 1 July, 2004

23rd Meeting of the Task Force on ASEAN Tourism Marketing
11th Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Investment
11th Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Manpower Development

Taunggyi, Union of Myanmar
28 — 29 June, 2004

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells
YANGON, 20 June — The Development Affairs Com-mittes under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get suf-ficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce.

One 200 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 250,000; one 400 feet deep two-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000; and one 200 feet deep four-inch diameter tube-well costs K 500,000.

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the Director-General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engi-neering) (Tel: 01-291937), the Directors (Sagyaung Di- vision Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-2102), the Director (Mawgyaw Division Development Affairs Com-mittee) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Di- vision Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-54657).

Drive safely
Ofices in Brussels much cheaper than in London

Brussels, 19 June—The Belgian capital Brussels is the 11th most expensive city in Europe when it comes to renting office space, lagging far behind London.

According to a study released on Thursday by EXPAT.com, the most expensive offices in Brussels go for 295 euros (about 355 US dollars) per square metre, in the heart of this city’s EU (European Union) district, which hosts most of the city’s institutions. As far as prices concerned, Brussels, however, lags far behind London, where office rents hover around a whopping 1,100 euros (about 1,200 dollars) per square metre.

Concerning office vacuum, the study found that one in five offices (16 per cent) in Brussels have the on the outskirts of the city are vacant or present.

This percentage falls considerably for property in the city centre however, where around 5.7 per cent of available office space is empty.

MNA/Xinhua

Germany faces serious problem of obesity

Brux., 19 June—Germany’s Consumer Protection Minister Renate Kuenast said on Thursday that obesity among German children and youth had reached a serious level. Almost one-third of the nation’s young people are overweight and one-half of those become obese because of their weight, the minister told the Parliament.

The numbers among adults are also not better with some two-thirds of men and one-half of women in Germany being overweight, said the minister.

Kuenast called for an initiative that would aim to change eating and exercise habits of the nation’s youth, saying that stronger controls should be placed on the food industry and their advertising aimed at children. —MNA/Xinhua

TRADE MARK CAUTION

TORAY INDUSTRIES, INC., a Corporation organised and existing under the laws of Japan, of No. 2-1, 2-chome, Nihonbashishin-Murouchi, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark—

Reg. No. 1414/1953

in respect of “Staple fibre, yarns and thread textile piece goods, articles of clothing, twine and rope, fishing net and fishing line, gut for racks, synthetic resin and synthetic resin plastics for industrial use, synthetic resin and synthetic resin plastic in the form of sheets, films, tubes, pipes, blocks and rods”.

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., B.B.L. for TORAY INDUSTRIES, INC.
P.O. Box 60, Yangon.

Air Astana Boeing makes safe emergency landing

ALMATY, 19 June—Air Astana Boeing 757-200 belonging to Kazakhstan’s flag carrier Air Astana made an emergency landing en route from Amsterdam early on Friday, but none of the 152 people on board were injured, emergency officials said.

The airliner serving the Amsterdam-Almaty flight landed in Kazakhstan’s western oil hub Atyrau at 0335 (0355 GMT on Thursday) after failing to open part of its undercarriage.

MNA/Reuters
German lawmaker wants to prosecute human traffickers

BERLIN, 20 June—A German politician called on Friday for men who have sex with women they think were forced into prostitution to face jail.

Beat Merk, Justice Minister in the southern state of Bavaria, told the Abendzeitung newspaper that previous efforts to thwart the sex slave trade had failed.

“The only reason there is a supply is because the corresponding demand exists,” she said. “If that goes, the supply will fall off too.”

There has been a sharp increase in sex slave trafficking across Western Europe since criminal gangs began exploiting greater freedom of movement from eastern Europe after the end of the Cold War and the collapse of Communism.

Merk said men should have no excuse for not knowing if a woman was working as a prostitute against her will and could always ask if they were unsure.

“Many are ‘kept’ like complete slaves, some have bruising all over their bodies, others are mentally and physically the property of their terrors and completely petrified. Men should be able to recognize that,” Merk said.

“Men cannot always ask the prostitutes if they are being forced into doing their job.”

Prostitution was decriminalized in Germany in 2001.

Pakistani delegation arrives in New Delhi for talks on CBMs

NEW DELHI, 19 June—A Pakistani delegation arrived here Friday for expert level talks with their Indian interlocutors on nuclear Confidence Building Measures (CBMs).

“We are coming with a positive spirit and positive suggestions. We are here for result-oriented talks,” Tariq Usman Haider, head of the six-member Pakistan delegation told reporters at the New Delhi Airport upon his arrival.

Haider said delegations of both India and Pakistan have a responsibility for the people of the two nations.

Asked what were Pakistan’s expectations from the two-day meeting, starting Saturday, he said, “We don’t negotiate through the media.”

The crucial weekend talks by senior officials are expected to focus on regional stability, nuclear crisis management and nuclear risk reduction.

Haider would be assisted by former Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner in New Delhi and at present Director-General of South Asian Jail Abbas Jilani and top nuclear and defence officials.

The Indian side will be headed by Shereen Javed Kazi, additional secretary in the External Affairs Ministry.

Vietnam to export less rice this year

HANOI, 19 June—Vietnam’s Ministry of Trade plans to export 3.5 million tons of rice this year, down 9 per cent against last year.

The move aims at stabilizing the local rice market, and ensuring the national food security, in the context that increased world prices of rice are pushing up prices of the commodity in the domestic market, local newspaper Vietnam Economic Times reported Friday.

The ministry has recently regulated that in the second half of this year, all rice traders must make reports of their rice export contracts to the “Vietnam Rice Export Association, and not to those volumes of the goods for export. It will tighten control over rice export reporting. Each rice exporter will be told the short-term volume of local traders on a monthly basis.

To deal with unexpected changes in local and international markets, the ministry and local enterprises are trying to establish systems on offering updated information about price fluctuations, Customs procedures and technical barriers of rice importers as well as prediction about rice import volume of local traders.

Merk said she would propose a bill to Germany’s Parliament making liaisons with women who had been forced into the sex trade a criminal offence punishable by a fine or jail.

She did not specify how harsh the sentences should be.

“Most of the women forced into prostitution don’t have it written on their faces and are not bruised,” she said.

“They’re also generally reluctant to talk about it because they’re under pressure and afraid of the consequences.”

“As long as prostitutes and those who pay for them are stigmatized, they’re not going to want to talk about it.”

Strack said politicians should concentrate on raising public awareness of victims of sexual exploitation rather than trying to scare people into the shadows.

“They should be going after the people forcing the women into prostitution, not those caught up in it.”

Beth Herzfeld from the London-based organization Anti-Slavery International said it was impossible to tell how many women were trafficked.

“It’s a hidden activity, so the statistics are based on detected cases or are just estimates. But it’s recognized as a growing problem,” she said. — MNA/Reuters

Indonesia hopes to be drug-free by 2015

JAKARTA, 19 June—Indonesia hopes that it will be free of drug abuse and drug trafficking by 2015 in accordance with a goal set by the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) spokesman Togar Sianipar said Friday.

When I was asked if it is possible, I said it is Indonesia’s responsibility as a member of ASEAN, because ASEAN wants its member countries to be drug free by 2015,” Sianipar was quoted as saying by the government news agency.

He made the statement during a discussion on the drug problem with religious leaders, academics, police personnel and the representatives of a number of non-governmental organizations.

Sianipar said, “I would remind all groups in society that their participation in combating drug abuse is important in order to save the country from disaster.”

Asian seminar on AIDS to be held in Phuket

BANGKOK, 19 June — The first seminar on AIDS in Asia will be held on July 6-10 on Thailand’s southern resort island of Phuket, the Thai News Agency reported here Friday.

“The seminar is aimed at increasing the awareness among Thai medical and dental professionals on oral health and the risk of AIDS related to dental care services, said Krasna Wangsamrangkij, chairman of the organizing committee.

Academics and specialists in oral health and HIV/AIDS from all over the world will attend the five-day seminar. The meeting is the fifth of its kind but the first to be held in Asia.

Originally planned to be held in the southern province of Phuket, the seminar was then shifted to Phuket for security concerns.

Recent violent attacks on government officials in southern Thailand have prompted Phuket to be chosen as the host of the seminar, Krasna said. The 15th International AIDS Conference will open in Bangkok on 11-16 July.

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MNA/Phnom Penh

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV QING CHUN MEN

VOY: NO (79)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV QING CHUN MEN Voy No (79) are here by notified that the vessel MV QING CHUN MEN’s cargo list published on 20-6-2004 and cargo list will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 1 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Phone: 25600, 378316, 376797

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EAGLE SHIPPING

Dutch nurse found guilty of more murders

THE HAAG, 20 June—A Dutch nurse convicted last year of murdering three children and an elderly woman in her care was found guilty on Friday of three more murders, including that of a retired United Nations war crimes judge.

Lucia de Berk’s case touched a raw nerve in the Netherlands—the first country in the world to legalize euthanasia—after sparking fears that medical staff could kill patients without being punished.

After a rehearing of the case which introduced new evidence and witnesses, The Hague appeals court upheld the original verdict on Friday and added compulsory counseling to the life sentence first imposed on the 42-year-old.

“This is not a punishment that can prove adequate for her crimes, the sheer size of which seemed impossible up to now in the Netherlands,” the appeals court said.

De Berk, who spent her teenage years in Canada and worked there as a prostitute before moving to the Netherlands, was convicted in March last year of giving four patients in her care lethal drugs while working in different hospitals in The Hague between 1997 and 2001.

The court also found her guilty of incarcerating the 91-year-old United Nations war crimes judge Haqeci Loi, whereas in March 2003 she was cleared of that charge.

De Berk, who wrote in her diary of giving in to her “compulsions” and whom prosecutors described as a psychopath, walked out of court and protested her innocence in a trembling voice halfway through the sentencet.

“I don’t have to hear this. I have not done this,” de Berk interrupted a judge on the three-judge panel who said she had murdered a five-month-old girl by administering an overdose of a heart medication.

The appeals court said her “compulsion” was to rob seriously ill patients of their lives.

Her lawyers, who declined to speak to the Press, have 14 days in which to take the case to the highest Court of Appeal.— MNA/Reuters
Germany frustrated in dismal draw with Latvia

PORTO, 20 June—Germany’s chances of a Euro 2004 quarterfinal spot were hit hard as they were held to a 0-0 draw by debutants Latvia on Saturday.

Latvia, who had come close to victory in their opening 2-1 defeat by the Dutch, which they could once again upset the odds after poor preparations for the tournament, are at risk of another early exit after failing to survive the group stage at Euro 2000.

The Baltic debutants looked well organized and resisted Germany in a tight tactical first half of few highlights.

The second half was more one-sided, Germany stepping up a gear but looking clumsy in front of goal and failing to break a well-defended Latvia defence.

Latvia right back Aleksandrs Isakovs received the fastest yellow card of the tournament when he clattered midfielder Torsten Frings a few seconds into the game.

The opening skirmishes were tense and dull with no clear chance until Frings fired over the bar from inside the box on eight minutes.

Germany threatened again when striker Kevin Kuranyi controlled the ball on his chest and shot narrowly wide but there was little to get excited about for the German fans.

Germany, playing with two strikers, failed to put their opponents under real pressure and were far from convincing against Latvia.

Latvia goalkeeper Aleksandr Kolinko, center, grabs the ball ahead of Kevin Kuranyi, behind, and Fredi Bobic of Germany, who will face Latvia, who had come close to victory in their opening 2-1 defeat by the Dutch, which they could once again upset the odds after poor preparations for the tournament, are at risk of another early exit after failing to survive the group stage at Euro 2000.

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For answers to yesterday’s crossword puzzle, see page 14.

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Owen will come good for England, says Houllier

LISBON, 20 June—Former Liverpool manager Gerard Houllier is backing goal-shy striker Michael Owen to come good for England at Euro 2004. Owen is being completely outshone by 18-year-old strike partner Wayne Rooney, who is failing to even come close to scoring in their 2-1 defeat by holders France and missing a glorious chance in Thursday’s 3-0 win over Switzerland in Group B.

Houllier, who groomed Owen for six years at Anfield before being dismissed last month, told reporters on Saturday: “I’m sure he’ll score.”

“Look at (Christian) Vieri, Raul, Pauleta, none of them are scoring. It’s so tight that strikers are sometimes coming up against two banks of four. The only space is on the wings, look at (Christian) Panucci and (Giampaolo) Zambrotta for Italy last night and (Christiano) Ronaldo for Portugal.”

Rooney became the youngest scorer at a European Championship with his double-strike against the Swiss and won a second-half penalty, which David Beckham failed to convert, with one of his surging runs against France. — MNA/Reuters

Beckham says Europe discovers Rooney mania

LISBON, 20 June—European football has woken up to the huge talent of teenage striker Wayne Rooney after his exploits at Euro 2004, says England skipper David Beckham.

“Rooney was impressive in England’s 2-1 defeat by France and then became the youngest-ever scorer at a European championship with two goals in Thursday’s 3-0 win over Switzerland.”

“He’s an exceptional talent,” Beckham said of the 18-year-old on Saturday.

“The players and a lot of people in England knew it before this tournament but now Europe is finding out about Wayne and we’re very lucky to have such a good player in our team.”

Beckham felt Rooney won his spurs against the European champions in England’s opening game last Sunday.

“Playing against some of the best defenders in the world, he ran away from a couple and held off a couple and that’s not easy to do,” Beckham said.

Beckham says Europe discovers Rooney mania

Czechs in last eight after 3-2 comeback win

AVEIRO, 20 June—Czech Republic were the first team to reach the quarterfinals at Euro 2004 after winning one of the all-time classic European Championship matches 3-2 against the Netherlands on Saturday.

The Czechs came back from two goals down to win a Group D game full of exhilarating play when Vladimir Smicer tucked home the winner in the 88th minute to break Dutch hearts.

The Dutch finished with 10 men after defender Johnny Heitinga but the Czechs could not take advantage.

The result puts the Czechs through with six points. Germany have two and the Netherlands and Latvia one.

Germany play the Czech Republic and Latvia face the Netherlands in the final games next Wednesday.

The Dutch army of orange-clad fans making up the majority of the 30,000 crowd had barely finished cheering Latvia’s draw with Germany when they were on their feet again at the start of what would prove 90 minutes of exhilarating football.

Jan Koller had blasted a close-range volley over the bar after less than two minutes but the Czechs could not take advantage.

Both sides made countessless further chances, the Dutch twice hitting the woodwork, before Milan Baros earned the Czechs a deserved point with a thunderous equalizer in the 71st minute.

The Dutch played out the last 20 minutes with 10 men after a second yellow card for defender Johnny Heitinga but the Czechs could not take advantage.

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WEATHER

Sunday, 20 June, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:00 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder-showers has been isolated in Shan State, scattered in Mandalay, lower Sagaing and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine State, isolated heavyfalls in Bago and Tanintharyi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were An (6.94) inches, Kyaukpyu (6.50) inches, Sittwe (5.43) inches, Thandwe (5.28) inches, Maungdaw (5.04) inches, Dawei (4.29) inches, Swegyin (3.66) inches, Kyaukpyu (3.62) inches, Ye (2.36) inches and central Yangon (1.03) inches.

Maximum temperature on 19-6-2004 was 29.5°C (85°F). Minimum temperature on 20-6-2004 was 21.3°C (70°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 20-6-2004 was 80%. Total sunshine hours for 19-20-06 was nil. Rainfall on 20-6-2004 was 29mm (1.14 inches) at Yangon Airport, 38mm (1.50 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 33mm (1.30 inches) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 995mm (39.17 inches) at Yangon Airport and 914mm (35.99 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1054mm (41.14 inches) at central Yangon.

State of the sea: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40 to 45) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate to strong monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 21-6-2004: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 21-6-2004: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Secretary-1 meets officials, townsenders in Pruhso, Dimawhso

YANGON, 20 June—Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Hewe, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Minister for Livestock Breeding and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Myint, Deputy Minister for Education Col Aung Myo Min, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and heads of departments, arrived in Loikaw by air on 18 June.

The Secretary-1 and party were welcomed at Loikaw Airport by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Chairman of Kayah State Peace and Development Council Col Myint Oo and officials. The Secretary-1 and party, accompanied by Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and Chairman Col Myint Oo and officials, went to Pruhso by car.

They were welcomed there by Lt-Col Kyaw Swa Min of Loikaw Station, Chairman of Loikaw District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Win Maung, departmental officials and townsenders. The Secretary-1 met departmental officials, townsenders and local people at the Pruhso Township Peace and Development Council Office.

Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Mya Hlaing reported on local and area of Pruhso, various national races living in the township, set-up of wards and villages, land use, rainfall, cultivation of paddy, crops, kitchen crops and perennial crops, sufficiency of food in the region, education and health sectors and endeavours for development of the township.

Next, township officials also reported on education and health measures and power supply. The ministers, the deputy ministers and Chairman of Kayah State Peace and Development Council gave supplementary reports. The Secretary-1 fulfilled the requirements for the township including supply of furniture and construction of classrooms for basic education school in Pruhso.

In his discussions, the Secretary-1 said he and party came to Pruhso for the first time and they would make field trips to other townships to fulfill the requirements for development of Kayah State. In comparison with other states and divisions, Kayah State is not large and there is sparse population there. National races in the state are contented and living in peace.

He said there are a lot of fallow and virgin lands in Kayah State. He spoke of the need to boost agricultural production after making use of these land resources effectively.

He said it is important for the people in the region to do their businesses peacefully and safely and it is impossible to effectively undertake economic and development tasks without peace.

The government gave first priority to community peace and tranquillity and the prevalence of law and order throughout the Union and it also built national reconsolidation, he said. With the community peace and tranquillity and national solidarity, the government laid emphasis on economic progress of the country and equal development of states and divisions.

Moreover, the border region special plan for development of border areas and far-flung areas, rural development programmes and regional development plans were implemented after designating major development regions. As a result, the respective regions in the Union have developed and border towns have also developed like cities. There are modern plantations and farms there, he added.

Now, he said, national races of the respective regions in the Union can enjoy fruitful results of peace and tranquillity and development. Unlike the previous era, considerable progress has been made in Kayah State. He said the main factor for continued progress is stability and peace. After restoring peace and tranquillity, Kayah State will develop and living standard of local people will also improve, he added.

Personnel working in Pruhso include local personnel as well as those from other regions. Anyway, efforts are to be made for development of the regions they are in, he said.

(See page 9)

NC delegates exercise, take part in sports events

YANGON, 20 June—Delegates to the National Convention exercise and take part in sports events daily. Win Thuza Shop of the Ministry of Industry-I and the shop of Government Employee Cooperative (GEC) are kept open daily to sell foodstuffs, personal goods, medicines, cosmetics, textiles and stationery produced by the Ministry of Industry-I and electronic equipment and others.

Similarly, retired op- ticians gave service of eye tests and sold spectacles.

The book stall of Sarpy Beikman borrows magazines, journals, novels and other books on various subjects to the delegates and sells the prize winning books in Sarpy Beikman Manuscripts Award at reasonable prices. Likewise, instant foodstuffs, honey, honey products and canned foods are available at the shop of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries. Laundry service is also available.

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.