Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to President of Republic of Croatia

YANGON, 25 June — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Stjepan Mesic, President of the Republic of Croatia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Croatia which falls on 25 June 2004. — MNA

Delegates of political parties submit proposals to Plenary Session of National Convention

YANGON, 24 June—the Plenary Session of the National Convention was held at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township at 9 am today.

Political parties from the Delegates Group of Political Parties which is one of the delegates groups to the National Convention read proposals concerning detailed basic principles to be laid down for sharing of power in legislative, executive and judicial sectors to be included in writing the State Constitution.

Also present at the Plenary Session of the National Convention were Chairman of the National Convention Convensing Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members.
Towards human resource development

The Government has been endeavouring for development of economy, education, health, transport and human resources in all regions across the nation by systematically implementing the plan for development of border areas and national races, the 24-region development plan and the five rural development tasks.

Human resource development is the sine qua non for the development of the nation. For the emergence of highly-qualified human resources, new universities and colleges are being opened and their total number now stands at 154. Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, also Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee, visited Magway University on 21 June during his inspection tour of Magway Division.

Having heard the reports by responsible officials and fulfilled their requirements, the Prime Minister said that human resource development plays a very important role in building a peaceful, modern and developed nation, that new universities and colleges are being opened for human resource development and that the role of teachers who are to turn out highly-qualified intellectuals and intelligentsia hardly needs be emphasized.

The Government is taking all the necessary measures to fully staff and equip universities and colleges according to the demand of the time and circumstances. Teachers should seriously bear in mind that they, on their part, will have to try to the best of their ability to train their students in order that they become intellectually and spiritually developed.

For the development of each and every region, the requirements of education and health must be fully met. In the past, the people in rural and remote areas were not able to get education and health facilities. Therefore, rural health centres, hospitals and basic education schools are being opened and the existing ones upgraded.

We would like to call on teachers in the basic and higher education sectors to work in concert with the Government for human resource development, the key to the national development.

Myanmar Gazette

YANGON, 24 June — The State Peace and Development Council has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

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<tr>
<th>Names</th>
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<td>(a) U Kyi Win</td>
<td>Managing Director</td>
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<td>(b) Dr Aung Than</td>
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Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung presents a gift of honour to U Sein Hwet who is in charge of swimming team of the ministry which won the best team award in swimming — MNA

Victorious athletes honoured

YANGON, 24 June — A ceremony to honour the victorious athletes of the Ministry of Forestry was held at the International Business Centre on Pyay Road here this evening. Present on the occasion were Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Tin Naing Thein, heads of department and the athletes.

The minister delivered an address and presented gifts of honour to the athletes. During the year 2003-2004, athletes of the Ministry of Forestry won 123 gold, 101 silver and 93 bronze in local events as well as 1 gold, 7 silver and 9 bronze in international tournaments. — MNA

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26-6-2004

Myanmar Women’s Day

3rd July 2004

NC delegates entertained with films

YANGON, 24 June — The Entertainment and Welfare Sub-committee of the National Convention Convening Management Committee is organizing entertainment programmes for delegates to the National Convention daily at the gymnastics of Nyaungannpin Camp. Yesterday evening, the delegates were entertained with a film entitled “Bagan Hmar Tha De La” (The Moon Over Bagan) directed by Myat Than Aye and starring Yan Aung, May Than No, Tun Tun Naing and Min Oo. — MNA

People’s Desire

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

Tree-planting ceremony

YANGON, 24 June — With the assistance of the Ministry of Forestry and the Yangon City Development Committee, the Work Group for Environmental Conservation under the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation organized a monsoon tree-planting ceremony at Tipitaka Maha Gandawin Monastery on Kyanitha Street, Ward 13, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, here, this morning. MWA Vice-President Daw Khin Lay Thet, Work Group advisers Daw Khin Saw Hnin, Daw Khin Hu Myint and leader Daw Yin Yin Lay and party, and staff of National Commission for Environmental Conservation, totalling around 100 collectively planted 60 different species of shade trees. Next, Daw Khin Lay Thet and party offered alms and cash donations towards the medical funds through Tipitaka Kovidha Agga Maha Pandita Yesagyo Saydaw Bhaddanta Vayamindhibavmsa and members of the Sangha. The Saydaw gave them certificate of honour. — MNA
Iraq prison scandal dooms US bid for war crimes immunity

UNITED NATIONS, 23 June—The United States failed in its bid to continue shielding US troops from prosecution for war crimes charges in the wake of the prisoner abuse scandal in Iraq.

In an embarrassing defeat on the UN Security Council, Washington withdrew its controversial attempt to get another one-year renewal of immunity at the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

“The United States has decided not to proceed further ... in order to avoid a prolonged and divisive debate,” said Deputy James Cunningham said after it became clear Washington could not get the nine council votes needed.

Last month, the United States put forward a draft resolution it was hoping would be an automatic one-year renewal of the immunity deal, which was first approved by the council in 2002. Under that measure, immunity from ICC prosecution is granted to personnel in UN-authorised operations whose home nations have not ratified the court’s founding treaty. Cunningham offered a compromise late Tuesday to save the deal, proposing that this would be the final such renewal granted, but that was not enough to convince sceptical nations.

Xu acknowledged that China, Brazil reach understanding in soybean trade dispute

BEIJING, 23 June—Sino-Brazilian soybean trade is expected to resume its smooth development momentum as the two sides have reached common understanding on solving a trade dispute, sources with the State Administration of Quality Supervision and Quarantine (SAQSQ) said Tuesday.

Deputy presidential spokesman Ricardo Saludo said the government is reviewing the “necessity” of keeping the peacekeepers in Iraq when the new government comes to power at the end of the month.

“This is better than voting on such an important issue,” Xu said in a news briefing. Saludo expressed concern for thousands of Filipinos in Iraq, especially after the beheading of a South Korean hostage by militants in the war-torn country.

The United States has repeatedly objected to allowing the ICC prosecute its nationals, and has instead signed some 90 bilateral immunity deals with different

nations.

It was not immediately clear what impact the lack of immunity would have on US participation in future UN peacekeeping operations, although Cunningham said Washington would have to “take into account” the latest events.

Several council diplomats said their positions had been strengthened by the re-affirming of UN chief Annan last week, who said a re-newal of the immunity in the wake of the Iraq prison abuse would be a “discredit” to the council. — Internet

Gov’t studying pullout of RP soldiers from Iraq

MANILA, 24 June—Malacañang is studying whether to pull out the Philippine humanitarian contingent in Iraq or not in the wake of the scheduled transfer of sovereignty to an interim government on 30 June.

President Bush offered his government’s support to Iraq's new leaders in a telephone call with Iraqi President Jalal Talabani on Tuesday.

Talabani has already confirmed that the US military will remain in the country as the US mission's military operations in Iraq last year, according to the

842 US service members killed since beginning of military operations in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 23 June—As of Wednesday, 23 June 842 US service members have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Defence Department. Of those, 622 died as a result of hostile action and 220 died of non-hostile causes.

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

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 704 US soldiers have died — 513 as a result of hostile action and 191 of non-hostile causes, according to the military as of

Wednesday. — Internet

China, Brazil reach understanding in soybean trade dispute

China and Israel to strengthen economic, technological cooperation

BEIJING, 23 June—Some 200 representatives attending the “China-Israel Business Conference” said here Tuesday that the two countries will increase cooperation in economic and technology.

Bilateral economic relations developed rapidly since the two countries established their diplomatic relations 12 years ago. Israel has become the third biggest market for China in west Asia and north Africa, whereas China has become Asia’s biggest and world’s seventh market for Israel.

The economy of two nations are highly complementary to each other, said Xu Guanhua, Minister of Science and Technology.

Xu acknowledged that the Chinese Government is now working hard to implement its strategies of developing both the western and northeastern regions, and China is now in urgent need of introducing capital, advanced technology and science from overseas. The Beijing Olympic Games in 2008 and World Expo in Shanghai in 2010 will surely cell to each other, said Xu Guanhua, Minister of Science and Technology.

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which can keep fast growth, said Ehud Olmert, Israeli Deputy Prime Minister of Industry, Trade, Labour and Technology. Israel is willing to provide advanced technology in soft-ware, telecommunication, biotechnology, agriculture and medical equipment.

Israel ambassador to China Yehezayad Haim said the two nations maintained healthy and rapid relations since 1992 due to China’s fast economic growth and stable bilateral relations.

In the dispute, Brazilian soybeans exported to China were accused of being con-taminated with a harmful fungicide known as carboxan. At meeting Monday with Brazilian farm officials, Chinese quarantine officials praised Brazil’s efforts in solving the soybean safety prob-lem after receiving China’s notification and said the issue is only a technical one instead of a political one claimed by some foreign media.

Since May, China has banned Brazilian soy imports from 23 trading companies after finding fungicide-con-taminated seeds mixed in with thousands of tons of soybeans grown for human and animal consumption.

MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

Following the early morning announcement that Iraqi militants had killed a South Korean national outside of Baghdad, over 500 enraged protesters chant slogans denouncing the South Korean Government’s involvement in Iraq during a candlelight vigil, on 23 June, 2004, near the US Embassy in downtown Seoul. — Internet

INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

INTERNET

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MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua

INTERNET

MNA/Xinhua

INTERNET
Two Iraqi sisters working with US firm shot dead

BAKRA, 23 June—Two Iraqi sisters working for a big US firm were killed in a drive-by shooting on Tuesday near their home in the southern city of Bakra, relatives said.

Their father, Sadah Audishow, said he had been waiting at the window for his daughters to return from work when he heard gunshots and saw a white pick-up truck speeding past.

"I had been waiting for my daughters to come home at five’s clock," said Audishow, an Assyrian Christian who works and lives in the church with his family.

"I picked one of them up and she was dead. I went to pick up the other but found her dead too," he said Wednesday, his shirt still stained with blood from the night before.

Neighbors said men in the truck had opened fire on the girls’ car.

Janet and Shatha, aged 38 and 25, worked for US company Bechtel, the father said.

Bechtel has been awarded major infrastructure reconstruction contracts in Iraq.

The family was taking the bodies of the women to the northern city of Mosul for burial, the father said. "We had received no threats," he said. "We are peaceful people, just making a living."

Attacks on Iraqi translators and others working with US companies in Iraq are common.

There have been numerous recent attacks on Christians and shopkeepers selling alcohol in largely Shiite Muslim Bakra since the US-led war last year.

HK steps up efforts on anti-mosquito campaign

HONG KONG, 23 June — Hong Kong’s Anti-mosquito Steering Committee (AMSC) Monday endorsed the setting up of District Anti-mosquito Task Forces in all 18 districts to further strengthen the coordination of government efforts in the anti-mosquito campaign.

The setting up of the task forces is also aimed at encouraging community involvement in anti-mosquito activities, in an effort to better prevent dengue fever and other mosquito-related diseases.

The task forces would coordinate inter-departmental efforts and solicit greater community participation in combating the mosquito problem as well as promote anti-mosquito message across the community, chairperson of the AMSC, Carrie Yau, said.

She said that in the light of the recent upsurge of the ovitrap indices, all government departments vowed to further enhance their anti-mosquito efforts at areas under their respective purview in the coming months. In a related development, The Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) Monday launched a territory-wide blitz operation, which runs until June 25.

A spokesperson for the department said the blitz operation, which runs until June 25, targets construction sites in all districts.

"Departmental staff will step up inspection to the sites and take out prosecution when mosquito breeding places are found," said the spokesperson. "They will also request the site management to eliminate all mosquito breeding places and remove stagnant water at once where mosquito breeding places are found," said the spokesperson.

The Expo, an annual event in Nanning, was proposed by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in October 2003 in Bali, Indonesia.

More US casualties in Iraq violence

BAGHDAD, 23 June—Two US soldiers were killed Wednesday and 20 Iraqis slain or wounded in separate incidents across Iraq.

A US army spokesman said suspected Iraqi guerrillas attacked a US patrol in the city of Balad north of Baghdad killing two troops.

There was no work on whether the assailants were caught. In Baghdad an explosive charge blew up as a child tampered with it killing him and his mother, police said.

Two Iraqi police were also slain Wednesday in an explosion in the city of Ramadi, 120 kilometres (75 miles) west of Baghdad.

Defence Ministry says British troops could be court-martialed in Iraq

LONDON, 23 June—British soldiers accused of mistreating Iraqi prisoners could face court martial inside Iraq, Britain’s Ministry of Defence said.

Four British soldiers have already been ordered to stand trial for allegedly beating and sexually abusing detainees in Iraq, while dozens more cases are being investigated.

"The defence ministry’s director-general of operational policy, Martin Howard, said Wednesday that there were arguments for holding the hearings — which would be under British jurisdiction — in Iraq. "The court martial would ideally be held close to the scene of the crime," Howard told the House of Commons Defence Committee.

"That is obviously much easier, it would depend on where you have the right sort of legal representation and have got qualified people on the spot. In the case of Iraq, you probably have got the right people,” he said.

"In general, courts martial have the same sort of status as a crown court so, as I understand it, members of the public can attend.

There may be stricter security in Iraq but, in principle, members of the public can attend." Earlier this month the Ministry of Defence said that military police were investigating 75 reported incidents connected with British troops in Iraq.

This number had now risen to 79, Howard told the committee.

China-ASEAN Expo highlights overseas investment

NANNING, 23 June—The upcoming first-ever China-ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) Expo aims to distinguish itself from other domestic fairs by underlining Chinese investment abroad.

“More domestic outsourcing enterprises are expected to attend the Expo,” said Zheng Junjian, vice-secretary-general of the secretariat of the China-ASEAN Expo, due to be held between November 3 and 6 in Nanning, capital of southwest China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The Expo, an annual event in Nanning, was proposed by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in October 2003.

"The construction process of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area and promote two-way cooperation and win-win situation between the two sides. The Expo, with the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area as its first theme, would provide the ASEAN members and other enterprises in the world with a good trade platform, said Zheng.

The organizing committee was now working hard to invite high-profile enterprises both at home and abroad in a bid to make the Expo a successful one, said Zheng. The Chinese Ministry of Commerce and Hong Kong had offered the Expo over one billion buy- ers’ data to help overseas enterprises learn more information.

Australian PM wants all schools to fly national flag

CANBERRA, 23 June—Australian schools were told on Tuesday to fly the national flag if they wanted federal funding.

Prime Minister John Howard, who is expected to call an election within months, said a shift in cultural attitudes meant more Australians wanted to display the flag now than in the past.

"I don’t think there is anything old fashioned about the display of patriotic symbols," Howard told a news conference.

The young generation embrace those things far more, may I say with the greatest respect, than people aged between 35 and 50," he said.

The requirement to have a functioning flag pole was one of a list of conditions the government wants all schools to meet to get a slice of 31 billion Australian dollars (21 billion US dollars) in federal funding set aside for education over the next four years.

Under Australian laws, schools are the responsibility of the nation’s six state and two territory governments, which provide about 88 per cent of funding, but the federal government tops this up and helps to fund non-government schools.

An unidentified Iraqi man looks at the damage to a vehicle in a parking lot that was hit in overnight airstrikes by the US military in Fallujah on 23 June, 2004. —INTERNET

Internet
Fugitive vows to assassinate Iraqi leader

Cairo, 23 June—An audio recording purportedly made by al-Qaida-linked militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi threatened to assassinate Iraq’s interim prime minister and said the fight against “infidels” will continue.

The recording, discovered online Wednesday, was believed to be al-Zarqawi’s first reaction to the interim government, headed by Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, that was named in late May.

“As for you, Allawi...you don’t know that you have already survived traps we made for you. We promise you that we will continue the game with you until the end,” the online recording said. “We will not get bored until we make you drink from the same glass that Izzadin Saleem tasted.”

Bomb kills three in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 23 June—An Iraqi mother and her child were among three people killed on a roadside bomb exploded near a Baghdad (search) hospital today.

Police say the woman and child were in a taxi when the explosion occurred in the eastern part of the city. There were no US patrols in the area at the time. Authorities quickly moved to sealed off the area.

Television news footage showed a burned-out Iraqi taxi in the middle of the street. The footage also shows remains of another man apparently killed while handling the bomb.

Another man is shown being led away from the scene in handcuffs.

Iraq roadside bomb kills an Iraqi soldier, wounds 4, US says

BAGHDAD, 23 June—One Iraqi soldier was killed and at least four others were wounded in a roadside bombing in the northern city of Mosul today, the US military said in an e-mailed statement.

The explosion occurred at about noon Baghdad time as the Iraqi National Guard soldiers patroled the city. The US said US and Iraqi officials have said they expect guerillas to step up violence in Iraq ahead of the planned handover of power by the US-led coalition to an Iraqi administration led by Prime Minister Ayad Allawi in one week.

Numerous attacks in recent weeks have targetted the coalition and Iraqi forces.

US sloppily managed Iraqi oil money

UNITED NATIONS, 23 June—The US-led civil administration in Iraq is sloppily managing billions of dollars of Iraqi oil money and moving at a glacial pace to guard against corruption, an international watchdog agency charged on Tuesday.

The Coalition Provisional Authority has left a door open to smuggling by failing to award contracts for equipment to metre Iraq’s oil production despite having announced the contracts had been granted, the Internationl Advisory and Monitoring Board said.

The authority has also put off for three months a request that it turn over US audits of sole-source contracts funded with Iraqi oil money and awarded to Halliburton last year without competitive bidding, the board said.

Finally, the US-led authority has delayed completing audits of the State Oil Marketing Organization, the state-owned firm that markets Iraqi oil, the agency said.

Halliburton, the Texas oil services firm once headed by US Vice-President Dick Cheney, has been accused by some Democrats of war profiteering after winning billions of dollars in contracts from the US military in Iraq.

The watchdog agency issued the statement after a two-day meeting in Paris, just days before the Coalition Provisional Authority was to shut down after handing power to an interim Iraqi government on June 30.

That timing makes it likely the civil administration that has governed Iraq since last year’s US-led invasion would close its doors before having to answer to the watchdog agency.

New electric-power system starts working in Los Angeles port

LOS ANGELES, 23 June—The world’s first Alternative Maritime Power (AMP) container terminal, a new electric-power system that could significantly reduce air pollutants emitted by ships, started working at the port of Los Angeles.

“This (the Los Angeles) port makes Los Angeles wealthier by generating billions of dollars each year. This unprecedented technology will make Los Angeles’ environment healthier by eliminating tons of pollutants each day,” Los Angeles Mayor Jim Hahn said at opening ceremony.

The ceremony was held in front of China Shipping Group’s Xin Yang Zou, which will be the first container ship in the world to make use of the port’s new electric-power system.

China launches campaign against overloaded trucks

SHANGHAI, 23 June—China has launched a campaign to protect the country’s creaky road network by banning overloaded trucks, held responsible for three-quarters of road accidents and damage to highways costing billions of dollars.

But analysts said on Tuesday the ban could backfire in the long run as it would put more vehicles on clogged roads and push up motor fuel prices — bad news for companies grappling with transport bottlenecks and shrinking margins.

Chinese Vice-Minister of Communications Feng Zhenglin said the year-long campaign began 20 June but would bear fruit in three years, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Racing growth is increasing demand for goods such as coal and raw materials, which analysts say an undeveloped and under-funded road and rail system is unable to cope with. “We will try to curb this phenomenon within three years,” Feng was quoted as saying by Xinhua.

About 200,000 officials have been stationed throughout the country to ensure trucks meet weight requirements. First-time offenders would be warned but repeat transgressions would trigger a maximum fine of 1,000 yuan (121 US dollars) and revocation of licences, Xinhua said.

State TV reported success on the first day of the campaign, with a 20 per cent drop in road traffic on 20 June. But analysts say long-term effects could be negative.

Rising motor fuel prices could squeeze companies already dealing with narrow margins as raw material costs escalate.

ITU, South Korea build digital bridges

GENEVA, 23 June—The International Telecommunications Union (ITU) said Tuesday that it has formed a new partnership with South Korea on a project to measure the digital divide between developed and developing countries and to provide advice to bridge it.

Through an initial contribution of 432,000 US dollars from South Korea, the project “Digital Bridges Initiative” will provide tools to measure the gap in access to information and communications technologies that exists between developed and developing nations.

This vast inequality in access to information, also referred to as a “digital divide”, threatens to slow the formation of a truly global, inclusive information society, said the ITU.

The Digital Bridges Initiative will also provide policy and technical expertise to close the digital divide. The first activity under this new Initiative will be a workshop to be held in Busan, South Korea on September 10-11.

While most people in the developing world still have no access to even simple dial-up Internet access, broadband is flourishing in many economies, especially in East Asia, said the ITU.

The current digital divide in high-speed Internet connectivity is a growing concern, and new tools such as national and international digital divide indices to identify digital gaps and policy insight to close them are required.

The Geneva-based organization noted that there has been substantial improvement in access to communication technology in the developing world during the past 15 years due to a combination of new mobile phone technologies and successful policy implementation. For example, the gap for fixed lines between developed and developing countries has shrunk from 14 times in 1992 to only five times 10 years later.

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MNA/Reuters

A Cobra helicopter gunship (L) and UH-1 Huey search for guerillas after a US Marine patrol from the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Marine Division was attacked near Fallujah on 24 June, 2004. — INTERNET

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MNA/Reuters

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MNA/Reuters

This image taken from a video posted on an Islamist web site purports to be the beheading of the South Korean hostage Kim Sun-il killed by militants in Iraq. Kim’s body was found by the US military between Baghdad and Fallujah, 22 miles west of the capital, at 5:20 pm Iraq time, on 22 June, 2004. —INDEXER

A Cobra helicopter gunship (L) and UH-1 Huey search for guerillas after a US Marine patrol from the 2nd Battalion of the 1st Marine Division was attacked near Fallujah on 24 June, 2004. — INTERNET
WASHINGTON, 24 June — Republicans in the US Senate battled on Wednesday to block Democrats from demanding the Bush Administration release more documents on the treatment of enemy combatants after the prisoner abuse scandal in Iraq.

Republicans, pushing to pass a 447-billion-US-dollar bill for defence programmes, planned a procedural vote that could kill a Democratic amendment demanding Attorney General John Ashcroft turn over documents on the interrogation and treatment of prisoners.

But because some Republicans are also urging the White House to make a full disclosure of its policies on prisoners, party leader hoped to avoid putting senators on record as directly opposing the amendment, while still defeating the Democrats.

“The Senate Republicans are trying to stonewall the release of Justice Department memoranda on the torture of prisoners,” said Senator Edward Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat.

Under pressure from lawmakers, the White House on Tuesday released a thick file of newly declassified papers to try to demonstrate that Bush and his aides insisted that detainees at Guantanamo be treated humanely.

But Democrats said the documents were largely irrelevant and said the White House should make a full disclosure.

The Senate Judiciary Committee on a party line vote last week rejected a Democratic proposal to subpoena 23 documents from the Justice Department they said should be part of an open examination into the abuse of US-held prisoners in Iraq that has drawn worldwide condemnation.

Senator John Cornyn, a Texas Republican, accused Democrats of playing “Beltway games and political tricks” in demanding “an extraordinary amount” of documents in addition to those released by the White House.

But Senator Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat, said a vote to block the Democrats’ amendment in effect said: “We want to allow the administration to keep on hiding documents.”

In other action on the bill, senators rejected 50-48 an amendment pushed by Kennedy calling for a prompt report from the White House on the number of US troops it expects to have in Iraq by the end of 2005, and its plans to get more international peacekeeping help.

ACD FMs agree to strengthen cooperation for a better Asia

QINGDAO, 23 June — The 22 foreign ministers or their representatives of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) member states agreed here Tuesday on strengthening cooperation for a better Asia.

At the closure of the third foreign ministers’ meeting of the ACD, they issued a document titled “Declaration on Asia Cooperation”. In the declaration, the ministers reaffirmed their commitment to basic principles stipulated in the UN Charter, and other international norms such as the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

They said they also will make efforts to expand and advance dialogues among all areas under the principles of equality, reciprocity, mutual benefit and gradual progress and to build a new Asia where lasting peace and prosperity prevails.

To this end, the ministers agreed to do the following:

— To intensify political dialogue and enhance mutual trust.
— To enhance economic cooperation and promote the regional integration process.
— To promote sustainable development of agricultural and to ensure food security and food safety as well as to promote Asia’s balanced development.
— To give full play to Asia’s advantage as the cradle of ancient civilizations, facilitate inter-cultural exchanges and advance dialogues among different civilizations.
— To step up tourism cooperation.
— To work together to build a green Asia.
— To strengthen cooperation in public health and medicine.

United Nations, 24 June — The United States on Wednesday withdrew its UN Security Council resolution seeking an exemption for US soldiers from international prosecution because it lacked votes for adoption.

“The United States has decided not to proceed further with consideration and action on the draft in this time in order to avoid a prolonged and divisive debate,” US Ambassador James Cunningham told reporters.

“We are dropping action on this resolution,” he said.

Without UN measure in place, US soldiers face the risk of being held accountable in the International Criminal Court.

!”

Roadside bomb kills Iraqi newlwyed, small boy

BAGHDAD, 24 June — Qais Saad Abbas was driving his new bride to work in Baghdad on Wednesday when a roadside bomb blew their car across the road, killing her and a little boy nearby. “The car blew up on us. All I could see was blood and my wife. My wife was in danger,” said Abbas, lying in hospital with his head and right arm bandaged. “Can you call to check she’s all right. As long as she’s all right.”

Not knowing the woman he had married two weeks earlier was already in the Kindi Hospital morgue, Abbas reeled off the phone numbers of family members, be-seeking hospital staff to call and check she had survived.

Iraqis look at the damage to vehicle in a parking lot that was hit in overnight airstrikes by the US military in Fallujah on 23 June, 2004. — MNA/Reuters

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Hitachi to launch hard disk drive factory in S China

SHENZHEN, 23 June — Japanese Hitachi Global Storage Technologies will invest 500 million US dollars to build a hard disk drive factory in Shenzhen, south China’s Guangdong Province.

A memorandum of understanding on the project was signed between the Japanese company and the Shenzhen municipal government Monday.

The factory has designed annual production capacity of 70 million hard disk drives and annual output value is predicted at 3 billion US dollars.

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Iraqis gather around a bomb crater in a parking lot in Fallujah on 23 June, 2004. — Reuters

Iraqi militants warn Allawi over emergency laws

DUBAI, 24 June — Iraqi militants warned Prime Minister Iyad Allawi Wednesday not to implement emergency laws in Iraq and said they would attack anyone involved in such measures.

Arab satellite television Al Arabiya said: “We warn you against this crime which you are carrying out on behalf of your occupation masters... we will strike with great power and with an iron fist against all those who bless it...” the group, claiming to represent Iraqi resistance and jihad factions, said in a video tape aired by Dubai-based Arabiya.

Allawi, who is interim Prime Minister, has said Iraq’s national security committee was considering declaring emergency laws in “some areas” as part of measures to quell spiralling violence inside the country.

Earlier on Wednesday Islamist militants threatened to assassinate Allawi and step up their bloody campaign of beheadings and other killings, a week before a US handover to Iraqi rule.

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New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

Manchaung Dam built in Ngaphe Township, Magway Division, benefits 47500 acres of farmland. — MYANMAR AIZIN

Border and rural area developments

Basic Education Primary School in Asin Village, Ye Township, Mon State. — MYANMAR AIZIN

Development Affairs Department is trying its best to supply potable water to villages. Photo shows sinking of a tubewell in Ywama Village, Kambalu Township, Sagaing Division. — PBANRDA

An office of Information and Public Relations Department was opened to disseminate knowledge to locals in Kokokyan Township, Yangon Division. — PBANRDA

Nantain bridge with the length of 432 feet was built across Nantain Creek in Kanlong, Shan State (North). — PBANRDA

Hydel-power station in Mongla, Shan State (East) for rural electrification. — PBANRDA
Delegate of political parties...

(from page 1)

Kayin State, Chin State, Mon State, Rakhine State, Shan State (South), Shan State (North) and Shan State (East), Sagaing Division, Taninthayi Division, Bago Division, Magway Division, Mandalay Division, Yangon Division and Ayeyawady Division, delegates of intellectual and intelligentsia, delegates of workers from Kachin State, Kayah State, Kayin State, Chin State, Mon State, Rakhine State, Shan State (South), Shan State (North) and Shan State (East), Sagaing Division, Taninthayi Division, Bago Division, Magway Division, Mandalay Division, Yangon Division and Ayeyawady Division, delegates of State service personnel from the State Peace and Development Council Office, the President’s Office, the Pyithu Hluttaw Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General’s Office, the Auditor-General’s Office, the Multimedia Party Democracy General Election Commission’s Office, Civil Service Selection and Training Board, Yangon City Development Committee, Mandalay City Development Committee and ministries, other invited delegates, individual persons and representatives of Shan State (North) Special Region-1, Shan State (North) Special Region-2, Shan State (North) Special Region-3, Shan State (East) Special Region-4, Shan State (North) Special Region-5 (KDA), Shan State (South) Special Region-6, Shan State (North) Special Region-7, Kachin State Special Region-1, Kachin State Special Region-2, Kayah State Special Region-1, Kayah State Special Region-2, Kayah State Special Region-3, Kayinni National Development Party (KNPD) Dragon Group, Kayinni National Progressive Party (KKNP) (Splinter, Hoya), Kayinni National Unity and Solidarity Organization (Ka Ma Sa Nya), Shan State Nationalities People’s Liberation Organization (Ya La Pha), New Mon State Party, Democratic Kayin Buddhist Association (DKBA), Haungthawgyaw Special Region Group, Phayagon Special Region Group, Shan State National Army, Burma Communist Party (Rakhine Group), Homsen Region Welfare and Development Group, Shweppyiye (MTA) Group, Manpan Regional Militia Group, Mon Armed Peace Group (Chaungchi Region), Mon (Splinter) Nai Saik Chan Group and Arakanese Army (AA) who exchanged arms for peace.

Before the Plenary Session, Chairman of the Commission Secretary-2 Lt-Gen Thein Sein and Commission members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Work Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairman of the National Convention Convening Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members, delegates of political parties, representatives-elect, delegates of national races, peasants, intellectual and intelligentsia, workers, State service personnel and other invited persons signed in the attendance registers of the National Convention at Pyidaungsu Hall and the Recreation Hall where the National Convention will be held.

Furthermore, delegate U Mahn Tin Aung Than of Union Kayin League, delegates Chairman of Myanmar Motion Pictures Asiayon U Sein Tin and film director U Khin Zaw of the delegates group of intellectual and intelligentsia and delegate U Khin Zaw of the delegates group of national races who are attending the National Convention eagerly despite their ill health attended the Plenary Session of the National Convention.

Member of the Work Committee Daw Khin Nu presided over the Plenary Session together with U Tun Yin Law of the delegates group of political parties, U Yaw Aye Hla of the delegates group of representatives-elect, U Maung Hla (a) U Hla Myint of the delegates group of national races, U Mya Aye of the delegates group of peasants, Dr Myo Thant Tin of the delegates group of workers, Dr U Thein Oo Po Saw of the delegates group of intellectual and intelligentsia, Maj-Gen Aung Thein of the delegates group of State service personnel and U Aung Kham Htih of the delegates group of other invited persons.

Director (Meeting) U Than Aung of the Office of National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as master of ceremonies and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi as joint-master of ceremonies.

The master of ceremonies announced the start of the meeting with the permission of the chairman as attendance were 1,074 delegates out of 1,088 listed, accounting for 98.71 per cent. Next, Chairperson Daw Khin Nu delivered an address. She said that the National Convention is being held so as to lay down principles for writing the State Constitution suitable for the Union of Myanmar.

The delegates held frank and thorough discussions delegate group-wise regarding detailed basic principles for sharing of legislative, executive and judicial powers and submitted proposal papers. She called on the delegates to pay careful attention to the papers.

U Khin Maung Gyi of the National Unity Party read the proposal paper of the party. Afterwards, U Khin Sein Win of the Union Pa-O National Organization read the proposal paper of the party.

The Plenary Meeting went into recess at 10.10 am.

The meeting resumed at 10.40 am. U Tha Ban Aung of Mro or Khami National Solidarity Organization and U Kya Shee of Lahri National Development Party read proposal papers of respective party. The plenary meeting ended at 11.20 am. It continues tomorrow. — MNA
Agreements on Communications Project Phase-2 signed

YANGON, 24 June— A ceremony to sign the Subsidiary Loan Agreement between Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and Myanma Foreign Trade Bank for the implementation of Communications Project Phase-2 at low interest rate of the People’s Republic of China and the contract for Communications Project Phase-2 between MPT and Alcatel Shanghai Bell Co Ltd of China was held at Sedona Hotel this evening.

Present were ministers, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, officials of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications, Directorate of Telecommunications, the Attorney-General’s Office, Foreign Economic Relations Department, Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank, Customs Department and Myanmar Insurance, the Chinese Embassy and Alcatel Shanghai Bell Co Ltd. General Manager U Soe Min of MFTB and General Manager U Tha Oo of MPT signed the Subsidiary Loan Agreement.

Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin of MPT and Senior Vice President Mr Joe Tao Hzou of Alcatel Shanghai Bell Co Ltd signed and exchanged documents related to the agreement. According to the agreements, yuan 250 million of loan from China at low interest rate will be used for installation of auto-telephones in Yangon and districts and establishment of GSM mobile telephone system and communication links.— MNA

Jade & Gems Special Sale

26 June—3 July

YANGON, 24 June — Central committee meeting for organizing the (2004) Jade & Gems Special Sales was held at Myanmar Gems Mart on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this evening attended by Patron of Central Committee Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint. Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Central Committee Deputy Minister U Myint Thein, Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Khin Oo and members of central committee.

First, Patron of Central Committee for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint delivered a speech. The special sale of jade and gems was designated to be held from 26 June to 3 July. Respective subcommittees presented reports on invitations sent to gem merchants, permission of attendance for local and foreign gem merchants and arrangements to be made for settlement in cash. Next, Deputy Minister U Myint Thein, Managing Director U Khin Oo and central committee members offered suggestions on successful holding for the special sale of jade and gems and earning considerable foreign currency. In response to the reports, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint attended to the needs and urged officials to make efforts to successfully hold the special sale. — MNA
Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspects Dawei-Myek Road in Dawei District

YANGON, 24 June—

Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Maung Myint, Col Kyaw Aung of Dawei Station, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials, left Dawei for Thayetchaung on 22 June morning. They inspected road, bridges, regional development, paddy cultivation, education and health matters along Dawei-Myek Road and attended to the needs.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and his team inspected the red-cement bridge of the concrete bridge between mile posts 172/2 and 173 near Pendar Village, Thayetchaung Township, Taninthayi Division Superintending Engineer U Ba Win of Public Works Department and officials conducted them round the construction site. Lt-Gen Maung Bo instructed them to maintain road sections and bridges along Dawei-Myek Road. They also inspected repair and maintenance of the concrete bridge near Mawshaygon Village.

On arrival at Thayetchaung Hospital (16-bed), Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected wards of the hospital and gave instructions on health care, sanitation and health educational talks. Next, he met members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, Township Organization for Women’s Affairs, Maternal and Child Welfare Associations and local people. Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Maung Bo said that with cooperation of people of Dawei, social organizations and State service personnel, the government had laid down plans for all-round development to enable the nation to keep abreast of other nations. At present, all are trying their best to realize the nation’s dream of unity and Union Spirit. He added that staff of Thayetchaung Hospital are doing their best to provide quality services at the hospital and its environs to and organize local people of Dawei Division, social organizations for progress of the trust-fund set up at the hospital. And, emphasis is made on improvement of health sector in the region. Next, he presented K 400,000 for Thayetchaung Hospital to Township Health Department Head Dr Tin Maung Myint.

At Thayetchaung BEHS, Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected multimedia and electronic apparatuses. Next, he met education staff, members of the school board of trustees and social organization members. Headmaster U Tun Lin reported to him about the achievements of the school, academic matters, construction of new two-storey school building and requirements. Next, Township Education Officer U Tin Oo and Chairman of Township Peace and Development Council U Soe Naing gave supplementary reports.

In response to the reports, Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave instructions. He said that the State Peace and Development Council has been making relentless efforts for ensuring prevailing of law and order as well as peace and tranquillity across the nation. Therefore, peace and tranquillity has now prevailed and so had law and order in the nation. The government has also laid down necessary plans and is implementing them for the emergence of a modern and developed nation. In the process, priority is being given to development of human resources. More schools, colleges and universities were opened for ensuring development of human resources.

Meanwhile, arrangements are being made for technological development by opening of multimedia classrooms in the education sector to be able to face the challenges of Knowledge Age. Accordingly, remarkable progress has been made in the education sector owing to concerted efforts of education staff, parents of students, by placing on organizations and members of the school board of trustees.

Teachers, parents of students and members of the school board of trustees are to strive to equip their pupils, offspring and new generations with knowledge capable of facing the challenges of education.

In conclusion, he called on officials, members of school boards of trustees, parents and local people to collectively strive for enabling the students to pursue their education peacefully and fulfilling the needs of the education sector. Only then will human resources of State’s new generation develop. After the ceremony, Lt-Gen Maung Bo greeted those students present. Next, he inspected the construction progress of the two-storey building of Thayetchaung BEHS and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party drove to Kanaingda Village in Dawei District and attended the demonstration of direct seeding of paddy at the farm of farmer U Than. Lt-Gen Maung Bo inspected paddy strain of high yield, eradication of weeds, fertilizers, pesticides, fertilizers, tillers and thresher displayed at the booth of Taninthayi Division Service and gave necessary instructions to officials.

Dawei Township Peace and Development Council Chairman U Aung Kyaw Oo reported on purpose of the demonstration, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy for self-sufficiency and progress of cultivation of monsoon paddy.

The General Manager of Myanma Agriculture Service reported on salient points of direct cultivation method, land preparation and use of fertilizer and others.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo spoke. He said that the demonstration was launched to change the current cultivation system for Boosting the per acre yield and then will the nation become an agricultural nation based on industry or an industrialized nation. Next, the demonstration of direct seeding of paddy method was launched at the seven villages-tracts in Dawei District. Lt-Gen Maung Bo attended the demonstration and gave encouragement. Next, he had discussions with local authorities, departmental personnel and well-wishers at the temporary pandal on matters relating to supply of potable water to Nyaungzary village by damming the stream. Businessman U Aung Win donated K 2 million and villagers of Nyaungzary village K 1 million. In addition, two entrepreneurs U Kyaw, U Soe Win, U Hla Than, U Than Aung and U Win Bo donated K 200,000 each. With those K 4 million, the Nyaungzary village water supply project will be implemented.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met local authorities of village-Tracts in Dawei District and discussed matters on local food sufficiency, expanding cultivated acreage, applying cultivation techniques and boosting paddy productions.

After that, Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party left for Dawei. In the afternoon, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met local authorities, other ranks and their families of Dawei Station at the hall of the Coastal Region Command and discussed matters on security affairs and undertaking agricultural and livestock breeding works on manageable scale.

Then, he greeted them cordially. MNA
Singapore holds first ASEAN-China Forum

SINGAPORE, 24 June — The first ASEAN-China Forum opened here on Wednesday with the participation of more than 30 reputable experts and scholars from China and the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Addressing the opening of the forum, ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong said that ASEAN and China have established a more fruitful partnership, ensuring the peace and stability as well as prosperity of the region. "ASEAN and China are tapping the opportunities and complementarities offered by each other and acting as a catalyst for one another to achieve higher development goals while maintaining peace, security and stability crucial for economic growth and prosperity. "It means forging substantive cooperation based on the principles of mutual trust, respect, equality and mutual gains to create conditions that will benefit the people of both regions," he said. The Secretary-General said that China is weighing more and more into the world economy, and ASEAN has recognized that it would have to work with China to address the issues and challenges in the region.

While voicing his satisfaction with the cooperation between ASEAN and China, the Chinese experts and scholars from several ASEAN countries are optimistic that both sides would be able to do more in the future.

MNA/Xinhua

Study shows cream made from breast milk reduces warts

BOSTON, 24 June — A cream made from human breast milk and nicknamed Hamlet can dramatically reduce, and often eliminate, stubborn common warts, Swedish doctors reported.

Human Alpha-lactalbumin Made Lethal to Tumour cells, which the researchers refer to by the whimsical name of Hamlet cells, was also effective in the treatment or prevention of other conditions.

Since doctors can cheaply eliminate warts by freezing, the new cream "will probably never be able to compete with existing inexpensive therapies for cutaneous viral warts," said Jan Bouwes Bavinck and Mariel Felixkamp of Leiden University Medical Centre, in a Journal commentary. "The real challenge, therefore, will be to prove it is also effective in the treatment or prevention of other conditions related to human papillomavirus," or HPV, they said.

Common warts, which usually appear on the hands and feet, can be resistant to treatment with creams.

The Swedish team, led by Lotta Gustafsson of the University of Lund, found that three weeks of daily treatments with alpha-lactalbumin and oleic acid reduced the size of the warts by 75 per cent or more in all 20 volunteers. A similar reduction was seen in only 15 per cent of another 20 patients who got a placebo cream.

The placebo patients were then treated with the test cream as well. After two years, all the warts disappeared in 83 per cent of the 40 volunteers.

The patients were chosen because their growths had not responded to conventional treatments. "Such nuclear accumulation does not occur in healthy cells, which remain viable in the presence of alpha-lactalbumin-oleic acid," the Gustafsson team said. — MNA/Reuters

Nursery Market Festival continues

YANGON, 24 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 public interest in agriculture, horticulture, livestock breeding and vegetable farming.

Kitchen crops, fruits and saplings of herbal plants are being shown at the festival. Poultry farming and fish breeding are also exhibited there. — MNA

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Denmark, Germany sign declaration to build Baltic Sea bridge

COPENHAGEN, 24 June — Denmark and Germany signed a non-binding agreement on Wednesday to build a four-billion-euro (4.85-billion-US-dollar) link across the Baltic Sea between the two countries, the Danish Transport Ministry said.

The proposed 11.8-mile link between the German island of Fehmarn and the Danish island of Lolland was proposed as early as the 1930s but plans have been scrapped several times because of lack of financing.

“Of course, quite a lot of work remains before we can reach a final agreement on the link,” Danish Transport Minister Flemming Hansen said in a statement. Hansen said the signing of the declaration had put the realization of a fixed link over the Fehmarn Strait a large step closer.

“Now all the way to the Fehmarn island the connection will be open in 2015,” he said.

The fixed road and rail link, comprised of a tunnel, a bridge, or both, is a priority project for the European Commission.

THOUSANDS OF BOOKS ARE WAITING TO GIVE YOU KNOWLEDGE FREE OF CHARGE

DENMARK, GERMANY SIGN DECLARATION TO BUILD

BALTIC SEA BRIDGE

WHO warns of polio epidemic in west, central Africa

GENEVA, 23 June — Experts of the World Health Organization (WHO) issued a stark warning on Tuesday that west and central Africa is on the brink of the largest polio epidemic in recent years.

The warning made by epidemiologists of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative follows confirmation on Tuesday that a child was paralyzed on May 20 by polio in the Darfur region of Sudan, a country which has not seen the disease in more than three years.

In addition to the re-infection of Sudan, five times as many children in west and central Africa have been paralyzed by polio so far in 2004 compared with the same period in 2003.

“There is no question that the virus is spreading at an alarming pace,” said communicable disease expert David Heymann, WHO’s representative for polio eradication.

Heymann stressed the re-infection of Sudan is the latest setback to the progress Africa has achieved in eradicating the virus.

The fact that Sudan is now re-infected is concrete evidence of the need to support a massive immunization response in Darfur and central Africa,” he said.

“At the beginning of 2003, only two countries in sub-Saharan Africa went polio-free. Today, however, Africa accounts for nearly 90 percent of the global polio burden, with children now paralyzed in 10 previously polio-free countries across the continent,” he said.

Polio, which mainly affects children under five, is caused by a virus that infects the nervous system and can lead to total paralysis or death.

Children are particularly vulnerable in west and central African countries surrounding Nigeria, as less than half of children in the region are routinely immunized against a series of diseases, including polio. — MNA/Win Mu Tin

TRADE MARK

CAUTION

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P.O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 25 June 2004

INVITATION TO TENDER

(TENDER No. 5(T)ME/HS/I/4/2004-2005)

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise the Ministry of Energy for the Supply of (46,000t+10%) Metric Tons HSD (Gas Oil Regular 0.5%).

2. Tender Closing Date: 8-7-2004 at 12.00 noon.

3. Tenders are to be submitted to Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, No. (23), Min Ye Kyaw Zwa Road, Yangon, during office hours commencing 25-6-2004 on payment of one hundred (100) EEC per set.

4. Only bid tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
US study says cool head may mean calm heart

WASHINGTON, 23 June— Young adults who keep a cool head under stress may be less likely to develop high blood pressure as they age, US researchers said on Monday.

A study of 4,000 young adults showed that those who stressed out the least while playing a difficult video game and taking other tests were less likely to develop high blood pressure in their 40s.

“In general, the individuals who had larger blood-pressure responses to stress had a greater risk for developing high blood pressure,” Karen Matthews, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh who led the study, said in a statement.

“This risk was independent of other known risk factors such as race, gender, education, age, and body-mass index (a measure of obesity).”

Matthews and colleagues used information from a continuing study tracking the natural history of cardiovascular disease.

Scientists urge shift to non-food crops

LONDON, 23 June— Farmers of the world must shift quickly to growing plants for industrial uses such as oils and plastics to replace petrochemicals as the climate wars and crude supplies run out, British scientists said on Monday.

“In the next 20 to 50 years we have to reverse our dependency on fossil fuels,” said Alison Smith of Britain’s John Innes plant research centre. “We must breed for sustainability.”

At a news conference, she complained that in the past there had been a lack of coherent thinking, but that was now changing in the face of the looming crisis.

Ian Crute, director of the Rothamsted plant-breeding centre in Hertfordshire, said it was not a matter of switching wholesale out of growing crops for food but of correcting the balance.

“We have an opportunity here… to substitute our dependency on fossil fuels,” he added at the introduction of a report by private scientists on non-food crops, entitled “Growing the Future.

“Not only was oil running out, but the world’s population was predicted to grow sharply over the next half century and had to be fed. This would put huge strains on the world’s economy.

“We have to get more productivity out of less land,” he said.

The report noted that plants could produce plastics, fuels, oils, medicinal drugs, insulators, fibres and fabrics, many of which are currently made from crude oil.

Smith said it was not just a matter of genetic manipulation of existing crops—although that too had a place—but of making better use of plants currently grown for food.

Scientists urge shift to non-food crops

In 1985 researchers began studying 5,115 men and women, ages 18 to 30, and re-examined them at regular intervals.

At the second-year examination, 4,202 of the volunteers who had normal blood pressure of 140/90 or below took stress tests.

In one, they plunged a hand in ice-cold water and kept it submerged for 45 seconds. Another involved tracing an image. And one involved a video game—which at the time was fairly novel and still stressful for many to play.

“General, participants who had the greatest blood-pressure increases during all three tests had the highest risk for later high-blood-pressure,” said Dr Mary Wholsley of the University of California San Francisco.

“High blood pressure eventually affects up to 90 per cent of Americans as they become elderly and is a leading cause of heart attack, stroke and heart failure.”

Scientists urge shift to non-food crops

The study was published in the journal Circulation.

“With the greater the blood-pressure changes in all three tasks, the earlier the onset of hypertension,” she said.

“After 13 years of follow-up, 353 of the participants developed high blood pressure, they found.

“This study confirms previous work demonstrating an association between blood-pressure response to various stressors and the future development of hypertension,” said American Heart Association spokesman Dr Daniel Jones.

“It is still unclear whether exposure to stress is a part of the cause of hypertension in some people or whether these tests measuring response to stress are simply good markers for the future development of hypertension.”

Cambodia’s education budget increased

PHNOM PENH, 24 June— Cambodia increased its annual budget in education during the last four years, an official said Tuesday.

“It is still unclear whether exposure to stress is a part of the cause of hypertension in some people or whether these tests measuring response to stress are simply good markers for the future development of hypertension.”

New Zealand provides more aid for Sudan

WELLINGTON, 23 June— New Zealand is contributing a further one million New Zealand dollars (about 620,000 US dollars) to Sudan to help deal with what United Nations officials are calling one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world, Aid Minister Marian Hobbs announced Tuesday.

The New Zealand Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders, an international medical humanitarian organization, will each receive 500,000 New Zealand dollars for their work in the Sudan, Hobbs said.

Three weeks ago New Zealand contributed 2 million New Zealand dollars (about 1.24 million US dollars) to the World Food Programme and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) operations in Sudan and neighbouring countries.

Several New Zealand Red Cross delegates including medical and logistics personnel are in Sudan right now. The funds will directly support their work, meeting the most urgent needs of conflict victims and ensuring sick and wounded people have access to medical and surgical treatment.

Sudan is a country in a state of chronic crisis and over 4 million people have been displaced. The Sudanese population is being further stretched by the conflict and many of the country urgently need shelter, access to water and sanitation and health-care, in addition food shortages are looming.


Thailand delays AIDS vaccine trial

BANGKOK, 24 June — An HIV/AIDS vaccine trial project based in eastern Thailand has been delayed for one year for the lack of enough volunteers, the local Press reported on Wednesday.

The project, scheduled to start in September, has so far recruited some 5,224 people for the trial of vaccine, less than one third of the originally planned number of 16,000.

Therefore, the project needs to extend the volunteer recruitment by another year, the project’s principal investigator Supachai Rerks-nagarm was quoted by newspaper The Nation as saying.

Started in last September, the HIV-vaccine Phase III project aimed to give vaccine or placebo to volunteers over a one-year period and monitor their progress in three years time.

The volunteers will be recruited after screenings from the two eastern provinces of Chon Buri and Rayong.

They will then receive an injection of the so-called prime-boost test, which is a combination of two vaccines—Alfav of France-based Aventis Pasteur and AdVAX B/E made by the California-based VaxGen Inc.
Cucu thanks Czechs for quarterfinal spot

BRAGA (Portugal), 26 June — Dutch midfielder Eddy Cucu paid tribute to the Czech Republic after a 2-1 win over Germany that sent the Netherlands into the last eight of Euro 2004 on Wednesday.

“We were very lucky, we were very lucky to have won,” said Cucu who was sent off the field for the second time in seven minutes.

“I think we have to thank the Czech Republic, we were very lucky to win,” he added.

The match was the second of the two first-round games between the Netherlands and Germany, both of which ended 2-0.

The Dutch had the better chances in the first half, but the game turned on its head after the break, with the Czechs taking control and scoring a late goal to seal a 2-0 victory.

Germany exit Euro 2004 after 2-1 defeat

LISBON, 26 June — Germany slipped out of Euro 2004 after a 2-1 defeat by a second-string Czech Republic, who had already qualified, saw them miss out on the quarter-finals for the second successive European Championship.

Germany did briefly lead through a stunning Michael Ballack goal in the 21st minute but then struggled for only nine minutes as Marek Heinz equalized with an equalizer-struggle.

With the Germans pushing for the winner, Czech substitute Milan Baros scored on the break 12 minutes from time to make it a three wins out of three — the only unblemished record.

It was a disappointing defeat for the 2002 World Cup runners-up, who failed to show the necessary urgency against a Czech team who were able to relax and enjoy the occasion.

Germany followed Italy and Spain, as big name casualties of a tournament that has already lived up to its billing as one of the most open for 20 years.

The Czechs, who had already won the group, can turn their attentions to a quarterfinal meeting with Denmark in Porto.

Germany coach Rudi Voeller had reacted to the lame goalless draw with Latvia by giving a first start to midfielders Bastian Schweinsteiger and, after a cagey opening, the 19-year-old played a major part in the first goal.

Bernd Schneider whipped in a cross from the left, Schweinsteiger knocked it down for Ballack and the midfielder struck a fierce 20-metre shot past the helpless Jaromir Blata.

The Czechs, each man playing in a place they love, acquitted themselves as one of the most open for 20 years.

The Czech media have already started to speculate on the future of the 2002 World Cup runners-up, who failed to show the necessary urgency against a Czech team who were able to relax and enjoy the occasion.

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Friday, June 25

View today:

7:00 am
1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottamathara

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am
5. 23-6-2004 (Friday) & 24-6-2004 (Saturday)

8:10 am
6. The mirror images of the musical oldies

8:20 am
7. 7-8-2004 (Wednesday) & 9-10-2004 (Tuesday)

8:30 am
8. International news

8:45 am
9. English for Everyday Use

4:00 pm
1. Martial 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. ( particl.)

6.00 pm
6.00 pm

11. Musical programme

12. Discovery

6:00 pm
13. Songs of yesteryears

6:30 pm
14. Evening news

7:00 pm
15. Weather report

7:05 pm
16. ବଣ୍ଡରାତ୍ତ୍ରି (ବନ୍ଧଣ) ପ୍ରତିବଦତ୍ତ୍ତୁ ଭାବାରେ (ବନ୍ଧଣ)

7:35 pm
17. ବଣ୍ଡରାତ୍ତ୍ରି (ବନ୍ଧଣ) ପ୍ରତିବଦତ୍ତ୍ତୁରେ (ବନ୍ଧଣ)

7:45 pm
18. ବଣ୍ଡରାତ୍ତ୍ରି (ବନ୍ଧଣ) ପ୍ରତିବଦତ୍ତ୍ତ୍ତୁରେ (ବନ୍ଧଣ)

8:00 pm
19. News

8:20 pm
20. International news

21. Weather report

22. Myanmar video feature

4:15 am
15. Myanmar Daily

9:00 am
11. Myanmar Daily

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Coord meeting on monsoon paddy cultivation, irrigation for summer paddy held

YANGON, 24 June — Work coordination meeting on full cultivation of monsoon paddy and irrigation for summer paddy held at Myo Thit (East) township. Chairman of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Lt-Gen Myint Swe attended the meeting and delivered an address.

In his address, the commander said that as Myanmar is an agro-based country, its main economy is agriculture. Therefore, efforts are being made for irrigation, production of high yield paddy and sufficiency of oil, beans and other crops.

He also urged the members of the division/district/township supervisory committees to make field trips, to dig drains and to give educative talks on systematic cultivation of high yield crops.

Next, Chairman of Yangon East District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Maung Maung Shwe reported on cultivation of monsoon paddy in the district, arrangements for summer paddy cultivation and greening tasks in the district.

Similarly, chairmen of township Peace and Development Councils also reported on monsoon paddy cultivation and irrigation tasks for cultivation of summer paddy and beans and pulses.

Next, Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Aung Pyai and Yangon North District Peace and Development Council Chairman Lt-Col Myat Min also briefed on arrangements for monsoon paddy cultivation and irrigation in summer.

Next, some of those present took part in the discussions. After hearing reports, the commander fulfilled the requirements. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Commander’s Shield Sepak Takraw Tournament opens

YANGON, 24 June — A ceremony to open Commander’s Shield Sepak Takraw Tournament 2004 was held in Hline Gymnasium, Hline Township, this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Deputy Commander Col Wai Lwin and wife, senior military officers, commanders of military region commands and their wives, station commanders of regiments and units under the Yangon Command and their wives, other ranks, athletes and fans.

First, the commander delivered a speech, saying that the tournament was held for the purpose of developing Sepak Takraw techniques in line with the current age and nurturing athletes who have brought honour to the nation. Taking up Sepak Takraw not only makes Tatmadawmen fit and healthy but also brings about combating capability in battle. The athletes are to take part in the tournament with full sporting spirit, he added.

Next, the commander and party enjoyed events of Sepak Takraw teams.

Altogether 21 teams are taking part in the tournament, which lasts five days. — MNA

Educative talks on women’s affairs held

YANGON, 24 June — Work Group for the Prevention of Violence Against Women of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation this morning held educative talks on women’s affairs at No 1 Automobile Factory in Mayagony Township.

The present on the occasion were MWAF General Secretary Prof Dr Daw Khin Aye Win, Advisor Daw Mar Lar Tin, WTO Group for Prevention of Violence Against Women, members of MWAF, Patron of Yangon Division Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Khin Thet Htay, MWAF’s Work Group members Daw Moe Moe Myint, wife of Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Daw Mi Mi Wu, wife of Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, directors-general, managing directors, directors, the general manager of the factory and staff, totalling some 400.

Prof Dr Khin Aye Win extended greetings. Secretary of the Work Group Daw Htay Htay lectured on preventive measures on violence against women and President of the Work Group Director of the Attorney-General’s Office Daw Kyin San on women rights.

Next, Daw Moe Moe Myint, wife of Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, presented K 100,000 donated by the Ministry of Industry-2 to the Work Group through Advisor Daw Mar Lar Tin. — MNA

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.

BEHS No 2 in Dawei, Taninthayi Division, gets multimedia classrooms

YANGON, 24 June — The opening of multimedia classrooms of Basic Education High School No 2 in Dawei, Taninthayi Division, took place at the school yesterday, attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present on the occasion were Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Coastline Zone Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, senior military officers of Dawei Station, officials of the State Peace and Development Council, Office, departmental heads, officials, local authorities, the principal and teachers, members of social organizations and school board of trustees, wellwishers and others.

Principal Daw Kyin Swe and members of school board of the classrooms of Basic Education High School No 2 formally opened the classrooms. Lt-Gen Maung Bo pressed the button to unveil the signboard of the classrooms.

Li-Gen Maung Bo and party inspected computer aided instruction room, e-Media language lab, e-Media video system, printed media reading corner and display media rooms — domestic science room and arts room.

Next, the second session of the opening ceremony followed. The principal reported on opening of multimedia classrooms and installation of electronic study aids and an official on efforts made for opening of multimedia classrooms.

Entrepreneur U Kya Maung of Myeik presented K 1.5 million donated by himself and other five entrepreneurs; Managing Director of Ever Green Co Ltd U Than Shwe, K 1 million; and U Kyu Sein, U Maung Maung Toe, U Hla Myint, U Bar Bar and U Khin Maung Aung, K 100,000 each to the school through the principal. The commander thanked those who contributed towards the project for opening the classrooms and the wellwishers.

In his address Lt-Gen Maung Bo said at the end of 20th century, information age was transformed into knowledge age. Every nation can utilize information around the world for human development.

Commander Li-Gen Maung Bo unveils the signboard of multimedia classrooms at Dawei BEHS No 2. — MNA

The government is promoting opportunities for students to acquire education in combination with mass media and modern technology. He spoke of the need for principals and teachers to be well-versed in the respective subjects. It is not enough for students to learn only the lessons in the prescribed text by heart. He said multimedia teaching methods have been used in the field of learning.

The government is giving encouragement to opening of multimedia classrooms, he added.

He said a modern developed nation is to be built through education. This is why the government is implementing the 30-year education plan, he said.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo spoke at length on the main points of the education plan.

He called on officials concerned to realize the objective of the plan.

Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, the commander, heads of departments, headmistress, teachers, members of school board of trustees and students had photos taken. — MNA

MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe addresses meeting to cultivate monsoon paddy and supply water for summer paddy cultivation in Yangon Division. — YANGON COMMAND

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