Prime Minister previews Jade and Gems Special Sales 2004

YANGON, 25 June — Prime Minister of the State General Khin Nyunt previewed the display of the Jade and Gems Special Sales 2004 this evening.

Accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Prime Minister arrived at the exhibition at Myanmar Gems Emporium on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here at 3 pm today.

On arrival, the Prime Minister was welcomed there by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye, Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, members of the central committee for organizing the exhibition and officials. First, the Prime Minister and party viewed round the jewel shops and mosaics paintings shops of Myanmar Gems Enterprise and private industries. Officials of the central committee conducted the Prime Minister and party round the shops.

Next, the Prime Minister and party looked into commercial, utility and imperial jade blocks displayed in the compound. The Prime Minister and party also inspected gem lots, jade Buddha image, fine quality commercial jade lots on the top floor. Officials conducted the Prime Minister and party round the floor. Patron of the Central Committee for Organizing the Exhibition Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reported on work done for the exhibition.

The Prime Minister gave necessary instructions to officials concerned. — MNA

Political parties submit proposals to Plenary Session of National Convention

YANGON, 25 June — The Plenary Session of the National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township at 9 am today.

Union Kayin League, Kokang Democracy and Unity Party and Wa National Development Party from the Delegates Group of Political Parties which is one of the delegate 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 National Convention were Chairman of the National Convention Convening Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Tin Aye 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, chairmen and officials of the sub-committees, media personnel, observers, delegates of political parties of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party, National Unity Party, Union Kayin League, Union Pa-O National Organization, Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization and Lahu National Development Party and Wa National Development Party, representatives-elect of National Unity Party and Mro (or) Khami National Solidarity Organization and delegates of national races from Kachin State, Kayah State, Kayin State, Chin State, Mon State, Rakhine State, Shan State (North) and Shan State (East), Sagaing Division, Taninthayi Division, Bago Division, Magway Division, Mandalay Division, Yangon Division and Ayeyawady Division, delegates of peasants 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 intellectuals and intelligentia, 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 (See page 9)

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt previews display of Gems and Jade Special Sales 2004 at Myanmar Gems Emporium.— MNA

Plenary Session of National Convention continues at Pyidaungsu Hall of Nyaunghnapin Camp in Hmawby Township.— MNA

The National Convention is the concern of all our national races.
Towards drug-free nation through public cooperation

As narcotic drugs endanger the entire mankind, every country and region around the world is paying serious attention to drug control. The problem of narcotic drugs is an evil legacy of the colonialists in Myanmar. During their reign in Myanmar, they made various fabrications to exploit Myanmar and its citizens, to sow seeds of discord among national brethren and to impair national unity.

At the same time, allowing poppy cultivation led this harmful practice to take root in Myanmar. The cultivation of poppy and abuse of opiate derivatives not only diminished nationalism and patriotism of the entire national race but also weakened the nation’s human resources. The colonialists intentionally used narcotic drugs as a destructive weapon.

Therefore, the Government, hand in hand with the people, is trying its best to wipe out this evil legacy from the soil of Myanmar. In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, the 15-year drug elimination plan has been laid down and is being implemented phase by phase since 1999.

In an effort to eradicate narcotic drugs, not only drug control measures have been taken but also arrangements to eliminate poppy cultivation have been made. In the regions where poppy is being cultivated, local national races are organized and encouraged to grow poppy-substitute crops, to carry out livestock breeding tasks and to conduct other businesses.

The New Destiny Project has also been laid down and is being implemented in Myanmar. The significant feature of the project is that teams led by ministers and deputy ministers made field trips to six regions which are included in the project and met with local farmers enabling them to establish poppy-substitute business. Moreover, cash, food and other necessary assistance were provided for local farmers and thus they willingly abandoned poppy cultivation.

The Government is trying to eliminate narcotic drugs based on the strength of the national people and through cooperation with international community and neighbouring countries.

Although Myanmar has always been trying to eradicate narcotic drugs, some western powers have accused her of lacking in cooperation in drug control tasks. But, it can be seen that their drug organizations have acknowledged Myanmar’s endeavours to eradicate narcotic drugs. At a time when the Government is making every effort to root out the problem of narcotic drugs, the entire people are urged to actively take part in the Government’s endeavours to realize the goal.

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

Banking course for assistant managers of MEB concludes

Yangon, 25 June — A ceremony to mark the conclusion of the banking course No 1/2004 for assistant managers of Myanmar Economic Bank under the Ministry of Finance & Revenue was held at the training school on Patagon Street here at 1 pm today.

Deputy Minister for Finance & Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe attended the closing ceremony and delivered an address.

Also present on the occasion were Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar Col Than Nyen, MEB Managing Director Col Hsan Tun, directors-general of departments under the ministry, officials, course instructors and trainees. — MNA

China (Chongqing, Sichuan) Export Commodities Exhibition (2004) on 29 June

Yangon, 25 June — A press conference on China (Chongqing, Sichuan) Export Commodities Exhibition (2004) was held at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road here yesterday morning.

Trade representatives of Chongqing City and Sichuan Province Mr Zhou Hong and Mr Dao Hei explained matters on the exhibition. Economic and Commercial Counsellor Mr Tang Hai also briefly presented those present on the exhibition. Among the exhibits at the Export Commodities Exhibition will be locomotive, motorcycle, light truck, electric equipment, machine facilities, farm machines and implements, household appliances, water pumps, telecommunication facilities, etc.

The exhibition will be held from 29 June to 1 July at Yangon Trade Centre on Upper Pazundaung Road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, here from 9.30 am to 5 pm daily. — MNA


Myanmar Women’s Day

3rd July 2004

[Image of a card for Myanmar Women’s Day]
Majority of Americans now call Iraq war a mistake

WASHINGTON, 25 June— For the first time since the start of the war in Iraq, a majority of Americans now say the US-led invasion was a mistake, according to a USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll released on Thursday.

Among continuing violence in Iraq and questions about the justification for the war, 54 percent of the 1,055 Americans polled said it was a mistake to send US troops into Iraq, compared with 41 percent who held that view three weeks ago. The findings mark the first time since Vietnam that a majority of Americans has called a major deployment of US forces a mistake. USA Today reported on its web site.

In addition, the poll found that for the first time a majority also said the war in Iraq has made the United States less safe from terrorism. Fifty-five percent said the war has increased US vulnerability, compared to a December poll in which 56 percent said the war made the United States safer.

The war’s original justification was to stop Iraq deploying weapons of mass destruction. None have been found.

The survey, conducted Monday through Wednesday, has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.—Internet

Arroyo proclaimed president-elect by Philippine Congress

MANILA, 24 June — The Philippine Congress on Thursday proclaimed incumbent President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the president-elect in the May 10 elections.

Arroyo’s runningmate Senator Noli de Castro, at the same time, was proclaimed as the vice-president-elect. Senator Franklin Drilon and Speaker of the House of Representatives Jose de Venecia jointly made the proclamation at a joint session of Congress before dawn Thursday after more than 10 hours of debates on a report of the joint congressional canvassing committee.

Only Congress has the sole power to canvass the votes for presidential and vice-presidential candidates and proclaim the winners.

Arroyo, standard-bearer of the ruling coalition the Koalisyon ng Katapatan at Kasaglan (Coalition for Honesty and Experience for the Future), won 12,905,808 votes out of the 32,269,100 votes cast for president, show the official results released by the joint canvassing committee.

She led her nearest rival movie star Fernando Poe Jr by more than 1.12 million votes. Poe, standard-bearer of the opposition coalition of Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (Coalition of United Filipinos), garnered 11,782,232 votes. De Castro had 15,100,431 votes in the vice-presidential race, as against the 14,218,709 votes for his closest rival Poe’s runningmate Senator Loren Legarda. The candidate with the highest number of votes is proclaimed the winner of the presidential or the vice-presidential race, the country’s Constitution stipulates.

There were five presidential candidates and four vice-presidential bets contending in the bitterly contested May 10 polls, when voters were also asked to elect 12 out of the 24 senators, as many as 265 members of the House of Representatives and over 17,000 local elective posts from provincial governor to town councilor.

India, Pakistan to reopen Karachi, Mumbai consulates

NEW DELHI, 24 June — India and Pakistan have agreed “in principle” to reopen their consulates in Karachi and Mumbai a decade after they were closed.

The two countries have also agreed to restore the strength of their respective high-commissions to 110, the Indo-Asian News Service reported.

The agreement was reached during talks between Indian External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh and his Pakistani counterpart, Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, in the sideline of the 0.5th Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) meeting in the Chinese city of Qingdao, External Affairs Ministry spokes-

Japan eyes universal postal services after privatizing reform

Tokyo, 24 June— The Japanese Government is considering retaining certain rates of equity stake in the country’s postal services even after they are privatized, Kyodo News reported Tuesday.

The plan is meant to ensure universal service of the highly public postal services remains in line with the Universal Postal Convention, of which Japan is a member.

According to Kyodo, Article 1 of the postal convention says postal services should be provided permanently and at reasonable costs in any postal territory.

In addition, Japan Post, the public entity that runs the country’s postal services, is legally required to provide universal service, which includes having post offices in all municipalities and charging uniform fees across the country.

About 100 die in guerilla attacks in five Iraq cities

BAGHDAD, 24 June— About 100 people were killed and several hundred wounded in Iraq on Thursday when guerrillas launched bloody assaults in five cities to disrupt next week’s formal handover to Iraqi rule.

Three US soldiers were among those killed in bold assaults on Iraqi security forces in Baghdad and the mainly Sunni Muslim cities of Baquba, Fallujah and Ramadi.

Iraq’s third largest city Mosul was the worst hit, with suicide bombings killing 62 people and wounding 220, said a senior military official with the US-led coalition.

At least seven large explosions shook Mosul, and local television stations ordered residents to stay at home. Police blocked all major roads and announced a dusk-to-dawn curfew. The US military said an American soldier had been killed and three wounded in the blasts. It said a security guard was killed in a separate attack on a private security firm.

Gunfire ruffled across Mosul as guerrillas fought running battles with US troops and Iraqi police.

Fighting in Anbar province, which includes Fallujah and Ramadi in the Sunni heartlands of central Iraq, killed at least nine people and wounded 27, the Health Ministry said.

Four Iraqi national guardsmen were killed and two civilians wounded by a car bomb blast in southern Baghdad, an officer in the force said. Hospital staff put the death toll at five. The US Army said two soldiers had been killed and seven wounded in an ambush in Anbar.

The Health Ministry said 13 people had been killed and 15 wounded in the town. In Ramadi, guerrillas fired mortars at two police stations and the governor’s house in Ramadi, 110 km (68 miles) west of Baghdad.

Allawi said the governor was not there at the time. —Internet

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US lacks standardized rules for Iraq contractors

WASHINGTON, 25 June—The Defense Department lacks standardized rules for most issues involving private contractors accompanying US forces in Iraq, including whether they may carry arms, the Pentagon’s top weapons buyer told Congress on Thursday.

The Pentagon hopes to publish final standardized rules in October to remedy that, Michael Wynne, acting undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, told a panel of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee.

More than 50 of the estimated 20,000 people working for US contractors have been killed in Iraq since the March 2003 US-led invasion, Wynne said, about two-thirds of them in “ambush-style” attacks and the others in accidents unrelated to battle. Contractors are typically responsible for their own security in Iraq.

Hundreds of companies work for the United States and other governments in roles once carried out by uniformed troops. Some guard key installations and individuals, while others do laundry and serve meals. Some have more personnel on the ground in Iraq than do allied armies in the US-led coalition.

“Currently, the procurement regulations do not have a standardized approach for addressing most issues that deal with contractors accompanying the forces engaged in contingency, humanitarian, peacekeeping or combat operations outside the United States,” Wynne testified.

Instead, individual offices deal with such issues on a contract-by-contract basis, “negotiating unique terms and conditions for each contract,” he said.

The question of whether contractors should be given blanket authority to carry arms in Iraq was a matter of “significant controversy,” Wynne said, citing potential contractual and liability disputes.

Currently, the decision on whether contractors may bear arms is up to line-front US combatant commanders, a policy lawmakers derided.

“Evidently, our contractors are the only people in Iraq who aren’t armed,” said Representative Joel Hefley, a Colorado Republican who chairs the subcommittee on readiness that held the hearing. “It boggles my mind.” — Internet

China, Kazakhstan vow to promote all-round cooperation

ASTANA, 24 June—Visiting Chinese senior party official Li Changchun on Wednesday exchanged views with Kazakh Prime Minister Daniyal Akhmetov on the all-round development and promotion of mutually beneficial cooperation.

Li, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said China and Kazakhstan are mutually complimentary in economy and trade and have broad prospects of further development.

As long as both sides sincerely implement the consensus reached between the two heads of state and relevant agreements signed and give full play to the mechanism of the cooperation committee of the two nations, the mutually beneficial cooperation would make new progress, Li said.

Noting that China is Kazakhstan’s biggest trade partner, Akhmetov said the successful economic and trade cooperation between the two countries has contributed to Kazakhstan’s economic and social development and laid a solid found-

Japan’s Mazda, China’s FAW to co-develop luxury sedan

TOKYO, 24 June—Major Japanese automaker Mazda Motor Corp will strengthen ties with China FAW Group Corp by jointly developing a remodelled compact luxury car and outsourcing production of a mainline minivan, a Japanese business daily reported Wednesday. The company aims to sell 300,000 vehicles in China in 2010 by adding eight models to its product line-up in the Chinese market in three to four years, Nikken Keizai Shimbun reported. China FAW, which develops in current compact luxury sedan with the help of Germany’s Audi AG, plans to replace Audi with Mazda as its development partner for the remodelled version. — MNA/Xinhua

Ukraine seaman detail Iraq prison torture

UKRAINE, 24 June — Two Ukrainian merchant seamen, who ended up in Abu Ghraib prison after being arrested in August, were kept naked and hooded for hours during their 10 months imprisonment, a top human rights official said Thursday.

Nina Karpachova, Ukraine’s ombudsman for human rights, refused to specify whether American troops were involved in the alleged torture, but said, “we know who was in charge of Abu Ghraib.” The American-run prison is at the center of allegations that coalition forces in Iraq have abused prisoners.

Tanker M/V Niasmur captain Mykola Mazurenko and first mate Ivan Soshchenko were arrested in August by the British navy in the port of Umm Qasr for alleged oil smuggling and sentenced to seven years in prison by an Iraqi court. The two were extradited recently on condition they serve the rest of their sentence at home.

Mazurenko and Soshchenko reportedly claimed that while in Abu Ghraib they were frequently “subjected to sleep deprivation, kept naked for hours and hooded,” Karpachova told a news conference.

Prisoners were often “gassed with tear gas” and forced to “lick food straight from the floor,” Karpachova said, citing letters she recently received from the seamen.

Karpachova said the two “are in serious health condition.”

Markiyan Lukbizkiv, a Foreign Ministy spokesman, said the seamen’s claims would be investigated and “if it is true ... we will raise the case to the international level and do everything to protect the rights of our citizens including financial compensation.” — Internet
US war on Iraq worsens regional situation, said Mahathir

DAMASCUS, 24 June — Visiting former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammed criticized here Wednesday the US war on Iraq, saying it has made the regional situation even worse.

“Th3 war will overthrow the (former) Iraqi government, but it cannot control Iraq because the Iraqi people will resist for the liberation of their country,” Mahathir stressed.

Mahathir arrived here Monday for a three-day visit for talks on educational cooperation between the two countries.

The Health Ministry said that 85 people, including three American soldiers, were killed in the attacks from Mosul in the north to Baquba, Ramadi and Fallujah in central Iraq. At least 320 people, including 11 US soldiers, were wounded. Nineteen Iraqi policemen and 134 US soldiers were also wounded in the attacks, in which the attackers occupied a police station in the conflicting area, according to Qatar-based Al-Jazeera news channel.

Coalition forces withdrew from the town after two US military vehicles caught fire.

An Iraqi youth carries a wounded boy away from the scene of one of the four car bomb explosions, targeting police force in Iraq’s northern city of Mosul, on 24 June, 2004. — Internet

Militants launch wide-scale attacks across Iraq

Baghdad, 25 June — Anti-US guerrillas launched a series of coordinated attacks in Sunni-dominated region of Iraq on Thursday morning in what was seen as a bid aimed to destabilize the transfer of power on June 30, and immediately sent war planes back to the scene, firing on ground targets.

Following the withdrawal, groups of armed men wearing civilian clothes and masks and waving weapons roamed the empty streets.

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An Iraqi youth carries a wounded boy away from the scene of one of the four car bomb explosions, targeting police force in Iraq’s northern city of Mosul, on 24 June, 2004. — Internet

Iran spends $5b annually on drug fight

TEHRAN, 24 June — An Iranian official said Wednesday that the country spends some 43,000 billion rials (about 5 billion US dollars) on anti-drug programs, the official IRNA news agency reported.

The figure includes the sum spent on combating trafficking as well as preparation and treatments of addicts.

Ali Ishaqzadeh, head of Iran’s Drug Control Headquarters, was quoted as saying.

The illicit drugs distributed in Iran are mostly smuggled from Afghanistan, whose annual drug production has skyrocketed from 250 tons to 5,500 tons in the past 22 years, Hashemi said.

Official statistics showed that in 1998 there were about two million addicts in Iran, among whom 800,000 were occasional users and the rest hardcore addicts.

Anti-drug police seized over 221 tons of various illicit drugs throughout Iran last year and between 90,000 to 100,000 drug addicts were treated during the same period.

Iran sits in the crossroad linking drug producing Afghan and Pakistan and markets in the Persian Gulf states, Central Asia, western Europe and other regions. — MNA/Reuters

Firm of slain Korean set to suspend Iraq business

SEOUL, 25 June — The trading company employing a South Korean youngster killed by Islamic militants in Iraq will pull all of its Korean workers out of the country and suspend operations there, media reports said on Wednesday.

Militants beheaded 33-year-old Kim Sun-il, an Arabic interpreter, on Tuesday after South Korea refused to pay a $3 million ransom for the release of its embassy worker.

Coalition forces withdrew from the town after two US military vehicles caught fire.

An Iraqi youth carries a wounded boy away from the scene of one of the four car bomb explosions, targeting police force in Iraq’s northern city of Mosul, on 24 June, 2004. — Internet

Mubarak appears on state TV from hospital room

CAIRO, 25 June — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak appeared on Egyptian state television from his hospital room in Germany on Thursday and said he was helping out the government when the need arose and did not expect to be away long.

Sitting up in a striped dressing gown, Mubarak said he would continue with physiotherapy for his slipped disc and would not have an operation unless doctors decided that the physiotherapy was not working. It was his first appearance since he arrived in the hospital in Munich on Sunday.

Looking relaxed and informal, Mubarak said: “I am still at work here to some extent, not all work. The government is working, and if there is any need I talk to them and so there’s no problem from that point of view.”

“It’s as though I’m on a week’s vacation. So I’m relaxing a little. In any case, as soon as finishing the treatment, I plan to return to Cairo,” he added.

Mubarak flew to Germany on Sunday and expected to have an operation for a slipped disc on Monday morning. But doctors recommended that he continue with physiotherapy and said an operation might not be necessary.

The figure includes the sum spent on combating trafficking as well as preparation and treatments of addicts.
An Iraqi boy checks the destruction on the roof of his house in Baghdad’s Shiite neighborhood of Sadr City, following clashes between US army and militiamen on 20 June, 2004.

Iraqis gather around a destroyed vehicle at the scene of a car bomb which killed a three-year-old girl and a policeman in western Baghdad on 22 June, 2004.

Iraqis look at a crater in a parking lot after an overnight precision strike by the US military in the restive city of Fallujah on 23 June, 2004.

Iraqi Jalal Hazem lies in a hospital bed with burns covering his body after he was injured in an explosion, which also killed his 3-year-old daughter, in Baghdad, Iraq, on 22 June, 2004.

An Iraqi girl looks out of a window in a wall covered with bullet holes, in the village of Buhriz, Iraq, near Baqouba, 50 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of Baghdad, on 20 June, 2004.

An Iraqi man looks through the remains of his bedroom at his home in the village of Buhriz, Iraq, near Baqouba, 50 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of Baghdad, on 20 June, 2004.

Iraqis gather around a destroyed vehicle at the scene of a car bomb which killed a three-year-old girl and a policeman in western Baghdad on 22 June, 2004.

An Iraqi woman holds her wounded son after a bomb attack in the capital of Baghdad, on 22 June, 2004.

Workers seen repairing damaged Kirkuk-Turkey pipeline on 23 June, 2004.

An Iraqi girl looks out of a window in a wall covered with bullet holes, in the village of Buhriz, Iraq, near Baqouba, 50 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of Baghdad, on 20 June, 2004.

An Iraqi man looks through the remains of his bedroom at his home in the village of Buhriz, Iraq, near Baqouba, 50 kilometers (35 miles) northeast of Baghdad, on 20 June, 2004.
New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

A new hospital built in Pauk, Magway Division. — IPRD

Sanepauk bridge across Sanepauk creek is 789 feet long and it lies on Yangon-Kyaukpyu road in Ar Township, Rakhine State. — MNA

With water storage capacity of 228,000 acre feet, Swa Chaung Dam benefits people living in Yedashe Township, Toungoo District, Bago Division. — MYANMS ALEN

Developing Panwa in Kachin State. — PBANRDA

A rural house built by Development Affairs Committee in Daka village, Kangyidaunt Township, Ayeyawady Division. — PBANRDA

Border and rural area developments
Message from UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

"Drugs: Treatment Works"

YANGON, 26 June — The following is the message of Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan, in commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

One of the most damaging misconceptions about drug use is that it is a permanent problem. The truth is that drug problems are human problems, and they can be worked through in ways that restore value and dignity to a person’s life. The theme for this year’s International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, “Drugs: Treatment Works”, aims to correct this misconception, and convey the facts about drug abuse treatment, based on the latest and most reliable evidence and research.

Millions of people worldwide have been directly affected by drug problems — those who are dependent, as well as their families. Their lives have been disrupted, their health undermined, their education interrupted, their jobs lost, their families broken. People with drug-related problems, and their families and friends, need to know that there is a way out, and that effective help is available in different forms, depending on the needs and situation of each individual.

Today we have a better understanding of the mechanism of dependence. We know that dependence is a chronic and, in many cases, relapsing disorder. We know that, like many other chronic disorders, there are effective interventions that can help those affected to adopt productive lifestyles, avoid and reduce physical and mental health problems, improve family relationships, regain and retain child custody, and find better housing and employment opportunities.

We also know that drug-abuse treatment helps communities, by reducing criminality and the risks of transmission of blood-borne infectious diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, and by allowing them to benefit from the contributions of healthier, more productive and better-integrated individuals and families.

Policy makers need to bear in mind that treatment is a cost-effective way to tackle not only the health and social consequences of drug abuse, but also to reduce the associated costs of medical care, social welfare and criminal justice interventions. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has a variety of tools available at www.unodc.org to help clarify the facts about drug-abuse treatment.

On this International Day against Drug Abuse, I call on everyone to examine and take into account the evidence about drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation for drug users in Myanmar, two centers for the development of Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan, in commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The theme for this year’s International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is “Drugs: Treatment Works” and it has been chosen to highlight the responses by various nations of the world to the challenge of drugs and their efforts to deal with it.

The Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control has taken the responsibility of laying down the 15 years plan for the eradication of drugs in Myanmar and to accomplish it, it has laid down 2 strategies, 3 tactics and 5 techniques for the implementation of this plan. The 3 tactics are Supply Reduction, Demand Reduction and Law Enforcement. Thus the second tactic, Demand Reduction is in accordance with the UNODC’s theme for this year, “Drugs: Treatment Works”.

On this International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which falls on 26 June, today, I would like to urge the people of Myanmar, together with the Committees for Drug Abuse Control in the various States and Divisions, Districts and Townships to assist in the Treatment and Rehabilitation of drug addicts in their respective regions with the aim of helping them regain a life free of drugs.

In accordance with the tactic for the elimination of drug abuse in Myanmar, two centers for the development of treatment and rehabilitation for drug users in Myanmar, two centers for the development of. Shwe Pyi Thar and Shwe Pyi Aye have been established and are providing medical treatment and rehabilitation for drug addicts under the direct supervision of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control. In addition, the Shwe Pyi Thit Youth Development Center is under construction in Teuma Village, Muse Township in the Northern Shan State. This center will be ready in the near future to give medical treatment and provide rehabilitation for drug addicts.

Similarly, under the direct supervision of the Department of Social Welfare, 6 rehabilitation centers have been established in the States and Divisions where drug addicts are being rehabilitated after the completion of medical treatment. In addition, 26 medical centers and 40 minor treatment centers have been opened in the States and Divisions under the direct supervision of the Department of Health to give medical treatment to drug addicts. In the townships where there are no Drug Treatment Centers, the Township Hospitals of the Department of Health are authorized to provide drug abuse treatment.

In the World Drug Report issued by the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), for this year, it is estimated that there are about 185 million drug users all over the world, which is about 3% of the world’s population or 4.7% of the people between the ages of 15 to 64 years. According to baseline statistics updated in January 2004, there are altogether 63,615 addicts while the Department of Health reports reveal cumulative figure of 64,330 registered drug addicts. Therefore, it can be said that it is necessary to provide drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation for drug users in Myanmar.

The wrong notion that “Once an addict, always an addict” should be dispelled. It is firmly believed that given enough time and effort, an addict will be able to become drug-free and re-enter the mainstream society and will be able to contribute in a positive manner towards the betterment of the society in which he lives in.

Therefore, in conclusion, I would like to urge all the people of our country to act in accordance with the United Nations’ theme for the year 2004, “Drugs: Treatment Works” and join hands with the Government to participate enthusiastically in the activities of providing drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation for drug users. — MNA

Message from CCDAC Chairman Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing on occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

YANGON, 26 June — The following is a translation of the message from Chairman of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control Committee Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, in commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

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On this International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking which falls on 26 June, today, I would like to urge the people of Myanmar, together with the Committees for Drug Abuse Control in the various States and Divisions, Districts and Townships to assist in the Treatment and Rehabilitation of drug addicts in their respective regions with the aim of helping them regain a life free of drugs.

In accordance with the tactic for the elimination of drug abuse in Myanmar, two centers for the development of. Shwe Pyi Thar and Shwe Pyi Aye have been established and are providing medical treatment and rehabilitation for drug addicts under the direct supervision of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control. In addition, the Shwe Pyi Thit Youth Development Center is under construction in Teuma Village, Muse Township in the Northern Shan State. This center will be ready in the near future to give medical treatment and provide rehabilitation for drug addicts.

Similarly, under the direct supervision of the Department of Social Welfare, 6 rehabilitation centers have been established in the States and Divisions where drug addicts are being rehabilitated after the completion of medical treatment. In addition, 26 medical centers and 40 minor treatment centers have been opened in the States and Divisions under the direct supervision of the Department of Health to give medical treatment to drug addicts. In the townships where there are no Drug Treatment Centers, the Township Hospitals of the Department of Health are authorized to provide drug abuse treatment.

In the World Drug Report issued by the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), for this year, it is estimated that there are about 185 million drug users all over the world, which is about 3% of the world’s population or 4.7% of the people between the ages of 15 to 64 years. According to baseline statistics updated in January 2004, there are altogether 63,615 addicts while the Department of Health reports reveal cumulative figure of 64,330 registered drug addicts. Therefore, it can be said that it is necessary to provide drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation for drug users in Myanmar.

The wrong notion that “Once an addict, always an addict” should be dispelled. It is firmly believed that given enough time and effort, an addict will be able to become drug-free and re-enter the mainstream society and will be able to contribute in a positive manner towards the betterment of the society in which he lives in.

Therefore, in conclusion, I would like to urge all the people of our country to act in accordance with the United Nations’ theme for the year 2004, “Drugs: Treatment Works” and join hands with the Government to participate enthusiastically in the activities of providing drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation for drug users. — 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.

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 Ayeyawaddy River

All this needs to be known

- Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
- Do not be bothered whenever flattered
- Do not be softened whenever appealed

Development of JV airlines discussed

YANGON, 25 June — A meeting was held for development airlines launching joint-venture services with the Myanmar Airways this morning at the Ministry of Transport. Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Myo Tin, Managing Director of MA U Tin Hlaing Hmee, chairman of joint-venture airlines and officials were also present. Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that airlines are necessary preparatory steps to the convenience of the increasing number of passengers during the open season. U Tin Hlaing Hmee reported on programmes of the AM during the open season, and Brig-Gen Myo Tin gave a supplementary report.

Chairmen of the joint-venture airlines reported on accomplishments sector-wise. The minister looked into the requirements. — MNA

e-Government course concludes

YANGON, 25 June — The e-Government Workshop Training Course, which includes the Basic Electronic Course and the English Language Course, organized by the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, concluded with ceremony at the Communications and Postal Training Centre at 9 am today. On behalf of the CPT Minister, Managing Director U Maung Maung Tin of Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications gave a speech and presented certificates and gift cards to representatives of trainees and outstanding trainees.

Altogether 28 senior officers of 27 ministries attended the e-Government Workshop Training Course and 36 trainers attended other courses. — MNA

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26-6-2004
Political parties submit proposals... (from page 1) 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, representatives of peace groups from Shan State (North) Special Region-1, Shan State (North) Special Region-2, Shan State (North) Special Region-3, Shan State (North) Special Region-4, Shan State (North) Special Region-5 (KDA), Shan State (North) Special Region-6, Shan State (North) Special Region-7, Shan State (South) Special Region-1, Shan State (South) Special Region-2, Shan State (South) Special Region-3, Shan State (South) Special Region-4, Shan State (South) Special Region-5, Shan State (South) Special Region-6, Shan State (South) Special Region-7, Kachin State (North) Special Region-1, Kachin State (North) Special Region-2, Kachin State (South) Special Region-1, Kachin State (South) Special Region-2, Kachin State (South) Special Region-3, Kachin National Democratic Party (KNPD) Dragon Group, Kayin National Progressive Party (KNPP) (Splitter, Hoya), Kayin National Unity and Solidarity Organization (Kay Ma Sa Nya), Shan State Nationalities People’s Liberation Organization/Ya La La Phai, New Mon State Party, Democratic Kayin Buddhist Association (DKBA), Haungthayaw Special Region Group, Nyeinchan Myothit Group of Hpa-an Township of Kayin State which exchanged arms for peace, Shan State National Army, the group led by U Saw Tun Committee Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Work Committee members, Chairman of the Management Committee Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung and Management Committee members and NC delegates signed the attendance registers at Pyidaungsu Hall where the National Convention is being held and the Recreation Centre.

U Tun Yin Law of the Delegate Group of Political Parties presided over the plenary session together with National Convention Convening Work Committee member Daw Khin Nu, U...
Khawa Dam opened in Padaung Township,...

(from page 16)

Bago Division with abundant land and water resources contributes much to the State economy through agriculture. Thus, the government built 40 dams, diversion weirs and sluice gates with other eight projects under implementation in the division.

The dam is a part of the Ayeyawady west bank development project in Bago Division. It will irrigate 2,000 acres and supply potable water to the villages in the surrounding areas. The dam will help promote cultivation of the division. As 2,000 acres of land can be put under multiple cropping, the dam will help raise the income of the over 7,000 farmers in the 12 villages of the three village-tracts in the area. As the division is an important agricultural region, farmers will have to make efforts with zeal, effectively using the land and water resources, to develop cultivation for the interest of the nation and their.

Of the ten main crops, the division has targeted to extend monsoon paddy up to three million acres. Efforts should be made for exceeding the target, and to extend other seasonal and perennial crops including rubber, oil palm, thitseint, coffee, tea and pepper, depending on climate and soil conditions. Technical know-how has been disseminated continuously to farmers to enable them to produce and use high-yield crop strains. Moreover, the Government laid down and is implementing the five rural development tasks, with goodwill, for socio-economic development of the village people.

Understanding the Government’s goodwill, farmers should strive together with the Government for national and regional development undertakings and successful materialization of seven-point future political programme of the State.

In conclusion, he urged local people to effectively use water from the dam, to strive for the success of the agricultural sector and to maintain the dam for its durability.

Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin in his speech said that in an attempt to industrialize the agro-based country, Myanmar is laying basic foundations with the utilization of her natural resources for accomplishment of the plans to ensure agricultural produce sufficiency and to boost export surplus.

A huge number of dams, reservoirs and water pumping stations have emerged across the nation in a short time, reflecting the goodwill of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe. Khawa Dam is the 161st of its kind, irrigation facilities and water flood prevention projects benefit over 2.17 million acres of arable land.

The agricultural sector is the artery of national economy. He said, Myanmar stands at the top of the list of Asian rice-consuming nations. The government has placed great emphasis on extended cultivation of such crops as coffee, tea, pepper and macadamia in addition to paddy, edible crops and industrial raw material crops. Bago Division contributes 12 per cent to the nation’s GDP, he said. In conclusion, the minister called for more active participation of the local people in the agricultural sector.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko delivered an address, saying that the government had laid down and is implementing the objective — development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well. For boosting production of main crops of the State, lands of paddy cultivation are being extended year after year in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. In Bago Division (West), a total of 942,000 acres of land could put under monsoon paddy in 2003-2004 and the plan is under way to cultivate 1,050,000 acres of monsoon paddy and 150,000 acres of summer one in 2004-2005.

In the western branch of Bago Division, the government opened dams for increase of cultivable lands yearly. Khawa Dam opened today will irrigate 2,000 acres of farmland in Padaung Township. Khawa Dam is the 161st dam since 1988 and it is the 40th dam in Bago Division. Afterwards, a person, on behalf of local people, expressed gratitude. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin and guests took the designated places. At the auspicious time, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than formally unveiled the stone inscription. The commander and the minister formally opened the dam.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, the commander, the minister and departmental heads posed for documentary photos. They together with the local people inspected the dam. In the briefing hall, Director U Tin Maung Ohn of Construction-2 of Irrigation Department reported on facts about the dam project. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and the minister gave necessary instructions.

Khawa Dam was built on Khawa Creek near Chinyawyi Village, Padaung Township. The dam has 15.54 square miles of catchment area and 144,140 acre feet of water flows into the dam annually. The embankment is 237 feet high and 1,950 feet long and its water storage capacity is 21,300 acre-feet at highest level. The 211 feet long conduit and 30 feet wide spillway were built of reinforced concrete. The main canal is nine miles long and the branch canal is 12 miles and seven furlongs long. The dam can irrigate 2,000 acres of land.— MNA

OTT MCWA branch opens pre-primary school

YANGON, 25 June — The Maternal and Child Welfare Association branch of the Officer Testing Team in Mingaladon Station, Yangon Division, opened a pre-primary school this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Huy, patron of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Association Supervisory Committee.

Applications for MCWA permanent membership were also presented at the ceremony. Also present at the ceremony were Commander of the Station Brig-Gen Min Thein, No 1 Military Region Commander and Commandant of the OTT Col Tun Kyi, members of the panel of patrons of the Division MCWASC and the branch chairman and others.

Daw Khin Thet Huy explained the functions of the Division MCWASC. Chairperson of OTT MCWA Daw Than Than Mya presented applications to the chairman of the Division MCWASC.

Col Tun Kyi and family presented K 50,000 to the OTT MCWA, officers of the testing divisions, K 100,000 and Capt Kyaw Htay Huy Win and wife, K 100,000.

Daw Khin Thet Huy and Daw Than Than Mya formally opened the school. The commander and party inspected the school. — MNA
Thabin artistes entertain NC delegates

YANGON, 25 June — The Entertainment and Welfare Subcommittee under the National Convention Convening Management Committee is organizing entertainment programmes for the delegates at the gymnasium of Nyaungnapin Camp in Hmawby Township starting at 7 am everyday. Under the arrangement of Myanmar Thabin Asayon, a theatrical troupe “Thitsar Myittar Shweman Thabin” presented entertainment programmes to the delegates yesterday evening, attended by Chairman of the NCC Commission Secretary-2 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein. Also present on the occasion were NCC Commission Chairman Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Vice-Chairman Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Management Committee Chairman Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Working Committee Secretary U Thaung Nyunt and members, members of subcommittees and delegates.

After the entertainment, Maj-Gun Lun Maung presented K 150,000 awarded by the NCC Commission chairman, and delegate of the national races delegates group President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint K 150,000 to the anytune troupe. The NCCC chairman had a cordial conversation with the artistes. — MNA

As human trafficking can harm Myanmar’s tradition of preserving race, endeavours to curb it has been launched as national task

YANGON, 25 June — Officials held discussion to host the six-nation Ministerial Meeting on Collective Prevention against Human Trafficking in Mekong Basin region in Naypyidaw Township at the Ministry of Home Affairs on 22 June. At the meeting, the Manila Platform of the MOA-2002, which was attended by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Win Aung, Minister for Home Affairs Col Tin Hlaing, Minister for Labour U Tin Win, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Re-settlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Chief Justice U Thaung Soe, Deputy Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, General Secretary of Myanmar Women’s affairs Federation Prof Dr Khin Aye Win, officials of the related ministries, Office of the Commander-in-Chief Defence Services, Military Intelligence Office and Yangon Command.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Col Tin Hlaing said that Myanmar is a signatory to the Convention on Transnational Crime and the follow-up agreements, Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children and Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. The first preliminary meeting will be in Thailand in July 2004, the second preliminary meeting will be held in Myanmar in October 2004. The hosting of the ministerial meeting will stand as a milestone showing Myanmar’s international cooperation to curb human trafficking. Implementing of the MoU and Plan of Action laid down by the bilateral agreements will be held in Myanmar in October 2004. The hosting of the ministerial meeting will stand as a milestone showing Myanmar’s international cooperation to curb human trafficking. Implementing of the MoU and Plan of Action laid down by the bilateral agreements will be held in Myanmar in October 2004.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party inspected development tasks in Thayawady District. — MNA

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects development tasks in Thayawady District

YANGON, 25 June — Accompanied by Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Chairman of Bago Division (West Branch) Peace and Development Council Col Hla Min and officials, Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence inspected Othamhtwe paddy nurseries at the field-1 of Yadanaung paddy plantations of Yadanaung Co Ltd west of Thonze, Thayawady District yesterday morning and gave necessary instructions to officials. Afterwards, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party inspected land preparation with the use of agricultural equipment at the paddy plantations and gave instructions to officials.

Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than, Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko and party inspected development tasks for Monyo-Basic Education High School where they were welcomed by the Headmistress and teachers. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party looked into computer application & e-mail room, computer aided instruction room, printed media (audio system and reading corner) room, projected media presenter and language lab of the school. Next, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party inspected rehabilitation teams of the armed forces at the camp.

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Japan expands China centre, moves Asia HQs to Shanghai

Shanghai, 24 June — General Motors Corp, the world’s top car maker plans to spend 250 million US dollars to build a local partner to expand a pivotal car design centre in China, and move its Asia-Pacific headquarters to Shanghai by January.

GM, a distant second to Volkswagen AG in China’s fastest-growing ma

car car arena, said the ex

panditure was part of a planned 3-billion-US-

dollar investment over three years in a country it expects to become its number two market in four years.

GM’s sales from its Chi

ese ventures rose 69.7 per cent in May from a year ear

lier to 41,965 vehicles, the company said in an e-mail to dealers on Wednesday.

January-to-May sales rose 58.6 per cent to 219,888 ve

hicles.

The US firm commands about a tenth of the coun

try’s car sales, versus Volkswagen’s roughly 30 per cent.

Its planned 2.1-billion-yuan (253.7-million-US-dol

lar) investment in the design centre with Shanghai Auto

mobile Industry Corp would be funded from income gener

ated in China. The parts and materials would be produced

by local plants, as it tries to catch up with Volkswagen.

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Shanghai to streamline licensing to raise admin efficiency

Shanghai, 24 June — Any paddler at any food market in Shanghai, a business centre in east China, will as of July 1, no longer have to apply for a per

mit with the local public health authority to sell edible chicken and duck blood products. Meanwhile, no probe and approval formalities will be necessary any longer for the Shanghai residents to hang things on trees in the city.

These are among a batch of 36 items that need approval in line with 22 local rules but which go against the Administrative Licensing Law of China, according to a resolu

tion made Wednesday at the latest session of the municipal lawmakers.

Scheduled to take effect on July 1, the Administrative Licensing Law will help put an end to China’s reputation as a country of red tape and bureau

cracy, some law ex

perts believe. Promotion of the law is one of the substat

tial steps China has taken to reform its administrative examination and approval systems since it entered the World Trade Organization in late 2001.

The law, which is the first of its kind, will restrict gov

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cedures, and reduce the cost of administration, the experts say. Besides the above men

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tion made Wednesday at the latest session of the municipal lawmakers.
Saturn’s moon Phoebe
“A frozen time capsule”

Los Angeles, 24 June—Images snapped by NASA’s Cassini spacecraft show that Saturn’s moon, Phoebe, is not an asteroid but a 4.5-billion-year-old primordial body from the solar system’s outer reaches, scientists said on Wednesday.

The images of Phoebe’s pitted surface gave scientists their first close look at a planetesimal, small bodies from an area at the fringe of the solar system known as the Kuiper Belt that may have provided the building blocks of the Milky Way. High-definition photography as well as spectrographic and thermal images taken during Cassini’s June 11 fly-by revealed that Phoebe, which made up of ice, rock and carbon compounds similar to those seen in Pluto and Neptune’s moon, Triton.

“We believe the solar system was full of Phoebes,” scientist Torrence Johnson said at a news briefing at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. “As the big planetesimals formed, that material was either swept into those planets or swept out of the solar system into the Kuiper Belt,” Johnson said. Phoebe apparently stayed behind, trapped in orbit around the young Saturn... a frozen time capsule waiting for Cassini to open it up.”

Phoebe’s core — too dense for pure ice and too light for pure rock — is a combination of the two whose ratio resembles that of comets and other Kuiper Belt bodies, scientists say. Cassini’s spectrometer picked up signs of water-bearing minerals, carbon dioxide and organic material on Phoebe’s heavily cratered surface, scientist Bonnie Buratti said. The small moon also yielded spectral signatures of minerals that scientists so far have been unable to identify, she said.

The pass by Phoebe was part of Cassini’s mission to take a four-year look at Saturn and the objects around it. The robotic spacecraft began its journey seven years ago and is scheduled to begin orbiting the ringed planet on June 30. Cassini, a cooperative project of NASA, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency, is expected to conduct 76 orbits around the Saturn system and undergo 52 close encounters with seven of Saturn’s 31 known moons.

China speeding up scientific data sharing

BEIJING, 24 June—China’s Vice-Minister of Science and Technology Cheng Jinpei said here Tuesday that the ministry is speeding up a scientific data sharing project in an effort to reduce repeated research and money squandering.

Low efficiency in sharing scientific data is now a bottleneck for the country’s innovation efforts, said Cheng, also academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, in a keynote speech at the International Workshop on Strategies for Preservation of and Open Access to Scientific Data.

The Chinese Government has already placed the scientific data sharing project as one important job for building the national scientific and technological research infrastructure, Cheng said, adding that his ministry will go all out to build up and improve the project.

Experts said that scientific data are not only strategic resources for research community, but also key information for governmental decision making.

Most of the scientific data in China are still not digitized and open access to those resources are limited, the experts said. In 2002, the ministry kicked off the scientific data sharing project, which is still underway. The whole project will include a three-level system, one portal web site, 40 scientific data centres and about 300 main databases.

Low-carbohydrate diets seen as unhealthy and a ripoff

WASHINGTON, 24 June—Popular low-carbohydrate diets are leading Americans to poor health and spawning a rip-off industry of “carb-friendly” products, health experts and consumer advocates said on Tuesday.

They announced a new report by a group, called the Partnership for Essential Nutrition, to help educate Americans about the need for healthy carbohydrates such as vegetables, fruits, beans and whole grains.

When unproven science becomes a sales pitch, some people get rich and the rest of us get ripped off, Jeffrey Prince of the American Institute for Cancer Research, told a news conference.

“Eating vegetables, fruits, whole grains and beans, which are all predominantly carbohydrate, is linked to a reduced risk of cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes and a range of other chronic diseases,” Prince said.

Prince said low-carb diets that have gained popularity as the Atkins diet, that advocates throwing the body into a condition called ketosis. During this phase the body sheds water as it tries to get rid of excess protein and fat breakdown products.

“Losing weight on these extreme low-carb diets can lead to such serious health problems as kidney stones, heart disease, liver disorders and gout,” the group advises.

Primates found hibernating in tropical heat

LONDON, 24 June—Bears and groundhogs escape the cold winter months by burrowing underground and hibernating but scientists said on Wednesday the trait is not limited to animals living in chilly climates.

Researchers in Germany have found lemurs in Madagascar that may be the first to be seen in the wild in a hot or warm environment.

Heldmaier and his team found that the lemurs’ body temperature fluctuates by as much as 20 degrees Centigrade and depends on how well the tree holes are insulated. If they are not wellinsulated, temperature varies widely.

“With no other hibernators show such a bouncing of body temperature between 15 and 33 degrees Centigrade,” said Heldmaier.

Bulled-up boy teaches doctors about muscle protein

Bworons, 24 June—Doctors are studying a five-year-old German boy whose upper arms and legs are almost twice the size of his peers to learn what happens when the body does not produce a protein that limits muscular development.

The boy, whose mother is a professional athlete in Germany, is far stronger than other boys his age and lacks the protein, known as myostatin, doctors reported in Thursday’s New England Journal of Medicine.

He appears healthy now, but researchers are concerned the child may eventually develop abnormalities in the heart, which is a muscle.

The discovery could help doctors find a chemical to increase muscle mass as a treatment for several medical problems, such as muscular dystrophy, or the muscle deterioration seen in the elderly and among people in the advanced stages of cancer.

Products that claim to regulate myostatin, most of them untested, are already being used by athletes and bodybuilders for an easier way to bulk up.

Eating vegetables, fruits, beans and whole grains, which are all predominantly carbohydrate, is linked to a reduced risk of cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes and a range of other chronic diseases.”

Rather than escaping chilly temperatures, Heldmaier and his colleagues said the Madagascar car-fat-tailed dwarf lemurs were huddling down and preserving energy because of food shortage during the dry season.

“An adaptation is to get through periods when food is scarce. It is a mechanism of energy saving,” said Heldmaier.

Bears usually experience a drop in temperature when they snuggle down for the winter slumber.

Heldmaier and his team found that the lemurs’ body temperature fluctuates by as much as 20 degrees Centigrade and depends on how well the tree holes are insulated. If they are not well-insulated, temperature varies widely.

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Woeful penalty caps season to forget for Beckham

LISBON, 25 June — The height that David Beckham's extraordinary penalty reached as it disappeared into the Luz Stadium stands on Thursday mirrored the depths the England captain has plummed in a season he will want to forget.

Beckham was the first man into action in the penalty shootout after Portugal and England had drawn 2-2 after extra time in a tense Euro 2004 quarterfinal.

But as he made contact he seemed to take a huge dive and the ball ballooned high and wide of Ricardo's goal.

As the Portuguese crowd roared, Beckham turned and pointed accusingly at the spot, almost pleading with Swiss referee Urs Meier to allow him another go.

He did not, of course, and all the subsequent penalty takers took exaggerated care to put down the cut-up turf on the all-important dab of whitewash 12 yards out.

England got back on level terms when Rui Costa sent their penalties over the bar. But after Ricardo saved from Darius Vassell the keeper became the double hero by striking the winner.

As the Portuguese crowd roared, Beckham turned and pointed accusingly at the spot, almost pleading with Swiss referee Urs Meier to allow him another go.

Last October, with England needing a draw with Turkey in Istanbul to secure their Euro 2004 berth, Beckham blazed a penalty wildly over the bar in the 37th minute.

On that occasion he slipped on contact and was virtually horizontal when he struck the ball, but that will be little consolation to his captain.

"Beckham, I think he slipped with his foot once again, unfortunately," said the Swede. England fans had seen it all before but would not have believed it would see it again from a man with one of the deadliest right feet ever to wear his country's colours.

Portugal wins 6-5 on penalties to reach semifinals

LISBON, 25 June — Portugal goalkeeper Ricardo brought a touch of the exotic to the European championship on Thursday when he saved an England penalty before converting the spot kick that propelled the hosts into the semifinals.

Following more than two hours of tension, fasting throughout the country screamed and leapt for joy after goalkeeper Ricardo saved an England penalty and then scored the match-winner.

"I always knew we could win this," said 15-year-old Diogo Godinho, sweat pouring down his face. "I'm completely gutted. I'm just beginning to wonder if we'll ever win a penalty shootout," said David Wheatley, an IT analyst from York.

"It was a bit of a lottery at the end," said student Alex Wheatley, an IT analyst from York.

"I thought Portugal played better, but we battled on, we just didn't get the luck we needed." When Portugal beat Spain on Sunday, all-night celebrations followed with fans joyriding up and down the main Liberty Avenue, honking horns and waving scarves and flags.

The defeat of England guaranteed a repeat and thousands turned the central Lisbon landmark into a mass party as fans of all ages let off fireworks, sang and cheered maddly.

In the popular docks district, England and Portugal fans scuffled as they watched the game.

A Reuters photographer said the two groups of fans began taunting each other after a Portugal goal and chairs were thrown before police restored order.

Eriksson says injured

ROONEY OUT FOR UP TO A MONTH

LISBON, 24 June — England striker Wayne Rooney will be out of action for up to a month, coach Sven-Goran Eriksson said on Thursday after England's quarterfinal defeat on penalties by Portugal.

Eriksson indicated that Rooney, who limped off in the first half, had broken a bone in his foot.

"It's the same injury as Beckham before the World Cup, he will be out maybe a month," Eriksson said.

Captain David Beckham broke a bone in his foot before the World Cup in 2002 but played in the finals.
Lt-Gen Maung Maung Bo attends ceremony to lay cornerstone for main building of Dawei University

YANGON, 25 June—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Chairman of Tanintharyi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, senior military officers of Dawei Station and departmental officials, arrived Dawei University in Dawei on 23 June to lay the cornerstone for the main building of the university. Before laying the cornerstone, Director-General U Saw Lwin of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) reported on brief history of the university, opening of courses, subjects, number of students, IT, education department (Lower Myanmar), Member of the State Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint gave a supplementary report. Later, Lt-Gen Maung Bo met members of Dawei District Agriculture Supervisory Committee and rubber growers. He gave instructions on 200,000-acre cultivation of rubber and production of high quality. — MNA

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, the commander and party took designated places at the cornerstone-laying ceremony. Lt-Gen Maung Bo put the nine-gem casket in the centre of the foundation. Next, Lt-Gen Maung Bo, the commander and officials placed nine-gem bricks at designated places. Then, Lt-Gen Maung Bo sprinkled scented water on the stone plaque and performed rituals of golden and silver showers. Lt-Gen Maung Bo and party met Dawei District and township PDC members and departmental officials at Dawei District PDC Office. He explained five rural development tasks and fulfilled the needs of Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint.

Li-Gen Maung Bo and party laid the cornerstone for construction of main building of Dawei University. — MNA

Minister receives Chinese guests

YANGON, 25 June—Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pye Soe received Deputy Director Mr. Diao He Lin of International Trade Promotion Committee and party of Sichuan Province, the People’s Republic of China, at his office at 1 pm today. Present at the call were Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun and officials of the ministry. — MNA

SWRR Minister receives Ambassador

YANGON, 25 June—Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Maj-Gen Sein Hlwa received Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Myanmar Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Chaudhary at his office at 1 pm today. Present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Officer on Special Duty Brig-Gen Thura Sein Maung, Deputy Director-General of Fire Services Department U Aung Soe, the head of office and officials of the ministry. — MNA

WEATHER

Friday, 25 June, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in Kayah State and Magway Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in upper Sagaing Division, Shan and Chin States and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfalls in Rakhine and Kayin States, isolated heavyfalls in Tanintharyi Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Hpa-an (5.87) inches, Gwa (4.84) inches, Sittway (4.57) inches, Kaw Kairek (4.33) inches. Dawei and Thandwe (4.02) inches each and Kyaukpyu (3.98) inches. Maximum temperature on 24-6-2004 was 28.0°C (82°F). Minimum temperature on 25-6-2004 was 19.4°C (67°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 25-6-2004 was 92%. Total sunshine hours on 25-6-2004 was 7 mm (0.27 inch) at Yangon Airport, 7 mm (0.27 inch) at Kaba-Aye and 5 mm (0.20 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 117 mm (46.06 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1076 mm (42.36 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1146 mm (45.12 inches) at central Yangon. The maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from Southwest at (12:15) hours MST on 24-6-2004.

Bay influence: Monsoon is generally strong in the Andaman Seas and moderate elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 26-6-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Ayeawady Division, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States, scattered in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States. Degree of certainty is (80%). State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times in the Deltas of the Gulf of Martaban. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph. Seas will be moderate else where in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: General decrease of rain likely in Coastal areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring areas for 26-6-2004: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Weather outlook for last weekend of June: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Yangon Division and isolated in Mandalay Division.

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 11.00 hours MST on 25-6-2004)

According to the 06.30 hours MST observation today, the water level of Thanwin River at Hpa-an is 784 cm. It may remain above its danger level of 750 cm during the next 48 hours commencing noon today. According to the 06.30 hours MST observation today, the water level of Sittoung River at Madlack is 1075 cm. It may remain above its danger level of 1070 cm during the next 48 hours commencing noon today.

Rainfall on 25-6-2004

— 0.27 inch at Yangon Airport,
— 0.27 inch at Kaba-Aye and
— 0.20 inch at central Yangon

Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was
— 46.06 inches at Yangon Airport,
— 42.36 inches at Kaba-Aye and
— 45.12 inches at central Yangon
Four political objectives  
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order 
* National reconсолidation 
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution 
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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

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

Prime Minister oversees renovation works at Maha Pasana Cave  
YANGON, 25 June — Prime Minister of the State General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers and responsible personnel of the State Peace and Development Council Office, arrived at Maha Pasana Cave on Thiri Mingala Kaha Aye Pagoda Hill here this afternoon. The Prime Minister inspected the renovation works being carried out inside the cave. Officials of Public Works conducted the Prime Minister and party round the work site. After hearing reports, the Prime Minister gave instructions.

On the occasion, architects also reported on nine thrones and nine stone Buddha images and their replicas, all of which will be kept for public obeisance in Maha Rahtabhi Samaggi Pagoda in Panglong, and matters on Myanmar arts and crafts. Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko also reported on matters related to the replica of the Hidraw to be hoisted atop the pagoda. After hearing the reports, the Prime Minister gave instructions on necessities to make the pagoda look splendid. The Prime Minister also looked into the tasks being carried out to keep the cave pleasant and gave instructions. The Prime Minister and party left the cave later in the afternoon. — MNA

Khawa Dam opened in Padaung Township, Bago Division, to irrigate 2,000 acres  
YANGON, 25 June — The opening ceremony of Khawa Dam across Khawa Creek near Chinyawgyi Village in Padaung Township, Pyay District, Bago Division, constructed by Construction-2 of the Irrigation Department, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, was held at the pandal near the dam at 8.30 am today, with an address by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence. Present on the occasion were Bago Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko; Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin, Bago Division (West) PDC Chairman Lt-Col Ohn Myint, Pyay District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Tun Aye, district and township PDCs’ chairmen and members, service personnel, members of social organizations, band troupe of Pyay BEHS-1 and drum troupe and local people totalling over 5000.

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivered a speech on the occasion. He said that the State Peace and Development Council has laid down the national objectives and is implementing them for building the Union of Myanmar into a modern and developed nation. In the process, one of the four economic objectives—development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well—has been laid down and is being implemented. Agriculture is not only the main basic economy of the State but also the life-blood of the rural people. If the agricultural sector is promoted the wealth of the State will be stronger, thereby contributing to improvement of socio-economic life of the majority of the people. That is why priority is being given to development of the agricultural sector.

In this connection, arrangements have been made to ensure water supply for agricultural purpose. Therefore, the government has been building dams and reservoirs large and small as well as sluice gates for agricultural purpose and for preventing flood and inflow of sea water. Meanwhile, river water pumping projects and underground water tapping projects are being implemented across the nation.

The government has been building dams and reservoirs for irrigation the length and breadth of the nation after 1988. The Government has opened altogether 161 dams including the newly opened Khawa Dam. In addition, 29 projects are under implementation in 10 states and divisions. Dams and reservoirs are being constructed for greening tasks, ensuring favourable weather condition, supplying potable water and electricity in addition to agricultural purpose. With the emergence of a network of those irrigation facilities, farmers are now enjoying fruitful results of economic development.