Government has not only provided equal opportunities for pursuit of education but also created job and career opportunities for youths of border areas.

Prime Minister meets graduates of Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges

YANGON, 27 JUNE—Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt met the students who got the arts and science degrees from Yangon and Mandalay Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges of the Ministry of the Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and AGTI engineering diplomas in the Diamond Jubilee Hall this evening and gave them words of advice.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Mayor of Yangon, the deputy ministers, members of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, officials of the Office of the State Peace and Development Council, departmental heads, principals and faculty members of Yangon and Mandalay Nationalities Youth Resource Degree Colleges, the graduate students and their parents. Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivered an address. He said: This is the third of the ceremonies that have been held every year to celebrate the graduation and assignment of duties to students who have successfully completed the courses of the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges. This demonstrates clearly that the avowed goal of the State is to develop human resources and undertake capacity building in the border areas by opening up opportunities for pursuit of higher education for youths of the national races and nurturing them to become intellectuals, professionals and technicians. It is also a programme that exemplifies national unity.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt delivers an address at meeting with BA and BSc graduates and AGTI diploma holders of Yangon and Mandalay Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges—MNA

General Thura Shwe Mann meets oil palm and rubber entrepreneurs

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General Thura Shwe Mann meets oil palm and rubber entrepreneurs at Zeya Thiri Beikman.—MNA

Prime Minister Khin Nyunt meets graduates of special youth resource degree colleges

The National Convention is the concern of all our national races.
Towards elimination of narcotic drugs

As narcotic drugs endanger the entire human race, Myanmar is making unspiring efforts to fight against drugs as a national cause. The 18th Ceremony of the Destruction of Seized Drugs, organized by Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, was held in the compound of Drug Elimination Museum at the corner of Kyundaw and Hanthawady Roads in Kamayut Township on 26 June, attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

On the occasion, 710,497 kilograms of opium, 353,720 kilograms of heroin, 90,025 kilograms of marijuana, 264,380 stimulant tablets, 59,865 kilograms of Stimulant powder, 232,535 kilograms of Ephedrine powder and 1010 pillows of Diazepam pills were put to torch. The drugs destroyed on the occasion have a street value of more than 247 million US dollars. The value of drugs which have been destroyed since the 1st occasion up till the 18th is more than 14,452 million US dollars.

For the eradication of narcotic drugs, the 15-year drug elimination plan that covers not only the measures for prevention and law enforcement but also the ways to eliminate poppy cultivation have been initiated since 1999-2000 and the first five-year plan has been completed this year. The success in meeting the target of the first phase was due to the serious commitment, close monitoring and supervision and full support of the Government. Furthermore, the active participation of the regional authorities, local leaders of the national races and the local people was also a crucial contributing factor.

The implementation of border areas and national races development projects, the five rural development plans and the second five-year plan including the establishment of 24 regions to elevate the living standards, the development of 24 regions to elevate the living standards of the public and international cooperation.

Myanmar is fully aware of and accepts the fact that she alone cannot be successful in the fight against drugs but needs cooperation with neighbouring countries, and thus established bilateral, trilateral and multilateral cooperation with neighbouring countries of the sub-region as well as countries in the region.

We would like to present here that although Myanmar has not received any substantial international support in the fight against drugs she has been striving with utmost efforts to reach the goal of elimination of drugs in accord with the guidance laid down by the leaders of the State.
Car bombs kill 40 in southern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 26 June—Guerrillas are pressing their campaign as the handover of sovereignty to Iraq’s interim government draws nearer, spilling fresh blood and matching new hostages Saturday.

Two car bombs exploded near a mosque, killing 40 people and wounding 22 others Saturday night in the southern Iraqi city of Hillah, a coalition military official said.

The bombings took place near a building formerly known as the Saddam Mosque. The Polish-led multinational division responded.

Hillah is a largely Shiite town near the ancient city of Babylon and is along a road where many ambushes have occurred.

The hatred that has been engendered by this invasion is a long way before we bring peace to this region. Some Arabs question whether the United States can claim to have offered Iraqis something better than Saddam’s regime, given the war on terrorism.

Iraqis are worried about the continued military and political influence in Iraq of the United States, a longtime foe.

Iraq’s Arab neighbors also have a stake. Any power struggle could mean a civil war that would destabilize the entire region.

Iraqis something better than Saddam’s regime, given the war on terrorism if it does not pull its companies out of Iraq, the Arabic-language television network Al-Jazeera reported Saturday.

The broadcast came hours before President Bush was due in Turkey for a NATO summit.

According to Al-Jazeera, the video is from a group that calls itself Unification and Jihad. The group is believed to be linked to Abu Musab al-Zarqaui, whom the coalition blames for a string of recent attacks and who is believed to have ties to al-Qaeda.

The same group kidnapped and beheaded American Nicholas Berg and South Korean Kim Sun-il when its demands were not met.

According to the text read by the Al-Jazeera anchor, the kidnappers called on the people of Iraq to denounce President Bush’s visit to Turkey and to insist that Turkish companies leave Iraq.

However, Japan expressed the hope that the peace treaty could be reached in early 2005 during Putin’s visit to Tokyo, according to Japanese Foreign Ministry’s Press secretary Hatsushisa Takashima.

Russia and Japan have failed to sign a peace treaty to formally end their World War II hostilities due to the dispute over the four Kuril Islands that were occupied by the former Soviets in the closing days of the war.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov pledged to hold meetings at expert levels on the issue before President Vladimir Putin’s scheduled visit to Tokyo early next year.

Interfax news agency reported.

But the specific date for the signing of the agreement should not be talked as “compromising solution needs to be found”.

Lavrov said after talks with his visiting Japanese counterpart Yoriko Kawaguchi in Moscow. However, Japan expressed the hope that the peace treaty could be reached in early 2005 during Putin’s visit to Tokyo, according to Japanese Foreign Ministry’s Press secretary Hatsushisa Takashima.

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Iraq war protesters gather in Boston

BOSTON, 26 June—Hundreds of protesters rallied Saturday on a city plaza to call for an end to the US military presence in Iraq.

We came here to say that it is time now to bring the troops home to their families where they belong. It is time to care for the tens of thousands of broken bodies, minds and hearts created by this war," Paul Shannon, an activist with the American Friends Service Committee, told the crowd on Copley Plaza.

Police estimated a crowd of about 400 to 500.

Similar protests were scheduled to take place in cities around the nation, including San Francisco, St Louis and New York, said Jennifer Horan, a spokes-

woman for United for Justice With Peace, the coalition of groups that organized the rally.

Horan, acknowledging the turnout in Boston was disappointing, said, "My feeling is right now a lot of people are demoralized be-

cause trying to bring the troops home is like trying to move a mountain."

But, she said, "We are here and we’re not going away and more and more the American public is coming to support the idea that the troops should be brought home."

Protesters carried a variety of signs, including ones that read, "Enough! Bring the Troops Home Now," and "Democracy Yes! Empire No!" They also waved rainbow-

bow-coloured flags with "Peace" written on them. Protesters were skeptical of the US handover of sovereignty to the Iraqi government, which is scheduled for Wednesday.

Shelah Foreman, an ac-

tivist with United for Peace Action, said the transfer of sovereignty was "fraudulent."

"I foresee problems and I don’t think we’re part of the answer," she said.

Richard Clement, 51, a Vietnam-era veteran who is a kitchen supervisor from Gardiner, Maine, attended the rally with the blessings of his son, who is currently in the Army in Iraq.

"He said, 'Go for it.' You need to speak out," he said. "This war was wrong from the beginning," he said.

"We need to speak out... We need to keep it up. I need to, for my peace of mind, attend and speak and hope-

fully change a few people’s minds." — Internet

Argentina to promote all-round cooperation with China

BUENOS AIRES, 26 June — Argentina looks forward to enhancing its cooperation with China in various fields and will learn from China how to maintain balanced and sustainable economic growth, Argentine President Nestor Kirchner said.

"I wish my visit will help to push forward the coopera-

tion with China in political, economic and other fields, and I look forward to making wide-ranging exchanges of views with Chinese lead-

ers on bilateral ties and inter-

national issues," Kirchner said in an interview here with China’s leading media on the eve of his first state visit to China scheduled for June 27.

Speaking highly of the remarkable achievements made in China’s reform and opening up over the past 25 years, Kirchner said that dur-

ing his visit he will learn and be inspired from China’s suc-

cessful development experi-

ence, especially the Chinese Government’s ways to real-

ize balanced development. Argentina is looking for a way out after suffering from a serious economic crisis, so it pays great attention to Chi-

na’s development model, said the President.

Unilateralism will do no good in the current world, he said. Latin American states like Argentina should strengthen their relations with China and make joint efforts with China to estab-

lish new international rela-

tions and order.

On trade and economic cooperation, Kirchner said that Argentina is ready to open its economy to China and believes China will do the same. He said he will sign some cooperation agree-

ments with the Chinese side during the visit and documents will help to im-

prove bilateral ties.

Various political and eco-

nomics circles in Argentina attach great significance to the upcoming visit, said Kirchner. Argentina’s key Cabinet ministers, state sec-

retaries, governors and law-

makers form major provinces as well as more than 100 en-

trepreneurs will accompany him on his trip to China. This has proved that expanding ties with China has become a common will of Argentina’s society and political parties, the President noted.

Argentina

EU, US sidestep details of Iraq debt issue

NEW YORK/PHOENIX (IRELAND), 27 June — The United States and European Union sidestepped the details of a proposed deal to reduce Iraq’s foreign debt on Saturday, saying only that debt reduction was crucial for the Iraqi people.

In a joint statement after an EU-US summit in Ireland, the two sides pledged to “promote reduction of Iraq’s external debt burden, as debt reduction is critical if the Iraqi people are to have the opportunity to build a free and prosperous nation.”

The statement did not specify how much debt would be forgiven but that the reductions “should be provided in connection with an International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme and sufficient to ensure sustainability taking into account the recent IMF analysis.”

The IMF analysis showed that between 67 per cent and 95 per cent of Iraq’s debt should be forgiven to avoid overburdening its economy, White House National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said on Thursday.

Iraq’s political parties latest target

in wave of violence

BAQUBA, 27 June—Political parties became the latest target of Iraq’s violent attacks as rebels hit the local office of the prime minister’s political group and a Shiite party in the restive city of Baquba, while a car bomb in the north wounded a top Kurdish politician.

The attacks, which left at least six people dead, capped a week of continued violence striking the country’s downtown to inde-

pendence from the US-led occupation in four days. And officials have warned of worse to come.

Unleashed at around the same time, the strikes appeared staged to cripple Iraq’s new democratic roots, planted by the US-led coalition, and echoed a similar onslaught Thursday against police targets.

Axious to appear in control, prime min-

ister Iyad Allawi said he was ready to take “necessary measures” within two weeks to crush the violence.

“The Iraqi security forces as well as the Iraq army would be prepared in a week or two to impose the necessary measures to deal with the terrorists and the terrorist activities throughout the country,” Allawi told reporters.

Iraqi interim government also confirmed it has asked for assistance from NATO to train its new army and indicated that if the military alliance wanted to send troops that would be most welcome.

In a sign of the challenge ahead, insur-

gents blew up the local headquarters of Allawi’s Iraqi National Accord party in Baquba, 60 kilometres (38 miles) north of Baghdad, and attacked the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI).

“The third floor of a building that houses the offices of the Iraqi National Accord was devastated by an explosion,” a witness said on condition of anonymity.

Although no one was hurt, several hun-
dred metres (yards) away, a group of armed men, including a potential suicide bomber, killed four people and wounded two others when they stormed SCIRI’s Baquba base.

Two US marines killed, one wounded in Afghanistan

KABUL, 26 June—Two US Marines were killed and one was wounded in an operation against militants in eastern Afghanistan, the US military said on Friday.

The Marines were killed in Kunar Prov-

ince, which borders Pakistan, on Thursday evening, said military spokeswoman Master Sergeant Cindy Beam.

She said the wounded Marine was hurt by gunfire, but she said she did not know how the two were killed or have any other details.

Residents of Kunar said the attack hap-

pened in a mountainous district called Naray, close to the border with Pakistan. They said they saw the bodies of the two Marines and they appeared to have been shot with assault rifles.

MNA/Reuters

Iraq war casualties mounting for US citizen soldiers, with no end in sight

WASHINGTON, 26 June— The US military’s National Guard and Reserve forces have suffered more deaths in Iraq since April first than in the previous seven months combined.

And that trend may continue after the transfer of power next week, since the size of the US military force in Iraq may increase.

One senior officer says, “We should expect more violence, not less, in the immediate weeks ahead.”

Although no one was hurt, several hun-
dred metres (yards) away, a group of armed men, including a potential suicide bomber, killed four people and wounded two others when they stormed SCIRI’s Baquba base.

Detroit Free Press

MNA/Reuters

MNA/Reuters

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Iraq marines aim their rifles at the main entrance of Fallujah on 25 June, 2004. For the first time since the Iraq war, a majority of Americans believe it was a mistake sending US troops to Iraq and that it has not made the US safer from terrorism. — Reuters

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US soldier’s lawyer says Iraq abuse widespread

BAGHDAD, 26 June — Senior military officers were aware of widespread abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US soldiers, and lower-ranking troops should not be made scapegoats, the lawyer for an accused female soldier said on Friday.

Speaking at a hearing in Baghdad which will decide whether Specialist Sabrina Harman will face a court martial, civil defence lawyer Frank Spinner said soldiers far more senior than Harman had been aware of the abuse at Abu Ghraib prison.

“I don’t think the world wants to see someone of her rank and experience taking the fall,” he told the judge. “That’s not someone who should be court-martialled.”

Spinner, who has defended Army clients and won in several high-profile trials, told reporters he had “no doubt that Iraqi detainees have been physically abused on a wide scale that would be beyond the military’s ability ever to prosecute”.

“The chain of command, they know it too, and the problem is that people won’t step up and admit it. To do it now would only subject them to prosecution,” he said. “There’s no question our Marines and soldiers were put into impossible cir-

stances.”

The Pentagon says the abuse was only confined to a few low-ranking soldiers at Abu Ghraib. Seven have been charged. But some of their defence lawyers say it was carried out with the knowl-
edge of senior officers and at the request of military intelli-
gence to help soften up in-
mates for interrogation.

On Thursday, Harman’s company commander testified that the top military in-
telligence officer at Abu Ghraib was present in the cell block the day an Iraqi prisoner died during interrogation. Harman was photo-
graphed grinning beside the corpse in one of the images that sparked worldwide out-
rage.

Captain Donald Reese, company commander of 372nd Military Police Com-
pany, told the hearing held at a US base near Baghdad’s airport he first saw the pri-
soner after he had died.

“I was told that when he was brought in he was com-
bined but they took him up to the room and during the interrogation he passed,” Reese said.

He said the body “was bleeding from the head, nose. mouth”. Several officers, in-
cluding Colonel Thomas Pappas, Commander of the 205th Military Intelligence Brigade and the top intelli-
gence officer at the jail, were discussing what to do.

“I heard Colonel Pappas said ‘I’m not going to go down alone for this’”. Reese said. He said the body was left locked in a shower room overnight and the next day was fitted with an intrave-
nous drip and taken away. He said this was done to en-
sure other inmates did not get “upset” over the death.

Italy not to send more troops to Iraq

ROTT, 26 June — Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini announced on Thursday that his government has no intention to send more troops to Iraq.

Frattini told reporters that the Italian policy on Iraq remains unchanged, though the recent situation in that country is not stable.

On the security of the Italian forces in Iraq, the minister said the Italian Government has demanded they keep a close watch on surroundings.

Italy backs Iraq Prime Minister Iyad Allawi’s re-
quest that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) help train Iraqi security forces and provide the war-torn country with technological and logistic assistance, Frattini said.

Italy sent 3,000 troops to Iraq after the ouster of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

In accordance with the decree approved by the Italian Cabinet at the beginning of the year, the troops’ mission in Iraq will expire on 30 June, but the Italian Government on Tuesday decided to extend the mandate till the end of the year. —MNA/Xinhua

Bush’s visit to Ireland sparks protests

SHANNON (Ireland), 26 June — US President George W Bush flew into Ireland on Friday for a summit with European Union leaders which has sparked protest and rekindled anger over American policy in Iraq and the Middle East.

Bush landed at Shannon Airport, on Ireland’s west coast, and was whisked 10 miles up the road to the fairy-
tale setting of Dromoland Castle, a 16th Century tur-

ted mansion set in secluded woodland in County Clare.

There, he and First Lady Laura Bush — on the first US presidential trip to Ire-
land since the Clintons vis-
ited in 1995 — were wel-
comed by Irish Prime Min-
ister Bertie Ahern, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency.

The two men strolled around the gardens of the castle in conversation before returning to the build-
ing under the shelter of um-
brellas as a light shower fell.

The visit has sparked pro-
tests in a country where visit-
ing US presidents, from John F Kennedy to Ronald Reagan, have traditionally been feted due to their Irish ancestry and the strong historical links be-
 tween the two nations.

Some 10,000 people marched through Dublin on Friday night to voice their opposition to Bush, and a smaller protest of around 600 people was staged at Shan-
on, although demonstrators were kept well away from the presidential entourage.

The focus of the protests is US policy in Iraq and Ire-
land’s own role in the war there. Ahern’s government has been heavily criticized at home for allowing US jets to refuel at Shannon en route to the Middle East.

But the Irish Prime Min-
ister says the rift between Europe and the United States, so deep 15 months ago when the US-led coal-
ition invaded Iraq, has been bridged by the recent sign-
ing of UN Resolution 1546, which provides for UN mem-
bers to support the coalition in the Gulf.

“Weber added that follow-
 ing year, those arguments are dead,” Ahern told Irish state television RTÉ shortly before Bush landed.

The Dublin march was orderly but feelings ran high.

“The Irish Government has no right to be spending our taxes on entertaining a war-
monger like Bush,” one of the marchers, Dubliner Sarah Keane, told Reuters. “It’s a disgrace.” —MNA/Reuters

France, Britain warn of incalculable risks of weather changes

PARIS, 26 June — Weather changes will have incalculable consequences on future generations if no steps are taken to control them, four French and British ministers warned Thursday.

In an article published in French daily Le Monde in its Friday edition, Britain’s Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and Secretary of State for the Environment Margaret Beckett and France’s For-

eign Minister Michel Barnier and Ecology Minister Serge Lepeltier warned that climate changes would have an “in-

calculable” cost on health, the environment and national economies and would seri-

ously affect future genera-
tions.

The collective will of ac-
tion remains too weak be-
fore the serious challenge, they said, adding that scien-
tists forecast a global warm-
ing from 1.4 to 5.8 degrees by 2100.

“The heat wave of sum-
mer 2003, repeated floods, the advance of deser-

ification, the melting of the ice floes and glaciers are an illustration of the first ef-

fects of climate upheaval,” they said.

In face of this “major collective risk”, the interna-
tional community and nota-

bly industrial nations should hold down emissions of fos-
sil-fuel gases blamed for the rising temperatures, they said. — MNA/Xinhua

Medical staff of an emergency hospital gather around Henem, a badly injured bodyguard to a culture minister in the Northern Iraq Kurdish regional government is treated following a car bomb blast in Arbil on 26 June, 2004. The car bomb explosion killed one man and wounded 40 people on Saturday as guerrillas kept up a bloody drive to derail Iraq’s transition to an interim government in four days’ time. —Instructor

US soldiers from First Infantry Division search an Iraqi home, as an Iraqi child sleeps on a mat on the outskirts of Buqubah, Iraq on 25 June, 2004. —INTERNET

FBI questions man caught with gun, knife at S California airport

LOS ANGELES, 26 June — The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is questioning a man of Middle East-

ern descent arrested in a southern California airport for attempting to bring a handgun and a knife onto a flight to Washing-

ton, DC, authorities said Friday.

The 65-year-old man was arrested late Thursday at John Wayne Airport, Orange County, after “a routine check of luggage through the X-ray machine revealed a handgun in the luggage,” said Orange County Sheriffs Department spokesman Hayward Miller.

A subsequent search of the luggage revealed that there was a loaded handgun. Miller said, adding the suspect also had a knife “of unknown length and type.” Miller declined to say where the knife was found.

The man, whose name was withheld pending investiga-
tion, was “detained by the Transportation Security Admin-
istration and our joint terrorism task force representatives,” he added.

The suspect, who has booked a United Airlines flight to the US capital of Washington, DC, was arrested for “at-
temting to bring a loaded firearm into a secured area of an airport.”

The man was later taken to the Santa Ana Men’s Central Jail, where he was booked on a “variety of charges, includ-
ing possession of firearms and bringing firearms into a secured area of an airport,” Miller said.

It was unclear “at this point in the investigation” whether the suspect faced terrorism-related charges,” according to Miller.

MNA/Xinhua
Images of Iraq

An Iraqi woman sits next to her two children including her daughter, Shalaa, far right, who was injured in an explosion in Baghdad, Iraq, on 22 June, 2004.

A bomb attack killed two Iraqis in the capital of Baghdad, on 22 June, 2004.

An Iraqi son guides his wounded father out of the scene of one of four car bomb explosions, targeting police force in Mosul, on 24 June, 2004.

An Iraqi firefighter arrives to the scene after a car bomb explosion in Iraq’s northern city of Mosul, on 24 June, 2004.

Iraqis evacuate a victim from the scene of one of four car bomb explosions, targeting police force in Iraq’s northern city of Mosul on 24 June, 2004.

An Iraqi man looks at the destruction of the police station in Ramadi, 110km west of Baghdad, Iraq, after a militant attack on 24 June, 2004.

An Iraqi man climbs over the rubble of a destroyed building in Ramadi, Iraq, after a militant attack on 24 June, 2004.
New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

Border and rural area developments

Thaphanseik Dam in Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Division benefits 400,000 acres of monsoon paddy, 45,000 acres of cotton, 172,500 acres of summer paddy and 26,300 acres of sesame.—MYANMA ALIN

Monsoon paddy field in Hsamalauk village in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Division.—MYANMA ALIN

A new building of Basic Education Middle School (Branch) in Mokkhamu Village, Kyakto Township, Mon State.—MYANMA ALIN
Government has not only provided equal opportunities...

(from page 1)

At present, the government is fully engaged in the very important task of developing the country in all aspects so that she shall be able to take her rightful place among the nations of the world and be second to none, and so that she shall endure for as long as the world exists. In conformity with these tasks arrangements were made and carried so that all the national races of our country develop uniformly and equally and that the national unity shall go from strength to strength. So plans were laid and all necessary arrangements made to fully enhance the capacity of the national races and thus provide them with opportunities to take their share of responsibility for the protection and development of the State.

In these endeavours for the progress and development of the border areas, which have lagged behind, the government has taken the initiative to provide leadership as well as moral and material support for their development and progress. So, it is of great urgency and importance that the borders of the national races and the people of the border areas give their full cooperation and work in concert with the government. What is primarily needed thus, is the development of human resources in the border areas—that is people who have the will and skills, the ability and capacity to work for the progress and development of their locality and region.

Furthermore, in the endeavour to develop a certain region, it is necessary to improve roads and communications, build and install required infrastructure for development, lay the foundations for a thriving economy and raise the health and education standard of the people of the region. The government has systematically drawn up plans and projects, which comprehensively covers all these sectors and works is now in full swing.

So far, the expenditure on projects for the development of border areas and progress of national races totals over 56,000 million kyats and US$ 550 million in foreign exchange. Due to this, the foundations for development have been laid and the border areas are developing and flourishing with great momentum before our very eyes.

Although achievements were made in growth and development, the foundations that have been so far laid must be further maintained and enhanced for long-term sustainable development. For this, it is necessary to raise the educational standards of the people who are the native inhabitants of the region. Now is the right time when we should encourage and support the emergence of intellectuals, professionals and technicians from among the people of the respective regions. At the meeting of the Central Committee for the Development of Border Areas and Progress of National Races held in March this year, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe laid down guidelines that:

- The development of some border areas can now be seen to surpass the development of even some areas within the country. The border areas are developing fast and efforts must be made to maintain and further raise this momentum. We must continue all endeavours to help the people in these regions to make life secure, raise their quality of life and eliminate poverty. In order to ensure development that is sustainable and enhanced, it is especially necessary to make arrangements for the nurturing and development of human resources.

In accordance with these guidelines concerted efforts are being made to raise the education standard and develop human resources. As a result new basic education schools have been built and the level of existing schools raised; colleges, degree colleges and universities have been opened and “Three R” Classes have been organized as contingency measures to raise the overall standard of literacy and education in the border regions.

To further nurture human resource development especially for the youths in the various border regions, 26 Training Schools for Development of National Youths from Border Areas, 17 Vocational Schools of Domestic Science for Development Degree Colleges, in Yangon and Mandalay, have now been established.

According to official indicators there are now 451 primary students, 1,127 middle school students and 662 high school students, that is, altogether 2,240 students, now attending 26 Training Schools for Development of National Youths from Border Areas. Of these students, those who show promise and have passed the matriculation examinations will be able to continue their studies in higher education in the Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree Colleges.

For the all-round development of girls in the border regions, 17 Vocational Schools of Domestic Science for Women have been opened in cities near the borders with neighbouring countries. In addition, commodity production entrepreneurs have been set up to provide for their livelihood. With regard to the Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree Colleges it will be seen that the 141 students who graduated last year, have now been appointed to suitable posts by the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, the Home Ministry, the Electric Power, the Information Ministry, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Construction Ministry and that they are now performing their assigned tasks to promote development of the border areas.

The present intake graduating in the academic year 2003-2004 from the Yangon Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree College consist of 38 graduates with arts and science degrees and 23 diplomas in engineering. From the Mandalay Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree College, 34 students have now obtained arts and science degrees and 20 have obtained engineering diplomas. That is a total of an additional 115 graduates this year to those in previous years.

Moreover, the students of the previous graduating classes of the Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree Colleges who passed with distinctions in the arts and science and engineering diploma courses, are now attending the B. Tech Engineering courses and Master of Arts and Master of Science (Qualifying) courses in the Yangon and Mandalay degree colleges.

Among those graduated today, 24 are eligible to attend the Master of Arts and Master of Science (Qualifying) courses and 27 are eligible to go on to B. Tech courses. Therefore, before very long, the youths of the national races from the border areas will be qualified to obtain not only Master’s degrees but doctorate degrees as well. These are indeed good signs for the future. These developments show that the border areas, which for many long years had lost their opportunities for pursuit of education have today regained their birthright. Furthermore they have now within their grasp, in a short period, excellent prospects for higher education and thus become qualified and educated intellectuals, professionals and technicians. It can clearly be seen that foundations have been laid for equal opportunities for education for the youths of the border areas.

The intellectuals, professionals and technicians who have benefited from the Educational Plans and Programmes of Border Area Development, (including today’s graduates), are fully aware that they face no employment difficulties; for the government has not only provided equal opportunities for education but also created job and career opportunities for them. I would like the graduates of today to clearly understand that the national race youths who have graduated from the Nationalities Youth Resources Development Degree Colleges have now all returned to their native regions in supervisory and administrative positions in the various educational, administrative, agricultural and construction sectors to lead and participate in the ongoing development activities in their regions, and that it is indeed necessary to understand that they were provided with these golden opportunities as an integral part of their graduation.

That is why I would like to urge today’s graduates to avail themselves of these opportunities and find new ways and means to promote the welfare and development of his or her village or region; to establish good and friendly relations with the local people, find out their needs and fulfill them to the best of your ability. The development of the border areas will mean a higher standard of living and a better quality of life for the people. (See page 9)
Government has not only ...

(from page 8)

And as their educational standards rises and their general knowledge expands, their outlook would broaden with the realization that the long-term welfare and prosperity of the Union and each persons’s welfare and prosperity are one and the same. This view in turn, will strengthen national unity and reinforce the Union Spirit.

When firm foundations have been laid for material prosperity and welfare of a region, this will lead to the development of foundations for spiritual and moral uplift. That is why I would like to advise you to make use of the knowledge you have obtained, the skills you have been equipped with to do your utmost for the development and welfare of your community, your village and your region. The State has educated and equipped you to be able to carry out these tasks and has also provided you with the means for the enhancement of your own life and has trained you to be good organizers with a proper attitude to life and a firm Union Spirit. And I wish you to understand that we are now dispatching you to take up your assigned duties with a firm faith in your abilities and in your good will.

In whatever region you have been assigned, you should not only do your best to achieve the goal of border area development and progress of the national races, but also guide the perceptions and attitudes of the people in your region. You have to instill in them and convince them that their progress and welfare depend on Union. The Three National Causes - that it is imperative to prevent the disintegration of the Union, to prevent the disintegration of national unity and that it is the mandatory duty of every citizen to protect and perpetuate our national sovereignty. This is the one and only correct path of our Nation and I therefore call upon you to organize and lead the people on this correct path towards the perpetuation of our nation.

As you all know we are in the midst of reconstructing the Union of Myanmar as a developed and modernized nation where a fully disciplined democracy prevails and a 7-stage road map was laid down for the realization of this goal. The National Convention which is the first stage of this important road map, is now in progress. The various national groups, representatives of political parties and representatives from the many strata of the mass of people are now successfully carrying out their deliberations on the drawing up of a new constitution.

So, it is the duty of all citizens, including your selves, to give active support in whatever way we can and whatever our responsibilities are, for the success of the National Convention and for the emergence of a strong constitution. In conclusion I would like to urge you:

- To do your unremitting best to utilize the knowledge you have obtained and the capacities that have been built up at the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges to participate in the ongoing plans and programmes for development in the border areas.
- To preserve the traditions nurtured in you by the degree colleges and to work for a Union which is strong and enduring: furthermore to do your level best as good organizers and as good leaders to instill in the people the spirit of national unity and the Union Spirit by setting yourselves up as good examples.
- To be and live as one with the people in the border areas who are indeed your kith and kin and to raise their standard of living.

Lastly I would like my best wishes that:
- You shall be able to carry out your duties faithfully.
- Next, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt presented medals and certificates of honour to outstanding students— Akha national Maung See Paing of Kengtung in Shan State (East) in Arts, Akha national Maung Kyi Lin of Kengtung in Shan State (East) in science and Shan national Sai Aung Thura Thein (a) Maung Aung Thura Thein of Loikaw, Kayah State in Engineering from Yangon Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges to participate in the ongoing plans and programmes for development in the border areas.

A total of 15 students of the two degree colleges received BA and BSc degrees and certificates of diploma in AGTI. BA degree holders are four Kayah nationals, one Kayan national, three Kayin nationals, two Khami nationals, three Chin nationals, three Palaung nationals, four Naga nationals, one PaO national, one Mon national, four Rakhine nationals, five Shan nationals and four Akha nationals totalling 35. BSc degree holders are two Kayah nationals, four Kayin nationals, one Kayan national, seven Khami nationals, three Chin nationals, one Danu national, one Naga national, two Palaung nationals, two PaO nationals, one Mon national, one Myanma national, five Rakhine nationals, three Shan nationals, two Akha nationals, one Thet national, one Intha national totalling 37. Certificates of AGTI holders are one Kachin national, three Kayin nationals, five Kayin nationals, one Dawei national, two Danu nationals, four Palaung nationals, two PaO nationals, six Mon nationals, nine Rakhine nationals, eight Shan nationals and two Intha nationals totalling 43.

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt and ministers pose for documentary photo together with BA and BSc graduates and AGTI diploma holders of Yangon and Mandalay Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges...

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

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

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

Taunggyi, Union of Myanmar
28 — 29 June, 2004
General Thura Shwe Mann meets palm oil and rubber...

(from page 1)

He went on to say that as regards the cultivation of oil palm, the State will grant land allotments that will be protected in accord with existing laws and render other necessary assistance to the entrepreneurs. In addition, he said for the better transport of the entrepreneurs including the public, airports and airports where F-28 can land have been opened. Besides, the roads of the division have also been upgraded to all-weather ones. Measures are being taken for the safety of farm work site, farm equipment and crops produced. Assistance is being rendered for importing machinery and seeds, he added. That is why those entrepreneurs for cultivation of oil palm are invited to present their requirements if there was any. Moreover, the world market in rubber is getting better, he noted. So, emphasis is to be put on the extension of rubber cultivation. It is our country that has a lot of lands suited to the cultivation of rubber. The General stressed the need for both oil palm and rubber entrepreneurs to expand their cultivation for sufficiency of the State as well as surpluses to be exported.

Next, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha read out the resolutions passed at the previous meetings regarding the matters pertaining to the cultivation of 500,000 acres of oil palm.

Later, secretary of Taninthayi Division PDC Lt-Col Myo Nyunt reported on land allotments for oil palm entrepreneurs.

Director-General of Settlement & Land Records Department U Win Kyi reported on matters related land allotments; Managing Director of Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank U Tin Lin on disbursing loans; and Managing Director of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise Col Kyi Win on oil palm and rubber growing projects.

Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pye Sone, Deputy Minister for Industry 1 Brig-Gen Kyaw Win and Director-General of Forest Department U Soe Win Hlaing reported on assistance to be rendered for cultivation of oil palm and rubber.

Afterwards, those present from Yuzanna, Asia World, Dagon International, Htoo Trading and Myanmar A sia, Kabaewa, Maung Weik and Family, Anaw Nee, Moe, Shwe Myaw Yadana, Sire Stone, Po Kaung, South Dagon, Edin, Myan Naing Myint, Vin Desh, Tet Nay, Aung Zin, Si, Shwe Si Ohn, Pyi Phyoo Htun, Shwe Padona, Amyotha Gonyi and Aung Yi Phylo companies which have been implementing the projects reported on progress of work.

Member of State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann attended to their needs.

Later, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha explained the rules and regulations to import heavy machinery for agricultural sector.

In his speech, General Thura Shwe Mann urged those present to extend the cultivation of oil palm. Although there was a plan to put 500,000 acres of land under oil palm, it can be seen that over 1.3 million acres were allotted to the growers, he added. If 60 per cent of the land be the cultivable land, 80,000 acres of land could be put under oil palm, he said. The general urged the oil palm entrepreneurs to make earnest efforts to grow oil palm on their allotted land.

General Thura Shwe Mann continued to say that as the country is an agro-based one, the government is paying serious attention to the agriculture sector for national development. Based on the favourable economic foundations, the country is heading for an industrialized nation, he said.

Strong economy and defence, he said, are sine qua non for building a peaceful, modern and developed nation. Therefore, four economic objectives are being implemented to realize the goal. National entrepreneurs play a key role to make end this end and they are the ones who have the ability to lend themselves effectively to national development, he said. National entrepreneurs with enough capital, management skill and technical know-how are to strive for development of the State based on their efficiency. The General also urged the entrepreneurs to make efforts in their own interests as well as the State.

In conclusion, General Thura Shwe Mann urged the national entrepreneurs to strive in all sectors including the agriculture sector for national development as they are the nation’s new economic forces on which the State can rely. — MNA

OLYMPIC DAY SEPAK TAKRAW TOURNAMENT: The 2004 Olympic Day Commemorative Sepak Takraw Tournament was held for the ILBC Cup on Sunday. The National Selection team (B) and team (D) were seen in action. — NLM

UNIVERSITY OF MYANMAR: The University of Myanmar offered scholarship to 25 students and gave awards to 5 students for their outstanding academic and extracurricular achievements.

Soccer coach Htoo Aung Moe Win won the “Coach of the Year” award, while Aung Aung Kyaw Wai was named “Young Coach of the Year.” The National Women’s Team was awarded the “Best Women’s Team” trophy.

The 2nd meeting of the ASEAN national focal points working group on peas & beans of the products promotion scheme and the 11th meeting of the Joint Committee on ASEAN co-operation in agriculture and forest products promotion scheme (29 June — 2 July 2004) Yangon, Myanmar

OLYMPIC DAY BOXING: The 2004 Olympic day commemorative boxing tournament was held at the Training Centre of the Myanmar Boxing Federation in Thawanna, Yangon, on Sunday. Young boys participating in the 42-kg junior class event. — NLM

OLYMPIC DAY WUSHU TOURNEY: Myanmar Wushu Federation President U Khin Maung Lay presents prizes to winners in the Olympic Day commemorative Wushu tournament on Saturday. — NLM
Building new motor roads …

and Laheyra-Mandaing bridges—on Dawei-Myeik—Taninthayi-Kawthaung Union Highway during six years since 1998. To ensure better transport in the division, efforts are being made even in the rainy season for renovation of the Union highway.

Priority is being given to undertaking potential business in the division while striving for development of transport infrastructures. As the government has granted allotment between Myeik and Kawtawhong where it is favorable land, water and weather condition for growing oil palms there has now emerged a wide array of oil palm plantations either sides of Myeik-Bokpyin Kawtawhong roads.

As a result, Taninthayi Division will soon become an oil pot capable of providing palm oil to the State. There are now over 80,000 acres of palm oil in the division.

Likewise, arrangements are being made for extended cultivation of other crops. Remarkable progress has been made in the meatfish sector that is the most suitable to water, land and weather condition of the division. Factories and mills based on fish and prawn undertakings have emerged in the environs of Myeik-Bokpyin areas to catch, process, and value add to prawn and crab breeze and pearl culture. In implementing projects for the 24-developed regions for bringing about harmonious development across the nation, universities, colleges and hospitals (bed 200) are being established in Dawei and Myeik regions.

Regarding transport sector, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance, stressing that communication means waterways, road transport, airways, telecommunications etc; that efforts are to be made for better transport to ensure economic development. In accordance with transport facilities, prerequisites for national development, were established one after another based on own wealth and resources. Myanmar engineers were engaged in building new airports, upgrading old ones, building more railways, bridges, buildings small and large and jetties. There were six airports that Jet aircraft could take off and land in the past and there are now 21 including Bokpyin airport which was built by Myanmar engineers.

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Malaysian PM says additional allocation to boost economic growth

Kuala Lumpur, 26 June — Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Thursday that the additional 10 billion ringgit (2.63 billion US dollars) allocation under the Eighth Malaysia Plan would stimulate the country’s economic growth.

The additional allocation, decided by the Cabinet Wednesday, would not involve any big projects but finance projects whose main objective would be to generate economic growth for the benefit of the people, Abdullah told a media briefing after chairing the Supreme Council meeting of the ruling United Malays National Organization (UMNO) here.

“This programmes also involved projects which had been pledged by the government during the recent general elections,” he said.

The government had originally budgeted an expenditure of 110 billion ringgit (28.94 billion US dollars) for the eighth plan (2001-2005), but the expenditure was raised to 160 billion ringgit (42.1 billion US dollars) during the midterm review of the country’s five-year plan last year.

Abdullah, also minister of Finance, however, deflected comment on the source of financing for the additional funds.

He said that the additional allocation was adequate to implement development projects which could bring about multiplier and spillover effects to the economy.

The Prime Minister said the country’s economic situation was now in a healthy state with its gross domestic product expanding at 7.6 per cent in the first quarter of 2004.

Indonesian police investigate nine companies for illegal sugar import

Jakarta, 26 June — The Indonesian police have investigated nine shipment companies linked to the illegal sugar import amounting to 56 thousand tons a responsible official said Thursday.

Samuel Iromoko, director in the national police detective, was quoted by Detikonline news service as saying that the investigated companies are foreign companies.

He said the staffs of the companies are investigated for allegedly faking documents, but the police have not named suspects until now.

Previously on Wednesday, National Police Detective Chief Sayunto Landung said the police will soon name a suspect in the case this week.

“We will work hard so that we can get it (suspect) this week,” he told reporters after the hearing with House of Representatives (DPR) Commission V on Industry and Trade.

Afghan Govt to eradicate poppy cultivation

Kabul, 26 June — Afghan Government as part of its commitment to eradicate the poppy from the post-war country has destroyed around 15,000 hectares of opium poppy fields this year, Interior Minister said Thursday.

“We have destroyed 15,000 hectares of poppy lands in the 16 provinces of the country and the process is going ahead,” Ali Ahmad Jalal told reporters here.

He made this comment amid rampant spread of poppy cultivation in the war-ravaged country particularly in the vast rural areas where the government has little sway.

"With the increase in the strength of anti-narcotic force we are hopeful to further bring down poppy production in the country," said the Minister.

Under a plan backed by international community Afghanistan would have 50,000 police by the end of 2005.

Indonesia optimistic about new investment of $7.5b

Jakarta, 26 June — The Indonesian Government is optimistic about getting a new investment of 7.5 billion US dollars in oil and gas production this year, according to government sources Friday.

A statement released by the Department of Energy and Mineral Resources said the figure is higher than the 5.3 billion US dollars investment in the sector in 2003.

The new investment is expected to increase the crude oil reserve in the country to 10 billion barrels in 2004, from 9.82 billion barrels in 2003, Detikonline news service reported.

The said gas reserve is also expected to rise to 21.83 trillion cubic feet (TCF) in 2004 from 19.13 TCF in 2003.

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"With the increase in the strength of anti-narcotic force we are hopeful to further bring down poppy production in the country," said the Minister.
Spacewalk cut short by oxygen problem

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 26 June — An American astronaut on his first spacewalk outside the International Space Station was ordered back inside less than five minutes after leaving his airlock when his main oxygen supply began to lose pressure.

NASA said the pressure inside Michael Fincke’s suit never dropped, but the pressure inside his air tank showed a too-rapid decline. “You need to return. The pressure in Michael’s bottle is falling,” said a Russian ground controller."Okeay, Michael, we’re going back in,” said Fincke’s colleague, Gennady Padalka, the station’s Russian commander.

The pair quickly reentered the Russian airlock and closed the hatch, then hooked their suits to umbilical cords that fed them oxygen from the station.

The spacewalk had been expected to be challenging, taking the two almost the length of the station and out of range of communication antennas. Not only were they likely to be out of touch with ground controllers, but also each other, as they replaced a transistORIZED switch for one of four large gyroscopes, or Control Moment Gyros, that help steady the 205-tonne station as it flies 250 miles above the ground.

The gyro has been out of operation since April, when a switch inside a power unit the size of a portable DVD player showed signs of failure, NASA said. It was the second gyro to fail on the station, leaving just two working.

The repair might have been routine but for another pair of failures. Two of three US spacesuits on the station had problems that rendered them useless, so Padalka and Fincke wore Russian spacesuits and exited from the Russian side of the complex.

Russian ground controllers were given overall responsibility for safety and were to oversee the free-floating crewmen’s work until they crossed over to the US side of the station, when NASA’s Mission Control in Houston was due to take over.

Global AIDS leaders said getting patients cheap drugs to fight the AIDS virus was the best answer to battling the global epidemic, but warned the window of opportunity was closing while debates rage over patents and pricing.

“We have the science, the technical capacity and the know-how, yet investments still have not begun to yield substantial and lasting impacts on the AIDS epidemic,” they wrote in a commentary published in the journal Science before next month’s International AIDS Society meeting in Bangkok.

AIDS experts from around the world will meet there to compare notes and try to come up with a better agenda for fighting the incurable virus that infects more than 43 million people around the world and has killed more than 25 million.

“AIDS activists should prepare to be the torchbearers of an AIDS-free future,” said Michael Murray, director of the AIDS Healthcare Foundation. “We need to develop simplified drug regimens that are affordable and effective, and we need to make a dent on the deadly virus, top experts said on Thursday.

“Spreading web virus aims to steal financial data

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 June — A potentially dangerous Internet attack on personal computers by a virus designed to steal financial data and passwords from web users ripped across the Internet on Friday, computer security experts said.

The attack, which surfaced earlier this week and is known as the “Scob” outbreak, exploits a vulnerability in servers using a version of the software for Internet Explorer browser to install a Trojan Horse virus on the PCs of Web surfers who visit the infected web sites, said Alfred Huger, senior director of engineering at Internet security company Symantec Corp. “All of this takes place while it looks like you’re looking at your usual web page,” Huger said. “You don’t even know that parts of your browser have been redirected to another web page, or that your browser has been hijacked”.

The US Computer Emergency Readiness Team warned on its web site that “any web site, even those that may be trusted by the user, may be affected by this activity and thus contain potentially malicious code”. The Trojan Horse places a keystroke logger on users’ PCs and is designed to capture credit card numbers and other personal and financial details. “The threat to users’ personal data seems to have diminished, at least for the time being”, said Huger.
**ROBBEN ENDS DUTCH PENALTY JINX**

**FARO (Portugal), 27 June—The Netherlands have been losing penalty shootouts for more than half of Arjen Robben’s life but the 26-year-old midfielder ended the jinx on Saturday to send his country to the Euro 2004 semifinals.**

When the quarterfinal against Sweden ended 0-0 after extra time the Dutch nation could have been forgiven for thinking “oh no, not again” as the teams prepared for a shootout. After winning the 1988 European Championship, their side went out of the next three editions on shoot-outs and also lost the 1998 World Cup semifinal to Brazil in the same way. They took the early initiative on Saturday when Zlatan Ibrahimovic blazed Sweden’s third penalty over the bar. But the demons came back when Philip Cocu’s effort hit the post. Cocu was one of the players who failed to convert his attempt.

It went to sudden death and Dutch keeper Edwin van der Sar brilliantly saved from Olaf Mellberg. Robben then dispatched his shot into the net to take his country into a semi-final against Portugal on Wednesday with a 5-4 win. The Dutch fans, so used to heartbreak, exploded with joy — in their last three European Championship shoot-outs their team had missed five out of 14 attempts.

“It was the moment of my life in such a big tournament but I was very confident and I thought I would score,” Robben said.

“It’s over now but it was very exciting and now it’s one big party,” Robben added.

**RANGERS SIGN SERBIAN MIDFIELDER Mladenovic**

**GLASGOW, 27 June—Rangers have signed Red Star Belgrade midfielder Dragan Mladenovic on a four-year deal subject to the Serbian international being granted a work permit.**

The clubs have agreed a deal of 1.6 million euros for Dragan, the player has signed a four-year contract having passed a medical with flying colours and it’s all subject to a work permit being granted, Rangers director of football Martin Bain told the club’s web site on Friday.

Rangers expect 28-year-old Mladenovic, part of the Red Star side who won a league and cup double last season, to join up with them at their pre-season training camp in Austria next month.

**ZIDANE, THURAM SET CHAMPIONSHIP APPEARANCES RECORD**

**LISBON, 27 June—France’s Zinedine Zidane and Lilian Thuram set a new record for European Championship appearances when they started the quarterfinal against Greece on Friday.**

Midfielder Zidane and defender Thuram were playing their 14th European Championship finals match, beating the record they instituted, injured, in the first half of the last four their team had missed.

“The only thing we can tell is that we didn’t expect such a challenge,” he said. “We wasted our first half and we took too much time before starting to play. “When you play at such a level you can’t afford to squander your best chances to score. You have to find the net.”

France barely created a chance in the opening half, and although they raised the tempo after the break they could not break down Greece. Thierry Henry had the best chance three minutes from the end of normal time, but he headed Thuram’s cross wide with the goal at his mercy.

“I really hated tonight,” said Thuram. “We could have won but it’s the law of a tournament like this one.”

**SWEDE MIDFIELDER CLAIMS TERRIBLE TO LOSE ON PENALTIES**

**FARO (Portugal), 27 June—Sweden midfielder Kim Kallstrom spoke of his side’s anguish after they lost 5-4 to the Netherlands on penalties in their Euro 2004 quarterfinal on Saturday.**

“It’s terrible to lose on penalties,” substitute Kallstrom said. “We had the chance to win, in the last five minutes we had a shot against the crossbar and another shot hit the post. It’s terrible.”

The match had finished 0-0 at the end of extra time.

David Beckham and Hakan Sulu's extra-time penalties had already gone begging. Sweden's only effort had fallen on Brazil-born goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar, who fingertipped Mia Hegerberg's shot.

**Answers for yesterday’s crossword puzzle**

**Royal Dissent**
**Oege**
**Station Extra**
**Tretiwei**
**Range Arraign**
**Urile**
**Morass Naper**
**Arbitr Press**
**Moaen**
**Blunt Trans**
**En Red Slue**

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Dutch players (L to R) Michael Reiziger, Clarence Seedorf, Arjen Robben, Wilfred Bouma, Philip Cocu, Jaap Stam, Giovanni van Bronckhorst, Johnny Heitinga and Roy Makaay celebrate after defeating Sweden in their Euro 2004 quarter-final soccer match at the Algarve stadium in Faro on 26 June, 2004. The Netherlands won 5-4 on penalties. —INTERNET
Rainfall on 27-6-2004

- 2.52 inches at Yangon Airport,
- 2.40 inches at Kaba-Aye and
- 1.30 inches at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 48.66 inches at Yangon Airport and 44.50 inches at Kaba-Aye and 46.69 inches at central Yangon.

WEATHER

Sunday, 27 June, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the last 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin, Kayah States, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions, scattered in Shan State, Bago, Yangon, Tanintharyi and Ayeyawady Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions. Degree of certainty is (100%).

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in swells may reach (35) to (40) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate to strong monsoon. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 28-6-2004: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 28-6-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Asleep in Jesus
Mrs Iris Daphne Magnus
Age (85) Years
Mrs Iris Magnus, wife of Horace Magnus (deceased) mother of Margaret-Michelin Win Linw, Michael-Yin Sein, Andrew, Mary Ann-Jimmy Crampton, Noel-Rosa, June, Bernadette-Than Swe, Martin, grandfather of eleven and one great grand-son expired on 25 June 2004, Age 9.15 pm at her residence. No 35 Bogyalay Zay Street, Botataung Township. The cortege will leave the above residence on Monday 26 June at 11.30 am to St Mary’s Cathedral Bo Aung Gyaw Street and thence to Yay-way Cemetery for burial.
Prime Minister attends ceremony to drive stake, lay cornerstone of home for the aged in Kyauktan

YANGON, 27 June—Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt attended the ceremony to drive stake and lay cornerstone of Kyauktan Home for the Aged, in Padagyi model village of Kyauktan Township at 9 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, ministers, the Yangon mayor, deputy ministers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, local authorities, social organizations, wellwishers and guests.

First, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt drove the stake and sprinkled scented water on it.

At the auspicious time, the Prime Minister laid the cornerstone and sprinkled scented water on the foundation.

Next, the Commander and the ministers simulaneously laid the cornerstones at the designated places and sprinkled scented water on the foundation.

Later, the Prime Minister put gem casket at the centre of the foundation and stone inscription on it. The Prime Minister performed the rituals of golden and silvery showers to mark successful completion of the ceremony.

Afterwards, Director-General of Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development U Arnt Kyaw reported on construction matters and donations of wellwishers.

Managing Director of AEC construction U Tint Hsan reported on the lay-out plan of the home for the aged and construction works. The Prime Minister gave instructions.

The Prime Minister and party paid homage to Kyak Padagyi Haandawshin Pagoda and looked into the renovation tasks of the Pagoda.

Next, the Prime Minister and party inspected construction of Kyauktan gymnasium. On arrival at Kansein lake, Director of Yangon Division Development Affairs Department U Kyan Taing Hsung reported on renovation tasks of the lake.

Later, the Prime Minister gave necessary instructions and left there for Thanlyin to attend an opening ceremony of Thanlyin Yathana Basic Education Primary School.

**Building new motor roads, railroads, airports and bridges tantamount to creating better transport among states and divisions**

Lt-Gen Maung Bo attends inauguration ceremony of Bokpyin Airport

YANGON, 27 June—The opening ceremony of Bokpyin Airport in Bokpyin Township, Taninthayi Division, was held at the airport this morning attended by Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Maung Bo of the Ministry of Defence.

Also present at the ceremony were Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Coastal Region Command Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Transport Col Nyan Tun Aung, Brig-Gen Khin Zaw Win of Khamaukgyi Station, senior military officers, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, Transport Department and other departments concerned, social organizations, students and local people totalling 33,000.

Lt-Gen Maung Bo, accompanied by the ministers, the deputy ministers and departmental officials, arrived at Bokpyin by Myanmar Airways. They were welcomed there by Commander Brig-Gen Ohn Myint and military officers, departmental officials, students and local people.

The ceremony to open the Bokpyin Airport was held at the pavilion at the airport and Lt-Gen Maung Bo gave an opening speech. He said:

Bokpyin airport opened today is situated near Chaungkayet Village about nine miles south of Bokpyin. Taninthayi Division. The 10,000 feet long and 100 feet wide facility in which domestic and foreign aircraft could easily land has the concrete runway.

The opening of Bokpyin Airport in Taninthayi Division where there were only three airports—Myeik airport, Dawei airport and Kawthoung airport—in the past amounts to uplifting the transport sector of the division.

Bokpyin had to rely only on waterways in the past but it is now accessible by road, by waterways and by air. Taninthayi Division is in southernmost of the country and it can be accessible only by waterways and airways. Due to poor transport, business such as agriculture and mining could not be conducted.

Therefore, the division lagged behind in development.

One can now travel from one place to another in the division with the emergence of seven bridges—Winwa, Palauk, Palaw, Pathamng, Taninthayi, Kyweka-Kyunkphy (See page 11)

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.