Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Swedish Ambassador

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Swedish Ambassador

Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt receives Swedish Ambassador Mr Jan Axel Nordlander at Zeyathiri Beikman.— MNA

Coordination and combined efforts of farmers, private exporters, respective departments needed to boost exports

Coordination and combined efforts of farmers, private exporters, respective departments needed to boost exports

General Thura Shwe Mann attends coord meeting on extended cultivation of crops and boosting exports

General Thura Shwe Mann addresses meeting on extended cultivation of crops and boosting exports.— MNA

The National Convention is the concern of all our national races.
Make concerted efforts for rural and urban development

The Government, enlisting the active cooperation of the entire national people, has been striving for the Union of Myanmar to be able to keep pace with the development of other nations in the world. For this, it is taking necessary steps to make the national economy stronger, human resources more qualified and the national unity further consolidated. Only then will the Union be able to stand as a strong and united nation eternally.

It goes without saying that the service personnel responsible for rural and urban development play the most fundamental role in our bid for the Union to become peaceful, modern and developed.

The annual work coordination meeting of development affairs committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs was held at the National Theatre on 29 June and it was attended by Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt.

In his address at the meeting, the Prime Minister urged the personnel of development affairs committees to execute their duties with good intentions for economic development of their respective townships and for the local people to be able to live in peace and security.

Parallel development of rural and urban areas is the key to the national development. Therefore, requirements for sanitation, smooth and easy transport and worksite safety of manufacturing industry are to be fulfilled. At the same time, recreation centres should be built for the people to have access to rest and recreation.

In the fiscal year 2003-2004, Development Affairs Department has constructed and repaired over 1,240 miles of roads and 206 bridges in the rural areas for ensuring smooth and easy transport there. Moreover, with the aim of supplying safe drinking water to rural people sufficiently, water supply projects were carried out in 964 villages in three divisions in the dry zone and 875 in the other states and divisions.

Now, altogether 10,602 villages all over the nation have sufficient supply of safe drinking water. It was due to the financial aid of the State, funds of development affairs committees, donations made by well-wishers at home and abroad and the active cooperation of international and non-governmental organizations.

We would like to call on all development affairs committees to regard their work as social welfare service and to carry out their duties with good will for the development of their respective townships.
Three US Marines killed in roadside bomb blast in Baghdad

Baghdad, 29 June—Three US Marines have been killed in a roadside bomb blast in Baghdad in the first reported fatal attack on US occupation forces in Iraq since the formal handover of authority to an interim government.

A US military spokesman said two marines were also wounded in the explosion that wrecked a Humvee vehicle escorting a convoy carrying engineering equipment.

Meanwhile, Alijaiza aired a video tape on Monday showing what a purported Iraqi group said was the execution of a US soldier.

While uncertainty shrouded his fate, three Turkish hostages walked free after their release by another group.

The group had previously threatened to behead the Turks on Tuesday unless their government told companies to stop dealing with US forces in Iraq. Ankara had rejected the demand.

US Army troops remove the wreckage of a US Marines Humvee vehicle which was destroyed by a bomb in Baghdad on 29 June, 2004. The roadside bomb blast killed three US Marines in Baghdad on Tuesday. — Reuters

Father of Iraq beheading victim rips Bush

London, 29 June — The father of an American beheaded in Iraq said Tuesday the handover of sovereignty there was a sham and accused President Bush of causing immense pain to thousands of people by going to war.

Michael Berg, whose 26-year-old son, Nicholas, was decapitated by militants, said at a news conference organized by the Stop the War Coalition that the transfer was “nothing more than another nut-and-shell game.”

“We know that the Iraqi people have not had an election yet, so we do not have a democracy over there, we just have a dictatorship of Bush and (Prime Minister Tony) Blair,” he said. “What kind of stability is there in Iraq when we have to sneak the transfer of power in two days ahead of time for who knows why?”

The transfer of sovereignty in Iraq was scheduled for Wednesday, but came two days early in an apparent attempt to foil insurgent attacks.

Berg said Bush’s decision to go to war had caused immense suffering to those who had lost loved ones there. He estimated more than 11,000 Iraqis had died and said their families had suffered just like his own.

“People like George Bush and (Defence Secretary) Donald Rumsfeld, they don’t see the pain that people have to bear, they don’t know what it feels like to have your guts ripped out, and there are so many people,” he said. Berg, of West Chester, Pa., accused the American media of failing to convey the human cost of the US-led invasion by not sufficiently reporting Iraqi deaths and suffering. Reporters have also insufficiently covered anti-war sentiment at home, he charged. — Reuters

Ghana, Namibia to promote cooperation

Accra, 29 June — Ghana and Namibia have agreed to re-activate their Perma-

nent Joint Commission for Cooperation that has been dormant for 10 years to promote their cooperation in various fields, Ghana News Agency reported on Monday.

The agreement was contained in a 17-point joint communiqué issued in Accra on Saturday at the end of the three-day state visit to Ghana by Namibian President Sam Nujoma.

The communiqué said that the Permanent Joint Commission meetings will meet soon in Ghana to discuss education especially in teacher training at secondary and tertiary levels and human resources upgrading for Namibians in Ghanaian institutions.

The meeting will also discuss health, particularly the fight against HIV/AIDS, education of the youth in Ghana in health training facilities. The security, agriculture, trade, industry and investments, transportation, tourism, mines and energy cooperation among others will also be topics at the planned meeting, according to the communiqué.

During the visit, Nujoma held talks with his Ghanaian counterpart John Agyekum Kufuor on the possible areas of the bilateral and economic cooperation, especially in the development of natural and human resources as well as on how to strengthen intra-African trade and commerce cooperation.

The communiqué said the two presidents reviewed the situation on the continent and pledged their unfailing support for the Afri- can Union (AU) and agreed to work together for the acceleration of the process of economic and political integration of the continent as envisioned by the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD). — MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia welcomes establishment of ASEAN Community

Jakarta, 29 June— Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Hassan Wirajuda said here Monday the country supported the idea to establish the ASEAN Community although he admitted that it is a difficult task.

During his speech to the closing session of the 37th ASEAN Standing Commit-
tee, Hassan expected support from key regional partners, such as China, India, Japan and Pakistan, in establishing the community.

This because, he added, “China and India already accessed to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in Southeast Asia, delin-
ing the ASEAN summit in Jakarta last week, and France agreed with other allies that NATO should send hundreds more troops for the elections in reply to Karzai’s request, but said the response force should be used only for emergency situations, not for peacekeeping. — Internet

Chirac attacks Bush’s support for Turkish EU bid

Istanbul, 29 June— French President Jacques Chirac told US President George W Bush to mind his own business on Monday after Bush called on the European Union to fix a date for Turkey to start EU entry talks.

The strongly worded attack came at a NATO summit in Istanbul that was intended to bury discord within the alliance over the US-led war in Iraq, which France vehemently opposed.

“If President Bush really said that the way I read it, well, not only did he go too far but he went into a domain which is not his own,” Chirac told reporters at the summit.

“It is like me trying to tell the United States how it should manage its relations with Mexico,” he added. — MNA/Reuters

US, France clash over Iraq, Afghanistan

Istanbul, 29 June— NATO’s decision to help train Iraq’s armed forces set off wrangling among the allies Tuesday as more differences emerged between the French and Americans on how to best help Baghdad’s new government.

At a summit designed to emphasize NATO’s unity after deep divisions caused by the US-led war on Iraq 15 months ago, France and the United States also clashed over Afghanistan and Turkey’s relations with the European Union.

The friction came as Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai implored NATO leaders Tuesday to overcome months of foot-drag-
ging and send more troops to his country ahead of September elections.

As the alliance struggles to define its role in a post-Cold War world, French President Jacques Chirac forcefully stated his opposition to any collective NATO presence on the ground in Iraq, suggesting it should limit its role to coordinating national efforts and training outside the country.

“I am completely hostile to the idea of a NATO establishment in Iraq,” Chirac told a news conference. “It would be dangerous, counterproductive and misunderstood by the Iraqis, who after all deserve a little bit of respect.”

American officials insisted the training programme should be a centralized opera-
tion under a NATO command in Iraq, al-
though they accepted that reluctant countries such as France and Germany could limit their contribution to training outside the country.

On Afghanistan, Chirac rejected an American proposal that NATO’s elite new response force be deployed to provide secu-
rity for elections scheduled in September.

France agreed with other allies that NATO should send hundreds more troops for the elections in reply to Karzai’s request, but said the response force should be used only for emergency situations, not for peacekeeping. — Internet

US Army soldiers search for debris after a US Marines Humvee vehicle was destroyed by a bomb in Baghdad on 29 June, 2004. A roadside bomb blast killed an unknown number of US Marines in Baghdad on Tuesday. — Reuters
Turkey says three hostages released in Iraq

ISTANBUL, 29 June—Turkey said Tuesday that three Turkish hostages held under threat of execution by an al Qaeda-linked militant group in Iraq had been freed.

“We only know they have been released,” a Turkish government official told Reuters, saying he had no other immediate details.

Al Jazeera television, monitored in Dubai, said a group led by suspected al Qaeda operative Abu Musab al-Zarqawi had freed the three.

Guerrillas had kidnapped the civilian workers last week and threatened to behead them Tuesday unless Turks stopped working for US-led forces in Iraq.

State-run Anatolian news agency said Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul confirmed the release of the three hostages.

“Jama al-Tawhid and Jihad announces the release of the Turkish hostages for the sake of Muslims in Turkey and their demonstration against (US President George W. Bush),” a masked man said on a video recording aired by Jazeera.

“We will return these men to a safe place after they vowed to end their support for the infidels (Americans). We also ask your foolish people to end their cooperation with the occupiers or we will execute them.”

A three-day visit by Bush to Muslim Turkey for a NATO summit has been met by widespread demonstrations against his policies in Iraq. Public opinion in Turkey strongly opposed the US-led invasion.

The graffiti Jazeera video showed the Turks sitting on the floor with masked, armed men standing behind them. A banner on a wall carried the name of Jordanian-born Zarqawi’s Jama al-Tawhid group.

San Francisco voters get chance to express views on Iraq

SAN FRANCISCO, 29 June—San Francisco voters will have more than one chance to express their views on Iraq this presidential election year after four local officials submitted a ballot measure Tuesday calling on the federal government to end the conflict.

The toughly worded statement, which will appear with candidates for federal, state and municipal offices on the city’s November ballot, argues that the country’s military involvement in Iraq has not only cost more than $50 billion American lives, but killed the nation of billions of dollars that could have been spent domestically.

“George W Bush disgracefully led to the American people to make the case for Iraq,” it begins. “His message was one of deceit and fear mongering.”

Although several local governments were recently last year opposing the US invasion of Iraq, San Francisco is the first to submit such a referendum for the electorate’s consideration, according to Chris Daly, the San Francisco supervisor who drafted the measure.

Given that San Francisco was the site of some of the nation’s biggest protests in the days leading up the war, Daly said he expected it to pass easily. His aim is to give momentum to the movement to end the conflict, a role that the city also played during the Vietnam War.

“Obviously, we aren’t voting for Bush here. Everyone knows that,” said Daly, who was joined by three other supervisors in sponsoring the statement. “The hope is other people will follow.”

To demonstrate the broad support its sponsors hope the measure will engender, Daly held a news conference with activists representing local groups, including the Mission Action Network. “What will we say to the infidels (Americans),” Daly asked his group. “What will we say to the people in this country?”

All the staff from administrators to psychologists and doctors with the centre attended to the city’s police bureau are required to treat their special patients with no discrimination, said centre director Sun Baolin.

“We should realize that they are also miserable people and what we should do is to establish a mutual-trust relationship with them and help them get rid of the haunting demon of drugs,” Sun said. “It is not easy for everyone of us to change their stereotyped idea, but everyone here is making efforts to do so,” the director said.

Doctor Liu Jun said that a good relationship between doctors and these special patients is very crucial for rehabilitation of drug addicts and hostility, prejudice and discrimination between the two sides would only discount the effect of the therapy.

“We believe a humanistic way can help them break away from the trap of drugs and we hope more and more drug addicts can come to recovery centres voluntarily for treatment,” Liu said.

A 31-year-old woman patient surnamed Li at the recovery centre said that she thinks the psychological therapy at the centre is of great help to her.

“I feel good now and I believe I will not pick it up any more after I leave here,” the woman said.

The recovery centre opens to patients’ families and friends every Wednesday and director Sun said many people would come to see their relatives on that day.

A visitor who would not reveal her name said that she felt relieved to see her relative was recovering both in shape and spirit. Besides medical treatment and psychological consultation, patients here can also enjoy sports if their health conditions permit.

As the most developed city in the country’s northeast, Dalian also faces a severe challenge from the increasing number of drug addicts.

The recovery centre for drug addicts which can accommodate over 200 patients was built two years ago with an investment of over 20 million yuan (about 2.4 million US dollars) from the local government.

Some 10 patients are receiving treatment here, most of whom are between the ages of 20 to 30. They can leave the centre after one to six months’ treatment.

Singapore Air starts world’s longest non-stop flight

SINGAPORE, 29 June — Singapore Airlines Ltd began the world’s longest non-stop commercial flight on Monday—an 18-hour trip between Singapore and New York.

The flight took off at 12.05 pm (0405 GMT) and will arrive in New York at 6 am on Tuesday (2200 GMT on Monday). The 10,310-mile journey on an Airbus A340-500 aircraft over the Arctic saves four hours off an existing service and marks the second non-stop flying record this year by Singapore’s flag carrier.

In February, the government-controlled airline flew 16 hours between Singapore and Los Angeles, the longest non-stop flight by a commercial airline. As Frank Sinatra’s “New York, New York” played in the departure lounge, the flight’s 181 passengers enjoyed a lavish send-off — including champagne and a buffet spread.

Passengers on the flight also received a Polaroid and a pewter photo frame. Until Airbus began delivering A340-500s with longer wings and bigger fuel tanks, no commercial aircraft could fly as far as Singapore to New York, although Chicago-based Boeing has a competing model under development. The plane is specially fitted with business class seats that can collapse into beds measuring 26 inches wide and 18 inches long. Economy seats are also slightly roomier than usual at 20 inches wide.

Iraq expects more oil attacks

BAGHDAD, 29 June—Sabotage against Iraq’s oil installations will continue unless neighbouring countries cooperate in stopping the infiltration of foreigners behind the attacks, the infrastructure security chief said Tuesday.

“Progress in stopping the attacks will be slow. I urge our neighbours to help stop the enemy from sneaking in. The country is burning and the Iraqi people will not forget those who help us,” said Ahmad al-Khafaji, head of the Support Forces, a state division in charge of protecting the infrastructure. “It does not take a genius to blow up a pipeline or plant a bomb in a busy market. We are doing our best, but our forces are nascent,” he told Reuters in an interview.

Attacks on pipelines have kept exports below the 2.2 million barrels daily before the war. Iraq needs the oil proceeds to spend on reconstruction and cut unemployment, which is officially estimated at about 30 percent.

Sabotage has stopped oil exports several times this year. Internal pipelines were also attacked last week, disrupting the internal oil products distribution network.

Responsibility for protecting the infrastructure mostly lies with Iraqi forces, seen as under equipped and lacking training.—Internet

Dalian city tries humanistic way to reshape drug addicts

DALIAN, 29 June—Instead of being stereotyped as degenerate, drug addicts are now taken as patients in need of care and love at a rehabilitation centre in Dalian, a port city in northeast China’s Liaoning Province.

All the staff from administrators to psychologists and doctors with the centre attended to the city’s police bureau are required to treat their special patients with no discrimination, said centre director Sun Baolin.

“We should realize that they are also miserable people and what we should do is to establish a mutual-trust relationship with them and help them get rid of the haunting demon of drugs,” Sun said. “It is not easy for everyone of us to change their stereotyped idea, but everyone here is making efforts to do so,” the director said.

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US Army Sgt Pedro Moreno, with the 91st Combat Engineers, patrols a power station in Baghdad, Iraq, on 29 June 2004. — Internet

MNA/Reuters
New poll shows Bush's rating falls to lowest point
WASHINGTON, 30 June — The job approval rating for US President George W Bush has fallen to the lowest level of his presidency, according to a new New York Times/CBS News poll published on Tuesday.

The survey showed Bush's approval rating at 42 per cent, the lowest such figure in a Times/CBS News survey since the beginning of Bush's presidency in January 2001, and 51 per cent of the respondents said they disapprove of his job performance.

The poll also found that nearly 40 per cent of Americans said they do not have an opinion about Senator John Kerry, the likely Democratic presidential nominee.

Americans were more likely to believe that Bush did a worse job than Kerry in steering the nation through a foreign crisis and protecting it from future terrorist attacks, but support for Bush's abilities in those areas has declined in recent months, according to the poll.

The poll showed Americans have stiffened their opposition to the Iraq war, worried that the invasion could invite domestic terrorist attacks and were skeptical about whether the White House has been fully truthful about the war or about abuses at the Abu Ghraib Prison.

A majority of respondents in the poll, conducted before Monday's transfer of power to an interim Iraqi government, said the war was not worth its cost in American lives and that the Bush Administration did not have a clear plan to restore order to Iraq.

But 54 per cent of the respondents said that the United States should remain in Iraq "as long as it takes," while 40 per cent said the United States should withdraw "as soon as possible."

Forty-five per cent said they had an unfavourable opinion of Bush himself, again the most negative measure the Times/CBS Poll has found since he took office. And 57 per cent said the country is going in the wrong direction.

Nationwide, Kerry has the support of 45 per cent of registered voters, with Bush supported by 44 per cent. In a three-way race, Bush would lead Kerry by 43 per cent to 42 per cent, with 5 per cent for Ralph Nader, who is running as an independent.

In the 18 states viewed by both parties as the most competitive, the race was equally tight. Forty-five per cent of the voters in those states said they would support Kerry, and 43 per cent said they would back Bush.

MNA/Xinhua

Militants say they executed US soldier in Iraq
CAIRO, 29 June — Al-Jazeera television aired a video tape on Monday showing what militants said was the execution of a US soldier captured in Iraq in April.

The video showed the soldier, wearing greenish overalls and seen only from the back, shot and killed.

Al-Jazeera quoted a statement from a previously unheard of group as saying the soldier was killed because of US policy in Iraq and in revenge for what it described as their "martyrs" in Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Algeria.

MNA/Reuters

US military checking reports of Zarqawi capture
BAGHDAD, 29 June — The US military said on Monday it was checking unconfirmed reports that al-Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi had been captured in Iraq.

The Jordanian-born Zarqawi, who Washington says is its number one enemy in Iraq, is accused of masterminding a string of suicide bombings and of the execution of an American and a South Korean hostage.

The reports suggested that Zarqawi had been captured near the town of Hilla, south of Baghdad and in the Polish military area of responsibility.

Singapore’s manufacturing output rises in May
SINGAPORE, 29 June — Singapore’s manufacturing output grew 21 per cent in May this year as compared with the same period of last year, according to the figures released by the Economic Development Board of Singa- pore on Monday.

It is the 10th straight month of growth for the manufacturing industry in the island state.

The biomedical manufacturing cluster continued its high production level in May by rising 56.8 per cent, and the production of pharmaceuticals surged 72 per cent to meet export orders. — MNA/Xinhua

Train power cable blast triggers panic in Metro Manila
MANILA, 29 June — Passengers of a north-bound Metro Rail Transit train were thrown in panic late Monday afternoon after an overhead power cable short-circuited and snapped.

Several coaches went on fire as a result of the electri- cable blast, the ABS-CBN news channel reported.

No injuries were reported as of Press time, and the train ceased operation in specific stations, the report said.

The incident happened as the train was approaching the Guadalupe station in Makati business district in Metro Manila.

Metro Rail Transit officials said this kind of acci- dent also occurred in the past, and the rail train operation is expected to resume in about 20 to 30 minutes as the rush hours came. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam’s garment exports slightly up in first half
HANOI, 30 June — Vietnam is estimated to obtain a textile and garment export turnover of 1.96 billion US dollars in the first half of this year, a year-on-year increase of 5.7 per cent.

With the slight increase, the country will not be able to fulfill the target of exporting 4.2-4.3 billion US dollars worth of textiles and garments this year, mainly to the United States and the European Union (EU), local newspaper Vietnam Economy reported.

Vietnam’s textile and Garment Association (Vita Garment) Chairperson Nguyen Xuan Nam said Vietnam would achieve this growth in its textile and garment sector by 2005, while the EU and the US in 2005, while Vietnam will still remain subject to the two markets’ import quotas.

Wen Jiabao urges upholding principle of sovereign equality
BEIJING, 29 June — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao called on here Monday to firmly uphold the principle of sovereign equality.

Wen made the remarks when addressing a confer- ence commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

Wen said that sovereign- ity is the birthmark of any independent state, the crystallization of its national interests and the best safe- guard of all it holds dear.

He said that the increas- ing interaction and interde- pendence among countries, thanks to surging economic globalization and techno- logical revolution, does not mean that the status and role of sovereignty would be threaten by any way be neglected or weak- ened.

It is imperative to have greater democracy in inter- national relations, Wen said, adding that no country has the right to impose its will on others, nor can it undermine or deny other countries’ sovereignty under whatever excuse.

He said that facts have proven that such practices as disregarding other’s sover- eignty, bullying the small and the weak by dint of one’s size and power, and pursu- ing hegemony and power politics would not get any- where.

He added that the affairs of a country should be de- cided by its own people, and the affairs of the world should be handled by consultation among all countries on an equal footing.

The Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, are mutual respect for sover- eignty and territorial integ- rity, mutual non-aggression, non- interference in each other’s internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence.

MNA/Xinhua
Blair disputes Bush's belief Iraq rift is over

Thursday, 1 July, 2004

I N S I D E S E N T 2 9 J U N E — Prime Minister Tony Blair said on Monday the rift between the two closest allies in the war was not over, dismissing a central message of US President George W. Bush's fence-mending mission to Europe.

"There's no point in us standing here and saying, 'You know, all the previous disagreements have disappeared.' They haven't," Blair said with Bush at his side.

Blair's comments directly contradicted Bush's after a summit with European Union leaders in Ireland last weekend.

"The bitter differences of the war are over," Bush had confidently declared. Many European states, including France and Germany, opposed last year's invasion of Iraq.

Blair and Bush, the two closest allies in the war, appeared together on the sidelines of a NATO summit to celebrate the surprise early handover of power from the US-led coalition to the Iraqi interim government.

Blair acknowledged that the United States and Britain have been unable to "overcome the disagreement there was". He described the situation in the Middle East as "a hope that we succeed, with all the nations who are involved putting their hearts into this..." Blair said.

"Our honest belief is that the world will be a safer place if we're able to make this work. And I don't know whether we convinced people of this or not," Blair said.

Blair said progress has been made in repairing strained ties, citing passage this month of a United Nations resolution and NATO's plans to help train Iraqi soldiers.

"In that sense, I think, the international community has come together, and I welcome it," Blair said.

Bush also appeared to back away from his upbeat assessment in Ireland, telling reporters in Istanbul: "My sense is that there's a hope that we succeed, with all the nations sitting around the table. Everyone understands the stakes."

Bush's second trip this month to Europe has been dogged from the start by protests.

In Ireland, they delayed his farewell press conference by 30 minutes while deploring the absence of EU states.

Monday's opening day of the NATO summit protesters hurling paving stones and petrol bombs clashed with riot police in Istanbul leaving around 30 people injured.

Answering questions about whether Kuwait is to supply financial support rather than sending troops, the Prime Minister said: "We were not asked for any kind of support".

Meanwhile, Al-Sabah noted that Kuwait's interest is to see stability in Iraq and to see Iraqis living up to their duties and restoring their homeland's security.

Kuwait pledged continued support till the situation in Iraq is what Iraqis wish for, he added.

Regarding the issue about Iraq's debt to Kuwait, he said, "This issue is to be decided at the Paris club."

Kuwait has no intention of deploying troops in Iraq

K U W A I T C I T Y , 3 0 J U N E — Kuwait Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah said Tuesday that his country has no intention to deploy troops in Iraq, Kuwait News Agency reported.

"We are not willing to send troops to Iraq, not out of anomosity but rather to avoid any confrontation or bad feelings that might result from Kuwait military presence in Iraq. "Al-Sabah was quoted as saying, in a reference to Iraq's request that Bahrain, Morocco and Oman deploy forces to Iraq.

Answering questions about whether Kuwait is to supply financial support rather than sending troops, the Prime Minister said: "We were not asked for any kind of support".

China's largest andalusite quarry being built in Xinjiang

U S A , 2 9 J U N E — At a cost of 115 million yuan (13.8 million US dollars), construction work on a quarry to produce andalusite, a mineral aluminium silicate usually found in prisms of various colours, has been started recently in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Established in the Mongolian Autonomous Prefecture of Bayingolin, specifically Korla City, the andalusite production base is believed to be the largest of its kind in the country, and the second largest in the world. — MNA/Xinhua

Saudi Arabia to launch first self-built satellites

A B U D H A B I , 3 0 J U N E — Saudi Arabia becomes the second Arab country, after Egypt, to launch its first 100 per cent self-built satellites into space on Tuesday, the Saudi Gazette newspaper reported.

Three locally-built, low-altitude satellites will be launched into outer space later in the day from the Baikonur Launch Pad in Kazakhstan, a project manager was quoted as saying.

Of the three satellites, SaudComsat 1 and 2 are for commercial use in data communication, and the third one, SaudSat 2, is for scientific experiment and research. — MNA/Xinhua

Blix says hunger, global warming as worrying as WMD

V I E N N A , 3 0 J U N E — Blix said the issue of global warming is "even more worrying" than the threat of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and the world should keep such security risks in perspective, former chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix said recently.

Blix led the UN search for alleged Iraqi biological, chemical and ballistic arsenals until it was cut short by the US-led invasion of the country last year.

He has criticized Washington and London for going to war without the express approval of the UN Security Council and has said the two powers knew that they were exaggerating the threat posed by Iraq in making their case for war. "One might get the impression from governments and media in the US and Europe that the risk that reckless groups and govern-ments might acquire weapons of mass destruction is the greatest problem facing our world today," Blix said in a speech to Vienna's Diplomatic Academy.

Blix quoted British Prime Minister Tony Blair as saying that that risk was an "existential issue", but said there were other equally pressing problems. "Let us not forget, however, that to hundreds of millions of people around the world, the big existential issue is hunger, and also that whatever you live in this planet, the risk of global warming and other environmental threats are existential," Blix said.

Blix was head of the International Atomic Energy Agency from 1981 to 1997 and later chief of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) until 2003. The United States and Britain say Iraq revived its WMD programs after UN inspectors first fled in December 1998, their main justification for the war. However, no caches of banned weapons have been found in Iraq. — MNA/Reuters

Estonia, Lithuania, Slovenia join EU'sERM-2

B R I S B A N E , 2 9 J U N E — European Union newcomers Estonia, Lithuania, and Slovenia on Sunday became the first of the bloc's 10 new member states to join the Exchange Rate Mechanism that will help them prepare for euro entry.

The three states join a grid known as ERM-2, whose only member has been Denmark since Greece adopted the single currency in 2001 after spending about three years in the regime. European Commissioner Siim Kallas hailed the news but also stressed that ERM-2 entry was only one of the steps towards euro entry and that more work lay ahead.

"My reaction is positive but this is just part of a bigger process. The countries have made some commitments during the negotiations and that makes discipline in monetary and fiscal affairs stronger," Estonia's Kallas told Reuters. — MNA/Reuters
New and fast developments throughout Myanmar

A tubewell to supply potable water to rural people living in Moegaung model village in Aunglan Township, Magway Division. — KYEMON

Basic Education High School (Branch) in Uyasan village in Maukmai Township, Shan State (South). — KYEMON

A rural road linking Daikyat and Khomank villages in Bilin Township, Mon State is being extended. — (TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE)

Humon dam built to supply water for agricultural purpose in Lashio Township, Shan State (North). — THANT ZIN TUN (KYEMON)

A new bridge across Sittoung canal is linking Minywa and Kyaungsu villages in Thanarpin Township, Bago Division. — MNA

Border and rural area developments
Coordination and combined...

(from page 1)

the president and members of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, secre-
taries of Bago, Magway, Mandalay and Yangon divisions Peace and Development Councils and members, private exporters and invited guests. General Thura Shwe Mann in his speech said private exporters are willing to boost export and so is the government. One of the State’s economic policies calls for boosting raising export, reducing import and increasing import-substitute goods.

Now, the government is providing encouragement to boost production of items that can be used locally and exported as a policy. Overall, measures are to be taken to boost production of goods in all sectors that contribute towards extended export and production of import-substi-
tute products.

No one can deny that the nation has developed in all spheres much more than the situation in 1988. Now, peace and tranquility has been restored well in the entire country with better economy and development in education, health and social sectors. The nation’s all-round development reflects the government’s constant enthusiasm and endeav-
ours in nation-building tasks in the interest of the people.

The purpose of the meeting is to seek better ways and means through reviews of conditions on export and import and production of export items.

The nation’s foreign trade sector sees progress, and greater success can be achieved through systematic steps.

Now, the situation is calling for coordination and com-
bined efforts of farmers, private exporters and respective departments for boosting exports.

As for Myanmar, an agro-based nation, boosting agri-
culture plays the main role in the export sector as well as in the economic sector. So, it is needed to place emphasis on extended cultivation of crops, main export items, and to maintain the development momentum in fisheries, mining and gems sectors. The top priority is to be paid to extended crop cultivation in speeding up exports.

The government has arranged to provide land plots and agricultural methods for national entrepreneurs who wish to cultivate crops including paddy on a commercial scale. The State is ready to render necessary assistance to the national agricultural entrepreneurs to be able to boost export.

In conclusion, General Thura Shwe Mann called for frank suggestions and discussions on extended cultivation of crops and boosting production of exports. Next, Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Pyi Sone reported on export promotion, seeking of markets and correct export routes; progress of export goods—pulses and beans, cashew, pepper and mango, matters related to export and import policies laid down by the government, extended cultivation and exporting of chilli, onion, potato, turmeric and ginger. Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nu Wun Tin reported on production of paddy and maize in 2003-2004, supply of water for cultivation, growing of pulses and beans and seasonal crops, boosting production of kitchen crops such as chilli, onion, potato and garlic, land allotment, land reclamation and educative talks to farmers. Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Hay Oo, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, President of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint and national agricultural entrepreneurs made sug-
gestions on boosting production of agriculture and live-
stock breeding sectors and export promotion.

After hearing the reports, General Thura Shwe Mann gave concluding remarks, saying that national entrepre-
neurs, exporters, merchants and farmers are to cooperate among them for boosting production of export item crops.

In particular, the entrepreneurs should provide assistance for the farmers who are carrying out agricultural tasks really. The farmers encouraged in agricultural business are to extend agricultural tasks not only for main crops but also marketable crops. Likewise, departments concerned are required to give necessary assistance of quality strains and agricultural technology to the farmers.

In laying down the State policies, the government, on its part, decides probable policies which can serve interest of the people after considering aspects of political, economic and social sectors. As such, the entrepreneurs should make efforts to achieve success within the frame of the State policies not only for themselves but also for the people and the State. The government is willing to serve the interest of the national entrepreneurs. The government considering interests of the people including the entrepreneurs is striv-
ing for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed democracy—flourishing nation. So, the national entrepre-
neurs are to make efforts with goodwill for progress of their businesses and meeting the target of the State. If concerted efforts will be made for boosting export items after organ-
zied urban production associations, the country will emerge as a peaceful, modern and developed nation. — MNA

YANGON Division to grow 1.2 million acres of monsoon paddy

YANGON, 30 June — A meeting held at Yangon South District Peace and Development Council Office in Thanlyin today discussed cultivation of monsoon paddy as targeted in the district, and ensuring water for summer paddy.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of Yangon Divi-
sion Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe said that Myanmar is an agro-based nation. Agricultural business serves as a founda-
tion for ensuring food sufficiency, developing regional economy and improving the living standard of the people.

Yangon Division will grow 1.2 million acres of monsoon paddy this season. Yangon South District is the largest rice producer in the division. Officials concerned will have to give effective supervision for the district to be able to put 300,000 acres under monsoon paddy as targeted. The Gov-
ernment is providing assistance for the nation to grow summer paddy more than the targeted sown acreage. Thus, advanced arrangements should be made to supply water to summer paddy fields. Local authorities in the district pre-

tested reports on preparations being made to exceed the monsoon paddy cultivation target of their respective town-
ships, districts and regions, and setting up of the funds for regional development undertakings and implementation of the five rural development tasks.

Division level officials reported to the meeting on tech-

tical and mechanical assistance arrangements, plans to pro-
vide water from dams and pumping stations and the assist-
ance for regional development undertakings.

Maj-Gen Myint Swe looked into the requirements.

Present at the meeting were No 1 Military Region Commander Col Tun Kyi, Commander of Thanlyin Station Capt Maung Oo Lwin (Navy), Secretary of Yangon Divi-
sion Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi, officials, local authorities and guests. — MNA

ASEAN tourism meetings held in Taunggyi

YANGON, 30 June — The 11th Meeting of the Task Force on ASEAN Tourism Marketing and 11th Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Investment were held at Ayethaya Hotel in Taunggyi on 28 June.

At the meetings, delegations from ASEAN countries and delegates of ASEANTA, ASEAN Secretariat and ASEAN Travel Association, totalling 37 together with the Myanmar delegation comprising Chairman of Myanmar Travel Association U Khin Zaw, executives, Secretary of Myanmar Hoteliers Association U Than Win and executives, led by Director-General U Khin Maung Latt of the Directo-
rate of Hotels and Tourism, discussed issues on the tourism investment from ASEAN countries on Website of the ASEAN Secretariat, tourism investment exhibitions of ASEAN countries, setting up of the funds for ASEAN Tourism Investment and tasks of the investment work com-
mittee in the ASEAN Tourism Agreement.

The participants discussed progress of publishing ASEAN Map in Chinese language for market promotion of ASEATOURISM industry, maintenance of ASEAN Tourism Web site, implementation of ASEAN Hip-Hop Pass, infor-
mation programme for third phase of ASEAN tourism movement, spending of the funds on tourism movement and arrangements for implementing ASEAN tourism agree-

ment.

At the 11th Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Investment, they discussed putting on the list of tourism investment from ASEAN countries on Website of the ASEAN Secretariat, holding of tourism investment exhibition of ASEAN countries, setting up of the funds for ASEAN Tourism Investment and tasks of the investment work com-
mittee in the ASEAN Tourism Agreement. — MNA

Task Force on Tourism Manpower Development Meeting held

YANGON, 30 June — The 11th Meeting of the Task Force on Tourism Manpower Development was held on yesterday morning at Ayethaya Hotel in Taunggyi.

Delegates of ASEAN member countries, ASEANTA, and ASEAN Secretariat totally 42 attended the meeting. The participants discussed progress of publishing ASEAN Map in Chinese language for market promotion of ASEAN tourism industry, maintenance of ASEATOURISM industry, and setting up of the tourism investment from ASEAN countries on Website of the ASEAN Secretariat, tourism investment exhibitions of ASEAN countries, setting up of the ASEAN Tourism Investment and tasks of the investment work committee in the ASEAN Tourism Agreement. — MNA

The participants discussed matters on ASEAN tour-

isim including organizing of workshops and training on tourism, management of tourism resources and establish-
ment of web site.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. — MNA
Special sales of jades and gems continue

YANGON, 30 June — The special sales of jade and gems 2004 continued today at the Myanmar Gems Mart here.

Altogether 868 merchants — 487 from abroad and 381 from local companies — visited the sale of jade through tender system.

A total of 232 jade lots were purchased by the merchants this morning and the sale continues this evening.

A total of 186 jade lots were sold yesterday alone. The sales of jade lots will continue through the tender system. — MNA

Joint Committee on ASEAN Cooperation in Agriculture and Forest Products Promotion Scheme Meeting held

YANGON, 30 June — The opening ceremony of the 11th Meeting of the Joint Committee on ASEAN Cooperation in Agriculture and Forest Products Promotion Scheme was held at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road this morning, attended by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin.

First, Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin delivered an address. After the opening ceremony, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung posed for documentary photos with delegates of ASEAN countries.

Also present at the meeting were directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and the Ministry of Forestry, ambassadors and embassy staff of ASEAN countries to Myanmar, the resident representative of FAO and officials, Mr Rony Soerakoesoe Mah of ASEAN Secretariat and delegates of Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand, guests, officials of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the vice-president of Myanmar Academy of Agriculture, Forest, Livestock and Fisheries Science and officials.

Next, they viewed the booth of the best Myanmar green tea of National Commercial Enterprise Ltd, the booth on pulses and beans of Myanmar Agriculture Service, rubber, palm oil, cashew and macadamia booth of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise and Arabia coffee robusta coffee and cocomor and coffee booth of Myanmar Farm Enterprise. Afterwards, the meeting followed at Mindon Hall. Director-General U Tin Htut Oo of Agricultural Planning Department of Myanmar delegation presided over the meeting together with Mr Salvador S Salawp of the Philippines delegation. The delegates of ASEAN Secretariat discussed promotion of agriculture and forest products. — MNA

Our brethren join hands together for the Union

The National Convention is genuine national politics.
To march towards genuine democratic nation in unity

Maung Niwe Sit

If we will have to show a nation that first strives for the prevalence of peace and stability, while making endeavours for the national development with the united strength in a peaceful environment, it is no other than the Union of Myanmar.

After freeing herself from the disturbances of the 1988 unrest, the nation has made utmost efforts for ensuring stability, the rule of law and peace. From that stage, it has strives for democracy, national consolidation, and due to the sincere efforts, 17 armed groups returned to the legal fold, and are taking part with might and main in the task to develop their regions and the Union. Since then, peace has been prevailing in the whole country. At the same time, we are achieving unprecedented progress. The result of peace and development is prosperity.

After assumption of the State duties, the Tatmadaw Government first tried to ensure peace, development and unity in the country. They always look into the requirements of every development project from the start to the end. Time and again, they fulfill the requirements of all sectors. Thus, developments and success can be witnessed throughout the Union.

For example, Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by officials, visited a number of places in Sagaing Division from 11 to 14 June 2004. During the tour, he inspected human resources development courses of Kale University. It courses, completed three-story lecture hall, the main lecture hall, two lecture halls and other extension programmes. Two or three universities have been built in every state or division as necessary. In Taninthayi Division, Dawei and Myeik has one university each. In Shan State there are four universities — the University of Taunggyi, the Lashio Degree College, the Kengtung Degree College, and the Panglong University.

Since yore, the national races have had the habit of living together in unity and amity. The endeavours for progress, modernization and perpetuation of the Union should not be made only to suit the interest of all the national races. They should not be in the interest of a single race, an organization or a political party.

As we are systematically striving to follow the path to democracy, the National Convention that is in progress in the first and most important stage to successfully realize the seven-point future policy programme of the State. The representatives of the national races from all states and divisions are making the seven-point talks of life are taking part in the National Convention.

During the tour, the Prime Minister also attended to the needs of the project to extend Kale General Hospital in Pale Township, and inspected a dam project on Chandwin River located upstream Shwesuay in Budalin Township. When completed, the dam will hold 5.5 million acre-feet of water, will irrigate 290,000 acres of crops, while operating the 600-megawatt turbines to generate electricity. At the project, the Prime Minister said, “Although the nation is not rich, it has invested a large amount of money to develop Sagaing Division. The people will enjoy the fruits of development and improvement in the living standard in the long-run, only if the development gap between the rural and urban areas and one region and another can be narrowed and an equal progress ensured. Moreover, proportionate progress in the whole nation will help strengthen national unity.

In Ayadaw Township, the Prime Minister spoke of the need to increase paddy sown acreage and better health activities. The township won a WHO award for its health activities. In Shwebo Township, he visited Shwebon Yadana Palace Reconstruction Project, and made arrangements to raise paddy cultivation in Pale Township, and inspected a dam project on Chandwin River located upstream Shwesuay in Budalin Township. When completed, the dam will hold 5.5 million acre-feet of water, will irrigate 290,000 acres of crops, while operating the 600-megawatt turbines to generate electricity. At the project, the Prime Minister said, “Although the nation is not rich, it has invested a large amount of money to develop Sagaing Division. The people will enjoy the fruits of development and improvement in the living standard in the long-run, only if the development gap between the rural and urban areas and one region and another can be narrowed and an equal progress ensured. Moreover, proportionate progress in the whole nation will help strengthen national unity.

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If we are achieving unprecedented progress. The result of peace and development is prosperity.

YANGON, 30 June — The annual coordination meeting of Development Affairs Committees was held at the Department on Thanlyetsoom Road in Botataung Township at 11 am yesterday.

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt attended it and delivered an address.

Present on the occasion were directors-general of departments of the ministry, deputy directors-general, directors, officials, engineers and executives of Township Development Affairs Committees.

The minister in his address urged officials concerned to increase the momentum of urban and rural development endeavours. — MOA

Annual Co-ordination Meeting of Development Affairs Committees held

Minister Col Thein Nyunt delivers an address at the meeting. — PAPYADA

Efficient use of electricity

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

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

All this needs to be known

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

Minister Col Thein Nyunt delivers an address at the meeting. — PAPYADA

Efficient use of fuel

* Saving one gallon of fuel per car per month will save the nation one US dollar
* Thus, a total of 455,822 cars in Myanmar can save US$ 5.5 million in a year
* The amount, US $ 5.5 million, can build a major bridge across Ayeyawady River
Tanzania’s food situation encouraging for next year

DAR ES SALAAM, 30 June—Tanzanian Minister for Agriculture and Food Security Charles Keenja has assured that the country will not suffer severe food shortage next year, local newspaper The Guardian reported Tuesday. The minister was quoted as saying Monday that the country would harvest nearly nine million tons of food crops, including 4.93 million tons of cereals and four million tons of legumes. Presenting his ministry’s budget for the next financial year to the Parliament, Keenja said that the national food requirements for next year will be at 8.61 million tons, thus with the current estimates of crop production, the country may have 390,000 tons of surplus. Estimates also indicated that most regions in Tanzania are expected to have harvest. Because of the nationwide drought in 2003, Tanzania faced severe food shortage this year, and the country needs about 700,000 tons of food to save people in famine. — MNA/Xinhua

13-year-old German hijacks dad’s 40-ton truck

BERLIN, 30 June—A 13-year-old German boy took a joyride in his father’s 40-ton truck, driving it for 50 miles before police stopped him on the motorway. The boy knocked over a road sign and a traffic light in the city of Kassel, causing 10,000 euros damage. Police said apart from that he drove well — possibly using the experience gained when he took a fire engine for a spin last month. “He didn’t say where he learned to drive, but perhaps he just picked it up,” a spokesman said on Monday. — MNA/Reuters

Wellwishers invited for sinking tube-wells

YANGON, 30 June—The Development Affairs Committees under the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs are making concerted efforts in sinking tube-wells in order to get sufficient fresh water in rural areas in States and Divisions where water is scarce.

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

Those wishing to donate cash for the tube-well sinking projects for rural areas may contact the:

Director-General (Tel: 01-245420 & 253088), the Deputy Director-General (Tel: 01-240118), the Director (Engineering) (Tel: 01-291967), the Directors (Sagina Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 071-21002), the Director (Bagaya Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 063-23164) and the Director (Mandalay Division Development Affairs Committee) (Tel: 02-54657).

Study say mobile phones may damage sperm

LONDON, 30 June—Mobile phones may damage men’s sperm, Hungarian scientists say, in a study that fertility experts dismissed on Monday as inconclusive.

Carrying a mobile in hip pockets or a holster on the waist could cut sperm count by nearly 30 per cent, according to research headed by Dr Imre Fejes, of the department of obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Szeged said in a summary of the study.

Fejes and his team analysed sperm from 221 men and questioned them about their use of mobile phones. They found correlations between the use of the phones, even in a standby setting, and reduced sperm concentration and quality.

Fejes said in a summary that research is needed to support the findings, which will be reported to this week’s conference in Berlin of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE).

Professor Hans Evers, a past president of ESHRE, said the results are interesting but far from conclusive.

“It appears not to take into account the many potential confounding factors that could have skewed the results,” Evers, who works at the Academic Hospital in Maastricht in the Netherlands, said in a statement.

US satellite fails to reach planned orbit

SEATTLE, 30 June—A US telecommunication satellite failed to reach its target orbit on Tuesday after blasting off from a platform floating in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, the launch provider said.

But the satellite, orbiting closer to Earth than planned, could still be pushed into the correct position using its own engines, Sea Launch, the launch provider, and the satellite’s manufacturer, Loral Space & Communications, said.

“We were not on target on this one, but all indications are that it’s fine, it has a lot of fuel on board and it is high enough to get to where it has to go,” Sea Launch spokeswoman Paula Korn said.

A rocket booster carrying the Telstar-18 satellite through its final stage to orbit, from which it would provide communications services across Asia, was switched off when controllers found it was not working properly.

“Russia, Russian mission control said. “At the moment we are analyzing the situation,” mission control said in a statement.

Sea Launch, a Long Beach, California-based consortium led by aerospace company Boeing with Russia’s KSC Energia, Norway’s Kvaerner Group and Ukraine’s Yuzhnoe rocket booster design bureau, said it was too early to say what went wrong.

Loral, which declared bankruptcy last July due to a sharp decline in demand for commercial satellites, said the spacecraft had separated from the rocket prematurely.

“Our folks out there are pretty confident. We are not calling this a failure. It’s up, it’s going to operate properly,” Loral spokesman Tom Morrison said. — MNA/Reuter

Union of Myanmar International Co-operative Day 3rd July 2004

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 1 July, 2004 11
Hollywood workers sentenced for film piracy

LOS ANGELES, 29 June — Two men who worked for a Hollywood post-production facility were sentenced Monday to three years each of probation for copying movies for use by family, friends and coworkers, local media said.

The sentences to Richard Young and Victor Ochoa were now reopened, a municipal official said.

The two men did not admit involvement in copying “The Passion,” but did plead guilty earlier this year to conspiracy to violate the copyright of the 2001 film “The Fast and the Furious.”

The third defendant, Burbank resident Frank Pelayo, also pleaded guilty. His sentencing is set for July 6. MNA/lothhu

US catches two Taleban leaders, others killed

UZBEKISTAN PROVINCE (AFGHANISTAN), 29 June— US forces said they captured two Taleban leaders in southern Afghanistan at the weekend, while US Marines moving across a mountainous central province killed three guerrilla commandos.

The governor of the southern province of Zabul, meanwhile, said US forces killed five Taleban guerrillas on Sunday near the provincial capital of Qalat after a group of US forces fired on a US helicopter. Troops from the 20,000-strong US-led coalition in Afghanistan at the weekend, while US Marines moving across a mountainous central province killed three guerrilla commandos.

The governor of the southern province of Zabul, meanwhile, said US forces killed five Taleban guerrillas on Sunday near the provincial capital of Qalat after a group of US forces fired on a US helicopter. Troops from the 20,000-strong US-led coalition in Afghanistan at the weekend, while US Marines moving across a mountainous central province killed three guerrilla commandos.

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98 young scientists awarded in China

BEIJING, 29 June — Ninety-eight young scientists in China, who are working in 12 different subject areas, received a national award Monday for their academic achievements in research and development.

It is the eighth time that China has issued the award, which is known as the “China Award for Young Scientists”. So far, a total of 789 people have received the award.

He Guoqiang, a member of both the Political Bureau and Secretariat of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said the fostering of young scientists is of great significance for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

The award is sponsored by the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee, the Ministry of Personnel, and the China Association for Science and Technology. — MNA/Xinhua

Study says most embryo donation parents do not tell kids

BERLIN, 30 June — Only about a third of parents whose children were born through embryo donation plan to tell them how they were conceived, scientists said on Monday.

Although the parents had the same level of commitment and affection for their children as couples who adopted or had in-vitro fertilization, they preferred to keep silent because of concerns about how the child would react.

“The most common reasons for not telling the child about their method of creation were that it would upset the child or damage family relationships...” Fiona MacCallum told a fertility conference.

He called for building up a “green pass” for young talents so which is known as the “China Award for Young Scientists”.

The winner of the Miss Tourism Queen, India’s Abina Abdul Rashid Khan (C) poses with the runner-up Germany’s Johnalena Kwasow (R) and the second runner-up Thailand’s Pawina Bamrungrot (L) in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, on 29 June, 2004.

A total of 56 women participated in the final of the Miss Tourism Queen International Beauty Pageant in the eastern coastal city. — Xinhua

British scientists seek new Antarctic ice station

LONDON, 29 June — Britain’s Antarctic ice station has a design problem few architects can have envisaged when it was built — within a decade it is likely to float away.

The new station will replace BAS’ existing Halley facility on the Brunt ice shelf which is expected to follow much of the ice-bound continent’s sea-ice and break away as the world’s climate warms.

The existing Halley station is the fifth to be built on the Brunt shelf since 1956 to study changing weather patterns.

Unlike its predecessors which have simply been swallowed by the ice, the current Halley is on stilts and is jack-uped each year to avoid being submerged by snow.

A BAS spokeswoman said the new station, scheduled to be operational by November 2008 in time for the 2008/2009 Antarctic summer when the staff quadrumvirate — six in number — would be able to remain on the Brunt shelf.

But it will be sited on the landward side of the expected crack in the shelf, rather than on solid ground. — MNA/Reuters

China to build its largest nature reserve for river dolphin

ANCHANG, 29 June — A nature reserve will be built in the water areas of Poyang Lake, the biggest freshwater lake and a major haunt of the Yangtze River dolphin in China, to better protect the rare species.

The nature reserve, being planned will be China’s largest of its kind in terms of area, according to the Poyang Lake Fishery Administration.

The provincial government of east China’s Jiangxi, where the lake is located, has given the go-ahead to the

FAO, WHO call for quicker adoption of food standards

GENEA, 29 June — The Codex Alimentarius Commission, an international food standards-setting body established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), convened its 27th session here on Monday, amid calls for it to implement recommendations made by the two organizations.

The six-day session, convened one year ahead of schedule, is set to address infant formula Code, improve food chain safety and good animal feeding practices, the WHO said in a Press release.

The commission, which traditionally met once every two years, will now meet yearly in response to the FAO-WHO joint evaluation, which called on the commission to speed up its work and adapt to the ever-increasing demands of member countries.

The commission is set to approve a Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding that would establish a feed safety system for farmed producing animals.

It would take into account relevant aspects of animal health and the environment in order to minimize risks to the health of consumers. — MNA/Xinhua

The existing base is built on an ice shelf which is likely to break off into the sea if global warming continues at its current rate.

So now the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) has appealed for designers to come up with a replacement.

Not only will the new 19 million pound station have to be able to operate throughout the year in one of the world’s most inhospitable environments, it has also to be environmentally neutral and aesthetically inspiring.

But strictly the environmental rules governing Antarctica that all refuse — including human waste — is supposed to be bagged up and shipped out so no lasting trace is left of outside occupation.

“This is an ambitious project,” said BAS director Chris Rapley. “It will be a fusion of science, architecture, technology and engineering.”

The commission to speed up its work in order to minimize risks to the health of consumers. — MNA/Xinhua

There was also a feeling, she said, that since the mother carried and gave birth to the child, she was the real mother and there was no need to tell the child anything different.

Fiona MacCallum told a fertility conference.

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The existing Halley station is the fifth to be built on the Brunt shelf since 1956 to study changing weather patterns.

Chinese physicists convene to discuss frontiers

SHANGHAI, 29 June — The Chinese Physics Association (CPA) held its fourth joint meeting Monday in Shanghai.

The four-day meeting has attracted over 500 elite Chinese physicists from across the world to discuss physics education and the latest academic development.

Two Nobel laureates, both Chinese-Americans, Samuel Chao Chung Ting and Steven Chu gave reports at the meeting on “antimat- ter” and “dark matter” and the relationship between physics and biology.

Their reports won interest and praise from the audience. — MNA/Xinhua

No smoking

Australia to tackle rising obesity among children

CANBERRA, 30 June— With one in four Australian children now tipping the scales at overweight or obese, the Australian Government on Tuesday unveiled a package designed to get children off the couch and stop them eating junk food.

The number of fat Australian children has trebled in the past 20 years in a trend reflecting international patterns, with the United States and Britain facing similar obesity problems.

Prime Minister John Howard, an avid walker who is expected to call a close-run election within months, set aside 116 million Australian dollars (81 million US dollars) over four years to tackle childhood obesity that will be heavy on the nation’s medical bill in years ahead.

“The paradox of this sports-loving nation becoming increasingly less mobile and increasingly more obese is something that today’s launch is designed to change,” Howard said.

The money will fund after-school sporting activities for about 150,000 children and give grants to community organizations linked to schools that encourage healthy eating and shun greasy beefburgers, sugary drinks, and other foods high in fat.

Howard said education authorities would also be required to ensure schools include at least two hours of physical activity a week for primary and junior high school students in order to receive funding from the national government.

Figures show about 60 per cent of the nation’s 24 million Australians are overweight or obese, double the rate 20 years ago, with obesity costing health authorities 1.2 billion Australian dollars in 2000. — MNA/Reuters
**SPORTS**

**Bayern man.** Football Association (DFB) confirmed it was in exclusive talks with the former succeed Rudi Voeller as German national coach on Monday after the German strenuously denied the latest round of rumours surrounding a possible move of striker Hitzfeld is leading candidate to replace Voeller spoke on Friday.

**Barthez ready to call time on international future** Paris, 30 June—France's goalkeeper Fabien Barthez has hinted at retiring from international soccer and said his decision would mainly depend on the identity of the new French coach.

"A lot will depend on the discussion I'll have with the future manager," Barthez told sports daily l'Equipe, adding he would be glad if his friend Laurent Blanc were appointed.

Retired defender Blanc and former Monaco and Fulham manager Jean Tigana are the two favourites for the departing Jacques Santini's job. "I'm friends with Tigana. I'm friends with 'Lolo' (Blanc) even though it's true I have more ties with Laurent, his deeper friendship," Barthez, who won the 1998 World Cup and 2000 European Championship with France, said.

**United say Ruud going nowhere** London, 30 June—English Premier League giants Manchester United have strenuously denied the latest round of rumours surrounding a possible move of striker Ruud van Nistelrooy to Real Madrid.

The 27-year-old Dutchman has netted four goals for his country at Euro 2004, sparking talk of a move to Real Madrid as United seek to finance a deal for Everton's Wayne Rooney, the 4thegame.com reported.

"I'm sick of saying it, but I will say it again. I'm happy at United and I will be there next season and beyond," he said.

Van Nistelrooy joined United in July 2001 from Feyenoord and has scored 110 goals in 145 appearances for the Red Devils.

**Tyson to climb back in ring after 17 months** London, 30 June—Mike Tyson will climb back into the ring for the first time in 17 months when the troubled and broke former-champion meets British heavyweight Danny Williams.

Tyson, who has not fought since a first-round knockout of Clifford Etienne in February 2003, announced on Tuesday that a July 30 date had been set for the bout in Louisville, Kentucky.

"I'm not here to be a tough guy, I'll be a tough guy on July 30," Tyson, told a media conference to announce the fight. "When I make my mind up, that's when I fight. I have been foolish not to fight."

"I have not done a thing that has benefited me. You guys (the media) will be the judgement of whether I have the eye of the tiger or not."

"The fight is the first in a plan developed by Tyson's lawyers to pay off his massive debts.

The self-proclaimed "baddest man on the planet." Tyson has amassed over 300 million US dollars in pursues throughout a turbulent career but is now believed to owe 38 million US dollars to various creditors, including the Internal Revenue Service and his ex-wife Monica Turner.

According to reports, Tyson is now peniless and was quoted earlier this month as saying: "For two years I have been a bum, truly a bum in the streets. I've got nowhere to live."

"I've been crashing with friends, literally sleeping in shelters".

**Giuly aiming to help Barca end trophy drought** Madrid, 29 June—Barcelona new recruit Ludovic Giuly, who joined the club on Monday, has his sights set on helping the Catalan club end their five-year trophy drought.

"My objective is to win titles with Barcelona," the former France international told a news conference at the Nou Camp. "I'm very happy to be here and hope that the coach and the fans will be pleased with my performances."

"Barcelona are one of the biggest clubs in Europe and I think I can fit in well. I can't wait for things to get started and to join up my new team mates."

Barca said the 27-year-old, who played an instrumental role in guiding Monaco to the final of last season's Champions League, had signed a three-year contract with the club but did not reveal any details of the transfer fee.

Giuly was originally named in the France squad for Euro 2004, but was forced to pull out after sustaining a groin injury in the Champions League final defeat by Porto.

Barcelona said medical tests conducted by club doctors showed the player had now recovered from the injury.

"It's an honor for me to play for Barcelona and I'm very happy to contribute to this great club".

"I'm friends with 'Lolo' - my former teammate at Monaco — and to join up my new team mates."

"That amazes me. It also amazes the league and the league does not think that it is the right way to go about it," Hackmann said on German radio station NDR.

"The national team is the interface between the DFB and professional football and so I believe that professional football should be involved. Aside from that, the league, or a large part of the league, has made clear that Daum would be a problem," he continued.

Daum, now with Turkey's Fenerbahce, was set to take charge after Germany failed to qualify for the knock-out phase at Euro 2000, but was discarded after testing positive for cocaine.

**Hitzfeld is leading candidate to replace Voeller** Berlin, 29 June—Ottmar Hitzfeld emerged as the leading candidate to succeed Rudi Voeller as German national coach on Monday after the German Football Association (DFB) confirmed it was in exclusive talks with the former Bayern man.

"I have been in contact with Ottmar Hitzfeld for days. There has not been any kind of direct or indirect contact with other coaches, including Christoph Daum," DFB President Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder said in a statement.

"The statement comes amid speculation that the DFB chief has been secretly favouring Daum and after critical reports that Mayer-Vorfelder wanted to handle the entire matter on his own.

Werner Hackmann, president of the Bundesliga (DFL), expressed his annoyance on Monday, saying he had not heard a word from the DFB chief since the pair spoke on Friday.
**MRTV-3**

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Tuesday, July 6, 2004

Rainfall on 30-6-2004

- 0.08 inch at Yangon Airport,
- 0.55 inch at Kaba-Aye
- 0.08 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1240mm (48.82 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1157mm (45.55 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1192mm (46.93 inches) at central Yangon.

**WEATHER**

Wednesday, 30 June, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kayah State and Magway Division, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kachin, Kayin, Mon States, lower Sagaing and Tanintharyi Divisions and scattered in the remaining areas with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State and Yangon Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall were widespread (4.833 inches), Coco Island (3.90) inches, Kawthoung (2.24) inches, Sittway (1.89) inches, Hpa-an and Thaton (1.34) each inches.

Maximum temperature on 29-6-2004 was 31.5°C (88°F). Minimum temperature on 30-6-2004 was 20.4°C (69°F). Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 30-6-2004 was 85%. Total sunshine hours on 29-6-2004 was 0.83 hours above normal. Rainfall on 30-6-2004 was 0.08 inch at Yangon Airport, 0.55 inch at Kaba-Aye and 0.08 inch at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was 1240mm (48.82 inches) at Yangon Airport and 1157mm (45.55 inches) at Kaba-Aye and 1192mm (46.93 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon Airport (Kaba-Aye) was 8 mph from Southwest at 16:28 hours MST on 29-6-2004.

Bay inference: Monsoon is generally moderate in the Bay of Bengal. Forecast valid until evening of 1-7-2004: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Chin States, upper Sagaing, scattered in Rakhine, Mon, Kayin States, Ayeyawady, Bago, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (100%). State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in southern Myanmar.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Increase of rain in Northern Myanmar areas. Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-7-2004: One or two rain or thundershowers with sunny periods. Degree of certainty is (80%). Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-7-2004: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

Thursday, July 7, 2004

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Members of the Panel of Chairmen and delegates seen at Plenary Session of National Convention.— MNA

With hands linked firm around the National Convention.

Delegates of National Races submit proposals to Plenary Session of National Convention

NAYON, 30 June— The Plenary Session of the National Convention continued at Pyidaungsu Hall of Naypyidawn. The session was presided over by U Aung Tun of the Delegate Group of Workers, Dr U Tin Oo Po Saw of the Delegate Group of Intellectuals and Intelligentsia, Maj-Gen Aung Than Tin of the Delegate Group of State Service Personnel and U Tun Aung Chein of the Delegate Group of Other Invited Persons, Director (Meeting) U Mya Aye of the National Convention Convening Work Committee acted as co-master of ceremonies and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi as co-master of ceremonies.

The master of ceremonies announced the start of the meeting with the permission of the chairman as there were 1,066 delegates out of 1,088 listed, accounting for 97.98 per cent.

Next, the Delegate Group of National Races read out 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. First, Daw Nant Oo Ma Mya of Ayeyawady Division presented the proposal of the Delegate Group of National Races — the sector for formation of Financial Commission, taxation and funds allotment among the Pyidaungsu and Regions or States in drafting the State Constitution. Daw Hsi Hsi of Chin State continued to read the proposal. Next, U Aung Tun of Mandalay Division read out the proposal of the delegate group. Afterwards, the plenary session was recessed at 10.15 am.

The Plenary Session of the National Convention will continue at 9 am tomorrow.— MNA

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