Four social objectives

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

Four economic objectives

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

Four political objectives

- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Heads of State of Myanmar and PRC exchange messages of felicitations on 55th Anniversary of Establishment of Diplomatic Relations

Yangon, 8 June — The following is the message from His Excellency Mr Hu Jintao, President of the People’s Republic of China, to His Excellency Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar:

On the auspicious occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People’s Republic of China and the Union of Myanmar, I would like to, on behalf of the Chinese people and in my own name, extend to Your Excellency and through you to the people of Myanmar the warmest congratulations and best wishes.

China and Myanmar are contiguous to each other and linked by common mountains and rivers with the two peoples enjoy deep Pauk Phaw friendship. When the People’s Republic of China was founded, Myanmar was among the earliest countries to establish the diplomatic relations with her. All through these 55 years after that, under the guidance of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence which was jointly advocated by both countries, the Sino-Myanmar relations have experienced tests with rapid changes of the international situation as well as changes of respective domestic situation, and have maintained vigorous vitality all along.

China prizes the traditional Sino-Myanmar friendship and is willing to make joint efforts with Myanmar to further deepen the bilateral cooperation of mutual benefit in all fields, to promote the all-round and deep development of the friendly cooperative relations of good-neighbourliness between China and Myanmar in the new century, and to be good neighbours, good friends and good partners forever.

May the Union of Myanmar enjoy prosperity and her people well-beings, and may the Sino-Myanmar friendship pass on from generations to generations and flourish forever. —MNA

Fruits of progress results of farsighted guidance of Head of State Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win inspects construction of Maha Ratthabhisamaggi Pagoda in Panglong

Yangon, 7 June — Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Hla Thaung, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint, ministers, deputy ministers, officials of the SPDC Office and heads of department arrived at Panglong via Taunggyi by helicopter on 5 June.

They were welcomed by Brig-Gen Thaung Aye of local stations, departmental officials of Lioiлем District and Panglong.

At the site for construction of Maha Ratthabhisamaggi Pagoda, Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint reported to the Prime Minister on construction work.

General Manager of Aisa World Co U Hla Myint and U Win Maung reported on progress in (See page 8)

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win cordially greets townsenders and departmental personnel. —MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 8 June, 2005

Work for regional and national development by making the most of development foundations

The Union of Myanmar is made up of seven states and seven divisions. Among them, Shan State has the largest area and various national races live there in unity and harmony. In the past, Shan State had suffered political and racial deprivation due to colonialism, feudalism and parliamentary democracy. Moreover, it lagged behind other states and divisions in development, owing to poor transport and communication and the lack of security and stability.

Therefore, in the time of the State Peace and Development Council, the people and members of the Tatmadaw are working in concert to improve transport service in Shan State by building new motor roads and railroads and at the same time upgrading the existing ones to improve the socio-economic life of local people.

The opening of the Dokhtawady Bridge (Nawngkio) linking Yaksauk Township in Shan State (South) and Nawngkio Township in Shan State (North) was held on the morning of 6 June and it was attended by Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win. In his address on the occasion, the Prime Minister stressed that the emergence of one bridge after another was the result of the united efforts of the people, members of the Tatmadaw and departmental personnel.

Local people and members of the Tatmadaw, hand in hand with one another, have always participated in all the national development endeavours. Members of the Tatmadaw started building the new Nawngkio-Yaksauk motor road 105 miles long seven years ago.

Improvement of transport could lead to frequent contacts between national people, enhancement of mutual understanding and friendship, bridging the gap between developed regions and undeveloped ones and raising the living standard of people in various regions equally. Besides transport, economic, health and education infrastructures have been built on self-reliance basis. Now development infrastructures have been built not only in Shan State but also in other states and divisions.

We would like to call on the entire national people and members of the Tatmadaw to work hand in hand for regional and national development by making the most of development foundations created by the government.

Management personnel grade (4/5) course No 1 opens

Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo addresses the opening of the course.—HOME AFFAIRS

Minister inspects PonnyaTaung Tunnel construction project

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects construction site.—RAIL TRANSPORTATION

Myanmar delegation leaves for Japan

Myanmar Hockey athletes leave for Bangladesh

People’s Desire

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

Ministry of Home Affairs

ANGON

Ministry of Rail Transport

ANGON

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

ANGON

Ministry of Sports

ANGON

Ministry of Mines and Energy

ANGON

Ministry of Communications

ANGON
India’s Petroleum Minister begins Pakistan visit

LAHORE, 6 June — India’s Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar on Saturday began his historic visit to Pakistan amidst US pressure on New Delhi and Islamabad to shelve plans to import natural gas from Iran through a 4.16-billion-dollar pipeline.

Initiating the first contact between the two countries in the energy sector, Aiyar is scheduled to discuss pricing and transit issues of the natural gas the two nations plan to import from Iran through a 2,600-kilometre long pipeline.

In his talks with Pakistani counterpart Amanullah Khan Jadoon and Commerce Minister Humayun Akhtar, Aiyar will also push for diesel and petrochemical exports to Pakistan besides discussing cooperation in oil and gas exploration ventures.

India is keen on Iran pipeline as its domestic production of natural gas barely meets half of its requirements but US feels that transfer of technology for Thorium enrichment would help India bridge the energy deficit.

Officials here said Washington has sent fillers at high levels that it was willing to give nuclear power technology to India for meeting its growing energy needs.

“The commitment US wants in return is that India should not do business with Iran, a country the US Administration label as a rogue state,” the officials said.— MNA/PTI

Bangladesh plans to convert public vehicles into gas

DHAKA, 7 June — Bangladesh Government has planned to turn all the public vehicles into gas-run by the year end to reduce its petroleum import costs.

A spokesperson of the Mineral Resources Ministry said the government has taken the decision of converting all the vehicles of the public sector into CNG-run (Condensed Natural Gas) by 2005 and this move would save the country’s import cost of petroleum products, which stand at around 1.3 billion US dollars per year.

The spokesman said the government has already halved the fuel cost of public transport in the past years as almost half of its transports have been converted into gas-run, reducing 39 million dollars of petroleum import bill annually.

The official could not give the exact number of public transports immediately and the median consumption of petroleum products by those vehicles.

Bangladesh at present has a proven reserve of around 16 trillion cubic foot of gas.

The country had wanted to convert all public vehicles into gas-run a few years before, but that move was abandoned in the face of opposition by the government’s drivers, who are widely blamed for corrupt practices.

It was noted how the public sector drivers would react on the latest government move.

However, most of private vehicles are being converted into gas-run and it reduces by at least 75 per cent the fuel cost in this impoverished South Asian nation of 140 million.

Environment activists welcomed the government’s decision, blaming oil-run vehicles for the air pollution in the capital Dhaka, which was termed most polluted after Mexico.

But the cost of conversion at about 35,000 taka (583 dollars) is preventing private vehicle owners to opt for the gas-run, said a private transport owner Mezbahul Huq.

“If the government forces conversion agencies to reduce cost, nearly all private vehicle owners will do it, which would save the government billions of hard currency to import petroleum products,” Huq said.— MNA/Xinhua

Bangladeshi, Chinese Cos sign contract on coal mine

DHAKA, 6 June — A Chinese company consortium signed a contract here Saturday with Petrobangla, Bangladesh’s state oil, gas and mineral resources corporation, to run the management and production of Bangladesh’s Barapukuria coal mine.

Under the deal, China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CMC), in association with another Chinese firm Xuzhou Coal Mining Group Company Limited, will produce coal from Petrobangla Barapukuria mine as well as run its management and maintenance for a term of 71 months.

Secretary of the Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited Mahfuzur Rahman and CMC President Tang Yi signed the contract on behalf of their respective sides. Under the contract valued at 83 million US dollars, CMC will go for commercial production of mine from next month.

As per the contract, CMC will get 17.236 US dollars for per ton coal and will produce 4.75 million tons of coal during the contractual period.

After signing the contract, CMC president told journalists that under the deal, nearly 2,000 Bangladeshi will be trained up to work in coal mines.

The tariff of per ton coal of Barapukuria has been fixed at 60 dollars. With coal supply from the field, the 125-megawatt unit of the country’s first coal-based power plant will start generation in October this year.

MNA/Xinhua

An Iraqi policeman holds suspects at gunpoint after a suicide car bomb attack in Baghdad on 6 June, 2005. Internet

1,670 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 6 May—As of Monday, 6 June, 2005, at least 1,670 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,284 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is four lower than the Defense Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EDT Monday.

The British military has reported 89 deaths; Italy, 25; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, 10; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,532 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,175 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.
China rewards rural couples practising family planning

BEIJING, 6 June — Wang Xiuluan, a 68-year-old farmer in central China’s Henan Province, and her 70-year-old husband never expected a reward for a decision they made 30 years ago.

Like many others in China’s countryside, Wang and her 70-year-old husband tilled the soil for most of their life. With only two daughters and no son in a rural economy that depended so much on male labour in the 1970s, the couple chose not to have another child, even though China’s family planning policy allowed them to do so.

The decision has paid off. Starting from 2004, China began to implement a pilot project of “rewarding some rural households practising family planning.” Wang and her husband were among the first couples in the country to get two deposit books, each writing a yearly reward of 200 yuan (US$40) of 600 yuan.

“Six hundred yuan is very important to us. It almost covers our basic expenses,” said Wang’s husband Wang Qingchen, whose basic monthly spending is about 70 yuan (eight dollars). Last year, like the old couple, more than 310,000 farmers in 10 cities of five provinces where the pilot project was launched received around 200 million yuan (24 million dollars) in cash reward for having only one child or two daughters in their families. The pilot project is expected to be extended to 23 provinces this year and cover the whole country next year.

According to the new family planning policy, rural couples with only one child or two daughters become eligible for a cash reward of no less than 600 yuan each year when they turn 60 years old. The reward will last for the rest of their lives.

Granting financial reward to farmers who endorse family planning marks a major change in China’s population-control policy from being purely “punitive” to also “rewarding,” said Pan Guiyu, vice-director of the National Population and Family Planning Commission (NPPFC).

China’s family planning policy launched in the late 1970s has helped check China’s rapid population growth and reduced the country’s population by an estimated 300 million. Demographers say that the country’s 1.3-billion population, which fell on January 6 this year, would have come four years earlier if it were not for the policy.

Government figures show that 117 boys are born in China for every 100 girls, while in some rural areas, the ratio is approaching 150 boys for every 100 girls, leading to fears of a huge surplus of unmarried men as well as other social problems.

Wu Bangguo says China, Peru as good partners

BEIJING, 6 June — China’s top legislator Wu Bangguo told visiting Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo on Friday that China and Peru are “good partners and good friends”.

Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of China’s National People’s Congress, said China and Peru enjoy extensive common interests and abide by the same principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and non-interference of internal affairs.

“We also understand and support each other in key issues and follow the principles of mutual benefit and common development,” he said.

He said with the joint efforts made by both, the cooperation between China and Peru in politics, economy, science, culture and judiciary has been expanded greatly.

“China’s National People’s Congress and Peru’s Congress have both played important roles in promoting the mutual understanding and friendship of the two peoples,” he said.

Toledo said Peru and China hold identical or similar stance in key international issues and the cooperation between the two sides has produced fruitful results.

“Peru is dedicated to the development of the comprehensive and cooperative partnership with China,” he said.

Thailand, Bhutan agree to extend cooperation

BANGKOK, 6 June — Thailand and Bhutan have agreed to expand trade links in the future.

Thailand has promised to continue to offer government scholarships to Bhutanese students to study in Thailand and to lease a country a satellite to help Bhutan establish an IT computer system.

The agreements came during talks between Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who arrived in Bhutan Saturday for a two-day visit to the Himalayan kingdom, and his Bhutanese counterpart Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba on Saturday.

Thailand is willing to allow Bhutan to use Thailand as a hub for aviation, health and education, Thaksin told Zimba during their meeting.

Thailand will offer scholarships to Bhutanese students to do further studies at Chulabhorn Institute. It will also allow Bhutan to lease a transponder from a new satellite operated by Shin Satellite. The Thai Prime Minister and his delegation are scheduled to return home on Sunday evening.

Japan approves law revision to introduce IC passports

TOKYO, 6 June — The Japanese Parliament on Friday approved revisions to the passport law to enable the introduction of a new type of passport with integrated circuit chips to help counter forgery and as part of anti-terrorism measures.

The revised law passed by the House of Councillors includes a new provision allowing for personal data to be stored electromagnetically on the passport, the Foreign Ministry said. The Japanese Government aims to begin issuing the IC passports next March.

According to the ministry, the new law also raised the maximum penalty for fraudulent procurement and illegal use of passports to five years in prison or a 3-million-yen (27,700-US-dollar) fine, up from the current three years’ imprisonment or 300,000 yen fine.

An IC chip containing the holder’s personal data such as name, birth date and photo, as well as proof of issuance, will be implanted in the new passports. The chip is designed to prevent falsification of the data in it and is expected to help counter forgery.

The United States has been calling on Japan and other visa-exempt countries to introduce IC passports as it will require all foreigners without IC passports to obtain visas to enter the country beginning on 26 October.

Ten Oregon National Guard soldiers injured in Iraq

PORTLAND (Oregon), 6 June — Ten Oregon National Guard soldiers were wounded, two seriously, in a roadside bomb explosion in Iraq which lifted their Humvees off the ground, Oregon military officials said Saturday.

Two soldiers were evacuated for immediate treatment, while the other eight were returned to duty, said Oregon National Guard spokesman Capt Mike Braibish.

He said the incident happened at about 4:20 am Friday Iraq time when members of Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Cavalry were on a road-clearing mission near Kirkuk.

The first bomb disabled the first three of vehicles in the convoy. When the others came to provide security, another bomb went off, Braibish said.

He identified those injured as Sgt Johan “Christian” Bagge of Springfield, who suffered broken legs, and 2nd Lt Timothy Bomke of Portland, who suffered shrapnel wounds to both legs.

Both were evacuated to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Centre in Germany.

“What’s unique about this particular incident is that there were 10 soldiers wounded,” said Braibish.

“There were two separate blasts. It’s not an uncommon tactic for the guerrillas to use — but it’s one we haven’t seen so commonly with our Oregon soldiers,” he said.

The blasts, said Braibish, were violent enough to pick up the armoured Humvees and throw them into the air.

A wounded Iraqi man on a stretcher is taken to Al-Yarmouk hospital after a suicide car bomb attack in Baghdad’s Al-Amaal District on 6 June, 2005. —INTERNET
Chinese V-P calls for better urban environment construction

BEIJING, 6 June — Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyuan on Sunday called for more efforts in urban environmental protection construction.

Zeng, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks while visiting Beijing’s “green community” as well attending a major summit marking the World Environment Day.

Environment protection and construction is a key task in building a harmonious socialist society, said Zeng, noting currently it is imminent to curb pollution in Chinese cities, where people should be provided with “clean water, refreshing air and sound environment”.

China must speed up building resource-saving and environmental-friendly cities in a bid to improve environmental protection, and make scientific urban planning and adjust industry layouts, he noted.

City governments should allocate more fund in the infrastructure construction of environment, practice marketing in water recycling and waste disposal sectors, strictly control discharge quantities of major pollutants and introduce environmental friendly living and consuming behaviours to the people, he said.

Carbing pollution and improving quality of environment will be a part of the evaluation of urban party officials, said Zeng, adding that governments ought to mobilize all circles of the society to work together in environmental protection.

In a visit to Fenghuayan Residential Compound, a national leading green community, Zeng said building green communities is of great significance. Every citizen in the community is committed to create a sound living environment and realize the harmony of human beings and nature.

On the Major Summit of Model Environmental Protection Cities, the State Environmental Protection Administration nominated six “National Environmental Protection Model City” and one “National Environmental Protection Model District”.

So far, 47 cities and three districts have been given the titles.

Qatari, Pakistani leaders meet on regional, int’l issues

KUWAIT CITY, 6 June — Qatar’s Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani met Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf on Sunday on relations and regional and international issues of common interest, the Qatar News Agency reported.

During the talks, the two sides agreed to take practical steps to stimulate overall cooperation, especially in boosting Qatar’s investment in Pakistan and initiating Qatar’s liquid gas supply for Pakistan, the report said.

Both sides expressed support for Iraq, stressing the importance of ensuring its unity and interests.

HK to implement enhanced pollution control measures

HONG KONG, 6 June — The government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HK SAR) is now pressing ahead to implement the enhanced pollution control measures to achieve the agreed emission reduction targets of the four major regional air pollutants by year 2010, said a senior official.

A government Press release on Sunday quoted Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works Sarah Liao as saying in the “foreword” of “Environment Hong Kong 2005” that good progress had been made in waste management during 2004 by enacting the ordinance on the construction waste disposal charging scheme and launching a pilot scheme of source separation of household waste.

“We have also set up a regional air quality monitoring network which will start operation in 2005,” she said.

Locally, she noted that nearly all taxis are now fuelled by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) while about 80 per cent of the newly registered public light buses are LPG ones.

“We completed the catalyst retrofit programme for older heavy diesel vehicles in 2004 and the installation of emission reduction devices for heavy diesel vehicles will become mandatory in 2005,” she said.

Turning to water quality, Liao said with the general support from the public, the government would implement the second and the final stages of the Harbour Area Treatment Scheme in phases with a view to treating all sewage from both sides of the harbour by 2013.

On conservation, Liao said a new nature conservation policy with an implementation plan was promulgated in November, 2004.

The new policy aims to better achieve the nature conservation objectives, in particular to enhance the conservation of ecologically important sites that are in private ownership.

“As part of the new policy, we are going to launch a pilot scheme for the new nature conservation measures to enhance conservation of the priority sites,” she said. — MNA/Xinhua

Fourth Shangri-la Dialogue concludes in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 6 June — The fourth ISS Asia Security Conference, also known as Shangri-la Dialogue, concluded here on Sunday after two-day discussion of major regional security issues.

Defence ministers attending the meeting agreed that the dialogue provided them with a platform for exchanging useful ideas to deal with some of the regional security challenges, said a statement by Singapore’s Defence Ministry on Sunday.

The ministers hoped that they would be able to interact with ministers of those countries which were not able to be represented at the ministerial level this year.

During their second private luncheon hosted by Singapore Defence Minister Teo Chee Hean, the ministers also reached a consensus that practical forms of cooperation need to be forged to maintain regional maritime security.

In addition, defence ministers of the Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) discussed practical measures for further cooperation.

On Sunday, Teo had separate meetings with Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Dato’ Sri Najib Tun Razak, Japanese Minister of State for Defence Yoshinori Ohno and Minister for Defence Tserenkhüvshin Sharavdorj of Mongolia.

Organized by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (ISS), the three-day security conference attracted more than 200 participants from over 20 countries and regions from Asia Pacific, North America and Europe.

Thailand celebrates World Environment Day

BANGKOK, 6 June — Thai people all over the country Sunday celebrated the World Environment Day with local communities taking part in numerous schemes to revive the natural ecosystem.

Torrential rain failed to deter a delegation of Forestry Department officials, reporters and actors who travelled to the southern province of Krabi Sunday morning with Natural Resources and Environment Minister Yongyut Tiyapairat to help revive Noparat Thara beach, reported the Thai News Agency.

As the pop group Bird and Heart performed a mini concert, Yongyut spoke on a television programme broadcast by satellite to the nation, calling for local people to get involved in environmental conservation and restoration programmes.

Meanwhile across the country, 148 National Parks embarked on a “Big Clean-up Day”, launching programmes to clear up rubbish both on land and in the sea.

This will be followed on Thursday by the launch of a programme in which volunteers will be asked to look out for and report anyone violating environmental laws. — MNA/Xinhua

A Tibetan man collects rubbish along the Namtso Lake - lake of the heaven in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 6 June, 2005. — Internet

A foreigner visits the 11th Shanghai International Textile Industry Fair in Shanghai, east China, on 6 June, 2005. — Internet
Honouring the 7th Conference of Myanmar Health Assistants Association

Tin Hlaing (Health)

Health is a blessing and an essential requirement for every human being. Thus, everyone tries to lead a healthy life. People will have to live in accord with health requirements. Health concerns all status from individuals, families and nations to the world. The peoples around the world have to uplift the public health care standard according to their socio-economic situation, because health is a cause that concerns mankind.

Since 1954, Myanmar has started the nationwide health care programme covering the rural areas. Health activities were not active before 1954. There were not effective health care programmes even in towns.

As health care activities were almost nonexistent in villages, the majority of people were low in health knowledge. As a result, Myanmar was subject to dreadful epidemics such as smallpox, plague and cholera that made mortality rate higher. In addition, the rate of miscarriages, maternal death rate, and infant (from one to five years) mortality rate were also high. All in all, the public health care was so ineffective during that period in the past.

Productivity will be high only if rural people are healthy. Hence, the health staff tried to raise the public health knowledge, to prevent seasonal and common diseases in regions and the nation, to give vaccines to the people, to improve the maternal and child health, to help provide the clean environment, to reduce the disease contraction rate, and to treat patients. In 1951-52, the nation launched a programme to produce health assistants as skilled personnel playing a leading role in the rural health care project. We can also say it the dawn of public health care.

Rural health care services fulfil the practical requirements of the nation. The seven work programmes of the rural health care are:

1. Health education;
2. Prevention and control of infectious diseases;
3. Environmental sanitation;
4. Maternal and child and school health care;
5. Nutrition programme;
6. Birth and death statistics; and
7. Treatment.

The health assistants have played a key role in implementing the seven work programmes together with nurses, midwives, health supervisors and other health staff, and thanks to their collective efforts, smallpox has been totally wiped out from Myanmar, the death rate of pregnant mothers and children has been decreasing, and the number of cases of infectious diseases has been falling. Another significant achievement is the decline in the death rate and increase in the population growth rate.

The science of health is always developing. The nation implemented the first, second and third public health projects from 1978 to 1990, and the national health plans from 1991 to 2001 to ensure health for every citizen living in both rural and urban areas. The health assistants took part in the plans with might and main. Honouring their deeds and goodwill, the nation permitted the formation of the Myanmar Health Assistants Association and gave promotions to the health assistants.

As they owed a great deal of gratitude to the nation, they have been holding a health assistants conference every two years. The seventh HA Conference is being held in Yangon from 6 to 8 June this year. The agenda of the meeting is to accelerate the rural health care undertakings in addition to implementing the four aims of the association. In all eagerness and seriousness, all the health assistants are implementing the nation’s rural health care undertakings with the assistance and directives of the Health Ministry and supervision of MHAA.

The rural health care undertakings cover the following 10 tasks:

1. To develop and increase health care coverage;
2. To develop the efficiency of primary health workers and volunteers;
3. To accelerate health education activities;
4. To promote environmental health programmes;
5. To develop family health care services;
6. To carry out woman and child health care;
7. To develop nutrition programmes;
8. To ensure sufficient amount of medical care;
9. To control and prevent common diseases; and
10. To organize volunteer organizations and the people to take part in the rural health care undertakings under the leadership of health committees.

The MHAA is also cooperating with UNDP, UNICEF and WHO in controlling AIDS, and tobacco-related diseases in both rural and urban areas of the entire country.

The MHAA is a social organization formed with state service personnel and pensioners. In honouring the MHAA, I would like to urge its members to boost their public welfare services.

(Translation: TMT)


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Myanmar wins gold, silver in invitational Sepak Takraw Tourney

YANGON, 7 June — The Myanmar team comprising athletes Aung Cho Myint (Home Affairs), Si Thu (Home Affairs), Min Min Naing (Agriculture & Irrigation) and Yaza Tun (Agriculture & Irrigation), manager capt Kyaw Zin Moe and coach U Thein Lin (Home Affairs), Min Min Naing (Agriculture & Irrigation) and nurses and nations, Htidan Housing Complex in Kyimyindaing Township. — MNA

Sepak Takraw athletes perform demonstration

YANGON, 7 June — Under the arrangements of the Myanmar Olympic Committee, No 3 Basic Education Department and Sports and Physical Education Department, selected athletes of Myanmar Sepak Takraw Federation this afternoon performed skill demonstration at No 5 Basic Education High School in Botataung Township.

Before the demonstration, Vice President of MSTF presented sports gear to the school through the headmaster of the school.

Among the spectators were officials of the No 3 Basic Education Department, the headmaster, teachers and students of BEHS No 6 and executives of MSTF. — MNA

Commander inspects upgrading of roads

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa inspect repaving of Strand Road near Hidan Housing Complex in Kyimyindaing Township. — MNA

YANGON, 7 June — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by the Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee the Vice-Mayor, this morning inspected the beautifying tasks, sanitation and upgrading of roads in the city and fulfilled the requirements.

First, the commander and party inspected the tasks being carried out by YCDC for the proper flow of Kamayut Creek in Kamayut Township. Later, they also inspected the tarmacking of Strand Road in Kyimyindaing Township and Hline Township and the resurfacing of Kyaiwai Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township. — MNA
Basic education schools and universities

(from page 16)

of international community and to perpetuate the nation as long as the world exists. Therefore the government is creating opportunities for all nations to participate in efforts for equal development of national races and consolidation of national solidarity.

In efforts for development of the border areas that lagged behind in development, the government is providing assistance for them. By doing so, participation of national race leaders and local people is very important. Emergence of human resources in border areas plays a vital role in development of the regions.

Achievements have been made as border areas development tasks were carried out with lofty aims, sound objectives and systematic formation of committees at different levels. Mutual understanding and closer relationship among the national races made the border areas stable and peaceful. Such momentum brought about national solidarity and progress of border areas and it is the major drive in nation-building.

The government spent over K 686,377,66 million and over US $550 million on border areas and national races development project. Better foundations for development have prevailed and rapid development has also been made in border areas.

He said continued efforts are to be made to promote education of national races in border areas, to produce intellectuals and intelligentsia and to maintain the better foundations in the long run.

At the meeting of Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races held in March 2004, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe said development of some border areas was better than that of inner regions. With the rapid development of the border areas continued efforts are to be made to maintain the momentum of success. Moreover, efforts are to be made for improvement of socio-economic life of local people and for alleviating of poverty in border areas. Accordingly, steps are to be taken for the emergence of human resources for ensuring continued development of border areas.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, education and health sectors are being promoted. Basic education schools and universities and colleges were opened for local youths to achieve educational opportunities in every region of the country.

He said the government has spent over K 3,929 million on education of border areas so far and 852 primary schools, 90 middle schools and 92 high schools were opened. Youths can learn higher education in states, divisions and major special regions as universities and colleges have been opened there.

Altogether 27 nationalities youth development training schools were opened and 2,410 students are attending there. Twenty-one domestic science training schools for women were opened, he added. The Secretary-1 spoke at length on producing of AGTI diploma holders and B.A and B.Sc and B.Tech graduates by the various degree colleges. The opportunity to pursue education which was lost for years in border areas has now been created in the time of the Tatmadaw government. At present, even higher learning education can be pursued at border regions. The intellectuals and intelligentsia produced under border area development programme including youths who had completed the course today know well the goodwill of the government which has created the job opportunities for them.

The national race people as much as possible, while striving for regional development as well as for improvement of socio-economic life of the people.

In his address at the opening of the Myanma Affairs and International (See page 11)
Fruits of progress results of...

(from page 1)

construction of the pagoda; Loilam District PDC Chairman Lt-Col Win Tin on collection of cash donations; Pro-rector of Yangon Technological University Dr Hla Than and engineers on engineering tasks.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said the construction of the pagoda, the glory of Panglong, is now nearing completion. All regions of the Union are enjoying peace and stability due to the Union Spirit that was conceived in Panglong in 1947 when national race leaders gathered together in unity.

He said in Panglong region, which has had such a fine tradition, the building of the pagoda was started on a grand scale to honour the late national race leaders of the region. Besides, to honour Panglong, measures have been taken for the improvement of the education, health and transport of the region after designating Panglong as a development zone of Shan State. The aim is to ensure equal progress of all the regions of Shan State including Panglong, said the Prime Minister. That is why development projects undertaken by the State have emerged one after another.

He added that realizing the goodwill of the government that is doing everything to serve the interests of national people and the State, local national people are urged to actively participate in the drive. Myanmar regained its independence through the national unity. So, with this unity, all are to march towards a modern developed nation. Later, the Prime Minister urged those present to maintain the Panglong Monument and to take measures for greening of its environs. Then the Prime Minister cordially greeted those present. The Prime Minister and party inspected progress of construction tasks, arrangements for fixing the pivot and environs of the pagoda and conditions of Panglong.

Maha Rathhtabhisamaggi Pagoda in Panglong. — MNA

With respect to the condition of Shan State, previously, development was witnessed only around Taunggyi region. Thanks to the designation of development regions and the distribution of power, the southern part, northern part and eastern part of Shan State are enjoying development simultaneously in the economic, transport, education and health sectors.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win meeting with departmental officials and townelders at briefing hall of Maha Rathhtabhisamaggi Pagoda construction project in Panglong. — MNA

Government Technological College (Panglong). — MNA

(see page 9)
Fruits of progress results of farsighted guidance of Head of State ...

(from page 8)

The Prime Minister cordially greeted the teachers.

The Prime Minister and party inspected the computer room, and held a meeting with the faculty members.

Acting principal Dr Khin Myo Tun reported on salient points of the college, and requirements. Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung gave a supplementary report.

In response, the Prime Minister gave instructions and cordially greeted the teachers.

The Prime Minister inspected the buildings under construction.

On arrival at the Government Technological College (Panglong), the Prime Minister heard a report by Principal Dr Khaing Khaing Aye who briefed on the location of the facility, running courses, academic matters, and strength of the staff. Minister U Thaung gave a supplementary report.

In the afternoon, they arrived back at Taunggyi and inspected the construction of a convocation hall in the campus of Taunggyi University. Managing Director U Chit Khaing of Eden Group Co Ltd gave an account of work completion.

Next, the Prime Minister met with the rector, professors, associate professors and faculty members. Rector Dr Maung Kyaw reported on the inauguration of Taunggyi College on 15 June 1961, the upgrading of the college to Taunggyi University on 17 August 1992, academic matters, and construction matters. Minister U Than Aung gave a supplementary report.

The Prime Minister said that now the State’s universities are conducting a wide variety of subjects.

The universities play an important role in the knowledge age.

In the past, there were only 14 universities under the higher education sector of the Ministry of Education, and now the number of universities has surged to 64, while the figure of the students has increased to about 730,000, from about 140,000.

And the number of the faculty members in 156 universities and colleges of the State is on the increase. So, the teachers are to make increased efforts to ensure qualitative improvement and to increase the number of human resources.

With respect to the condition of Shan State, previously, development was witnessed only around Taunggyi region. Thanks to the designation of development regions and the distribution of power, the southern part, northern part and eastern part of Shan State are enjoying development simultaneously in the economic, transport, education and health sectors.

Only when success is achieved in the drive to ensure equitable development of all parts of the Union and to reduce development gap between the regions, will the entire Union develop and be able to catch up with other developing nations.

Human resources are necessary for national development and maintenance of the already-gained development, and respective regions are to produce more human resources.

Therefore, the role of the teachers is of great importance to shape the brighter future of the nation.

The Prime Minister cordially greeted the teachers. Afterwards, the Prime Minister and party inspected the library of Taunggyi University.

MNA

Human resources are necessary for national development and maintenance of the already-gained development, and respective regions are to produce more human resources.

MNA
YANGON, 8 June—The following is the message from His Excellency Mr Li Zhaoxing, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China, to His Excellency U Nyan Win, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar:

On the auspicious occasion of the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Myanmar, I would like to extend to Your Excellency my warmest congratulations and best wishes. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Myanmar 55 years ago, the Sino-Myanmar friendly cooperative relations of good-neighbourliness based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence have been developing deeply and continuously. The two foreign ministries have also kept close coordination and cooperation.

I am willing to make our unremitting efforts together with Your Excellency to enhance the traditional friendly cooperative relations between our two countries. May the exchanges and cooperation between the two foreign ministries be with continuous enhancement. —MNA
Basic education schools and universities...

(from page 7)

Studies Course No 7 of the Union Solidarity and Development Association held on 3 May 2005, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council said that the objectives of nation-building are peace and stability, unity, development and building of a democratic nation; that the nation-building is the history of a series of generations of the Union of Myanmar; that only those who are upholding in the fore Our Three Main Na-

tional Causes will be the ones capable of making the history of Myanmar a progress as well as the ones capable of safeguarding the nation, and that Our Three Main National Causes is the foundation of Union Spirit.

At present, the destructive acts with the intention of undermining stability of the State and disintegrating the Union were committed under pressure of some foreign nations.

Although they are perpetrating destructive acts, the government hand in hand with the entire national people are making concerted efforts for perpetuation of sovereignty. Therefore, the national race youths who gradu-

ating today are to try their best in the interest of the State and the people by making better use of development infrastructures created by the govern-

ment.

The national solidarity is a prerequisite for the nationalities development. With this belief, the government has been able to forge the national reconsolidation. As a re-

sult, marked progress has been made and peace prevailed in border areas. It is important for the national race youths to understand that participating in the tasks for ensuring national solidarity and building a Myainggying Region, Kayin State, Maung Nay Zan Than of Mindat, Chin State, Maung Win Hlaung Htay of Moebye, Shan State.

Next, he also presented medal and certificates to the outstanding students of the Nationalities Youths Resource Development Degree College (Mandalay) Maung Kyaw Thu, 30 students, Kayin State, Maung Hein Zaya of Mindat, Chin State and Maung Soe Moe Kyaw of Mawlamyine, Mon State.

The national solidarity is an inborn duty of all the national races.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 called on the youths to make relentless efforts for development of their regions by making the most of knowledge and education obtained from the degree college, to try hard to be exemplary in fostering Union Spirit and nationalistic spirit among the national races, and to strive for enhancing the living standard of local people who reside in border areas.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 presented medal and certificates to outstanding students for 2004-2005 academic years of Nationalities Youths Resource Devel-

opment Degree College (Yangon) conferred Bachelor of Science on 11 students. Nationalities Youths Resource Development Degree College (Yangon) conferred Bachelor of Science on 38 students. Nationalities Youths Resource Development Degree College (Mandalay) conferred Bachelor of Science on 25 students and B.Sc degree on 21 students. Nationalities Youths Resource Development Degree Colleges (Yangon/Mandalay) conferred Bachelor of Science on 58 students. Nationalities Youths Resource Development Degree College (Mandalay) conferred Bachelor of Science on 38 students. Nationalities Youths Resource Development Degree College (Mandalay) conferred Bachelor of Science on 58 students. Nationalities Youths Resource Development Degree College (Mandalay) conferred Bachelor of Science on 38 students.
BANGLADESH

BANGLADESH’s ready-made garments export earning rises

DHAKA, 7 June — Bangladesh has earned over 1.5 billion US dollars by exporting ready-made garments (RMG) during the first quarter of the current year, local daily The Nation reported on Monday.

Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) sources said, although the earning was 38 per cent more than the previous quarter from exporting knitwear but earning from woven garments was much less.

BGMEA President Anisul Haque was quoted by the newspaper as saying that after post MFA (Multi-Fiber Arrangement) ready-made garments exporters are facing very tough competition.

However, he said that the BGMEA with the assistance of the government was trying to successfully face the situation.

The Multifiber Arrangement (MFA) was introduced in 1974 and set up a system of quotas designed to protect the apparel industries in developed countries. Expiring on January 1, 2005, many poor countries that have benefited from quotas will be forced to compete with producers elsewhere.

Referring to the enforcement of order from China, Haque said order was tradecasting but not price, so what will happen is not clear — MNA/Xinhua

Uganda police net key suspect in bank robbery

KAMPALA, 7 June — Police in eastern Uganda have netted a key suspect in the Stanbic Bank robbery.

The Mhale District Police Commander, Stephen Musoke told Xinhua by telephone on Monday that Fred Woswama, the chief escort of the bullion van in which 700 million shillings (about 402,300 US dollars) was stolen early this year, was arrested by police last Wednesday.

Musoke said that police shot and deflated the tyres of the saloon car in which Woswama was travelling in after the driver refused to stop.

Woswama’s girlfriend, Rhoda Nafuna and the driver Richard Musiga were also arrested.

Musoke said that police have started getting valuable information from Woswama. He, however, noted that no money has been recovered yet.

He said that Woswama’s arrest brings the number of those arrested directly in connection to the robbery to two, with one still on the run. — MNA/Xinhua

Israeli Cabinet approves economic reform proposal

JERUSALEM, 6 June — Israeli Cabinet Sunday approved a set of economic reforms proposed by Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and amended by the Prime Minister’s Office.

The reform proposal was approved by voting, with 12 in favour and 6 against, local newspaper Haaretz reported.

The plans contain a three-year 150 million shekels (34 million US dollars) programme to help women with children join the work force, including increasing subsidies to low-income mothers, providing discounts for day care centres and increasing the number of places available in those centres.

To promote workforce participation among the general population, Netanyahu plans to provide 2,200 shekel (500 dollar) income tax credit for the unemployed who find jobs.

After the approval, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said that the economic programme should better the condition of the poor, adding “it is not a total solution, but it does improve matters”.

Stanley Fischer, governor of the Bank of Israel, defended the plan, saying “it would lower taxes for almost all social strata, especially for the poor and middle classes.

“I think it is a step in the right direction from the perspective of social policy and macroeconomics,” Fischer was quoted as saying. — MNA/Xinhua

Heavy rains cause huge losses in S-W China county

CHONGQING, 6 June — More than 40,000 people were reported killed and about 3,000 hectares of crops were damaged by heavy rains that hit Qijiang County of Chongqing Municipality from Friday evening to Saturday morning, local government said on Sunday.

No casualties were reported thanks to early warning efforts, according to the government of Qijiang County.

By Saturday night, 12 hours of continuous torrential rains and ensuing floods had flattened 500 houses and stranded another 2,000 in the county.

More than 300 landslides were reported, causing a halt of local railway and highway transportation.

Qijiang County communications authorities dispatched 51 passenger buses to transport more than 2,000 passengers stranded at the Qijiang Railway Station to Chongqing when highway traffic was resumed on Saturday.

The water level of the Qijiang River reached 223.5 metres by Saturday after rising 5.8 metres above the warning line. Hongqiao District, Zhongshan Road and some other places in the eastern county town were flooded. Officials of the county government have rushed to the disaster areas to direct relief efforts. — MNA/Xinhua

Beijing invests heavily in environmental protection

BEIJING, 7 June — The national capital Beijing spent 14.1 billion yuan (1.7 billion US dollars) in environmental protection last year, accounting for 3.3 per cent of the city’s total GDP for the same year, a government gazette published on Sunday shows.

The money was mainly used to build infrastructural facilities, harness industrial polluting sources and build other projects to improve local environment.

Beijing invested 81.3 billion yuan (9.83 billion US dollars) in environmental protection in the period from 1998 to 2004, of which US dollars) in environmental protection in the period from 1998 to 2004, of which

result of coal burning, increasing number of motor vehicles, tensing resources and regional environmental deterioration.

Air pollution control will be a major task for Beijing, Du said. Beijing saw 229 days with fine air quality last year, five days more than that for the previous year — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese mechanics repairing a car near electric pylons in Beijing, China, on Monday, 6 June, 2005. — INTERNET
**Frejus tunnel linking France, Italy to be closed for months**

París, 6 June — French Transport Minister Dominique Perben, in Modane on Sunday, pledged to push through tougher road safety measures following Saturday’s blaze at the Frejus tunnel linking France and Italy through the Alps.

Perben, who took over the Transport Ministry in last week’s major reshuffle of the French Government, insisted that security measures had helped “save lives”. “The intervention plan worked well,” French news channel TF1 quoted Perben as saying on Sunday.

The Frejus tunnel will remain closed for months after a massive blaze that killed two Slovenian truck drivers, authorities said.

“The blaze spread rapidly, engulfing several vehicles and killing the two Slovenian drivers, identified as 23-year-old Doblan Vukanovic and 24-year-old Pavol Blanarovik. Several others suffered from smoke inhalation, but were not seriously hurt. It took six hours for firefighters to bring the flames under control. The Frejus tunnel fire was apparently started by a fuel leak. French officials said a total of five vehicles had gone up in flames.

The Frejus tunnel was opened to road traffic in 1980 but has come under increasing strain in recent years due to the growing amount of trans-Alpine traffic. MNA/Xinhua

**Villepin pledges to mobilize whole nation against unemployment**

París, 6 June — New French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin on Sunday vowed to mobilize the whole nation against unemployment.

“We are not the first government to mobilize for employment, but I want us to be the first government that consecrates all its energy, without taboo, to mobilizing the whole nation," Villepin said in the wake of the French rejection of the European Union’s constitutional treaty on 29 May. MNA/Xinhua

**Government announces to sell off 6% of France Telecom**

París, 6 June — French Finance Minister Thierry Breton on Sunday announced that the French Government had decided to sell off another six to eight per cent of the national telecommunication operator France Telecom. The announcement Sunday of the sale comes one day after the expiry of a period during which the government had pledged not to further reduce its stake in France Telecom. After selling off nearly 11 per cent of France Telecom last November, French Government “committed itself Sunday to sell around 6 per cent” of the operator’s capital, he said, adding that the amount would reach 8 per cent.

The sale directly and indirectly of 152 to 198 million shares by the state will reduce its stake in France Telecom to 33 to 35 per cent, according to the minister. MNA/Xinhua

**OAS opens General Assembly meetings in Florida**

Fort Lauderdale, 6 June — The Organization of American States (OAS) formally opened its three-day General Assembly meetings here in the southern US state of Florida on Sunday evening.

During the meetings, the delegates from 34 countries are expected to discuss measures to strengthen democracy, reduce poverty and step up cooperation in the struggle against terrorism and drugs. Moreover, the meetings are also expected to discuss the political meltdown in Bolivia that strike the right balance between solidarity and freedom,” he said.

The OAS General Assembly meetings are held under the leadership of Secretary-General Jose Miguel Insulza of Chile, who was elected to the post on 2 May. Earlier on Sunday, the OAS held a dialogue with its permanent observers and Chinese ambassador to the United States Zhou Zhenzhong made remarks at the dialogue.

Zhou said that China attaches high importance to the OAS and has been making unremitting efforts to promote cooperation and relations between the two sides, and he also took the opportunity to express thanks to the OAS and its members for adhering to the one China policy.

“It is universally recognized by the international community that there is only one China in the world, and that Taiwan is part of China. Reunification of the Mainland and Taiwan is the common aspiration of all the Chinese people. It is an irreversible trend that accords with time,” Zhou said. MNA/Xinhua

**China cracks down on test paper frauds**

Beijing, 6 June — China has cracked down on 28 cases of test paper frauds ahead of the annual college entrance exams, with 21 people detained and four others fined, sources with the Ministries of Education and Public Security said here on Sunday.

In these cases, the criminal suspects used the Internet to spread information that they had obtained leaked test papers of the upcoming college entrance exam, and offered to supply "reliable answers" to mobile phone text messages during the exam for those who remit money to their bank accounts in advance.

Such cases were reported in quite a few regions across the country, including central China’s Henan Province and east China’s Anhui and Jiangsu provinces.

Local police found that the detained suspects, who usually launched web sites with appealing names such as “easy exam,” posted messages on high school BBS, and opened bank accounts with fake ID cards, actually had nothing in their hands.

The sources with the two ministries did not disclose whether there had been someone who fell for the trick and remitted money to the suspects’ accounts.

However, they claimed that “all test papers of the college entrance exams were under tight and effective protection” and urged all exam-taking students and their parents not to believe any story of “test paper leaks” or get involved in any illegal deals for the “exam answers”.

They also warned that anyone involved in the exam-related frauds “would face severe punishment”.

A total of 8.67 million Chinese students will attend the college entrance exams this year, which are scheduled for 7 to 10 June. MNA/Xinhua

**Two construction workers take a meal break beneath an advertising poster during demolition work of an old property in Shanghai, China, on 6 June, 2005.** — Internet

**THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**
Wednesday, 8 June, 2005

Members of the Maori dance and culture group Kahurangi perform at the opening of the Mitariki Festival in the Hawkes Bay on the east coast of New Zealand on 6 June, 2005. — Internet
Ljungberg warns Arsenal of quitting
London, 6 June— Freddie Ljungberg warned Arsenal on Sunday that he will leave if Arsenal fails to show greater ambition.

This dealt another blow to the Gunners in a week in which their full-back Ashley Cole was found guilty for his involvement in the ‘tapping-up’ saga. “I won’t re-sign if the club’s ambition does not match mine,” midfieldler Ljungberg, 28, told the Sunday Express. “I can’t see how we can win the Champions League if we are relying on bringing in 18 and 19-year-olds.”

Arsene Wenger’s Arsenal side stumbled again in European club football’s premier tournament this season, when they fell to Bayern Munich in the last 16. They lost their Premiership crown to Chelsea without putting up much of a fight, although they did manage to pack up the FA Cup at the expense of Manchester United.

“What I’m saying is not about money it’s about ambition,” added Ljungberg.

Chairman of London’s 2012 Olympic bid Sebastian Coe (R) answers questions with Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell (C) and Mayor of London Ken Livingstone during a news conference in Canary Wharf, London, on 6 June, 2005. Coe hailed a report from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Monday as proof that London is on course to win its bid to host the 2012 Games.—INTERNET

International Dragon Boat Rally held in Three Gorges
Yichang, China, 6 June— The Fourth Yangtze River Gorges International Dragon Boat Rally opened Sunday in Yichang City of central China’s Hubei Province to commemorate Qu Yuan, an ancient Chinese poet and world cultural celebrity who died more than 2000 years ago.

Twenty teams took part in the contest, which includes a 500-metre straight way speed match on Sunday and a 35-kilometre rally on Monday are held in the middle reaches of the Yangtze River and the site of Ge Zhou Ba and Three Gorges Dam hydrogen power projects in the west mountain area of Hubei, has held the rally for three times since 1992. The rally has been recognized by the International Dragon Boat Federation as a standard contest.

Qu Yuan, the most famous poet in Chinese ancient history, took his own life by drowning himself in the MiHuo River then in Zigui, his hometown, after knowing the kingdom he served was to be conquered in 278 BC. He has been seen as a legendary patriotic figure by Chinese people and was listed by the World Peace Council as one of the four world cultural celebrities in 1953. Qu Yuan’s poems such as Li Sao and Jiu Ge were first introduced to overseas about 153 years ago in German language.

It is believed that the Chinese traditional festival Duanwu that is set on the fifth day of the fifth month in Chinese lunar calendar, normally in mid June and this year on 11th June, came from the date of Qu Yuan’s suicide. On the day, People would make sticky rice deserts wrapped in bamboo leaves called Zongzi and throw them into the river as sacrifice, and hold dragon boat contests to commemorate the poet.

Chinese has kept the dragon boat competition tradition for nearly 1,600 years and now it has become a well-liked sport in China and some other 100 countries and regions. A dragon boat team in contest normally includes a drummer, a steersman and ten paddlers.

Beijing launches volunteer programme for 2008 Olympics
Beijing, 7 June— The Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympic Games (BOCOG) on Sunday launched its volunteer programme at a high-profile ceremony attended by International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge.

Rogge and BOCOG President Liu Qi jointly unveiled the logo of the Beijing Olympic Volunteers Programme at the ceremony held at Beijing Hotel, marking the start of the volunteer recruitment campaign.

“Volunteerism gives personal enrichment, it is a once-in-a-life experience, and a wonderful human adventure,” said Rogge.

“They (volunteers) have one ideal: to promote the Olympic Values, and to prepare the best conditions for the athletes of the world to compete in a fair and peaceful competition,” he added.

According to BOCOG, some 70,000 volunteers will work for the 2008 Olympics, and college and secondary school students will constitute the majority. It stressed the importance of volunteers’ role in the 2008 Games. — MNA/Xinhua

Van der Sar set to join Manchester United
London, 6 June— Fulham’s Edwin van der Sar is all set to complete a move to Manchester United, his agent Rob Jansen disclosed on Sunday.

“The deal is done in principle,” Jansen told skysports.com. “It will be finalized in a week. Edwin is very happy, it is an honour for him to play for a club like United.”

Van der Sar is set to sign a two-year deal at Old Trafford, once he has returned from international duty with Holland.

The 34-year-old won his 100th cap for the Orange on Saturday as he helped his country to a 2-0 win over Romania.

Van der Sar will be in Finland on Wednesday before returning to England when he will complete the formalities of the deal.

Sar Alex Ferguson has moved quickly to land van der Sar, after Roy Carroll left the club last week.

The move represents the end of a long chase for Ferguson who first moved for van der Sar in 1999, but was pipped by Juventus.

Ferguson has opted for van der Sar, ahead of the likes of Antti Niemi, Shay Given, Paul Robinson and Andreas Isaksson.

Van der Sar will sign a new deal recently, will be number two to van der Sar next term although Ferguson may yet add a third senior goalkeeper to his ranks over the summer. — MNA/Xinhua

Former Premier League chief blasts Chelsea
London, 6 June— Former Premier League chief executive Peter Leaver accused Chelsea of “breathing arrogance” on Sunday over their alleged approach to Frank Arnesen.

Cards are now stacked against Chelsea when Tottenham suspended their sporting director on Saturday, although Chelsea deny an illegal approach Leaver told BBC Five Live: “Where does the truth lie when one has had what happened over the Ashley Cole case?”

“My problem is it is a breathtaking display of arrogance by Chelsea in the aftermath of the Ashley Cole affair.”

Chelsea have insisted that they made an ‘official approach’ to Spurs for Arnesen to move to Stamford Bridge.

But a statement on the Spurs web site said: “This approach was made both prior to requesting permission and without permission from the club.”

The story broke only days after Chelsea were fined 300,000 pounds and handed a suspended three-point deduction for ‘tapping up’ Arsenal defender Ashley Cole.

And Leaver said that Chelsea’s behaviour is damaging their relationship with the other Premier League clubs.

“I think if people behave well it doesn’t really matter what their muscles are,” added Leaver, who resigned as the Premier League’s chief executive in March 1999.

“I think the real problem arrives when people start behaving arrogantly and behaving Improperly and behaving badly.

“They have to live with 19 other clubs in the Premier League. The way they are going about things at the moment seems to me to make it very difficult to live with those clubs.”

Leaver wants to see tests introduced to ensure that the right kind of people are working in football.

“It seems to me it is going to be inevitable that there should be a fit and proper qualification for anyone who is going to be involved in football administration,” said Leaver.

“If there were such a test, as there is in financial services, the authorities would be looking very long and very hard at what is going on at Chelsea at the moment.”

Former Tottenham director of football David Pleat believes that ‘tapping up’ happens all the time.

“I am surprised but there is no loyalty in football,” said Pleat on BBC’s Sportswear.

“People have agreements and contacts but, inevitably, in 90% of the cases when they move they have already had the whisper and then comes the formal approach.

“I left last year in May and the following day Frank Arnesen was in place, so exactly the same thing happened when he left PSV Eindhoven.

“Unfortunately football does not stand up when you talk about loyalty.”

And he suggested that Spurs deserved better from Arnesen.

“I think Frank Arnesen, having secured a very good job in certain circumstances, has been rather disloyal to Tottenham — if he now needs to go and he is obviously going for one reason,” added Pleat.

“When Frank was thinking of retiring from PSV, Tottenham came along and I introduced him to them, to speak to him about how the football director relationship works.

“They came back and were obviously quite seduced by Frank, gave Frank a terrific opportunity here but (in) the course of his career in that role, gave him a contract at whatever money and he was more than happy to come. — MNA/Xinhua

Fulham goalkeeper Edwin van der Sar of the Netherlands raises his hands during the group One World Cup 2006 qualifier against Romania in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, on 6 June, 2005. Manchester United have signed Van der Sar from Premier League rivals Fulham, United said on their website on Sunday. — INTERNET

US mily keeps Afghan detainees thirsty for days

KABUL, 7 June — While complaints against the US Army over the detainees abuse is on rise, an Afghan daily revealed new mistreatment of detainees at US Army detention centres in Afghanistan on Monday.

“The detainees are kept thirsty for several US military custody in Bagram 50 kilometres north of Kabul since 2002,” the Kabul Echo reported in its latest issue.

The report published on front page quoted a former US Army interpreter saying that a detainee was dying but he was denied water for four days.

“Another detainee was denied water for two days but the prosecutor emptied water bottle on the ground instead of giving to him,” the daily added quoting the interpreter.

However, the newspaper did not disclose the name of the interpreter.

Over 400 Afghans, according to Afghan sources have been held in some 23 US military holding facilities in Afghanistan on charge of having links with Taleban and al-Qaeda networks.

Afghan sources in the past also accused the US military of abusing detainees at their detention centres.

At least two Afghans, according to media reports, have died at US military custody in Bagram 50 kilometres north of Kabul since 2002.

The report, which caused outrage among Afghans, has angered President Hamid Karzai and prompted him to ask US Government for investigation into the case last month.

US Army began a top to bottom review of detainees conditions and investigation into the alleged abuses at its detention centre in Afghanistan last year but the result has yet to be made public.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Tuesday, 7 June, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunder showers have been widespread in Chin State and Taninthayi Division, scattered in Shan, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing and Yangon Divisions, isolated in Kayah State, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions with isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Division and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kawthong (3.15) inches, Mawlamyine (2.71) inches, Thaton (1.81) inches, Dawei (1.33) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (1.14) inches and Hpa-an (1.06) inches.

Maximum temperature on 6-6-2005 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 7-6-2005 was 75°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 7-6-2005 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 6-6-2005 was 95 hours (approx). Rainfalls on 7-6-2005 were (0.47) inch at Yangon Airport, (1.14 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (0.24 inch) at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (11.02) inches at Yangon Airport, (11.73 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (7.80 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (11) mph from South-west (12-20) hours MST on 6-6-2005.

Bay inference: Monsoon is generally strong in Andaman Sea, Central and South Bay. Weather is partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 8-6-2005: Rain or thunder showers will be widespread in Mon and Kayin States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Rakhine and Kayah States, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, isolated in Kachin, Chin and Shan States, upper Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Taninthayi Division and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Thundery conditions in the lower Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 8-6-2005: One or two rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 8-6-2005: Possibility of isolated rain or thunder showers. Degree of certainty is (40%).

Earthquake report

(Issued at 12:00 hours MST on 7th June 2005)

An earthquake of slight intensity (4.7) Richter Scale with its epicenter about (289) miles Southwest of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory in the Bay of Bengal was recorded at (09 hrs (58) min (28) sec MST on 22 June 2005.
Prime Ministers exchange messages of felicitations

YANGON, 8 June — The following is the message from His Excellency Mr Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China, to His Excellency Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar:

On the auspicious occasion of the 55th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the People’s Republic of China and the Union of Myanmar, I would like to, on behalf of the government of the People’s Republic of China and in my own name, extend to Your Excellency and through you to the government of the Union of Myanmar our warmest congratulations. The two peoples of China and Myanmar have been living in harmony and amity since very ancient time and the Pauk-Pawh friendship has been rooted deep into the hearts of the two peoples. Ever since the two countries established diplomatic relations 55 years ago, with the meticulous care of the two leaders and joint efforts of the two peoples, China and Myanmar have made fruitful achievements in cooperation of all fields, enjoying political trust with each other and economic cooperation of mutual benefit, as well as good coordination in international and regional affairs. The Chinese government attaches great importance to develop friendly cooperative relations of good-neighbourliness with Myanmar, and would adhere to the Principle of “Treating neighbours with goodwill and as partners” to make joint efforts with the Myanmar government to consolidate the traditional friendship and deepen the mutually beneficial cooperation, so as to open new chapters of the Sino-Myanmar friendly relations.

May the Union of Myanmar enjoy prosperity and her people well-being.

MNA

Basic education schools and universities and colleges opened for locals

Chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein this afternoon made an address to the meeting with the students who got bachelor of arts and science degree and AGTI diploma from Nationalities Youths Resource Development Degree Colleges (Yangon, Mandalay) of the Ministry of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs.

The meeting took place at the Diamond Ju-