**Senior General Than Shwe sends message of sympathy to PRC President**

YANGON, 15 June — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Hu Jintao, President of the People’s Republic of China for the loss of life and property caused by the recent floods and landslides in Hunan, Sichuan and Guizhou Provinces and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China. — MNA

**Independence and sovereignty are the most valuable heritage of the nation**

It is the national duty of all citizens to safeguard the heritage throughout the generation.

“Our Three Main National Causes” and 12 political, economic and social objectives are the national policy of Myanmar.

YANGON, 15 June — The opening of Myanmar and International Studies Course No 8 conducted by the Union Solidarity and Development Association took place at the USDA Training Centre in Hmawby Township this morning, with an address by Member of USDA Central Panel of the Patrons Prime Minister Li-Gen Soe Win.

Also present on the occasion were USDA Secretariat members, CEC members, guests, course in-charge Lt-Col Khin Win, course instructors and trainees.

The Prime Minister in his speech said that the course is nurturing and training educated new generation youths to become a reliable force of the nation.

The course covers subjects on national politics, State security, State’s political affairs, economic and social development, and international affairs. The trainees have an opportunity to study Myanmar and international affairs.

The scope of Myanmar and international studies is quite broad, so the trainees should pay a serious attention to the subjects, considering the experiences they have faced in their lives.

The purpose of the courses constantly conducted by the Association is to develop human resources and to shape the brighter future of the nation. The subjects on knowledge, education, vocation, and modern technologies are prescribed to flourish firm belief and conviction, the spirit through which the people want to live in peace and stability and share weal and woe, the spirit of building the nation, and Union Spirit among the trainees, to preserve national character and to sharpen the skills of the trainees. As a result, the drive enhances the capability of the nation and imparts the trainees with Union Spirit, nationalist fervour and skills.

Myanmar is blessed with fine geographic features and moderate climates and rich in natural resources. These strengths are gained from the natural world. Another strength is the Myanmar society, which has many fine cultural traditions. Myanmar people possess such outstanding characteristics as perseverance, bravery, patience and forgiveness.

(See page 8)

**Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.**
Myanmar determined to fight against trafficking in persons

The Union of Myanmar does not condone the practice of trafficking in persons and is constantly striving to overcome the pernicious practice under the guidance of the Government and leadership of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and with the cooperation of the entire national people. However, the big nation has turned a blind eye to the firm determination demonstrated by Myanmar in eradicating the problem of trafficking in persons and the progress achieved so far.

The fifth annual report on trafficking in persons issued by US State Department this month has totally ignored Myanmar’s efforts to combat trafficking in persons and its enthusiastic cooperation with neighbouring countries and international organizations. Therefore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar on 9 June, 2005, issued an announcement with respect to the report of the US State Department. In the announcement, it is mentioned that the report lacks objectivity and does not inspire greater action against human trafficking.

While the report alleges that Myanmar does not comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons and is not making significant efforts to do so, it acknowledges that Myanmar has made improved efforts to combat trafficking. It also criticizes Myanmar for providing minimal assistance to victims but acknowledges that Myanmar has set up a repatriation centre on the Myanmar-Thai border. Therefore, the report is contradictory.

The Preventive Working Committee for Trafficking in Persons established in July, 2002, has been very active in carrying out its work. During the period between 2002 and 2004, the committee reviewed 474 cases. As a result, 519 persons had legal action taken against them; 2,629 victims were rescued; 722,061 were educated; 2,515 persons had legal action taken against them; 307 cases for failure to register and eight others.

Moreover, the Committee on Combating Trafficking in Persons, the Preventive Working Committee for Trafficking in Persons and the Task Force managed to expose 219 drugs-related cases during May 2005. The drugs-related cases exposed were 91.8075 kilos of opium in 31 cases, 6.5819 kilos of heroin in 78 cases, 0.4519 kilo of opium oil in 11 cases, 0.6157 kilo of low-grade opium in 12 cases, 4.2325 kilos of marijuana in 14 cases, 3,860 stimulant tablets in 52 case, 19 kilos of stimulant powder in one case, 0.1 litre of cough syrup in one case, 10.27 kilos of speciosa in seven cases, 102.05 kilos of stimulant in one case, 150.15 litres of chemical liquid in one case, two cases for failure to register and eight others.

In connection with the cases, action was taken against 320 persons—273 men and 47 women.

Self-reliant library opened

YANGON, 15 June — In an effort to disseminate general knowledge to people, a self-reliant library of Gwaybin Village-tract in Seikphyu Township was inaugurated on 10 June. At the opening ceremony, wellwishers donated books on general knowledge and 20 chairs. Chairman of Seikphyu Township Peace and Development Council U Myint Soe and Gwawbin Village PDC Chairman U Mya Thaung formally opened the library.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT DONATED: Mr Oliver E Soe Thet & Daw Khin Khet Khaing and German Interplast donated one operation table, one operation light, one suction machine and one air-conditioner worth K 4 million to Thandwe Hospital on 12-6-2005. The medical superintendent of the hospital accepts the donations. — MNA

People’s Desire

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

Sitwain GTC: Site of Yeggyanbin Sluice Gate inspected

YANGON, 15 June — Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council and Commander of Western Command, accompanied by Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung of Sitwain Station and departmental personnel, arrived at Government Technological College in Sitwain on 13 June morning.

Principal Dr Win Naing briefed the commander on academic and construction matters and greening tasks in the environs of the college. Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung of Sitwain Station gave a supplementary report.

The commander instructed officials to try hard to complete the tasks in time meeting the set standard.

219 drugs-related cases exposed during May

YANGON, 15 June — Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force and Customs Department managed to expose 219 drugs-related cases during May 2005. The drugs-related cases exposed were 91.8075 kilos of opium in 31 cases, 6.5819 kilos of heroin in 78 cases, 0.4519 kilo of opium oil in 11 cases, 0.6157 kilo of low-grade opium in 12 cases, 4.2325 kilos of marijuana in 14 cases, 3,860 stimulant tablets in 52 case, 19 kilos of stimulant powder in one case, 0.1 litre of cough syrup in one case, 10.27 kilos of speciosa in seven cases, 102.05 kilos of stimulant in one case, 150.15 litres of chemical liquid in one case, two cases for failure to register and eight others.

In connection with the cases, action was taken against 320 persons—273 men and 47 women.

Complementary copies of Yangon Tourist Map (09-2005) distributed

YANGON, 15 June — The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Design Printing Services Co Ltd (DPS) has already distributed Yangon Tourist Map (09-2005).

Yangon Tourist Map (09-2005) features detailed Yangon map, residences of entrepreneurs. It precisely describes locations and telephone numbers of international airlines, embassies of foreign missions, hotels, inns, restaurants, travel and tour services, golf courses, medical centres, courier services, language schools, beauty spa and taxi and transport services. Besides, markets for world tourists, international standard showrooms, museums, pagodas, gems and jewellery shops and souvenir shops with complete map references included in it.

Businessmen from hotels, travel and tour operators, embassies, airlines, restaurants and souvenir shops across the country may take out copies of Yangon Tourist Maps by showing a copy of company’s register and a letter of special power at DPS No (165-167), 35th Street, First Floor, Kyauktada Township (Tel - 204020) during office hours with free of charge.

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flaunted
* Do not be softened whenever approached
Malaysian PM offers hints to invest in Asia

HONG KONG, 14 June— Business decision-makers should pay special attention to identities of different markets when they are investing in Asia, Prime Minister of Malaysia said here Monday.

While addressing at the dinner of the 38th International General Meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council, Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, Prime Minister of Malaysia, said Asia is changing into a region that is more dynamic and robust, more integrated and more innovation-driven, which he called it a “New Asia”.

No matter how interconnected and interdependent Asia will be, the different markets in the region will still have their own identities and their own preferences, he added. “Standards may be increasingly harmonized across borders, but tastes and consumer wants will still be highly localized. This presents a great challenge to those wanting to ‘conquer Asia’, he said. He suggested business leaders do well to tease out the differences and use them to their advantage.

Badawi also advised business decision-makers not to concentrate resources on one location because of differences within Asia, which he believed is a “short-sighted approach”.

Different places within Asia have their comparative advantages which can be woven into a very strong and profitable value chain, he said. The terrain in Asia calls for a balanced approach in operations and investments. Only then would the true advantage of Asia be fully leveraged.—MNA/Xinhua

EU Ambassador to China hails Sino-EU textile agreement

BEIJING, 14 June — The EU Ambassador to China Serge Abou on Monday hailed the Sino-EU textile agreement.

The agreement is “inspired by partnership” and “well-balanced”, Abou said, noting it will benefit the EU textile industry and the EU’s neighbour countries which also have great employment in the industry. He said that besides trade and economic cooperation, the European Union carried out broad exchange and cooperation with China in other fields, such as science and technology, aviation and agriculture.

— MNA/Xinhua

Indonesia supports OPEC’s decision to increase oil output quota

JAKARTA, 14 June— Indonesia will support the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) if the oil cartel decides to raise its output quota by 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 28 million bpd, a top executive has said.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Purnomo Yusgiantoro was quoted Tuesday by The Jakarta Post as saying OPEC should maintain its current quota and, if possible, even produce more oil to ease the soaring global oil prices and meet higher demand in the fourth quarter of the year.

“There have been talks about an increase in the quota by 500,000 bpd,” Purnomo said.

“I think (the raise) is a good move.”

Ministers from 11 member countries of OPEC will meet at the organization’s headquarters in Vienna on Wednesday to discuss their production strategy for the rest of the year.

The group’s official production target was boosted from 27 million bpd to 27.5 million bpd in April to help slash the soaring oil prices.

Purnomo said, however, that this month’s possible quota increase would not alter the state budget.

“We have already set oil prices at 45 US dollars a barrel in the revised state budget,” he said.

Analysts believe that the planned increase in the quota will not have a significant impact on the price of crude oil, which has fluctuated around 50 US dollars for the past five months, as actual production from OPEC member countries is already higher than the quota.

According to data from Indonesia’s chapter of OPEC, the organization produced 30.4 million bpd in April — including two million bpd output from Iraq, whose production has not been calculated into OPEC’s quota since the Gulf War.

— MNA/Xinhua

China spends 250m yuan annually for relic protection

SHENYANG, 14 June— The Chinese Ministry of Finance starts to allocate 250 million yuan every year from 2005, in an effort to protect the country’s large-scale historical heritage.

The information was released from an on-going forum on relics survey and relics database construction held in capital of northeast China’s Liaoning Province.

Large-scale historical relics refer to those immovable heritage with high historical and cultural value, which occupy large areas. Shanqiaoqian, Head of the State Administration of Cultural Heritage, said that protection efforts will first go to those well-known relics sites, such as A’fang Palace of Qin Dynasty (221 BC-206 BC), imposing Chang’an City of Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD), Hanyang Mausoleum of Han Dynasty and Daming Palace of Tang Dynasty (618-907).

— MNA/Xinhua

Two US soldiers killed by roadside bomb in western Iraq

BAKUHD, 14 June— Two US soldiers were killed when a roadside bomb struck their vehicle in western Iraq, the US military said on Tuesday.

The soldiers, assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, were killed on Monday in the volatile city of Ramadi, 110 km west of Baghdad, the military said in a statement. Over 1,700 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion in March 2003, according to media tally.

— Internet

Polio cases in Indonesia soar to 34

JAKARTA, 14 June— Indonesia has seen six more cases of polio confirmed, bringing the total number of children afflicted with the crippling virus up to 34, local newspaper reported on Monday. One of the newly confirmed cases came from the West Java regency of Sukabumi, where the first polio case was found in April, and five were found in the neighbouring regencies of Lebak, Cianjur and Bogor, said The Jakarta Post. The polio cases could increase further in the near future as the Ministry of Health and WHO are waiting for the results of laboratory tests on 40 other stool samples.— MNA/Xinhua

Japan’s Airlines’ Boeing 767, flight from new Chitose airport, northern island of Hokkaido, sits in a runway after landing at Tokyo airport in Tokyo, on 15 June, 2005. — Internet

A US humvee is driven past an army lorry as it burns after being attacked by a roadside bomb in southern Baghdad on 14 June, 2005. — Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 16 June, 2005 3
China’s railway construction opens to foreign investment

JINAN, 14 June — Six railway construction projects in east China’s Shandong Province are open to foreign investment, the province’s State Assets Regulatory and Management Committee has announced.

The move made Shandong the first province to admit foreign capital into the sector after the nation issued new management regulations on foreign investment at the end of 2004, which no longer restrict the flow-in of foreign capital into the field.

Railway construction is used to be considered as strategic resources and was solely funded by state capital in the country.

Foreign investors can solely fund the six rail lines in Shandong, set up joint ventures or buy the property rights.

The total investment of the six projects are expected to exceed five billion yuan (about 600 million US dollars). As China’s second-largest economy by the provincial level, Shandong is in urgent need of all kinds of resources and expansion of the transportation capacity, especially the railway transportation.

The province requires an effective railway network, to expedite its import and export channels and prop up its economy, said Li Chang’en, deputy director of the Shandong Railway Bureau.

Li said the six rail lines are an essential part of the province’s railway network. The lines pass the resource-intensive areas where large state-owned coal mines and petroleum companies are located.

The six lines include the Longkou-Yantai Line, the Lingy-Yushui Line, the Dalaijiong Line, the Pingjiang-Lashah Line, the Zhaoshuang-Linyi Line and the Longkou Port Line.

Russian Railways, the world’s largest railway company, will cooperate with the Shandong Railway Bureau to build the lines.

Iranian Oil Minister to visit Pakistan for talks on gas pipeline

ISLAMABAD, 14 June — Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh would visit Pakistan on 20 and 21 June to discuss the proposed four-billion-US-dollar Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project, Foreign Office spokesman Jali Abass Jilani said Monday at a weekly news briefing.

Zanganeh’s visit follows the talks between Indian Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar and his Pakistani counterpart Amanullah Khan Jadoon and Pakistani oil minister Amanullah Khan.

Four US troops wounded in attack in east of Kandahar

KABUL, 14 June — Four US soldiers were wounded on Monday when a suspected improvised explosive device detonated near Kandahar, said the US-led coalition forces.

The US soldiers, travelling in a convoy, were on their way from Lashkar Gah to Kandahar for an unknown mission, said the coalition in a Press release.

It also denied the previous reports which said five soldiers were killed.

Earlier, Kandahar police chief General Ayub Salang told Xinhua that five US troops were killed in a suicide bomb attack while the suicide attacker was killed at the site.

Chinese gold enterprises register profit growth

BEIJING, 14 June — Chinese gold enterprises have raked in a profit of 1.07 billion yuan between January and April, up 41.15 per cent over the same period of last year, statistics from the China Gold Association (CGA) said here on Monday.

According to Monday’s China Securities Journal, China produced 60.258 tons of gold in the first four months of this year, up 2.85 per cent year-on-year, generating a combined industrial output value of 11.098 billion yuan, up 27.55 per cent over the same period of last year.

CGA statistics also revealed that China’s gold mines have produced 45.892 tons of gold in the first four months, down 7.52 per cent year on year;

while smelting enterprises produced 28.142 tons, up 6.49 per cent.

In a breakdown, gold output of Jiangxi Copper Group grew 10.15 per cent year on year in the period; that of Anhui Tongling Nonferrous Metal Group Company, 77.18 per cent; that of Yunnan Copper Group Company, 42.4 per cent. Gold output of Hubei Daye Nonferrous Metal Company dropped 41.96 per cent.

Vietnam send more workers abroad

HANOI, 14 June — Vietnam is expected to send 70,000 people to work abroad this year, up from 67,447 employees last year, a department under the Vietnamese Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs said on Monday.

Malaysia will become Vietnam’s biggest labour export market, followed by Taiwan, South Korea and Japan, said the Overseas Labour Management Department.

Most of the Vietnamese workers will work as caretakers, domestic servants, and workers.

To boost labour export, Vietnam is focusing on improving labour quality, expanding markets, and intensifying labour export promotion, the department said, adding that the country is negotiating with Chinese Taiwan to ask the latter to remove its decision on not receiving Vietnamese caretakers and domestic helpers due to high rate of breaking labour contracts among Vietnamese people.

Vietnam sent some 25,600 people to work abroad in the first five months of this year. Taiwan was the biggest labour export market for Vietnam in the period when receiving 14,385 workers, followed by Malaysia, South Korea and Japan.

1,704 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 14 June—As of Tuesday, 14 June, 2005, at least 1,704 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 1,300 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is one higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am on EDT Tuesday.

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

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,566 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,191 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

Since the start of US military operations in Iraq, 12,896 US servicemembers have been wounded, according to a Defence Department tally released Tuesday.

Scores of cars are lined up waiting for customers at a car lot in Beijing on Wednesday, 15 May, 2005. China’s auto sector saw profits slide 57 percent in the first four months of this year, compared with a year earlier, due to sluggish sales and rising costs. — Internet

Speed pills found in corn field in northern Thailand

BANGKOK, 14 June — Thai authorities seized on Monday some 30,000 methamphetamine tablets buried in a corn field in northern country.

The drugs, buried in soil, were found by a team of 20 soldiers that searched a corn field farmed by members of the Lahu hill tribe in Chiang Mai Province, some 1,000 kilometres north of Bangkok.

The troops also arrested a drug trafficker related to the case.

Authorities believed that intensified anti-drug measures have forced drug traffickers to find ways hiding drugs, including burying them in soil.

Use of amphetamine-style drugs has been on the rise in Southeast Asia, while traditional narcotic such as heroin in decline, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Iraqis gather to look at the wreckage of a vehicle following a car bomb in Baqubah, 60 kms from Baghdad on 14 June, 2005. — Internet

Internet
Vietnam hopes to conclude WTO entry negotiation before September

HANOI, 14 June — Vietnam is expected to conclude all bilateral negotiations on its entry in the World Trade Organization (WTO) including those with the United States and China before September, said Vietnamese Trade Minister Truong Dinh Tuyen on Tuesday.

If the United States accelerates the third negotiation round on June 13-16, it will create a great chance for the latter to join the organization in late 2005, local newspaper Pioneer quoted Tuyen as saying.

During the round, Vietnam and the United States are expected to focus their negotiations on tariff reductions, and opening up markets of services, especially in the fields of telecommunications, banking and finance.

Regarding China, the Chinese delegation will come to Vietnam on 26 June, he said, noting that the two countries last October signed a joint statement to facilitate Vietnam’s accession to the WTO.

To date, Vietnam has wrapped up bilateral negotiations with nine partners, namely the European Union, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Chile and Uruguay since it began bilateral and multilateral negotiations in 1998.

In addition to accelerating negotiations, the country is speeding up law making, with hope to join the world’s largest trade body this year.

Cambodia launches web site for garment industry news

PSINOM PSEH, 14 June — A new web site was launched here Monday which will give the latest news and research on Cambodia’s main revenue earner — garment industry.

The web site in English was launched by Better Factories Cambodia, a project of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The web site gives access to key information and research as it is published, including the ILO’s monitoring reports on labour conditions, industry studies by the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank Group, and information resources on improving working conditions and factory processes.

Wu Yi urges increasing cooperation for common prosperity in APR

HONG KONG, 14 June — Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yiong Monday called on Asia-Pacific Region (APR) countries and regions to step up cooperation in seeking common progress and prosperity by integrating into the process of world economic development.

She made the remarks in a keynote speech titled “Cooperation for Win-Win, and Harmony in Development” at a luncheon of the 38th International General Meeting of the Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) which opened here on Monday.

Wu said China is willing to further expand economic cooperation and trade exchanges with countries and regions in Asia-Pacific and the world as a whole, and promote dialogue and exchanges with them on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, mutual respect, coexistence in peace, and harmonious development.

She said the economic development of the Asia-Pacific Region is now facing new opportunities and challenges in the new century. Therefore, Asia-Pacific countries and regions must increase cooperation, develop the world as a whole.

China has been maintaining rapid and healthy economic development since the 1980s and the comprehensive national strength has witnessed marked growth, Wu said, adding China is the third largest import market in the world and the biggest in Asia.

China has in its economic development interacted with countries and regions in Asia-Pacific and the world, featuring exchange and cooperation, mutual benefit and a win-win situation, she said.

At the same time, she added, they should persevere in opening up and mutual accommodation and expand cooperation gearing to the whole world.

China is striving to build a well-off society in an all-round way in the first two decades of the 21st Century, which will for sure provide a broader market and more business opportunities for the countries and regions in Asia-Pacific and the world at large, Wu added.

Suicide car bomb hits US convoy in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 14 June — A suicide car bomb detonated on Monday near a US military convoy in Baghdad’s western district of Yarmouk, causing casualties among the US soldiers and wounding four Iraqi civilians, witnesses said.

“I saw a US helicopter landing at the scene and evacuating some wounded soldiers,” Rahman said.

Among the four injured civilians are a two-month-old baby and a 11-year-old girl who were wounded by glass in one of the nearby houses, he added.

The blast took place a few metres away from a governmental building affiliated to the Iraqi Ministry of Electricity and close to the headquarters of the Iraqi Islamic Party, a major Sunni party, he said. It was also close to the local council of Yarmouk District.

India signs $22b LNG deal with Iran

TEHRAN, 14 June — India on Monday signed a 22-billion-US-dollar contract to import five million tons of liquefied natural gas (LNG) per annum from Iran beginning 2009-10 and struck deals to invest in oil and gas fields and petrochemicals plant in the oil rich Persian Gulf nation.

The Gas Sales and Purchase Agreement (GSPA) for import of five million tons per annum of LNG at Dahej in western state of Gujarat and Kochi in southern state of Kerala beginning second half of 2009-10 was signed by a consortium of Indian state-run firms and National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC).

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad also laid the foundation stone for the $2.4 billion Haft-e-Sin LNG plant in the southern Iranian province of Bushehr.
Lenovo mulls introducing new brand besides IBM in China

BEIJING, 14 June—China’s national defence industry will be open for the first time to non-public companies this year as a new trial method is put to effect on Wednesday, the International Herald Leader reported here on Monday.

Currently, many private companies are striving to seek a licence to branch into the production, research and development of China’s weaponry industry, said the Beijing-based newspaper.

According to an official method issued by the Commission of Science Technology and Industry for National Defence, which is due to become valid on 15 June, a total of 300 licences will be issued in the latter half of this year.

In that case, the state capital’s “long-standing monopoly on China’s national defence industry will breach for the first time, and non-public companies will therefore gain unprecedented access to the special industrial sector,” Liu Dongkui, an official with the commission, said that a total of 540 companies, all state-owned, have been granted such licences in the past six years since 1999.

“Our next step is to target qualified non-public companies. About 60 to 70 private firms are now on the top of the candidates’ list,” he said.

Liu said that non-public companies would be only allowed to pitch in subordinated production.

The licences for “core military production” are still reserved for state-owned military factories. Besides, the total number of such licences will be strictly controlled.

MNA/Xinhua

Qatari FM called for south cooperation for development

KUWAIT CITY, 14 June—A senior Qatari official on Monday called on the countries of the south to further boost mutual cooperation in the fields of development strategies, investments, human resources and technologies.

Qatari First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jassem Al-Thani made the call at the foreign ministerial meeting of the Group of 77 (G-77) in the Qatari capital of Doha, the Qatar News Agency reported.

Developing countries should spare no effort to push forward their development agenda ahead of the UN General Assembly meeting next September that will examine the millennium development goals, Sheikh Hamad urged.

He underlined that development was a priority and a basic concern for the developing countries, adding “we should also make sure that the interests of developing countries are fully taken into consideration in international and multilateral economic regulations.”

Sheikh Hamad, meanwhile, noted that there are attempts to limit the role of the United Nations regarding major economic issues, warning against neglecting consequences of globalization on human values, justice, equity and prosperity for all peoples.

MNA/Xinhua

Pharmaceutical factories in GCC states increase

KUWAIT CITY, 14 June—The number of pharmaceutical factories in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states increased from 18 in 1995 to 55 in 2004, Kuwait News Agency reported on Monday.

There is also an increase in investments in the sector during the period from about 174.4 million US dollars to 793.2 million US dollars, said a report by the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consultations.

According to the report, Saudi Arabia ranked first in number of factories and size of investments, with 27 factories and 619 million US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

S Asian countries discuss human-elephant conflict in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 14 June—A regional conference opened here on Monday to exchange lessons and experiences in human-elephant conflicts among South Asian countries.

Jointly organized by the Nepali Government and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Nepal Programme, the two-day conference will focus on issues like dynamism of human-elephant conflict in relation to elephant ecology, behavior and current threats, Chandra P Gurung, Nepali representative of WWF, told reporters.

Government officials and conservation practitioners from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka are attending the conference to share their knowledge on the dynamics of human-elephant conflict and the experiences and key lessons learnt on the strategies implemented to mitigate the conflict in South Asia.

MNA/Xinhua

China hosts workshop for senior ASEAN police officers

BEIJING, 14 June—More than 30 senior officers from 10 members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on Monday began a week-long workshop host by Chinese Ministry of Public Security.

The workshop is a concrete action to implement the memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the field of non-traditional security issues signed by China and ASEAN in last January.

Both sides also issued a five-year work plan in line with the memorandum.

Vice-Minister Meng Hongwei on Monday spoke highly of the cooperation in anti-drug, anti-terrorism and other criminal cases between China and ASEAN, and called for more measures to prevent cross-border crimes.

The attendees are senior police officers responsible for anti-drug, counter-terrorism and criminal detection in their countries, some of them have participated the cooperation with Chinese police to fight against drug trafficking and transcending kidnapping, according to the organizer.

Besides the contents about police task, the officers will learn comprehensive information on China’s economic and social development. All these will help a lot in future police cooperation between China and ASEAN countries, said the organizer.

MNA/Xinhua

Non-public cos gain limited access to mily industry in China

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MNA/Xinhua

Lenovo mulls introducing new brand besides IBM Think in India

NEW DELHI, 14 June—Lenovo made its high-key debut in India Monday by announcing that it is considering bringing another brand under Lenovo to India while strengthening “Think” originally held by IBM.

The world’s third largest PC producer, just founded on 1 May, will not only keep improving products and service of Think products but also introducing Lenovo into India, Deepak Advani, senior vice president and chief marketing officer of Lenovo, told a Press conference here.

“We are thinking of introducing another brand under Lenovo,” he said.

“Lenovo has developed some good products in China which might meet the need of Indian customers, for example, it has worked out products for those not very skilled in computer or for schools where many students have to share one computer.”

The company is studying the market to make sure where the opportunities are, he added.

India PC market grew by 34.4 per cent last year and is expected to rise by 29.3 per cent this year.

Lenovo will give significant focus on India, one of the world’s fast-growing PC markets, said Ravi Narwaha, senior vice president of Lenovo in charge of worldwide sales. “We hope the sale will grow faster than the industry here.”

The company will focus more on growth markets like Asia, East Europe and South America while doubting more in products for small business and consumers market which IBM PC division paid less attention, he added.

China-based Lenovo acquired IBM’s PC division late last year and the new company, headquartered in New York, has 19,000 employees worldwide with a total revenue of 13 billion US dollars.—MNA/Xinhua

A Chinese car salesman sits under an umbrella waiting for customers at a car lot in Beijing recently.

INTERNET

A Filipino stock broker monitors a screen showing an index value graph at the Philippine Stock Exchange trading floor in Manila’s Makati financial district on 14 June, 2005.—INTERNET

INTERNET
Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa told the Press that the meeting focused on UN reforms, an expected vote in the UN General Assembly on a draft resolution submitted by four countries to increase the number of the UN Security Council (UNSC) members. The Arab stance is that it is not proper to have no Arab or Islamic representative in the UNSC under its new format, Moussa stressed. Moussa and a number of Arab foreign ministers also took part in a foreign ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which also focused on the UN reforms and called for strengthening the role of the world body to reject unilateralism. A joint declaration issued after the meeting said that the ministers "expressed their rejection of unilateralism, which could lead to the erosion and violation of international law, to the use and threat of use of force and to pressure and coercion, including unilateral sanctions by certain countries". Earlier, foreign ministers of the G-77 plus China also endorsed a final statement and a Programme of Action on Monday to lay ground-work for the second G-77 plus China Summit. The statement, expected to be approved by leaders of the G-77 at the end of the summit, highlights South-South cooperation and the combat against poverty and hunger. Leaders and representatives from over 130 developing countries are to attend the South summit dedicated to exploring ways to strengthen South-South cooperation in addition to discussions on North-South ties and UN reforms. The G-77, founded in 1964, now groups 134 developing countries. — MNA/Alhurra

FTA talks between Pakistan, Malaysia progressing well

KUALA LUMPUR, 15 June — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said on Tuesday that talks on the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between Pakistan and Malaysia were progressing well.

"The progress is good with regard to the intention between the leaders of the two countries (to have the FTA)," Musharraf, who made a brief stop-over in Malaysia on en route to Australia, was quoted as saying by the national news agency Bernama.

"We share a total understanding on international and regional issues. And we are trying to improve our commercial and trade ties as well," Musharraf told reporters before boarding his flight at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport. On Malaysia's intention to take in 100,000 Pakistani workers, Musharraf said that about 3,500 of them had either come or in the process of coming to Malaysia.

"The process will go on. It takes time to select the right people. But I know that the government of Pakistan wants to have manpower from Malaysia. And we are very keen to send our manpower to Malaysia. So it is of mutual interest to both countries," he added. Malaysia is now facing a shortage of labourers as a result of its amnesty programme launched last year. A total of 400,000 foreign immigrant workers returned to their own countries of origin during the programme, and in the following operation. — MNA/Alhurra

Susilo thanks Arroyo for release of hostages

JAKARTA, 15 June — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono has conveyed his personal thanks to Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo for the safe release of two out of three Indonesians held hostage by Muslim militants.

Susilo telephoned Arroyo on Monday to convey Jakarta’s appreciation for Manila’s efforts to free the two hostages and its hopes for the speedy release of the third man, who is still in captivity in the southern Philippines, reported The Jakarta Post newspaper Tuesday.

"The President said during the telephone conversation that he had been impressed by the efforts made by the Philippine authorities to release the two hostages and hoped to forge closer bilateral ties between the two countries in countering terrorism and transnational crimes," Presidential Spokesman Dino Patti Djalal was quoted as saying.

Yamin Labaso, 28, and Erikson Gutagao, 23, two of three Indonesian seafarers who had been held captive by Muslim gunmen on the southern Philippine island of Jolo since March, were freed after Philippine Army troops clashed with the kidnappers at dawn on Sunday.

The third hostage, identified as Achmad Resmiyadi, is still being held somewhere on the island.

Yamin Labaso, 28, and Erikson Gutagao, 23, two of three Indonesian seafarers who had been held captive by Muslim gunmen on the southern Philippine island of Jolo since March, were freed after Philippine Army troops clashed with the kidnappers at dawn on Sunday.

The third hostage, identified as Achmad Resmiyadi, is still being held somewhere on the island.

One of him had undergone full vocational training, compared with 25 per cent in Vietnam as a whole.

Vietnam with a population of over 82 million now has some 3.2 million unemployed people. The unemployment rate is nearly 7.3 per cent in urban areas and some 11 per cent in rural areas, the report said.

The country plans to double the number of skilled workers before 2010. As of last year, skilled workers accounted for 21 per cent of the country’s total labour force, far below the demand of manufacturing factories. — MNA/Alhurra

Two wounded in bomb explosion in southeastern Iran

THEHAN, 15 June — A bomb exploded in the southeastern Iranian city of Zahedan early Tuesday, wounding two people, the official IRNA news agency reported.

The explosion took place in Zahedan, capital city of Sistan-Baluchestan Province bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan, at 4:40 am local time (0010 GMT), just several hours after a bomb rattled a main street in the city.

The incident is under investigation, according to the report.

An informed source told Alhurra that witnesses had reported several dead in the first explosion in Zahedan, which has not been confirmed yet.

Iran, facing its ninth presidential elections on Friday, has witnessed nine explosions within less than three days.

Four bombs went off consecutively within two hours Sunday morning in Ahvaz, capital city of the oil-rich Khuzestan Province bordering Iraq, killing eight and wounding dozens others.

Several hours later, three bombs shook Thehan. One of them was placed around a traffic junction in the eastern part of central Thehan, killing two people and wounding three others.

Iranian Minister of Information Ali Younesi said on Monday that Iran had found the fatal bomb in Ahvaz was related to some foreign agents, stressing that the explosions could never affect the atmosphere of the election.

“We have provided for the full security of the voting stations and the people who would attend them to cast their votes,” Younesi said. — MNA/Alhurra

Four tons of heroin seized, gang smashed in south Afghanistan

KABUL, 15 June — Afghan law enforcing agencies in a major anti-drug operation in southern Helmand Province have seized four tons of heroin and arrested seven smugglers, a state-run newspaper reports on Tuesday.

"Personnel of National Security Directorate in an operation against drug traffickers in Khasneshin District of Helmand Province busted a gang and seized 4,000 kilograms of heroin from their possession yesterday," daily Anis added.

One of smugglers, the daily added, was injured during the exchange of fire. A quantity of arms including a rocket propelled grenade and two vehicles were also seized from the band.

It is the second major operation in the province against the smugglers. Personnel of Afghan Counter Narcotics Force in a three-day operation had destroyed a drug bazaar in Bahram Shah area close to Pakistani border early this month. — MNA/Alhurra

Vietnam’s rural young face unemployment

HANOI, 15 June — Seven out of 10 unemployed or under employed people in Vietnam’s rural areas are young, Vietnam Economic Times reported on Tuesday.

The underdeveloped rural economy with few processing or service industries create a limited number of jobs for local youths, who often do not want to work as farmers. However, their low educational background prevents them from taking intellectual work.

Only 1.9 per cent of rural young people have university degrees or above, compared with 15 per cent of urban peers. And only 10 per cent of employees in rural areas have undergone full vocational training, compared with 25 per cent in Vietnam as a whole.

Vietnam with a population of over 82 million now has some 3.2 million unemployed people. The unemployment rate is nearly 7.3 per cent in urban areas and some 11 per cent in rural areas, the report said.

The country plans to double the number of skilled workers before 2010. As of last year, skilled workers accounted for 21 per cent of the country’s total labour force, far below the demand of manufacturing factories. — MNA/Alhurra

The entire Myanmar society is desirous of building a modern developed nation. Such desire is a driving force to achieve the goal. A peaceful, modern developed nation is to be built with national capability, strong belief and conviction by mutual non-aggression; non-interference in the each other’s internal affairs; respect for mutual equality and work for mutual benefit; and peaceful co-existence — mutual respect for each other’s territorial integrity and sovereignty; to abide from patriotism, the nation has regained her independence and sovereignty.

Independence and sovereignty are the most valuable heritage of the nation. It is the national duty of all citizens to safeguard the heritage throughout the generations. The USDA is a force of the nation that has no aim to undermine the interests of the nation, way of life and traditions even at the risk of their lives if necessary.

He stressed that members of the USDA have to overcome these hindrances and difficulties even at the risk of their lives if necessary. In conclusion, he urged members of the USDA to uphold the policies of the State — Our Three Main National Causes, twelve objectives and seven-point Road Map — and to accept them as work guideline, to observe nation-building tasks and international relations and participate in regional and national development tasks, to safeguard the interest of the people actively taking part in striving for the future tasks of the association for realizing the guidance of the Patron, to impart the will to live in peace and stability, to share weal and woe and to forage the nation-building spirit and patriotism among the national people.

No 7, USDA Patron Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance, saying “The goal of the nation-building undertaking is to ensure peace, stability, unity, development and a democratic state. The nation-building undertaking is the task of many generations that will go down in the annals of the history of the Union of Myanmar. Only the perseverance and efficiency, according to the national policy, practices and political programmes.

He said Our Three Main National Causes, the USDA lays down future tasks in conformity with prevailing situations of the State, every year and is implementing national development tasks and community welfare services with full Union Spirit. If one studies the six resolutions announced at the mass rallies held nationwide, four-point People’s Desire, the resolutions of Bagan mass rally, the goal of the people, five oaths of USDA youths, reports of the people and slogans, it is obvious that people have strong desire to uphold Our Three Main National Causes and they want to remove obstacles that undermine the interests of the State.

He said the entire Myanmar society is desirous of building a modern developed nation. Such desire is a driving force to achieve the goal. A peaceful, modern developed nation is to be built with national capability, strong belief and conviction.
Panmawady River Bridge (Myinkaseik)... (from page 16)

Ayeyawady Division at the office of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council.

Head of Ayeyawady Division Land Records and Resettlement Department U Aung Tin Myint presented reports on land utilization in the division, sown acreage of 10 main crops in 2004-05, implementation of the plan to extend 3.6 million acres of monsoon paddy in 2005-06, completion of monsoon paddy in 2005-06, arrangements for growing 100,000 acres of rubber plantation, land reclamation of private entrepreneurs and growing of pepper.

Division Manager of Myanmar Agriculture Service U Myo Wai briefed them on the plan for extended cultivation of monsoon paddy, emphasis being placed on boosting production of 100 baskets per acre yield, distribution of high yield paddy strains, use of fertilizers and growing of pepper.

Division Manager of Myanma Perennial Crop Enterprise U Khin Maung Win reported on the plan for planting 100,000 acres of rubber within three years, vacant and virgin lands for growing rubber in townships, the annual rubber planting plan and land allotment for entrepreneurs and organizations.

Next, Chairman of Papon, Maubin, Hinthada, Myaungmya and Pathein District PDCs submitted reports on functions and progress of the district-wise agricultural matters.

The Commander explained supervision for completion of tasks on time, agricultural tasks to be carried out for meeting the target, cultivation of crops on vacant and virgin lands by using various ways and means, tasks of rubber nurseries, growing of pepper plantations and others.

In his address, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than said that as Ayeyawady Division is a significant one for economic development of the State, efforts are to be made for development of agriculture and livestock breeding sector that is the main business in Ayeyawady Division. Local authorities and departmental officials are to place emphasis with goodwill on progress of the division and the State. It is necessary to grow 10 main crops to exceed the target, to meet the per-acre yield, and to beef up cultivation capability. Furthermore, utmost efforts are to be made for putting 3.6 million acres of land under monsoon paddy. And, pepper and rubber are also to be grown to meet the target. In addition, assistant on distribution of quality strains, collection of nurseries and transferring of technologies that are to be provided.

With regard to the livestock breeding sector, it is necessary to breed fresh water fish and domestic poultry in order to make more progress than present. Departmental personnel are members of the committees for regional development in the division, districts and townships.

That is why, they are to perform not only duties of the respective ministries but also regional development tasks.

Cash assistance presented to trainees to attend MIS Course No 8

YANGON, 15 June — Patron of Mon State Union Solidarity and Development Association Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing attended the MIS Course No 8 at the building of the association on 12 June. During the meeting, Secretary of Mon State USAID U Tin Soe Moe Naung reported to the commander on set-up of the course and its functions.

Next, the commander presented cash assistance to the trainees of the course.

Meeting to introduce Law of Prevention against Trafficking in Persons held

YANGON, 15 June — The coordination meeting to prescribe Combating Human Trafficking Law in the Union of Myanmar was held at the Ministry of Home Affairs yesterday afternoon.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Maung Than who presided over the meeting, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Phone Swe, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, Deputy Chief Justice U Thein Soe, Deputy Attorney-General U Myint Naing, Director-General of Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Ya, Director-General U Myat Ko of General Administration Department, Director-General Col Maung Maung Than of Immigration and National Registration Department, Deputy Director-General of Mon Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win, Police Chief of Staff Police Brig-Gen Win Myaing, Head of Transnational Crime Department Police Col Sit Aye, Directors of the Attorney-General’s Office U Kyaw Sein and Daw Khin Myo Myint and General Secretary of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Dr Daw Khin Mar Tun.

Speaking on the occasion, Meeting Chairman Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Than said that Myanmar joined as a member of the UN Convention on Combating Transnational Crimes and the Treaty on Combating Trafficking in Persons. Work is being carried out to introduce new appropriate law of international standard since 2004. Now, the Attorney-General’s Office has scrutinized the first draft of the law. Later, he stressed the need to enact the law as soon as possible. Next, participants took part in the discussions.

Home Affairs Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung addresses meeting to introduce Law of Prevention against Trafficking in Persons. — MNA
Measures for development of Pathein District discussed

YANGON, 15 June—Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council, Col. Aung Thein Lin, held a meeting with district and township level departmental officials at Ayeyawady Shwe Wah Hall in Pathein on 12 June morning.

The commander elaborated on measures for regional development. Next, he attended the tree-planting ceremony for 2005 held in front of Pathein Government Technical College in Ayeyawady Division. The commander and his wife planted two saplings.

Next, he viewed the planting of 450 saplings of various species by those present.

On arrival at Kangyidaunt, he met local authorities, service personnel and members of social organizations. He called for efforts to be made harmoniously by departments, social organizations and local people for greater success in regional development tasks and the five rural development tasks.

He visited the Lawkhamanku Shwetaunggyi Pagoda in the town.

In the afternoon, the commander addressed the meeting to coordinate for upgrading of Strand Road in Pathein at the Division PDC office.

Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee U Sai Tun Tun reported on progress of tarring of the road and laying concrete. Director U Soe Tin of District Development Affairs Department and the chairman of Pathein District PDC gave supplementary reports.

The commander delivered concluding remarks.

Ceremony to mark success of literacy campaign held in DaikU

YANGON, 15 June — A ceremony to mark success of Literacy Campaign in Eimchay-layho Village was held at affiliated Basic Education High School in the village in DaikU Township on 12 June morning.

Present were Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Major Gen Ko Ko and wife, local authorities, Division Education Officer U Thu Kha, departmental officials, social organization members, teachers and local people. The commander gave a speech. Next, DaikU Township Education Officer Daw Yi Yi Nyunt explained the tasks of literacy campaign.

Afterwards, trainees from the reading group demonstrated their literacy skills. The wife of the commander presented reading aid books and gifts to two trainees. Out of 4,845 people in the village, there were 135 illiterate persons. Now, all the villagers become literate. — MNA

Mayor inspects water supply project (Ngamoeyeik)

YANGON, 15 June — Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, accompanied by YCDC Vice Chairman Col Maung Pa and officials, this morning arrived at Yangon City water supply project (Ngamoeyeik) and inspected the construction work. At the briefing hall, the Joint Secretary of YCDC reported on construction of 31,83-foot-long intake channel which connects with the head regulator of the main canal of Ngamoeyeik Dam in Sule Township. The intake channel will transport water from the dam to Yangon City water supply project (Ngamoeyeik) in Hmaubway Township. Officials concerned also reported on tasks being carried out and future plans. Next, Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin called for construction work to be carried out satisfactorily.

Later, the Mayor went to Hlawga Reservoir and inspected storage of water and supply of water from the reservoir to Yangon City. — MNA

Three ASEAN countries reject foreign forces in Malacca Strait

JAKARTA, 15 June — The navies of Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore have agreed to reject the YPJ (Employment of foreign forces, including the United States, on the Malacca Strait, a high ranking Indonesian Navy officer said on Tuesday.

“We agreed to reject the presence of foreign fleet and military on the strait between Sumatra Island and our neighbours (Malaysia and Singapore),” Navy chief’s operation assistant Vice-Admiral Djoko Agus Hananef was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying. He made the remarks shortly after opening the Western Pacific Naval Symposium Workshop 2005 in Bali.

He acknowledged the 1,000-kilometres Malacca Strait is vulnerable from sea piracy but added that Western countries, including the United States, often exaggerated reports of sea crimes in Malacca.

On the same occasion, Navy Flight Division head Sumarto said the three countries have agreed on a joined patrol in Malacca, known as the Malsindo Coordinated Patrol (MCP).

He said the MCP daily deploys 17 warships, nine from Indonesia, four from Malaysia and four from Singapore.

“We have been conducting (the patrol) and see no problems,” he said.

MNA/Xinhua
**Single visa for southern African countries by 2010**

Johannesburg, 15 June — Eight Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries have committed to working towards a “uni-visa” for the region by 2010 when the World Cup soccer finals is staged in South Africa. The countries represented were Zambia, Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia and Mozambique. Senior officials from Angola were also present.

He said that in the next two to three weeks, 30 kilometres of fencing in the Great Limpopo Park, running into South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, would be lifted.

In the latter part of this year, a new border post would open between Mozambique and South Africa, he added.

“The meeting considered a new strategy, identifying seven specific transfrontier parks and the necessary upgrading and investment to ensure that these facilities offer travellers to the World Cup the opportunity to experience Africa beyond the walls of the soccer stadiums,” read a statement.

Infrastructures needed to be developed, including landing strips, ‘future’ roads and the upgrading of fencing.

MNA/Xinhua

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**Zimbabwe’s youth need government protection**

Harare, 15 June — The youth in Zimbabwe are a vulnerable group that needs the protection of the government and their society for the nation to develop and progress, a senior official said on Monday.

Minister of Youth Development and Employment Creation Ambrose Mutinhiri said this at the official launch of commemorations to mark the Week of the Afri-can Child whose theme this year is “Fighting child abuse is fighting HIV and AIDS”.

“No nation can move forward when its young people are trapped in vicious cycles of poverty, unemployment and nega-tive anti-social habits, or when they have inadequate health care and limited education or when they are constrained by social and cultural values that hinder progress,” he said.

Youth constitute a significant proportion of our population and it is clear that they are a vulner-able group that needs to be protected by the government, other supporting agencies and their own communities,” he reaffirmed the ministry’s commitment to fight the HIV/AIDS pan-demic which had become serious, especially among young people in Zim-babwe.

He highlighted the need to explore all possible ways to address the challenges faced by the youth.

“Today, a lot of child abuse cases have been re-port ed with child physical abuse and child sexual abuse topping the list, hence the need to fight child abuse,” he said.

Minister Mutinhiri said the ministry in collaboration with various stakeholders had produced a National Youth Policy, which em-phasized the multi-sectoral approach to youth development.

The day of the Afri-can Child has its origins in the struggle against apart-heid in South Africa where hundreds of students from Soweto were killed on 16 June, 1976 in a demonstra-tion against the en-force ment of the Afrikaans language as their medium of study.

The week also seeks to create a platform for dialogue between children and other members of the society with a view to making societies more re-sponsive to the views and aspirations of the youth.

MNA/Xinhua

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**Zimbabwe expects increased tourist arrivals**

Dar es Salaam, 15 June — Zanzibar is expecting an increased tourist influx of 141,000 people between July 2005 and June next year, local media reported on Tuesday.

Ali Khalil Mirza, marketing and promotion director of the Zanzibar Tourism Commission, said that increased arriv-als of tourists to visit Zanzibar are also ex-pected to boost govern-ment earnings from the tourism trade to more than 60 million US dollars in the new fiscal year.

The director said tourist arrivals for the

2004/2005 fiscal year ending on 30 June would be 100,000 people in all. Zanzibar earned 55 million dollars in the past fiscal year.

Zanzibar was voted the best island desti-nation for tourists in Africa by the World Travel magazine. Quite some tourists from Europe and North America shifted to visit the Indian Ocean archi-pelago ensnaring tourist alerts in other parts of the world and after the tsu-nami hit Southeast Asia last year.

A quarter of the tour-ist arrivals last year was from Italy while tourists coming from Britain ac-counted for 15 per cent.

MNA/Xinhua
**A D V E R T I S M E N T S**

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**Govermental institutions are to be scaled down in China**

BEIJING, 14 June — With more than 70 million people working for governmental institutions and getting their salaries from public finance, the Chinese taxpayers have to support a colossal continuum of government employment. The Legal Daily reports here on Monday.

Citing a latest survey conducted by the Research Office of the Party School of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, the Beijing-based newspaper said every 18 Chinese civilians now support one government employee, whereas in the United States, the ratio of civil servants to the general public stands only one-to-1,600.

Zhou Tianyong, deputy director of the research office, said the figure was revised based on China’s newly issued Law on Civil Servant Compensation.

Statistics released by some domestic experts in 2003 said that with 6.54 million civil servants on the Chinese Mainland, the proportion of civil servants to the general public in China was only 1/198, much lower than that of the United States.

Zhou acknowledged that the revised figure covers all kinds of functionaries working for government agencies or units, and salaries from public finance shored up by tax payers’ money.

To curb the scale of governmental institutions, the Chinese government has called for setting up a new mechanism that would be prepared to take a firm step in the coming 15 years.

According to the compendium, the number of automobiles in Beijing will amount to the current 2.35 million from 564,000 for 1993 and the figure would exceed 3.8 million by 2010 and five million by 2020.

Faced up to the coming overburden traffic, the Beijing Municipal Government is planning to build more highways and roads, encourage citizens to take bus and subway and construct more parking lots, according to the compendium.

**SONY ERICSSON launches new mobile phones**

SINGAPORE, 14 June — Sony Ericsson, a world leading provider of mobile multimedia devices announced its global launch of four new models of mobile phones here on Monday.

- Designated to support the growing third generation (3G) Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS), Sony Ericsson K608 is a sleek device that weighs the same as the existing 2G phones, much lighter than other bulky 3G handsets.
- Being a phone where its vertical, K608 can also be used as a fully featured 1.3 Megapixel camera when it is horizontal with a 4x digital zoom and a 32 Megabytes memory.
- For daring fun-seekers, the Sony Ericsson X606 offers extensive features such as two stereo speakers, media player, Internet browsing, horizontal full screen video and three-dimensional games, as well as 1.3 Megapixel camera with 64 Megabytes memory.
- The phone will appeal to young people with busy social lives and a desire to express themselves in multiple ways,” said Jan Warej, Corporate Executive Vice President and Head of Sales and Marketing of Sony Ericsson at the launching ceremony.

The company also unveiled the new mobile phone, a mobile phone that wraps inside a sleek and stylish body, targeting fashion-conscious female consumers.

Other new products included an entry-level multimedia phone model Sony Ericsson J210, a personal computer card that combines 3G broadband with wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi), and accessories using Bluetooth technology, including a headset and a car handsfree.

Most of the products will be commercially available in the third or the fourth quarter of this year, but the prices have not been yet set, according to the company.

**Nokia calls for protection of farmers’ interest at WTO talks**

NEW DELHI, 14 June — India has called for initiatives by G-33 grouping to effectively protect interests of farmers in WTO negotiations in the current Doha round.

Speaking at the Ministerial meeting of G-33, an alliance of developing countries on special products and special safeguard mechanisms (SMS), at Jakarta, Commerce and Industry Minister Kamal Nath said.

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**Earthquake jolts Indonesia’s Molucca Sea**

HONG KONG, 14 June — An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter Scale jolted Molucca Sea of Indonesia at 3:08 pm Hong Kong Time (0708 GMT) on Monday.

According to the Hong Kong Observatory, the epicenter was initially determined to be 2.1 north Latitude and 126.7 east Longitude, about 210 kilometres east-northeast of Manado.
Non-Aligned FM's call for UN role to reject unilateralism

Doha, 14 June — Foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on Monday held a meeting on the sidelines of the second Group of 77 (G-77) plus China summit due to start in Doha on Wednesday.

The meeting focused on a host of pressing issues, chiefly the United Nations reforms to strengthen the role of the world body and to reject unilateralism, according to a joint declaration issued after the meeting.

The ministers “expressed their rejection of unilateralism, which could lead to the erosion and violation of international law, to the use and threat of use of force and to pressure and coercion, including unilateral sanctions by certain countries,” said the declaration.

It added that “the ministers reiterated their commitment to multilateralism (and) the importance of the promotion and strengthening of the multilateral process”.

They “emphasized that all reforms within the United Nations system, including institutional reforms, should promote greater democracy, effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and accountability,” it said.

The meeting was chaired by Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar. Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa and a number of Arab foreign ministers also took part in the meeting.

Set up in 1961, the NAM now comprises 116 countries, which advocates national independence and sovereignty.

Meanwhile, foreign ministers of the G-77 plus China also endorsed a final statement and a Programme of Action on Monday to lay groundwork for the second G-77 plus China summit.

The statement, expected to be approved by leaders of the G-77 at the end of the summit, highlights south-south cooperation and the combat against poverty and hunger.

“A number of representatives from over 130 developing countries are to attend the South summit dedicated to exploring ways to strengthen South-South cooperation in addition to discussions on North-South ties and UN reforms.”

China determined and capable of curbing HIV/AIDS

Beijing, 14 June — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao told UN officials here Monday that China is determined and capable of controlling HIV/AIDS in the country.

“China is still facing serious challenges in HIV/AIDS prevention and control, but the Chinese Government is determined and capable of curbing the spread of the disease to ensure the people live a healthy and peaceful life,” Wen said in a meeting with Peter Piot, executive director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

China has an estimated 840,000 people infected with HIV, including 80,000 with full blown AIDS.

Wen said the Chinese Government attaches great importance to the work of HIV/AIDS prevention and control and has set up a working mechanism led by the government, coordinated by the central government and participated by all social sectors.

China’s cabinet set up a high-level committee in 2004. The organization, known as the AIDS Prevention Committee, is headed by Vice-Premier Wu Yi, and involves 23 departments and institutions of the central government and leading officials of concerned departments of seven provincial governments.

Reforms for Bangladesh Railway fail to achieve goals

Dhaka, 14 June — The ongoing reforms programme for the state-run Bangladesh Railway (BR) has failed to yield the desired result in the face of its surging revenue expenditure.

Official figures show that the BR’s revenue expenditure is set to hit 6.12 billion taka (102 million US dollars) in the 2004-05 fiscal, reflecting an increase of 294 million taka (4.9 million US dollars) over the last financial year.

However, the BR’s total revenue earnings have been projected at 4.79 billion taka (79.83 million US dollars) in the current fiscal, The Financial Express daily reported on Monday.

One of the main objectives of the current reforms programme that was initiated by the government with the financial support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), is to reduce the BR’s huge deficit.

Four other objectives include termination of open-ended subsidies, rationalization of its labour force, institutional reforms and adoption of a rational investment programme.
Arsenal striker arrested in Rotterdam on suspicion of rape

AMSTERDAM (Netherlands), 15 June—Arsenal striker Robin van Persie has been arrested in Rotterdam on suspicion of rape, public prosecutor said Tuesday.

Prosecution spokeswoman Jei Chen de Graaf said Van Persie was arrested Monday in connection with an incident that allegedly occurred over the weekend.

"The investigation is in full motion right now," she said.

Van Persie’s lawyers could not immediately be reached for comment.

Van Persie, who played for Rotterdam’s Feyenoord before joining Arsenal in May 2004, must appear before a judge within three days of his arrest to hear whether formal charges will be filed against him.

His custody may then be extended. If convicted, the 21-year-old could be jailed for as long as 12 years, although sentences are usually shorter.

One of the Netherlands’ most promising young players, the left-footed striker is touted as a replacement for countryman Dennis Bergkamp at Arsenal. He scored five goals this season in 27 Premier League games, most of them as a substitute. —MNA/Xinhua

ODESUR offers Santiago for S American Games

RIO DE JANEIRO, 14 June—The Executive Committee of the South American Sports Organization (ODESUR) on Monday unanimously cancelled the South American Games that was previously scheduled to take place in 2006 in La Paz, Bolivia, and it expects a response from the Chile Olympic Committee to know if Santiago will be the next venue.

The organization attributed its decision, adopted during a meeting at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to the "social and institutional problems Bolivia is currently being affected by."

After taking from La Paz the organization of the 8th South American Games, ODESUR has started contacts with the Olympic Committee of Chile to define within 30 days whether Santiago is in conditions to take on the organization of the event. The Chilean capital was declared as "substitute venue" during the April 8, 2003 meeting at Buenos Aires (Argentina), when La Paz was appointed as the seat for the South American Games of 2006.

If the Chileans do not accept the organization of the event, ODESUR will open a selection process to define the new seat of the sports event. —MNA/Xinhua

Int’l Sports Invitational men’s volleyball competition

SAN DIEGO, 14 June—Tang Miao scored a match-high 25 points and Shen Qiong added 24 as China defeated Australia 3-2 to capture third place in the men’s volleyball competition of the International Sports Invitational held in here on Sunday night.

Miao had 23 kills, one block and one service ace as the Chinese at Sunnyvale’s Jenny Craig Pavilion on the campus of the University of San Diego.

Qiong also rippled 23 kills and added one ace as China finished the competition with a record of 2-3 overall. Both wins came against Australia.

Benjamin Hardy scored 23 points on 19 kills, two blocks and two aces to lead the Aussies, who finished the competition winless at 0-5 but lost in five sets in both the semifinals and in the third-place match.

Daniel Howard and Andrew Earl each tallied 19 points while Hidde Van Beest posted 18 points for Australia. Howard had 11 kills, a match-high six blocks and two aces. Earl ripped 18 kills with one block, and Van Beest chipped in with 14 kills and four blocks. —MNA/Xinhua

Chelsea goalie wins Czech award

PRAGUE, 15 June—Chelsea goalkeeper Petr Cech won the Golden Ball award as the Czech Republic’s player of the season on Tuesday, beating five-times winner Pavel Nedved of Italian champions Juventus.

Czech goalkeeper, 23-year-old, who becomes the first keeper to win the award, played a key role in helping Chelsea secure their first league title for 50 years and reach the Champions League semi-finals.

He has also performed well at international level in the Czech bid to qualify for the 2006 World Cup. They trail Group One leaders Netherlands by one point after seven wins and one defeat.

Striker Milan Baros of Premier League rivals and European champions Liverpool came third, followed by Borussia Dortmund striker Jan Koller, the national team’s all-time top scorer.

China beat Ukraine 3-2 in World Youth C’ships

Utrecht (The Netherlands), 15 June—China displayed superb resilience when they pulled off a dramatic 3-2 win over Ukraine in their second group match of the FIFA World Youth Championship on Tuesday.

China, played for the final 23 minutes with 10 men, scored the winner in the 74th minute to wrap up their second win in as many games.

But Ukraine looked more dangerous from the start and created a good chance in the 8th minute through fluent teamwork when Oleksandr Synyuk cut in from the left side to feed Artem Milevskiy comfortably, and the striker shaken off defender only to see his blank-point shot parried by Chinese goalkeeper Yang Cheng.

Ukraine did not wait too long for their first goal and they cracked China’s defence with a lightning counter-attack in the 18th minute as forward Dmitro Voroboev beat defender Zhao Ming to drive the ball past Yang.

China pulled it even in the 30th minute when midfielder Hao Junmin charged down from the right flank to produce a deadly cross and forward Zha Ting poached in to volley home the spectacular equalizer.

Chinese players, whose steps became heavy with the game going on in the sun-bathed Galgenwaard stadium, seemed to struggle against Ukraine’s strong mettle, though they managed to absorb up Ukraine’s attack with a close-up defence in the first half.

Ukraine, knowing a win would possibly put them through to the knockout stage after beating Panama 3-1 in their first match, stepped up their attack after the restart to rattle China’s seemingly shaky defence.

Yang denied Milevskiy from close range again in the 63rd minute when playmaker Oleksandr Aliev’s through ball put Voroboe unmarked racing into the area. The striker dished out a pinpoint pass to Milevskiy who just found it hard to put it past Yang.

One minute later, China made it 2-1 when they were awarded a penalty and striker Chen Tao buried it from the point.

But China’s lead last for only three minutes and Ukraine found the net through Aliev with a penalty in the 67th minute when Zha got the marching order for arguing and pushing referee.

China, though reduced to 10 men, were resilient enough and regained the lead again in the 74th minute when midfielder Cui Peng scored a goal from a corner by Chen.

China, who beat the odds to hold off Turkey 2-1 with a last-gasp goal in their first game, will play their last group with Panama on Friday. —MNA/Xinhua

Taipei beat India, Myanmar crush Philippines in AFC Women’s soccer

HANOI, 15 June—Taipei downed India 2-1, while Myanmar crushed the Philippines 4-1 in the qualifying round of the AFC Women’s Championship on Tuesday.

Twenty minutes into the match, Taiwan’s midfielder Lan Meifen converted a powerful free kick outside the penalty area into the opening goal.

Fifteen minutes later, Indian midfielder Onam Bembem Devi equalized the score with a penalty. Then, Taiwan forward Lin Yuhua scored one by a blister shot from the right wing after latching onto a short pass in the penalty area, giving her team a 2-1 lead.

In the second half, the two teams continued applying defense-attack tactics. Taiwan had an upper hand with series of rapid attacks, forcing Indian goalkeeper Lourenbham Chana to make several saves.

The score of 2-1 remained unchanged to the end of the match.

Taipei had better way of playing and better quality players, India’s coach Harinder Singh said after the match. He also expressed his hope that his team will perform better in next matches.

After six matches, in Group A, Vietnam and Myanmar had three points each, ahead of the Philippines on zero; in Group B, India and Taipei had three points each, Guam zero; in Group C, Uzbekistan had three points, Maldives zero; and in Group D, Indonesia and Singapore had one point each. —MNA/Xinhua
Forestry Administration vow “Green Olympics” in Beijing

BEIJING, 15 June — China will intensify afforestation efforts in and around Beijing to create a better environment for the 2008 summer Olympic Games, said a forestry official on Tuesday.

“The Chinese Government will continue to control sandstorms that are detrimental to the ecological environment in Beijing and Tianjin and is ready to spend more on key areas and major projects,” said Liu Tao, an official in charge of sand control with the State Forestry Administration at a Press conference in Beijing.

He said China is considering more spending on sand control in the northwestern region, a major source of sandstorms hitting Beijing and Tianjin.

“It’s the solemn commitment of the Chinese Government to host a ‘Green Olympics’ in 2008,” Liu told some 80 Chinese and foreign journalists. “‘Green’ stands for good ecological environment, and peace and stability. We’re confident the Chinese Government will live up to its commitment.”

The State Forestry Administration launched an ambitious sand control project in 2001 to tackle sandstorms that had for long been plaguing Beijing’s environment.

A forestry report says that by the end of 2004, the project had covered at least 11 million hectares of land. The cover- age of forests and grass had increased by an average 30 per cent compared with 2000 and a network of forest shelters had been built in sand-prone areas in Hebei and Shanxi provinces and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, it says.

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in lower Sagaing Division, rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kayah, Chin States and Mandalay Division and scattered to widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded were Thandwe (2.36) inches, Kyauktaw (2.24) inches, Myitkyina and Dawei (1.81) inches each. Hkamti (1.73) inches, Toungoo (1.69) inches and Ye (1.61) inches.

Maximum temperature on 14-6-2005 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 15-6-2005 was 74°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 15-6-2005 was 78%. Total sunshine hours on 14-6-2005 was (3.8) hours approx. Rainfalls on 15-6-2005 were (0.04) inch at Yangon Airport, nil at Kaba-Aye and (0.16) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (15.67) inches at Yangon Airport, (14.33) inches at Kaba-Aye and (11.93) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from Southwest at (16.25) hours MST on 14-6-2005.

Bay inference: Monsoon is moderate to strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 16-6-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine, Mon, Kayin States and Taninthayi Division scattered in Kachin, Chin, Shan States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Moderate monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 16-6-2005: One or two rain or thundershers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 16-6-2005: Isolated rain or thundershers. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, 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

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

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

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of sympathy to PRC Vice-President

Yangon, 15 June — Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Zeng Qinghong, Vice-President of the People’s Republic of China for the loss of life and property caused by the recent floods and landslides in Hunan, Sichuan and Guizhou Provinces and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China. — MNA

PM Lt-Gen Soe Win sends message of sympathy to Premier of PRC

Yangon, 15 June — Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of sympathy to His Excellency Mr Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China for the loss of life and property caused by the recent floods and landslides in Hunan, Sichuan and Guizhou Provinces and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China. — MNA

Panmawady River Bridge (Myinkaseik) to facilitate better transport between Pathein and Myaungmya

Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than inspects development of agriculture, livestock breeding in Ayeyawady Division

Yangon, 15 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departments concerned, left here by car on 14 June morning to make an inspection tour of agricultural, livestock breeding and regional development tasks in Ayeyawady Division.

At Bo Myat Tun Bridge in Nyaungdon Township, they were welcomed by Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and departmental officials.

Accompanied by the commander and officials, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than proceeded to the site of Panmawady River Bridge (Myinkaseik) Construction project being implemented by Bridge Construction Special Group-5 of Public Works on Pathein, Kangon-Myinkaseik-Myaungmya Road.

Daw Si Than reported on salient points of the bridge, construction of the main bridge and approach bridges and future tasks. Deputy Chief Engineer U Tin Maung Hla of Public Works also gave a supplementary report. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than left instructions on timely completion of the tasks and worksite safety and viewed round the worksite.

Panmawady River Bridge (Myinkaseik) will be 1,260 feet long and it is of bailey suspension type.

From Pathein to Myaungmya along Pathein-Dhaka-Einme-Myaungmya Road is 65 miles long.

On completion of the bridge, Pathein-Kangon-Myinkaseik-Myaungmya Road is 32 miles.

Therefore, the latter is 33 miles shorter than the former.

In Pathein, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than attended the coordination meeting on the increase of monsoon paddy cultivation for 2005-2006 in (See page 9)