Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Republic of Croatia

Yangon, 25 June — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Stjepan Mesic, President of the Republic of Croatia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Croatia which falls on 25 June 2005.

MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye sends message of congratulations to Republic of South Africa

Yangon, 24 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 congratulations to Her Excellency Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka on her appointment as the Vice-President of the Republic of South Africa.

MNA

Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends coord meeting on monsoon paddy cultivation in Mandalay Division, inspects progress of Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon)

Yangon, 24 June — Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint of the Ministry of Defence delivered an address at the meeting to exceed the target of monsoon paddy sown acreage for 2005-06 in Mandalay Division at Central Command Headquarters on 22 June morning.

Officials of Yamethin, Meiktila, Kyaukse, PyinOoLwin, Myingyan, NyaungU and Mandalay District Peace and Development Councils and members of Mandalay Division Agricultural Coordinating Committee reported on efforts being made for exceeding sown acreage and agricultural matters.

Maj-Gen Khin Zaw, Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Central Command, briefed Lt-Gen Ye Myint on construction of small-scale dams and lakes for supply of water, reclamation of vacant and virgin land and implementation of river water pumping projects. Lt-Gen Ye Myint gave instructions.

Next, Lt-Gen Ye Myint, the commander, Mayor Brig-Gen Phone Zaw Han and officials paid homage to State Ovadaçariya Shwekyin Nikaya Chairman Maha Nayaka Shwekyin Sasanabaeing Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Waso Sayadaw Bhaddanta (See page 8)

MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
For perpetuity of the Union

Various national races have been living together in the Union of Myanmar through thick and thin since time immemorial and there have existed their traditions, culture and customs in the course of Myanmar history.

In our Union, all the nationalities are living together sharing weal and woe. In other words, the Union is like a garden where multi-coloured flowers are in full bloom.

Realizing a tradition of living in unity through Union Spirit that is based on loving-kindness, the national brethren are to value and safeguard the tradition for perpetuation of the Union.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe attended the opening of Course No 7 on Myanmar and International Studies of the Union Solidarity and Development Association held on 2 May 2005 and gave guidance on the occasion.

He said that spirit of peace and tranquility, spirit of unity, spirit to share weal and woe and nation-building spirit are the essence of Union Spirit.

In accordance with the essence of Union Spirit, the entire national people residing in the Union are to make concerted efforts for national development and development of their own regions, while striving for perpetuation of sovereignty.

Especially, the entire people are to completely stamp out racism, discord and dissension, and evil legacy of narcotic drugs left by colonials.

Meanwhile, minions of neo-colonialists are making attempts to initiate racism and drive a wedge among national races and perpetrate destructive acts in the nation. And, the entire national people are to wipe out those machinations with the might of national solidarity.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon the entire national people to collectively safeguard the perpetuation of the Union where development, peace and stability and national unity are flourishing, with nationalistic spirit and Union Spirit.
More cooperation urged between Chinese, foreign universities

BEIJING, 23 June — Chinese Government encourages and supports domestic colleges and universities to carry out more cooperation with foreign counterparts said Chinese State Councillor Chen Zhihu here on Tuesday.

In a meeting with visiting President of University of Michigan Mary Sue Coleman, Chen spoke highly of University of Michigan’s efforts in promoting exchanges and cooperation with Chinese universities.

Chinese colleges and universities should further enhance cooperation with foreign counterparts in such fields as jointly running schools and exchanging overseas students in a bid to promote the reform and development of China’s higher education,” Chen said.

Earlier on Tuesday, Coleman signed an agreement with China’s prestigious Beijing University launching a Joint Centre for Interdisciplinary Humanities and Social Sciences.

One of the programmes for the centre is to apply Quantitative Social Science into a population survey, which is aimed at learning the living situation of Chinese families.

According to Xie Yu, an expert on population studies and one of the participants to the programme, Beijing University and University of Michigan plan to conduct a survey every two years beginning from August 2006 when such survey will be carried out in central China’s Henan and northeast China’s Liaoning provinces.

In the two provinces with a combined population of 150 million people about 10,000 families will be chosen as representative samples. Chinese and US experts will use data to picture these families living situations, such as income, education, job and social security.

The survey will be a scientific record of Chinese people’s living situation, which will be conducive for each individual to learning more specifically about the existing social problems and will provide data evidence for the government to set public policies, Xie said.

The joint programme between the two universities will enrich academic discourse and national policy in both countries and at least as important it will give us a fuller and more honest glimpse of who we are, where we have been and where we are going, said Coleman at the signing ceremony.

ADB to continue supporting economic development in Nepal

MANILA, 23 June — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) remains committed to supporting Nepal’s development and poverty reduction efforts at this critical time for the country, said Kunio Senga, director-general of the ADB’s South Asia Department on Wednesday.

An ADB news release quoted Senga as saying in a statement at the conclusion of the three-day official visit to Kathmandu, where he held high-level consultations with Nepali Government officials and development partners on the ADB’s operations in Nepal.

During his talks with the Nepali officials, Senga said the ADB’s ongoing assistance will continue taking into careful consideration safety of project staff involved and effective delivery of the assistance.

He said that the ADB would continue its dialogue with the Nepali Government on its assistance.

He emphasized the need to stay the course on reforms and to continue development activities effectively.

“Broad-based development aimed at reducing poverty, social exclusion, and regional disparities can be a powerful impetus for peace,” he said.

Senga also informed the Nepali Government that while the ADB wishes to see speedy implementation of the Melamchi Water Supply Project, it is concerned by the irregularities in the project.

Investigation by the ADB’s Integrity Division under the Office of the Auditor General is continuing with the purpose being to ascertain whether ADB procurement guidelines were followed, he said.

During his visit, Senga met with Nepali Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers Tulsi Giri and Kirti Nidhi Bista, Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission Shankar Sharma, Chief Secretary Bimal Kotra, Finance Secretary Bhana Acharya and other senior government officials.

India-Singapore trade to touch $10b this year

NEW DELHI, 23 June — India-Singapore bilateral trade is estimated to touch 10 billion US dollars by the end of this fiscal and 50 billion US dollars by 2010, following the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, industry body Assocham has said.

The CECA, cleared by the Cabinet on Monday and slated to be signed this month end, would also significantly increase Singapore’s investments in the country, the chamber said in a release on Tuesday.

Two-way trade between the countries stood at 6.4 billion US dollars with India having a trade surplus of 1.2 billion US dollars in 2004-05.

Assocham said investments from the ASEAN member nations are expected to go up to five billion US dollars by 2010 and further to 10 billion US dollars by 2015. The most important areas of Singapore’s investment in India would be airports, ports, urban infrastructure, the chamber said, adding there was also a vast potential for cooperative ventures in biotech, healthcare, food processing, animation, entertainment and tourism.

World experts discuss public science communication

BEIJING, 23 June — More than 160 experts from 21 countries convened here Wednesday to discuss effective communication in improving public awareness of science and technology.

At an opening of the 2005 Beijing Working Symposium of the International Public Communication of Science and Technology (IPST) Network, Deng Nan, Vice President of the China Association for Science and Technology, said that China pays great attention to improving public scientific awareness.

The Chinese Government also understands the role of communication in improving such awareness, Deng said.

She said she hopes Chinese experts could learn from their international counterparts in conducting effective communication of science and technology.

During the three-day symposium, participants are scheduled to analyze 95 communication cases from 20 countries.

Established in 1989, the non-profit PCST has organized its first event in China.
Asia-Pacific nations vow to boost efforts to meet UN health goals

TOKYO, 23 June — Health leaders from 24 Asia-Pacific countries and their donors on Wednesday at the end of a two-day forum pledged to boost efforts to achieve UN health goals with a target year of 2015, through measures such as strengthening capacity building and cross-sector approaches.

Asia-Pacific countries on Wednesday concluded a two-day forum in Tokyo themed to examine their progress toward UN health goals for reduction in infant mortality rates and improvement in maternal health during the past five years.

Delegates from the countries also agreed on the importance of securing resources for health projects and promoting equity in access to quality health services at the end of a two-day high-level forum in Tokyo held to examine their progress toward the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Delegates from 30 countries, including donors such as Britain, France, Japan and the United States, also exchanged views on measures against AIDS and malaria in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2000.

"Better health is central to the achievement of MDGs, both as an end in itself and as a major contributor to the overarching goal of reducing poverty and to economic growth," said the chair’s summary of the forum, which was adopted by participants.

Among the eight MDGs endorsed by the United Nations in 2000, three are related to health: a reduction in child mortality, improvement of maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

At the forum, the countries shared their experience in trying to meet the millennium goals.

20 firms queue up to do Bangladesh’s DSP feasibility study

DHAKA, 23 June — Bangladesh’s plan to build a deep sea port (DSP) and make it an economic hub in the South Asian region has received a major boost after more than 20 reputed consultancy firms queued up for conducting techno-economic feasibility study.

The interest shown by the international consultancy firms from Europe and Asia to conduct techno-economic feasibility study on the proposed DSP is encouraging, The Financial Express said on Wednesday.

Shipping Ministry officials expect the number of firms to rise before the deadline for submission of the expression of interest expires on 29 June.

The interested firms include the internationally recognized houses from Sweden, Pakistan, Singapore and China according to the officials.

Review and analysis of the present situation port administration model, public-private participation model, assessment of potential market and business opportunities will be the key elements of the techno-economic feasibility study.

It has been reported that the transshipment of cargo to northeastern India could gain momentum, if the proposed DSP is built in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh, which is located almost at a focal point between South Asia and Southeast Asia, the DSP could act as a regional hub to transport goods to northeastern India.

The project that might cost 800 million US dollars is considered economically viable for Bangladesh and having no negative repercussions on India in terms of trade.

Apart from improvement in transshipment of cargo to India, the proposed deep-sea port could also prove useful to other neighbouring nations like Myanmar, southern China and land locked countries like Nepal and Bhutan.

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Republican President hails ties with China

BUCHAREST, 23 June — Romanian President Traian Basescu on Tuesday hailed the development of Romanian-Chinese relations and stressed his country’s readiness to promote bilateral cooperation.

He made the pledge at a meeting with Liu Qi, a member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and secretary of the CPC Beijing Municipal Committee.

Basescu said Romania attaches great importance to relations with China. It will steadfastly support China’s principled position on the issues of Taiwan and Tibet, and is willing to promote cooperation with China in various fields, he said.

Liu said that the development of Sino-Romanian relations has maintained good momentum in recent years, and as a result, political trust and economic ties have been promoted.

Spain seeks closer ties with Latam countries

MAUNA, 23 June — Spain seeks closer ties with all Latin-American countries, especially Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico, which represent the most important economies in the region, a senior Foreign Ministry official said on Tuesday.

Spain wants “closer and reliable” ties with all of the Iberian-American states, Spanish Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Bernardino Leon said, adding Madrid also looks to a strategic relationship with these four countries, although this is not “a final list”.

The government led by the Spanish Socialist Workers Party has also resumed contact with those Iberian-American countries including Cuba and Venezuela, Leon said.

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AFRICAN PARTIES LAUD CHINA’S REFORM, OPENING POLICY

BEIJING, 23 June — Members of the visiting African ruling parties delegation on Tuesday expressed their appreciation of China’s reform and opening up policy, saying that China has set a vivid example for the vast developing countries.

At a seminar on strengthening China-Africa cooperation, Ji Xuyang, secretary general of the Policy Research Office of the Central Committees of the Communist Party of China (CPC), introduced to the African officials China’s concrete measures and experience gained in its reform and opening up drive.

The African officials, showing great interest in the seminar, raised questions and voiced opinions on issues concerning China’s socialist market economy, family planning policy, agricultural development, social security system as well as the relation between the Communist Party of China and the eight non-Communist parties.

“The government meets the need of the African ruling parties,” said Allele Ethajji Habibou, a senior secretary of the National Movement for the Society of Development, the ruling party of Niger.

Through the seminar, we know more about China’s history current situation and its direction of future development, which are of great value to us,” he added.

Habibou also pledged to beef up non-governmental exchanges and cooperation to increase mutual understanding between Chinese and African people.

Doualamou, first deputy speaker of the National Assembly of Gunmen said that Guinea would benefit from the experience of China’s Agricultural development, as in his country the rural population accounts for more than 90 per cent of the total.

OPEC ASKS INDONESIA TO RETAIN MEMBERSHIP

JAKARTA, 23 June— The Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) has asked Indonesia to retain its membership amid rumours that the government might quit the cartel due to a sharp drop in oil production, an Indonesian official said Wednesday.

Bambang Dwiyanto, a close aide to Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Purnomo Yusgiantoro, said OPEC has sent a letter to the Indonesian Government asking the country to retain its membership.

The letter, signed by OPEC President Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad, said “all OPEC members support Indonesia to continue being an OPEC member.”

The letter also said there is no reason for Indonesia to quit the 11-member cartel, he added.

On the same occasion, Indonesian representative to OPEC Maizar Rahman said rumours saying that Indonesia plans to quit OPEC were baseless.

Indonesia’s current average oil production stood at 1.07 million barrels per day or below the targeted 1.13 million in the 2005 state budget.

The government has targeted to boost oil output to 1.3 million bpd by 2008.

OPEC, whose combined output reaches some 30 million barrels per day, consists of Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela.

JAMAICAN PM VISITS HOME OF TERRA-COTTA WARRIORS

XI’AN, 23 June — Jamaica will step up its cooperation with northwest China’s Shaanxi Province in science and technology and education, Prime Minister Percival Patterson said here on Wednesday.

Patterson came to Xi’an on Tuesday evening from Beijing, where he arrived Sunday evening from Beijing, government plans to hold a luncheon presentation to show the local business industry, particularly the tourism trade, and media four key Hong Kong attractions to be launched in the coming year. These four key attractions are Hong Kong Disneyland, Symphony of Lights II, Hong Kong Wetland Park, and Ngong Ping 360, formerly known as the Tung Chung Cable Car Project.

Patterson also visited the legendary life-sized terra-cotta warriors in the tomb of Qin Shi Huang, the first Chinese Emperor, and the Shaanxi Historical Museum.

This is Patterson’s second official visit to China as Prime Minister. His entourage includes senior government officials and Jamaican businessmen. Later Wednesday, Patterson will leave Xi’an for Shanghai to continue his China trip.

Norway provides more aid to Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 23 June — Norway has allocated another about three million US dollars to the fisheries sector in Sri Lanka, the Norwegian Embassy here said in aPress release on Wednesday.

A substantial proportion of these new funds will be earmarked for the fishermen in the country’s eastern Ampara District, one of the areas badly hit by last year’s tsunami.

The new allocation will fund the replacement and repair of boats destroyed or damaged by the tsunami, said the release.

“We are very pleased to be able to contribute to restoring livelihoods of the Ampara fishermen,” Norwegian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Vidar Helgesen said during a visit to Kalmunai in Ampara District on Wednesday.

HK TO PROMOTE TOURISM IN SINGAPORE

HONG KONG, 23 June — Following the success of the tourism promotion “Discover the Hong Kong Magic” in Bangkok, Beijing and Guangzhou, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government on Wednesday said it will take the campaign to Singapore on 24 June.

According to a Press release issued by HKSAR, Singapore has been Hong Kong’s largest source market in Southeast Asia. The government plans to hold a luncheon presentation to show the local business industry, particularly the tourism trade, and media four key Hong Kong attractions to be launched in the coming year. These four key attractions are Hong Kong Disneyland, Symphony of Lights II, Hong Kong Wetland Park, and Ngong Ping 360, formerly known as the Tung Chung Cable Car Project.

A bear cools off in pool on a scorching hot day at Beijing Zoo on 23 June, 2005.—INTERNET

US troops and Iraqi police secure the scene of a car bomb attack in central Baghdad on 23 June, 2005.—INTERNET

INTERNET

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 25 June, 2005 5
China supports cooperation between Asia, Middle East

SINGAPORE, 23 June—China values, supports and stands ready to enhance the cooperation between Asia and the Middle East, Ma Zhengang, president of China Institute of International Studies, said here on Wednesday.

Addressing the first Asia-Middle East Dialogue (AMED), Ma said that the increasing interdependence among countries in this globalized world brought forth rare historic opportunities for the two regions.

“The two regions should share opportunities and meet challenges through common efforts and enhanced cooperation,” said Ma.

Ma suggested the two regions respect and support one another politically and economically because cooperation between the Asian and Middle Eastern people is the fundamental interests of the peoples of the two regions and contributes to world peace, development and prosperity,” Ma concluded. Under the theme of “common interests and common challenges”, the two-day AMED, officially opened on Tuesday, hopes to foster dialogue and mutual understanding between the two regions, as well as strengthen cooperation in different areas.

Thai FM urges countries to draw strength for development

SINGAPORE, 23 June—Countries in the globalized world need to turn existing contradictions and diversities in their respective communities into strength for development, Thai Foreign Minister Kasantith Suphamongkhon said here on Wednesday.

Speaking at the inaugural Asia-Middle East Dialogue (AMED), Kantathi said that only positive perceptions, feelings and emotions can make cultures and religion conducive to national development.

He said that positive interaction between cultures and religions can enrich civilization and bring about progress and prosperity for all.

Vulnerabilities and contradictions, however, caused and magnified by the forces of globalization, have given rise to negative perceptions, confrontation and even violence inside and among various countries, he said.

“We need to respect our differences and, at the same time, recognize that we share the same aspiration for peace and prosperity,” he noted.

Under the theme of “common interests and common challenges”, the two-day AMED, officially opened on Tuesday, hopes to foster dialogue and mutual understanding between the two regions, as well as strengthen cooperation in different areas.

More than 200 representatives from about 40 countries and regions are invited to pool their viewpoints on political and security issues, economic issues as well as social, educational, scientific, cultural and media issues facing the two regions. MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian V-P calls for economizing on fuel oil

JAKARTA, 23 June—Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla here on Wednesday instructed the nation to manage the use of fuel oil, as the country’s oil reserve and supply capability have been declining in recent days.

“In the problem of fuel oil scarcity, one thing we have to realize is that we should handle the problem of expensive fuel together. First and the most easy way is to economize fuel oil use,” Kalla said on the sidelines of a seminar on maritime issues organized by Corps of Muslim Student Association Alumni (KAHMI).

Kalla confirmed that the country has limitations of capability to provide subsidy.

With the current fuel oil consumption in Indonesia, the government will have to provide about 12 billion US dollars each year as subsidy to catch up with the increased price of crude oil.

“And that is beyond our capability. Therefore, we will set (fuel oil) subsidy at about 7.5 billion US dollars,” he added.

On the potential of fuel oil crisis, Kalla said, the government will not only make a call but also issue regulations to handle the problem.

“It may cover limitation of fuel oil use, limitation of diesel oil consumption, and electricity. We can also reduce the use of private cars only for certain situations,” he continued.

Such limitation, Kalla said, is common in some countries such as Singapore and Japan.

On state-owned oil giant Pertamina’s capability to supply fuel oil, the Vice-President said that the government might not provide additional capital or privileges for the company to increase its stock, because it will not be that easy to use state budget to add a state company’s capital.—MNA/Xinhua

Carbohydrates-electrolyte drinks may delay fatigue

NEW DELHI, 23 June—Consuming drinks containing carbohydrates and electrolytes during exercise enhance an athlete’s performance and delay fatigue, a new study has said.

“Loss of electrolytes (substances such as sodium, potassium and chloride which are important for normal functions of the body, muscles, mental focus and body cooling) and reduction of the body’s carbohydrate stores are the major causes of fatigue in prolonged exhaustive exercise,” GL Khamma and I. Manna from the Sports Authority of India, who carried out the study, said.

Carbohydrates are primary source of energy for the body.

Dehydration resulting from sweat loss and increase in core temperature may be the primary cause of fatigue even in moderate climatic conditions, they said.

Though sweat loss is high intensity, short duration exercise is small, exercise capacity is impaired if there is a pre-exercise fluid deficit, they said.

The study to know the effect of carbohydrate-electrolyte drinks on endurance performance was carried out among ten male athletes aged between 20-25 years in two phases — with supplementation by carbohydrate-electrolyte drinks and with no-supplementation during exercise and during recovery.

MNA/PTI

Opening of HK Disneyland to be divided into three phases

HONG KONG, 23 June—Commissioner for Tourism Eva Cheng on Wednesday said the opening of Hong Kong Disneyland will be divided into three phases from early August in order to ensure a smooth and well-coordinated start.

“The idea of a phased opening is to give the theme park, public transport operators and relevant departments a familiarization period to adjust to their operation and services,” Cheng said.

From early August to mid-August, the Disneyland Resort Line is scheduled to run between Sunny Bay and Disneyland Resort Stations. A section of the Park Promenade linked to the line will be opened. From August to 11 November, all public facilities at Penny’s Bay, including public roads, the Park Promenade, the Inspiration Lake Recreation Centre, the Disneyland Resort Public Transport Interchange, the Disneyland car and coach parks and the Disneyland Resort Pier will begin operation. Franchised buses and taxis will also start service.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese FM, Annan hope for progress of UN reform

BRUSSELS, 23 June—UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoqin here on Wednesday extended their common hope that the reform of the United Nations can make progress.

Li, who met Annan during an interim break of the International Conference on Iraq held in Brussels, said China supports the reform of the United Nations in a bid to strengthen the authority and role of the world body so as to better resolve problems all around the globe.

The reform should be done with full coordination and comprehensive consensus in accordance with the principle of democratization of international relations, Li said. The Chinese Foreign Minister urging relevant parties to make better preparations for the UN global summit scheduled to be held in September in order to get a “positive outcome” from the summit.

MNA/Xinhua
Hailing the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

How we can help in the combat

Aye Phyu

Those who have visited the elegant “Drug Elimination Museum in Yangon, inaugurated on the 26th of June 2001, would easily realize the extent of the concerted effort Myanmar has exerted in her endeavours to combat narcotic drug abuse and illicit trafficking throughout her long history. The Museum also offers great benefits to the school children and the youth by making them fully aware of the pernicious effects and the adverse consequences of narcotic drug abuse. It gives them a valuable life-long lesson to abstain from narcotic drugs, to value themselves and make healthy choices in life.

We all know that many developing nations in today’s world are scarred by a variety of damaging legacies of colonization. A common one was the introduction of the narcotic drug ‘opium’—the cultivation, the production and the consumption of which ultimately led to the so-called ‘virtual destruction’ of the social system and the national spirit of the people of the colonized nation.

Our country especially in the remote and the border regions, poppy cultivation and production somehow got deeply rooted with the national races in those areas having fallen victims to the fatal scourge.

Many operations under special names were carried out in our effort to eradicate narcotic drugs, sacrificing a lot of lives and sweat in combat. Ours is a Union of different ethnic groups. What happened in one group or in one area is always the concern of everyone in the Union. As the brethren living together in our golden land, all of us strive toward the betterment of all the groups. Accordingly, our government has been taking systematic actions in combating drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking. In 1999, a 15-year Narcotic Elimination Plan was launched in three phases up to the year 2014, the implementation of which is being carried out vigorously since then. The tasks under this plan include cultivation of alternate crops, livestock breeding, and building of infrastructures for improvement in communication, energy, trade/commerce, health and education sectors. The main objective here is to change the mindset and attitude of the people in those regions and at the same time to uplift their morality through the development of their social and economic status.

In addition, the government has been participating in the joint effort and cooperation with neighbouring countries and other International Agencies in the combat against narcotic drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking. (The necessary data and detailed information regarding these activities can be provided by those people and departments actually engaged in the field.)

From a layman’s point of view, the two issues of narcotic drug abuse and illicit trafficking pose as ever-threatening scourges to mankind and they will continue to avail themselves so long as there are buyers and sellers, consumers and producers. Many nations have been, to certain degrees, engaged in activities to fight against these two scourges at different levels and in different ways. Local law enforcement agencies have stepped up in their movements with more search and destroy efforts enhanced to get more seizures, stricter and more severe punishment and confiscation sentences passed for traffickers, so on and so forth. The question is what we, the public, can do to help in this combat.

First and foremost, we must realize that the main responsibility in drug abuse lies with the individual. Everyone must know that narcotics are harmful drugs that can cause addiction. He must say No! to any offer of it from anyone. Self-control and determination is crucial especially among the youths, where peer influence plays a significant role. He must, by all means, value himself and make a healthy choice, strongly refusing and resisting the temptation to give it a trial.

Next, parents, teachers, and adults in the community should keep their eyes open to detect any irregularities in the behaviour of the kids in their circle. They should remember the old proverb “The Devil finds work for idle hands”, which sounds true for all ages regardless of sex and social status. It is always advisable and appropriate to keep the youth occupied with something worthwhile, so much the better, if they can be lured or urged to do volunteer jobs in community projects in their free time.

Research has shown that parental guidance and counseling with adults can bring about significant improvements in the attitude and behaviour of the young people. Proper care and development in childhood can also contribute a great deal in combating the drug abuse. More critical are in the years of adolescence since these are the years teenagers tend to have more problems and difficulties by nature and by age, like sibling rivalry, permissiveness, emotional insecurity and many others due to over or inadequate or sometimes lack of parental protection.

Besides, ignorance can be a great enemy in our fight against drug abuse. Educational talks should be frequently given to the public so that they get the correct and useful information on the danger of drug abuse. More public awareness can be achieved through posters, pamphlets, newsletters, etc. Publication of them on a regular basis will definitely minimize the problems we are facing.

Even more important is educating young school children on drug abuse. If we can instil the danger in their little heads in an early stage, then their generation will have a better chance of a drug-free society. Preschoolers and primary kids in schools should be aware of the danger of drug abuse in ways appropriate to their ages and levels of understanding.

Some people say that smoking leads to narcotic drug abuse especially that of 4 or heroin. It is very common to find adult smokers in household asking kids to light the cigars or the cigarettes. Most children get the smoking habit in this way. Adults should be role models as non-smokers in the families.

With more awareness of the health issues connected with smoking, smokers are expected to quit their harmful practices. As bad habits are hard to drop, it will take some time to have all ‘tobacco free zones in the country. In the meantime, the least the smokers can do is to avoid nonsmoking areas and public places and never to ask the children to light for them. Once the kid picks up the smoking habit, he may run a greater risk of becoming a drug abuser.

The next area to look into is the street kids from the lowest poverty group. Having missed the chance of proper care and education, those poor children usually take up the only way of getting easy money—selling the narcotic drugs or transporting them from the distributors to the users. The root cause of the problem here is poverty. The whole world today is concerned with this problem and finding ways and means to alleviate the intensity as the solutions are not yet found for the total eradication of poverty. The rich can make a lot of contribution in helping those poor children and taking them away from drug dealings. As good citizens, they should try to offer more humanitarian assistance in the combat against narcotic drug abuse.

Drug abuse issue cannot be complete without concern for the rehabilitation of the addicted youth. There are several rehabilitation schools for the youth. Generally, society tends to ignore him, putting all the blame on him for a wrong choice he had made once in his life. To help those addicted people, it is necessary that we must all change our attitude towards them, have sympathy for them and their families and try to make life easier for them after rehabilitation.

Drug abuse issue cannot be complete without concern for the rehabilitation of the addicted youth. There are several rehabilitation schools for the youth. Generally, society tends to ignore him, putting all the blame on him for a wrong choice he had made once in his life. To help those addicted people, it is necessary that we must all change our attitude towards them, have sympathy for them and their families and try to make life easier for them after rehabilitation.

With regard to illicit trafficking, the major attraction to the traffickers seems to be the tremendous amount of profit from the deal. ‘Greed’ also blinded them from seeing the negative impact of their activities on the society as a whole. History has revealed great men who have brought positive changes and benefits to the society as well as those evil men who did only wrongs, bringing destruction. The mixture of the good and the bad will continue from generation to generation. The only course open for us is to reinforce the responsible forces locally and to join hands internationally for tracking down across-border traffickers. In this age of open globalization and advanced technology, nothing is impossible. “Crime does not pay” and with a will, there must be a way to crush those bad people who are indirectly trying to destroy mankind by illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs.
Lt-Gen Ye Myint attends coord…
(from page 1)

Aggghya at Maha Withodhayon Taikthit in Mahaaungmye Town-
ship.

They also paid obeis-
sance to Masoeyein
Taikthit Presiding
Nayaka Sayadow Agg
Maha Pandita Agga
Maha Saddhamma
Joitkadiha Bhaddanta
Rajadhannahabhivamsa.

At Maha Gandayon
Monastery in Amarapura,
they paid homage to Pre-
siding Nayaka Sayadow
of the monastery
Agga Maha Pandita
Dhamma Kathika
Ba-ho-jan a-ti-dhara
Bhaddanta Kundala-
bhivamsa.

On arrival at Sagayang
Bridge, they were wel-
comed by Deputy Com-
mander of North-West
Command Brig-Gen Tin
Maung Ohn and party. At
the briefing hall on
Sagayang Bank, Deputy
Superintendent Engineer
U Hsan Win of
Ayeyawady Bridge
(Yadanabon) Project on
Sagayang Bank reported on
construction of the
bridge. Deputy Superin-
tending Engineer U Htay
Myint of Ayeyawady
Bridge (Yadanabon)
Project on Mandalay
Bank briefed them on
progress of construction
tasks.

Lt-Gen Ye Myint and
party inspected construc-
tion tasks at the bridge.

Main pillars of
Ayeyawady Bridge
(Yadanabon) on Sagayang
Bank has been completed by
97.5 percent, construc-
tion of concrete floor at
the approach bridge 81.62
per cent, installation of
iron frames at the main
bridge 48.31 percent, and
building of the floor of the
main bridge 19.89 per
cent.

On Mandalay Bank,
construction of the main
pillar at the main bridge has
been completed by 75
percent, construction of
concrete floor and handrail-
ing at the approach bridge
64.70 percent, installation of
iron frames at the main
bridge 46.89 per cent, and
building of the floor of the
main bridge and pedestrian way
13.14 per cent.

He instructed them to par-
ticipate in not only de-
ference duty of the State
but also public welfare
tasks joining hands with
the people. Officials are
urged to carry out wel-
tare tasks and families are
also to undertake agricul-
ture and livestock breed-
ting tasks on a manage-
able scale.

On 23 June, they paid
homage and asked after
Presiding Nayaka
Sayadow of Nayupadetha
Taik from Masoeyein
Monastery Agga Maha
Pandita Abhidhaja Maha
Rattha Guru Bhaddanta
Pahññasamihabhivamsa at
Mandalay General Hos-
pital. Afterwards, Lt-Gen
Ye Myint arrived back
here by air via Mandalay
International Airport.

Free operations given to facially deformed children

YANGON, 24 June—Form 19 to 22 June, a total of
70 facially deformed children received minor op-
erations performed under the arrangements of the
Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association
(Central) at Lashio People’s Hospital in Shan State
(North).

In the drive, members of respective MCWAs of
townships in Shan State searched the children in the
region who needed to receive facial operations, and
transported them to the hospital.

A medical team led by Medical Superintendent
Dr U Win of Mandalay General Hospital under the
Ministry of Health, Maxillo-facial and Oral Specialist
Dr Daw Nu Nu Yee performed operations on the
children, and the ministry attended to necessary assist-
ance.

Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and
Development Council Commander of North-East
Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing presented K 1 mil-
lion for the operations and refreshments to each of the
patients. The MMCWA (Central) contributed medi-
cines and medical equipment towards the programme
and provided K 3,000 each to the 70 Shan State
(North) MCWA donated K 2.5 million for a day’s
meals of the children.

On Mandalay Bank, construction of the main pillar
at the main bridge has been completed by 75 per cent,
construction of concrete floor and handrail-
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Ye Myint arrived back
here by air via Mandalay
International Airport.

Foreign Affairs Minister sends message of felicitations to Republic of Croatia

YANGON, 25 June — U Nyan Win, Minister
for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has
sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency
Ms Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, Minister of For-
eign Affairs and European Integration of the
Republic of Croatia, on the occasion of the National
Day of the Republic of Croatia which falls on 25
June 2005.—MNA

CNG Filling Station No 012 put into service

YANGON, 24 June — The ceremony to put CNG
Filling Station No 012 into service was held at the
station on Danyingon Station Road in Insein Town-
ship this morning.

It was attended by ministers, deputy ministers,
the No 11 Military Region Commander, officials, USDA
members and guests.

General Manager U Thein Htay of Myanmar Oil
and Gas Enterprise explained matters related to the
station.

Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than
Htay and Deputy Minister for Science and Technol-
ogy Dr Chan Nyein cut the ribbon to open the station.

Next, the deputy ministers and guests inspected the station, and filling of CNG to
vehicles. — MNA

Talks on MWAF held

YANGON, 24 June — To hail Myanmar Women’s
Day which will fall on 3 July 2005, talks on Myanmar
Women’s Affairs Federation, organized by Yangon
Division Organization for Women’s Affairs are being
given in districts and townships of the division.

Under the supervision of Yangon East District
Organization for Women’s Affairs, Tamway Town-
ship Organization gave a talk on facts about MWAF at
BEHS No 1, Tamway. A total of 250 members at-
tended the talk.

Similarly, under the supervision of Yangon
West District Organization for Women’s Affairs,
Laminaw Township Organization gave a talk on facts about MWAF, Laminaw.
District WAO Chair-
person Daw Wint Wint Naing delivered an opening
speech and in charge Daw Khine Khine Win gave the
talk.

It was attended by Township WAO Chair-
person Daw Than Aye, members of township Maternal
and Child Welfare Association, Union Solidarity and
Development Association and Red Cross Society.
Measures taken for…

(From page 16)

Besides, to improve the knowledge of rural people, the Ministry of Information is opening village libraries all over the country. So far, libraries have been opened in 13,478 village-tracts as the first phase.

Up to date, self-reliance libraries have been opened in 19,575 villages, large and small, and arrangements are being made to open the libraries in the remaining villages in the year 2005-2006.

The establishment of the self-reliance libraries is being carried out on the basis of the three forces—the State, the local people and the well-wishers, and notable progress has been made in this regard.

It is believed that the national goal will soon be achieved through the might of the three forces.

Ministry of Industry-2 to…

(From page 16)

Officials of the zones are to draw the plan to manufacture machine parts at respective workshops. As the products are to meet the set standard and norms, priority is to be given to produce suitable machine parts. When they will have sufficient experience, the plan is to be drawn for manufacturing advanced machinery with the use of modern technologies. In this regard, respective industrial zone supervisory committees are to perform management tasks in production process.

Now, machine parts are put on display at the meeting hall. If the industrial zones can nominate kinds of their products to manufacture, the Ministry will place order to them. Officials are to make coordination among them to launch their production during July.

Deputy Minister Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw briefed the minister on arrangements being made for establishment of foundry shops and machine workshops at Mandalay, Monywa and Taunggyi Industrial Zones, operator courses of the Ministry of Industry-2 at its factories, purchase of machinery and arrival, installation of machinery at respective workshops and assistance of engineers. Managing Director U Soe Thein of Myanmar Automobile Industries and Managing Director U Myo Tint of Myanmar Agricultural Machinery Industries reported on tasks being carried out at the industrial zones.

Chairmen of Mandalay, Monywa and Taunggyi Industrial Zone Supervisory Committees explained progress of the industrial zones. The minister attended to their needs and gave the concluding remarks.

After the meeting, all the participants viewed machine parts displayed at the hall and chose items of machine that can be produced at respective industrial zones. Later, they visited Fair Sun Mold & Die Industry in Shwepyitha Zone.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan accepts books donated by well-wishers.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan speaking at the books and cash donation ceremony.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein accepts books from a donor.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects books donated by well-wishers for self-reliant village libraries. — MNA

Deputy Minister U Thein Sein accepts books from a well-wisher. — MNA

Deputy Minister U Chit Khaing of Asia World Co Ltd and Manager U Than Oo, on behalf of Managing Director U Chit Khaing of Asia World Co Ltd; and Manager U Than Myint of Asia World Co Ltd accept K 4 million each donated by Manager U Than Myint of Asia World Co Ltd and Manager U Than Oo, on behalf of Managing Director U Chit Khaing of Asia World Co Ltd.
Arrival of delegates to Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference 2005

YANGON, 24 June — Delegates from States and Divisions to Myanmar War Veterans Organization Conference 2005 arrived here by train and air today.

The delegates led by Mandalay Division WVO Supervisory Committee Chairman Lt-Col Kyi Thein, those led by Sagaing Division WVOSC Chairman Lt-Col Kyaw Shwe, those led by Kachin State WVOSC Chairman Lt-Col Maung Myo and those led by Chin State WVOSC Chairman Lt-Col Ohn Myint Oo arrived here by train. They were welcomed by Commandant of Defence Services Record Office Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials at Yangon Station. The delegates were accommodated at No 1 Transit Centre (Bayintnaung). Similarly, the delegates led by Kawthoung District WVOSC Chairman Lt-Col Tin Tun, those led by Dawei District WVOSC Chairman Lt-Col Khin Maung Nyo and those led by Shan State (North) WVOSC Chairman Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw also arrived here in the afternoon.

They were welcomed by Brig-Gen Myo Myint and officials. Officials accommodated them at No 1 Transit Centre (Bayintnaung). Up to date, 50 delegates from Yangon Division, 11 from Kayin State, 17 from Bago Division (East), 17 from Bago Division (West) and 13 from Mon State have been accommodated at the Transit Centre.

Measures taken for…

(from page 9)

Edin Group Co Ltd: 1,000 copies of Nipponia Book by Information and Culture Section of the Japanese Embassy; 1,500 copies of bulletin by MWAF through Daw Kyi Kyi Win; 153 copies of periodicals by Daw Kyi Kyi Win and party of Information Division of MWAF; 899 copies of books by Daw Tin Tin Mya and Daw Thein Thein Htay of MMICWA (Central); 1,500 copies of Dagon University annual manage by Head of English Department Daw Sein Sein Myint of Dagon University; 150 books by Chief Editor of Naing-Ngan Gonyi Magazine Lt-Col Ohn Maung (Retd); 6,151 books by U Sein Lwin (Retired President)-Daw Tin Mar Shwe of Quality Publishing House; 1,152 copies of magazines by U Myint Tun-Daw Khin Kyi Kyi Win; 153 copies of periodicals by Daw Kyi Kyi Win; 300 copies of magazines by U Sein Lwin (Retired President)-Daw Tin Mar Shwe of Quality Publishing House; 1,390 books by U San Oo of Seikku Cho Cho Sarpay; three copies of German-English Dictionary by U Sai Pe Win; 1,400 copies of magazines by Managing Director Dr Tha Tun Oo of Today Periodicals Publishing House through U Thet Lwin; 1,390 books by U Myint Tun-Daw Khin Mar Shwe of Quality Publishing House; 1,152 copies of magazines by U Kaung Thant of Kaungthant Sarpay through U Thein Lwin; 300 copies of magazines by U Thet Lwin; 300 copies of periodicals by U Thet Lwin; 300 copies of magazines by "Pyi-Khine-Phyo" in the van Brethren force ever holding hands “Fire Service” also included “War Veterans” unified In solidarity, not shrirling “Red Cross” marching abreast “Women’s Affairs” doing its bit “Maternity and Child” in unison All marching toward objective.

Vigilant Hardcore

* Here to take orders Spirit hard as diamond Always faithful to the Nation Integrity is firm With courage and fervour Fully trained all round High is fighting ability Strong is the Nation’s loving son Capable of sacrifice.

* For non-disintegration of Union Will defend sacrificing life Regardless of what enemy Shall overcome again and again. Discipline and honour Faithfully paying heed Upkeep with due respect Respecting “camaraderie” Carrying it forever Strength is sacrifice Always in reciprocation.

* As time runs out And takes garb of “Veteran” Time may run out Spirit is still strong Vast store of experiences Modernity never goes stale Share ‘em with goodwill For wellbeing of the Nation Hold hands in solidarity.

* Leadership of the Tatmadaw Uphold it with care Brothers with arms held With unanimity of views Defending security Organize firmly Hardcore auxiliary force Heart full of patriotism Noble thought of the Nation Is ever vigilant. For sake of the state “Pyi-Khine-Phyo” in the van Brethren force ever holding hands “Fire Service” also included “War Veterans” unified In solidarity, not shrirling “Red Cross” marching abreast “Women’s Affairs” doing its bit “Maternity and Child” in unison All marching toward objective.

New products of Wyn & Sons Co Ltd, MDG Co Ltd launched

YANGON, 24 June — A ceremony to launch Calsoke Kid nutritious cereal drink organized by Wyn & Sons Co Ltd, MDG Co Ltd to customers took place at the Sedona Hotel this evening, attended by officials of the News and Periodicals Enterprise and sale representatives.

First, the patron of the company U Myint Thein extended greetings and Deputy Director Dr U Win Thein of the Ministry of Health (Retd) explained the qualities of new product. Afterwards, Managing Director U Aung Maw Thein answered the queries raised by those present. Next, the dinner was hosted to the guests. Later, the ceremony ended.

New products of Wyn & Sons Co Ltd, MDG Co Ltd in progress at Sedona Hotel — —

IPRD Director-General U Chit Naing accepts books donated by a well-wisher. — —

KYAW SAW HAN (TTS)

(Hailing the Myanmar War Veterans Conference 2005)

Family of Dr Rose Tha Gwe (a) Daw Hnin Si donates K 150,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged Administrative Body Chairman U Manug Tin — —
Patron of the Myanmar War Veterans Organization (Central) Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe delivered an address at the MWVO Conference (2001), saying, “You war veterans have already played an active role in performing national-defence duties and security measures, while winning prestige and property of the entire people, while making lots of sacrifices in the battlefields. With their capability and observance of discipline, they have helped further glorify the Tatmadaw’s image.”

Hence, the virtues of war veterans are beyond expression. The MWVO formed with persons with fine traditions and excellent qualifications has been discharging the national political duties and the national defence and security duties, and carrying out the economic, social and welfare tasks with might and main in the interest of the people.

Moreover, MWVOs at all levels are lending themselves to the drive by doing their bit for translating into reality the national goal — emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline. In the process, respective organizations are upholding as the national duty Our Three Main National Causes, the 12 objectives of the State, the four-point People’s Desire, and the six resolutions passed at the Bagan Mass Rally.

The organizations at various levels are also playing an active role in performing national-defence duties and security measures, while winning prestige in their businesses.

Furthermore, MWVOs at different levels are undergoing training unerringly to enhance their national conviction, and defending, organizational and management efficiencies.

MWVO members have been well preserving nationalistic spirit, Union Spirit, the sacrificing spirit, and espirit de corps apart from the noble traditions of the Tatmadaw.

Hailing the forthcoming MWVO Conference (2005), I write this article, and it is my sincere belief that all the members will continue to energetically discharge their tasks whatever role they are in while thoroughly observing the objectives and fundamental work programmes laid down by the MWVO in the interests of the State and the people.

Translation: TMT + MS

MWVO aims to provide assistance to war veterans and their families to the best of ability to ensure benefits covering the task of enhancing the qualifications of veterans and their families, enabling them to pursue vocational education, and generating appropriate job opportunities for them.

The Central Organizing Committee for MWVO was reconstituted on 21 October 1998. Thanks to the energetic and ardent efforts of the COCMWVO members, the MWVO was able to form 17 State/Division Supervisory Committees, 64 District Supervisory Committees, 313 Township Organizing Committees in the whole nation.

War veterans are the persons who have made a firm resolve to sacrifice even their lives for the national defence and security during their line of duty as soldiers in addition to upholding the Four Oaths. They as the Tatmadaw members discharged duties with zeal and perseverance for the perpetuation of the Union. They dared face and were able to overcome all kinds of hardships and difficulties in safeguarding the lives and property of the entire people, while making lots of sacrifices in the battlefields. With their capability and observance of discipline, they have helped further glorify the Tatmadaw’s image.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.

The second best time is now.
UN special envoy to evaluate Zimbabwe’s cleanup operation

HARARE, 23 June—A UN special envoy will shortly arrive in Zimbabwe to study the impact of the ongoing cleanup operation, which started in July 2007, and to assess its humanitarian impact it has on the squatters; and the government’s policies and that the eurogroup can talk to the European Central Bank, while respecting its independence. —MNA/Xinhua

BRAZIL, Germany, India, Japan to present UN reform plan

BRUSSELS, 23 June—Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan, the so-called Group of Four, will present their UN reform plan to win permanent UN Security Council seats at a three-day meeting in July, agreed that the special envoy should visit the country to study the scope of the recent evictions of illegal dwellers, informal traders and street vendors, which have had an adverse effects on human health and the country’s ecosystem.

French PM calls for “Europe of projects”

PARIS, 23 June—French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin, on Wednesday called for a “Europe of projects” which could include harmonious economic policy, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), research, security and defence, as well as a real European democracy.

There could be “one, two, three great centres of European high technology” established in France, he said.

As for the CAP, de nounced as outmoded by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Villepin described it as a “pump and Europe” and a “real power.”

There also should be a “great project concerning economic policy,” said.

“Let us ensure that the 12 countries of the eurozone can get together, talk about the harmonization of their policies and that the eurogroup can talk to the European Central Bank, while respecting its independence.” —MNA/Xinhua

French Minister hopes for severe sentences for troop in Ivory Coast

PARIS, 23 June—French Justice Minister Pascal Clement anounced on Wednesday that he would ask France’s state prosecutor to make appeal against jail terms handed down 12 French soldiers whose sentences were too lenient.

Twelve soldiers of French peacekeeping force Licorne were sentenced Tuesday in Paris in jail between two months and one year for robbing a bank in Ivory Coast in 2004.

The total amount, around $220 million, was CCFA francs ($337,000 euros, 400,000 dollars).

Pascal said he had been advised by environmentalists fear some Tanzanians had already started planting genetically-modified food crops ahead of the implementation of a government-initiated assessment of GMOs.

Local firm Pehm Tanzania has proposed to set aside a 10-year moratorium on GMOs to cross-check the risks as well as benefits from embracing the biotechnology.

Loyle Lema, executive director of Environment Tanzania, told a local seminar on Monday that the East African country must first satisfy itself whether or not food deficits compensates adoption of the technology of genetic engineering. —MNA/Xinhua

The operation being carried out by Harare City Council in conjunction with the Zimbabwe Republic Public, has also seen the rounding up of street vendors and street people.

In Harare, most of those displaced by the exercise have been taken to Cafardonia farm, a transit place to the city, where they await relocation to their rural homes or alternative places to stay. —MNA/Xinhua

Agreed that the special envoy should visit the country to study the scope of the recent evictions of illegal dwellers, informal traders and street vendors, which have had an adverse effects on human health and the country’s ecosystem.

“President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe will visit Zimbabwe shortly and would prepare a thorough report on the situation.

The operation was carried out by Harare City Council in conjunction with the Zimbabwe Republic Public, has also seen the rounding up of street vendors and street people.
UN report says stronger entrepreneurship helps development financing

UNITED NATIONS, 23 June — Ahead of the General Assembly’s ministerial-level Dialogue on Financing for Development next week, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has issued a report outlining ways to create a healthy business environment that can help boost socio-economic growth in poor countries.

The report covered a range of issues dealing with strengthening the role of the private sector and entrepreneurship in financing for development and examined the key requirements for improving the overall business environment in developing countries.

It focused on six main criteria in that regard: appropriate and enforceable regulations; labour and related standards; access to finance; infrastructure; accurate timely information; and macro-economic stability.

Annan also highlighted measures that can create healthy firms and strengthen entrepreneurship in local economies, particularly creating conditions that promote skills training and learning.

He stressed that entrepreneurship is responsible for much of the competition and innovation in the business world and is also held as central to national aspirations to attain competitiveness in international markets.

The Secretary-General noted that entrepreneurs are generally divided into “neediness entrepreneurs”, who try to start up a business because they have no jobs, and “opportunity entrepreneurs”, who fulfill traditional entrepreneurship roles.

As for pursuing opportunities for entrepreneurship in developing and least developed countries, the report suggested the strengthening of global public-private partnerships, boosting private sector networks, linking smaller businesses to help facilitate the transfer of technology and information, and targeting the poorest consumers, who are generally eager to purchase quality goods and services, in new and innovative ways.

The overall focus of the Assembly’s high-level dialogue on financing for development will be on the status of worldwide efforts to implement the Monterrey Consensus and the way forward.

The two-day meeting, set for June 27-28, will be built around a series of formal and informal meetings and six interactive roundtable discussions on issues that include international trade as an engine for development, and mobilizing domestic financial resources for development.

The Monterrey Consensus is the landmark agreement adopted by world leaders in Mexico at the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development. It calls for the resources to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the conditions that will enable freer trade, more foreign investment, debt relief and efficient government.

The MDGs are a set of targets designed to halve or eradicate listed socio-economic ills by 2015.

This was announced by Du Ping, chief of the general affairs division with the Chinese Foreign Ministry, capital of northwest China’s Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

The programme participants are now living a better life in newly built residential centres in newly found areas where there is easier access to social services such as education and health, in addition to an improved environment for habitation, said Du.

China decided to launch the campaign at the economic work conference of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) held in November 1999.

The campaign covers Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai, Sichuan, Yunnan, Guizhou provinces, Chongqing Munici- pality, Ningxia Hui, Xinjiang Uygur and Tibet autonomous regions, an area amounting to 5.38 million square metres or 56 per cent of China’s total territory.

Basin and valleys make up less than 10 per cent of the area of the vast western regions, while deserts, grassless mountains, and highly cold regions averaging 3,000 metres above sea level, account for 48 per cent.

In 2000, the country embarked on the programme of relocating poor residents in west China to regions with good condi- tions for human habitation. Its ambitious objective is to help seven million poor farmers in west China be lifted out of poverty.

In executing the re- location programme, we persist in believing in the principle of free will, and fully respect residents’ opinions about whether to leave or stay on and the folk ways of people from different ethnic groups,” said Du.

“In their new habitations, settlers are allotted with new shares of land and some new industries have also been set up to ensure that residents have a stable source of income.”

The United Body for the Study of Going West in China was initiated by over 30 specialists on issues regarding west China from the United States, Japan and China in Chengdu, capital of south-west China’s Sichuan Province, in December 2003.

US federal study urges rules for safer towers

WASHINGTON, 23 June — A federal panel in the United States will call for major changes in the planning, construction and operation of skyscrapers to help people survive terrorist attacks or natural calamities, according to officials and draft documents.

The recommendations, put forward after an exhaustive three-year study of the collapse of the World Trade Center, include a call for a fundamental change in evacuation strategies for tall buildings.

Everyone should have a way out in an emergency, replacing the current standard of providing evacuation capacity for the few floors near a fire or emergency, the panel said. It also called for sturdier elevators and stairwells.

The panel also found that current standards for testing fireproofing of steel for tall buildings are flawed.

The documents would be made public Thursday, the New York Times reported.— MNA/Xinhua

Going West campaign helps 700,000 poor residents in W China

YINCHEAN, 23 June — The Going West campaign has helped 700,000 poor residents in China bid farewell to poverty by relocating them from remote areas with bad natural conditions to new areas with better environments.

This was announced by Du Ping, chief of the general affairs division with the Chinese Foreign Ministry, capital of northwest China’s Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

The programme participants are now living a better life in newly built residential centres in newly found areas where there is easier access to social services such as education and health, in addition to an improved environment for habitation, said Du.

China decided to launch the campaign at the economic work conference of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) held in November 1999.

The campaign covers Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai, Sichuan, Yunnan, Guizhou provinces, Chongqing Munici- pality, Ningxia Hui, Xinjiang Uygur and Tibet autonomous regions, an area amounting to 5.38 million square metres or 56 per cent of China’s total territory.

Basin and valleys make up less than 10 per cent of the area of the vast western regions, while deserts, grassless mountains, and highly cold regions averaging 3,000 metres above sea level, account for 48 per cent.

In 2000, the country embarked on the programme of relocating poor residents in west China to regions with good condi- tions for human habitation. Its ambitious objective is to help seven million poor farmers in west China be lifted out of poverty.

In executing the re- location programme, we persist in believing in the principle of free will, and fully respect residents’ opinions about whether to leave or stay on and the folk ways of people from different ethnic groups,” said Du.

“In their new habitations, settlers are allotted with new shares of land and some new industries have also been set up to ensure that residents have a stable source of income.”

The United Body for the Study of Going West in China was initiated by over 30 specialists on issues regarding west China from the United States, Japan and China in Chengdu, capital of south-west China’s Sichuan Province, in December 2003.

US scientist derive stem cells from human skin

LOS ANGELES, 23 June — A group of US scientists reported on Wednesday that they have isolated stem cells from human skin, called them in the laboratory, and differentiated them into fat, muscle and bone cells.

The study, published in the journal Stem Cells and Development, is the first to show the ability of a single adult skin cell to become multiple tissue types, according to Anthony Atala, director of the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medi- cine who led the research.

“Because these cells are taken from a patient’s own skin, there would not be problems with organ or tissue rejection. These cells can provide a valu- able resource for tissue repair and for organs as well,” said Atala.

The researchers grew mesenchymal stem cells (MSC), a type of stem cell normally found in bone marrow. They were able to isolate single stem cells using tissue samples from 15 donors.

Then, they grew the stem cell in culture dishes in the laboratory. The sci- entists used hormones and growth factors to coax the stem cells into becoming fat, muscle and bone cells.

When the differenti- ated cells were seeded into three-dimensional molds and implanted in mice, they maintained fea- tures consistent with bone, muscle and fat tissue.

“Pregnancy of cell lines established from a single dermal MSC could be differentiated into adipo- genic, osteogenic and myogenic lineages, con- firming our conclusion that we established a clonal, multipotent, so- matic MSC cell line,” wrote the researchers.

The promise of stem cells is in their ability to develop into specialized types of cells and to repli- cate themselves. Scientists hope to harness the poten- tial of stem cells and use them to replace damaged cells and tissue in condi- tions such as spinal cord in- juries, diabetes, Alzheimer’s disease, stroke and burns.

Most scientists believe that stem cells from human embryos are the most versatile type of stem cell and that they hold the potential to form any cell or tissue in the body. But they are also exploring the potential of stem cells from adults. In addition to skin cells, they have also been identified in bone marrow, the brain and blood from the umbilical cord.

MNA/Xinhua
Nadal, Henman flop in round second

LONDON, 24 June — French Open champion Rafael Nadal knows that he still has a lot to learn on grass after the claycourt specialist lost to Gilles Muller of Luxembourg at Wimbledon championships on Thursday.

British world number one Tim Henman dashed on the same day when 30-year-old Tim Henman bowed out in the second round.

Spanish flamboyant 19-year-old Nadal slipped and slithered on the unfamiliar grass before losing 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 to little-known Muller, the only man from Luxembourg to win a Grand Slam match in the Open era.

Sixth seed Henman, a four-time losing semi-finalist at Wimbledon, lost 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 8-6 to Russian Dmitry Tursunov, the number 152

Festy Scottish wild card Andrew Murray, ranked 312th and playing his first Grand Slam, shocked Czech 14th seed Radek Stepanek 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 for his second consecutive straight sets win and his best so far.

In the women’s single champion Maria Sharapova overwhelmed Bulgarian 15-year-old Sesil Karatantcheva 6-0, 6-1. However, fourth seed and twice former champion Serena Williams endured her second three-and twice former champion Justine Henin-Hardenne lost in the first round at Wimbledon on Tuesday.

Safin, Federer ease through at Wimbledon

LONDON, 24 June — Australian Open champion Marat Safin kept rolling forward at the Wimbledon Grand Slam on Wednesday when the Russian bludgeoned past former finalist Mark Philippoussis 7-6, 7-6, 6-4.

Safin was left on course for a quarter-final meeting with Australian Lleyton Hewitt after the 2002 champion saw off Czech Jan Hernych 6-2, 7-5, 3-6, 6-3. World number one and top seed Roger Federer made easy work in beating Czech Radek Stepanek 6-4, 6-1 in a key 82-stress-free minutes in his bid for a third successive Wimbledon title.

The Swiss 23-year-old has extended his winning streak on grass to 31 to book a third-round meeting with Germany’s Novak Kieber.

In the women’s draw Kim Cljisters and world number one Lindsay Davenport stayed on collision course for a fourth round clash while French third seed Amelie Mauresmo joined in the third round.

Belgian former world number one Cljisters, lurking dangerously as the 15th seed, needed just 44 minutes to stretch past American Marissa Irvin 6-1, 6-4.

Davenport, champion in 1999, showed little mercy as she demolished fellow American Jana Jackson 6-0, 6-3, trampling through a lopsided first set in 17 minutes.

Third seed Amelie Mauresmo also made impressive progress, despatching Spain’s Maria Sanchez-Lorenzo 6-1, 6-3.

Ninth seed Anastasia Myskina, beset by personal problems this year, stowed, fretted and ranted at the umpire during her 6-4, 6-3 defeat of Aiko Nakamura of Japan, ranked 94th.

Sixth seed Elena Dementieva, twice a Grand Slam finalist last year, almost came unstuck, eventually squeezing past German qualifier Sabine Klascha 2-6, 6-4, 6-8.

In all French battle held over from Tuesday, men’s ninth seed Sebastien Grosjean, a semifinalist the previous two years, reeled off the three games he needed to win 3-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Spar set deadline to Chelsea

LONDON, 24 June — Tottenham will make a formal complaint to the English Premier League unless Chelsea agree to pay compensation for luring away sports director Frank Arnesen before Friday, the club said on Thursday.

Chelsea face the deduction of points if found guilty of another breach of Premier League rules, having been fined by the league for tapping up Arsenal’s defender Ashley Cole in a similar case.

Spurs issued a statement after British newspapers on Thursday published photos of Arnesen meeting Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich on the Russian’s yacht this week. “Having seen the photo, we have contacted Chelsea and set a deadline for the matter to be resolved.”

Tottenham said, “If we do not receive a satisfactory agreement by noon on Friday, we shall be making a formal complaint to the Premier League and looking to exercise other potential options.”

Chelsea countered by claiming in a statement that the meeting between Abramovich and Arnesen in Sardinia was “purely a social occasion”.

“Mr Abramovich and Mr Arnesen know each other, were holidaying in the same location and Roman and his wife invited Frank and his wife to join them for lunch,” the statement said.

Santos rejects Real Madrid’s $15m offer for Robinho

RE DASILVA, 24 June — Brazil’s Santos rejected Thursday the first official offer it receives for its key player Robinho de Souza “Robinho”, as Real Madrid was said to have offered 15 million US dollars for a transfer.

This bidding was considered as very low by Santos President Marcelo Teixeira, who Thursday made it clear that 50 million US dollars would be the mark for a transfer of the 21-year-old striker.

The Real Madrid proposal was known during a private meeting of Teixeira with Robinho’s representative Wagner Ribeiro, and Uruguayan agent Juan Figuer, at the coastal city of Santos.

The Santos president said he remains faithful to the Robinho’s contract which ends after the Germany 2006 World Cup.

“Real have just met hand over the proposal of Real Madrid for the transfer of Robinho. It is lower than 50 million dollars, for sure, and I am not going to reveal the figure, though,” said Ribeiro to the Press at the end of the meeting held at Santa Cecilia University, which belongs to the Santos president.

Meanwhile, Real Madrid’s Vice-President Emilio Butragueno said “We have to go step by step,” with respect to the Robinho transfer. — MNA/Xinhua
Measures taken for...

(from page 10)

U Mya Tha San of Appamda Dhamma Sarsin; 2,500 copies of annual magazine of Yangon West University by Pro-Rector U Than Win; 1,200 copies of journals by Dr Tin Tun Oo-Dr Khin Moe Moe of Thuta Sweson Literary House; 954 copies of magazine by U Kyaw Ko Ko of Mega Products Ltd; 1,982 books by U Maung Maung Thein of Universities’ Library; 700 books by U Kyaw Zin-Daw Waiung Waiing of Ganguyi Sarpay; 164 copies of periodicals by U Tin Aung Shwe of Kanau Magazine; 300 books by Ashin Sumati (Sussaddhammaras); 500 books by Daw San San Oo of the Ministry of Education; 100 books by U Min Ko of Ko of Ko Megaprints Ltd; 511 books by U Oo Min Paukwin of Alpinpaa Press; 360 books by U Khin Maung-Daw Khin Sway and Myanmar Korea Friendship Association General Secretary U Than Win; 110 copies of magazines by Dr Yin Min Oo (a) Dr Nightingale; and a copy of manuscript by Yama U Oo Min.

Deputy Ministers U Thein Sein and Brig-Gen Aung Thein and IPRD Deputy-General U Chit Naing accepted 200 copies of magazine donated by U Than Naing (Myat Thu San); 150 copies of selected articles books by Manager U Than Aye of Gyoobya Literary House; 726 copies of magazine by Ma Thida Soe of Hnalon-ein Magazine; 176 books and K 50,000 by U Aye Chit-Daw Yin Hla; 100 books by U Kyaw Khan (Maung, Yint Kyaw, Myanmar); 500 copies of English magazines by U Moe Myint Maung of Hleetin Sarpay; 100 books by U Kan Hla of Ward 42, Dagon Myothit (North) Township; 1,035 books by U Nyunt Yi-Daw Tin Tin Hla; 402 copies of magazine and 6,000 pictures of Buddha by U Myat Thu Win of Shwe Min Than Services Co; 200 books by U Myint Kyaw of Ministry of Culture; 100 books by U Hla Shwe (Natmauk Hla Shwe); 304 copies of magazine and K 20,000 by U Khin Zaw (Advocate-Daw Yi), Lwin (Irrigation); 123 books by U Hla Toe-Daw Cherry Aung of Yan Aung Sarpay; 485 copies of periodicals by U Min Min Oo (Tethkatho Han Min); 610 copies of periodicals by Ko Aung Naing Thu of Rave Music Band, 131 books by the library of Myanmar Photographic Society; 251 copies of periodicals by Director U Aye Myint Kyaw of Ministry of Finance and Revenue; 85 books by Col Thaung Wai (Redt) through Daw Mya Thaung Wai; 449 copies of periodicals by Security Unit of BSL; 485 copies of periodicals by Maung Htet Wai Aung and Cadet Bdo Wai Aung; 50 books by writer Maung Sae Nwai (Thone); K 10,000 by Tha Htet Aung Photo Copy (Mingala Taungnyunt); K 10,000 by Yamin Ohnma and Maung Min Thein Kyaw of Ahlon Thirimigala Housing Estate; 68 books by Col Khin Maung Win (Redt)-Daw Tin Yi (Tin Yi Ma-Nyayan); 229 copies of periodicals by Tech Training Centre; six books by U Hla Kyaw-Daw Ahmar of 40th Street; 16 books by U Thura Kyaw (Chauk); 500 copies of periodicals by U Thaung Hlaik-Daw Tin Yi; 416 copies of periodicals and K 30,000 by Daw Tin Tin Lay of Export & Import Co Ltd; and 30 books and K 100,000 by actor Shwe Thwai.

Certificates of honour were presented to the wellwishers. The minister cordially greeted literati and the wellwishers.

Today’s donations amounted to K 8,345,000 and 375,202 copies of books worth K 11,525,196 and foreign currency 2,300 totaling K 19,870,196 and foreign currency 2,300. — NV

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WEATHER

Firday, 24 June, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been isolated in Chin and Kayah States, lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Bago and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas with locally heavyfall in Rakhae State. Heavyfalls were in Mon State and Manda- lay Division. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Sittway (5.12 inches), Maungtaw (4.97 inches), Kyauktaik (3.98 inches), Mogok (3.22 inches), Theinnyetay (3.03 inches), Bago (2.76 inches), Kyauktuyi (2.72 inches), Gwa (2.68 inches) and Thandwe (2.66 inches).

Maximum temperature on 23-6-2005 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 24-6-2005 was 70°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 24-6-2005 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 23-6-2005 was (2.7 hour) approx. Rainfalls on 24-6-2005 were 4.03 (inch) at Yangon Airport, (0.27) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.55) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (21.93) inches at Yangon Airport, (18.46) inches at Kaba-Aye and (16.22) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (14) mph from Southwest at (12:45) hours MST on 23-6-2005.

Bay interference: Monson is moderate in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 25-6-2005: Rain will be isolated in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Bago Division, Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfall in Rakhae State. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate seas will be experienced at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35) mph.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 25-6-2005: Some rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 25-6-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 60%.

Weather outlook for last weekend of June 2005: During the coming weekend, rain will be widespread in Yangon Division and isolated in Mandalay Division.
YANGON, 24 June — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe attended the ceremony to conclude the pre-primary teachership course 1/2005 co-organized by Social Welfare Department and Yangon Command MCWA, and handed over exercise books and stationery to MCWA branches, at Yangon Command Headquarters this morning. The commander accepted exercise books and stationery worth K 1 million each donated by Dr Aung Lwin (Pyay Phyo Tun International Co), U Kyaw Naing Oo (Niang Group Construction) and U Win Min Khaing (Edin Construction); exercise books and stationery worth K 500,000 each by U Win Naing (Pyi Sone Win Naing Co), and U Nyi Nyi Lwin-Daw Chaw Su Pyone (U Khin Maung Tin and wellwishers of private publishing houses and guests. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said now is the time when priority is being given to education and technique in the fields of not only agriculture and livestock breeding but also production and other areas to catch up with the knowledge age in the world. That is why the country needs to strive for the development of human resources to be on a par with others, he said. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance that efforts were to be made to ensure that Myanmar is a life long learning society. In accord with the guidance, measures are being taken for the improvement of education and knowledge of all citizens. In doing so, the Ministry of Education and other ministries concerned are trying their utmost to develop the education sector of the country. Now in Myanmar, universities such as Maritime University and Aerospace Engineering University have been opened, and students are leaning there, said the minister.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe accepts donations from a wellwisher. — MNA

Ministry of Industry-2 to send engineers to industrial zones for installation of machines, running of factories

YANGON, 24 June — Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Minister for Industry-2 and Chairman of Myanmar Industrial Development Working Committee, delivered an address at the meeting to run functions of foundry and machine shops in Mandalay, Monywa and Taunggyi Industrial Zones, at the Ministry of Industry-2, here, this morning. Thea Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, in his address, said that the Government is building foundry shops and machine workshops in Mandalay, Monywa and Taunggyi Industrial Zones for contributing to development of private industries. At the same time, the Government spent its funds on the purchase of machines to be installed at the workshops and provided training to employees from industrial zones practically and theoretically at factories under the Ministry of Industry-2. Now, the workshops are being installed with machines, and these workshops will be test run. After that, the plan is to be implemented to produce machinery during July 2005. In so doing, the Ministry of Industry-2 sent its engineers to the industrial zones for giving necessary assistance to installation of machines. Likewise, the Ministry of Industry-2 will send its engineers to cooperate with technicians of the industrial zones in installing the machinery and running the factories.

Prime Minister General Soe Win sends message of felicitations to Croatian counterpart

YANGON, 25 June — General Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Ivo Sanader, Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Croatia which falls on 25 June 2005.— MNA

Measures taken for improvement of education and knowledge of all citizens

YANGON, 24 June — The sixth ceremony to donate cash and books to self-reliant libraries of the Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information took place at the ministry on Theinbyu Road this afternoon. Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan addressed the ceremony and accepted the donations. Present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers U Thein Sein and Brig-Gen Aung Thein, directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry, the head of office of the ministry, departmental officials, Deputy Chief of Mission Mr Hiroshi Kawamura and officials of Japanese Embassy, the chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association and CEC members, literati, wellwishers of private publishing houses and guests.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan said now is the time when priority is being given to education and technique in the fields of not only agriculture and livestock breeding but also production and other areas to catch up with the knowledge age in the world. That is why the country needs to strive for the development of human resources to be on a par with others, he said.

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(See page 9)

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