The Union of Myanmar
The State Peace and Development Council
The Law Amending the Myanmar Gemstone Law
(The State Peace and Development Council Law No. 8/2003)
(16th June, 2003)

The State Peace and Development Council hereby en-
acts the following Law:-
1. This Law shall be called the Law Amending the Myanmar
Gemstone Law.
2. After section 15 of the Myanmar Gemstone Law, section
15-A, section 15-B and section 15-C shall be inserted as
follows:-
"15-A. The Ministry of Mines may designate the place
for disposal of the loose soil for public use within a
gemstone tract in carrying out gemstone production by
the company, society or person holding a permit for
gemstone production.
15-B. If the company or society holding a permit to carry
out work on gemstone block or a person holding a permit
to carry out work on discovered block is desirous of
using any workplace to be a shed or workshop, 
warehouses, huts and barracks, or to keep vehicles,
machineries, raw gemstone and gemstone bearing soil,
or to wash the loose soil, break the rock and dispose of
the loose soil, inside or outside his block in the gemstone
tract, application shall be made to the Ministry of Mines
to obtain permission.
15-C. The Ministry of Mines
(a) may, after scrutinizing the application submitted
under section 15-B, grant permission stipulating
terms and conditions.
b) shall, when granting permission under sub-section (a),
authorize the tenure of permission and land use permit
for any work-place outside the permitted block.
(c) may extend the tenure when the tenure of permission
stipulated under sub-section (b) expires."
3. Sub-section (b) of section 34 of the Myanmar Gemstone
Law shall be substituted as follows:-
"(b) tendering advice to the Ministry of Mines regarding
designation of gemstone tract, determination of gem-
stone block and floor price, determination of discovered
block, designation of place for disposal of the loose soil
for public use under section 15-A, granting of permis-
sion for workplace contained in section 15-B and stipu-
lation of land use premium."
4. In section 36, sub-section (a) of the Myanmar Gemstone
Law,
(a) the expression "permit or licence" shall be substi-
tuted by the expression "permission, licence or per-
mit."
(b) the expression "holders of the permit or licence"
shall be substituted by the expression "holders of the
permission, licence or permit."
5. In section 38 of the Myanmar Gemstone Law,
(a) the expression "fails to comply with any order or
directive issued under this law" shall be substituted
by the expression "fails to comply with any rules, 
procedures, orders and directives issued under this law."
(b) the expression "permit or licence" shall be substi-
tuted by the expression "permission, licence or per-
mit."
(See page 8)

Secretary-1 receives Australian Ambassador

YANGON, 16 June — On behalf of the Chairman of the
State Peace and Development Council of the Union of
Myanmar, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Devel-
opment Council of the Union of Myanmar General Khin
Nyunt received Ambassador of Australia to the Union of
Myanmar Mr Trevor David Wilson, who had completed
his tour of duty, at Zeyathiri Beikman on Konmyinttha, at
Myanmar, at 8.30 am today.
Also present at the call were Minister for Home Af-
fairs Col Tin Hlaing, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung
Win and Director-General Thura U Aung Htet of the
Protocol Department. — MNA

Outstanding agricultural production awards presented
to winners

YANGON, 16 June—Min-
ister for Agriculture and Irri-
gation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin
attended the ceremony to
present best agriculture
award, quality strain produc-
tion award, the best outstand-
ing award and other prizes to
the respective winners for
2002-2003 financial year of
the Yangon Division Settlement and Land Records
Service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, at
the head office of MAS on
Pyay Road this morning.
Minister Maj-Gen Nyunt
Tin delivered an address.
Then, Managing Director U
San Myint of MAS reported
on targets of the MAS and
accomplishments.
Then, the minister pre-
presented prizes to the winners.
Next, officials presented
prizes to the winners.
Also present on the occa-
sion were President U
Tin Hlaing of Myanmar
Academy of Agriculture,
Forest, Livestock and Fish-
ery Science and members,
directors-general and man-
aging directors of depart-
ments and enterprises,
farm managers and factory
managers of States and
Divisions.
MNA

Agricultural census collected in Htantabin

YANGON, 16 June — Under the supervision of the offi-
cials of Yangon Division Settlement and Land Records
Department, altogether 39 trainees of the Agricultural Cen-
sus Collection Course, co-organized by Settlement and
Land Records Department of the Ministry of Agriculture
and Irrigation and Food and Agriculture Organization of
the United Nations, went to Pandaiing Village in Htantabin
Township this morning.
The trainees collected the agricultural census for 2003 in
the village. — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Tuesday, 17 June, 2003

Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway—key to national development

The Government is striving for the Union of Myanmar to move on a par with the international community. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, on one occasion, gave guidance that transportation plays an important role in national development and that only when there is easy transport will there be improvement of the standard of life of the people. He also said that roads and bridges are being built with a view to narrowing the development gap between one region and another and forging friendship among the national brethren. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, efforts are being made for development of the transport sector after designating 80 new highways across the country. Many more motor roads and railroads are being built to lengthen the breadth of the nation to link one region and another.

Nowadays, Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway is being upgraded into a modern one. The highway contributes much towards the economic, trade and social development of the State. Private companies are taking part in the tasks of upgrading the highway. The Central Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport held a meeting at Zeyathiri Betkman on Konmynththa on 14 June, attended by Chairman of the Central Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt. Giving instructions to officials, the General said that construction tasks are to continue to meet the target without losing sight of it. He also urged the entrepreneurs to thoroughly implement the plans to reach Mandalay from Yangon within 10 hours, to prevent damage of road sections in the rainy season and to accelerate the construction works after the rainy season. In upgrading the highway, a number of private companies are undertaking the task section wise.

Moreover, upgrading work for Pyinmana-Yamethin road section, Yamethin-Meikhtila road section and Meikhtila-Mandalay road section are being undertaken by Asia World Company, Yuzana Company and Hong Pang Company respectively. The upgrading tasks include renovation of old roads and construction of new ones and building of bridges.

The companies engaged in the construction tasks of the Union Highway are urged to execute the works for the emergence of Yangon-Mandalay modern highway as soon as possible.

YANGON, 16 June—Minister for Cooperatives Dr. Tin Ngwe delivered an address at the opening ceremony of Financial Management Course II at Mandalay Co-operative College today. The courseDuration is from 17-21 June. The course was by the Ministry of Co-operatives under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Co-operatives, the Mandalay Co-operative College, the Mandalay Development Cooperation, the Mandalay Development Committee, the Mandalay Co-operative Society and the Mandalay Co-operative Bank.

The opening ceremony was attended by State Peace and Development Council Member and Minister for Cooperatives Dr. Tin Ngwe, Mandalay Co-operative Society Vice-President U Hlaing Myint, Mandalay Development Cooperation Director Mr. Aung Than, Mandalay Development Committee Secretary Mr. Aung Min Htaw, Mandalay Co-operative Bank Chairman Mr. Aung Tz Thing, Mandalay Co-operative Society Co-operative Committee Chairman Mr. Aung Min Sein, Mandalay Co-operative College Principal Mr. Aung Aung Aung and other officers.

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US anti-guerilla campaign draws Iraqi ire

Fallujah, 16 June — The US military conducted a massive weapons raid in residential neighbourhoods in this city west of Baghdad, part of a new campaign to cut down on the frequent guerilla attacks on United States troops and to start the long process of rebuilding.

But there are signs that operations such as this one, code-named “Spartan Scorpion,” may be creating as many problems as it solves. Here in Fallujah, lately the hub of anti-US resistance, locals say they are seeing far too few signs of progress or improvement in the area.

“The US army has changed from being a liberator to an occupying force,” says Fawzi Shafi, editor of a new weekly newspaper here, Soi il-Hurriye, or the Voice of Freedom. Mr Shafi says that two months ago he welcomed the US troops; he was no fan of Saddam Hussein. Now, brusque house searches by US troops is earning the US new opponents every day — including Mr Shafi — and may be feeding a nascent resistance movement.

“Last Friday, they came into my house with about 25 troops. They searched during breakfast and scared the children,” he says. “They insulted us by putting us [face-down] on the floor in front of our women.”

Moreover, members of an ad-hoc “city congress” contend, the US is relying on the same tribal hierarchy that Saddam Hussein used to control the country — vastly different from the democracy they expected.

The weapons crackdown, code-named “Spartan Scorpion,” comes on the heels of “Operation Peninsula Strike,” a three-day operation that ended Saturday. The two-pronged offensive is aimed capturing or killing pro-Baathist guerillas and “terrorists who try to hinder rebuilding efforts,” according to a statement released by the US Central Command.

The US-led coalition forces declared a two-week weapons amnesty programme that came to an end this week. Only a small number of arms were actually turned in: about 700 guns.

Far more Iraqis, it seems, including Shafi’s family, put their weapons into hiding. “Everyone who feels disappointed by the Americans is coming here. The people who want to make trouble come to Fallujah to disrupt things in the city,” says Mayor Taha Ridawi Hamid. Moreover, he is already dealing with his third rotation of US forces in the city, he says. “Each time a new group comes in, we lose focus because they don’t know how to deal with things.”

Poll shows economy hurts New York mayor’s approval rating

New York, 16 June — A New York Times poll released Friday showed New York mayor Michael Bloomberg’s approval rating had reached an all-time low of 24 per cent as a result of job losses, tax hikes and service cut.

Only 24 per cent of those polled said they approved of the job he was doing, the lowest approval rating for any mayor since the paper began taking polls on mayor’s performance in 1978.

The findings represent a sharp turnaround over the last two years in how New Yorkers view their city and their own life within its boundaries.

For example, less than a month after the September 11 terror attack in 2001, 54 per cent thought that the city would be a better place to live in 10 to 15 years. Whereas among those polled over the last week, only 30 per cent said they believed that New York City would be a better place to live in 10 to 15 years.

People appeared to link their opinion of the mayor to their own financial problems. For example, among the 59 per cent of the respondents who said that it is harder to make ends meet than a year ago, 74 per cent disapproved of Bloomberg’s performance.

Among the 59 per cent who said the proposed budget cuts would hurt them personally, 74 per cent also disapproved of the job the mayor was doing.

Follow-up interviews with people surveyed indicated that respondents seemed turned off by the measures. Bloomberg has taken to balance the city’s budget and by his personal style, generally considered non-confrontational and enigmatic. His reputation as an outsider, by birth or by his income bracket, appeared to persist. “He’s not a New Yorker, he’s not a New York, he’s not a fighter. You have to be crazy to run this town because we’re a bunch of crazy people,” Stephanie Wilson, 50, of Bronx said, adding that Bloomberg does not have “the gusto to really deal with issues in an aggressive manner.”

Although Bloomberg has tried to forge close ties with minority New Yorkers, the poll did not show that his efforts were paying off. For instance, his approval rating among Whites is 31 per cent, but only 15 per cent among Black respondents and 19 per cent among Hispanic residents.

Senate panel to review weapons data

Washington, 16 June — Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Pat Roberts said yesterday his panel will hold closed hearings and probably will produce a report on what US intelligence agencies knew about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq before the war and whether the Bush administration conveyed that information accurately.

The panel to review administration officials. He reiterated his “open invitation” to anyone in the intelligence community to examine the issue outside a “political context.” He said he thinks the committee “will probably have a classified report to read it before they begin questioning administration officials. He reiterated his “open invitation” to anyone in the intelligence community to examine the issue outside a “political context.” He said he thinks the committee “will probably have a classified report to read it before they begin questioning administration officials.

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The CIA has previously said that one of its employees complained to the agency’s ombudsmen late last year that information was being distorted to support going to war, but that the complaint was ill-founded. An CIA official has denied that three such complaints have been filed with the CIA’s ombudsmen, as The Washington Post reported May 31.

CIA Director George J. Tenet and senior foreign policy officials in the Bush administration have sought to rebut criticism that the agency’s intelligence on Iraq’s possession of chemical and biological weapons was exaggerated.

The search for such weapons in Iraq continues.
US troops ambushed amid drive to extinguish resistance

Baghdad, 16 June — Guerilla fighters ambushed an American convoy in a hostile region north of Baghdad yesterday, wounding several soldiers, as the US army stepped up search-and-destroy operations against fighters loyal to Saddam Hussein.

The convoy was ambushed as the US military launched Operation Desert Scorpion, a mission intended to root out Saddam loyalists, including suspected foreign fighters, after a spate of attacks that have killed more than 40 American soldiers since major combat was declared over on 1 May.

On the road south of the town of Balad a crippled American lorry was left smouldering after the ambush. Apache helicopters buzzed overhead, searching for the attackers while tanks and armoured vehicles surrounded the lorry. Soldiers said several casualties had been rescued. The attack happened as the convoy travelled from Baghdad to Balad, about 60 miles to the north.

It came under attack about 12 miles south of its destination.

As the US army continued its sweep through central Iraq yesterday, sand encrusted tanks and armoured vehicles crowded the roads north of Baghdad, in an attempt to prevent an invasion of Iraq resistance. But the effort to disarm the Iraqis, who traditionally own weapons, is proving less than successful with only 700 guns out of an estimated five million in the country being handed in under an amnesty that has just ended.

The lumbering American armoured columns, supported by helicopters, seem out of proportion to the threat of attack. At one moment yesterday the army was claiming to have detained 74 suspected members of al-Qaeda south of Kirkuk, but later decided they had no connection with the organization.

Arrests are often made on vague or tainted information. In Baqubah, a fruit-growing town 30 miles north-west of Baghdad, two quesues had formed yesterday at the local police station. One consisted of informers denouncing members of the former regime and the other of relatives of detainees trying to find out where they were being held.

“The problem is that anybody can tell the Americans that a man is an Ali Baba — a looter — just because they have some money,” complained Salam Shamar, who

Iran, Saudi Arabia to strengthen cooperation on regional issues

TEHRAN, 16 June — Iran and Saudi Arabia have stressed the need for Teheran and Riyadh to adopt joint strategies in order to tackle regional crises, given the ongoing “sensitive situation of the region”.

In a meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Saud al-Faisal Saturday night before the latter ends his one-day visit to Teheran, Iran’s Expediency Council Chairman and former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani hailed common stances of the two countries on regional and world issues, including Iraq, Palestine and anti-terrorism, saying they were the results of “deep-rooted” ties.

For his part, al-Faisal said, “Riyadh and Teheran have common concerns with respect to regional situation and fighting terrorism and we have achieved the highest degree of mutual trust and cooperation.”

Referring to Iraq, Rafsanjani said the US invasion of Iraq in the face of widespread international opposition indicated that American rulers did not attach any importance to international laws.

“America, by occupying Iraq and violating the rights of the defenceless Iraqi people, revealed its true face to the world and now the world’s public opinion knows that fighting terrorism and weapons of mass destruction are only pretexts for America,” he said.

Al-Faisal said Iran and Saudi Arabia are now working to resolve the regional crisis. “We hope Iraq will see a government, trusted by the international opposition indicated that American rulers did not attach any importance to international laws.

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Al-Faisal said Iran and Saudi Arabia are now working to resolve the regional crisis. “We hope Iraq will see a government, trusted by the international community,” he said.

It is impossible to resolve a crisis by creating more crises and there is no other way than putting a halt to the massacre of the oppressed Palestinian people and restoring their rights in order to finally resolve the Middle East crisis.”

Rafsanjani implicitly rejected the US-backed roadmap for peace between the Palestinians and Israelis, saying, “any plan, shy of guaranteeing the interests of the Palestin- ian people, is doomed to fail”.

Iran, Saudi Arabia to strengthen cooperation on regional issues

WASHINGTON, 16 June — Lawmakers wrestled with the awkward failure of US-led forces to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, as Congress began reviewing the intelligence used to justify the war that ousted Saddam Hussein.

Leading members of Congress told Sunday’s talk shows that they had received voluminous classified materials from US intelligence agencies, which will be reviewed behind closed doors.

“If these weapons are never discovered, it will raise enormous questions about how we put together and act on the intelligence we gather in this country,” said Representative Jane Harman, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee.

“And that will make it much harder going forward for this administration or any other administration to claim we should preempt action by some head of a country or admit on our intelligence,” she told “Fox News Sun- day” US-led forces have yet to locate conclusive evidence backing the US leader’s central case for war: that Saddam possessed chemical and biological weapons, pursued nuclear arms, and might one day have armed terrorists with them.

Democrats have pushed for a formal investigation into the intelligence that led the United States to invade Iraq, but President George W. Bush’s Republican party has pro- ceedings that would include public hearings.

Democrats warned that the review of the intelligence on Iraq could have far-reaching consequences if conclusions about Iraq weapons programmes are not borne out.

“This is not a routine inquiry. This goes to the heart of our intelligence. Is it objective, or has it been shaded — has it been stretched to serve the heart of our intelligence,” he told CBS’s “Face the Nation.”

In an opinion piece Sunday in The Washing- ton Post, Senator John McCain said he was also surprised that US-led forces had not yet uncovered a chemical or nuclear weapons arsenal in Iraq.

“But if I find it impossible to credit as seri- ous the suggestion that this war shouldn’t have been fought because, lacking better intelligence, we ought to have assumed Hussein’s good faith,” McCain wrote.

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In an opinion piece Sunday in The Washing-
Saddam’s daughter says ex-Iraqi leader lives

London, 16 June — A daughter of deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein told a British newspaper she believes he is still alive, even though she has not seen him since before the US-led invasion.

"I know he survived the war. But once Baghdad fell, it was all so quick, all the family went our own ways. I am not in touch with any of them. But I believe they are still alive," the newspaper said one of its Baghdad-based reporters spoke to Raghad by telephone Saturday.

Raghad, 35, was quoted as saying she now lives with her sister Rana and their children in a "simple house" in Baghdad. She denied reports that she and her sister planned to seek asylum in England, where a cousin lives.

"I like England. I have been there before, and it’s nice, quiet and very cold. But politically, it is impossible," she said. Saddam, whose government was toppled in April, has three sons and three daughters by two wives.

Two of the sons, Odai and Qusai, were prominent in their father’s regime. The other children kept a low profile.

Raghad and Rana were married to brothers, Lt-Gen Hussein Kamel and Saddam Kamel. Raghad’s daughter, Rana, Saddam’s oldest son Odai, Hussein Kamel’s wife and Saddam Hussein’s only daughter, Raghad. In her arms is her son Ali, the President’s first grandson. Others in the photo are unidentified. Raghad has not seen her father since before the US-led war, but believes he is still alive, the British newspaper said.

Senator says open hearings on WMD possible

Washington, 16 June — The chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee held out the possibility Sunday of open hearings in the panel’s examination of the quality of prewar intelligence on Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction and how it was used by the Bush administration.

But Senate Pat Roberts, R-Kan, would go no further than promising eventual public hearings “if we think that is warranted”.

Senate Democrats have demanded open hearings and a public report to be issued after the committee concludes its review. He also said on CBS’ Face the Nation that the committee would publish a secret report of its findings, but a public report probably would be released as well, another possible concession to Democrats.

The closed hearings of Roberts’ committee will begin this week, handling the question of the information President Bush used to build a case for war against Iraq as routine oversight of the nation’s intelligence services.

The format overrides Democratic members’ demands for a more formal investigation with extensive questioning of witnesses about why weapons of mass destruction have not been found in Iraq and accusations that some evidence cited by the administration has proved false or misleading.

Last week, the GOP suggested that such a probe could become politicized or harm national security and said it instead favored the routine oversight formula for hearings by the intelligence and armed services committees. — Internet

Pakistan’s Lower House adopts resolution to support Musharraf

Islamabad, 16 June — Pakistani National Assembly on Saturday "unanimously" adopted a resolution to express its complete confidence in the leadership of President Pervez Musharraf prior to his visit to the United States, Germany, France and Britain, weakening the country’s democracy and defaming the country’s image, the Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

The ruling Pakistan Muslim League (Q) moved a resolution in the National Assembly to support Musharraf, who they said has pursued successful policies to improve the image of Pakistan. The newspaper said that as a result of these policies, Musharraf has received special invitations to visit those countries and assured full support and cooperation in this regard.

The National Assembly supports all the policies made by Musharraf, which have put Pakistan on the road to economic recovery and prosperity, Hussain stressed, adding these policies are paving the way for enhancing the image of Pakistan. The Lower House also viewed that the leadership of Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali is the guarantee that the country at this critical juncture, democracy and defaming the country’s image, the Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

Malaysia, Turkey to boost bilateral trade

Kuala Lumpur, 16 June — Banking on the visit of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan to Malaysia, Turkey aims to increase bilateral trade between the two countries to one billion US dollars a year.

Erdogan said Turkey was seriously looking at ways to increase bilateral trade with Malaysia, which now hovers around 270 million dollars.

"Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir, at our meeting yesterday, said that he would like to see trade between the two countries reach the one billion-US dollar mark, and we fully welcome this. We would like to see trade increase at the very first opportunity," he told a Press conference here.

He said the primary goal, as far as business was concerned, was to boost trade between the two countries, and “if we follow this goal and work on it we would achieve it.” — MNA/Xinhua
**Iqraq-Turkey oil pipeline operational on Monday**

BAGHDAD, 16 June — The main oil pipeline from Iraq to Turkey is expected to be back in working condition within 48 hours after it was hit by fire and explosions caused by a gas leak, a US military spokesman said on Saturday.

“We hope the facility will be back up if not today then tomorrow,” the spokesman said.

The de facto Oil Minister Thamir Ghadhban, appointed by the US Administration in Iraq, said earlier that Thursday’s blasts on the pipeline could hamstring Iraq’s ability to export crude.

The 660-mile pipeline from the Kirkuk oilfields to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan had a capacity of 1.1 million barrels per day before the US-led war that ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. It has not yet resumed pumping oil since the US attack on Baghdad.

“It will affect export capability. It is a pipeline and any incident in a pipeline would affect exports, but it can be repaired,” Ghadhban told Reuters in an interview.

He did not give an assessment of the impact of the fire and explosions.

**Vietnam sets GDP growth target of 7.5% for 2004**

HANOI, 16 June — Vietnam has set 2004’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth target of at least 7.5 per cent, according to a report of Vietnam News Agency on Friday.

Prime Minister Phan Van Khai said the country’s industrial and construction sector would grow by 10-10.5 per cent, services by 7.2-7.5 per cent and agriculture-forestry and aquaculture by 3.9-4.2 per cent.

In an instruction released on Thursday, he called for an appropriate policy to increase domestic saving, mobilize 35 per cent of GDP for investment. Total state budget revenues accounting for 20-21 per cent of GDP, increasing spending on education, health care, science and technology and poverty reduction, improving banking services and reducing bad debts will be the other main tasks.

**Young superspy wins Britain’s 2003 Children’s Book Award**

LONDON, 16 June — “Skeleton Key,” a thriller about the adventures of a 14-year-old superspy, won Britain’s 2003 Children’s Book Award, sponsor Red House bookwear, titled “Pants,” by illustrator Nick Sharratt and cartoonist Giles Andreae, this year’s best book for younger children. Books entered for the award were initially reviewed by 25,000 children from all over Britain. The children then voted again via the Internet to choose the book of the year among the ten most favourite books.

Among previous winners, Roald Dahl, one of the world’s leading children’s authors, and JK Rowling, creator of boy wizard Harry Potter, are worldwide well-known big stars.

**Iraq’s Olympic programme to be discussed**

DENVER, 16 June — A delegation of officials from the US Olympic Committee, the IOC and US State Department will meet in Kuwait next week to discuss plans for rebuilding Iraq’s Olympic programme after it was decimated by war and years of neglect.

The meeting, scheduled to take place in Kuwait City, also will include officials from the Kuwait-based Olympic Council of Asia and the United Nations Development Programme.

The group will discuss plans for providing training opportunities for elite Iraqi athletes, rebuilding the country’s sports infrastructure — particularly at the youth level — and creating exchanges of athletes and coaches to share training information.

“Sports has the power to create hope and opportunity, and we think it is very important to be part of an effort to rebuild the sports programme in Iraq,” USOC spokesman Darryl Seibel said. “This is an effort that will draw upon the resources of many different groups. This meeting represents the first step in what will be a long-term process.”

USOC officials already have discussed plans to bring Iraqi athletes over to train at US training centres, and they also are looking to send sporting goods equipment to Iraq to support the country’s youth sports programmes.

In recent weeks, USA Wrestling officials have talked to the USOC about bringing Iraqi wrestlers over to train in the United States prior to the Freestyle Wrestling World Championships this September in New York.

“We think that it’s a neat thing what they’re doing and we would definitely like to be a part of it,” USA wrestling spokesman Gary Abbott said.

The meeting in Kuwait will include USOC vice president Paul George and international affairs managing director Greg Harney; Pete Miro, the IOC’s director of National Olympic Committee Relations; and Nina Bishop of the US State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

President Sheik Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah and director general Abdul Muttaleb Ahmad will represent the OCA, the regional Olympic authority for Asia and the Middle East. Francis Dubois, director of the United Nations Development Programme in Baghdad, also will attend.

**APEC Investment Mart attracts high level of interest**

BANGKOK, 16 June — Both exhibitors and potential visitors have displayed a high level of interest in the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Investment Mart due to be held in October in Bangkok.

The Board of Investment (BOI) secretary-general, Sompong Wannapha, said that a large number of both domestic and foreign private sector companies in five core industrial sectors had said that they would exhibit in the event, which will be hosted by Thailand on October 16-21.

To date 70 per cent of the total exhibition area of 30,000 square metres have been booked by leading companies, making for over 400 exhibition booths, according to a report of the Thai News Agency Friday.

The five targeted industrial sectors are automobiles and automobile parts, fashion, agriculture and food, and IC.

Companies which have already said they will join include Toyota Motors Asia, Honda Motors, Thai Suzuki, Sony (Thailand), Samsung (Thailand) and Toshiba (Thailand).

APEC members have also displayed a pleasing level of interest in the event, with teams of high-ranking public and private sector executives due to join the event from countries, including Japan, Mexico, China and Chile.

He expressed hope that this would help companies create international brand images, and lead to the eventual creation of global marketing bases.
Myers says US must “go after” Saddam

WASHINGTON, 16 June — Former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is probably alive and the United States has to go after him, General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Fox News Channel on Saturday.

Myers also said there are at least five groups operating against US and British forces in Iraq, that weapons of mass destruction will be found in time, and there was no attempt by the White House to falsify the existence of those weapons.

“I think, probably the majority opinion is that (Saddam) is alive and it’s something that has to be dealt with...” Myers told Fox anchor Rita Cosby. “You know we’re gathering a lot of his senior aides and folks that he worked closely with. We’ve got to go after Saddam as well, and we are.”

Asked about recent attacks on US soldiers, Myers replied: “…There are about five different groups in there that are fighting; they’re the ones that are still loyal to the Baath party, and they think that maybe it will come back.

“There’s this Ansar al-Islam group that’s been in there since before we went in; they’ve been in there for years; other jihadists just come in to fight,” he said.

“There was a lot of money in Iraq,” Myers said when asked who was funding the fighters. “We know that there are groups in the Middle East that are sponsored by Iran. We know that some groups probably flow in from Syria, at least they have in the past. The borders on both sides are pretty porous.

Citing the assumption that Iraq had dual-use production facilities for weapons of mass destruction, chemical and biological weapons, Myers said, “It’s not a question of whether they had or not. Obviously they had the capability. I think we just need to be patient. And this is going to take time. We’ve been there 90 days.”

Myers denied that there was pressure from the White House to emphasize weapons of mass destruction in Iraq — the primary cause of the Bush Administration cited for going to war.

“My colleagues and I, everyone over here, are absolutely committed to the mission. We want to take the threat out of the Middle East. We’re not going to make a decision, an incorrect decision, and that’s the bottom line.”

Myers also denied that there were mass graves at the Abu Ghraib prison.

“Absolutely no bodies have been found in time, and there was no indication that there were bodies,” Myers said.

KNOC says international oil prices fall as output increases

SEOUL, 16 June — International oil prices fell in Iraq, Russia and other non-Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) producers increased output, the Korea National Oil Corp. said Saturday.

The state oil corporation said the price of Dubai spot crude fell Friday to US$25.44 per barrel, down $0.53 from the previous day. It was the second straight day that prices fell.

More refinery output.

North Sea Brent fetched $27.11 or $0.88 lower than Thursday, while West Texas Intermediate fell by $0.53 from the previous day. It fell as Iraq, Russia and other non-OPEC producers increased output, the Korea National Oil Corp. said Saturday.

An expert at the state oil corporation said prices began to head south after a report showed the commercial stockpiles of oil held by members of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development reached 2.3 billion barrels as of April, up 79 million barrels from one month earlier.

“The restarting of earnest production by the Iraqi fields and particularly the output by Russia are causing prices to fall, and we expect this trend to continue in the near future,” he added.

Internet

French weighs peacekeeping offer for Mideast

PARIS, 16 June — France said on Sunday it would discuss with European Union colleagues the possibility of sending peacekeeping forces to the Middle East if they could help to halt Israeli-Palestinian bloodshed.

Speaking after a week of violence that threatens a US-backed “road map” for peace, French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said peacekeepers would only be sent with the backing of the international community.

“Let’s see what such a force could contribute on the ground,” Villepin told French radio station Radio J.

“If it appears that all the parties want it and that a peacekeeping force would halt movements of terrorists or act in such a way as to avoid raising the stakes, then it’ll be done.”

Villepin, who is due to meet fellow European Union foreign ministers on Monday, said he would ask greatlly promote international peace and security, it added.

Moreover, the treaty is consistent with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which recognizes the right of any group of states to conclude regional treaties in order to assume the total absence of nuclear weapons in their respective territories.

China’s position and all the measures it takes provide frameworks for the promotion of mutual confidence among nations and substantially benefit peace and stability of the region, it emphasized. — MNA/Xinhua

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ASEAN appreciates China’s position on N-weapons treaty

PHNOM PENH, 16 June — ASEAN Sunday expressed its appreciation on China’s position on the accession to the Protocol to the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.

In its Annual Report released here on the eve of a series of meetings, ASEAN recalled that during the China-ASEAN summit last year, China expressed its willingness to work with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) towards early signing of the protocol by all the world’s five nuclear powers.

The Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty is ASEAN’s concrete contribution to the world, it said. The treaty contributes to general and complete disarmament of nuclear weapons in the region, thus

Building starts on east China’s largest car market

JINAN, 16 June — Construction on the largest automobile market in east China, which combines car sales, maintenance, refining, spare parts supply with car-centred recreations, started Thursday at Huaqin District of Jinan, capital of Shandong Province.

The automobile market comprises zones for car sales, truck sales and spare parts sales as well as a racing ground, drive-in cinema, and holiday villas. Li Shengli, head of the Huaqin District, said the area would cover 100 million yuan (six billion US dollars) by 2007. Jinan has 37 motor vehicle markets with total annual sales of 6.98 billion yuan and 30-odd maintenance plants with combined earnings of 410 million yuan.

Bank savings for urban and rural residents in the province climbed to 600 billion yuan (72 billion US dollars), indicating huge potential purchasing power, said Sun Qiang, general manager of the Runhua Group, the district’s largest car sales group which will be represented at the market.

— MNA/Xinhua

British Minister rejects single EU foreign policy

LONDON, 16 June — A single European foreign policy is unfeasible, Britain’s minister for the European Union said in remarks published on Monday, countering calls by some European policy makers for more centralized EU decision-making.

“The federalist vision of a single EU foreign policy, implemented by a central bureaucracy without the consent of all the governments, is neither realistic nor desirable,” the Financial Times quoted the minister, Dennis MacShane, as saying. The EU, soon to span 25 countries from the Atlantic to Russia’s borders, on Friday adopted the first draft constitution for an enlarged union. An EU foreign minister was among its proposals. — MNA/Reuters

The remains of a US army truck is seen near Balad 40 kilometres, (25 miles) north of Baghdad, Iraq, on 16 June, 2003. The truck was attacked in an ambush on 15 June with a number of soldiers injured. —INTERNET

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The Union of Myanmar
The State Peace and... (from page 1)
6. In section 43 of Myanma Gemstone Law the expression "fails to comply with the rules, procedures, orders and directives of section 16 sub-section (f)" shall be substituted by the expression "fails to comply with the rules and orders issued under this Law."
(Sgd) Than Shwe
Senior General
Chairman
The State Peace and Development Council

Minister inspects construction of roads and bridges
YANGON, 16 June — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Myint Thein and officials, yesterday inspected Myitnge Bridge construction in Mandalay Division. At the briefing hall, officials concerned reported on tasks being carried out, progress of work and requirements.

The minister gave necessary instructions and urged officials to complete work in time. Then, the minister and party also inspected Myitnge-Sagaing Road.

They then went to Ayeyawady (Yadanabon) Bridge construction site on Sagaing Bank. Responsible engineers reported on tasks being carried out and progress on both banks. The minister then urged officials to carry out the tasks systematically and gave instructions on timely completion of work and approach road construction. — MNA

Information Sub-Committee for Organizing Fourth World Buddhist Summit holds coord meeting
YANGON, 16 June — The Information Sub-Committee for Organizing the Fourth World Buddhist Summit held the first work coordination meeting at the meeting hall of Myanmar Radio and Television on Pyay Road here this afternoon with an address by Chairman of the Sub-committee Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein.

First, Chairman of the Sub-committee Deputy Minister for Information Brig-Gen Aung Thein made a speech. Then, Secretary of the Sub-Committee Director-General of MRTV U Khin Maung Htay reported on the information matters.

Next, Director-General of the Religious Affairs Department Dr Myo Myint and members of the Sub-Committee dealt with the information matters. The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the Chairman of the Sub-Committee. — MNA

UMFCCI officials leave for Thailand
YANGON, 16 June — Accountant Daw Phyu Phyu Than, Assistant Administrative Officer U Tin Shwe and Senior Clerk Daw Thi Thi Win left here by air today for Thailand to attend the Attracting Foreign Investment to the GMS to be held at Mekong Institute Khon Kaen University, Thailand, from 16 to 27 June, 2003. — MNA

SARS prevention
* There is no outbreak of SARS in Myanmar.
* Preventive measures are being taken against the spread of SARS from other countries.
* The people are urged to participate in the project.

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt formally unveils the stone inscription to mark the opening ceremony of Shwewa-lyaung road section-4 linking Bilin and Kyauktaw townships in Mon State. (News reported on 15-6-2003) — MNA

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt supplicates religious affairs to Sayadaws at the ceremony to hoist Shwehtidaw atop Kyakhtihthauk Pagoda in Bilin Township. (News reported on 15-6-2003) — MNA

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt attending while Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and Minister for PBANRDA Col Thein Nyunt formally open Shwewa-lyaung road section-4. (News reported on 15-6-2003) — MNA

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt attends the opening ceremony of Cheinchaung Bridge in Zokthok Village and the bridge in Anaingpon Village in Bilin Township. (News reported) — MNA
Entries invited to National Motto, Literary and Photo Competitions

YANGON, 16 June — The National Motto, Literary and Photo Competitions Organizing Committee has announced to hold the 14th Colour Photo Competition for the year 2003. For the Colour Photo Competition, the title given is “Own National Culture”. Those wishing to compete in the contest may send four printed entries which do not smaller than 10” by 12” size ones. The entries must be own creations and they have not won prizes in the local and international photo contests. The entries must be submitted together with two passport size photos and brief biography. The contest will not accept the entries shot by Digital Camera.

The entries must be sent to Director U Tun Min of the Information and Public Relations Department, 22-24, Pansodan Street, not later than on 15 October, 2003. The prize winner list of the contest will be announced at the beginning of November, 2003. Handsome prizes will be presented to the winners.

Supreme Court Justice leaves for Bangkok

YANGON, 16 June — A Myanmar delegation led by Supreme Court Justice Dr Tin Aung Aye this morning left here to attend Sub-Regional Needs-Assessment and Planning Meeting of Chief Justices of Mekong Countries to be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 17 to 18 June. The delegation was seen off at the airport by Chief Justice U Aung Toe, Deputy Chief Justice U Than Oo, Director-General U Soe Nyunt, directors, officials of Supreme Court and relatives.

Supreme Court Justice Dr Tin Aung Aye was accompanied by Additional Division Justice of Yangon Division Court U Htin Zaw.

Japanese Ambassador calls on Information Minister

YANGON, 16 June — Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Mr Yuji Miyamoto, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar, at his office here this morning.

Also present at the call were Information Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Aung Thein, Director-General of Myanmar Radio and Television U Khin Maung Hlay, Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department U Chit Naung, Managing Director of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Myint Thein, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Bo Kyi and Chief Editor of The New Light of Myanmar Daily U Maung Maung Aye.

Shan State (North) MCWASC Patron supplicates on SARS to Sayadaws

YANGON, 16 June — Daw Khin Thant Zin, Patron of Shan State (North) Supervisory Committee for Maternal and Child Welfare Association wife of the Commander of North-East Command, accompanied by members of the Supervisory Committee, paid homage to presiding Sayadaws and members of the Sangha at Sunlun, Seikta Thukha and Zeya Mingalatapon monasteries in Lashio on 13 June afternoon.

Then, Daw Khin Thant Zin and surgeons supplicated on facts about Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and prevention matters to the Sayadaws.

They then donated provisions to the Sayadaws.
The Secretary-1 pointed out the importance of nationalist spirit and national force as follows:

Taking advantage of the wealth difference and technological superiority, attempts to dominate among the sovereign nations and putting pressure on those nations are being made widely. Under such circumstances, the power of high, strong morale is an invaluable national strength for a developing country like Myanmar. National Spirit is the prime strength in struggling to keep ourselves free from the influence of some big nations with wealth power technological superiority.

"Minions of the external powers who are afraid of the impact of nationalist spirit, are launching propaganda that nowadays the nationalist spirit is out of date and that only the way of life of some big western nations is the proper and correct international standards. The Union of Myanmar assumes that the national policy- Non-disintegration of the Union; Non-disintegration of national solidarity of independence and sovereignty— is essential for all the developing countries. It is the ethics to be firmly adhered by all the citizens who are patriotic and have love for the nation and the people."

Nowadays, we come across the ones who are saying that the nationalist spirit is out of date and that only the life style of some big western nations is the proper and correct international standards. I believe that they are the ones who ignore the nationalist spirit which have flourished throughout successive eras for ensuring independence, security, peace, tranquility and prosperity of the entire nation and the ones who want to show their nature of being minions.

Once, I heard them say that there were none of neo- or old colonialists in the world. According to them, it can be vividly seen that they are defending the old and neo-colonialists since they are colluding with the colonialists. Today, some colonialists countries interfere in the affairs of independent countries with the use of force and the whole world abhor their acts. At such a time, people begin to denounce the ones who say that nationalist spirit is out of date and there are no colonialists and the ones who copy the life style of western countries.

At a time when the entire nation is witnessing the prevalence of peace and tranquility across the country and emergence of new roads and bridges, dams and reservoir areas and hospitals which are the result of nation-building endeavours, people will not tolerate unrest like the one that broke out in 1988 when there reigned anarchy. People will never forget the incidents that occurred in 1988 unrest in which innocent people were killed, factories, warehouses were destroyed and five warships of a certain western country entered Myanmar waters and the nation was on the verge of disintegration. People will not accept unrest just for the sake of democracy.
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes SARS, was first identified in China in late 2019. Since then, it has spread around the world, causing a global pandemic. The virus is highly contagious and can cause severe illness or death in some cases. Public health measures such as social distancing, mask-wearing, and vaccination have been critical in controlling the spread of the virus.

Drug traffickers arrested

YANGON, 16 June — A combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and the Myitkyina special anti-drug squad on 12 May searched the house of U Shi Ya Aung, of Yeaychaung Ward, Mawwan tract in Phakant Township, and found 3,705 kilos of opium owned by Bran Li staying at the house.

In connection with the case, Phakant Police Station filed a lawsuit against U Shi Ya Aung, son of U Kweyewear, under Section 1519(A)/(21 of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. Second best time is now.
Hydrogen fuel may make Earth cooler, cloudier

WASHINGTON, 16 June — Hydrogen fuel cells, the widely hailed pollution-free energy source of the future, may turn out not to be so kind to the Earth, scientists said on Friday. Providing the hydrogen needed by all those fuel cells might create a cloudier, cooler planet, with larger and longer-lasting atmospheric ozone holes over the poles, said researchers from the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

Hydrogen fuel cells are seen as potentially emissions-free energy sources for everything from automobiles to homes, replacing fossil fuel engines and eliminating the noxious pollutants that damage lungs and build up heat-trapping gases cited in theories of global warming. But in producing and transporting hydrogen needed to fuel the aspiring technology, roughly 10 per cent to 20 per cent of the gas can be expected to leak into the atmosphere, the report in the journal Science said.

Quadrupling the levels of hydrogen gas — actually two molecules of hydrogen in the air from the current 0.5 parts per million would create more water vapour in the atmosphere, setting the stage for hydrogen combines with oxygen, resulting in more cloud cover, the report said.

Computer models used by study author Tracey Tromp suggested stratospheric temperatures could cool by 0.5 degrees, slowing the arrival of spring in the North and South polar regions and expanding the size, depth and atmospheric longevity of the ozone holes.

Less ozone in the upper atmosphere, which allows more of the sun’s dangerous ultraviolet rays to reach the Earth and has increased skin cancer risks, is widely blamed on mankind’s release of now-banned chlorofluorocarbons, chemicals used in refrigerants and propellants.

The ozone layer was expected to recover in 20 to 50 years as chlorofluorocarbon levels ease, though an injection of hydrogen into the atmospheric mix might worsen the problem, the report said.

More hydrogen in the air would likely also have a direct impact on the Earth’s teeming surface, as it is a nutrient for microbes, it said.

TRADE MARK CAUTION
NOTICE is hereby given that Jai Hortico Co., Ltd., of 4-11, Hibiya-shinagawa 2-chome, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Japan is the Owner and Sole Proprietary of the following trademark.

The said trade mark is registered
Under Reg. Nos. IV/2426/1999 & IV/5709/2002 in respect of:
"Soaps, dentifrices, shampoos, hair lotions, cosmetics" Int’l Cl:3
Under Reg. Nos. IV/2429/1999 & IV/5712/2002 in respect of:
"Towels" Int’l Cl:24
The said trade mark is registered
Under Reg. Nos. IV/2429/1999 & IV/5712/2002 in respect of:
"Bathrobes, nightgowns, bath caps, slippers" Int’l Cl:25
The said trade mark is registered
"Tablewares (not of precious metal), cups, toothbrushes" Int’l Cl:21
The said trade mark is registered
"Hotel management, providing hotel accommodation, providing food and drink, beauty salons" Int’l Cl:42
Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatever will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win, B.Com., B.L. for Jai Hortico Co., Ltd., P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon-Phone: 772427
Dated: 17th June 2003

84 fishermen reported missing in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 16 June— Some 84 fishermen on seven fishing boats have been reported missing so far in the Bay of Bengal amid strong winds three days ago. The fishermen have not returned home since they were warned of the tropical storm and halted their journey, and all attempts to contact them have failed, said officials from Bangladesh Travellers’ Association in the southern district Barisal.

MINA/Reuters

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MINA/Reuters
Beijing’s SARS patients to drop to less than 60 in July

BEIJING, 16 June — The number of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) patients in Beijing hospitals is expected to drop to about 60 around July 10.

The forecast was based on a report made by a research group led by Fang Zhijian, a professor at the Chinese University of Science and Technology in Beijing, the worst-hit area in the world, with a method called chromatography non-linear trend.

Researchers estimated the number of SARS patients in hospital in Beijing at 100 around July 5 and less than 60 around July 10, a number low enough for the World Health Organization to lift its travel advisory.

The next month was a critical period, Fang said, urging people in Beijing to remain vigilant in the fight against SARS.

Under-river gas pipeline completed in Tianjin

TIANJIN, 16 June — The laying of a 1,672-metre gas pipeline with a diameter of 610 millimetres beneath the Haihe River in the northern China port city of Tianjin, was completed on Saturday.

The laying of the world’s longest high-pressure gas pipeline passing beneath a river, said an official of the China Petroleum Pipeline Company.

The cross-river laying of the pipeline was considered the toughest task in the second phase of the gas transmission project in Binhai District, one of the key projects listed by the Tianjin Municipal Government.

Its completion enabled the smooth completion of the 350-kilometre pipeline in October.

Pakistan seizes 3.7 tons of Afghan drugs

QUETTA (Pakistan), 16 June — Pakistani border guards and anti-narcotics officers seized around 3.7 tons of drugs smuggled from Afghanistan into the southwestern province of Baluchistan, an official said on Saturday.

“The drugs, brought from Afghanistan, were found dumped in the desert,” said a senior officer of Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in Baluchistan, bordering Iran and Afghanistan.

He said the ANF launched an operation late on Friday in Kharan Desert, some 340 miles south of provincial capital Quetta and seized three tons of hashish and 700 kilos of opium.

“We used a helicopter to raid the area on a tip-off,” he said. The smugglers escaped, he said.

The Pakistan narcotics officials say the country is the transit route for about a quarter of the 3,400 tons of heroin produced in Afghanistan.

Thailand, Malaysia to cooperate in public health

BANGKOK, 16 June — Thailand and Malaysia decided to cooperate in some areas of public health during their joint public health meeting, according to a report of Thai News Agency on Sunday.

The meeting, which was held from Thursday to Saturday in Thailand’s southern city of Phuket, proposed the creation of a joint network to survey and conduct research into major communicable diseases, in particular dengue fever.

Public Health Minister Sudarat Keyuraphan and her Malaysian counterpart Datin Chua Jui Meng hailed the Third Thai-Malaysian Public Health Collaborative Development Meeting as a success in a joint statement on Saturday.

Sudarat said that the three-day meeting would lead to cooperation in solving public health problems and developing new health service systems.

Floods in Bangladesh leave thousands homeless

DHAKA, 16 June — About 3,000 families in northeast Bangladesh have been left homeless by flash floods triggered by heavy rain and water gushing across the border from neighbouring India, officials said on Saturday.

Some families have moved to higher ground while others sought refuge with relatives and friends, said an official in Moulvibazar, one of the areas worst hit by three days of floods.

There have been no deaths reported so far. Agriculture officials reported some damage to rice crops but could not give a complete assessment immediately.

Worse threatens, as more rain swept much of Bangladesh on Saturday, including the capital Dhaka and parts of the southeast, local officials told reporters.

They blamed the flood partly on rainwater rolling in from hills in northeast India, which caused several breaches in a river dyke in Moulvibazar, about 150 miles from Dhaka.

The dyke protects Moulvibazar, an area and rice-growing district, from the onslaught of the Monu River, officials said.

The Government of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Forestry
Myanmar Timber Enterprise

Date 10-6-2003

Myanmar Timber Enterprise will hold the sealed tender sale as follows:

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<th>Commodity</th>
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<td>Closing date</td>
<td>25-6-2003 (Wednesday)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Bids in sealed envelopes are to be dropped into the box marked “Sealed tender sale for teak conversions” which is kept at Marketing Unit (1) of the Export Marketing and Milling Department of the Myanmar Timber Enterprise. Please contact the above unit if further information is required.

Secretary
Export Committee (MITE)

Treaty regulating GMO trade to start in September

NAIROBI, 16 June — The tiny Pacific nation of Palau has become the 50th country to ratify an international treaty regulating trade on genetically modified organisms, triggering the launch of the tighter rules in September.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) announced the development on Saturday, saying the treaty was not meant to block GMOs, which have become the focus of a fierce row between their main promoter, the United States, and a sceptical Europe.

“Palau has become the 50th country to ratify the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, starting a 90-day countdown to the agreement’s entry into force,” the Nairobi-based agency said.

UNEP chief Klaus Toepfer told the protocol, designed to be realized within three months of the 50th country signing up, was intended to inject more transparency into the trade of GMOs.

Under the new rules, countries exporting GMOs will have to provide detailed information, including descriptions of the organism, to recipient countries in advance of any shipment to help them decide whether or not to accept it.

A country may reject GMO imports or donations — even without scientific proof — if it fears they pose a danger to its traditional crops, undermine local cultures or reduce the value of biodiversity to indigenous communities.

“It is not a protocol to block GMOs, it is a protocol to make the use of these products safer,” Toepfer told reporters. “We have to slow down the importation of GMOs without the full knowledge of the importing countries.”

MNA/Reuters

Cameroon seeks Nigeria withdrawal from peninsula

ABUJA, 16 June — Cameroon has proposed a timetable for Nigeria to withdraw from a disputed territory which the World Court awarded to Cameroon last October, after another round of talks ended without any concrete agreements.

The two neighbours met for three days this week in the Nigerian capital Abuja under the auspices of the Cameroon-Nigeria Mixed Commission in a further bid to resolve the long-running and bitter dispute over the Bakassi Peninsula.

It was the commission’s fourth meeting since the International Court of Justice awarded the Nigerian-controlled peninsula, whose off-shore waters are rich in oil and fish, to Cameroon.

The Commission said in a communiqué issued late on Thursday that Cameroon had proposed a timetable for Nigeria to withdraw troops and administrative personnel from Bakassi and that Nigeria would respond by 15 July.

MNA/Reuters

Closing date: 25-6-2003 (Wednesday)

Earnest money: For overseas companies-US $ 10000

Location: Yangon sawmills

Commodity: Teak scantlings.
Argentina not expecting easy ride in World Cup qualifiers

BUENOS AIRES, June 16 — Argentina coach Marcelo Bielsa, whose team breezed through the qualifiers for the 2002 World Cup, is not expecting such an easy ride this time.

“I don’t think the next qualifiers will be as easy for Argentina as the last ones,” he said on Friday.

Bielsa controversially kept his job despite his team’s shock first round elimination in South Korea and Japan last year. He told reporters at Buenos Aires airport that he was happy with his team’s performances in the Far East after they beat Japan 4-1 and South Korea 1-0 earlier this month.

“It was a positive tour because we had ten days’ work and contact with the players, about whom I had a preconceived idea which I was able to amplify,” he said.

“The target between now and September is to consolidate the team for the qualifiers,” he added. Argentina showed flashes of good football but need to perform more consistently.”

“We have to try and make the moments of good football last longer, it’s an aspect we have to correct,” he said.

Bielsa added that he had expected a better performance from Japan, who are coached by former Brazil forward Zico, and suggested the Koreans had been over-cautious.  — MNA

Russian swimmer breaks world 200m breaststroke record

BARCELONA, June 16 — Russia’s Dmitry Komornikov set a world record in the 200m breaststroke with a time of 2:09.52 on Saturday.

Komornikov’s swim at the Mare Nostrum event in Barcelona beat the old mark of 2:09.97, set by Kosuke Kitajima of Japan in the Asian Games in Pusan in October 2002.

“I went fast in the first 100 metres and as I was feeling good I decided to maintain the rhythm,” Komornikov said. “I wasn’t thinking about breaking the world record, though.”

It was the first world record set at the Sant Andreu pool in Barcelona, organizers said.

Barcelona hosts the World Swimming Championships next month but the swimming will be held at a specially constructed pool in the Palau Sant Jordi.

Suarez beats Sprem in Vienna final

VIENNA, June 16 — Sixth-seeded Argentinian Paola Suarez overcame Croatia’s Karolina Sprem to win the Vienna Grand Prix 7-6, 2-6, 6-4 on Saturday.

Despite entering as a qualifier, Sprem beat defending champion Israeli Anna Komornikov’s swim at the Mare Nostrum event in Barcelona beat the old mark of 2:09.97, set by Kosuke Kitajima of Japan in the Asian Games in Pusan in October 2002.

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Despite entering as a qualifier, Sprem beat defending champion Israeli Anna

The 31-year-old Irishman, following opening scores of 69 and 72, picked up shots at the second, fourth and fifth holes to move to two under overall on a third successive day of calm weather at Olympia Fields Country Club.

But world number seven Harrington then faltered with bogeys at the 555-yard sixth and the par-four eighth to slip back to one under for the day, and level for the tournament.

Other players making an early impression included American Dicky Pride, who reeled off three consecutive birdies from the third to move to three under, and Briton Justin Rose, who picked up shots at one, five and six to get to two under.

Pakistanis Singh and Furyk were scheduled to tee off at 1:50 CDT (2000 GMT) with defending champion Tiger Woods set to launch his third round with Argentinian Eduardo Romero at 1430 (30).

With virtually no wind and the greens still reasonably soft following rain earlier in the week, there was every chance the record scoring of the second round would continue. — MNA/Reuters

France preparing for life without Zidane

France did win the Confederations Cup in Japan two years ago without their injured key player may get injured as he did in a warm-up game for last year’s World Cup.

If the Santini’s decision can only be praised, it has raised many eye-brows and triggered the same questions about Zidane.

France, who has yet to speak publicly about his future, was said by his agents Tuesday to be “surprised and disappointed” by United’s willingness to sell him. They said the midfielder had met Laporta or his representatives. Six men were running for the top job at Barcelona, one of the biggest and most successful football clubs in the world. Laporta polled 52.57 percent. Bassat polled 31.80 percent. More than 51,600 of the 94,339 Barcelona club members voted.

Real Madrid, Barcelona’s great rivals, are widely tipped to make a bid for Beckham since the Spanish league season ends next weekend. Real are favorites to win the league title with one game to play and are the only club side who can rival the luster of United, the English champions. Barcelona have no chance of playing in the Champions League next season. The newly-elected Barcelona president has promised to sign a total of five candidates estimating the true figure to be more like 200 million euros ($58.74 million).

That is despite Barcelona being at least 100 million euros in debt, with some of the debts with investors. The club side who can rival the luster of United, the English champions. Barcelona have no chance of playing in the Champions League next season. The newly-elected Barcelona president has promised to sign a total of five

The 40-year-old lawyer won the election by a landslide, according to provisional results released by the club. But there is still a major doubt over whether he can make good on his “deal” to sign Beckham, English soccer’s most famous player...

“Very happy to win the election,” Laporta told Reuters. “Today I am celebrating, we will talk about Beckham later.”

Laporta’s main opponent was Lluís Bassat, a 61-year-old publicist, who was the overwhelming favorite before United’s president Tuesday they were ready to sell Beckham to Laporta.

The deal was conditional on Laporta winning the election and Barcelona agreeing personal terms with midfield Beckham.

France will have to spare him.”

If Santini truly admires Zidane, the world’s most expensive player, he is smart enough to avoid repeating the mistake of his predecessor Roger Lemerre by basing the team’s strategy only on “Zizou”.

To the 4-2-3-1 line-up preferred by Lemerre, Santini prefers a solid 4-4-2 in which the team plays as a whole rather than like an orchestra led by a conductor. Santini is fully aware that Zidane is 30 years old and

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Barcelona, 16 June — Joan Laporta became president of Barcelona Sunday after winning over fans of the Catalan club with a pledge to buy England captain David Beckham.

Harrington, Pride, Rose make early moves

OLYMPIA FIELDS (Illinois), 16 June — Padraig Harrington took the lead of the three first holes to make an early charge in the US Open third round on Saturday as co-leaders Vijay Singh and Jim Furyk prepared for late starts.

The 31-year-old Irishman, following opening scores of 69 and 72, picked up shots at the second, fourth and fifth holes to move to two under overall on a third successive day of calm weather at Olympia Fields Country Club.

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3. Morning news

2. To be healthy—exercise

7:00 am

9:00 Signature Tune

10:00 Close Down

9:02 Song of Myanmar

Beautty & Scenic

Sights “Myanmar Panorama &
Myanmar Sentiment”

9:06 How to make

Chinlone

9:10 Headline News

9:12 Myanmar Cuisine

“Roasted Rice
Powder with Fish”

9:15 National News

9:20 Myanmar Pearls

9:25 Smart Beautiful Cart

9:30 National News

9:35 Songs on Screen

“A Diamond-studded
Song”

9:40 Toddy Palm Arts

9:45 National News

9:50 Traveling on the
Chin Mountain
Ranges

9:58 Song of Myanmar

Beautty & Scenic

Sights “Come and
See Myanmar”

10:00 Close Down

Chairman of Myanmar Engineering Society Professor Dr Sein Myint addresses opening ceremony of Junior Engineer Orientation Course No.1, organized by Human Resource Development Committee of MES. at MICT Park on 16-6-2003.—NLM

Junior Engineer Orientation Course opened

YANGON, 16 June — The opening ceremony of the Junior Engineer Orientation Course No.1 conducted by the Human Resource Development Committee of the Myanmar Engineering Society took place in Room-205, Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Park (MICT Park), here this afternoon.

It was attended by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Hlaing Win, Deputy Minister for Science and Technology U Nyo Hla Nge, senior engineers, professors, heads of departments, lecturers, course instructors, and trainees.

MES Chairman Professor Dr Sein Myint and the in-charge of the course spoke on the occasion.—MNA

CASH DONATED TO HOME FOR THE AGED: Khoronamabdi title recipient Ayatolla Shariakh of Iran and party donated K 300,000 to Hninzigon Home for the Aged on 15 June 2003. Joint Secretary of Management Board of the Home U Themyaing accepts the donations.—(o)

View today:

Tuesday, June 17

7:00 am

1. Recitation of Parittas by Missionary Sayadaw U Ottanathara

7:25 am

To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

8:05 am

6. Song of yesteryears

8:15 am

7. 'A Diamond-studded Song'

8:30 am

9. International news

8:45 am

9. Grammar made easy

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold national spirit

4:30 pm

3. English For Everyday Use

4:45 pm

4. Musical programme

5:05 pm

5. ‘A Diamond-studded Song’

5:15 pm

6. Dance of national races

5:25 pm

7. ‘A Diamond-studded Song’

5:40 pm

8. ‘A Diamond-studded Song’

6:00 pm

9. Sing and enjoy

6:30 pm

10. Evening news

7:00 pm

11. Weather report

7:05 pm

12. ‘A Diamond-studded Song’

7:15 pm

13. The mirror images of the musical oldies

7:30 pm

14. ‘A Diamond-studded Song’

7:40 pm

15. Musical programme

8:00 pm

16. News

8:15 pm

17. International news

8:30 pm

18. Weather report

8:45 pm

19. ‘A Diamond-studded Song’

9:00 pm

20. ‘A Diamond-studded Song’

9:15 pm

21. The next day programme

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WEATHER

Monday, June 16, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in Kayah State and rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Shan State, lower Sagaing and Magway Divisions, scattered in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were 3.6 inches in Kakeha (27.60 inches) central Kayah, 2.14 inches in Hlaingtorn, and 2.04 inches in Kawkareik. Total sunshine hours on 15-6-2003 was (5.3) hours approx. Rainfall on 16-6-2003 was 7 mm at Yangon Airport, 10 mm at Kabasa-Aye and 23 mm at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 was 559 mm (22.01 inches) at Yangon Airport, 625 mm (24.61 inches) at Kabasa-Aye and 696 mm (27.40 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kabasa-Aye) was 14 mph from Northwest at (17:30) hours MST on 15-6-2003.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 17-6-2003: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kachin, Rakhine and Mon States and Taninthayi Division and scattered in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: General decrease of rain in the whole country.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 17-6-2003: One or two rains or thundershowers with sunny period. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 17-6-2003: Possibility of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (40%).
Objectives of projected works coordinated in Myeik District

YANGON, 16 June — A work coordination meeting on objectives of the projects in Myeik District, Taninthayi Division, was held at the hall of Taninthayi Division General Administration Department this afternoon.

It was attended by Chairman of Taninthayi Division Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Thura Aye Myint, officials of the Ministry of Sports, members of the Panel of Pacts, chairman of District/Township Peace and Development Councils and officials.

At the meeting, the commander called for successful implementation of the projects, exceeding targets for agriculture, development of the fish and meat sector and the industrial sector, extension of new export items and cooperation of officials concerned in implementing the projects.

Then, officials reported on implementation of their respective projects and future tasks. The commander then fulfilled the requirements and made concluding remarks. MNA

Myanmar youth moves into final

YANGON, 16 June — Myanmar youth won over Vietnamese youth 2-0 in the first semi-final match in the first ASEAN Under-18 Youth Soccer Tournament at Youth Training Centre in Thawunna at 3:30 pm today.

Among the football fans were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, officials of the Ministry of Sports, members of the Panel of Patrons of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation and guests.

Before the match, the players of both sides led by referees took positions in front of the grand stand. Meanwhile, national anthems of the two countries were played.

At 6pm, the second semi-final match commenced. Myanmar youth beat Singaporean youth 2-0 in the match and entered the final. Meanwhile, Malaysian youth team will play in the third place match at the same venue at 5 pm on 18 June. In the final match, Myanmar youth team will meet Malaysian youth team at 5:30 pm. MNA

Tickets for U-18 3rd-place and final

YANGON, 16 June — The third-place and final matches of U-18 ASEAN Youth Soccer Tournament will take place at the Youth Training Camp (Thawunna) at 3 pm and 5.30 pm respectively on 18 June. Tickets for both matches will be available in advance at the Aung San Grounds, Paloma Grounds, Salin Grounds, Theinbyu Tennis Court, and Kyakkausin Sports Science from 9 am to 3 pm tomorrow.

Tickets will also be sold at the junction of Thanthama and Waizayata Roads, at the junction of Lidaumkan and East Race Court, at the junction of Pyithaya and Waizayata Roads and also at Jawana junction on the match day, 18 June. MNA

Coord meeting held for modernization of Yangon City

YANGON, 16 June — A work coordination meeting of the work committees for modernization of Yangon City took place at the meeting hall-4 of Yangon City Development Committee this morning, with an address by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Present at the meeting were Chairmen of YCDC, Mayor U Ko Lay, deputy ministers, members of YCDC, heads of departments, directors-general, managing directors, commanders of military commands, local authorities, and officials.

In his speech, Maj-Gen Myint Swe said that in line with the guidance of the Head of State to build Yangon City into a neat, pleasant, and modern one, work committees were formed under the close supervision of State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt to modernize Yangon City. He also spoke of the need to speed up the tasks for extension of roads, the laying of (inter lock) tiles on platforms, construction of parking lots and overpasses for timeliness completion.

Mayor U Ko Lay explained the conditions of the tasks for the modernization of Yangon City, and the growing of shady trees and flowering plants.

Then, Deputy Minister for Transport U Pe Than explained tasks to be carried out for beautifying the Yangon Port and the Botataung Port and progress made in the extension of six-lane Strand Road and future tasks; Col Tin Soe of YCDC, systematic arrangements for the placing of shops along Strand Road; U Tun Than Tun of YCDC, the construction of sewage-treatment plant; Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Pe Than, preparatory measures being taken for the construction of Kyaukseebin overpass and the upgrading of other overpasses in Yangon; Commandant Maj-Gen Myint Swe, coordination with departments concerned for supply of materials necessary for modernizing the city; Deputy Minister for Transport Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint, the construction of roads and houses in the surrounding areas of the Mingaladon airport; Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, beautifying tasks being carried out; and U Zaw Win of YCDC, renovation and painting of buildings.

Next, officials reported on progress in the extension of six-lane Strand Road and systematic arrangements for car parking lots.

After hearing the reports, the commander gave instructions on timely and harmonious completion of modernization works. MNA

New school building handed over in Kalaw

YANGON, 16 June — A new two-storey school building of Heho No 1 Basic Education Primary School with a seating-capacity of 400 students in Kalaw was handed over to the Education Department on 12 June morning.

Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint and wellwisher U Hoke Kyi opened the school building by cutting a ribbon.

The commander then made an address and State Education Officer U Shwe gave thanks. Next, wellwisher U Hoke Kyi handed over the documents relating to the school building to the education officer and explained the purpose of the donation.

Then, the vice-chairman of the school board of trustees presented documentary photos of the school and a certificate of honour to the wellwisher.

The school building with eight class rooms is 134 ft in length and 30 ft in width, and was built at a cost of K 15 million.

In the afternoon, the commander went to the project for upgrading of Mrauk Taunggyi-Kengtung-Taichilek Union Highways. Construction Engineer U Soe Tint reported on tasks being carried out on Meiktilaza-Taichilek road section with the use of charts and presentations by officials on progress of work sector-wise. Next, the commander attended to the needs. MNA