Kalena dharmasavanam, Timely audition of the doctrines; this is the way to auspiciousness.

Established 1914

Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt inspects renovation of CPT Minister’s office, Hanthawady exchange compound, Myanmar Shopping Mall building

YANGON, 17 June—State Peace and Development Council Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt looked into the arrangements to relocate the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs and an exchange station to the compound at the corner of Hanthawady and Pyay roads in Sangyoung Township, here this afternoon. The Secretary-1 also inspected Myanmar Shopping Mall project on Sule Pagoda Road. During inspection of the two projects, he gave necessary instructions to officials General Khin Nyunt, accompanied by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj Gen Myint Swe, Yangon Mayor U Ko Lay, officials from the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, arrived at the compound at the corner of Hanthawady and Pyay roads in Sangyoung Township where the ministry and the exchange station will be relocated. Minister for Information Brig Gen Kyaw Hsan, Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, and Telegraph, and an exchange station in Sangyoung Township. — MNA

Government building 80 highways, bridges large and small to ensure smooth transport in entire Union

YANGON, 17 June — Hopin Bridge in Hopin, Mohinny Township, Kachin State, was opened with a ceremony at the pandal near the bridge this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint said the bridge on Thayet creek in Hopin on Shwebo-Myitkyina road is installed with steel frames. The State is giving priority to building bridges and roads, the basic requirements for national development. It is the ninth bridge in Kachin State whose length exceeds 180 feet. The State Peace and Development Council has been studying and fulfilling the regional requirements for harmonious progress of all the regions including Kachin State.

Transport is the most important and the most basic need for regional development. In accord with the Head of State’s guidance, Union 80 highways linking the states and divisions the length and breadth of the Union have been build and extended phase by phase. At the same time, the government is building a large number of bridges large and small on the roads. The aim of the project is to build a network of roads ensuring smooth transport in all the parts of the Union. In the past, mainly, there was only a rail road to link Mandalay Division, Sagaing Division (See page 9)

The newly-opened Hopin Bridge in Hopin, Mohinny Township, Kachin State. — MNA
Towards socio-economic development of rural areas

The development of a region depends on its transportation sector. Therefore, the government is giving top priority to building the transport infrastructure for the development of each and every region across the Union. Plans are being implemented for the improvement in transport and telecommunications that can directly benefit social, economic, education and health sectors. Rural areas have become developed especially during the period of the third short-term five-year plan and measures are being taken to narrow down the gap between rural and urban areas.

In accord with the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe on rural development, the tasks for smooth and easy transportation, water supply, promotion of education and health care services and economic development in rural areas are being carried out with added momentum. Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt on 15 June attended the opening ceremonies of Cheinchau Bridge and Shwewayaung Road (fourth section) in Bilin Township, Mon State.

Cheinchau Bridge is 90-foot long and 16-foot wide. Anaingpon Bridge is 46 feet long and 16 feet wide. Both are of reinforced concrete types and are situated on the Shwewayaung Road (first section). Shwe-wayaung Road (fourth section) links Yetkannya village and Theingnu village in Bilin Township and Kyaiikpi village in Kyaiikhto Township. It was constructed by the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs with the cooperation of local people.

Now, the first, second, third and fourth sections of Shwewayaung Road have been opened in Bilin and Kyaiikhto townships in Mon State. The fourth section of the road links the villages on the eastern and western sides of Kaylatha Mountain Range. The opening of Thuwunna Yadana Bridge, Zokthok Bridge, Cheinchau Bridge and Anaingpon Bridge on Shwe-wayaung Road enables the people living in 13 villages in the area to travel from one place to another easily.

We would like to urge all those responsible always to construct more and more roads and bridges in rural areas so as to improve the social and economic life, education and health of rural people.

Fire-fighting course concludes

YANGON, 17 June — The conclusion of the basic fire-fighting course No 1/2003 organized by the News and Periodicals Enterprises under the Ministry of Information was held at the head office of NPE on Theinbyu Road here this afternoon, with an address by Managing Director of NPE U Tin Kha.

Also present on the occasion were Director (News) U Hla Tun, Director (Admin) U Soe Win, the head of Kyauktada Township Fire Services Department, chief editors of the dailies, Myanma News Agency (Internal) and (External), course instructors and trainees. Head of Kyauktada Township Fire Services Department U Hla Myint presented completion certificates to the trainees. Then, the trainees presented a skill demonstration.

A total of 65 trainees attended the course conducted from 2 to 10 June under the instruction of the Minister for Information. — MNA

POEM:

Take horse and saddle as example

If horse doesn’t move

But saddle moves

Horse would have to take to full gallop

Every time saddle moves.

Every time that toy horse moves whenever saddle sets fickle

The move it shakes

The saddle deteriorates

And comes off

In chaotic condition

Head and neck breaks

It is left thus

The saddle itself

Is unperturbed

But keeps moving.

Ryan Hlwar (Tsz)

Managing Director of NPE U Tin Kha delivers an address at the closing ceremony of the training course.—MNA

Demonstration on SEW Eurodrive Energy Saving Products

YANGON, 17 June — Under the aegis of the Myanmar Engineering Society, SEW (Private) Co Ltd of India and Agricultural and Industrial Development Co Ltd of Myanmar jointly demonstrated on SEW Eurodrive Energy Saving Products at the Grand Plaza Parkroyal Hotel on Alanpya Pagoda Road here this afternoon.

It was attended by specialists, professors, heads of departments, lecturers and doctors of the Ministry of Health and Defence Services Hospital, officials of the two companies and guests.

At the seminar, Director U Nay Min Myo Thein of Lion Myanmar Int’l Co extended greetings and explained the company’s distribution of modern laboratory equipment through the system of “after-sales service & support”. Next, Mr Liew Lee Min and Mr Jayaram Sastry of Bayer Health Care Ltd briefed on application of the equipment to the treatment of bio-chemistry and haematology and screening of DNA, and formation of sales centres for providing of the equipment. Then, U Nay Min Myo Thein gave concluding remarks. — MNA

Director of Lion Myanmar International Co U Nay Min Myo Thein delivers an address at the seminar. — MNA

Heroin, raw opium seized

YANGON, 17 June — A combined team consisting of members of the local intelligence unit, special anti-drug squad and Myanmar Police Force, acting on a tip-off on 30 May, searched a house in Yonshe Ward, Laukkai and arrested Ywin Shinyon, son of U Ywin Kyar Shi of Kongyang, and Ywin Laukshin, son of U Ywin Laukkyone, together with 9.1 kilos of heroin at the house.

Likewise, on 5 June, another combined team comprising members of the local intelligence unit and special anti-drug squad, acting on information, searched a house located in Shwethamin Ward, Muse, and seized house owner Mar Nwe, son of U Khin Yongan along with 10.7 kilos of raw opium. Police stations concerned are taking action against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — MNA

Managing Director of SEW (Private) Co Ltd Mr PKC Bose speaks at the demonstration. — MNA

Demonstration on application of modern laboratory equipment held

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Managing Director of NPE U Tin Kha delivers an address at the closing ceremony of the training course.—MNA

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BBC poll shows disapproval of Iraq war

BAGHDAD, 17 June — The US-led military campaign in Iraq and the policies of President George W Bush have been condemned in an 11-country opinion poll conducted by the BBC.

The publicly funded UK broadcaster — which questioned 11,000 people in the US, Europe, Middle East and Australia — found that 57 per cent had an unfavourable attitude to the US President. The figure rose to 60 per cent when responses by Americans were excluded.

A majority of those questioned in the poll, which covered US political, economic, military and cultural influence, opposed the invasion of Iraq, including more than 80 per cent of Russian respondents and 63 per cent in France.

The poll, to be broadcast in Britain on Tuesday night, showed attitudes to the US splitting mainly along the lines adopted by national governments.

More than 70 per cent of US and Israeli participants supported the Iraq conflict, along with 54 per cent of Britons.

The BBC declined to comment on whether what the World thinks of America, the programme about the poll, would be shown in the US, where it broadcasts through public service networks and its BBC America cable channel.

Results of the survey, conducted last month, illustrated deeply divergent views on US foreign policy between Americans and other nationalities.

Among its findings, the survey found that 70 per cent of international respondents felt the US military had failed to do enough to minimise civilian casualties.

“However, 70 per cent of American respondents said other countries did not appreciate how much America does to avoid civilian casualties,” according to a BBC statement.

Only US respondents showed a majority view in favour of the country’s policy on Israel and Palestine.

But the BBC admitted the findings were collated before the launch of the Bush administration’s “road-map for peace”.

Culturally, respondents in several countries admitted that they were becoming more like America, with more than 60 per cent in Britain and Israel acknowledging that trend, rising to 81 per cent in Australia.

Internet

Australian launches tourism campaign in Asia

CANBERRA, 17 June — Australia launched a new campaign Sunday to retake its share of the Asian tourist market.

The Australian Tourism Commission launched the campaign named Australian Tourism Exchange in Melbourne. According to a news release from the state organ, the campaign is funded by the new 10 million Australian dollar (6.6 million US dollars) allocation of the federal government last week.

The campaign will run over several months to promote Australia as a friendly and welcoming destination, the commission’s Managing Director Ken Boundy said, adding that the new promotion will be rolled out across the region including Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Taiwan, and will also extend to Japan.

Advertisements in newspapers and magazines as well as TV and radio commercials will be supported by consumer competitions, media promotions and an extensive visiting journalist programme, Boundy said.

He revealed that due to the severe impact of SARS, over the past two months arrivals from international markets per week have dropped by between 15 to 20 and some of the worst hit markets are in the Asia region, with falls of up to 30 to 50 per cent in weekly visitor arrivals from Southeast Asia.

The Australian tourism industry earns 71 billion Australian dollars (46.86 billion US dollars) a year — MNA/Xinhua

Russia to establish mutually beneficial ties with Pakistan

Russia also welcomes the peaceful efforts made by Pakistan and India to resolve their outstanding issues, supports the possible dialogue between the two neighbours and believes that a solution to the Kashmir issue especially on the role of the United Nations.

Ivanov elaborated on Russia’s stand on the situation in South Asia, saying his country welcomes Pakistan’s efforts to deter terrorism and religious extremism. International terrorism has posed a threat to the world and that is why Russia conducts coordinative efforts to deter terrorism in the framework of an international coalition, Ivanov said.

Russia also welcomes the peaceful efforts made by Pakistan and India to resolve their outstanding issues, supports the possible dialogue between the two neighbours and believes that a solution to the Kashmir issue has to be found, he added — MNA/Xinhua

Pressure mounts over WMD claims

LONDON, 17 June — An inquiry opens on Tuesday into whether the UK Government misled parliament on the threat posed by Iraq, as Washington comes under fresh attack for allegedly manipulating evidence.

In London, parliament’s Foreign Affairs Select Committee will focus particular attention on British Government claims that Iraq had the capacity to launch a strike using weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) within 45 minutes.

Since the war was officially declared over, no such weapons have been located — although their alleged existence was a key reason cited by the US President George Bush and UK Prime Minister Tony Blair for going to war.

In Washington, Congress is to open inquiries this week into whether the government misread or inflated threats posed by Iraq before going to war. Such a finding is seen as having the potential to embarrass President Bush.

On Monday, a senior member of the US Senate fuelled the debate with fresh allegations. Senator Carl Levin said he had evidence that the Central Intelligence Agency deliberately withheld crucial information from the US arms inspectors deployed to Iraq before the war to find evidence of banned weapons.

Mr Levin, the top Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee — which is reviewing the information — told reporters that if the public had known that information about alleged top weapons sites was not being shared, there would have been “greater public demand that the inspection process continue”.

While Mr Levin has already made clear that he believes intelligence material may have been misused to make the case for war, the BBC’s Justin Webb in Washington says this is the first time he has backed it up with one specific, and serious, allegation. Mr Bush defended his decision to go to war in a speech on Monday. This nation acted to a threat from the dictator of Iraq. Now there are some who would like to rewrite history; revisionist historians is what I like to call them,” the president said.

Two former UK cabinet ministers who resigned in connection with the war against Iraq, Robin Cook and Clare Short, are due to give evidence to the committee, whose job is to assess the role played by the Foreign Office in the affair.

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View of the seventh conference of the secretaries of Gulf Cooperation Council parliaments and Shura Councils. The GCC strongly condemned terror attacks in Saudi Arabia and called for a national unity government in Iraq. —INTERNET

Iraqi lawyers shout slogans during a protest outside the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA) at the former Presidential Palace in Baghdad, on 16 June, 2003. The lawyers are demanding the restoration of Iraqi courts and the country’s legal system following the fall of Saddam Hussein. Iraqis are slowly coming out of the streets to express their new-found freedom after Saddam’s outer. —INTERNET

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US arrests dozens in Iraqi sweep

RAMADI, 17 June — Led by informants, US soldiers swept into homes in Baghdad and several outlying towns Monday, a day after 10 Americans were injured in two ambush attacks that reinforced the belief that loyalists of former President Saddam Hussein were reorganizing. At least 59 Iraqis were detained, most of them taken away blindfolded and in handcuffs.

The soldiers dug up back yards in a search for heavy arms, but the military announced no major weapons discoveries. An Army soldier told NBC News that the troops found “blasting caps, C4 (plastic explosives), artillery rounds, ammunition, a few weapons.”

For weeks, US forces have been the targets of hit-and-run assaults, most of them in the central “Sunni belt” north and west of Baghdad. About a dozen US service members have been killed by hostile fire since 1 May, when President Bush declared major combat operations over.

Ten Americans were wounded in the latest ambushes Sunday. In the first, an “enemy individual” fired a rocket-propelled grenade at soldiers of the Army’s 4th Infantry Division, hitting a civilian bus that was passing a military convoy near the town of al-Mushahidah, about 15 miles north and west of Baghdad. About a dozen targets of hit-and-run assaults, most of them carrying weapons, a few weapons.”

Home searches

The attacks took place on the second day of a forceful new operation called Desert Scorpion, which US officials said was based on intelligence pinpointing opponents of the coalition forces in Iraq. It followed the expiration Sunday of an amnesty program for people turning in heavy weapons.

On the outskirts of Ramadi, about 60 miles west of Baghdad, families were still asleep when a US armored column rumbled into their village at 5:15 a.m., blaring an Arabic-language warning from loudspeakers: “These fire coalition forces. Please stay in your homes and open your doors. Thank you for your cooperation.”

Troops bound men and women in the two houses with plastic handcuffs and moved them into a nearby field while they searched the homes, residents told news agencies. They found one rifle. Omar Mishrif Saleh, an older brother of the detainees, said the soldiers knew what they were looking for and sought out the house of a brother who had served in Saddam’s army.

“I suppose the Americans are searching for heavy arms, but the military operation was called Desert Scorpion follows last week’s Operation Peninsula Strike, the biggest US operation since the end of major combat in Iraq. Troops in armored convoys, boats and helicopters raided suspected militia hideouts around Balad, detaining 400 Iraqis, 60 of whom remained in custody; the Army said.

Residents in and around Baghdad told NBC News that the high-profile US operations would backfire by creating resentment.

“The Americans claim they want to provide Iraq with freedom and humanity, but they are doing the opposite,” said Zaidoun Hammoud, 15, told NBC’s′s Dawna Friesen on Monday. — Internet

British official warns of chaos in Iraq

London, 17 June — British military sources last night voiced growing concerns over the efficiency of the American-led reconstruction operation in Iraq.

In the face of growing hostility from pro-Saddam Hussein militias, one defence source told The Times that the 17,000-strong force of British soldiers in Iraq may have to stay in place for as long as four years.

Major-General Freddy Viggers, the British commander appointed to serve at the US military headquarters in Baghdad, warned that Allied troops would face a long-running struggle unless Saddam Hussein was killed or captured. Unless his Baathist regime was brought to a definitive end, the operation threatened to follow in the footsteps of the Balkan operations, where around 1,600 British troops remain in Bosnia after 11 years, according to General Viggers.

Security lapses as Paris Air Show gets underway

Paris, 17 June — Air show organizers have more than doubled spending this year to reduce the risk of attacks, but the head of the world’s biggest aerospace fair concedes there have already been security lapses.

Guards are meant to search all visitors and their bags when they enter on foot, while others should check cars and luggage as they enter the grounds. On Sunday morning, though, attendees said they were ushered in with minimal checks, while some cars were allowed to pass through security gates without stopping as guards stood by.

A dragon boat is to arrive at the finishing line during a dragon boat race held near the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River in central China’s Hubei Province June 14, 2003. The dragon boat race was the first after the water level of the Three Gorges Dam reached 115 meters. Migrants of the county of Zigui in Hubei in the Three Gorges Dam area formed the teams to take part in the race. — Xinhua Photo

British troops in Iraq ‘for four years’

London, 17 June — British troops could be in Iraq for up to four years if pro-Saddam Hussein fighters continue to undermine attempts by the US-led coalition to eliminate his former regime, The Times newspaper said today.

Britain has deployed a 17,000-strong ground force in Iraq for between one and two years. But the duration could double if attacks by Iraqi militia on allied forces became more frequent, defence ministry sources told The Times.

Major-General Freddy Viggers, a British commander appointed to serve at the US military headquarters in Baghdad, told the newspaper yesterday that coalition forces risked becoming bogged down in a Balkans-style policing mission unless they could capture or kill Saddam and prove his regime was finished.

About 1,600 British troops are still in Bosnia, 11 years after the end of the conflict.

Major-General Patrick Cordingley, commander of Britain’s 7th Armoured Brigade — Desert Rats — in the 1991 Gulf War, said that the longer coalition forces remained in Iraq, the more resentful the Iraqis would become.

“But the American and British troops cannot possibly leave Iraq until the country is absolutely secure and back in its own hands,” he said. But sources close to Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon told The Times that he was determined to avoid a Bosnia-style commitment.

“The Iraqis have to take responsibility for themselves,” the source said. — Internet

Baghdad sniper kills US soldier

London, 18 June — An American soldier has been killed by a sniper’s bullet while on patrol in Iraq Monday evening, according to the US military.

The soldier was with the 1st Armoured Division in northern Baghdad when he was shot in the chest and collapsed.

He was taken to a first aid station but later died, said US military spokesman Major Sean Gibson. The gunman escaped.

The shooting came on the second day of a major operation by US forces to root out pockets of resistance and track down illegal weapons stockpiles.

Almost 400 people have been arrested since Operation Desert Scorpion was launched on Sunday, the day a two-week gun amnesty ended.

Soldiers stormed the homes of hundreds of sleeping families in and around the capital Baghdad and the northern cities of Tikrit and Kirkuk. The raids follow a series of attacks on US forces since the end of the war, which has left more than 41 soldiers dead. — Internet

INHUA

KOYUM

MNA/Reuters

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Blair loses trust of ‘duped’ swing voters

LONDON, 17 June — Tony Blair is losing the trust of “swing voters” who feel duped over the Iraq war and his claims about its weapons of mass destruction, a Financial Times survey shows. The postwar euphoria that enhanced the prime minister’s personal standing has evaporated, to be replaced by growing disillusion over the state of public services, according to a focus group conducted for the FT by Opinion Leader Research.

The findings show that, as the prime minister attempts to put behind him a muddled reshuffle and lever the spot- light back on to the government’s re-form programme, he faces an uphill battle to hold on to the public’s trust.

There was criticism of Mr Blair’s handling of the war and accusations he was duped by George W Bush, the US president, or followed America unhintingly.

Worryingly for Mr Blair, some par-ticipants in the New Labour-style fo-cus group of “switchers”, former Tony voters who moved to Labour in 1997, said it was now a matter of “time” before the government fell. But the lack of a strong opposition meant none of the other political parties offered a serious alternative. Problems are piling up on the domestic front, with frustration at the perceived failure to deal with rising numbers of asylum seekers and deliver on promises to im-prove the health service and education. The survey was similar in format to those regularly conducted by Labour’s own pollsters and was carried out last week in Hemel Hempstead, a marginal seat. It shows that the Prime Minister’s personal standing with switchers, which soared during the Iraq conflict, has taken a severe knock in the row over WMD. There was anger that, despite the government’s repeated assertion of the threat posed by Iraq before the conflict, no evidence of its weapons of mass destruction had been found.

Jackie, a middle manager, said: “I haven’t got much faith in Blair at the moment, after this Gulf business. Like the weapons, where are they? Everybody knows that Blair and Bush were duped by George W Bush, the US president, or followed America unhintingly. It’s obvious now, whereas everyone voted for him before.”

John, a maintenance manager, said: “You can see through the curtain now. It’s obvious now, you can see the leaks and the scandals. And they’re paranoid about what information we’re given.” The group talked of being “sceptical” and “wary” of the prime minister and said the government was too obsessed with “spin” and appearances on a range of issues. The Prime Minister can take comfort from switchers feeling the “non- yet” decision on the euro was right. And, encouragingly for Mr Blair as he begins a campaign to prove the ben-efits of Europe, there was a sense that relations with European partners would become closer.

China helps build up regional confidence

PIROM PENH, 17 June — Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, paid tribute to China Monday for helping build up regional confidence and trust. China did this in accepting mutually bene-ficial conduct in the South China Sea as well as demonstrating solidarity with ASEAN, he added.

In his opening speech at the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) 36th Ministerial Meeting (AMM), he recalled that in 2002, ASEAN and China inked the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea. This was a big step forward, he stressed, thus greatly building up regional confidence and improving security and stability in East Asia.

During the AMM–China Summit in Phnom Penh in 2002, China’s special envoy signed the declaration which contains important practical areas for cooperation in the South China Sea, including safety of navigation, rescue operation and combating trafficking of illicit drugs, piracy and armed robbery in the sea. Under the theme “Towards an ASEAN Eco-nomic Community Integrated and Outward-looking”, the 36th Minis-terial Meeting is being attended by Foreign Ministers from the 10 ASEAN members, its secretary-gene-ral, the foreign minister of Papua New Guinea (special observer) and Foreign Minister of East Timor (chairman’s guest).

ASEAN was estab-lished on 8 August, 1967, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration, also known as the Bangkok Declaration, by foreign ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. It was later expanded to include Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia. Pap Ngeun became its observer in 1995. — MNA/Xinhua

US Senator probes CIA dealings with weapons inspectors

WASHINGTON, 17 June — A senior American Congress-man has called for the declassification of information on how many moderate and high-level suspect sites were provided to United Nations weapons inspectors before the war in Iraq.

From Washington, John Shovalen reports Democrat Sena-tor, Carl Levin is challenging the Bush Administra-tion it provided weapons inspectors with information on all the sites, not just the CIA Director, George Tenet should make public just how many of the 150 sites he briefed US weapons inspectors about. “Why did the CIA say that they had provided detailed information to UN inspectors when they had not?” he has asked. Senator Levin says the Administration needs to hold a full independent inquiry into the relationship between the Administration and intelligence agencies before the war, and not the limited hearings now planned. — Internet

China Summit in Phnom Penh

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (special observer). — MNA/Xinhua

Pentagon spokeswoman resigns

WASHINGTON, 17 June — Pentagon spokesman Victoria Clarke has resigned, effective Friday, from her post as assistant secretary of defence for public affairs, the Defence Department announced on Monday. Clarke cited personal reasons for her res-ignation but did not elaborate. “I depart sadly because this has been the best profes-sional experience of my life,” she said in a brief statement issued by the Pentagon.

Clarke was reportedly the mastermind of the ambitious programme to “embed” hun-dreds of reporters from around the world with US military forces during the war in Iraq. The programme has got mixed reaction among those regularly conducted by Labour’s media relations. There were some who found the programme to be a useful way of helping the public understand the war. But there were others who felt the programme was not a success and that it did not do enough to help the public understand the war. The programme has got mixed reaction among those regularly conducted by Labour’s media relations. There were some who found the programme to be a useful way of helping the public understand the war. But there were others who felt the programme was not a success and that it did not do enough to help the public understand the war.
United Nations, 17 June — Hopes that the United Nations and other international monitors might over time win substantial influence over Iraqi reconstruction were fading yesterday, as detailed proposals for the management of Iraqi oil receipts threatened to leave multilateral institutions with only minor powers.

Draft US proposals for an International Advisory and Monitoring Board (IAMB), which comprises representatives from the IMF, the UN, the World Bank and the Arab Development Bank, the power directly to monitor spending through the fund, which will receive 95 per cent of proceeds from all Iraq oil and gas sales and leftover millions from the oil-for-food programme. That would be left to an independent public accounting firm, whose selection was already under way by the US before the monitoring board’s establishment, according to an official.

At the same time, proposals to establish a “Programme Review Board”, which would recommend expenditures from the fund in a way that would further the interests of Iraqi citizens, would give voting rights to a raft of US officials, and to one representative each from the UK, Australia, and Iraq’s ministry of finance. The UN’s special representative, by contrast, is not even given a non-voting seat, instead designated as an “observer”.

The proposal would appear to confirm fears that the UN will be given somewhat less than the “vital” role originally promised.

One official said, however, that the proposals were not in final form, pointing out that the mandate of the international monitoring board needed to be approved by its four members. That could take place by June 25.

Russia routinely immunizing Iraqi children

UNICEF resumed immunizing Iraqi children on Monday, restarting a programme which had been interrupted when the war began.

UNICEF said 210,000 babies born in the 90 days since the start of military action were at risk from polo, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis or whooping cough, measles and tuberculosis — all preventable diseases. “Not one of these children has been vaccinated against the myriad of deadly and debilitating diseases young people are susceptible to,” Karl de Rovy, UNICEF’s representative in Iraq, said in a statement.

UNICEF’s programme with the Ministry of Health to immunize the country’s 4.2 million children under the age of five broke down during the conflict. Many vaccines were destroyed in missile attacks or because of electricity blackouts.

ASEAN must enhance economic competitiveness

PENINSULAN, 17 June — Enhancing ASEAN’s economic competitiveness remains high on the agenda of ASEAN foreign ministers who exchanged views in a closed session Monday shortly after the opening of the 36th Ministerial meeting.

This was announced by ASEAN spokesman Sieng Lapsresse. The ministers were briefed by the consultation company McKinsey and Co on ASEAN’s competitiveness in the world market.

They found that one of the main setbacks for the 10 member countries is their market fragmentation.

To overcome this, he added, “a fast-track economic integration in priority sectors, such as consumer goods and electronics” within ASEAN could be addressed by the ministers.

The spokesman also noted that consumer goods are the largest traded sector in ASEAN, accounting on average for 58 per cent of household spending. Electronics is the most important export sector, representing some 50 per cent of the bloc’s export.

Keeping this in mind, he noted, the ministers will realize the imperativeness of forming an ASEAN economic community by as early as 2020.

UNICEF resumes immunizing Iraqi children

Geneva, 17 June— The United Nations children’s agency (UNICEF) began routinely immunizing Iraqi children on Monday, restarting a programme which had been interrupted when the war began.

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Pentagon adviser says making Iraq pay debt would be outrage

BERLIN, 17 June — Richard Perle, a leading Pentagon adviser and architect of the US war to topple Saddam Hussein, said on Monday it would be a moral outrage not to forgive Iraq's debt.

Perle also proposed new rules to discourage lending to other leaders who repressed those they ruled.

"To ask the impoverished and newly liberated people of Iraq to assume Saddam's debts would be a moral outrage," he said.

Iraq has an estimated 120 billion US dollars in external debts but the question of possible forgiveness has become entangled in the divisions between Washington and nations which opposed the war — Russia, Germany and France — all owed money by Baghdad.

Any debt reduction agreement would require unanimous agreement among Iraq’s creditors. That is unlikely given the political wrangling over how to manage the country after the war and the prospect of contracts to develop Iraq’s huge oil reserves.

Butler slams Australia’s delay on Iraq probe

AUSTRALIA, 17 June — Former United Nations weapons inspector Richard Butler said today it was “just shocking” Australia was the last nation to consider an inquiry into intelligence information about Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction.

And Australians might have been “jilted” over the reasons for going to war against Iraq, Mr Butler said.

He was commenting on a Labour party call for the parliament’s intelligence committee to examine the nature and accuracy of information used to justify claims that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction ahead of the war.

Despite similar inquiries in the United States and Britain, the Government has steadfastly refused to investigate the accuracy of its intelligence information.

“I’m simply making a call for the historic truth here,” Mr Butler told ABC radio. “I’m very disappointed in the Howard Government’s stance on it. I think it’s just shocking they should be the last cab off the rank (in investigating intelligence which prompted the war).”

Mr Butler said he had been in the game a long time and did not wish to make presumptions.

“(But) I think the signs are that we may have been jilted, and all I’m saying is, by God, we should know the truth,” he said.

“The real possibility is that the weapons situation was pumped up to justify a war ... with respect to what John Howard called these ‘mammoth quantities’ of weapons, of which the biological trucks were a part. The public needs to know what was true here, because going to war is a dreadful business, and it would be shocking to think we had done that with the US and the UK on the basis of wrong or even falsified information.”

He said Iraq was now “covered by American soldiers” and more than 1000 people in a special inspectorate were looking for weapons of mass destruction.

IAEA chief asks Iran to accept strict nuclear checks

VIENNA, 17 June — The head of the United Nations’ nuclear watchdog on Monday called on Iran to accept strict inspection of its atomic programme to help dispel fears that it is secretly developing nuclear weapons, as Washington alleges.

The watchdog’s board members have already received copies of a harsh report on Iran by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Mohamed ElBaradei and will discuss it during a board meeting running this week.

“The report points out that Iran has failed to report certain nuclear material and activities, and that corrective actions are being taken in cooperation with the Iranian authorities,” ElBaradei said in a speech to the board.

ElBaradei also called on Iran to sign an Additional Protocol with the IAEA to grant inspectors wider access and more intrusive, short-notice inspections in order to be able to provide credible assurances about Iran’s atomic plans.

A spokesman for Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization told Reuters that Teheran might be willing to sign it, though he reiterated Iran’s demands for access to nuclear technology in exchange for the government’s signature.

“We have not yet decided about signing the Additional Protocol, but we are studying it with a positive view,” spokesman Khalid Moussavi said.

A senior Iranian delegate at the board meeting complained to reporters that Washington was unduly pressuring the IAEA board, though he said “reasonable” statement from the board on Iran’s nuclear programme might provoke a positive response from Teheran.

Asian tourism to bounce back by end of this year

MANILA, 17 June — Tourism in Asia is expected to bounce back by the end of this year despite severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) fears, the Iraq war and last year’s Bali bombings, the World Tourism Organization (WTO) said Monday.

“We expect the second part of the year to be positive and tourism will be back on track in the fourth quarter,” said Francesco Frangialli, WTO Secretary-General.

He said Asia’s tourism started to recover after the end of the Iraq war, but that the rebound was delayed by the SARS outbreak.

SARS caused a 30 per cent to 40 per cent drop in reservations in Asia this year, compared with last year, even damaging tourism industries in countries in the region that had no cases of local transmission.

Frangialli, however, noted that the World Health Organization has declared the outbreak of the disease seems to near its end.

Asia saw an 8.3 per cent jump in tourist arrivals last year compared with 2001, despite the continuing effects of the September 11 terror attacks; last October’s bombings on Bali, Indonesia that killed over 200 people; and the region’s lacklustre economic performance, he added.

Frangialli was in Manila to attend a five-day WTO meeting of more than 100 delegates and tourism officials from at least 18 countries in the region, one of the objectives of which is to come up with a set of indicators to measure the economic impact of tourism, Frangialli said.

In May, the International Air Transport Association said it expects a loss of 10 billion US dollars this year due to SARS, the lingering effects of the September 11 terror attacks and the Iraq war.

MNA/Reuters
Secretary-1 inspects…

(from page 1)

The renovation of the office of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, and Hanthawady exchange compound in progress in Sanyang Township. — MNA

Regional development projects inspected…

(from page 16)

The briefing hall, Ministry Brig-Gen Thein Zaw reported matters on renovation tasks in the exchange compound for opening of the CPT Ministry and the exchange, large-scale renovation of assembly hall and two-storey main building, completion of greening tasks and arrangements for better communication.

The Secretary-1 attended to the needs and inspected completion of the minister's office, assembly hall, land preparation for greening of the environs and gave necessary instructions to the officials. Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party arrived at Myanmar Shopping Mall at 143/149, Sule Pagoda Road, which will be jointly opened by Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Htoo Trading Co Ltd, where officials welcomed them. The General was reported by Minister Brig-Gen Thein Zaw on large-scale renovation of the existing Diplomatic Store to open Myanmar Shopping Mall and arrangements for displaying and selling of various kinds of goods including gems. After giving necessary instructions, the Secretary-1 inspected renovation tasks and left there. — MNA

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Ye Myint said that upholding the guidance of Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, measures are being taken for building up a peaceful modern nation, for narrowing the development gap among the regions and for proportionate development of all parts of the country after designating the 24 development regions. Besides, the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs has been formed for the development of border areas. Only when rural regions are developed, will the nation be modern and developed. So, the five rural development tasks have been laid down and they are also being carried out. Then, Lt-Gen Ye Myint dealt with matters on promotion of transport, health and education sectors. He called for regional development tasks to be carried out through cooperation.

After the meeting, Lt-Gen Ye Myint cordially greeted those present and townelders. — MNA

YANGON, 17 June — Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Soe Naing and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe together with officials yesterday afternoon paid homage to Boditahtaung Sayadaw in Monywa Township and offered provisions to the Sayadaw.

Then, the commander and the minister met with industrialists at the hall of Monywa industrial zone.

At first, Chairman of the Supervisory Committee of the industrial zone U Zaw Win reported on progress of work and Chairman of Management Committee of industrial zone U Aung Khin, on production of items, raw materials and necessary assistance rendered for the zone.

Next, the commander made a speech on the occasion, saying that Monywa Industrial Zone is the largest one except Yangon and Mandalay industrial zones and necessary assistance is being provided to it. Then, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Myint Swe, in-charge of the industrial zone, said that among the industrial zones, Monywa industrial zone is the one which was implemented first and innovative measures are to be taken to maintain the development momentum.

Afterwards, the commander and the minister inspected traditional weaving factory in the industrial zone and gave necessary instructions.

They inspected process of assembling the automobiles, making of designs, assembling of engine parts and different kinds of newly-manufactured automobiles and left necessary instructions.

In the afternoon, they arrived at Monywa airport construction site. Officials of the Shwethalyinwin Highway Company reported to them on progress in construction of the runway, stockpiling of construction materials, use of heavy machinery and arrangements for construction of airport building. Director-General of the Civil Aviation Department U Win Maung gave a supplementary report. The commander and the minister gave instructions on making concerted efforts for ensuring timely completion of the project and meeting the set standard under the supervision of the Civil Aviation Department, and attended to the needs.

Next, the commander and the minister inspected progress in constructing and tarring of the runway. Officials conducted them round the site. The commander and the minister left necessary instructions. — MNA

Commander, Minister inspect Monywa Industrial Zone, Monywa Airport
Government building 80 highways, ... (from page 1) and Kachin State. Shwebo-Myiukina strategic road was built in 1996 in addition to rail, water and air transport in the regions. Hopin Bridge is a section of the strategic road on the west bank of Ayeyawady River. In accord with the goodwill and guidance of the Head of State, Manda-lay-Tagaung-Bhamo-Myiukina road was opened on the east bank. The two roads are now serving as gateways to Kachin State. In addition, Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putoa road was built, and Namti-Tanai-Nanyun road and Mogau-ng-Pakant-Phalam-Hkamee road are being upgraded. Moreover, Myitkyina Degree College has become a university, and Myitkyina Education College, Myitkyina Government Technological College and Myitkyina Government Computer College, Bhamo Degree College, Bhamo Government Technological College and Bhamo Gov-ernment Computer College were opened. The govern-ment has also opened 1,181 primary schools, 59 post-primary schools, 85 middle schools, 43 high schools, 36 affiliated high schools, and 10 affiliated middle schools. The government has opened a 300-bed hospital, a drug rehabilitation hospital, a 16-bed traditional medicine hospital and a midwifery school in Myitkyina. A 200-bed hospital was also opened in Bhamo. The hospitals that have been opened in Kachin State are: one 300-bed hospital, one 200-bed hospital, one 100-bed hospital, five 50-bed hospitals, three 25-bed hospitals, one 25-bed drug rehabilitation hospital, and 30 16-bed hospitals. As in the other state and division, the government is laying down good foundations in Kachin State also to the most possible degree for cent-per-cent development of the region.

Local of State Senior General Than Shwe has been making arrangements in accord with the plans for regional development and fulfilling the requirements of the plan. For example, he made a separate programme for development of Mohunyin. A degree college, a government technical institute, and a number of roads are under construction in the township. The town hospital has been upgraded to a 100-bed facility. As the paddy sown acreage in the state has reached over 400,000 acres in 1998-99, the region has been producing enough food for its population since then. Now, it can produce up to 112 per cent of the local requirement. Thanks to the collective efforts of the local people, peace and stability and the rule of law have been prevailing in the state. Thus, the people are now striving together with the government for rapid development of the region and the economy. The people are practically enjoying the fruits of peace and stability. The two roads on east and west banks of the Ayeyawady are the results of peace and stability. The emergence of roads and bridges has led to formation of a transport network linking all parts of the Union. Thus, the national people of the state are urged to strive for development of the mother country with the spirit of national unity, the spirit of oneness and Union Spirit. Next, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Maung Maung Se delivered a speech. He said the Government has been giving priority to building of roads and bridges for ensuring better transportation. There were 13,635 miles of road in 1988 and now the figure has increased to 18,111 miles showing the increase of 4,476 miles. Altogether 156 major bridges — 8 in Kachin State, 6 in Kayin State, 2 in Chin State, 10 in Sagaing Division, 4 in Taninthayi Division, 14 in Bago Division, 10 in Magway Division, 6 in Mandalay Division, 2 in Mon State, 25 in Rakhine State, 23 in Yangon Division, 8 in Shan State and 38 in Ayeyawady Division — have been built. The Hopin Bridge on Shwebo-Myiukina road travel easily from Kachin State to other states and divisions. It is known to all that the government has been making efforts for development of regions in the state and the Union, he said. Firstly, Shwebo-Myiukina Road was upgraded to all-weather one and it was opened on 2 January 1990. Secondly, Namti-Mogaung axis was opened on 27 March 1990 and it became a tarred road on 16 December 1996. Again, bridges on Shwebo-Myiukina Road are being built, he said. The Hopin Bridge was the first one on Shwebo-Myiukina Road. Mohynin Nanyun Creek and Mogau-ning-Nankang Creek are under construction. In the past, the Hopin Bridge was often paired due to the bank erosion. As the bridge was built firmly, the flow of commodities from Kachin State to central regions in Myanmar would be smoother and easier and education, social, economic conditions would also improve. Though the bridge is 200 feet long, it is a major bridge in transport of rice, edible oil and kitchen crops from Mohunyin, Mogau-ning, Myiukina and Waingmaw regions to other states and divisions. He said the government is making arrangements for construction of six major bridges. He spoke of construction of Loihtyan Bridge on Namti-Tanai Road, Sinkhan Bridge on Tagaung-Katha-Bhamo-strategic road, Paung Net Creek Bridge on Shwegu-Sitlhong Road, Malikha suspension bridge on the road to Kaunghmudaw Pagoda and a suspension bridge on the road to snow-capped Phokhunyazi Moun-tain in the west of Putao. The government spends a huge sum of money on the construction of roads and bridges, so that there would be smoother and easier relations in the region.

**Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun** speaks at the ceremony. MNA

**Lt-Gen Ye Myint formally unveils the stone inscription of the Hopin Bridge in Hopin, Myoynin Township, Kachin State.** MNA

**Lt-Gen Ye Myint addresses the opening ceremony of Hopin Bridge in Hopin, Myoynin Township, Kachin State.** MNA

**U Thein Aung speaks words of thanks.** MNA
Fourteen years of development and peace

Myint Soe (Na-Ta-La)

I was aware that the place I was standing was the very spot I had done so previously, but the view before me was quite different from the past and all my opinions were wrong.

The first time I arrived there was in 1983 when our battalion was discharging duties in Tangan and Mongkon regions to control the western area of the Thanlwin River. Our commanding officer and Column No 1 Office was on Loi-in hill camp. Our platoon was on the Loi-in main range that could control Naungmain and Tonhonne Villages including Loi-in hill camp.

At the very first day due to the explosion of a shell fired at BCPs from our camp. On the left side of the scene, there were Mankha mountains once occupied by the BCPs. There were few travellers between the east and west banks of the river except those on military duties as decisive battles often took place there. I then thought that the region would be a battlefield in the future and we would have to fight the BCPs regardless of the nationalities among the BCP members.

I did not know if I got back to the regions twice because I had drank water of the Thanlwin River. When I arrived at Tangan region in 1988, the duty of our troops was to camp in Nanpaung to control the jetties on the bank of the river. I studied the situation with a communication machine and a radio. I liked the song Thakaung Yadana (the good son) sung by Yi Yi Khin which was often aired by the radio station.

While I was studying the situation of the region, I heard news about the break away of Kokang nationals led by U Phon Kya Shin from the BCPs and their return to legal fold on 31 March 1989. I was always worried that at a time when the government was making strenuous efforts for stability and tranquility of the State, BCP would hinder the efforts of the government. Our troops were so happy to hear the separation of Kokang nationals that marked the outset of the disintegration of BCP that we fired our rounds over the river. The entire village of Nanpaung was awakened by the sound of the rounds. It was so happy to hear the separation of Kokang nationals that marked the outset of the disintegration of BCP.

In April 2003, the new building was consecrated at a cost of K32 million.

New building for post-primary school handed over in Peikswie Village

Twantay Township

YANGON, 17 June — A new building of the post-primary school in Peikswie Village, Twantay Township, donated under the guidance of Myanmar Education Committee Chairman State Peace and Development Council Secretary-I General Khin Nyunt by Doh Pyitha Enterprise Ltd was opened at the hall of the school this morning.

Present on the occasion were Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung, senior officers of the Office of Military Intelligence, Director-General of No 3 Basic Education Department U Tin Win, wellwisher Daw Kin Hla and her brother U Than Nyunt of Doh Pyitha Enterprise Ltd, departmental officials, Chairman of Twantay Township Peace and Development Council and members, Township Education Officer and school heads, social organizations, wellwishers, Headmistress Daw Kin Saw and teachers and school children. Next, Township Education Officer U Tin Win, U Than Nyunt of Doh Pyitha Enterprise Ltd and Headmistress Daw Kin Saw formally opened the new building. U Than Nyunt of Doh Pyitha Enterprise Ltd then spoke on the occasion.

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Soe Win Maung and Headmistress Daw Kin Saw thanked the donors. Next, U Than Nyunt handed over related documents to Director-General U Tin Win who presented certificate of honour to the donor. Next, the deputy minister and guests viewed round the new building.

The new building worth K 32 million for post-primary school constructed by Doh Pyitha Enterprise Ltd in Peikswie Village in Twantay Township. — MNA.

People’s Desire

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

Efficient use of electricity

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

There are about 500,000 households using electricity in Yangon. Thus, saving a four-foot fluorescent lamp every day by each household amounts to saving power that is equal to the capacity of a 20-megawatt power station can supply.
**Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation leading patrons meet**

**Yangon, 17 June —** Leading Patrons of the Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation held a meeting at Social Welfare Department this afternoon.

Present were head of the leading patrons Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe and the leading patrons, and the president of the federation and executives.

Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe gave a speech. The meeting sought means to render assistance to Myanmar athletes who will take part in the Southeast Asia Games to be hosted by Vietnam this year. — MNA

**Holding of National Workshop on Women and Sport discussed**

**Yangon, 17 June —** A meeting was held to successfully hold the National Workshop on Women and Sport this afternoon at the Social Welfare Department.

The Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs and the Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation will co-sponsor the workshop.

Present were Chairman of the NWWS Organizing Committee Chairman of Myanmar National Working Committee for Women’s Affairs Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Hlaing Win, Vice-Chairperson 1 of the Workshop Organizing Committee Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe, Vice-Chairperson 2 Prof Dr Daw May May Yi, the committee members Daw Khin Than Nwe, Daw Khin Lay Thet, Daw Than Than Nwe and others. Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htaik, Director-General of Social Welfare Department U Sit Myaing and officials.

Deputy Minister U Hlaing Win gave a speech. Participants gave suggestions to successfully hold the workshop. The deputy minister gave the concluding remarks.

**Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects agricultural projects in Shan State (North)**

**Yangon, 17 June —** Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Brig-Gen Khin Maung and officials, left here by air and arrived at Lashio on 15 June.

They were welcomed at the airport by Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Hla Myint, senior military officers and local authorities. They then went to the 1,000-acre reclamation model plot of Hsinshweli high yield strain paddy, groundnut, soya bean, sunflower, pigeon pea and coffee being undertaken by the North-East Command. At the briefing hall, Lt-Col Nay Lin Aung, in-charge of the project, reported on progress in reclaiming land, cultivation of crops, sown acreage and progress of crop cultivation. The commander gave a supplementary report. Then Manager of Myanmar Agricultural Service U Hla Gyi reported on production of Hsinshweli hybrid paddy strain.

Regarding the reports, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe said that strenuous efforts are to be made for boosting production in agricultural sector, adding the objectives have been adopted for significantly boosting per acre yield of the ten major crops. Effective measures must be taken for boosting per acre yield of paddy up to 100 baskets, long stable in agriculture. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe gave instructions on progress in construction of the lake for agricultural purposes and left necessary instructions. He also inspected the briefing hall and then the thriving mixed crop plantations. Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects the thriving mixed crop plantations of Hsinshweli monsoon groundnut and sunflowers in Lashio, Shan State (North). — MNA

**Dr Daw Khin Win Shwe delivers a speech at the meeting of the patrons of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation. — MNA**

**Deputy Minister U Hlaing Win makes an opening address at the coordination meeting for holding the national workshop on women and sports. — MNA**

**Lt-Gen Aung Htwe inspects the thriving mixed crop plantations of Hsinshweli high yield strain paddy, groundnut, soya bean and sunflowers along Lashio-Hseinweli between Lashio and Hseinweli. — MNA**
Russian conductor Evgeny Kolobov dies aged 57

Moscow, 17 June—Evgeny Kolobov, former conductor at St Petersburg’s Mariinsky Theatre and the founder of Moscow’s innovative Novaya Opera, died on Sunday at the age of 57, Russian television reported.

“He was an outstanding conductor and a true innovator in his field,” ITAR-TASS quoted critic Svyatoslav Beliaev as saying. —MNA/Reuters

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Win Ma Tin, MA, HGP, DBL
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Dated: 18 June, 2003

Pakistani police seize huge arms cache

ISLAMABAD, 17 June—Pakistani police in northern city of Peshawar Sunday seized huge cache of lethal weapons and ammunition in a passenger bus heading to the port city of Karachi. Talking to newsmen on Monday, Peshawar City Police Chief, Tanveer Haq Sipra said that the deadly weapons confiscated included anti-aircraft gun’s shells, rocket launchers, hand grenades, Klaxonkovs and huge quantities of narcotics.

He said the arms and ammunition destined for Karachi was being transported for carrying out subversive and sectarian related activities in southern Sindh Province, of which Karachi is the capital. Such kind of weapons are used in exceptional circumstances and activities, he said. —MNA/Xinhua

MYANMAR IVANHOE COPPER COMPANY LIMITED INVITATION TO TENDER

MICCL invites sealed Tender for Rental of Excavator, Dozer, Grader for the development of the Test Pit, at the Letpadaung Mine Site, west bank of Monywa, Myanmar.

1. Excavator 2.5m3 (specified or equivalent to Cat 345/350)

2. Grader (specified or equivalent to Cat 14H or 14G)

3. Dozer (specified or equivalent to Cat D9R)

1 Unit

Period Hire Commencing 1 August 2003

Tender closing date is on (30.06.2003) at 4.00 pm

Application for bidding to Rental of Earth Moving Equipment

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Yangon (Phone: 951-514194 to 951-514197, Fax: 951-514208)

GM

General Manager,

Myanmar Ivanhoe Copper Company Limited.
Britons swap tea for infusions

LONDON, 17 June — Traditionally tea-crazy Britons are setting aside their milky brown “cuppa” for more exotic brews infused with mango, peppermint or camomile, while fresh coffee is outgrowing instant varieties around the world.

Research published on Monday by market analyst Datamonitor suggested Britain’s volumes of fruit and herbal teas — once seen as the preferred beverage of unfashionable aunties and new-age eccentrics — is increased by 50 per cent between 1997 and 2002.

In the same period, British consumption of “normal” — i.e. tea-flavoured — teabags fell by 10 per cent to a still impressive 114 million kilos, or roughly 2.2 kilos per man, woman and child. This is second only to Turkey’s. 

The dramatic exponential growth of coffee shop chains such as Starbucks is beginning to force instant coffee off the supermarket shelves.

“It’s no great surprise that the world is losing patience with, fast but not particularly appetising, hot drinks,” Datamonitor analyst John Bang said in his report, “The Global Hot Drinks Market to 2007”.

Sales of instant tea in Britain have declined faster than sales of regular tea and sales of instant coffee have fallen at 1 per cent per year even as volumes of ground coffee and coffee beans showed overall growth,” he said. As coffee-drinkers around the world become harder to please, top coffee producers such as Nestle and Kraft Foods are responding to the tidal wave of lattes and mochas by producing instant approximations of these beverages.

This is undoubtedly a growth market, but Scandinavian countries, where people like their coffee strong and black, remain at the top of the global coffee consumption league. The average Dane consumed 7.5 kilos in 2001.

This is more than double the amount consumed in Brazil and even the United States, at least by weight of ground coffee consumption in the US might well still be the highest in terms of volume.

One exception to the decline in regular tea sales is iced tea. Always the preferred method of tea consumption in the United States, pre-packed iced tea sales are also enjoying a sharp rise in Europe.

To what extent the rise of more exotic brews is down to health fervent is far clearer — sales of decaffeinated coffee are certainly declining in Britain and the United States. Datamonitor’s Band has an explanation.

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Spanish first division leading scorers

MADRID, 17 June — Leading scorers in the Spanish First Division after Sunday’s matches:
- 28 - Roy Makaay (Deportivo Coruna)
- 22 - Nihat Kahveci (Real Sociedad)
- 21 - Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
- 19 - Darko Kovacovic (Real Sociedad)
- 17 - Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona)
- 16 - Raul (Real Madrid)
- 15 - Fernando (Real Betis)
- 14 - Samuel Eto (Real Mallorca), Ismael Urzaiz (Athletic Bilbao), Joseba Etxeberria (Athletic Bilbao), Walter Pandiani (Real Mallorca)
- 13 - Xavi Hernandez (Racing Santander), Fernando Torres (Atletico Madrid)
- 12 - Javier Saviola (Barcelona)
- 11 - Diego Forlan, Savo Milosevic (Espanyol), Edu (Celta Vigo), Santi Ezquerro (Athletic Bilbao)
- 10 - Ruben Navarro (Alaves), Dely Valdes (Malaga), Raul Molina (Recreativo Huelva), Raul Tamudo (Espanyol), Luis Figo (Real Madrid)

BLATTER PROMISES RETURN OF INT’L GAMES TO ISRAEL

Tel Aviv, 17 June — FIFA president Sepp Blatter said on Sunday he would recommend the return of international matches to Israel before the 2006 World Cup.

“I have never changed my perception of the situation here. I am of the opinion that as long as security is guaranteed and obviously, in this country, it is guaranteed, then we shall play the preliminary matches for the 2006 World Cup here,” he told a news conference.

The president of the world’s governing body was in Israel as guest of honour at the Israeli FA’s 75th anniversary celebrations taking place on Sunday. Earlier, Blatter met Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom, who appealed for international football to be allowed to return to the country.

“Unfortunately all international football at both club and national team level has been banned by European body UEFA since March 2002 when rising tensions in the region forced matches to be moved to neutral venues in other countries.

Only two friendly internationals — against Armenia and Moldova — were held in Tel Aviv earlier this year, but they fell under FIFA’s jurisdiction.

All home Euro 2004 qualifiers and Champions League and UEFA Cup fixtures last season were held at nearby venues in Cyprus.

Beckham still big prize for Laporta

BARCELONA, 17 June — Newly elected Barcelona president Joan Laporta has confounded his critics by clearing two hurdles in his bid to bring English captain David Beckham to the Nou Camp.

After first securing a deal for Beckham with Manchester United and then winning the Barcelona election, Laporta now needs to convince the hugely popular midfielder that a move to the troubled Catalan club would be in his best interests.

That looks like being by far the trickiest of the three tasks but a landslide victory in Sunday’s election has left the Laporta camp confident they can get their man.

“We’ve been in contact with Beckham’s people and I’m convinced he’ll come,” said Sandro Rosell, the man who conducted the negotiations with Manchester United.

According to reports in Spain, England coach Sven Goran Eriksson spoke to Beckham last week and advised him to choose Barcelona.

“These comments from Eriksson will help us a great deal,” Rosell said.

Laporta was planning to speak to Beckham’s people on Monday, the day after he secured the Barcelona presidency with 52.57 percent of the vote, compared to 31.8 percent for his nearest challenger Luis Basualdo.

The England skipper arrived back in England on Saturday after a holiday in the United States but made no comment about United’s decision to accept the Laporta bid conditionally.

Worryingly for Laporta, Beckham’s agents at SFX did issue a statement after United’s announcement last week saying the player had no intention of meeting the then directors now rather than as candidates,” Laporta said. “That looks like being by far the trickiest of the three tasks but I cannot take a stand here against an autonomous organization, especially concerning club competitions where FIFA has no say.”

Blatter said that if Libya were to stage the World Cup finals in 2010 and Israel were to qualify, the country could be sure of being allowed to play in the north African state.

“The bidding countries have to give government guarantees that all members, all members of the FIFA family will receive visas and will be permitted to play in their country,” he said.

Blatter said he was excited by the prospect of two Israeli Arab teams (Maccabi Ahi Nazareth and Bnei Sakhnin) playing in Israel’s top flight season.

“I isn’t fantastic that for the first time ever you will have two Arab teams in the Premier League, this is what soccer should really be about,” he said.

Laporta will be waiting nervously to see if, as expected, Real Madrid choose to make a counter-offer for Beckham when the league season is over next weekend.

Real have arguably the most attractive side in the world, already featuring such talents as Ronaldo, Raul, Luis Figo and Zinedine Zidane, and will one of the favourites for the Champions League next season.

Barcelona, by contrast, are struggling even to grab a place in the UEFA Cup and may be forced to play the Intertoto Cup over the close season in a bid to sneak into Europe’s secondary club competition by the back door.

Barcelona are also at least 100 million euros in debt, making it doubtful whether they can build a team capable of challenging for honours again, but for the moment, at least, Laporta is sounding confident about the task ahead.

Porto crown spectacular season with Portuguese Cup

LISBON, 17 June — A goal by Brazilian striker Derlei Silva gave Porto their 12th Portuguese Cup win with a 1-0 win over Uniao Leiria in the final on Sunday to add a domestic league-cup double to their UEFA Cup triumph.

Derlei, who was top scorer in the UEFA Cup last season and struck the winner when Porto beat Celtic 3-2 in the Seville final last month, was doubtful until the last minute due to injury.

But the Brazilian was on form and beat his marker inside the area to receive a neat backward cross from playmaker Deco Souza on the right and score with a first-time right-footed shot in the 63rd minute.
THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 18 June, 2003

WEATHER

Tuesday, 17 June, 2003

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been cloudy in lower Sagaing Division and rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Kachin State and Magway Division, scattered in Mandalay, Bago and Yangon Divisions and widespread in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawai (2.80) inches, Thandwe (2.64) inches, Mogok (2.01) inches and Kyaukphy (1.77) inches.

Maximum temperature on 16-6-2003 was 31.5°C. Minimum temperature on 17-6-2003 was 20.0°C. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 17-6-2003 was 96%.

Total sunshine hours on 16-6-2003 was (3.1) hours approx. Rainfall on 17-6-2003 was 22 mm at Yangon Airport, 8 mm at Kaba-Aye and 8 mm at central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2003 581 mm at Yangon Airport, 633 mm at Kaba-Aye and 704 mm at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 18 mph from Northwest at (14.00) hours MST on 16-6-2003.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 18-6-2003: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Rakhine, Mon, Kayin States and Tannintharyi Division and scattered in Kachin State, Yangon, Ayeawady and Bago Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar Waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-6-2003: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-6-2003: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).
Meeting to coordinate matters for cultivation of paddy and other crops and ensuring all-year round greening 30-mile perimeter of Yangon held

YANGON, 17 June — A meeting to coordinate matters for cultivation of paddy and other crops and ensuring all-year round greening 30-mile perimeter of Yangon was held at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall this afternoon.

Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Khin Nyunt attended the meeting and made a speech on the occasion.

Also present on the occasion were Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, the ministers, the Yangon Mayor, the deputy ministers, the Vice-Mayor, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, the Chairman of District Peace and Development Councils and officials.

In his address, Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt said it was the second meeting to coordinate matters for cultivation of paddy and other crops and ensuring all-year round greening of the 30-mile perimeter of Yangon, adding that the committees and sub-committees have been formed after the first coordination meeting and work is well under way for successful implementation of the projects. The present meeting was to coordinate work being carried out for the projects, he said.

The Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command is taking the principal duty for successful implementation of the projects. The heads of departments who are dealing with the projects, technicians and the respective department heads are being called on to make concerted and collective efforts for timely completion of the project, he stressed.

Encouragement is to be given and necessary assistance is to be provided to the farmers who are going to cultivate paddy and other crops and ensuring all-year round greening in the division. The successful implementation of the projects for cultivation of paddy and other crops and ensuring all-year round greening of the 30-mile perimeter of Yangon will contribute much to fulfilling the food, clothing and shelter needs of the Yangonites as well as ensuring development of the national economy.

At a time when the government has been providing necessary assistance and the departments are giving technical assistance for timely completion of the projects, the efforts exerted by the farmers would be much fruitful.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 General Khin Nyunt called on members of the respective committee, sub-committees and departments to coordinate measures to be able to lay down future work programmes for successful implementation of the projects.

Then, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe reported on cultivation of monsoon paddy on over 600,000 acres of land out of over 900,000 acres of cultivable land of the projects, arrangements being made for cultivation of summer paddy and winter crops, conditions of intake and outfall channels, dams and reservoirs, river water pumping projects, sluice gates, and arrangements being made for renovation of the irrigation facilities, water supply for ensuring successful implementation of the projects and arrangements for digging of fish breeding ponds in the wetlands.

Then, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Nyunt Tin reported on geographical conditions of the projects, arrangements being made for all-year round greening and arrangements for water supply along the Thantpin-Thongwa motor road from Myoungyin natural lake through Minywa escape.

Next, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Myint reported on storage of water of the dams in 30-mile perimeter of Yangon, supply of water for cultivation and arrangements for supply of water needed for cultivation of crops in the dry season.

Deputy Minister for Forestry Col Thaik Tun reported on distribution of saplings free of charge to industrial zones, schools, houses and other areas for greening of the 30-mile perimeter of Yangon City, planting of shade trees and seasonal flowers on the roadsides and collection of saplings.

Deputy Minister for Transport Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint reported on planting of trees for greening of Yangon International Airport and its environs and tasks to be undertaken. Those present at the meeting took part in the discussions on cultivation of paddy and other crops in the 30-mile perimeter of Yangon City.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said the greening project in the 30-mile perimeter of Yangon City and its environs is a long-term one which contributes towards greening and modernization of Yangon City, economic development of the State and uplift of socio-economic life of the people.

According to the project, he said, water can be supplied to over 300,000 acres of farmlands in Yangon and its environs which need water in summer and the project can also promote agricultural sector. He called on responsible officials to implement the project successfully. He said it is necessary for district and township officials to meet farmers constantly and to fulfill their requirements for success of the project. — MNA

Regional development projects inspected in Mogaung, Kachin State

YANGON, 17 June — The new light of Myanmar Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Ye Myint, together with officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and the Ministry of Health, left here by air and arrived at Myitkyina, Kachin State, on yesterday afternoon.

Accompanied by Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe and officials, Lt-Gen Ye Myint and party went to Nankaung Creek (Mogaung) Bridge Construction Project site on Nankaung Creek near mile post No 23908 on Shwebo-Myaikyina Road in Mogaung Township. At the briefing hall of the project, officials reported on arrangements for construction of the 945-foot long bridge with a two-way 21.5 feet wide motor road on it, and approach roads, work

(See page 8)