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

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

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

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**Smooth and secure transport in Yangon Division coordinated**

**Yangon, 3 June** — The work coordination meeting of the Supervisory Committee for Ensuring Smooth and Secure Transport in Yangon Division was held at the meeting hall of the committee in Tamway Township this evening, attended by Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Chairman Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lwin, military region commanders, station commanders, committee members, Secretary of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Myint Kyi and members, District PDC chairmen, registrars, heads of departments, officials from the universities and colleges in Yangon Division and chairmen of bus lines running in Yangon Division.

First, the Commander made an address and officials reported on measures taken for traffic safety and action being taken against those who violate traffic rules and regulations.

Next, the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the commander. — YGN COMMAND

**Prosecutor course concludes**

**Yangon, 3 June** — The prosecutor course No 4/2005 conducted by the Ministry of Home Affairs concluded at Aung Thabye Police Yeikha on Kyakkwang Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township this afternoon.

Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo gave a speech. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Attorney-General U Myint Naing, Director-General of the Myanmar Police Force Brig-Gen Khin Yee, directors-general and deputy directors-general of the departments under the ministry, senior police officers, division/district judges, law officers and guests.

Maj-Gen Maung Oo delivers a speech at the concluding of prosecutor course. — MNA

**Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded**

<table>
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(3-6-2005)
**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

**Stipends provided to 28 students from 14 townships of Yangon East District**

YANGON, 3 June — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and wife Chairperson of Yangon Division Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Khin Thet Htay attended the ceremony to present stipends provided by Yangon East District MCWSC to students at Yankin Education College in Yankin Township this morning.

Daw Khin Thet Htay explained future plans of MMCWA (Central) and educational tasks of Yangon Division MCWSC. Afterwards, the cash donation ceremony followed. The Commander, wife and officials accepted K 6,639,090 and 170 dozens of exercise books worth K 189,000 donated by wellwishers including K 1.1 million by 10 industrial zones in the district; K 500,000 each by Managing Director U Aung Myat of Mother Trading Co Ltd, U Kyaw Naing Oo of Naing Group Construction and Cherry Oo Watch Showroom, Managing Director U Thet Aung of Winner Brother International Ltd, U Nay Win of Nay Larm Automobile Industry, and U San Lin of Super Seven Star Automobile Industry; K 1,000,000 by U Aik Lin of Nan Htaik Taw Win Restaurant; K 300,000 each by U Thaing Win-Daw Htay Htay Nyunt of BTB Co Ltd, and U Nay Win Shwe of NWS Co.

Next, Daw Khin Thet Htay presented stipends and exercise books to 28 students at university level and basic education high school level from 14 townships of the district. Chairman of Yangon East District MCWSC Daw Nan Shwe Yin presented K 300,000 to Secretary of the division supervisory committee Dr Hla Myint. On behalf of the students, First MB student Ma Chit Su Win Maung of Institute of Medicine spoke words of thanks. —MNA

**Talks on women and environmental conservation held**

**UMFCCI executives leave for China**

YANGON, 3 June — Executives of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Kyaw Thein and U Tin Myint left here by air yesterday morning to attend the Kunming Trade Fair 2005 to be held in Kunming.

UMFCCI Executives U Kyaw Thein and U Tin Myint seen before departure for China. —UMFCCI

**Yangon Division MCWSC Supervisory Committee Chairperson Daw Khin Thet Htay presents cash assistance and exercise books to a student.** —MNA

Leader of the Environmental Conservation Working Group Daw Nilar Thaw gives a speech at the talks. —MNA

**UMFCCI**

YANGON, 3 June — The Environmental Conservation Working Group of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation organized talks in commemoration of the World Environment Day which falls on 5 June at MWAF Building on Thanlawin Road in Bahan Township this afternoon.

Present were the vice-president, the general secretary and officials of the federation, members of social organizations and guests. Leader of the Environmental Conservation Working Group Daw Nilar Thaw made a speech.

In next, Deputy Leader of the Working Group Daw Yin Yin Lay gave lecture on women and environmental conservation. —MNA

**PERSPECTIVES**

Saturday, 4 June, 2005

Set up import-substitute industries

The government, based on the national force and its natural resources in abundance, has been making all-out efforts for national development, while taking systematic measures for improvement of national economic life.

In the process, steps are being taken for development of industrial sector which plays a key role in building a modern and developed nation. Especially, energetic efforts are being made for transforming an agro-based industrial nation into an industrial one.

The government is placing emphasis on development of private industrial sector by establishing the industrial zones wherever necessary, and it is at the same time striving for the set-up of the State-owned factories that require huge capital and high technology.

The industrial zones, which emerged in 1995, are now meeting with success in the zone-wise production. Of the industrial zones already in existence, the Yangon Industrial Zone, the Mandalay Industrial Zone, the Monywa Industrial Zone and the Ayeyawady Industrial Zone in Taunggyi are now producing import-substitute items.

The government has already set up ten industrial zones in Yangon Division alone to develop the industrial sector. The ten industrial zones play a key role in increasing the GDP of not only the Yangon Division but also that of the nation.

Shwepaukkan Industrial Zone is one of those established in Yangon Division. It was set up in 1998 with 210 factories and mills including two automobile-assembling factories. The pharmaceutical industry, the industrial products industry, farm equipment producing industry and foundries are in full swing in Shwepaukkan Industrial Zone.

The onion is on the industrial zones to widely produce items of higher quality, reviewing their requirement and that of the State, and engage in extended production of new items.

Meanwhile, the industrial zones are to produce practical items, those to the liking of customers and user-friendly ones.

At a time when relentless efforts are being made for the industrial sector to be on a par with that of other nations, it is incumbent upon the industrialists to engage in extended establishment of import-substitute industries of international standard to satisfy the domestic needs and export the surplus.
BIMSTEC nations meet to discuss cooperation

DHAKA, 2 June—Bangladesh on Wednesday took over the chairmanship of BIMSTEC for one year at a meeting of the regional grouping here to discuss cooperation among member states, including India, in priority sectors like trade and investment, technology, transport and communication.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin took the leadership from outgoing chair, Thailand’s Kritgarnjana Gooncharorn, at the 9th BIMSTEC senior officials’ meeting that began Wednesday.

The BIMSTEC or Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multilateral Sector of Technical and Economic Cooperation was founded in 1997 and groups India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

Senior Foreign Ministry officials were reviewing the progress so far in seven priority sectors and were to make recommendations to enhance meaningful cooperation in trade and investment, technology, tourism, transport and communication, energy and fisheries.

The meeting will also discuss the BIMSTEC Free Trade Area as the negotiations are expected to be completed by December for utilizing potentials in trade and investment in the BIMSTEC region, the private UNB news agency said.

“In BIMSTEC, our purpose is to achieve better economic performance, enhance our competitive edge in the world market and sustain economic development,” Bangladesh Foreign Minister Morshed Khan said in his inaugural address. On combating terrorism and transnational crimes, Khan said some progress has been made in this area and efforts should lead to concrete BIMSTEC projects or programmes.

China to hold nat’l meeting on rural tax reform

BEIJING, 2 June—China is expected to hold a national meeting on experimental tax reform in rural areas in near future, the State Council, or the nation’s Cabinet, said at a meeting on Wednesday.

The meeting was chaired by Premier Wen Jiabao, also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee. The meeting said that 2005 is a crucial year for the tax reforms, which will diminish and reduce agricultural taxes and administrative fees.

The meeting said that the experimental reforms, which began in 2000, have achieved substantially lower the amount of taxes Chinese farmers pay. But the reform has exposed new problems and new measures should be taken to consolidate the achievements, the meeting heard.—MNA/Xinhua

China’s top legislator winds up four-nation tour

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 June—Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of China, left here for home on Monday after concluding his successful visit to Malaysia, the last leg of his four-nation Asia-Pacific tour.

Wu and his party were seen off at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport by Malaysian Deputy Speaker of the Lower House Lim Si Sheng and other high-ranking officials.

On Tuesday morning, Wu had a friendly telephone conversation with Malaysia’s Yang di Pertuan Agong (Supreme Head of State) Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin.

During his four-day stay in Malaysia, the China’s top legislator also met with Malaysian Speaker of the Lower House Ramli Ngah Talib and Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Besides Malaysia, Wu’s four-nation Asia-Pacific tour also covers Singapore, Australia and New Zealand. China and Malaysia established diplomatic ties in 1974. —MNA/Xinhua

India, South Korea decide to bolster bilateral ties

SEOUL, 2 June—In a bid to boost their bilateral ties, India and South Korea on Wednesday decided to step up efforts to take their economic partnership to a higher level by utilizing synergies in trade, investment and hi-tech areas.

During a 45-minute meeting here, visiting External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh and his Korean counterpart Ban Ki-Moon also had detailed exchange of views on the situation in the Korean Peninsula, including the North Korean nuclear issue.

UN reforms covering restructuring of the Security Council also figured during the discussions, Indian officials said.

Seoul has been in favour of a broad consensus on the issue of expansion of the Security Council. It acknowledges India’s growing stature and increasing role in international affairs.

During the discussions, both sides hoped that negotiations for the 12 billion US dollar integrated steel plant to be set up by Korean company Posco at Paradip in Orissa would be concluded at an early date. Negotiations for the mega project are at an advanced stage, the officials said, adding this would be the largest single foreign investment by any country in India. Singh is on a day’s stopover here enroute to the Russian far-eastern port city of Vladivostok to attend the first-ever stand-alone meeting of foreign ministers of India, Russia and China.

He was accompanied by India’s Ambassador PS Ray and Ashok Kantha, Joint Secretary in the External Affairs Ministry. Ban will visit India in early August this year for the annual meeting of the India-Korea Joint Commission when the two sides will review all aspects of bilateral relations covering economic, political and security cooperation.—MNA/PI

Thailand to halt diesel subsidy

BANGKOK, 2 June — Thailand on Tuesday decided to scrap its diesel subsidy float in line with the global oil price.

The decision was made at a Cabinet meeting. Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was quoted by Thai News Agency as saying that the flotation was unavoidable now that crude oil prices in the world market had edged up again. The new policy will begin to take effect from 1 June, but to ease the burden on the public, the Thai Government also planned to cut the excise tax for diesel, said Energy Minister Viset Choopiban.

The government will rescind the tax breaks in 10 months and consumers will not feel the change of pump price immediately, he added. Since the oil subsidy was introduced in January 2004, a total of 88 billion baht (2.18 billion dollars) has been spent by the Thai Government. Petrol prices in Thailand were freed last October. In March, the government hiked diesel prices by 20 per cent.—MNA/Xinhua

1,667 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 2 June—As of Thursday, 2 June, 2005, at least 1,667 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,274 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defence Department. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is four higher than the Defence Department’s tally, last updated at 11 am EDT Thursday. The British military has reported 89 deaths; Italy, 25; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, 10; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,529 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,165 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.—INTERNET
Indonesia’s exports, imports up in first 4 months

JAKARTA, 2 June — Indonesia’s exports in the first four months of this year increased by 31.12 per cent over the same period last year to reach 26.6 billion US dollars, the Central Bureau of Statistic (BPS) announced here on Wednesday.

The rise of exports was attributed to the increase of oil and gas products exports by 24.85 per cent and that of non-oil and gas products by 33.01 per cent, which reached respectively to 5.896 billion US dollars and 20.738 billion US dollars, the head of the BPS Choirul Maksum said.

The increase of exports of the oil and gas products was caused by the increase of exports of crude oil by 33.08 per cent, oil production by 9.14 per cent and natural gas by 21.10 per cent, he added.

Maksum said Japan is the main destination country for Indonesia’s exports from January to April, followed by the United States and Singapore.

Indonesia’s imports in the first four months of this year reached to 18.41 billion US dollars or significantly increased by 33.85 per cent over the same period last year, Maksum said.

The rise was driven by the significant growing of oil and gas imports by 56.69 per cent which stood at 5.19 billion US dollars and non-oil and gas import by 26.60 per cent or 13.22 billion US dollars, he said.

Japan, the United States and Singapore are the main contributive countries supplying their products to Indonesia from January to April, Maksum said.

Chinese Chief of General Staff meets Turkish DM

ANKARA, 2 June — Turkish Defence Minister Vecdi Gonul held talks Wednesday with visiting Chinese Chief of General Staff of the People’s Liberation Army Liang Guanglie on cooperation between the two armies.

Gonul said the cooperation between the two armies has steadily developed and the cooperation in the defensive industry of the two countries has also gone smoothly in recent years.

He said Turkey is eager to strengthen exchange and cooperation between the two countries and armies.

Liang’s visit to Turkey will contribute to opening new cooperative fields between the two armies and promoting a further development of their ties, added Gonul.

On his part, Liang said the two armies of China and Turkey have long been maintaining close exchange and friendly cooperation, adding the development of friendly and cooperative ties between them is helpful to serve the basic interests of the two countries and peoples.

Liang also expressed belief that with joint efforts, the friendly and cooperative ties between the two armies will further develop to a higher level.

Liang and his delegation arrived in Ankara late Monday for a five-day visit to Turkey at the invitation of the Turkish Armed Forces. — MNA/Xinhua

HK Customs officers seize 2.6 kilos of suspected herbal

HONG KONG, 2 June — Hong Kong Customs officers from Airport Command seized from a speedpost parcel five packs of a total of 2.6 kilos of suspected herbal cannabis with estimated local retail value of 21,794 US dollars.

Two Ghananian men, aged 24 and 25, were arrested on Tuesday, according to a government Press release on Wednesday.

The 24-year-old man will be charged with ‘trafficking in a dangerous drug’ and will appear in Tsuen Wan Magistrates’ Courts on Thursday for mention. The 25-year-old man has been released.

During X-ray inspection at the Airmail Centre on 29 May, Customs officers found 2.6 kilos of suspected cannabis in a suspicious and subse-quently found 2.6 kilos of suspected herbal cannabis.

As a result of a controlled delivery operation, Customs officers arrested the two Ghananian men.

Under the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance, drug trafficking is a serious offence. The maximum penalty is life imprisonment and a fine of 641,025 US dollars.

— MNA/Xinhua

Mediterranean Diversification Research Centre set up in Shanghai

SHANGHAI, 2 June — Shanghai Jiaotong University and the Marseilles Business School jointly set up the Mediterranean Diversification Research Centre of China and Europe in Shanghai on Tuesday.

China and Europe have become strategic cooperation partners, and it is of increasing importance for the two sides to expand economic cooperation and exchanges in the process of globali-zation, said experts with the centre.

The centre will serve as a platform for studying economic policies, diversified enterprise administration, strategic cooperation, cultural exchanges and other research subjects concerning the two sides.

Mainland starts selecting giant pandas for Taiwan

BEIJING, 2 June — Preparations for choosing two giant pandas as gifts of the Chinese Mainland to Taiwan are underway in the world-known giant panda research centre in southwestern Sichuan Province, a government spokesman said here on Wednesday.

“We will select a giant panda couple aged between one and a half years to four years that are artificially bred in the centre and with sound fertility,” said spokesman Cao Qingyao of the State Forestry Administration.

Once the giant pandas are selected, “we will solicit names for them, their infant names from the Mainland people and their formal names from the Taiwan people,” Cao told a Press conference held by the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council.

On the Mainland side, the China Wildlife Conservation Association will be responsible for talks with related authorities in Taiwan. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi security forces defuse four car bombs in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 2 June — Iraqi security forces defused four booby-trapped cars and detained dozens of suspected guerrillas during an ongoing security offensive against attack in Baghdad, the government said on Wednesday.

The Iraqi forces also defused several roadside bombs and land mines and seized several weapon caches in and around the capital, said a government statement.

On Sunday, the Iraqi security forces killed 12 militants and captured 38 others in Amriyah neighbourhood after some 50 guerrillas attacked a police headquarters for major crimes in the neighbourhood, according to the statement. Iraqi forces launched its biggest security offensive against guerrillas on Sunday, involving 40,000 Iraqi troops in and around Baghdad. — MNA/Xinhua


A suicide bomber detonated a car laden with explosives at a checkpoint leading to Baghdad airport on 1 June, 2005.—INTERNET
Chinese, Russian FM’s meet, stressing cooperation, development

VLADIVOSTOK (Russia), 2 June — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing met his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in Russia’s Far East city of Vladivostok on Wednesday, with the two ministers stressing further communication and cooperation to safeguard regional and world peace and stability.

During the talks, Li recalled the meeting between Chinese leader Hu Jintao and Russian President Vladimir Putin on broad issues while Hu was attending the activities marking the 60th anniversary of the victory of the Great Patriotic War on 9 May in Moscow.

The two countries need to translate into action the consensus reached by the two leaders and further strengthen mutually-beneficial cooperation in various areas, in order to develop together, the Chinese minister said.

Lavrov expressed satisfaction with the current development of relations between Russia and China. He suggested that the two countries should intensify communication and cooperation under the current complex international circumstances, so as to safeguard regional and world peace and stability.

As for the UN reforms, the two ministers agreed that special attention must be paid to developing and less powerful countries and that all UN member states should use democratic means and thoroughly negotiate, trying to reach the broadest consensus on the reform issue.

Second China-ASEAN Business Summit to be staged in Guangxi

NANNING, 2 June — The Second China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit is scheduled to be held from 18 to 19 October in Nanning, capital of the southwest China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, said a sponsor of the summit on Tuesday.

About 900 officials, experts and representatives from China and ASEAN nations will be invited to attend the summit, a scale surpassing the previous summit, which drew attendance of 800 people.

The upcoming summit will play a more important role in serving as a platform for closer economic cooperation and more frequent exchanges between China and ASEAN nations, the sponsor said.

Mainland urges Taiwan trade organizations on farm produce trade

BEIJING, 2 June — A Chinese mainland official on Wednesday urged Taiwan authorities to allow Taiwanese trade organizations to come for discussions about the technical details over the sale of Taiwan farm produce to the mainland at an early time.

“The technical issues involved in the matter could be discussed by trade organizations of both sides first and then be confirmed by the authorities,” said Tang Yi, deputy director of the economic bureau of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, at a regular Press conference.

He urged Taiwan authorities to put the interests of Taiwanese farmers first and give green light to trade organizations to come to the mainland to discuss the technical details as soon as possible.

“So that Taiwan farmers could benefit from trade with the Mainland at an early date,” Tang added.

Bangladesh to establish industrial park for plastic factories

DHAKA, 2 June — Bangladesh will set up an industrial park for the fast-growing plastic industry to turn it into a major foreign currency earner, a high official has said.

“The government will establish an industrial park to produce raw materials for the industry,” Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury on Wednesday was quoted by The New Nation as saying.

The industrial park is expected to earn about 7 billion taka (117-million-US-dollar) foreign exchange a year, he said.

Plastic goods, including furniture, pipe, spare parts and packaging products, are getting popularity in everyday life for its competitive price, durability and versatility, the minister said while inaugurating the head office of Bangladeshi Plastic Goods Manufacturers and Exporters Association here on Tuesday.

And Minister said investment in plastic sector is about 30 billion taka (500 million US dollars), while average yearly domestic turnover is 8 billion taka (133 million US dollars).

At least 2,988 plastic industries are now operating in the country, which have created employment opportunity for about 150,000 workers, according to the minister.

Attempts to quantify civilian casualties have focused largely on the number of dead, not the wounded. A study by a widely criticized international group of university professors released in October claimed that the invasion had caused 100,000 civilian deaths. At least 21,940 civilians have been reported killed in news stories, according to a database compiled by the group Iraq Body Count, which does not track the number of wounded.

Wounded civilians in Iraq get little help

BAGHDAD, 2 June — The US military keeps a meticulous tally of its wounded — 12,762 in Iraq as of Wednesday, along with 1,658 dead.

Scenes of soldiers convalescing at well-equipped hospitals, such as Washington’s Walter Reed Army Medical Center, are familiar symbols of the human cost of the war. Yet more than two years after the US-led invasion, there is little available data on the far greater number of Iraqi civilians wounded in the invasion and subsequent violence related to the insurgency. And few of the victims’ stories have been widely reported.

While attacks on civilians are increasing, the wounded are getting little help from overcrowded medical facilities, according to interviews with more than a dozen patients, physicians and health officials in Baghdad. The best rehabilitation hospital in the Iraqi capital is running out of artificial limbs and might soon close, its director said. And most of the wounded fall back on the only support network they have: their families.
Malaysian PM calls for strengthening of int’l order

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 June — Countries in the Asia Pacific Region should work toward a regional and global order that inhibits hegemony and curbs its excess, Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said on Wednesday.

Badawi made the remarks while delivering a keynote speech in the 19th Asia Pacific Roundtable (APR) which opened here Wednesday by Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit.

“China of tomorrow, no less than China of today, will be a force for peace and stability unless its integrity and vital interests are threatened”, he said.

“We seek an international order that is more representative, and that better reflects the interests of the majority in the global community. We seek an international order in which all nations, small as well as large, can be equally assured of security and an equitable opportunities to prosper,” Badawi said in outlining an international order more relevant to the time.

When talking about the emerging of China as a major economy in the world, Badawi said he held the view that “China of tomorrow, no less than China of today, will be a force for peace and stability unless its integrity and vital interests are threatened”.

If China is indeed set to emerge as one of the leading powers of tomorrow, then we can also be more optimistic. We are confident that China will champion constructive change and not obstruct it... China has repeatedly declared its opposition to hegemony and this forms a central pillar of its foreign policy,” Badawi said while listing favourable factors in the security environment in Asia-Pacific Regions.

Badawi also expressed his sympathy for victims of the tragic tsunami hitting the Indian Ocean last December and praised the international cooperation in the relief and reconstruction efforts, adding that Malaysia continues to be committed to this humanitarian cause.

More than 200 delegates from about 20 countries and regions attend the 3-day APR conference themed “confident building and conflict reduction”, which covers various issues on security and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region. — MNA/Xinhua

Building houses is biggest post tsunami challenge in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, 2 June — Building permanent houses for the tsunami victims remains the biggest challenges faced by the Sri Lanka Government five months after the tragedy on 26 December last year, a top official said here late Wednesday.

Mano Tittawalla, the chief of the national rebuilding body TAFREB or the Task Force for Rebuilding the Nation, said that the re-construction of houses had been slow with only 1,900 houses completed so far.

Tittawella, however, said that by the end of July the government was hoping that around 29,000 houses would be completed.

— MNA/Xinhua

China’s foreign trade structure needs to be optimized

BEIJING, 2 June — Chinese President Hu Jintao has said that China needs to optimize its foreign trade structure and raise its export competitiveness, urging Chinese manufacturers and exporters to adopt a new strategy of “winning by quality”.

“Special focus should be put on optimizing China’s foreign trade structure, to have more high-quality and hi-tech products, high value-added products and home-developed products manufactured and exported,” said Hu while addressing a workshop attended by China’s top-ranking officials.

He said that since China’s entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), the country’s domestic and international markets have been more and more closely linked, and the interaction between domestic economy and global economy has also been intensified remarkably.

“This has not only brought about rare opportunities for, but also posed severe challenges to our country’s reform and development,” he said.

“We must adapt ourselves to the new development trends of economic globalization, endorse a global development strategy and take an active part in international economic and technological cooperation and competition,” he said.

It is the requirement of a “scientific view of development” that China should adopt a new export strategy of “winning by quality” by raising the export competitiveness of its products and improving the quality and efficiency of its foreign trade, said the President. He also stressed that China should open still wider to the outside world by both attracting more foreign investment and encouraging more domestic businesses to invest and operate overseas. — MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh has tremendous scope to raise tea export to Pakistan

DILSHKA, 2 June — Bangladesh has tremendous scope to raise tea export to Pakistan as its share is only around 8 per cent of Pakistan’s total tea imports, according to a visiting delegation of Pakistani tea importers.

Bangladesh, however, has to enhance both the quality and quantity of tea for raising its market share in Pakistan, said Muhammad Altaf, leader of the delegation and chairman of Pakistan Tea Association (PTA). The Financial Express reported on Wednesday.

Altaf made the remarks at a luncheon meeting hosted by the Bangladeshi Tea Association here on Tuesday.

Pakistan consumes around 165 million kilograms of tea annually. Altaf told the meeting, adding the total annual tea imports of Pakistan are around 120 million kilograms and 65 per cent of its formal imports is from Kenya.

Addressing the meeting, Bangladesh Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury said the government of Bangladesh has undertaken various long- and short-term projects to boost the country’s tea production to cope with its ever growing demand from both the domestic and export markets.

The minister, assured the Pakistani delegation of the Bangladesh Government’s allot coop-eration and support to help ensure the supply of quality tea from Bangladesh.

— MNA/Xinhua

“Supermileage” car developed by Delhi engineering students

NEW DELHI, 2 June — Students of Delhi College of Engineering (DCE) here have developed a “supermileage” vehicle with fuel efficiency of 150 kilometres per litre.

The concept car uses 100 octane petrol meeting the quality and quantity of tea annexed here on Tuesday.

The aerodynamic green-and-black car with a body made from carbon fibre and reinforced plastic weighs 55 kilos. It seats one person and has a top speed of 36 kilometres per hour. Neha Juneja, the only girl in the team, said the 3.5 horse power, four-stroke 140cc Briggs and Stratton engine used in the car had been given to them by SAE International. They then reduced its capacity to 60cc so that it could achieve its “supermileage”.

The concept car uses 100 octane petrol meeting Euro-6 standards which is not available in India as yet. It does not have a fuel tank and instead makes do with a “fuel bottle” which holds about a litre of petrol.

However, the engine which does not have Multi Point Fuel Injection (MPFI) system and tyres which are not world-class may prove to be drawbacks for the vehicle when it takes on others at the Michigan competition to be held on 9 and 10 June. — MNA/PTI

Chinese taxi drivers attend a ceremony putting 200 Volkswagen Santana 3000 cars into use at a taxi company in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 2 June, 2005. — Internet

Italy’s Giuseppe Gibilisco competes in the Pole-Vault event, during the IAAF Grand Prix meeting, at the Milan Arena, Italy, on 1 June, 2005. — Internet

BUILDING HOUSES IS BIGGEST POST TSUNAMI CHALLENGE IN SRI LANKA

CHINA'S FOREIGN TRADE STRUCTURE NEEDS TO BE OPTIMIZED

“SUPERMILEAGE” CAR DEVELOPED BY DELHI ENGINEERING STUDENTS

BANGLADESH HAS TERRIFIC SCOPE TO RAISE TEA EXPORT TO PAKISTAN
The traitor fugitives were born and they grew up in Myanmar, having rice produced in the nation. They pursued education in the institutions of the nation and became educated persons. But, they are ungrateful to their motherland at all. In addition, they are doctoring the data and figures of the news stories so that their families and they can be in a better position in foreign countries they stay in and do well in their businesses, while totally ignoring the interests of their mother country and compatriots. Thus, I had to write this article.

Frankly to say, I have quitted for many years listening to the stories aired by certain foreign radio stations that manufacture fabrications and broadcast stories ill of Myanmar daily.

A few days ago, I incidentally caught a story aired by RFA broadcasting station, while I was tuning on the radio at home. Then, I wondered what it was going on. As usual, the RFA was broadcasting stories ill of Myanmar, holding negative views.

The focus was on the presentation of U Khin Maung Nyein of RFA regarding the press freedom in Myanmar. The presentation carried the accusations of the news blackout of May 7 bomb blasts and evidences of witnesses to the explosions that the death toll of the victims was greater than that the government had announced. In addition, it said the broadcast of the MRTV as regards the press conference was not complete; that the query about if there were any arrests connected with the blasts was not replied; that the death toll of the tsunami victims was greater than that the government was caught in an unavoidable situation; that the MRTV’s broadcast on the bomb blasts did not meet the expectations of the press freedom lovers; and that the press freedom meant that journalists needed to constantly let the public know the true stories as they really are. The presentation was just a reproduction of the so-called witnesses, reliable sources, or observers. So, it can be deduced that these radio stations are anxious to broadcast the kind of news that would have negative impact on Myanmar.

The press conference held on 15 May 2005 made further clarifications on curriculum vitae of the victims of the May 7 incidents, and it also said the death toll had reached 19. The journalists studied the detailed data displayed with firm evidences at the press conference. The entire question-and-answer programme of the press conference was aired on TV and inserted in the newspapers. Here, I would like to shoot a question “Does not that programme indicate the press freedom and frankness and good prospects of the nation?”

The majority of journalists including veteran journalist U Hla Htway welcomed the press freedom, new opportunities of press freedom, and good omens for the future journalism world in Myanmar. But BMA secretary Maung Maung Myint criticized the journalists from the negative point of view. I would like to ask him “How much experience do you have in the journalism profession?” He is just trying to please his masters to lead an easy life. No patriotic person will do this.

He said that the officials concerned did not answer the question “Have the authorities arrested any person for investigation?” It is a simple matter. The authorities will have to take necessary actions to expose the culprits of the ruthless bombings. If they tell the reporters the number of people arrested or under investigation concerning the crime, it will be like giving warning to other culprits at large. As BMA secretary Maung Maung Myint and accomplishes wish the culprits to escape punishment, I would like to ask them “Are you all supporters of terrorists?” When tsunami hit some coastal areas of Myanmar, officials explained the number of the dead and injured and the extent of property damage with photos and other evidences at the press conference. The world nations even acknowledged that facts were authentic. It seems that the mercenary media RFA has not known it. Unlike the tabloid media, a news report issued by the Government cannot be based on unreliable sources. The news must be true and with firm evidences to win international respect.

Concerning the disasters in Myanmar, the RFA, BBC and VOA always exaggerate the news report. So they have the wish to see death and destruction in Myanmar. I feel as if they have no sympathy for and kindness to the people of Myanmar. In reality, the words “press freedom” and “free flow of news” are the powers’ excuses to blatantly interfere in the affairs of developing nations to put them under their domain, using media as a weapon.

The wizards of the media profession, who are manipulating the global media network, are giving priority to featuring cheap news on personal affairs and less important and serious reports. And they are deceiving the public to come to believe that featuring such news is press freedom. Using the long arm of the media, they are trying to interfere in the internal affairs of other nations.

They know how to make apologies or withdraw their news reports when the world do not accept their news or the person concerned makes a law suit against them for tarnishing his dignity. The Myanmar people do not wish to watch, read or listen to corrupted and lapsed news reports and lies. The Myanmar people even feel loathsome to some local media that are imitating the practice of featuring corrupt and lapsed news and lies.

Some powers are trying to dominate the global news network, while talking a lot about press freedom, literary freedom, democracy and human rights, and their minions, who are national traitors, are trying to interfere in the affairs of Myanmar through the media.

The press conference held on 15 May 2005 made further clarifications on curriculum vitae of the victims of the May 7 incidents, and it also said the death toll had reached 19. The journalists studied the detailed data displayed with firm evidences at the press conference. The entire question-and-answer programme of the press conference was aired on TV and inserted in the newspapers. Here, I would like to shoot a question “Does not that programme indicate the press freedom and frankness and good prospects of the nation?”

One thing I would like to say here is that if those perpetrators have real wish to see the flourishing of democracy in Myanmar, they should stop their one-sided slanders against the nation and should broadcast and feature the news about the changes for the better of the nation’s political, economic and social sectors from the objective point of view. What the people want to know is about the authentic news reports that are beneficial to the nation.

Translation: MS + TMT
Kyemon, Myanmar Alin: 3-6-2005
**Olympic Day Commemorative Body Building and Physical Culture Contests 2 July**

YANGON, 3 June — Myanmar Body Building and Physical Culture Federation and MGS Beverages Co Ltd will organize the 2005 Olympic Day Commemorative Body Building and Physical Culture Contests at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township on 2 July noon.

The contests are categorized into three events — the above-21 age group women’s and men’s senior event, the under-21 age group junior event and the above-50 age group men’s senior event.

Those wishing to participate in the women’s and men’s senior events must have first, second or third goal in the above-21 age group senior event. They must have first, second or third goal in the under-21 age group junior event and must have at least 52” in height.

Candidates must submit the original citizenship scrutiny card.

Competitors are to enlist at Head of Budget and Accounts Department U Kyaw Than of YCDC and in-charge of body building event U Win Kyi of YCDC Sports Camp in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, not later than 4 pm on 27 June. Preparations for the contests will be made at the sports camp at 9 am on 28 June. — MNA

**State’s seven-point Road-Map**

YANGON, 3 June — USDA CEC Member Deputy Minister for Information U Thein Sein gave a talk on the State’s seven-point Road-Map to the Myanmar Counties, Inter-State/Division Contests and Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Mr and Ms Contests.

Those wishing to take part in the above-21 women’s senior event must be above 5’3” in height and those in the under-21 junior event must be at least 52” in height.

Candidates must submit the original citizenship scrutiny card.

Competitors are to enlist at Head of Budget and Accounts Department U Kyaw Than of YCDC and in-charge of body building event U Win Kyi of YCDC Sports Camp in Mingala Taungnyunt Township, not later than 4 pm on 27 June. Preparations for the contests will be made at the sports camp at 9 am on 28 June. — MNA

**ASEAN Radio Quiz for May held**

YANGON, 3 June — The ASEAN Radio Quiz for May was held at Myanmar Radio and Television on 1 June.

Among the competitors, Ma Thazin Aye of Insein Township won the first prize, Ma Thanda of Dagon Myothi (North) Township second and Maung Tun Thura Min of Dagon Myothi (South) Township third together with consolation prize winner Ma Khin Myo Kyaw of Dagon Myothi (South) Township. Officials presented prizes to the winners.

As part of implementation of ASEAN in Action, Myanmar Radio broadcasts facts about ASEAN at 9.45 am on every Saturday. The ASEAN Radio Quiz for June will be held at 10 am on 1 July. Those wishing to participate in the quiz may report MRTV at 9.30 am on that day. Everybody may compete in the quiz.

Handsome prizes and expenses will be presented to the winners. — MNA

**Myanmar upset Sweden with 3-0 victory**

YANGON, 3 June — Myanmar youth met with Sweden youth for their second match in the Youth Football Tournament of the First Asia-Europe U-18 Youth Sport Meets in Phukhet, Thailand this evening.

Myanmar youth team beat Sweden youth team 3-0 in the Group B. Hein Zar Tun scored an opening goal for Myanmar team at 4th minute of first half. Aung Moe seconded for his side at 14th minute and Soe Thaha Aung scored last and third goal at 82nd in second half for Myanmar team.

On 4 June, Myanmar youth team will play against Indonesian youth team. — MNA

**Wellwishers invited to rebuilding of Kaungmudaw ancient pagoda**

YANGON, 3 June — Kaungmudaw ancient pagoda, built by King Anawrahta in 11th Century AD in ancient Tagaung city of Tahekkyun Township, Mandalay Division, has fallen into ruin due to earthquake and natural disasters. Now, the Ministry of Culture is rebuilding the pagoda with the donations of wellwishers.

The ceremony to enshrine the pagoda was held on Sunday, 14 November 2004 on Sunday, 22 May 2005.

Wellwishers are invited to donate K 12 million each for three archways, K 1,502,550 each for three encircled archways and K 412,550 each for four Kalatha Pots, are to contact the head office of the Ministry of Culture, Tel: 543235, 543233 and 541767; the head office of Archaeology Department, Tel: 512139 and 512140 and ancient cultural heritage preservation unit (Mandalay Branch), Tel: 02-36365 and 02-39156.

**Meeting for teaching disabled children held**

YANGON, 3 June — The meeting for teaching the disabled children was held at the meeting hall of Myanmar Education Research Bureau on Paya Road, Kamayut Township yesterday afternoon, attended by Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min.

Also present on the occasion were directors-general, deputy directors-general, directors of the departments under the Ministry of Education, the director of the Social Welfare Department and guests.

The deputy minister made a speech on the tasks of teaching the disabled children and Director-General of No 1 Basic education Department U Tin Nyo reported on collecting the census of the disabled children.

Next, Deputy Director of Myanmar Education Research Bureau Daw Khin Kyaw of Kyaw Kyaw Kyaw explained the facts about the previous meeting of producing teaching and learning aids for the disabled children and those present took part in the discussions. — MNA
**Foreign ambassadors call on A & I Minister**

Yangon, 3 June—Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr Lee Ju-heum paid a call on Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Hlay Oo at 11 am and Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Mr Tran Van Tung, at noon today at the minister’s office on Thiri Mingalar Yeiktha Street on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road here.

The meetings focused on boosting agricultural cooperation between the two countries. Also present at the calls were directors-general and managing directors of departments and enterprises under the ministry. — MNA

**MOC Chairman’s Cup and 36th ISD A-Class Boxing Tournaments wind up**

Yangon, 3 June — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Mr Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint attended the ceremony to present prizes to winners in the 2005 Third MOC Chairman’s Cup and 36th Inter-State/Division A-Class Boxing Tournaments at Aung San Gymnasium this evening.

After the final matches, officials presented prizes to the winners of respective classes.

Next, President of Myanmar Boxing Federation U Maung Oo accepted K 300,000 for selected boxers donated by officials.

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presented 10 items each of boxing equipment worth K 93,000 to 16 boxing teams from States and Divisions.

The President of MBF gave K 100,000 each to State and Division teams, and best boxer awards to winners of respective classes.

Director-General U Than U Huak of Sports and Physical Education Department presented championship trophies to respective teams.

Later, the minister awarded championship trophies each to Yangon Division team in the MOC Chairman’s Cup and Kayin State team in the ISD Boxing Tournament. Among the spectators were officials of the Ministry of Sports, the chairperson and executives of Central Workshops to respective teams. And the chairperson and guests viewed the enrollment of the students.

It was also attended by local authorities, departmental personnel, principals, and social organizations. — MNA

**School-enrollment day ceremony held in Kachin State**

Yangon, 3 June — Kachin State held the school-enrollment day ceremony for 2005-2006 academic year at No 3 Basic Education High School in Myitkyina on 31 May morning.

Chairman of Kachin State Peace and Development Council Commssioner of Northern Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Swe delivered a speech. Kachin State education officer Daw Khin May Than gave an account of the purpose of the ceremony.

The commander presented K 1.5 million by Kachin State PDC, Deputy Commander Brig Gen San Tun, K 1 million donated by Northern Command, Daw Tin Tin Nwe, wife of the commander, K 500,000; President of Kachin State Organization for Women’s Affairs Daw Tin Tin Hsu, K 500,000; Secretary of Kachin State Union Solidarity and Development Association U Ra Wan John, K 200,000; Bhamo District education staff, K 100,000; Myitkyina District education staff, K 75,000; Myitkyina Township, K 100,000; and entrepreneurs in Myitkyina Township, K 100,000 to the education officer.

After the ceremony, the commander and guests viewed the enrollment of the students.

**Reminder for vessels plying in river**

Yangon, 3 June—There will be swollen rivers with the arrival of heavy rains and strong winds in monsoon.

In this regard, the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems will place nautical marks to ensure the safety of vessels running in the river.

Vessels plying in the river are to exercise great caution as the placing marks can be destroyed and lost due to torrential rains and strong winds.

As there have been frequent strong current and whirlpool in the rainy season, all the vessels are not to take shortcut but to take original routes, balancing the current and the power of vessel.

Under the major bridges, there will be a triangular mark in green colour for the vessels to enter while there will be a cross mark in red colour for the vessels not to enter.

In time of floods, vessels are to make a thorough inspection of engines and steering systems in advance before passing the bridges as founda-

tions of piers will submerge in swollen water.

The parallel running of two vessels is to be avoided while passing the clearance of the bridge, and double-decker is to systematically balance its power and load to pass the bridges. — MNA

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**Win Thuzar Shop (Thandaunggyi) inaugurated**

Yangon, 3 June — The Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industries under the Ministry of Industry inaugurated Win Thuzar Shop (Thandaunggyi branch) yesterday morning at Thandaunggyi in Kayin State.

Managing Director of MPI U Myint Oo and Col Nyi Phyoe Ngwe of Thandaung Station formally opened the shop. Next, they viewed the items around the shop. Available at the shop are items produced by the ministry such as foodstuffs, clothes, household utensils, pharmaceuticals and stationery. — MNA

**Work coord meeting of Livestock and Fisheries Ministry held**

Yangon, 3 June — The work coordination meeting of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Products Enterprise under the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries took place at the ministry this morning with an address by Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein.

Director-General U Kyaw Lwin of the Directorate of Livestock and Fisheries and heads of departments reported on their respective tasks, and Rector of Veterinary Institute Dr Myint Thein on the academic affairs of the institute.

Afterwards, Director-General U Maung Maung Nyunt of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department gave a supplementary report.

In the second session, Managing Director of FDPE U Khin Maung Aye and General Manager Dr Than Shwe reported on the livestock breeding tasks. After hearing the reports on the tasks of the breeding farms, feedstuff production and financial statement, the meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the minister. — MNA

**Talk given to hail World No-Tobacco Day**

Yangon, 3 June — Organized by Myanmar Red Cross Society, a talk was given to mark World No-Tobacco Day at the office of the society.

Myanmar RedCross Society Executive Director U Aung Than spoke on the occasion. Assistant Director of Health Department Dr Thuzar Chit Tin and specialist Dr Ko Ko Maw gave the talks. Service personnel of MRC and members of township red cross societies attended the talks. — MNA

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**Seventh MOC Chairman’s Cup Weightlifting Championship 26-27 June**

Yangon, 3 June — Organized by Myanmar Weightlifting Federation, the Seventh Myanmar Olympic Committee Chairman’s Cup Weightlifting Championship will be held at Aung San Gymnasium on 26 and 27 June.

Weightlifters may enlist at MWF (Aung San Stadium) at 4 pm on 17 June and may contact General Secretary U San Myint of MBF for further information. — MNA
Scientists indenitify dinosaur gender through bone tissue

LOS ANGELES, 3 June — By comparing bone tissue of the Tyrannosaurus Rex (T Rex) with that of living birds, scientists said Thursday that they have found a way to identify the gender of the extinct mighty dinosaurs.

A 68-million-year-old Tyrannosaurus Rex (T Rex) fossil is that of a young female, and she was producing eggs when she died, Mary Schweitzer, an assistant professor at North Carolina State University, and colleagues concluded in the 3 June issue of the journal Science. Scientists discovered unusual bone tissue lining the hollow cavity of the T Rex’s broken leg bone. They said that the presence of this particular tissue provides evidence of the dinosaur’s gender and a connection between the extinct giants and living birds, specifically ostriches and emus.

The unusual tissue inside the T Rex bone is actually medullary bone, a thin layer of highly vascular bone that is found in present-day female birds only during ovulation. This estrogen-linked reproductive tissue bone is laid down inside the hollow leg bones of the birds and persists until the last egg is laid, then it is completely resorbed into the bird’s body. Its formation is triggered by an increase in estrogen levels, and the temporary tissue provides the calcium necessary to form eggshells. Medullary bone is only found in present-day female birds, no other egg-laying species including dinosaurs, relative crocodiles, and probably one who died this fossil was a female, the T Rex. Since only females produce medullary bone, its presence in the T Rex femur indicates that this fossil was a female, and probably one who died toward the end of her laying cycle, the researchers concluded.

Scientists to enhance cooperation with Kazakhstan on space science

MOSCOW, 3 June — Russia will enhance mutually beneficial cooperation with Kazakhstan in the space industry, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

Putin and his Kazakh counterpart, Nursultan Nazarbayev, marked the anniversary on Thursday of the Baikonur cosmodrome, once a crown jewel of the former Soviet Union’s science and now a lifetime to the International Space Station.

After one-on-one talks on space cooperation with Nazarbayev, Putin said one of the most promising joint space programmes between the two countries is the construction of the new Russian Kazakh launch complex, Baiterek, and the more environment-friendly Angara vehicle. Baikonur is still one of the leading cosmodromes in the world, and “makes a key contribution to the International Space Station”, Putin said. Its smooth operation has been considered a most important fruit of Russian-Kazakh partnership, he added.

Close Russian-Kazakh cooperation has brought new life to Baikonur, which was faced with a life-or-death test after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, said Putin, who called a deal last year on the effective use of the cosmodrome “significant”.

Baikonur, initially designed as a testing ground for a secret Soviet ballistic missile programme, was the scene of the historic launches of the first satellite to orbit and of cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin. Kazakhstan inherited the cosmodrome after the disintegration of the former Soviet Union in 1991. Russia now pays 115 million US dollars annually for the use of Baikonur under a deal effective through 2050. In the past two years, Baikonur has been the only gateway to the International Space Station following the grounding of the US space shuttles. Statistics show that the cosmodrome launched more rockets than any other cosmodromes in the world last year.

Cultural activities to mark 55th anniversary of China-Sweden dip ties

BEIJING, 3 June — A series of cultural activities will be held to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the establishment of China-Sweden diplomatic ties, Dr Boje Ljunggren, Swedish Ambassador to China said here Wednesday.

The celebration will include a porcelain exhibition, the replica ship Gothenborg’s new China trip and the China premiere of Volvo Ocean Race. According to Ljunggren, the porcelain exhibition will kick off at Beijing’s Palace Museum, publicly known as the Forbidden City, at the end of September. It will showcase over 180 porcelain collections from Sweden’s state-run and private museums, including pottery with coloured designs from ancient China’s “Yang Shao Culture” period, exquisite and refined porcelains traded on the sea in the 18th Century, and precious relics including porcelains, teaware, and condiments salvaged from the sunken Gothenborg.

Gothenborg III is a replica ship of a commercial ship bearing the same name that sunk mysteriously in 1745. This October, the ship will be launched from the Swedish port of Gothenburg, kicking off its 10-month-long voyage across vast oceans. The ship will retrace the 18th Century “Silk Road on the sea” and visit Guangzhou and Shangh¬hai. Many activities will be hosted at stopover ports along the ship’s journey with its culmination at the Swedish port of Guangzhou and Shang¬hai. First staged in 1973, the Volvo Ocean Race Round the World is one of the most important major sailboat race events in the world. No other competition asks so much of both man and equipment. Up to now, the schedule of the race event is still under discussion.

Ljunggren said Sweden and China have been making much efforts to foster closer ties in po¬litical, economic, cultural and many other fields, and that those efforts have paid off. In 2003, bilateral trade volume reached 4.17 billion US dollars. Sweden is now China’s biggest trade partner in North Europe. China has surpassed Ja¬pan to become Sweden’s largest market in Asia and 12th biggest trade partner. “Further deve¬lopment of the Sweden-China friendship and co¬operation is good not only for the two peoples, but also for common de¬velopment and economic growth,” he stressed.
Vietnam, Thailand to further comprehensive ties

HANOI, 3 June — Vietnam and Thailand will beef up all-round bilateral relations, local newspaper Labour reported on Thursday.

During their talks on Wednesday, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien and his visiting Thai counterpart Kantathi Suphamongkhon agreed that Thailand and Vietnam will organize an inter-governmental meeting in February 2006. The ministers also agreed that the two countries will hold a meeting of their joint working group on political and security cooperation in Vietnam in the third quarter of this year.

Thailand strongly supports Vietnam’s bid to join the World Trade Organization, Suphamongkhon stressed, hoping that the two-way trade between the two countries, which stood at 2.2 billion US dollars last year, would climb to 3 billion dollars in the near future. During the talks, the two ministers also discussed some other issues of common concern, including cooperation within the framework of the West-East Corridor and the Greater Mekong Sub-region, and coordination on bird flu prevention, the report said.

Suphamongkhon paid an official visit to Vietnam from 31 May to 1 June.

"MAS" improves conditions for stewardesses

klala Lumpur, 3 June — Malaysia Airlines (MAS) has further relaxed its conditions on stewardesses in line with the country’s policy to review all laws and regulations discriminating against women, local newspaper reported on Thursday.

MAS stewardesses can now have up to three children instead of two, and those at the supervisory level are allowed to perform ground duties after 40, the report said. "We hope the new provisions will further raise the standard of their performance so that the airline can maintain its good record in this category," Chan said.

China not to obstruct India’s bid for UNSC permanent seat

VLADIVOSTOK, 3 June — Striking a positive note, China on Thursday assured that it would not be an obstacle to India becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

This was conveyed during an hour-long breakfast meeting between India’s External Affairs Minister K. Natwar Singh and his Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing.

Li reiterated that assurances and commitments given by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to Prime Minister Mammohan Singh during his visit to India in April should be fully respected. Indian officials said China holds that India has an important role to play in international affairs.

On the issue of inclusion of new permanent members in the Security Council, Beijing has maintained that there should be consensus.

Officials said there was an exchange of views on the recent draft resolution mooted by the Group of Four comprising India, Germany, Japan and Brazil among UN members, and other developments pertaining to UN reforms and Security Council expansion.

Strong earthquake jolts S-W Japan

Tokyo, 3 June — A strong earthquake measuring lower 5 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 jolted Kumamoto Prefecture in southwestern Japan’s Kyushu region early Friday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

Although the quake registered a preliminary magnitude of 4.8, which is not so high on the Richter Scale, but the agency said the quake is strong because its focus was about only 10 kilometres under-ground in Kumamoto’s Amakusaashikia region.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the 4:16 am (1916 GMT) quake. No tsunami warning was issued.

The quake also measured 5.8 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale in Nagasaki Prefecture and several other locations in Kumamoto, the agency said.

Vietnamese police unearth biggest ecstasy den in Hanoi

HANOI, 3 June — The Vietnamese police have detected a case of taking ecstasy in a bar in Hanoi capital, detaining 206 local people, according to local newspaper Young People on Thursday.

When raiding the bar in Hai Ba Trung District on Wednesday, the police found nine lab-made drug pills and two packets of marijuana. Thirty out of the 206 people, including 60 women, were tested positive to drugs.

The case is the biggest among seven de-tected in Hanoi by the police over the past one month.

To deal with social evils such as prostitution and drug use in recreational facilities, the Vietnamese Government has just temporarily halted licensing of any new discotheques, bars and karaoke lounges.

Vietnam discovered 12,068 drug-related crimes, and arrested 18,260 people in 2004. By early last year, it had registered 169,000 drug addicts, of whom 30.5 per cent are from 13 northern mountainous provinces.
Mozambican President promises to improve children’s lives

MAPUTO, 2 June — Mozambican President Armando Guebuza said in Maputo on Wednesday that his government is committed to improving the lives of the country’s children.

Guebuza made this promise during a meeting with a group of children, marking International Children’s Day. He stressed that the expansion of the country’s school network, and improving the quality of education and health services were ways of preparing Mozambican children for the challenges of tomorrow.

This year, Mozambique is celebrating International Children’s Day under the slogan “Let us value our national independence by combating violence against children and HIV/AIDS.”

Guebuza renewed his appeal to all parents to take their children under the age of 15 to have vaccination against measles in the coming months.

According to Leila Pakkala, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) representative in Mozambique, over 20,000 cases of violence against children were recorded in the country in 2004.— MNA/Xinhua

Asian chemical exporting countries concern over EU system

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 June — Asian chemical exporting countries expressed concern over the potential impact of the REACH system proposed by the European Union (EU) on the chemical industries, a Malaysian official said on Wednesday.

The implementation of the Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemical system (REACH) would create significant non-tariff barriers which were likely to delay market access, blocked short term marketing opportunity, add cost and discourage export to European countries, Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Ahmad Husni Hanadzlak told reporters after opening the ChemCon Asia 2005, an international conference on chemical control, legislation and trade aspects here.

EU has proposed the REACH system to regulate all chemicals used in EU region. This system requires enterprises that manufacture or import more than one ton of a chemical substance per year to register the chemical with a new European chemical agency.

The official said developing economies and especially small and medium scale enterprises might not be able to comply with REACH requirements due to lack of human, technical, laboratory and financial resources.

“We are communicating with them (EU) so that our views are taken into account when they decide on what form REACH will be adopted,” he said.

Under the World Trade Organization (WTO), Ahmad Husni said, there was an agreement on technical barriers and trade, which governs the movement of chemical and other related products.

“We feel the EU requires more than what (had) been discussed and decided by WTO and this should not be the case,” he added. MNA/Xinhua

Iranian lawmakers urge govt to resume N-activities

TEHERAN, 2 June — Iranian lawmakers on Wednesday pressed the government to resume uranium enrichment activities suspended last November, semi-official Mehr news agency reported.

A letter to President Mohammad Khatami signed by 175 of the 290 Majlis (Parliament) members called on the government “to implement the law passed by the Majlis and approved by the Guardian Council as quickly as possible,” the report said.

The Majlis on May 15 passed a law demanding the government continue its efforts to get access to peaceful nuclear technology, including uranium enrichment.

In the letter, the lawmakers said the current negotiations with the European Union (EU) was “only a waste of time.”

“Promise by the European trio of Britain, France and Germany to present new proposals to Iran on solving the nuclear stand-off in the coming months is a victory for Teheran, but the EU could also waste more time by making an unacceptable proposal,” said the letter.

Meanwhile, Majlis Speaker Gholam Ali Haddad Adel said the Majlis would make it necessary for EU to waste time in nuclear negotiations.

Iran held a key round of talks with the EU on 25 May, in which the two sides just prevented the deadlock nuclear negotiations from going further into crisis by virtually prolonging the talks to wait for the result of Iran’s presidential elections on 17 June.

During the talks, the EU proposed to present a comprehensive plan within the next two months for all-out cooperation with Iran in different areas including technical and nuclear issues, according to Iran’s chief nuclear negotiator Hassan Rowhani.

The current deadlock was blamed on EU’s repeated rejection to Iran’s demand of keeping restricted enrichment activities. Teheran in late April threatened to resume uranium enrichment activities, which it suspended last November to pave the way for talks with the EU.— MNA/Xinhua

One dead, seven injured in Colombia air crash

BOGOTA, 2 June — One person died and seven others were injured Wednesday when a light airplane crashed into a house near an airport in the southern Colombian city of Nerva, 304 kilometres south of Bogota, authorities said.

The crash, which occurred two minutes before landing, was blamed on mechanical malfunction. The copilot of the plane died, and three others aboard the plane and four people in the house were injured, some seriously. — MNA/Xinhua

Zambia to have strategic crude oil reserves

LUSAKA, 2 June — The Zambian Government has installed two tanks for storing crude oil, a move that will help the country have its own oil reserves, a senior government official said here Wednesday.

“Contractor is busy completing the tanks and the two tanks will contain crude oil for processing in Zambia,” Geoffrey Mukala, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy and Water Development told journalists at a Press briefing.

He said the move is to preserve oil so that the country will not be affected badly when there is a problem on the international oil markets. — MNA/Xinhua
Survey shows HIV/AIDS affects over half of African businesses

CAPE TOWN, 2 June — More than half of African businesses felt the impact of HIV/AIDS on their revenues, and this proportion shot to over 90 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa, the epicenter of the global epidemic, a survey showed Wednesday.

Another warning signal sent by the survey was only 30 per cent of the affected companies were ready to respond to the impact, the Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) said in Cape Town, South Africa.

The survey among 1,552 companies in 19 sub-Saharan African countries showed that up to 91 per cent of the affected companies have already had an HIV/AIDS policy and prevention programmes in place and 65 per cent offer treatment and care to their employees, the WEF, which conducted the survey, announced during its 15th Africa Economic Summit.

“But there is still little room for complacency across the continent,” said Francesca Baldrini, associated director of the WEF’s Global Health Initiative.

The survey showed that 51 per cent of African businesses felt the impact of HIV/AIDS on their revenues, with the largest costs resulting from decreased productivity and absenteeism, and recruitment and training expenses.

Up to 93 per cent of surveyed companies in sub-Saharan Africa said they felt the impact, but only 34 per cent had either a written or informal HIV/AIDS policy in place, the survey found.

Gold mining company AngloGold estimated that its HIV/AIDS expenses in South Africa would range from 8 per cent to 17 per cent of total payroll costs by 2009.

“AngloGold has a programme in place to deal with this, but what could happen to those who don’t?” said Baldrini.

Citing figures from the United Nations, the WEF warned that four countries in sub-Saharan Africa would have workforce over 30 per cent due to HIV/AIDS, while 14 other countries would see losses of between 10 per cent and 30 per cent.

China enters flood season, authorities call for tighter prevention

BEIJING, 2 June — Flood control authorities across China have been told to intensify flood control and prevention efforts as the whole country enters flood season on Wednesday.

The State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters has forecast heavy rainfalls and possible flood disasters in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River, the country’s longest river, in the coming three months, according to Wang Shucheng, the headquarters’ deputy chief and Minister of Water Resources.

Wang warns areas along the Yellow River, China’s second longest river, have to be on alert as well, particularly the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and the northern part of the Yellow Plateau, where heavy rainfalls are predicted.

Even arid areas along the Haihe River in the north must not be overconfident because heavy floods are often likely to follow long-term drought, he said.

Wang urges local flood control authorities to bear in mind the flood resistant capacity of rivers, lakes and water traffic arteries and step up reinforcement of dams, reservoirs and other flood control projects.

“Flood control authorities must give priority to the safety of the people and their property,” Wang said.

Tanzania to extend subscriber numbering to move mobile growth

DAR-ES-SALAAM, 2 June — Tanzania will extend mobile subscriber numbering to cope with explosive mobile user growth, according to communications authorities.

Local newspaper Daily News on Wednesday quoted the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority as saying in December this year, mobile phone number will be seven digits from the current six with the access code to be reduced from three to two digits.

The authority said six-digit subscriber numbering range could only accommodate up to one million mobile phone users, and figures Tanzania had already surpassed in the year 2003.

Tanzania has seen a 1,000-time hike of mobile users to about 1.9 million in March this year from the 2,194 users in 1995 when mobile phone was first introduced into the poor East African country which still stands among the world’s least developed. Industrial analysts contributed the recent mobile craze to the fact that mobile service in the country is more reliable and affordable than the landline service.

Tanzania mobile phone users only spend an average of 12 US dollars a month whereas a fixed line is supposed to charge 5 dollars a month without any phone to be made.

Russian research satellite sent into orbit

MOSCOW, 2 June — Russia sent into orbit a research satellite on Tuesday that carried living organisms for scientific experiments during a two-week mission.

The Photon-M satellite carried scorpions, crawfish, newts and lizards, living organisms that will be brought back to Earth after two weeks of experiments, a spokesman for Russia’s mission control centre, was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying.

The satellite was put into orbit by a Soyuz rocket that blasted off at 4:00 pm Moscow Time (1200 GMT) from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.

Ability to digest milk linked with ancestral living conditions

LOS ANGELES, 2 June — Many people cannot digest milk in adulthood because their ancestors came from regions where dairy herds could not be raised safely and economically, scientists said on Wednesday.

In Africa and most parts of Asia, ancient people could not support dairy herding because of harsh climates or deadly diseases, and their offspring do not have the ability to digest milk after infancy, according to a study in a forthcoming issue of Evolution and Human Behaviour.

“Flood control authorities must give priority to the safety of the people and their property.”

Wang said.

MNA/Xinhua

Construction workers walk on a curved glass roof of a newly built shopping and business centre in the centre of Warsaw on 1 June, 2005. The roof, which spans some 10,000 square metres, is the largest of its kind in Europe according to the spokesman of Skanska Construction Company. — INTERBET

Sherman, a professor at Cornell University who led this research, said.

“In this case, the domestication of cattle has guided our biological evolution.”

Although all mammalian infants drink their mothers’ milk, humans are the only mammals that drink milk in adulthood. But most people, about 60 per cent and primarily those of Asian and African descent, stop producing lactase, the enzyme required to digest milk, as they mature.

“People of northern European descent, however, tend to retain the ability to produce the enzyme and drink milk throughout life.”

Sherman’s team compiled data on lactose intolerance — the inability to digest dairy products, from 270 indigenous African and Eurasian populations in 59 countries.

On average, they found that 61 per cent of people studied were lactose intolerant, with a range of 2 per cent in Denmark and 100 per cent in Zambia. — MNA/Xinhua

Sweden decommission 2nd reactor at Barseback N-plant

STOCKHOLM, 2 June — Sweden decommissioned at midnight on Tuesday (2200 GMT) a controversial nuclear power station in the southwest of the country, putting an end to its 30-year history of power production.

The shutdown of the final reactor at the Barseback plant, across a narrow waterway from the Danish capital Copenhagen, is part of a government programme to decrease dependency on atomic power. The plant’s first reactor was closed in 1999.

Nuclear power has been a charged political issue in Sweden. Swedish anti-nuclear campaigners have pressed for the plant to be shut down after Sweden voted in 1980 to stop using nuclear power and phase out all nuclear plants across the country over the coming decades. For the 348 employees of the station, the moment was still uneasy though the shutdown had been long determined, according to a report of the Swedish News Agency.

MNA/Xinhua
Turkey to host World Universities Weight-Lifting C'ships

ANKARA, 2 June — The World Universities Weight-Lifting Championships is expected to be held in Turkish Aegean city of Izmir in 2006. The championships to be held from 30th June to 2nd July, 2006, was included in the official calendar of the World Youth Weight-Lifting Championships in South Korea.

Turkish Federation of Weight-Lifting proposed to host the European Championships in 2007 in Turkey. If Turkey’s proposal is accepted, a championships will take place again in Izmir in April of 2007.

Besides Turkey, Russia, France and Iceland also volunteered to host the event.

Meanwhile, leading Turkish weight-lifter Taner Sagir was presented with the "Most Successful Sportsman Award" during the World Youth Weight-Lifting Championships in South Korea.

Sagir who was competing in men’s 77 kilo category won three gold medals in the championships.

Medical protection established for Mexican boxers

MEXICO, 2 June — Mandatory medical measures for Mexican pugilists competing outside the country were decreed Wednesday by the Mexican sports authorities after boxer Ruben Contreras entered into coma due to injuries suffered during a fight in the United States.

The Tijuana Boxing Commission stipulated a statement that “all Mexican fighters wishing to take part in a fight abroad, will first have to get a medical permission.” The organization explained that the decision was made in a meeting of the Mexican commission at Las Vegas (Nevada, United States) within the framework of the Congress of the North American Boxing Federation two weeks ago. — MNA/Xinhua

Robinho considers leaving Santos for Real season at the Spanish capital of Madrid.

“In Real Robinho will have an excellent working structure and shortly will be the best player of the world,” said Roberto Carlos. Robinho is to head Sunday the attack of Brazil in place of Ronaldo in a World Cup qualifier versus Paraguay at the Brazilian city of Porto Alegre. Three days later the Brazilians will visit Argentina at Buenos Aires.

Henin-Hardenne reaches French Open final

PARIS, 3 June — Justine Henin-Hardenne will play for another championship on her favourite stage. The Belgian, unbeaten on clay this year, advanced on Thursday to the French Open final by defeating Nadia Petrova 6-2, 6-4.

Henin-Hardenne started fast against Petrova and finished the same way. She swept the final four games and skipped consecutive winners off the baseline to reach match point.

“I’m a bit tired,” she said, “but I’m winning match after match.”

Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer meet Friday in a men’s semifinal showdown touted as the match of the tournament, if not the year. It features the game’s top two players in peak form: Federer, entrenched at No 1 and bidding to complete a career Grand Slam at age 23; and Nadal, the teen sensation who has won five tournaments this year and emerged as the biggest threat to Federer’s reign.

“This is a match where I’d like to have fun,” said Nadal, who turns 19 Friday. “I think I might be able to win. At least that’s what I’m going to go for.”

France’s Mary Pierce reacts after defeating Russia’s Elena Likhovtseva during their semifinal match of the French Open tennis tournament, at the Roland Garros Stadium, on 2 June, 2005 in Paris. Pierce won 6-1, 6-1. — INTERNET

Barcelona crisis ends with four resignations

MADRID, 3 June — The crisis within the board of directors of Spanish league champion Barcelona ended with the resignation of four officials who formed the group opposing president Joan Laporta.

Sandro Rosell (vice sports president), Josep Maria Bartomeu (sections) and Jordi Moix (Heritage) resigned on Thursday, following Tuesday’s resignation of Jordi Mones (Medical Section).

They all claimed that team spirit was lost, as it became evident during the elections of the president.

Joan Laporta issued a statement after the resignations were accepted, saying the crisis was over. He handed over the sports authority to Technical Secretary Aitor “Txiki” Begiristain and coach Frank Rijkaard.

Finally Laporta said the vacant positions will be covered with individuals “with the top responsibility”.

MNA/Xinhua

1st ASEM Youth Games opens in Thailand

BANGKOK, 3 June — The 1st ASEM Youth Games kicked off here on Thursday with 25 Asian and European countries participating in the week-long competition.

At the opening ceremony, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra noted that sports is one of the best means to reflect the cultural significance of Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) process.

He hoped the sports meet could help foster people-to-people contact as well as raise mutual aspect and understanding between Asia and Europe through the youths. China sent out a 49-member delegation to take part in the games, which features six events including athletics, badminton, football, swimming, table tennis and tennis.

MNA/Xinhua

Italian police bust illegal betting ring

ROMA, 2 June — Italian police on Wednesday announced they had cracked an illegal soccer betting ring and placed 43 people under investigation, including a dozen or 50 players, two or three of whom were from the local Serie A club Udinese.

Police made it clear that neither Udinese nor any other club were involved or suspected of seeking to falsify results or benefit from betting.

The illegal betting ring was said to have been run from a newspaper kiosk, the owner of which is believed to have deposited the money from the bets into his own bank accounts and then placed bets by computer through the British betting agency Eurobet.

The investigation into the illegal betting ring began last autumn.

Udinese this past season finished fourth in the First Division and qualified for a berth in the European Champions League.

MNA/Xinhua

Mexican Chivas’ Omar Bravo (C, 9) celebrates with his teammates against Argentina’s Boca Juniors during the second half of their Libertadores Cup soccer match at the Jalisco Stadium in Guadalajara City, Mexico, on 2 June, 2005. — INTERNET

Meng Wei, chief of the Chinese delegation, said Chinese athletes have the potential to win golds in all their participating events since they are the best in China’s national youth teams. He added the international games would serve as a very good opportunity for the players to train themselves and learn more.

The sports event, to be held on June 2-8, is the first youth games with all participating countries and regions from Asia and Europe. The games is expected to present some 97 gold medals.

MNA/Xinhua

Justine Henin-Hardenne reacts as she defeats Nadia Petrova. — INTERNET

6-3.

Henin-Hardenne earned the first of her three Grand Slam titles two years ago at Roland Garros, the tournament she loves most. She has won 23 consecutive matches this year, all on clay, and is 26-1 since returning in March from a seven-month layoff because of a knee injury and blood virus that had bedridden last year.

“T feel like I’m at home here,” Henin-Hardenne said. “There are a lot of memories coming back. Playing a final here is such a reward after being out for so long.”

Henin-Hardenne’s opponent Saturday will be the winner of the second semifinal between France’s Mary Pierce, the 2000 champion, and Russia’s Elena Likhovtseva.

One day after celebrating her 23rd birthday, Henin-Hardenne started fast against Petrova and finished the same way. She swept the final four games and skipped consecutive winners off the baseline to reach match point.

“In a bit tired,” she said, “but I’m winning match after match.”

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MNA/Xinhua
Nestle China defends infant milk powder against charges

BEIJING, 3 June — Swiss foodmaker Nestle has taken no measure after admitting one of its infant milk powder formulas contains iodine higher than the national standard.

He Tong, head of Nestle China’s PR department, said the company has not taken any measure to recall or stop the sale of the three-plus milk powder for child growth. In a statement later last week, Nestle China said the iodine content in its milk powder for infant growth was "just a little" higher than China’s national standard, which would cause no harm to infants.

The three-plus milk powder for child growth, produced by Nestle’s joint venture Helongjiang Shuangcheng Nestle Co., Ltd in northeast China, was found listed in a child food quality survey report as "unqualified for containing iodine higher than the national safety standard" set by east China’s Zhejiang provincial industrial and commercial bureau last Wednesday. The bureau demanded its officials investigate businesses that distribute unqualified food and temporarily confiscate unqualified food in the province.

Upon hearing the news, French retail giant Carrefour ordered its chain stores around the country to remove the Nestle milk powder from shelves, followed many other super-markets in the country.

The Chinese Consumer Association said Nestle China was given 15 days for offering explanation before the report was released last Wednesday, but the company seems to give no response.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Friday, 3 June, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thundershowers have been widespread in Kayin and Mon States, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Bago Division, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States, isolated in Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions with isolated heavyfalls in Kayin and Mon States, Ayeyawady and Yangon Divisions and weather has been partly cloudy in the remaining areas. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Mawlamyine (4.44) inches, Zalim (4.29) inches, Hpa-an (4.05) inches, Yangon (Central) (3.22) inches, Pathein (2.76) inches, Yangon (Kaba-Aye) (2.17) inches, Yav (1.93) inches, Yangon (Mingaladon) (1.89) inches and Monywa (1.46) inches.

Maximum temperature on 2-6-2005 was 87°F. Minimum temperature on 3-6-2005 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST 3-6-2005 was 100%. Total sunshine hours on 2-6-2005 was (0.8) hour approx. Rainfalls on 3-6-2005 were (1.88) inches at Yangon Airport, (2.17) inches at Kaba-Aye and (3.22) inches at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (10.35) inches at Yangon Airport, (10.24) inches at Kaba-Aye and (7.20) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (15) mph from South West at (17:30) hours MST on 2-6-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 4-6-2005: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Kayin and Mon States, Ayeyawady, Yangon, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, scattered in Shan, Rakhine, Kayah, Kachin and Chin States and isolated in the remaining areas with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Kayin and Mon States, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Thunder conditions in Central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-6-2005: Some rain. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-6-2005: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Weather outlook for first weekend of June 2005: During the coming weekend, rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Yangon Division and isolated rain or thundershowers are likely in Mandalay Division.

Earthquake report

(Issued at 09:00 hours MST on 3rd June 2005)

An earthquake of strong intensity (6.3) Richter Scale with its epicenter outside of Myanmar about (1,300) miles South of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at (07) hrs (19) min (26) sec MST on 3rd June 2005.

Saturday, 4 June

View on today:

7:00 am 1. 新聞時報
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am 3. Morning news
7:40 am 4. Nice and sweet songs
7:55 am 5. 早晨
8:00 am 6. Musical programme
8:15 am 7. 早晨
8:30 am 8. International news
8:45 am 9. Grammar Made Easy
9:00 am 11:00 am 11:15 am 11:30 am 3. News
3. News
4. Musical programme
4. Games for children
5. Round up of the week’s TV local news
5:15 pm 10. Dance of national races
1:00 pm 11. 民族舞蹈
2:10 pm 12. "愛國主義的花環" (緬甸語)
2:30 pm 13. 国籍歌
2:45 pm 14. International news
4:00 pm 1. Martial song
4:15 pm 2. Songs to uphold National Spirit
4:30 pm 3. English for Everyday Use
4:45 pm 4. Musical programme
5:00 pm 5. "愛國主義的花環" (緬甸語)
5:15 pm 6. "愛國主義的花環" (緬甸語)
5:30 pm 7. Musical programme
5:45 pm 8. "愛國主義的花環" (緬甸語)
6:00 pm 9. "愛國主義的花環" (緬甸語)
6:15 pm 10. Musical programme
6:30 pm 11. Evening news
7:00 pm 12. Weather report
7:05 pm 13. Discovery
7:10 pm 14. "愛國主義的花環" (緬甸語)
7:40 pm 15. Musical programme
8:00 pm 16. News
8:15 pm 17. International news
8:30 pm 18. Weather report
9:00 pm 19. "愛國主義的花環" (緬甸語)
9:15 pm 20. The next day’s programme
10:00 pm PEI

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Commander meets departmental staff of Langkho

YANGON, 3 June — Accompanied by officials, Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint met with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and local people at the township hall of Langkho on 30 May afternoon.

District PDC Secretary U San Myint reported on implementation of agricultural and livestock breeding work and regional development tasks in the district. Officials also reported on their respective tasks.

The commander stressed the need for cooperation between departmental staff and local people in the successful implementation of the State’s seven-point Road Map.

MNA

Commander inspects regional development tasks in Kya-in-Seikkyi

YANGON, 3 June — Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council South-East Command Commander Maj-Gen Soe Naing together with Chairman of Kayin State Peace and Development Council Col Khin Kyu and officials met with departmental personnel, members of social organizations and townsmen at the hall of Kya-in-Seikkyi on 31 May morning.

On the occasion, the Commander heard reports on facts about the township and regional development tasks, and attended to the needs.

Next, he proceeded to Kyakkdon and met with departmental personnel, social organizations and townsmen at the meeting hall of Town General Administration Department. He gave necessary instructions and attended to the needs. Later, the Commander and officials inspected development of Kyakkdon. — MNA

Ministry of Health meets

YANGON, 3 June — The Ministry of Health held a work coordination meeting at the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar) on Ziwaka Road in Dagon Township here this morning.

Minister for Health Dr Kyaw Myint in his speech called for submission of department-wise implementation of the ministry’s objectives.

On behalf of the State, he expressed thanks to the medical staff who have cared day in, day out for the victims of the bomb blasts committed in Yangon on 7 May.

He stressed the importance of health care services at basic education schools. He also called for cooperation with social organizations and conservation of rare herbal plants of the Institute of Traditional Medicine.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo also delivered an address.

Directors-general and heads of health departments of states and divisions reported on work progress.

The minister assessed the reports and gave concluding remarks.

MNA

Laying of gas pipelines, fertilizer plant and Pyay oil field inspected

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspects Yonseik-Thayet natural gas pipeline laying project. — ENERGY

They know how to make apologies or withdraw their news reports when the world do not accept their news or the person concerned makes a law suit against them for tarnishing his dignity.

(Page 7)

MAUNG OAK AW

Afterwards, Brig-Gen Lun Thi proceeded to SC-1 well being jointly drilled by Chinnery Assesst Co Ltd of China and MOGE in Pyay oil field. General Manager U Myat San of the oil field reported on production of oil and natural gas. President of Chinnery Assesst Co Ltd Mr Feng Guo Liang on drilling of SC-1 well and Managing Director U San Lwin on prospects of striking oil and natural gas in sand layers. The minister gave necessary instructions. Later, the minister cordially conversed with the staff. — MNA

Minister Dr Kyaw Myint delivers a speech at the coordination meeting. — MNA