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

**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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**Senior General Than Shwe felicitates President of the Philippines**

**Yangon, 12 June**— On the occasion of the 107th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Philippines which falls on 12th June, 2005, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Mrs Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines. —MNA

**Senior General Than Shwe sends felicitations to Russian President**

**Yangon, 12 June**— Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Vladimir V Putin, President of the Russian Federation, on the occasion of the National Day of the Russian Federation which falls on 12 June, 2005. —MNA

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**Building of Myohla (Tatkon) Dam measuring 2,100 feet by 80 feet in high gear**

**Yangon, 11 June**— Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, inspected Myohla (Tatkon) Dam Project being implemented near Inkhon Village of Tatkon Township for water supply functions of Meiktila Plain Greening Project on 5 June afternoon.

The Director of Construction-5 of Irrigation Department explained functions of the main embankment, the spillway and digging of canals.

The minister met with Chairman of Yamethin District Peace and Development Council Lt-Col Aung Kyi Shein and departmental officials. They discussed water supply facilities, extended cultivation of summer paddy and onion, greening tasks along the left canal of Hsinthay Dam and environs of Myohla (Tatkon) Dam.

Maj-Gen Htay Oo oversaw construction of earthen embankment measuring 2,100 feet by 80 feet at Myohla (Tatkon) Dam and completion of 30 feet wide spillway.

—MNA
PERSPECTIVES
Sunday, 12 June, 2005

Strive for emergence of a democratic system in conformity with nation’s way of life

The government has been making efforts in the interests of the State and the people on the basis of the historical trend of Myanmar.

A glance at the Myanmar history will reveal the spirit of national solidarity, Union Spirit and anti-colonialist spirit which inspired the people to drive out the intruders. With the spirit, the entire national people have been able to safeguard sovereignty of the Union of Myanmar.

Thanks to unity of the entire national races, Myanmar regained her independence. Our Three Main National Causes, is making all-out efforts for the emergence of a democratic system with fully institutionalized discipline, the national goal.

Prime Minister Lt-Gen Soe Win during his tour of Shan State (North) met local people at the opening ceremony of Dokhtawady Bridge (Nawngkhiu) on 6 June 2005 and gave instructions. He called upon the people and the Tatmadaw members to strive together for the emergence of a democratic system in conformity with the nation’s way of life.

Nowadays, notable progress has been made in economic, education, health and transport sectors owing to concerted efforts of the State, the people and the Tatmadaw. With those development infrastructures, various regions are on the threshold of a new life, enjoying the fruits of peace and stability.

However, some destructive elements at home and abroad in collusion with some minions are inventing malicious rumours to jeopardize the interests of the State and the people, and sowing discord and dissension among national races to undermine national solidarity.

Meanwhile, some underground and above-ground destructionists in an act of terrorism are attacking the government politically. That is why each and every citizen is to exercise a constant vigilance against plots and destructive acts of the saboteurs.

Therefore, we would like to urge the people and the Tatmadaw to make concerted efforts for the emergence of a democratic system in line with national characteristics which call for national solidarity.

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

Commander Looks into World Population Day Commemorative Poster Contest

YANGON, 11 June — The 2005 World Population Day Commemorative Poster Contests, jointly organized by the Ministry of Immigration and Population and the UNFPA, were held at the designated places in States and Divisions today.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe visited the poster contest of Yangon Division at Ahlon Township Hall.

Accompanied by Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, the Commander viewed competition of students in the 6-8 age class, the 9-12 age class, the 13-15 age class, and the 16-18 age class contests. Altogether 160 students participated in contests. The 19 years and above class is categorized as the open one. Ten best entries of age-wise contests from States and Divisions will be chosen and sent to Population Department. In the final stage, the central level scrutinising group will choose state and division selected entries.

The first prize winning entries in age-wise contests will be submitted to UNFPA (Headquarters) to take part in the international poster contest. — MNA

Wellwishers honoured at Hninzigon Home for the Aged

Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Retd) presents gifts to a wellwisher. — MNA

YANGON, 11 June — The Hninzigon Home for the Aged Board of Trustees held the 6th ceremony to honour wellwishers at Thiri Yadana Hall of the Home this morning.

Vice-Chairman of the Home Administrative Board Lt-Col Kyaw Shein (Retd) gave a speech. Next, the vice-chairman and officials presented gifts to 120 wellwishers. Altogether 238 elderly people are accommodated at the home. — MNA

FM sends felicitations to the Philippines

YANGON, 12 June — On the occasion of the 107th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Philippines which falls on 12th June, 2005, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Alberto G. Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines. — MNA

Foreign Minister felicitates Russian counterpart

YANGON, 12 June — U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Sergei V. Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, on the occasion of the National Day of the Russian Federation which falls on 12 June, 2005. — MNA
Vietnam confirms 52 bird flu infections in 5 months

HANOI, 10 June — Vietnam's Preventive Medicine Department on Thursday confirmed that 52 local people from 21 cities and provinces were infected with bird flu virus strain H5N1 between mid-December 2004 and late May 2005, of whom 18 died.

Now, two bird flu patients, both from Hanoi, the capital city, are under treatment at the Institute of Tropical Diseases, the department told Xinhua, noting that their epidemiological signs indicate a strong link to sick poultry.

Since bird flu started to hit Vietnam in December 2003, the country has detected a total of 79 human cases of infections in 28 cities and provinces, including 38 fatalities, the department said.

Vietnam reported 23 human cases of bird flu infections and 43.9 million fowls killed or culled in the first outbreak lasting from December 2003 to March 2004. The respective figures were 4 and 84,000 in the second outbreak lasting from July 2004 to August 2004, and 52 and 44.5 million in the third outbreak starting from mid-December 2004. — MNA/Xinhua

Annan calls on US to play active role in UN reform

UNITED NATIONS, 10 June — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on the United States on Thursday to work with other member states to reform and strengthen the United Nations. A House of Representatives committee voted on Wednesday in Washington to slash US dues to the United Nations if the world body fails to make sweeping reforms.

“I hope it will not happen,” the Secretary-General said to reporters. “As I have indicated, we are going through reforms and the United States has a natural leadership role and I hope it will work with other member states to reform and strengthen the Organization.”

“I don’t think holding back on contributions sends the right message and it might be counter-productive,” he noted. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese shoemakers say EU’s safeguard measure unjustified

BEIJING, 10 June — An official with the China Leather Association said the attempt by the European footwear makers to launch safeguard measures against China cannot be justified.

Wei Yafei, spokeswoman with the association, was quoted by Thursday’s China Daily as saying that China’s exports have not imposed a severe impact on the shoe market of European countries as the European companies claimed.

China’s footwear exports to the EU was 257 million pairs in the first three months this year, up 2.8 per cent year-on-year, while the total value hit 726 million US dollars, up 30.8 per cent from the previous year, according to China’s General Administration of Customs.

Footwear manufacturers association of Italy, Spain and Portugal are reported to have filed applications to the EU to curb footwear imports from China. They claimed that imports from China had flooded their markets and hurt their domestic industries.

However, the European Commission is not predicted to take an immediate measure against Chinese footwear.

The Chinese Government and the industrial associations have taken measures to watch the footwear exports and strengthen self-regulation among the sector. The Ministry of Commerce has also put shoe export under close supervision, said the newspaper.

Similar to Chinese textile industry, the country’s shoemakers have been amid tensions of trade conflicts with trade partners since last fall just before all quotas on footwear trade were to be eliminated.

At present, China produces more than 6 billion pairs of shoes annually at over 7,000 shoemaking companies. — MNA/Xinhua

May incident in Iraq reflects tensions between US military, contractors

WASHINGTON, 10 May — Matt Raiche knew he was in trouble when the Marines handed him an orange jumpsuit, a bottle to urinate in, a Quran and a Muslim prayer rug.

Marine guards put the former Marine into a six-foot by six-foot concrete cell, locked the steel door and told him to keep his mouth shut. In cells nearby, he heard imprisoned insurgents screaming in Arabic.

“They took us to be ... insurgent terrorists,” said Raiche, 34, one of 16 US contractors arrested by the Marine Corps last month on suspicions of firing indiscriminately at U S soldier and Iraqi civilians. “We said we were Americans. We didn’t know what was going on.”

So began three days of captivity for the employees of North Carolina-based Zapata Engineering, apprehended after Marines allegedly witnessed them firing weapons from an armored convoy passing through Fallujah.

While details remain unclear, the 28 May incident reflects the long simmering tensions between the military and private business in Iraq. Even though the government has hired private companies to perform many functions in Iraq — including security — it does not formally oversee their activities, allowing misunderstandings and disputes to fester.

Raiche said the Marines seemed angry at the higher salaries that contractors in Iraq enjoy: “One Marine gets me on the ground and puts his knee in my back. Then I hear another Marine say, ‘How does it feel to make that contractor money now?’”

The contractors who were detained have said they are innocent of the accusations. — Internet

Emmanuel Coindre of France grabs a jacket after a training session on his rowboat at the marina in Choshi recently. Coindre, 32, expects to row three million miles as he heads the 9,000 kilometers (5,600 miles) from Choshi outside of Tokyo to San Francisco. — Internet

Unlawful detentions in Iraq by US pose great challenge

UNITED NATIONS, 10 June — UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Wednesday that the detention of thousands of people in Iraq by the US-led forces without due process remains a major human rights challenge in the Middle East country.

It is an apparent violation of international law, Annan said in a report presented to the UN Security Council.

Quoting data from the Iraqi Justice Ministry, the report said 6,000 of the country’s some 10,000 prisoners as of April are in the hands of the multinational force commanded by the United States.

“Despite the release of some detainees, their number continues to grow,” the report said.

“Prolonged detention without access to lawyers and courts is prohibited under international law including during states of emergency,” it said, noting that one of the major human rights challenges in Iraq remains the detention of thousands of persons without due process.

Analysts said that although Resolution 1546 adopted by the Security Council on Wednesday authorized the US-led forces to stay in Iraq, the US military has no right to keep holding prisoners after the handover of power to the Iraqis. Such detention should be seen as an apparent violation of the Geneva Convention, they said. — MNA/Xinhua
Arroyo expects new booming era of friendship with China

MANILA, 10 June — Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said on Thursday that the Filipino-Chinese ties have entered a golden age as the two countries marked the 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations.

Addressing some 1,500 people at a reception hosted by the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs and Chinese Embassy in Manila, Arroyo said she expected a “new booming era” in Filipino-Chinese relations.

Wearing Chinese national dress, Arroyo won long applause from her audience during her important speech on Philippines’ rediscovery of China in the past 30 years.

“The rise of China has a deep impact on the countries like the Philippines, which has embraced the historical opportunity to become China’s strong partner,” said the President.

She praised Chinese President Hu Jintao for paying a state visit to her country in April, which she said was a milestone in the development of friendship between the Filipino and Chinese peoples and cooperation between the two Asian neighbours in all fields.

Arroyo also thanked China for making one billion US dollars of investment in a southern Filipino nickel mine, which is the biggest single investment in the country’s mineral field.

Calling Chinese help “very generous”, the President said with its assistance and technology, China will become a source of economic growth of the Philippines and a “natural engine” of economic development for the whole Asia.

Arroyo also thanked the Chinese-Filipino community for standing by the government in times of difficulty and for working for the economic development and national unity of the Philippines.

Condemning those who want to “sow new disharmony among the Filipino people”, Arroyo said she would fight to realize her reforms until the end instead of putting her agenda “into ashes”.

She said she is determined to narrow the gap between the poor and the rich, to make the nation a “one nation” instead of “two nations (of rich and poor)”.

“I am inspired by the reforms of China,” said Arroyo. “We have completed the first phase of economic reforms… this is a year of genuine transformations for the Filipinos.”

Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan speaks during a news conference in Mumbai on 9 June, 2005. Khan was selected MTV India youth icon for the year. — INTERNET

Indonesia to boost crude oil output to 1.3 million BPD

JAKARTA, 10 June — The Indonesian Government has targeted to boost crude oil production to 1.3 million barrels per day (BPD) by 2008, an official said here on Thursday.

Oil and Gas Executive Body (BP Migas) head Kardaya Wartika said the current average oil production stood at 1.07 million BPD, below the targeted 1.31 million BPD in the 2005 state budget.

“We hope we can boost oil output to 1.3 million BPD by 2008 or 2009,” he said in a hearing with legislators at the Parliament compound here. In order to increase oil production, the government will revitalize old oil fields and encourage investment in small, inactive oil fields.

“We will offer incentives for inactive oil fields. We have 33 (inactive) fields in our list,” said Kardaya. — MNA/Xinhua

Cambodia, Thailand to strengthen cooperation on curbing drug trade

PHNOM PENH, 10 June — Cambodia and Thailand is to strengthen the cooperation in drug trafficking, official said on Thursday.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen met with visiting Thailand’s Defence Minister Thanammar Issarangkura on Thursday afternoon, focusing on the drug issue.

“Thanammar told Prime Minister Hun Sen that his visit this time is to seek strengthen the cooperation between the two countries on various fields, especially on combating drug trafficking,” the Premier’s assistant Eang Sophalleth told reporters.

Hun Sen highly valued the good relations between the armies of the two countries. He stressed that drug posts great threat to young people. “Cambodian Government is willing to continue its cooperation with Thailand to take effective measures to fight drugs occurring in many forms,” he said.

Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, China, Myanmar and the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) signed cooperation agreement to fight drugs within the region last month.

Malaysia to host EAGA tourism meeting

KOALA LUMPUR, 10 June — The Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Business Council (BEBC) will hold the inaugural Tourism Cluster Seminar in east Malaysia on 14 June, the official news agency Bernama reported on Wednesday.

EAGA consists of Brunei; the Indonesian provinces of Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Maluku, and Irian Jaya; the Malaysian states of Sabah, Sarawak and the Federal Territory Labuan; and Mindanao and Pahalawan in the Philippines. Except Brunei, these areas have traditionally lagged in economic development compared with their respective capital regions, despite their rich natural resources.

The city of Miri in the northwest part of Sarawak state was chosen as venue for the event to commemorate its elevation to a resort city recently, BEBC Joint Tourism Development Chairman Abdul Tun Opong was quoted as saying on Wednesday.

The agenda of this seminar is to identify specific priority tourism development programmes, projects and activities proposed for the joint implementation by the four EAGA countries in the next three years.

“About 100 participants, mainly from the private and public sector tourism stakeholder organizations locally and in the EAGA member countries, are expected to participate,” Opong told reporters in Kuching, capital city of Sarawak.

Last year, the BEBC agreed to assign the four countries different focal points in leading the various cluster, namely Transport and Infrastructure Development by Brunei, Natural Resources Development by Indonesia, Joint Tourism Development by Malaysia and Small and Medium Enterprises Development by the Philippines. — MNA/Xinhua
China-Russia investment conference opens in St Petersburg

ST PETERSBURG, 10 June — The second China-Russia conference on investment promotion opened on Thursday in the northwestern city of St Petersburg with a view to inking accords that are expected to top 1.5 billion US dollars in total investment.

The conference was attended by Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan, Russian Economic Development and Trade Minister German Gref and other senior officials from both sides, as well as 600 representatives from both countries’ business community.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Chinese Vice-Premier called the conference an “important platform” for boosting bilateral investment cooperation, which helps enhance understanding and establish a long-term, stable partnership between the governments and enterprises of China and Russia.

Bilateral economic and technological exchanges have increasingly intensified and cooperation in investment has also deepened in recent years, Zeng said.

The 12 joint projects, deals for which were signed at the first China-Russia investment conference last year with a total investment of 700 million dollars, have all rolled into implementation, Zeng said.

At the current conference, seven agreements and a memorandum, which cover infrastructure, chemistry, forestry, household appliances and farm product processing, will be inked, and investment for these projects will total 1.5 billion dollars, the Chinese Vice-Premier said.

Zeng described expanding investment cooperation as beneficial to people of both countries and conducive to strengthening the China-Russia strategic partnership.

China embraces a mutually beneficial opening-up strategy that aims at a win-win result, Zeng said. China encourages home companies to invest in Russia and welcomes Russian companies to do the same in China, he added. Zeng expressed his hope that both governments will work to improve legislation and business environment to help clear problems for investing companies.

German Gref, Ma Kai, China’s minister in charge of the State Development and Reform Commission, and Ilya Klebanov, presidential representative to the Northwest Federal District, also addressed the conference.

Later in the day, the Chinese Vice-Premier attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the Baltic Pearl residential complex, the largest investment project in Russia by a Chinese company. — MNA/Xinhua

Volkswagen settles central lab in China

BEIJING, 10 June — Volkswagen of Germany has settled its central laboratory in China in the Beijing chemical engineering research institute of China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec), said sources with the Sinopec.

This is the top-level lab of Volkswagen in Asia and Pacific Region and it marks another instance of cooperation between Volkswagen of Germany with Sinopec, China’s biggest oil refiner.

As a bridge linking Volkswagen to Sinopec, the central lab, relying on the research institute, will give technological support to the strategy of Volkswagen in China by completing tests and authentication missions of the world auto manufacturing giant.

Through cooperation, Sinopec will improve its research and development of special chemical materials for auto use and to expand the market share of Sinopec’s synthetic resin in the auto industry.

Both among the world top 500 enterprises, Sinopec and Volkswagen of Germany are also partners in the 2008 Olympic Games which is due to be held in Beijing. Except for cooperation in chemical materials, both have also had cooperation in fields such as gasoline, diesel oil and lubricating oil.

Japan’s Teijin Ltd to invest $1b in Indonesia’s textile sector

JAKARTA, 10 June — Japan’s Teijin Ltd is to invest 1.1 billion US dollars in Indonesia’s textile industry, according to local media report.

The business giant will provide financial assistance mostly in machinery and human resources for the sector, Indonesian Minister of Trade Mari Elka Pangestu was quoted Thursday by the Jakarta Post as saying.

“It will help our need for capital goods and for building the capacity of our human resources,” Mari said.

Chairman of Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mohamad S. Hidayat said the initiative came from Teijin, which believes the Indonesian textile industry’s major problem lie in aging machinery, exacerbated by the banking sector’s reluctance to give backing.

In view of the situation, Teijin, in cooperation with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, will assist in financing the renewal of aging machinery, mostly in West Java Province, where about 60 per cent of Indonesia’s textile exports originate.

Textile and clothing remains the country’s top export commodity. — MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh, Iran sign agreement boost trade cooperation

DHAKA, 10 June — Bangladesh and Iran signed here on Thursday a trade agreement to boost bilateral trade cooperation, with facilities to re-export products from the contracting countries to third countries, mainly in Central Asia.

Bangladeshi Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and Iranian Commerce Minister Mohammed Shariatmadari signed the document at the Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh’s private news agency UNB reported on Thursday.

The agreement can help Bangladesh develop a trade link with Iran through gradually removing trade barriers like shipping, banking and insurance, Altaf said. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraq guerillas kill 21 soldiers, five Marines

BAGHDAD, 11 June — At least 21 bodies were found close to Iraq’s border with Syria yesterday while five US Marines were killed in a roadside bomb explosion.

Eyewitnesses said that one group with 12 bodies had their hands tied behind their backs and were wearing civilian clothes. They were found near a small hamlet called Jabah, about 30 km east of Qaim. It was unclear when they were killed.

There were another nine bodies found near Qaim outside the village of Fosfat. They were also in civilian clothes and had civilian identification cards.

It was unclear if the bodies had any relation to a group of about 20 Iraqi soldiers that have been missing from the Qaim area since late Tuesday.

Qaim, an insurgent hotbed 322 km west of Baghdad, has been the scene of numerous US military and Iraqi army operations. US Marines carried out two major operations in the area last month. A total of 11 Marines were killed in the campaigns.— Internet

Six killed in fireworks explosion in Istanbul

ANKARA, 10 June — Explosions at a fireworks warehouse in Turkey’s largest city of Istanbul killed six people on Thursday, semi-official Anatolia news agency reported here.

A series of explosions occurred at a fireworks depot in Umraniye on the outskirts of the Asian side of Istanbul at around 11:00 a.m (0800 GMT), according to Anatolia.

Firefighters rushed to the scene to try to put out the fire triggered by the explosion.

Bodies of six people were found, said the report, adding that the cause of the explosions was not immediately known. — MNA/Xinhua

Iraqi Army soldiers from the First Brigade, First Battalion, patrol the Khurkh District in Central Baghdad, on 10 June, 2005. — Internet

A Delhi Metro Rail Corporation official checks a microphone during inspection of the underground Line II of Delhi Metro network in New Delhi, on 9 June, 2005. The metro rail system, would be one of the world’s largest urban transport projects, serving New Delhi’s 14 million people.— Internet
Bangladesh-Nepal natural gas pipeline to be studied

KATHMANDU, 10 June — A study is going to be conducted to find out the possibility of laying down a pipeline to transport natural gas from Bangladesh to Nepal and Bhutan, an official said here on Thursday.

“We have agreed to undertake such a study,” revealed Nepali Foreign Secretary Madhuraman Acharya, who led the Nepali delegation at a regional meeting last week.

The agreement was reached during a foreign secretary-level meeting of the Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Co-operation (BIMST-EC) in Dhaque, he said.

During the meeting, officials from the regional group stressed the importance of utilizing natural gas.

China, EU to sign seven contracts for Galileo programme

BEIJING, 10 June — Galileo Joint Undertaking (GJU) and National Remote Sensing Centre of China (NRSCC) will sign seven contracts soon, said a GIU official on Thursday.

The cooperation between China and European Union (EU) on satellite navigation is “crucially important” and expected to have a very successful future, said executive director Rainer Grohe in Press release about the NRSCC officials’ meeting.

“We have many other countries which expressed interests to participate in the Galileo programme, but as far as I can see, none of these potential partners are ready to contribute as much as China does,” he said.

According to Zhang Guocheng, acting director of NRSCC, the seven projects in the segments of space, ground and applications will be contracted to Chinese companies and organizations by the end of July.

Zhang also said the first test satellite for the programme will be launched by the end of this year, and China will send experts to attend the launching ceremony.

Chinese investors to invest $8.6b in Indonesia’s palm oil sector

JAKARTA, 10 June — A group of Chinese investors have committed to investing up to $8.6 billion US dollars in Indonesia’s palm oil sector over the next five years, a senior minister was quoted as saying by the Jakarta Post here on Thursday.

Indonesian Coordinating Minister for the Economy Airlangga Hartarto said what is expected to originate is the Chinese investors are interested to expand their agricultural plantation in Indonesia that is currently limited to palm oil plantations.

“A group of Chinese investors have committed to investing up to $8.6 billion US dollars in Indonesia’s palm oil sector over the next five years,” Hartarto said here Thursday.

Hartarto said the pledge came at a time when Indonesia desperately needs to expand its agricultural plantation, including the palm oil sector.

“The government has asked Kadin to organize local industry players in following up on the commitment, as such investment would need to be of two billion hectares of land,” Hartarto said.

Chinese farmer ploughs in Loudi, central china’s Henan Province, on 10 June, 2005. — Internet

India’s glamorous movie-star Aishwarya Rai has received a lasting accolade in Amsterdam as a Dutch tulip has been named after her on 10 June 2005. — Internet

Indian police detains terrorist group head

NEW DELHI, 10 June — Delhi police on Wednes-day detained Jagtar Singh Hawara, chief of Babbar Khalsa International who had escaped from jail last year, and two suspects of cinema blasts in May, also believed to be members of the terrorist group.

The police caught the three on a new Hyundai Accent car in the Narela Industrial Area, northwest of New Delhi, on early Wednesday morning, The Hindu reported on Thursday.

The three men fired when the police tried to stop their car and then they tried to flee on foot, Delhi Police Commissioner K.K. Paul told the Press.

The police found 10.35 kilos of explosive, four pistols, 207 live cartridges, three remote-controlled explosive devices and a hand grenade from the car.

Jagtar Singh Hawara, charged with murdering the former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh, had fled from a high-security jail in Chandigarh, capital of west India’s Haryana and Punjab pradeshes, in January last year.

The other two, Jaspal Singh and Vikas Sehgal, were suspects of two cinema blasts in May 22 in Delhi which killed one and injured 60. The former was alleged to be behind the blasts. — MNA/Xinhua

“Sign language market” gets ready for 2008 Paralympics

BEIJING, 10 June — With scores of salespersons getting their sign language certificates on Tuesday, the Suning Appliance Chain has become the first supermarket in China to provide special sign language services for the handicapped.

All certified salespersons, after a half-month-long training in Beijing by experts who have participated in the compiling of China Sign-language Dictionary, can communicate fluently with the deaf-mute.

There are approximately 60 million Chinese handicapped people and unable to do shopping by themselves. While the 2008 Paralympics opens in Beijing, hundreds of thousands of handicapped people are expected to come to this national capital of China.

Sources with the China Disabled Persons Federation said that the special service would not only meet the shopping needs of the handicapped but also help raise the business community’s awareness of the disabled.

In preparations for the 2008 Paralympics, Beijing had redoubled its efforts in removing obstacles for the handicapped in information exchange, traffic and living.
Schools have reopened. My first grandchild, Hsu Thant Sin, has reached school age. I affectionately call her Hsu who is now a five-year old girl. In my eyes, she looked so nice and smart on that day with her new school uniform, a green skirt and a white blouse. I kissed her forehead, wishing her do well in her studies till becoming a brilliant person serving the national interest. She was born on the day after the Myanmar New Year Day. So I named her Hsu Thant Sin (good luck and pleasantness). Her mother is my only child.

Oh, my little granddaughter, in my view, every child comes to Earth to bring good luck together with him for the entire mankind. Human life span is very short if compared with the Earth’s existence. So, every human being will have to do good for the mankind. Man should have humanitarian spirit. Those with inhuman mind cannot be called human beings. Man is different from animal for his intellectual ability to differentiate between what is good and what is bad and what is constructive and what is destructive. Any kind of ruthless act is against the civilized world. Here, I would like to tell you that terrorism is also a barbarous crime.

My little child, you should know that loving kindness is free from anger. Anger can make a person wild and rough. And anger begets only evil that leads man to commit sins till the hell waits for him. Buddha had taught man that more people go to hell than to heaven after death. So we need to do good deeds in our life. Those with beast-like mind are ready to bully and oppress the weak, and are fond of committing unjust acts.

At the school, your teachers will teach you morals and manners and the value of loving kindness. They will also teach you science and arts subjects that serve mankind’s interest. So every child of school age should attend classes. Unfortunately, there are children who cannot go to school for certain reasons. In this regard, the government has been launching school enrollment days throughout the nation.

Not any of the schools will teach its pupils to commit destructive acts, torture others, and to breed evil mind that will make them barbarous persons. Girls are more vulnerable to mistreatment, human trafficking, and bullies. Thus, the government has formed the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation and the subordinate bodies to ensure life security for the entire womenfolk.

Human civilization has evolved throughout a long period till it reaches the present stage. Religion has taught human beings to become civilized and polite, and to know what is right and what is wrong. Little child, you should not forget the teachings of the Buddha. And if a person lives according to the teachings of religion throughout his entire life, he will become a valuable man serving human interest.

Honey, as time goes by, you will pass your school examinations at primary, middle and high school levels till becoming a university student. And when you become a student of an institution of higher learning, you will become mature and your intellectual level and qualification will become higher. You will have to experience both joys and sorrows overcome many difficulties. You should have the nerve to face any situation good or bad if you wish to achieve success in your life. You must know the gratitude you owe to others. You will have to owe gratitude to all your school teachers and the nation as well.

You should have loving kindness to other races. But priority must always be given to the national interests. I do not wish to see producing traitors yielding to other nations’ domain when you become a grown-up. The nation’s dignity will rise if all her citizens are bright and intelligent. So, we Myanmars need to always foster patriotism that helps perpetuate the nation. You youngsters should continue to preserve the cultural heritage we have safeguarded throughout our entire lives. If a nation’s culture perishes, its people will become extinct.

Little child, you should try hard to become an intellectual arm with patriotism and goodwill. The nation needs intellectuals and intellectuals for her development. Learning is limitless. Thus, the government has been launching the education for life and life long learning programmes.

You will have to face many more things in your life. But I hope that my advice is enough for a school girl of your age.

So, I would like to tell you that man should have the humanitarian spirit and not be barbarous; that he should know what is good and what is evil; that all children should go to school where they can learn education and morality; that you must know that learning is limitless; that you should value the religion; that you should control your anger and should have sympathy; that you should know the gratitude you owe to others; and that I wish every child to be a blessing for mankind.

(Translation: TMT)
Rakhine State regional development meeting held

YANGON, 11 June — Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Myint, together with Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung of Sittway Station and departmental officials, attended the coordination meeting on regional development tasks of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council at U Ottama Hall in Sittway on 7 June morning.

First, the commander gave instructions on efforts to be made for regional development and exceeding the target.

Authorities at different levels and departmental officials reported on their tasks.

On 8 June, the coordination meeting continued. The commander assigned duties of planning to district chairmen of PDCs.

In the afternoon, the commander met with district PDC chairman, departmental officials and rice and paddy merchants at the office of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council.

Commander inspects agricultural tasks in Muse District

YANGON, 11 June — Chairman of Shan State (North) Peace and Development Council Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing heard matters related to points of growing macadamia, lychee and perennial crop plantation at Amyeukang Farm near Nampan Village of Muse Township on 8 June morning.

Next, the commander inspected the plantations.

Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing also visited coffee, lychee and logan plantations.

Afterwards, the commander proceeded to Hsinshweli paddy plantations in Phaingkyuang Village to inspect paving of asphalt Kyaikwaing Pagoda Road in Mayangon Township this morning.

They also inspected sanitation works at broker-houses and algae plantations.

The commander, the vice-mayor and party inspected the filling station No 1 and No 4 Highways in Mingaladon Township, expansion of road to Yangon University of Computer Studies and sanitation works along the entrance to Western Yangon University in Hlinethaya Township. The commander told officials concerned to maintain machinery, and to keep the streets and wards clean.

The commander also attended sapling planting ceremony organized by YCDC on the road to Yangon Western University and planted Nyuwa.

Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, officials and people planted over 1,000 seinban, nguwa and padauk trees.

Fund raisers honoured

YANGON, 11 June — Those who took part in raising the funds for the 23rd respect paying ceremony of the women’s chapter of Myanmar Medical Association (Yangon) were honoured at the hall B of MMA this morning.

Next, Chairperson of the women’s chapter Dr Daw Khin Lay Gyi extended greetings and Patron Dr Daw Tin Lin Myint presented gifts to the officials of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise, Mingalar Co Ltd, Thama Cinema, Shweandaw Goldshop and Ayeawat Film Production, who gave assistance for the fund raising.

Visitor arrivals to Hong Kong in April

HONG KONG, 11 June — Hong Kong received about two million visitors in April, up 11.9 per cent year-on-year, Hong Kong Tourism Board said on Thursday.

This brought the figure in the first four months of this year up to over seven million, an increase of 11.1 per cent over the same period last year.

All major regional markets showed that the number of visitors from the Americas was up 17.5 per cent, that from Europe, Africa and the Middle East up 30.9 per cent, that from Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific up 30.8 per cent, and that from South and Southeast Asia up 19.1 per cent. The number of visitors from the Chinese Mainland went up 8.6 per cent to almost one million and that from Taiwan up 3.8 per cent.

According to Clara Chong, the board’s executive director, the continued strong demand for travel from most regional and long-haul markets is keeping Hong Kong on track to meet its forecast of 7.3 per cent for the year. — MNA/Hinhua
Measures for regional development discussed

YANGON, 11 June—Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Ye Myint held a meeting with service personnel, members of social organizations, townswelders and local residents at Basic Education Middle School in Indaw Township, Taunggyi District on 8 June morning.

Officials concerned reported on agriculture, livestock breeding, and regional development tasks. The commander instructed them to make efforts in concert for ensuring better transport and local food sufficiency, and extended growing of perennial crops.

The commander inspected Indaw Township BEHS and People’s Hospital.

He also met departmental officials, social organizations, townswelders and local people at Town Hall of Yaksawk. Officials gave an account of work progress in various sectors.

The commander called for collective efforts for achieving the five rural development tasks and regional development. — MNA

Commander inspects rubber plantation in Homalin

YANGON, 11 June—Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Tha Aye together with departmental officials arrived at rubber plantation in Homalin Township on 6 June morning, heard reports on growing rubber and producing latex by the plantation manager and also inspected the plantation.

He then gave necessary instructions to the officials.

The commander proceeded to Nyaungbintha village, met with the rubber growers, heard reports on plans of cultivating rubber by the chairmain of township PDC and fulfilled the requirements of the rubber growers.

The commander inspected tea plantation in Sankat village and Sanhit tea plant in Hongkham village in Homalin.

The plant produces dried tea ranging from 15,000 to 20,000 viss per year.

Later, the commander also inspected Pyunnya Alin modern library in Homalin Township and fulfilled the requirements.

Kyaukyedwin Overpass to... (from page 16) completion of the project meeting the set standard for enabling the overpass to serve the interest of the people.

Kyaukyedwin Overpass is located in North Okkalapa Town- ship. It will be 2,235 feet long. It is Y shape overpass built of reinforced concrete. The motorway will be 28 feet wide and pedestrian way on either side will be 3 feet and 11 inches. The overpass will be 14 feet high. Its construction tasks started on 20 March 2005. At present, construction of the project has been completed by 70 per cent. On completion, people from North Okkalapa, South Okkalapa, Mingaladon, Thingyan, Dagon Myothit (East) and Dagon Myothit (North) Townships will travel from one place to another easily. — MNA

Nepal’s handicraft export increases

KATHMANDU, 11 June — The total export of Nepali handicraft products witnessed a growth of around 10 per cent in the first 10 months of the current fiscal year, Handicraft Association of Nepal said on Friday.

The country exports handicraft worth 2.3 billion Nepali rupees (32.9 million US dollars) in the period between mid-July 2004 and mid-May 2005, compared with that of 2.1 billion rupees (30 million dollars) of the same period of last fiscal year.

Around 72 countries and regions imported about 25 different handmade goods from Nepal during the review period.

Buoyed by increment in exports to India, the United States and Japan, the total export of woolen goods, which accounted for 19 per cent of the total handicraft export, posted a remarkable growth of 22 per cent, with sales increasing from 356.8 million rupees (5.1 million dollars) of the first 10 months last fiscal year to 436.7 million rupees (6.2 million dollars) of the review period.

The exports of silver jewellery, metal craft, hemp goods, thanka, ceramic products and tea also increased by 6 per cent, 26 per cent, 49 per cent, 40 per cent, 42 per cent and 241 per cent respectively.

Handicraft is one of the major foreign currency earners and the third largest export sector of the Himalayan kingdom after garment and carpet products. — MNA/Xinhua

Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint presents the championship shield to Shan State (South) team that won the first U-16 Inter-State/Division Men’s Volleyball Tournament at Aung San Gymnasium on 11-6-2005.— MNA

Recreation Zone of Kandawgyi Gardens inaugurated

YANGON, 11 June—The opening of the Recreation Zone of Yangon City Kandawgyi Gardens took place at the pavilion near the zone this morning.

Chairman of the Work Committee for All-round Upgrading of Kandawgyi Gardens and Yangon Zoo Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Yangon Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and Chairman of Zaygabar Co Ltd Dr Khin Shwe formally opened the zone.

The commander, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Brig-Gen Aye Kyaw Kyu and Col Maung Pa inspected the viewing deck, barbecue garden, Fuji Restaurant, playground, gift shop and display of birds. They also viewed traditional snacks shops, fun fair stage, restaurants, traditional handicraft shops, and traditional costumes and utensils shops. So far, two of the four zones of Kandawgyi Gardens have been opened. — MNA

Myanmar delegation led by Yangon City Mayor back from PRC

YANGON, 11 June—Myanmar delegation led by Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin arrived back here by air this evening after a goodwill visit to the People’s Republic of China.

They were welcomed back at the airport by Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung, Chairman of Civil Service Selection Training Board Dr Than Nyun, YCDC Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, Secretary U Myint Aung, Joint Secretary U Tin Soe and committee members, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and officials.

Together with the mayor, Head of the Information and Public Relations Department U Myint Swe, Head of Budget Department U Kyaw Than, Head of Production Department U Kyaw Win and Head of Revenue Division U Win Hlaing also arrived back on the same flight. — MNA

The New Light of Myanmar Sunday, 12 June, 2005 9
S Korean alpinist says weather a key factor in climbing

Kateminou, June 11 — Weather is the deciding factor on any mountain. Good weather makes climbing easy, and bad one makes it difficult, South Korean famous alpinist said here on Friday.

Um Hong-Gil, the first Korean and the world’s eighth mountainclimber, who has scaled all the 14 peaks above 8,000 metres, has recently scaled Mt. Everest along with the “2005 South Korea Everest expedition team” from China’s Tibet side.

The objective of the expedition was to look for the bodies of South Korean climbers of “Keimyuno University Everest Expedition”, who died last year, said the 47-year-old alpinist.

The team found the body of Park Moo-tack at the height of 8,750 metres, and brought it down to 8,600 metres and buried it there, he said.

Of the all 8,000-metre peaks, Annapurna I and Kangchenjunga are the toughest of all, while the world’s highest peak is not very difficult to scale, according to Um. “However, weather is the key factor for climbers on any mountain,” he said.

The world’s highest peak, Mt. Everest, is so popular that anybody with enough money but no climbing experience can make it to the top, he added.

“Mt. Everest is more like a busy highway, some of the other 8,000-metre peaks are far more challenging and dangerous and thus less appealing,” he said.

The Macao Police have arrested a male drug smuggling suspect, local media reported on Friday.

The Macao Post quoted police sources as saying that the 23-year-old Macao resident was pinned down earlier this week at the port linking Macao and Zhuhai, a neighbouring city in Guangdong Province.

The suspect had inserted inside his body 25 Triazolam pills and 1.22 gramme of heroin wrapped up in plastic sheets, said the report.

The man confessed that he regularly smuggles the drug for a 20-per cent commission from his buyer. Further investigations are underway.

China, Kenya enjoy strong relations

Beijing, 11 June — China is ready to work with Kenya to boost the countries’ new style partnership to a new height, State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan said here on Thursday.

During a meeting with visiting Kenyan Minister of Foreign Affairs Chirau Ali Mwakwere, Tang said China and Kenya have traditional friendship and cooperative relations.

Since their establishment of diplomatic relations 42 years ago, China and Kenya have conducted fruitful cooperation in such areas as politics, economics, trade, culture and education, he noted.

They have supported each other and have cooperated closely on international affairs.

The Chinese Government thanks the Kenyan Government for the long-term adherence to the one-China policy, and looks forward to strengthening the cooperation between the two countries, the Kenyan minister said.

Drug dealing suspect nabbed in Macao

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The man confessed that he regularly smuggles the drug for a 20-per cent commission from his buyer. Further investigations are underway.

Indian Navy ship visits Vietnam

Hanoi, 11 June — An Indian Navy ship arrived in Ho Chi Minh City on Thursday, starting its five-day visit to Vietnam.

During the visit, commanding officer of INS Magar is scheduled to pay courtesy visits to leaders of the municipal people’s committee, Vietnam’s Zone 7 Military Command and the country’s Navy Command, according to Vietnam News Agency on Thursday.

The ship’s crew members will take part in volleyball friendship competitions with Vietnamese Navy sailors, visit the city and engage in some other social activities.

India will ship Navy spares for Vietnam’s Russian-made warships, according to India’s Navy sources. It reached the supply plan with Vietnam during the visit of Vietnamese Defence Minister Phan Van Tra to India in March.

19th International Travel Expo opens in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, 11 June — The 19th International Travel Expo (ITE) opened on Thursday at the Convention and Exhibition Centre with more than 500 exhibitors attending the four-day event.

The organizer, TKS Exhibition Services Ltd, said the ITE this year is expected to be the largest ever in the history of the exhibition, which has attracted exhibitors and buyers from all parts of the world, especially Asia, Europe and America. Latin American pavilion attended the exhibition for the first time and brought new tourism itineraries with unique characteristics.

Stephen Ip, secretary for economic development and labour, said at the opening ceremony that with the opening of Hong Kong Disneyland and the coming on-stream of other tourist attractions such as Asia’s largest Wetland Park in early 2006, visitor arrivals in Hong Kong are expected to set another new record at 23.4 million in 2005.

He said the Hong Kong tourism industry has achieved spectacular growth in 2004 and made a number of records, especially in terms of visitor arrivals, which reached a record high of 21.8 million in the year.

He said an encouraging achievement in the industry is that Hong Kong, for the first time, was named the seventh most popular tourist destination in 2004.

Stephen Ip said, “We will do our best to maintain Hong Kong’s leading position as Asia’s premier tourist destination through joint efforts of the tourism industry, the Hong Kong Tourism Board and the government.”

Vietnam ends WTO negotiation with Japan

Hanoi, 11 June — Vietnam and Japan have just finished bilateral negotiations on the former’s entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the former supports the latter’s bid for a seat at the United Nations Security Council, Vietnam News Agency reported on Thursday.

Japan and Vietnam concluded the bilateral negotiations on Thursday, visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura said when meeting with Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai on the same day.

During the meeting, Khai affirmed that Vietnam supports Japan’s candidacy for permanent membership in the Council. After the meeting, the Japanese minister held talks with his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Dy Nien.

The Japanese minister arrived in Vietnam on Thursday for a two-day visit. Vietnam is on the second leg of his Southeast Asian trip which also includes Brunei and Cambodia.
Cyprus opposes Annan report on N Cyprus

NICOSIA, 11 June — Cyprus voiced opposition Friday to a decision by the UN chief to resubmit to the Security Council a report recommending elimination of political and economic restrictions on northern Cyprus.

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan has said he intended to submit again the May 2004 report to the UN Security Council and hoped the Council will act on it.

The report was issued one month after UN’s efforts to reunite the divided island floundered in April 2004 as a reunification plan was rejected by the Greek Cypriot south in a referendum. The south entered the European Union on 1 May, 2004, on behalf of the whole island, while the north, recognized only by Ankara, was left outside.

In this report, Annan also blamed the Greek Cypriot south for the failure of the plan, which was approved by the Turkish Cypriot north.

Susilo calls on governors to prevent terrorist activities

JAKARTA, 11 June — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono called on the top provincial administrators across the country on Thursday to prevent areas prone to terrorism and communal conflicts from becoming targets of terrorists, local media reported on Friday.

The President said at the governors’ working conference that governors need to optimize the work of the regional coordinating intelligence boards, which comprises regional administrative, police, public prosecutor’s offices, intelligence agencies, military commands and other related institutions.

To prevent terrorists from launching their actions, the President underscored the importance of people’s role in providing information on various problems, and alertness and special attention on all the regions in the country, especially those highly prone to terrorist activities and sectarian and communal conflicts.

Cyprus, Thailand to strengthen border cooperation

PISO N PEN, 11 June — Cambodia and Thailand agreed on Friday to strengthen border cooperation to further benefit border areas and people.

The 4th meeting of the General Border Committee between Cambodia and Thailand was held here with the participation of Cambodia’s Co-Defence Ministers Tea Banh and Non Pich Phan, and their Thai counterpart Thammakorn Isaranugga.

“The meeting was conducted in a warm and friendly atmosphere, reflecting close relations between the two countries,” said a joint Press statement. Both sides said they will support the Joint Technical Sub-Commission (JTSC) to carry out the survey of land boundary lines which would commence in 2005.

Moreover, they will prevent any activities that may invade the land boundary and result in changes of geographical environment in the border areas. On the issue of drug trafficking on border areas, both sides agreed to cooperate closely and seriously in order to take effective prevention and suppression measures.

They also reached an agreement on solving the issues of illegal Cambodian workers, prevention of the smuggling of articles, and protecting fishing boats from the threat of piracy. Stressing the significance of close cooperation on anti-terrorism in border areas, both sides said they will closely monitor the movement of terrorism network and to enhance cooperation in exchanges of information and intelligence.

Chinese, Russian leaders discuss business ties, energy cooperation

MOSCOW, 11 June — Visiting Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyun pledged China’s support on Friday for greater investment in Russia and urged more joint efforts in the energy sector.

In talks with his Russian counterpart Alexander Zhukov in St Petersburg, Zeng said China expects closer cooperation in oil and gas projects, oil and gas exploitation, railway oil shipment and power projects which will boost economic growth for both countries and that both sides need to step up work on these projects.

Russia will push for closer cooperation with China in energy, investment and trade and work to create favourable conditions to attract more Chinese investment.

MDG report, “Health in the Millennium Development Goals”, which looks beyond target-by-target information and assesses trends, successes and failures centrally in the health sector as a whole. In September 2000, 189 world leaders signed the Millennium Development Goals made a commitment to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

Health-related goals range from maternal mortality by three-quarters, child mortality by two-thirds, to combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
Merrill Lynch release world wealth data for 2004

NEW YORK, 10 June — Merrill Lynch & Co Inc and Capgemini Group jointly held a Press conference on Thursday, releasing their latest findings on world wealth distribution in 2004.

Merrill Lynch and Capgemini’s findings were reflected in the “World Wealth Report 2005”, which showed that the world’s high net worth grew strongly in 2004 for a second straight year, increasing 8.2 per cent to 30.8 trillion dollars.

The number of high net worth individuals (HNWIs) — individuals with a net worth of at least $1 million dollars, grew by 7.3 per cent to 8.3 million, a net increase of 600,000 worldwide.

North America led with a nearly 10 per cent growth rate to 2.7 million HNWIs, surpassing the 2.6 million in Europe.

“The two main drivers of personal wealth creation — economic growth and market capitalization — worked together to generate the strongest growth in high net worth wealth that we’ve seen in more than three years,” said James P Gorman, Merrill Lynch’s Executive Vice President.

“The main factor behind the growth was the strong performance of equities,” he added.

At the same time, the number of the world’s ultra-rich individuals — those with a net worth of at least $30 million dollars — increased 480 to 16,000.

However, the number of ultra-rich individuals in Europe rose by 32 per cent to 2,480.

The report also included a forecast of HNWIs in 2009. According to the findings, the number of HNWIs will reach 50.8 million worldwide.

“The number of people with investible assets of at least $1 million dollars will rise by 60 per cent to 46.8 million by 2009,” said Gorman.

The total net worth of HNWIs by 2009 is expected to reach $309 trillion, an increase of 16.4 per cent from 2004.

“From an asset allocation standpoint, equities are still the most attractive asset class,” said Gorman.

Merrill Lynch predicted that the world’s richest individuals will have a net worth of $10.3 trillion in 2009.

The report added that the number of HNWIs in Asia-Pacific will grow by 23 per cent to 4.1 million, with Japan expected to have the most HNWIs, followed by China.

In the United States, the number of HNWIs is expected to reach 6.5 million by 2009, with New York having the highest number of HNWIs.

Swedish border plan

STOCKHOLM, 10 June — Sweden has decided to invest 750 million krona (about 100 million US dollars) on the development of a new pilotless fighter plane, Swedish news agency reported on Wednesday.

It is the largest investment of the Swedish government on the defence industry in recent years. The money will be channeled to Swedish planemaker SAAB, which will shoulder the project with French company Dassault.

“The new fighter Neuron will be smaller and a little cheaper than Swedish supersonic plane GRIPEN, which cost 500 million krona (about 66.7 million US dollars) per jet,” Defence Minister Leni Bjorklund said.

The opposition questioned the necessity of the plan.

MNA/Xinhua

US Army, Marines unable to meet recruitment goals

WASHINGTON, 10 June — The US Army and Marines are unable to meet their recruitment goals despite the offer of USD 20,000 to a recruit for enlisting.

Analysts attribute it to the daily casualties in Iraq.

For the fourth straight month, the Army fell short of recruiting goal by 25 per cent. If it had stuck to its initial goal of recruiting 8,000 recruits, the shortfall would have been 38 per cent.

The National Guard — citizen army — missed target by 20 per cent while the Marine Corps, for the first time in ten years, missed its goals but did not release the figures.

Many young people and their parents fear the Army service because of the likelihood of being shipped out for combat tours in Iraq or Afghanistan, opinion polls show.

US troops are dying at a rate of two a day in Iraq, more than two years after President Bush declared that major combat operations had ended.

Although the Army will not release its numbers until Friday, it fell about 25 per cent short of its target of signing up 6,700 recruits in May.

The gap would have been wider that the target was lowered by 1,350.

The Army said it lowered the May target to “adjust for changing market conditions,” knowing that the difference would have to be made up in the months ahead.

The monthly targets in April, March and February was also missed with each month far worse than the one before. In February it fell 27 per cent short; in March the gap was 31 per cent; and in April it was 42 per cent.

“The Army’s fiscal 2005 goal was, is and remains 80,000 recruits,” Lt Col Bryan Hilty, a spokesman for the Army’s chief of personnel said in an interview.

MNA/PTI

Torrential rain, landslide kill 12 in Vietnam

HANOI, 10 June — A landslide and flooding caused by torrential rain in Vietnam’s northern Quang Ninh Province killed 12 local people, Vietnam News Agency reported on Thursday.

A landslide on Thursday early morning destroyed two houses in the Binh Lien District Binh Lien, and claimed 11 lives. Meanwhile, the flooding in the province’s Ha Long City drowned a person. By the evening, a total of six bodies were found.

The local rescuers are searching for the remaining corpses and carrying out relief works.

Natural disasters, mainly storms and floods, killed 232 people, left 187 others injured, destroyed 4,200 houses and 3,000 hectares of rice, and killed 2,000 cattle and 170,000 poultry in Vietnam last year, causing a total property loss of over some 57 million US dollars.

MNA/Xinhua

Italian aid worker in Afghanistan released without concession

KABUL, 10 June — An Italian aid worker kidnapped in Afghanistan more than three weeks ago has been released on Thursday, said Afghan officials.

“She has been released, she is in good health,” said Interior Ministry spokesman Latifullah Mashal.

The 32-year-old Italian woman Clementina Cantoni, who has been working in Afghanistan for more than three years, had been kidnapped by four gunmen on 16 May.

“We tried during these 24 days to persuade the abductors to release her,” Interior Minister Ali Ahmed Jalali told a Press conference here.

“We did not give any concession to kidnappers. No ransom was paid, and no other concessions were given,” he added.

Clementina, who has been engaged in humanitarian work for 10 years, has lived in Afghanistan since March 2002. Since September 2003, she has managed the “Humanitarian Assistance for the Women of Afghanistan” project, providing food assistance and income-generating activities for 10,000 widows and their children.

Clementina was kidnapped on May 16 when her unmarked car was stopped as she was driving home in Kabul.

MNA/Xinhua

Vietnamese, Chinese provinces enhance border trade

HANOI, 10 June — Vietnam’s northern Lao Cai Province and China’s Yunnan Province have facilitated flows of goods, especially fresh litchis, through their border gate.

“We and Yunnan’s Hekou District have agreed that goods transported by under three-ton motorized vehicles, and fresh litchis transported by under 30-ton trucks via the international border gate of Lao Cai are to enjoy the district’s border trade policy. That means the Vietnamese goods are subject to no import taxes or half of the tax rates according to their value,” Vu Xuan Cuong, deputy head of Lao Cai’s Border Economic Management Board, told Xinhua Thursday.

Previously, only goods transported by simple vehicles like bicycles enjoyed the border trade policy, he said, noting that both Lao Cai and Hekou are making favourable conditions for local goods, especially fresh litchis, to enter Vietnam.

“The volume of litchis entering China this year may be lower than last year, because a larger amount of the fruit is going to Vietnam’s southern region,” Cuong said.

Litchi prices this year will be higher due to thinner supplies caused by drought, local traders said. The prices in the full crop last year were nearly 0.2 US dollars per kilo.

MNA/Xinhua

Drive safely

A farmer rides a bicycle past a duck farm outside Hanoi on 10 June, 2005.
Pasadena-based Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) will attempt to blow up a comet next month to find out more about the origins of the solar system.

The spacecraft, named Deep Impact, will have travelled 173 days and 268 million miles (about 470 million kilometres) when it has close encounter with comet Tempel 1 on 3 July.

Deep Impact will release a copper-fortified probe whose job is to make a crater in the orbiting iceberg that could range in size from a large house up to a football stadium from two to 14 stories deep. The idea is to reveal the interior of the comet, which is thought to contain material that has not changed since the solar system was formed.

The potentially spectacular collision will be observed by the Deep Impact spacecraft and ground and space-based observatories. Rick Grammier, Deep Impact project manager at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, said the mission is like “a bullet trying to hit a second bullet with a third bullet.”

“We are really threading the needle with this one,” he said. “In our quest of a great scientific payoff, we are attempting something never done before at speeds and distances that are truly out of this world.”

Tempel 1 is hurtling through space at about 11 kilometres per second — fast enough to travel from New York to Los Angeles in less than 6.5 minutes.

Hours before hitting the comet, Deep Impact will send the 99-centimetre cubic shaped impactor into the path of the comet, which is about one-half the size of Manhattan Island.

Over the next 22 hours, Deep Impact navigators and mission members, with comet Tempel 1 is hurtling 131.8 million kilometres away at the speed of 51.6 kilometres per second — about 310 miles (about 540 kilometres) below. Ice and dust debris is expected to be ejected from the crater, revealing the material beneath. The flyby spacecraft has about 13 minutes to take images and scientific measurements of the collision before it encounters a potential blizzard of particles from the nucleus of the comet. The last 24 hours of the impactor’s life should provide the most spectacular data in the history of cometary science,” said Deep Impact’s principal investigator, Michael A’Hearn of the University of Maryland.

“With the information we receive after the impact, it will be a new ball game,” he said. “We know so little about the structure of cometary nuclei that almost every moment we expect to learn something new.”

The Deep Impact spacecraft has four data collectors to observe the effects of the collision.

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A Thai model poses on catwalk, wearing attire designed by Saran Yooklongkhan during the fashion contest for Thailand wedding designer award in Bangkok on 10 June, 2005. Ten contestants joined the contest. — Internet

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Tianjin Port sees surge in foreign trade

TIANJIN, 10 June — The trade volume at Tianjin Port in north China surged by 26 per cent year on year to reach 30.81 billion US dollars in the first five months of this year, the latest Customs statistics show.

Figures from Tianjin Customs show that the trade volume included 17.22 billion US dollars in exports and 13.59 billion US dollars in imports, up 26 per cent and 23 per cent respectively over the same period last year.

Foreign-funded firms did foreign trade of 14.35 billion US dollars, up 26 per cent on year and accounting for 46.6 per cent of the total foreign trade volume for the January-May period.

The trade volume at state-owned firms reached 11.64 billion US dollars, up 17.5 per cent and accounting for 38 per cent of the total for the same period.

Collective and private businesses registered a trade volume of 4 billion US dollars, up 51.6 per cent year on year and making up 15.6 per cent of the total.

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China pledges more efforts to boost service industry

SHANGHAI, 10 June — China will work to further boost its fledgling service industry, said speakers at the ongoing world service trade forum in Shanghai on Thursday.

The two-day forum, organized by the Ministry of Commerce and the Shanghai Municipal government, attracted senior executives and leaders of service industries from more than 20 countries and regions worldwide.

In a speech delivered at the forum, Commerce Minister Bo Xilai said the Chinese Government aims to give priority to service sector development. He pledged to devote more efforts towards attracting international service giants.

“We will endeavour to further improve China’s service sector and turn China into a popular out-sourcing option in global service trade,” he said.

China’s service industry, which has grown tremendously in the past two decades, still fails to contribute substantially to the national economy.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Commerce, China’s service trade amounted to 4.6 billion US dollars in 1982 and stood at 128.6 billion US dollars last year, ranking the ninth worldwide.

However, the country’s service export only accounted for a mere 9 per cent of the national export total, far lower than the global average of 19 per cent.

Meanwhile, China has been consistently praised by a deficit in its service trade, with red ink in this regard amounting to 10.8 billion US dollars in 2004. Currently, China’s most developed service industries still fall in the traditional categories of tourism and sea transportation. It will take time before China can assume truly significant roles in the 21st century, said speakers in the forum.

In order to sharpen China’s competitive edge in the service industry, Bo vowed to encourage innovation and competition. He said the government needs value of training professionals in the field.

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Int’t conf focuses on development targets for new millennium

PARIS, 11 June — The International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions opened its ninth conference here on Thursday, with representatives from more than 50 countries focusing on the development targets for the millennium.

The two-day conference will seek ways to raise the social status of women, maintain trade balance of the world and eliminate poverty, among other social problems. A Paris Declaration, which will cover all main points of the meeting, is expected on June 10.

Wang Zhongyu, vice-chairman of the National Economic and Social Council, pledged that China will help the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions realize its goals.

The China Economic and Social Council will contribute to the organization in eliminating poverty and raising the social status of women, and will make efforts to realize the “millennium targets” in the spirit of the Paris Declaration, Wang said.

The International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions, founded in July 1999, convenes every two years for member countries to exchange views on economic and social issues of common concerns.

China is elected chairman of the organization for 2005-2007.
Australia draw with Benin in World Youth C'ships

KERKRade (Netherlands), 11 June—The opening match of the FIFA World Youth Championship Netherlands 2005 saw Australia rally back from a goal down to hold West African ficient Benin to a 1-1 draw at the Parkstad Limburg Stadium in the southern Dutch city on Friday.

Benin gave a good performance in their first-ever finals outing, but could not continue the advantage they deserv- edly carved out in the first half. “Benin came out faster than us, but after 25 min- utes we began to play our game and by half time we were pretty much even,” Australian coach Ange Postecoglou said after the match.

“In the second half we created a lot of chances and probably should have won.” The contest began with a flurry of attack from the far-from-overflowed African first-timers. Charging forward indus- triously, a clever flicked chest pass from Abou Maiga freed Razak Omotoyossi at the edge of the box in the 5th minute. Running at a conspicu- ously nervous-looking Aussie backline, the mus- cular striker was left stamping the ground in frustration after firing over Adam Federici’s crossbar.

Australia were happy enough to concede pos- session in midfield, looking to hit out on the break with lanky forward Nick Ward of doing his best as lone target man.

Benin broke the deadlock on 32 minutes when Omotoyossi Razak shrewdly slipped the ball by Federici Adam inside the far post. It was Benin’s first goal at a FIFA finals, the first of Netherlands 2005 and they celebrated it fancifully at the corner flag to the delight of the Kerkrade crowd.

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St Petersburg to promote Sino-Russian economic ties

BEIJING, 11 June — The northwestern Russian city of St Petersburg wants to play an active role in promoting Sino-Russian economic and trade cooperation, said Viktor Labko, vice-mayor of the city, at the World Mayors Forum here on Friday.

Statistics show that the Sino-Russian bilateral trade volume exceeded 20 billion US dollars in 2004, with the trade volume between St Petersburg and China accounting for more than 500 million US dollars.

“St Petersburg and China still enjoy a great potential in the cooperation with each other,” he said, noting that the two sides are making joint efforts to expand the fields and means for cooperation.

“We hope that our trade volume with China will continue growing,” Labko said.

The current cooperation between China and St Petersburg, the second largest city in Russia with a history of more than 300 years, covers mainly such fields as mechanical manufacture, shipbuilding, science, technology, tourism and education.

There are approximately 200 companies with Chinese investment in the city.

Labko said Russia and China have deepened their cooperation over recent years in the spheres of economy, technology and investment. The two sides just witnessed a ground-breaking ceremony Thursday in St Petersburg for the Baltic Pearl residential complex, the largest investment project in Russia led by a Chinese company in Shanghai.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Saturday, 11 June, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been widespread in Kachin, Chin, Rakha, Kayin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions, scattered in the remaining areas with locally heavy falls in Rakhine State, isolated heavyfalls in Kachin State, Sagaing and Mandalay Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Kyaukphyu (4.96) inches, Maungdaw (3.15) inches, Bhamo (3.07) inches, Mawlamyne (2.91) inches, Dawes (2.46) inches, Homalin (2.32) inches, Nyaung Oo (2.01) inches and Moneya (1.73) inches.

Maximum temperature on 10-6-2005 was 84°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 11-6-2005 was 93%. Total sunshine hours on 10-6-2005 was (0.2) hour approx. Rainfalls on 11-6-2005 were (0.11) inch at Yangon Airport, (0.22) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.39) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (14.76) inches at Yangon Airport, (13.27) inches at Kaba-Aye and (10.43) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (15) mph from Southwest at (11:32) hours MST on 10-6-2005.

Bay inference: According to the observations at (09:30) hours MST today, a low pressure area over the East Central Bay of Bengal still persists, Monsoon is generally strong in the Andaman Sea, Central and South Bay and weather is cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 12-6-2005: Rain or thunderstorms will be widespread in Kachin, Chin, Rakha, Kayin and Mon States and upper Sagaing, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions, scattered in Shan and Kayah States and Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Bago Divisions and isolated in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (80%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of thundery conditions in the central Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 12-6-2005: One or two rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 12-6-2005: Isolated rain or thunderstorms. Degree of certainty is (80%).
Prime Minister sends felicitations to the Philippines

YANGON, 12 June—On the occasion of the 107th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Philippines which falls on 12th June, 2005, Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Mrs Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines. —MNA

Prime Minister felicitates Russian counterpart

YANGON, 12 June—Lt-Gen Soe Win, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mikhail Fradkov, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, on the occasion of the National Day of the Russian Federation which falls on 12 June, 2005. —MNA

Kyaukyedwin Overpass to benefit six townships of Yangon Division

YANGON, 11 June—Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, accompanied by Deputy Minister U Pe Than, Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and officials, inspected Kyaukyedwin Overpass Construction project being implemented by the Ministry of Rail Transportation in North Okkalapa Township this morning. They oversaw completion of piers of the overpass, building of concrete floor, construction of pedestrian ways and handrails. Deputy Minister U Pe Than and Project Engineer U Myo Win conducted them round the project site.

In the briefing hall, the deputy minister reported on progress of building the overpass, construction matters and efforts being made for timely completion of the project. Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min briefed the commander on completion of 25 overpasses in Yangon City and sites chosen for building more overpasses.

The commander and the minister gave instructions that on completion of the project, vehicles will pass through the overpass in a short time without delay whenever trains enter Kyaukyedwin Station. That is why tasks are to be implemented for timely (See page 9)

INSIDE

Little child, you should try hard to become an intellectual endowed with patriotism and goodwill.

TEKKATHO HLA MAUNG

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Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min inspect construction of Kyaukyedwin Overpass.

YANGON COMMAND

Dokhtawady Bridge (Nawngkhio) linking Yaksawk Township of Shan State (South) and Nawngkhio Township of Shan State (North) was commissioned into service on 6 June 2005. — MNA