Implementation of development projects started right from Shan State
Entire eastern Shan State developing rapidly with Kengtung as centre of gravity

Government Technological College (Kengtung) opened

YANGON, 17 June — A ceremony to commission Government Technological College (Kengtung) of Technical and Vocational Education Department under the Ministry of Science and Technology was held at the college yesterday morning, with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

Also present on the occasion were members of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental heads, local authorities and departmental officials, Secretary of Shan State (North) Special Region-2 U Aung Myint and members, Vice-Chairman U San Pae of Shan State (East) Special Region-4 and members, social organization members, the Principal and teachers of the college, traditional cultural troupes and local people. The Secretary-1 and party cordially greeted the local people. Next, Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing and Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung formally opened the college. The Secretary-1 and party posed for group photo together with local people, teachers and students in front of the new building. Next, the Secretary-1 unveiled the bronze plaque of the college and sprinkled scented water on it. (See page 16)

MEC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with teachers and students at the main building of GTC (Kengtung). — MNA

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Strive for ensuring further development of infrastructures

Shan State in the past lagged behind in development due to lack of security and poor transport as armed insurgencies reigned in the region.

The Tatmadaw government, after its assumption of the State responsibilities, managed to put an end to armed insurgencies in the region. As a result, peace and tranquillity prevails in the region, and work is well under way for development of border areas and national races.

As the government has been implementing projects for development of border areas and national races with added momentum, remarkable progress has been made in various sectors including education, health, social and economic sectors in the region.

Service personnel, local authorities and local people including the Tatmadaw have been making concerted efforts for ensuring better transport, and as a result, the region has now been able to enjoy the fruits of development. The opening of Tarkaw-Kengtung Road (Kengtung side) of Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek Union Highway was held in Kyaingthaung Village, entrance to Kengtung on 14 June morning with an address by Chairman of the Central Supervisory Committee for Secure and Smooth Transport Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein.

He said the emergence of a number of development infrastructures in the whole Shan State including Kengtung region has brought about peace and stability and cemented national unity in the region, and this is the result of combined efforts of the government, the Tatmadaw and the people.

As efforts are being made with added momentum for better transport in Shan State, one can now directly travel to Shan State (North), Shan State (South) and Shan State (East).

Moreover, a network of roads has emerged in the region. With the emergence of roads leading to border gates, trade has developed between Myanmar and China, Thailand and Laos. The evil legacies of colonialists such as mistrust and dissension, suspicions, racism, and different concepts among the national races will be warded off through frequent contacts among national brethren.

Meanwhile, there have emerged development infrastructures in the region, and this contributes much to further strengthening the nationalist spirit, Union Spirit and enhancing the national interest. Therefore, the have entire national people on the basis of Union Spirit are to strive together with the Tatmadaw to safeguard peace and stability already in place and ensure development infrastructures.

D-G inspects greening tasks in Mandalay Division

YANGON, 17 June — Director-General U Tun Tun of Arid Zones Greening Department under the Ministry of Forestry together with departmental officials made an inspection tour of plantations at Bagyo Yoma greening task in Taikzon Township, tasks of nursery in Pyawbwe Township, greening tasks of Taungtha Township, and Myintyan Township in Mandalay Division.

The director-general met with service personnel and gave necessary instructions.

YANGON, 17 June — The Planning Department under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development opened the GDP Calculation Course 1/2005-06 at the department in the compound of Ministers Office on Theinbyu Street, here, this morning. Minister U Soe Tha delivered an address, saying that the course was opened for ensuring enhancement of efficiency of the staff in line with the four objectives of the ministry. For effectively serving the interest of the social and economic sectors of the State, service personnel are to be equipped with high work efficiency. So, the ministry is nurturing service personnel to become qualified staff.

Also present on the occasion were directors-general of departments and enterprises and officials. Altogether 48 trainees from Planning Department (Head Office) and State/Divisional/District and Township Planning Departments are attending the course.

Minister receives Chairman of Lumber Mart International

YANGON, 17 June — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung received Chairman of Lumber Mart International Dato’ Mukhriz Bin Tun Mahathir and party of Malaysia at the International Business Centre on Pray Road, here, at 5 pm on 15 June. Also present at the call were directors-general, managing directors and officials under the ministry.—MNA

Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha addresses opening ceremony of GDP Calculation Course of Planning Department. — MNA

Briefing on Findings of Agriculture Sector Review in Myanmar held

YANGON, 17 June — The opening ceremony of the Briefing on Findings of Agriculture Sector Review in Myanmar co-sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO) took place at Sedona Hotel here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Soe Tha, officials from UNDP and FAO and others.

Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo extended greetings and party of Malaysia at International Dato’ Mukhriz Bin Tun Mahathir.—FORESTRY

NPE Director (News) back from Thailand

YANGON, 17 June — Director (News) U Win Tin of News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information arrived back here by air this morning after attending the Disaster Reduction Workshop held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 13 to 16 June.

The Director (News) was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by officials of NPE and his family.—MNA

UMFCCI officials leave for Thailand

YANGON, 17 June — Vice-President of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Maj-Gen U Aung Lwin, Joint Secretary-2 U Tun Aung, CEC members U Myat Thinn Aung and U Hla Shein left for air on 15 June morning to attend the Thai-Myanmar Business Joint Meeting to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 15 to 19 June.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by General Secretary of UMFCCI U Sein Win Hlaing, CEC members and officials.

MNA

The New Light of Myanmar  Saturday, 18 June, 2005
China’s State Councillor hails Chinese-Arab cooperation

BEIJING, 16 June — Chinese State Councillor Tang Jiaxuan on Wednesday hailed Chinese-Arab relations, saying that he hoped China and Arab countries would further friendship through the platform of the China-Arab Cooperation Forum.

He said the forum is an important platform for dialogue and cooperation and is of significance to China-Arab friendship and cooperation.

Tang made the remark in a meeting with representatives from the League of Arab States secretariat and other participants attending the two-day high-level meeting of the forum which was opened on Tuesday in Beijing. It is the second of its kind.

He said he hoped China and the Arab countries would cooperate to improve the forum and enrich its content so as to push forward Chinese-Arab ties.

“China’s Government values its traditional friendship with the Arab countries,” Tang said, adding that China will follow the guiding principles on China-Arab relations put forward by President Hu Jintao during his visit to the League of Arab States. The principles emphasize political equality and mutual trust, economic cooperation for mutual benefit, further cultural exchanges and close coordination in key international issues, including UN reforms.

Representatives from the Arab states said they hoped to further coordination and cooperation with China in all areas and build a new partnership.

New Zealand to help children in Nepal

WELLINGTON, 16 June — New Zealand is to make a contribution to ease hardship and improve the lives of children in Nepal, Aid Minister Marian Hobbs said on Thursday.

“NZAID, our international aid and development agency, will give 250,000 US dollars to help fund two World Food Programme projects in Nepal,” said Hobbs.

Nepal is one of the poorest nations in South Asia, with 42 per cent of its population living below the poverty line; 91 out of every 1,000 children die before five years of age, according to statistics.

The project covers 450,000 primary school children of 4,200 schools in 21 districts across Nepal.

Another aspect of the project is a take-home food incentive provided to mothers whose child girls attend school regularly. It is estimated that 135,000 girls benefit currently from the take-home incentive.

Getting girls into school and keeping them there are both absolute necessities if a real difference is to be made in the fight against poverty. NZAID already supports education programmes in Nepal via partnerships with the Himalayan Trust and UNICEF, said Hobbs. — MNA/Xinhua

Toyota maintains lead in Indonesian market

JAKARTA, 16 June — Japanese auto giant Toyota Motor Corp grabbed 30.9 per cent of Indonesia's 51,208 total car sales in May, affirming its lead in the country's auto market.

In the first five months of 2005, Toyota sold 75,595 vehicles, equivalent to 30.7 per cent of Indonesia's total car sales. The company said in a statement released on Wednesday, Toyota leads in car sales by grabbing 38.6 per cent of the market share, trailed by Japanese rivals Honda with 18 per cent and Suzuki 17.4 per cent. — MNA/Xinhua

Army sergeant charged with murder of two US officers in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 16 June — A US Army sergeant has been charged with premeditated murder in the deaths of two US officers who were killed in an explosion in Tikrit, Iraq, an army spokeswoman said.

Alberto Martinez, 38, was charged with "murder, with two specifications of premeditated murder," of two officers who initially were believed to have been killed in a mortar attack, said Martha Rudd, an army spokeswoman.

Captain Phillip Esposito, 30, and 1st Lieutenant Louis Allen, 34, were killed on 7 June in Tikrit when ordnance exploded outside their office window in the late evening.

"On initial investigation it looked like a mortar round but on further examination it was determined the blast pattern was inconsistent with a mortar attack," Rudd said. Investigators are still trying to determine the type of munition used in the blast, she said.

A US soldier walks past a vehicle destroyed by a car bomb attack in Baghdad, on 15 June, 2005. — Internet

Laos eyes economic growth of 7-7.5% before 2010

HANOI, 16 June — Laos has set an initial target of posting annual economic growth of 7-7.5 per cent from 2006 to 2010, Laotian news agency KPL said on Wednesday.

To realize the target, Laos will focus on raising efficiency of state investment, facilitating foreign investment and revitalizing services. Its gross domestic product (GDP) growth stood at the annual average of 6.2 per cent in the 2001-2005 period.

Laos recorded GDP growth of 6.1 per cent in the first six months of the 2004-2005 fiscal year ending in October 2005. In the period, the industry, service and agriculture sectors contributed 28 per cent, 26.5 per cent and 45.5 per cent of the GDP respectively.

Between last October and March this year, the country attracted 186.7 million US dollars from 81 foreign direct investment projects. Laos' biggest investors included Vietnam, Australia and China.

Laos has eyed GDP growth of 7 per cent this fiscal year. — MNA/Xinhua

China wants to boost ties with Saint Lucia

BEIJING, 16 June — China's top legislator Wu Bangguo told Saint Lucia's Parliament leaders on Wednesday that China wants to further boost its friendly relations with the Caribbean state.

Since establishing diplomatic relations in 1997, China and Saint Lucia have boosted bilateral relations with frequent high-level visits, increased political trust and good economic and trade cooperation, Wu said in a meeting with a Saint Lucia parliamentary delegation led by Senate President Hilford Deterville and Speaker of the House of Assembly Joseph Baden Allam.

Wu said the two countries also maintained consultation and cooperation in international and regional issues. On parliamentary ties, Wu said he believed the visit of the Saint Lucia parliamentary delegation will help promote friendly ties between the two parliaments and the two peoples and push forward cooperation. — MNA/Xinhua

Interim President of Saint Lucia, Andrew Sanou, speaks to the press following a meeting with Wu at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, 15 June, 2005. — Internet
A Chinese shopper pushes a trolley past a row of washing machines, some of them were manufactured by China’s home appliances maker Haier Group at a shopping mall in Beijing on 15 June, 2005. — Internet

Bidding of Pakistani Telecommunication Co’s shares on due date

ISLAMABAD, 16 June — Pakistani Federal Minister for Information Technology Awais Ahmed Khan Leghari on Wednesday said bidding of 26 per cent shares of the state-owned Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) will be held on due date.

Leghari told reporters in Islamabad that all hurdles have been removed in the privatization process of PTCL.

An agreement has also been signed with the PTCL’s major union while his ministry is in touch with the remaining unions of the company, Leghari said, adding that the remaining unions will soon announce their concurrence on the privatization.

He said under the written agreement signed by the concerned stakeholders, the PTCL’s workers’ union makes a necessary tool for commercial use.

The Minister justified deployment of security forces at PTCL installations, saying this move is taken to protect the whole communication system. “We deployed security forces in order to save the company from heavy losses,” he said.

Leghari said now the PTCL system throughout the country is working efficiently and the workers are fully cooperating with the company’s administration.

The Pakistani Government Saturday announced June 18 as the date for bidding of PTCL’s 26 per cent shares in a step to privatize the company.

However, the workers’ union of PTCL threatened to call for a general strike to jam the company’s system if the government does not abandon its privatization plan. Many workers fear that privatization may leave them jobless. To ensure the smooth privatization of the company, the government has deployed security forces and policemen to take over all sensitive and important PTCL installations throughout the country.

MNA/Xinhua

More countries to import Nepali workers

KATHMANDU, 16 June — Four developed and industrialized countries have formally informed about their readiness to import Nepali labourers, a high ranking government official said here on Wednesday.

New Zealand, Japan, South Korea and Oman informed their decisions during their meetings with Nepali Minister for Labour and Transport Management Ram Narayan Singh on the recent sidelines of 93rd International Labour Conference held in Geneva of Switzerland, Purushottam Ojha, acting secretary of the ministry, told reporters.

“Ministers of the respective nations have principally agreed to import labourers from Nepal and the government would lay the groundwork required to begin a formal process through proper channels,” he said.

“We will then finalize the sectors where Nepali workers can get recruitment and other issues related to wages and benefits,” he added.— MNA/Xinhua

China to host World Chinese Conference this July

BEIJING, 16 June — China will host World Chinese Conference in Beijing from 20 to 22 July and invite more than 300 officials and scholars to discuss “the Development of Chinese in a Multi-cultural World,” said Chinese senior official here on Wednesday.

Zhang Xinsheng, Vice-Minister of Education, told reporters at a Press conference that the conference was the first and the highest level meeting of its type since China launched the overseas Chinese teaching programme in 1951.

Zhang, also Deputy Director of the State Leading Group for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, said the demand for overseas Chinese teaching has surged as China’s contact with the outside world has increased. “The growth speed of the demand far exceeded what we expected,” he said.

Since it adopted the policy of opening itself to the outside world in the late 1970s, Zhang said, China has attracted a great amount of foreign business investment. A growing number of foreigners travel to China as tourists and some even chose to work and live in China. This increased attention has made the Chinese language an attractive tool for commercial use.

A survey showed that more than 2,500 primary and middle schools in the United States have launched or are planning to set up Chinese course. Currently, more than 20,000 people are Chinese teachers in Southeast Asia while the number is still inefficient.— MNA/Xinhua

Sri Lanka urges WHO to curb escalating brain drain

COLOMBO, 16 June — Sri Lanka has urged the World Health Organization (WHO) to recommend meaningful measures to arrest the mounting brain drain affecting the health sector in developing countries, official Daily News reported on Wednesday.

Healthcare and Nutrition Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva explained that developing countries such as Sri Lanka still witness many of their exceedingly talented, best qualified doctors and nurses taking wing to the developed world.

“This is a cause for serious concern,” he said.

The Minister suggested the WHO work out some realistic arrangements for a more controlled flow of health personnel and also persuade the recipient countries to compensate this loss.

“WHO is in a better position to bring the countries together and create such a covenant or a charter,” he added. — MNA/Xinhua

Six US servicemen killed in Iraq attacks

BAGHDAD, 17 June—Bombing and shooting attacks west of Baghdad killed six US troops, and a suicide car bomber slammed into a truck carrying Iraqi policemen near the airport on Thursday, killing at least eight and wounding 25.

The deaths of the six US troops came on Wednesday during guerrilla attacks that killed 58 people, making it the deadliest day of violence in more than a month. At least 1,714 US military members have died since the war began in 2003, according to an AP count.

Five Marines were killed after their vehicle was attacked near Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, the military said Thursday. Officials in Ramadi had reported a roadside bomb blast in the pre-dawn hours.

Internet

Software industry’s output value reports annual growth rate of 38%

BEIJING, 16 June — China’s software industry’s total output value grew 23 per cent annually from 2000 to 2004, the Beijing-based Economic Information Daily reported on Wednesday.

An official from the Ministry of Information was quoted as saying that the industry’s output value climbed from 59.3 billion yuan (about 7.2 billion US dollars) in 2000 to 230 billion yuan (some 28 billion dollars) in 2004.

The official said the increase is owed mainly to preferential state policies in investment, taxation and technological input. — MNA/Xinhua

No smoking

An Iraqi boy looks at the debris of a car bomb in the Salahuddin District of northern Baghdad on 16 June, 2005. — Internet
China destroys 250 m yuan fake farming materials

BEIJING, 17 June — China destroyed 250 million yuan (about 30 million US dollars’) worth of fake and inferior farming materials in the first half of this year, said an official of the state quality watchdog here on Thursday.

“The materials include unqualified chemical fertilizer, pesticide and farming machines,” said Liu Zhaobin, spokesperson of the China’s State Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine.

Fake and inferior chemical fertilizers are mostly found in 11 provinces with huge production, including eastern Shandong Province and southwestern Sichuan Province, according to Liu.

The agency also made public a list of companies producing fake and inferior farming materials.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese Premier concerned for education of migrant children

BEIJING, June 16 — Thirteen-year-old Wang Jing was excited when she learned that her letter to the Chinese Premier himself had been read aloud at Premier Wen Jiabao's residence.

Wang is a sixth grader at Beiwu Primary School in Haidian District in Beijing, a public-funded school open to the children of migrant workers.

“I wrote the letter to thank him for all the things he had done for children of migrant workers,” Wang said. She wrote the letter two weeks ago, telling Premier Wen about her studies and life at the school.

Premier Wen expressed his sincere wishes to Wang Jing and her schoolmates, saying the education and life of migrant children in Beijing have improved drastically.

The changes should be attributed to Beijing municipal government, teachers, workers and headmasters at school.

“Even corrected a grammar mistake in my letter,” Wang said.

In September last year, the national authorities issued a regulation, requiring primary and middle schools stop charging extra fees to children without permanent residence permits post-2002.

Before this, children without local permanent residence permits had to pay extra because the government had appropriated their education funds to the children’s permanent residences.

“It can save me up to 1,200 yuan (144.58 US dollars) per year thanks to the new regulation,” said Wang Changqing, father of Wang Jing, the only bread winner earning about 200 yuan (2.24 US dollars) per month to support a family of four.

Having lived in Beijing for about 10 years, Wang, like many of her classmates, has a strong identity as a local child.

“We are the same, except we have our hometowns,” she said. — MNA/Xinhua

NZ leads agreement to protect Antarctica

WELLINGTON, 16 June — New Zealand has played a key role in negotiating an international treaty protecting the Antarctic environment, Foreign Minister Phil Goff said on Wednesday.

The treaty requires anyone who causes an environmental accident in Antarctica to take action to clean up the pollution and prevent further environmental damage. If a polluter does not take up action, then compensation can be claimed.

New Zealand chaired negotiations for the treaty, which sets out a regime for response action and compensation in the event of environmental accidents in Antarctica. It was adopted on Tuesday at a conference in Stockholm, capital of Sweden.

The treaty was negotiated by the 45 member countries of the 1959 Antarctic Treaty, made up by the majority of countries conducting Antarctic activities.

MNA/Xinhua

Senior CPC official on vital importance of building clean govt

BEIJING, June 16 — A senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on Tuesday urged officials in charge of discipline inspection and supervision to be fully aware of the vital importance of improving the Party’s work style and building a clean government.

Wu Guanzheng, secretary of the CPC Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, made the remarks at a meeting in commemoration of the 100th birth anniversary of Chen Yun, a late proletarian revolutionary and founder of China’s socialist economy.

Wu spoke highly of Chen Yun, who was the first secretary of the CPC Central Committee in late 1978, for his practical work style and ability in dealing with issues related to the Party’s discipline by taking into account the utmost interests of the Party and the people while giving full play to inner-party democracy.

Chen’s thoughts of far-reaching influence have contributed to enriching and developing the theory about Party’s work style and clean government, Wu said, adding that they are important to the Party’s campaign to preserve its advanced nature and purity, and improve its creativeness, cohesiveness and combat effectiveness.

MNA/Xinhua

Silt-washing operation in Yellow River becomes regular

ZHENGZHOU, 17 June — Another round of silt-washing operations in the Xiaolangdi Reservoir, the largest water conservation project on the Yellow River, began on Thursday, aimed at flushing silt from its lower reaches into the Bohai Sea.

The operation works by discharging floods in the Xiaolangdi Reservoir to stir sediments in the Yellow River, China’s second longest. It is believed a landmark as it shifts from a traditional way harnessing the river to a modern one. Such efforts will become regular this year, according to the Yellow River Water Conservancy Committee.

The Yellow River has been plagued by increasingly more mud and sand and less water. Each year, the river bed grows higher due to silt deposits, slowing water’s flow in the lower reaches.

The Xiaolangdi project, which is second only to the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze in terms of workload, has pushed over 200 million tons of silt into the sea thanks to the past three rounds of silt-washing since 2002.

Now water flows at 2,900 cubic metres per second while the velocity was 800 cubic metres per second in this section of waterway two years ago.

MNA/Xinhua

Philippines sets up defence plan against bird flu

MANILA, 16 June — The Philippine Government said on Wednesday it has laid out a defence plan to prevent a possible outbreak of bird flu which could take a heavy toll on the country’s poultry industry.

The Department of Agriculture, the Department of Health and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office have already prepared the first line of defence against the bird flu to protect the country’s 150 billion peso (2.77 billion US dollars) poultry industry.

At a press briefing, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said the first line of defence would be set up to government to protect the industry and ensure a stable supply of poultry products to consumers.

He said that the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office would release 53 million pesos (980,000 US dollars) to set up facilities for detecting and containing the virus in case it affects the country.

Such measures are necessary to ensure that the Philippines will meet its projected total exports of 10 million kilos of poultry products worth two billion pesos by the end of the year, Yap said at the briefing in the Malacanang Presidential Palace.

In the first five months of the year, the Philippines exported 3.5 million kilos of poultry products, more than twice that of last year’s exports.

He noted that the country’s growth in poultry exports has been unaffecte by outbreaks in neighbouring countries as the Philippines remains free of the virus.

The epidemic has resulted in a strict ban on importation of poultry products from affected countries and regions, including huge losses to their poultry farmers.

Yap said that growers should immediately inform the local agriculture office should there be more than 3 per cent bird mortality in their farms. — MNA/Xinhua

A woman walks past a fashion boutique with sales signs attached in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 16 June, 2005. — Internet

US soldiers on patrol in Baghdad on 16 June, 2005. — Internet
Afghan Govt takes action against spread of cholera in Kabul

KABUL, 16 June — Afghan Government has taken a range of measures including hanging posters, giving advice through TV and installing separate tents in hospitals to prevent the cholera epidemic from spreading in capital Kabul, a health official said on Wednesday.

Abdullah Fahim, an official with the Afghan Public Health Ministry, however, denied media reports that the epidemic has infected over 2,000 people in Kabul in the past two weeks and said that the disease could spread quickly throughout the city’s four million population.

“More than 2,400 people have had the symptoms of diarrohea, vomiting and others since 22 May. Thirty persons have been confirmed to be infected with cholera, and four of them have died of the disease,” Fahim said.

Nobody can say that cholera has spread in large scale since the infection cases have come from different parts of Kabul, he said, adding the government has taken measures to curb the disease.

In Kabul, many posters have been hung up in streets printed with such words as “Clean your hands before eating,” “Drink boiled water” and so on to remind people of self-sanitation.

TV programmes about hygiene will be broadcast to help people turn away from getting infected with the disease, and the medical department has advised people to drink boiled water, and thoroughly clean vegetable before eating for prevention, Fahim said.

As a kind of seasonal epidemic, cholera breaks out each year in Afghanistan.

Fahim said that compared with last year, cases of cholera this year are only half in number. Murad Mamozai, deputy head of the infectious hospital Antoni, said they have received about 650 patients with the symptoms of diarrhoea since 22 May, and have set up new and separate tents for them. “Until now none of them has been confirmed of being infected with cholera,” he said.

There are seven tents outside the main building of the hospital arranged for the suspected cholera patients, and about five or six persons in each tent.

Azerbaijan, Pakistan sign counter-terrorism deal

CANBERRA, 16 June — Australian Prime Minister John Howard on Wednesday said that Australia and Pakistan have signed three agreements on counter-terrorism, agriculture and investment.

Howard made the announcement after meeting with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, who is on the second day of a three-day visit to Australia, the first by a Pakistani head of state.

“We discussed the opportunities for further education links, particularly the provision of some scholarships by Australia to Pakistani students and also the expansion of trade and investment links,” Howard told reporters.

“We also witnessed the signing of three memorandums of understanding — one on counter-terrorism, one on agriculture and one on fostering ties between the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and its counterpart body in Pakistan, designed to provide greater protection for investors,” he said.

Musharraf said he had told Howard about Pakistan’s role in countering terrorism in the region, including fighting al-Qaeda, an international terrorist network.

He said he looked forward to a good relationship between the two countries, asking for more help from Australia in enhancing bilateral trade and promoting economic development in Pakistan.

“The Prime Minister has been extremely generous in listening to our requests and extremely forthcoming also,” Musharraf said. He said he had invited Howard and his wife Janette to visit Pakistan. — MNA/Xinhua

China to issue 35.3b yuan worth of treasury bonds

BEIJING, 16 June — China is scheduled to issue 35.3 billion yuan (4.3 billion US dollars) worth of book-entry treasury bonds as of Wednesday, the Ministry of Finance announced on Tuesday.

The one-year bonds, the sixth batch of the treasury bonds China issues this year, will be available for wholesales on the national inter-bank bond market and securities exchange market during 15 and 20 June, according to a news release from the Ministry of Finance.

With face values totalizing 30 billion yuan (3.65 billion US dollars), the bonds will be issued at a discount price of 98.619 per cent, or equivalent to an annual interest rate of 1.42 per cent. They will be floated, and quoted on the inter-bank bond market and Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges for trading in cash and repurchase starting from 22 June.

Public bidding was held on Monday by the ministry for the distribution of 24.7 billion yuan (3.01 billion US dollars) worth of the bonds out of the batch, and the remaining 5.3 billion yuan (646 million US dollars) worth of the T-bonds was allocated to selected members of top-T bond sales agencies for retailing. — MNA/Xinhua

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HK Disneyland strengthens partnerships

HONG KONG, 16 June — Hong Kong Disneyland is in the final stage of completing its wholesale contracts with major overseas agencies in addition to local inbound operators, among whom about 50 per cent are Hong Kong-based agents, an executive of the theme park said on Wednesday.

Roy Tan Hardy, HK Disneyland Vice-President of Marketing and Sales, gave a detailed explanation about its ticket distribution channels and its plans for establishing a closer working relationship with travel agents at a briefing.

He said Hong Kong Disneyland will provide a full list of overseas wholesalers, including Western, Chinese Mainland and other countries once the contracting process is completed.

Retail travel agents will also be provided with access to the theme park ticket inventory when making group bookings for 25 persons or above during weekdays and non-peak days. Special group commission will be provided.

For hotel reservations, bona fida travel agents who book a hotel room for a guest at either the Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel or Disney’s Hollywood Hotel, or purchase park tickets as part of their hotel stay, will also receive special commission.

China’s securities firms lose 14.99b yuan last year

BEIJING, 16 June — China’s 114 securities firms lost last year deficits totalling 14.99 billion yuan (1.8 billion US dollars), the Securities Association of China said on Wednesday.

“Manasarovar” lone Indian entry at Shanghai film festival

BEIJING, 16 June — The lone Indian entry at the Shanghai International Film Festival, ‘Manasarovar’, has generated positive response from the audience.

Noted Malayalam director, Adoor Gopalakrishnan is on the main jury of the festival.

Indian budget carrier Kingfisher finalised a deal to lease three Airbus A319s from Singapore Aircraft Leasing Enterprise. — Internet

Vietnam to reap bigger garment local sales this year

HANOI, 16 June — Vietnam is expected to earn around 1.5 billion US dollars this year from selling its garments and textiles in the domestic market, a year-on-year surge of 36.4 per cent, according to the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association on Wednesday.

The local sales will climb to some 3.5 billion dollars in 2010, the association said, noting that Vietnam is likely to sell garment and textile exports worth eight billion dollars in the year. The association has urged its members to more actively build and promote trademarks both at home and abroad, and diversify products to have specific items for specific traditional markets, and to explore new markets in Africa and East Europe.

Garment and textile producers in Vietnam, which recorded local sales of 1.1 billion US dollars and export turnovers of nearly 4.4 billion dollars last year, earned 1.6 billion dollars from exporting their products to over 65 countries and regions in the first five months of this year, a year-on-year rise of 0.3 per cent, said the association. — MNA/Xinhua

China’s stock market sentiment picks up

BEIJING, 16 June — China’s stock market sentiment has picked up in recent weeks with the main stock market indexes having risen 36.4 per cent year-on-year since February. According to a report from the National Stock Exchange, the sentiment was lifted by the expected economic recovery in the US and a new round of stimulus measures. — MNA/Xinhua

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HAILING THE MYANMAR WOMEN’S DAY (3RD JULY, 2005)

Myanmar women who are always sharp and active

Thida Soe (Institute of Economics)

Throughout Myanmar’s history, Myanmar women have been able to bring honour to the nation. The national prestige and dignity of Myanmar women, endowed with wisdom and fine morals, is beyond expression.

Stone inscriptions stand witness to the fact that court official duties were assigned to women during the Bagan era. The preservation of lineage by Princess Shwe Ei Sin went down in the annals of the history; Queen Phwa Saw won the trust and reliance of a succession of kings because of her vast knowl-

edge and wisdom in court affairs. During the Konbong period, daughters of King Mindon were able to discharge the nation’s duties well as account-

ants of court, in addition to the emergence of women like Princess Thudhhamma Suri and Princess Thanyin who were legal experts, famous women of letters including Saw Pyi Nyo, Saw Min Hnit, Yawii Shin Htw, Mi Phyu, Mi Nyo, Mi Khwe, Ma Mya Galay, and Hlaing Htai Khaung Tin did come out in Myanmar history.

Educated and kind hearted Myanmar women never yielded to the colonialist rule, but bravely took part in the struggle to drive out the occupiers. Three Shan ladies participated in the Werlikan battle, and eight Chin ladies in fighting back the colonialists in the later part of 1887. The sacrifices they had made in the battles against the colonialists with courage not less than their male counterparts, glorify the women’s role in the independence struggle.

Similarly, without any fear, Myanmar women took part in the year 1300 Uprising for the perpetua-
tion of the race and religion, although the colonialists tried to crush the mass demonstrations with mounted police, Myanmar women founded women’s organizations such as the Konmari, the Myanna Hita Konmari, the Byanmasariya Konmari, the Thitsawady, the Amyothami Taphwe, Pyithuyemayma, the All Myanmar Women’s In-
dependence Organization, and the Women’s Na-
tional Council, to join hands with the people in the independence struggle.

Their main objectives were not to marry for-

ewars, to use and encourage locally made goods only and to foster patriotism. They were successful in demanding the British government to bring back Myanmar women who had been deceived and taken to Penang.

There were also famous women journalists, and women writers with the power of their pen were able to turn out good women possessing the ability to safeguard and preserve the lineage of Myanmar women journalists such as Daw Phwa Shin, Daw Thit, Daw Daw Hta, Independent Daw San, Daw Ma Ma Khin and Myanmar women writers including Dagon Khin Khin Lay, Daw Khin Myo Chi, Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay, Khin Hm Kyaw Yu etc. stood tall in the Myanmar literary field dur-
ing the independence struggle. Florence Nightin-
gale Award winner Maj Daw Khin Khin Mya, inter-
nationally-known Nun Dan Nanacari, philanthro-

pist Daw Oo Zun, famous musician Daw Saw Mya Aye Kyi, anyinet dancer Liberty Daw Mya Yin, actress-cum-vocalist Daw May Shin, and air host-

ess Thwe Thwe Win, who risked her life to save others stand as ideal persons helping raise the dign-

ity of the race.

What I have presented in the article are the efforts and deserving honour of Myanmar women in various fields including health, education, social and cultural sectors, who discharged their duties with in-
tellectual power, perseverance, consideration, moral-

ity, and skill.

Myanmar women possess brilliant qualifica-
tions as they are true citizens who love and have the will to safeguard and preserve the race. It is also because, they always observe the teachings of Bud-

hha and are enjoying equal rights with men accord-
ing to traditions and culture of Myanmar society, religious teachings and the existing laws.

Now, Myanmar women intellectuals and in-

telligentsia are shouldering nation-building tasks whatever role they are in. Vividly visible is the active performance of female members in the or-
ganizations such as the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Myanmar Women Sports Federation, the Women’s Chapter of the Myanmar Medical Association, Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs As-

sociation, the Union Solidarity and Development Association, and the Myanmar Red Cross Society. In the world there exists discrimination; the women are thus waging the battle for social rights to enjoy them equally with men in the fields of mar-
riage and divorce, and inheritance. However, Myanmar women do not need to do so as they have enjoyed these rights fully since birth.

A day was designated as “Myanmar Women’s Day” as a gesture of honouring the magnificent performance of the mass of Myanmar women, born and brought up in the nation, in the interests of the nation and the people and who bring honour to their motherland. That day is the third of July, the birth-
day of the Myanmar National Committee for Women’s Affairs that took the initiative in organizing the mass of Myanmar women to become one.

Myanmar took part in the activities on wom-

en’s affairs organized by the UN, and ratified the Beijing Declaration at the 4th World Women’s Con-
ference held in Beijing in the People’s Republic of China. That reflected Myanmar’s serious attention given to the affairs of its women mass. After the formation of the MNCA, the nation laid down effective policies and prescribed laws and bye-laws and is playing a leading role in the interests of Myanmar women that represent more than half of the nation’s population in accord with the motto “Strive in concert for development of women”. The drive covers six sectors — education, health, economy, culture, prevention of women against violence, and rehabilitation. It upgraded the MNCA to the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Fed-
eration on 20 December 2003 to enable the asso-
ciation to implement greater tasks on a wider scale.

The MWAF’s major objective is to take part in the national development undertakings through the women’s role. It is now conducting computer courses, accountancy courses and spoken English courses, holding talks on cultural preservation, pro-

viding cash assistance to needy children to pursue education, planting and conserving trees for envi-
rionmental conservation, and taking preventive meas-
ures against trafficking in persons.

Enlisting the strength of women across the nation who make up more than half of the nation’s population, the MWAF came into existence based on the correct national policy.

The MWAF is in perpetual service of the women mass of Myanmar, while contributing to-
warding realization of the national goal — emergence of a discipline-flourishing modern developed demo-
cratic nation.

Translation: TMT + MS

Coord meeting of second China-ASEAN Trade Fair

YANGON, 17 June — The coordi-
nation meeting for participation in the second China-ASEAN Trade Fair to be held in Nanning, Guangxi, was held at the Traders Hotel on Sule Pa-
goda Road yesterday evening.

Present on the occasion were Director-General of Directorate of Trade U Khin Maung Lay and depart-
mental heads, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Jinjun and officials, the Chinese delegates led by China Political Consultant Conference Vice-
chairman of Guangxi Mr Jiang Xinghe, officials of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Myanmar entrepre-

neur.

The director-general and the Chinese Ambassador and Vice-chair-
man of Guangxi Mr Jiang Xinghe made opening speeches.

Next, a Chinese delegate explained the facts about the trade fair and urged the entrepreneurs to partici-
pate in the trade fair. Later, Chinese delegates answered the queries raised by those present. — MNA
People need to accept the …

The government is giving special priority to development of the whole Shan State which lagged behind in development in successive eras due to various reasons. Projects for development of Shan State are being implemented, and as a result, a number of major cities emerged in its border regions. At the same time, special projects for development of Lashio, Kengtung and Taunggyi regions are being launched, and work is well under way for ensuring development of these areas.

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People need to accept the …

People of Shan State (East) urged to cooperate with those of other states and divisions in striving for the whole country to become a peaceful, modern and developed one

MEC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein addresses opening ceremony of GTC (Kengtung). — MNA

MEC Chairman Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein hears reports on academic and management matters of GTC (Kengtung) by Principal Dr Zaw Naing. — MNA

People of Shan State (East) urged to cooperate with those of other states and divisions in striving for the whole country to become a peaceful, modern and developed one

Nowadays, the whole eastern Shan State has been developing rapidly with Kengtung serving as the centre of gravity in the region. The local people have the duty to maintain and further accelerate regional development.

Shan State including Kengtung region had greatly suffered from the evil legacy of colonialists, and it was left behind development. In addition, the Secretary-1 said it can still be seen that there is development gap among the regions of the state due to people of Shan State (East) urged to cooperate with those of other states and divisions in striving for the whole country to become a peaceful, modern and developed one. In all, he said, people are urged to maintain the peace and stability, national solidarity and development and to pass them on to the next generation.

The principal accepted K 1 million donated by Secretary of Shan State (North) Special Region-2 U Aung Myint; and K 1 million by Vice-Chairman U San Pae of Shan State (East) Special Region-4. After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 cordially greeted those present.

GTC (Kengtung) was built on 43.6 acres of land near Wammaing Village, by Kengtung-Lwemwe Road, five miles from Kengtung. There are 24 lecture halls, one computer room, practical labs, administrative and management offices, parlours, conference hall, library, assembly hall, and others, totalling 103 rooms.

The college has so far produced 25 BE graduates, 29 BTech diploma holders, 35 BTC diploma holders, 36 EGTI diploma holders, 29 BTech graduates, 12 AGTI diploma holders, 36 EGTI diploma holders, 35 BTC diploma holders, and 54 BSTC diploma holders, totalling 303.

The Secretary-1 added that he wanted to urge the people of Shan State (East) to cooperate with those of other states and divisions in striving for the whole country to become a peaceful, modern and developed one. In all, he said, people are urged to maintain the peace and stability, national solidarity and development and to pass them on to the next generation.

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Officials and local people...

(Original page 16)

From now onwards, arrangements are to be made for prevention against natural disasters. Departmental personnel are to make field trips down to grassroots level for undertaking regional development tasks by joining hands with the local people.

During their trip to Ingapu, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than and party oversaw preparations for cultivation of monsoon paddy and condition of Myawady-Ingapu Road.

In Ingapu, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental personnel. Police Captain Than Aye reported on salient points of the township. Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave a speech on the occasion.

On arrival at Ngawun Bridge (Myowin) Construction Project site, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Oo Tun Zay briefs them on facts about the bridge construction project and progress of tasks.

Ngawun Bridge (Myowin) will be 2.800 feet and 34 feet wide. The bridge will have 28 feet wide motor road and three feet wide pedestrian way on either side. It can withstand 60-ton loads. The bridge is being built of reinforced concrete.

As the Government is facilitating better transport on west bank of Ngawun River, Ngaithaingchaung Bridge and Pathein Bridge crossing Ngawun River have been built and present Ngawun River Bridge (Myowin) is under construction.

They proceeded to Pyidawbyan Buddha Image in Zalun and paid homage to it. After inspecting all-round renovation of the Buddha image, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than gave necessary instructions. Next, they arrived back here at night.

Tax-free markets inspected in Yangon City

YANGON, 17 June — Maj-Gen Myint Swe, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of Yangon Command, inspected Kohnyintthaya, Nawade, Yankin, Tamway, Hanthawady and Pantara tax-free markets in Yangon City this morning.

After inspecting the markets, the commander cordially met with buyers and shopkeepers. Next, the commander gave instructions to officials to supervise sanitation tasks to be carried out and proper flow of water at drains and urged shopkeepers to sell fresh meat, fish and vegetables.

I & P Minister receives Bangladeshi Ambassador

YANGON, 17 June — Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Sein Htwa received Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar Mr AB Manjoor Ramhim, who had completed his tour of duty, at the ministry this morning.

Also present at the call were Director-General of Immigration and National Registration Department U Khin Maung Than, Director-General of the Population Department U Tin Yi and officials.

Energy Minister inspects natural gas vehicles

YANGON, 17 June — Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi inspected the vehicles installed with natural gas engines in place of diesel and petrol engines at the workshop of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise in Thakaya Township this afternoon.

Managing Director U San Lwin of MOGE conducted the minister around the workshop installing the natural gas engines.

At the briefing hall, the minister heard reports on progress of installing natural gas engine and measures being taken by the MOGE, and fulfilled the requirements.

The vehicle owners wishing to install natural gas engine may contact the MOGE under the Ministry of Energy, phone — 545739, 093007190. — MNA
China to further push software industry

BEIJING, 17 June — China should seize the opportune time to implement the relevant policy to further develop software industry within its own capacity, Vice-Premier Huang Ju said at the Ninth China International Software Exposition.

Vice-Premier Huang spoke highly of the achievements China has scored in information technology in recent years, calling on the relevant departments to carry out the policy of the State Council to speed up the research and application of the primary software and key technology in software industry.

He also said China should protect software intellectual property and create still better environment for foreign investment.

China’s software industry has been developing rapidly since 2000 when the country promulgated the policy of promoting the industry. In 2004, the country’s total output value of software hit 230 billion RMB (about 21.8 US dollars), an increase of 186 billion yuan (some 22.5 US dollars) over 1999 with a 30-per-cent annual growth rate.

The software exports reached 2.8 billion US dollars, 12 times the figure for 1999. China now has 176 state major software enterprises, 11 state software bases, and six state software bases for export.

The International Software Exposition is an annual event of the software industry, and the ninth session was held in Beijing from 14 to 16 June, with a theme to showcase China’s achievements in software industry and promote the cooperation among software circles.

The exposition was sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Information Industry, the State Development and Reform Commission, Ministry of Science and Technology, and other departments.

Climate expert says hurricanes to intensify as earth warms

LOS ANGELES, 17 June — Human-induced climate change will increase the intensity of hurricane and rainfall, a new study appearing on Thursday indicated.

Human beings are heating up oceans and adding moisture into the atmosphere, which have recently caused hurricane numbers to increase or hurricane paths to change course, according to climate expert Kevin Trenberth of US National Center for Atmospheric Research. In a paper published in the 17 June issue of Science, Trenberth said trends in human-influenced environmental changes are now evident in hurricane regions.

“These changes are expected to affect hurricane intensity and rainfall, but the effect on hurricane numbers remains unclear. The key scientific questions is not whether there is a trend in hurricane numbers and tracks, but rather how hurricanes are changing.”

This paper followed extensive tropical activity last year, including a record number of hurricane landfalls affecting Florida and typhoons striking Japan. These landfalls were related to persistent large-scale circulation features that steered these systems toward land, Trenberth says. The strongest links between hurricane intensity and climate change, according to Trenberth, are a long-term rise in ocean temperatures and an increase in atmospheric water vapour. Both processes are already under way and expected to continue, he said. The additional water vapour will not only increase within hurricanes and an increased risk of flooding at landfall. Most hurricanes that strike the US coastline are born in the tropical North Atlantic, where sea-surface temperatures over the last decade have been the warmest on record.

Water vapour over oceans worldwide has increased by about 2 per cent since 1988. The warmer sea surface and monsoon atmosphere furnish potential energy for the showers and thunderstorms that fuel hurricanes. Computer models also suggest a shift in hurricane intensities toward extreme hurricanes,” said Trenberth. But it is still unclear how global warming will affect these circulation patterns, he noted.

Much more uncertain is the effect of human-induced climate change on hurricane numbers and landfalls. Models disagree on how global warming might affect the wind shear that can either support or discourage hurricane formation. Globally, the number of hurricanes and typhoons tends to hold relatively steady from year to year. When activity increases in the Atlantic, it often decreases in the Pacific, and vice versa, based on El Nino and La Nina. — MNA/Xinhua
ADVERTISEMENTS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V. SEA BRIGHT VOY: NO (709)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. SEA BRIGHT VOY NO (709) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.6.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the by-laws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent for: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V. GEE HONG VOY: NO (508)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. GEE HONG VOY NO (508) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.6.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the by-laws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent for: M/S EAGLE CORPORATION
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V. LIANG SHAN VOY: NO (61)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. LIANG SHAN VOY NO (61) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.6.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the by-laws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent for: M/S COSCON SHIPPING CO. LTD CHINA
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V. DWI BUDDYARTO VOY: NO (805)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V. DWI BUDDYARTO VOY NO (805) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.6.2005 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses subject to the by-laws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11.20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority
Agent for: MYAMA A THIT THIT NA ALI
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

G-77 donor states pledges $40m to development fund
KUWAIT CITY, 16 June — Some of the rich countries of the Group of 77 (G-77) and China have pledged 40 million US dollars to a Qatar-proposed development fund, the Qutar News Agency reported on Wednesday.
Mohammad Al-Rumaihi, Qatari Assistance Foreign Minister for Follow-up Affairs and Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the ongoing G-77 plus China summit, made the announcement, said the report.
According to the official, Qatar pledged a donation of 20 million US dollars to the “South Fund for Development and Human Circumstances”, proposed by the Qatari Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani during the opening session of the two-day summit in the morning.
The Chinese delegation to the summit also pledged two million US dollars to the fund, Al-Rumaihi said, without mentioning details about the other donors.
Al-Rumaihi said Qatar did not seek to utilize its proposals for political objectives, but aimed at encouraging development of the South countries.
The fund’s aid would not be subjected to political conditions but according to economic criteria, he stressed.
The official explained that the South fund would have a board consisting of representatives from seven rich countries of the G-77, adding the board members will not need the assistance of the fund and their work will be transparent.
The two-day second summit of the G-77 plus China kicked off in the Qatari capital of Doha on Wednesday morning, focusing on ways to promote South-South cooperation in addition to South-North ties and UN reform. — MNA/Xinhua

11th Shanghai Int’l TV festival closes
SHANGHAI, 16 June — The 11th Shanghai Int’l TV festival closed here on Wednesday, with 14 Magnolia Award conferred. Participating in the competition were 282 TV works from 32 countries and regions.
“Boatmen”, produced by Hubei Provincial Television Station central China, won the best selection committee award and photography award. “Becoming A Popular Song” produced by KBS TV Station of South Korea, won Magnolia Award for Best TV film, and “The Final Gift”, produced by NIKOF Japan, won Magnolia Award Jury’s Grand Prix for TV Drama. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese proficiency test takers increase by 40% annually
BEIJING, 16 June — Chinese Vice-Minister of Education Zhang Xinzhen said on Wednesday that the overseas examinations for Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK) have grown 40 per cent annually in recent years.
Zhang, also deputy leader of the State Leading Group for Teaching Chinese as a foreign language, said that currently, China has 151 HSK examination spots in 34 countries. The number of the test takers increased to 90,000 last year from about 2,000 a dozen years ago.
China will further reform the HSK test system to make it more accessible to most Chinese learners. Specific tests for business and tourism and for children should be developed, Zhang said.
He said that the overseas demand for Chinese learning has surged as the exchanges between China and the outside world are strengthening.
The growth speed of the demand far exceeded than what we expected, as more and more government administrations in various countries have made Chinese language as compulsory course for second language learning,” Zhang said.
According to a survey of foreigners who learned Chinese, China has become a popular choice for foreign nationals to start their career. Statistics from the MOE also showed that more and more Chinese students in middle schools in the United States have launched or are planning to set up Chinese course. Currently, more than 2,500 primary and middle schools in China are teaching Chinese in Southeast Asia, which still cannot satisfy the people’s needs. — MNA/Xinhua
Barroso calls for pause in EU constitution ratification process

PARIS, 16 June— European Commission President José Manuel Barroso has called for “at least a pause” in the ratification process of the European Union Constitution and prudence of the EU member states.

“The best solution... may be to ask the heads of state and government to honestly explain their situation, and how they see the referendum process,” he said. Barroso made the remarks ahead of the upcoming EU summit to be held on June 16 and 17 in Brussels to decide whether to continue the ratification process after the massive rejection by the French and Dutch voters to the charter.

“If there was a referendum in most parts of Europe at the moment, the answer would be ‘no’,” Blair said at a news conference in the British Embassy in Paris after talks with French President Jacques Chirac.

MNA/Xinhua

Greece-China Business Council inaugurated

ATHENS, 16 June— The Greece-China Business Council was officially inaugurated here on Tuesday to promote bilateral business cooperation.

The council “demontstrates that the continued mutually beneficial cooperation will usher in a better future and generate more opportunities for China and Greece,” said Chinese Ambassador Tian Xuejun.

It will be a golden period for enhancing and promoting the friendly cooperation between Athens and Beijing by 2008, when Athens will host the next summer Olympic Games, he said.

Tian promised full support to the council, a non-profit, membership-based organization with headquarters in Athens, which is aimed at promoting and facilitating business, trade and investment between Greece and China.

Theodore Fessa, president of the council, said the council will facilitate economic cooperation between the two countries.

MNA/Xinhua

Bangladesh’s mobile courts hit road to nab adulterators

DHAKA, 17 June — Two mobile courts in Bangladesh on Thursday began round-the-year operations to hunt down unscrupulous traders who spray chemicals on fruits, a serious health concern.

“We’re very alarmed at this (spraying of chemicals) and we want it to be checked immediately,” State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar was quoted by the Daily Star as saying on Thursday.

“The courts will work regularly from now on,” Babar said after a high-level meeting on law and order at the Home Ministry.

The courts, each headed by a metropolitan magistrate, will primarily work in the capital. Two platoons of police and four vehicles will be kept ready round-the-clock to rush to the spot to arrest dishonest traders. The move came after trial raids on Tuesday when 12 people were held with chemically poisoned mangoes in Dhaka. A mobile court sentenced five of them to six-month imprisonment.

MNA/Xinhua

US continues to encourage Indo-Pakistan dialogue

WASHINGTON, 16 June— Welcoming the “bold steps” taken by India and Pakistan to improve their ties, the US has said it continued to encourage the dialogue between the two countries to settle bilateral issue, including Kashmir.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf have taken “bold steps” to push forward with reconciliation between their countries, contributing to overall stability in the region, US Assistant Secretary of State Christina Rocca told the House International Relations Subcommittee against India.

Memoranda of Understanding on a data sharing agreement to facilitate economic cooperation and agreements to exchange information on counter-terrorism and narcotics were signed.

Tian Xuejun.

MNA/Xinhua

US Congressmen urge Bush to reconsider “F-16s” sale to Pakistan

WASHINGTON, 16 June— Expressing unhappiness over US decision to sell F-16s to Pakistan, several Congressmen have urged the Bush Administration to reconsider it, saying “it is not the first time, but the last time. We will get over the problem, which is real, but which we are capable of overcoming,” he said.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair who visited Paris on Tuesday also called for a period of reflection on some months for Europe after French and Dutch voters rejected the EU Constitution.

MNA/Xinhua

Chinese lawyers saved 500b yuan of eco losses in past 3 years

BEIJING, 16 June — More than 100,000 lawyers in China have played an increasingly vital role in the country’s development and retrieved about 500 billion yuan (some 60 billion US dollars) in economic losses for the country in the past three years through handling economic cases and offering advice on major projects in economic construction.

The information was released at the sixth national lawyer congress, which opened in Beijing on Tuesday.

Gao Zongze, head of the National Association of Lawyer, said that lawyers have become an indispensable and important force in China’s economic construction. Lawyers have played a crucial role in policy-making and supervision in financial, securities and futures markets.

MNA/Xinhua

EU presidency gloomy over budget deal

BRUSSELS, 16 June— Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, whose country currently holds the rotating European Union (EU) presidency, expressed here on Wednesday his doubts over an agreement on the EU’s budget for 2007-2013 at the upcoming summit scheduled to be held here on Thursday.

“I am pretty sure that we won’t get financial perspectives as high as this summit,” Juncker said in the European Parliament.

Junker said he will present on Thursday a fresh proposal on the EU’s budget for 2007-2013 to the EU summit, which should be “just about acceptable” to all member states of the bloc.

In warning to France, he said “there will have to be reductions” in EU farm subsidies.

He also warned that Britain’s rebate on budget contributions cannot continue as there are no considerable changes being made”. Britain refuses to give ground on its rebate, which was famously negotiated 20 years ago by then prime minister Margaret Thatcher, unless France agrees to cuts in farm aid. British Prime Minister Tony Blair and French President Jacques Chirac were no closer to an agreement after their meeting in Paris on Tuesday.

MNA/Xinhua

\[\text{THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 18 June, 2005} \]
**SPORTS**

**Mexico beat Japan 2-1 in Confederations Cup**

**HANOVER, 17 June —** Mexico came from behind to beat Japan 2-1 in Hanover and make a winning start to their FIFA Confederations Cup campaign.

Zinha and Jose Fonseca were the scorers for Ricardo Lavolpe’s side, who had trailing to an early Atsushi Yanagisawa strike. Mexico tried to gain the ascendancy by controlling possession, while the Japanese opted for their fast and direct style of play.

Mexico started the game in dominant fashion, with Japan content to sit back and wait for the moment to counterattack. Mexico came close with a Pavel Pardo shot after eight minutes and threatened again soon afterwards when Carlos Salcido failed to connect as the ball flew across goal following a corner.

But it was Japan who broke the deadlock first. With remarkable speed, they broke from their own penalty area and Akira Kaji sent a Mitsuho Ogawara cross into the net at the 13th minute.

The Japanese team then enjoyed their best spell of possession and created several more scoring chances. The Mexican team soon recovered and took over the game. At the 29th minute, Pardo whipped in a free-kick from the right edge of the Japanese area. Jared Borgetti rose to meet the ball but his header was blocked by Japanese goalkeeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi.

The Mexican team continued to exert their authority on the field and forced the Japanese goalkeeper to put up several saves. Zinha, a naturalized Brazilian, levelled the score as he picked up a pass from Salvador Camona and beat the Japanese goalkeeper with a 30 meters shot.

In the second half, the Mexican continued to dominate possession. They went ahead at the 60th minute when Perez whipped a cross into the Japanese area and Fonseca rose high to head in the winner.

**Brazil trounce Greece 3-0 in Confederations Cup**

**LEIPZIG, 17 June —** World champions Brazil dominated the whole match and trounced European champions Greece 3-0 in a Confederations Cup Group B match here on Thursday.

Hoping to continue their miracle at the European Championships, the Greece team had a good start so the first ten minutes turned to be an even match.

But after the Brazilians got fully warmed up, the Greeks suddenly found that they totally lost control of the game.

The Brazilians fully displayed their star quality with Kaka, Ronaldinho, Adriano and Ronaldo’s replacement Robinho constantly threatening the Greek goal. But the resilient Greek defence held out until the 42nd minute when Adriano opened the scoring with a thunderous strike from distance. Moments after the interval, the Brazilian team went 2-0 up thanks to a goal from Player of the Match Robinho.

Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira replaced Ronaldinho, Adriano and then Kaka at the 70th minute. At the 81st minute, substitute Juninho Pernambucano sealed off the game's 3-0 for Brazil with a free-kick.

**India beats Pakistan 1-0 in second match**

**ISLAMABAD, 17 June —** India beat Pakistan 1-0 in the second match of the football series at the Quaid-e-Azam Stadium on Thursday evening in Peshawar, capital of the North-West Frontier Province.

Indian substitute Abdul Hakkim struck a winner after 66 minutes, giving the visitors a one-game lead in the three-match series.

Entry into the ground was free to encourage the fans to go and see their national team playing in their city. Temporary floodlights were arranged to hold the event in the evening when mercury went down.

Pakistan and India Sunday kicked off their first ever football series in Quetta, capital of south-western Balochistan Province, and the two teams scored 1-1 in their opening match. The last match of the series will be played Saturday in Lahore, capital of Punjab Province.

The Indian football team arrived in Pakistan on June 10 on their football series between the two countries for a three-match series, which is the first time in the past 59 years that an Indian football team has visited Pakistan.

Officials from the Pakistan Football Federation disclosed that after India’s tour, Pakistani football team will make a return tour later this year as both countries have decided to make exchange tours for the promotion of the game.

**China, Germany, Belarus split golds at Shooting World Cup**

**ROMA, 17 June —** All the three leading finalists held their position until the end to take the three golds at stake on the second day of Shooting World Cup in Milan Thursday while the three quota places for Beijing Olympics 2008 were shared by South Korea, the Czech Republic and Belarus.

The most comfortable win of the day came from Zhang Tian of China, third in the World Cups participatant and the sixth finisher at last week’s World Cup in Munich.

The 24-year-old Chinese won the men’s 10- metre air pistol final round with an unreachable qualification score of 590, six points ahead of the next following finalist Boris Kokorev, 46, from Russia and won his first World Cup gold medal with a total of 689.1 points, a 6.2 points lead to Kokorev.

The bronze medal and the quota place for the next World Cup Games went to Jing Hong, 29, from South Korea. Jin, ranked fifth in Athens 2004 beat Norayr Bakhtiyamyan of Armenia in the final, who shot the same qualification score of 582.

The fight for the gold medal of the women’s 50- metre rifle three positions was supposed to be a “civil war” of Germany when Sonja Pfeilschifter and Barbara Lechner placed first and second after the qualification with a difference of two points. However, it came out a sole dance of Pfeilschifter as Lechner, the winner in Munich a week ago failed with an 8.5 for the seventh shot and a 7.7 for the ninth and only managed to take back the second position with the last shot. Pfeilschifter, who extended her overall lead to 5.2 points during the final took the gold medal with a total score of 688.0.

**Taipei crush Guam 11-0 at AFC Women’s Championship**

**HANOI, 17 June —** Lin Yu-hui netted five times on Thursday to help Taibei dominate the whole match and trounced European champions Greece 3-0 in a Confederations Cup Group B match here on Thursday.

Brazil’s Kaka, left, is challenged by Georgios Karagounis of Greece during the Confederations Cup Group B soccer match between Brazil and Greece in Leipzig, Germany on 16 June, 2005. Brazil won the match 3-0. — INTERNET

India’s goalkeeper Oswaldo Sanchez, 2nd left, watches as his teammate Carlos Salcido goes airborne to clear the ball during the Confederations Cup Group B soccer match between Japan and Mexico in Hanover, Germany on 16 June, 2005. Mexico won the match 2-1. — INTERNET

Mexico’s goalkeeper Oswaldo Sanchez, 2nd left, watches as his teammate Carlos Salcido goes airborne to clear the ball during the Confederations Cup Group B soccer match between Japan and Mexico in Hanover, Germany on 16 June, 2005. Mexico won the match 2-1. — INTERNET
Beijing sees drastic surge in foreign trade

BEIJING, 17 June — The foreign trade volume via the Beijing Customs surged by 36 per cent year on year to reach 47.33 billion US dollars in the first five months of this year, Customs statistics released on Thursday show.

Figures from the Beijing Customs show that the trade volume included 35.86 billion US dollars in import, up 28.2 per cent year on year, and 11.47 billion US dollars in export, 67.5 per cent more than that for the same period last year.

Beijing’s export-oriented businesses did a trade volume of 13.726 billion US dollars, a year on year rise of 37 per cent.

The figure included 8.011 billion US dollars in import, up 23.9 per cent, and 5.715 billion US dollars in export, up 61 per cent over last year’s same period.

High-tech export tallied 2.868 billion US dollars in the January-May period, up 70.5 per cent year on year and accounted for 50.2 per cent of Beijing’s total export for the same period. Beijing imported 48.000 US dollars of produced-in-Taiwan fruits, 1.3 times the import of Taiwan fruits by Beijing last year.

Beijing-based foreign-funded businesses did 61.4 per cent of the Beijing’s import and 67.3 per cent of Beijing’s export for the five-month period.

State-owned firms did 2.507 billion US dollars in import, up 13.8 per cent year on year, and 1.479 billion US dollars in export, up 68.25 per cent over last year’s same period.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Friday, 17 June, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Magway Division, rain or thunder showers have been isolated in lower Sagaing Division, scattered in Mandalay Division, Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with locally heavyfall in Mon State and isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Ye (4.69) inches, Kawthoung (3.39) inches, Gwa (3.11) inches, Munden and Mangaladon (3.03) inches each and Katha (2.64) inches.

Maximum temperature on 16-6-2005 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 17-6-2005 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 17-6-2005 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 16-6-2005 was (2.6) hours approx. Rainfalls on 17-6-2005 were (3.03) inches at Yangon Airport, (1.65) inches at Kaba-Aye and (0.71) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (19.21) inches at Yangon Airport, (16.57) inches at Kaba-Aye and (13.90) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (15) mph from Southwest at (14:25) hours MST on 16-6-2005.

Bay inference: Monsoon is generally strong in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 18-6-2005: Rain will be isolated in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in Shan and Kayah States and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine and Mon States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Temporary squalls with rough seas are likely off and along Deltaic and Mon-Taninthy Coasts and surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Strong monsoon.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-6-2005: Some rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-6-2005: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

Weather outlook for third weekend of June, 2005: During the coming weekend, rain will be widespread in Yangon Division and isolated in Mandalay Division.

Saturday, 18 June

Tune in today:
8.30 am Brief news
8.35 am Music: -Good times
8.40 am Perspectives
8.45 am Music: In your eyes
9.55 am National news/Slogan
9.05 am Music: Lay all your love in me
9.10 am International news
9.15 am Music: -Show me the meaning of being lonely
1.30 pm News/Slogan
1.40 pm Request -You’re not alone
5.15 pm Music
6.00 pm Radio China
6.15 pm Musical programme
6.30 pm News/Slogan
7.00 pm Weather report
7.30 pm Radio Asia
7.35 pm Musical programme
8.00 pm News/Slogan
8.15 pm Weather report
8.35 pm Radio China
8.45 pm Musical programme
9.00 pm News/Slogan
9.15 pm Weather report
9.30 pm Radio Asia
9.45 pm News/Slogan
10.00 pm PEL

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 18 June, 2005

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Main building of Government Technological College (Kengtung) —MNA

(from page 1)

Afterwards, they viewed round the library, lab rooms, e-library, language lab, computer room and students at practical works.

The ceremony to mark the opening of the college was held at the meeting hall of the main building. Principal Dr Zaw Naing reported on academic and management matters.

The MEC chairman in his speech said that it was a sign of auspicious progress not only for the region but also for the State as Kengtung, the city of the regions on the eastern bank of Thanlwin River in Shan State (East) that possess characteristics of a modern city, has been facili-

tated with higher education infrastructures such as arts and science degree college, computer college and technological college with respective main buildings.

It is heartening for local people of Kengtung Region that in the past, local youths had to go to Yangon University or Mandalay University to pursue higher education but now youths can attend classes in their region. The number of human resources in the region is on the increase, so it can grasp opportunities for its development on self-reliance.

For the emergence of a modern and developed nation, it is imperative for the nation to nurture and produce a complete set of intellectuals and technocrats such as scientists, engineers, architects and computer scientists. Likewise, for development of a region, basic infrastructures for local youths in the region to pursue higher education are required.

(See page 8)

Officials and local people are to cooperate in carrying out regional development

YANGON, 17 June
—Member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than of the Ministry of Defence, accompanied by Commander Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung and party, arrived at Kyangin Cement Plant of Myanma Ceramics Industries under the Ministry of Industry-1 yesterday morning.

They viewed round production process of the plant, running of kilns and control room. Plant Manager U Zaw Win conducted them round the plant.

Kyangin Cement Plant is being run by three shifts of employees round the clock. Efforts are being made for meeting the target of 363,800 cement tons in 2005-2006 fiscal year.

In Myanaung, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than met with departmental officials. Chairman of Township PDC U Kyaw Thein reported on matters related to the township.

After attending to the needs, Lt-Gen Khin Maung Than delivered an address, saying that the Government is implementing the border area development project, the 24-region development project and five rural development tasks for equitable development of the regions throughout the country. Prevalence of law and order, booming of economy and development of human resources are main factors to make progress in the country. Thus, officials and local people are to cooperate with one another in carrying out regional development in accord with the plans laid down by the State. Fruitful results of agriculture and livestock breeding tasks that are basic necessities of the nation will reflect development of the State economy as well as the increase of per capita income.

He stressed the need to exceed 3.6 million acres of monsoon paddy and 1.6 million acres of summer paddy in Ayeyawady Division in 2005-06 financial year.

(See page 10)

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Amount (inches)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ye</td>
<td>4.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kawthong</td>
<td>3.39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gwa</td>
<td>3.11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mudon and Mingaladon</td>
<td>3.03 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katha</td>
<td>2.64</td>
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</tbody>
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INSIDE

Without any fear, Myanmar women took part in the year 1300 Uprising for the perpetuation of the race and religion, although the colonialists tried to crush the mass demonstrations with mounted police.

(Page 7) THIDA SOE (INSTITUTE OF ECONOMICS)