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

YANGON, 18 June — Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, member of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Aung Htwe of the Ministry of Defence, the ministers, senior military officers, the Deputy Minister for Health, officials of the State Peace and Development Council Office and departmental officials arrived at Kengtung in Shan State (East) by Tatmadaw flight on 13 June.

The Secretary-1 and party were welcomed by Chairman of Shan State Peace and Development Council (East) Commander of Triangle Region Command Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, senior military officers, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, departmental officials and members of social organizations.

Chairman of National Health Committee Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein, the commander and party went to 200-bed General Hospital in Kengtung where they were welcomed by Shan State Additional Head of Health Department Dr Sai Naw Ngin, Medical Superintendent Dr Myint Soe, specialists, matrons and sisters and officials.

Medical Superintendent Dr Myint Soe reported on history of the hospital, the strength of service personnel, measures taken on health, cash donations for the fund, field trips by the specialists, treatment for cleft lip and palate patients, continuous teaching of medical science, construction of the main ward, operation theatre and labour room, and requirements.

(See page 16)

Secretary-1 Li-Gen Thein Sein gives instructions to departmental personnel, social organization members and local people at City Hall in Kengtung.

Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.
Strive in unison for national development

In an effort to build a modern and developed nation, it is imperative for the nation to fully nurture and produce intellectuals and technocrats such as scientists, engineers, architects, and computer scientists. Likewise, to bring about development of a region, it is necessary to create basic infrastructures for local youths in the region to pursue higher education. In the past, one had to go to Yangon or Mandalay to pursue higher education. Nowadays, offspring of national races in different regions have been able to grasp the opportunity to pursue higher education in their own regions. As a result, local national races now do not need to worry about their offspring in their pursuit of education.

The opening of the Government Technological College (Kengtung) in Kengtung, Shan State (East), was held at the college on 16 June 2005 with an address by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein in his address said that it is of special importance to equip local people with education and knowledge to constantly safeguard development infrastructures created by the government; that only when national race youths are endowed with higher education will they be able to put their regions on the right track of development. The government is making all-out efforts for Shan State, which lagged behind in development due to various reasons, to keep pace with other states and divisions in terms of development.

At present, there emerged a number of major cities in border regions of Shan State, for projects for development of border areas and national races are being implemented with added momentum. Meanwhile, special projects for development of Lashio, Kengtung, Taunggyi and Panglong regions are being launched. This has led to the emergence of transport, education, health, social and economic infrastructures in all parts of Shan State. Therefore, we would like to call upon the entire national people to strive together with infrastructures created by the government.

Tubewell put into service in Thingangyun

YANGON, 18 June — USDA CEC member in charge of Yangon Division Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin together with YCDC Secretary U Myint Aung and officials attended the ceremony to put 8-inch diameter tubewell into service on Kyakkasau Pagoda Road in Hsa/Ka Ward of Thingangyun Township this morning.

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Joint-Secretary of Yangon Division USDA U Tha Win formally opened the tubewell.

The mayor sprinkled scented water on it and inspected pumping out of water. The tubewell was sunk over 260 feet deep in Thingangyun Township USDA. It can pump out over 5,000 gallons of water per hour to be supplied to over 3,000 households of seven wards in Thingangyun Township.

FM attends 2nd South Summit for G-77 & China, Special Foreign Ministers Meeting of NAM

YANGON, 18 June — The Myanmar delegation led by Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, after attending the Second South Summit for G-77 and China and the Special Foreign Ministers Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Doha, the State of Qatar, from 12 to 16 June, arrived back here today.

The Minister and party were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Oo, Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

While in Doha, the minister attended the Ministerial Meeting of G-77 and China and delivered an address.

The Meeting approved the Doha Declaration and Doha Plan of Action, and decided to submit them to the Second South Summit for consideration.

The minister also attended the Special Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, and delivered a speech. The meeting adopted a Declaration of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Furthermore, the minister delivered an address at the Second South Summit of the G-77 and China. After much deliberation, the summit adopted the Doha Declaration and Doha Plan of Action which were submitted by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the G-77 and China.

Stakes driven to build annex of Bio-technology Unit at Pathein University

YANGON, 18 June — Maj-Gen Thura Myint Aung, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council and Commander of South-West Command, attended the ceremony to drive stakes for construction of the annex of Bio-technology Development Unit of Botany Department of Pathein University in Pathein yesterday morning.

The commander drove the stakes.

In the afternoon, the commander delivered an address at the departmental coordination meeting at the office of Division PDC. Departmental officials reported progress in implementing their respective projects. The commander attended to their needs and the meeting came to an end. — MNA

Educational Project and School Website Competition explained

Chairman of Myanmar Computer Industrialists Association U Aung Zaw Myint delivers a speech. — MNA

Minister Col Thein Nyunt inspects repaving of Shwemawdaw Pagoda Road in Bago.

YANGON, 18 June — Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt together with Director-General U Myo Myint Development Affairs Department and officials inspected beautifying tasks and repaving Shwemawdaw Pagoda Road with Asphalt Concrete in Bago this morning.

On arrival at the Asphalt Concrete Mixing Factory, the officials conducted the minister round the factory. The minister then urged them to take measures on worksite safety, to meet the set standards and minimize wastage.

On inspection of repaving Shwemawdaw Pagoda Road, the minister urged the officials to timely complete the tasks. The minister and party then inspected the tasks for proper flow of drainage in Shunsawpu ward and also looked into the nurseries in Shunsawpu and Leikpyakan wards for the greening tasks. — MNA

PBANRDA Minister on inspection tour of Bago

On inspection of repaving Shwemawdaw Pagoda Road in Bago this morning, Director-General U Bo Win of Education Planning and Training Department made an opening speech. Officials clarified the purpose of the competition, the School Net Project and the School Website competition.

Asia Pacific ICT Award winner Mg Htoo Myint Naung recounted the experience of the competition and executive member of MCIA U Aung Than Nyant explained rules and regulations of the competition.

The officials replied to the queries raised by those present.— MNA
Tourists from India to get visas on arrival in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 17 June — Indonesia will now allow visa-on-arrival facility for tourists from 14 countries, including India, in an effort to boost foreign arrivals.

The 14 countries are China, India, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Austria, Ireland, Kuwait, Belgium, Portugal, Qatar, Russia, Egypt and Greece,” Minister of Culture and Tourism Jero Wajik said after attending a coordination meeting on politics, security and legal affairs here on Tuesday.

Besides providing a visa-on-arrival facility, the government has also changed the three-day staying permit to a six-day staying permit.

The granting of the facility to the Netherlands and Sweden meanwhile is now still being processed, he was quoted as saying by Indonesia news agency Antara.

He further said that Indonesia expected the number of foreign tourists to the country to reach six million this year. Tourist arrivals have been declining in recent years following the various terror incidents in the country and the SARS threat.

The Minister, however, said the permit for 30 days of stay in Indonesia will not be extended.

Singapore to mandate usage of ultra low sulphur diesel

SINGAPORE, 17 June — The National Environment Agency (NEA) of Singapore will mandate the usage of ultra low sulphur diesel (ULSD) from 1 December this year, according to Channel Newsasia report on Thursday.

ULSD contains merely 0.005 per cent sulphur content, which is just one-tenth of the amount contained in the diesel currently sold in the city state.

The NEA expected that the change will help further improve the country’s air quality and contribute to the scheduled adoption of the Euro IV emission standards for diesel vehicles in October 2006.

A visitor, center, asks questions at an exhibition of fire fighting equipment in Beijing on 18 June, 2005. The three day exhibition is showcasing some of the latest fire fighting and fire prevention technology. — Internet

HK shopping mall to display dinosaur fossils

HONG KONG, 17 June — Dinosaur fossils from the Chinese mainland to be put on display at Cityplaza of Hong Kong were unpacked on Thursday.

The eight fossils on display represent dinosaurs that roamed the earth during various periods up to 100 million years ago, and none have previously been featured in Hong Kong.

The exhibits are on loan from the Beijing Museum of Natural History and the Sichuan Zigong Dinosaur Museum. They include Lufengosaurus huenei, the most ancient species of dinosaur found in China and the first with which Chinese researchers began their studies.

Mamenchisaurus jingyanensis that runs to 26 metres in length, the longest, largest and most intact Sauropoda ever found in Asia, will also be featured in the exhibition.

Three other dinosaur fossils, Mamenchisaurus constructus, Lotosaurus adontus and Psittacosaurus simensis, as well as 10 animal and plant fossils will all help recreate the fullest flowering of the Jurassic Age at Cityplaza. Senior Portfolio Manager of Swire Properties Management Ltd Elizabeth Kok said that to enhance Hong Kong public’s understanding of ancient dinosaur relics, a series of related activities will be staged.

“We believe this will in turn remind us of the long history of China’s development and strengthen collaboration in cultural and technological research between the mainland and Hong Kong,” she added.

Indonesia plans polio vaccination drive for children

JAKARTA, 17 June — The Indonesian Government is planning a national polio immunization drive that will start in August following the recent polio outbreaks in several provinces, a senior official has said.

“Following a recommendation from the World Health Organization (WHO), we will carry out the programme in several stages,” Minister of Health Siti Fadillah Supari was quoted on Thursday by The Jakarta Post newspaper as saying.

In the drive, children under the age of five will receive free complete vaccinations at local community health centres (puskesmas) and integrated health service posts (posyandu).

The drive will be a follow-up of the current polio vaccination drive in Banten, Jakarta and West Java provinces.

“Programme will require more funding than the one carried out in the three provinces,” the Health Minister said, adding that WHO and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) were ready to help.

1,717 US soldiers killed in Iraq

WASHINGTON, 17 June—As of Friday, 17 June, 2005, at least 1,717 members of the US military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

At least 1,321 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department. The figures include five military civilians.

The AP count is the same as the Defense Department’s tally, last updated at 10 am EDT on Friday.

The British military has reported 89 deaths; Italy, 25; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 17; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, 12; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Kazakhstan and Latvia one death each.

Since 1 May, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,578 US military members have died, according to AP’s count. That includes at least 1,212 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.—Internet
APR sees development, competition in ICT sector in recent years

SINGAPORE, 18 June — The Asia-Pacific Region has seen rapid development and increasing competition in the information communication technology (ICT) sector in recent years, industry regulators and policy makers from the region agreed here on Friday.

According to a joint statement by the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) and the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) on Friday, broadband subscribers from the region constitute about 42.9 percent of total subscribers globally at the end of 2003. “The Asia-Pacific Region is also home to about 560 million mobile services subscribers, making up about 41 percent of total world mobile subscribers in 2003,” said the statement. It added that significant developments in the telecommunications sector has led to competition and massive reduction in telephone connection charges and tariffs in countries of the region.

The statement came after the conclusion of the Fifth Asia Pacific Forum on Telecommunications and ICT Policy and Regulation, which was held in Singapore on 15 to 17 June. A total of 135 participants representing governments, international organizations and the private sector shared views and experiences on licensing, financing schemes, new technologies, as well as strategies for leveraging ICT to create digital dividends and enhancing rural broadband access, at the event. — MNA/Xinhua

US concerned about spread of guerilla tactics from Iraq to North Africa

WASHINGTON, 17 June — North Africans are beginning to show up among guerrillas in Iraq, raising US concerns that they will carry home tactics and techniques learned from that conflict, two senior US officials said.

Major General Thomas Csrnko, head of US special operations command in Europe, said analysts were still trying to determine where the North Africans came from and who they were affiliated with.

“The potential does exist for individuals or groups to go to Iraq and either conduct operations or receive some of the training,” he said.

“And one of our fears is that if they do get that training and some of the techniques that are going on Iraq, they could bring that back to Africa,” he said.

Csrnko and US Ambassador to Senegal Richard Allan Roth spoke to reporters by telephone from Senegal where US and African forces are taking part in a three-week exercise with nine African countries from across the Sahara region. — Internet

US rejects timetable to withdraw from Iraq

WASHINGTON, 17 June — The White House on Thursday rejected a timetable for the US troops to withdraw out of Iraq and said this would be “absolutely the wrong message”.

“It would be absolutely the wrong message to send to set some sort of artificial timetable. That would be the wrong message to send to the terrorists. It would be the wrong message to send to the Iraqi people. And it would be the wrong message to send to our troops,” White House spokesman Scott McClellan said at a briefing.

“The President wants to see the troops come home. But the best way to honour the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform is to complete the mission,” the spokesman said.

Nonetheless, McClellan acknowledged that the American people are concerned about the situation in Iraq.

Recent polls have shown a majority of Americans want to see at least a partial withdrawal of US forces in Iraq and the support for the Iraq efforts is declining in the United States. — MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam calls for more investment in flower industry

HANOI, 17 June — Vietnam has called for stronger foreign investment in tourism and flower industries in its central highlands province of Lam Dong, home to many landscapes and flowers.

The vice-chairman of the People’s Committee of Lam Dong, Truong Van Thu, made the statement at a Press briefing on Thursday while introducing Vietnam’s first flower festival slated for December 10-18 in the province’s Da Lat City.

He said the upcoming festival includes a flower exhibition featuring typical flowers of Vietnam and some other countries in Asia and Europe, some trade fairs showcasing local specialities, handicrafts and tour packages, and a wide range of cultural activities including music shows and a movie week.

Da Lat, home to nearly 26,800 hectares of flowers, has annually earned 33.4 million US dollars in recent years from exporting some 540 millions of flowers, mainly to Japan, Taiwan Province and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Malaysia, New Zealand, and Singapore. — MNA/Xinhua

WB, ADB ready to support Thailand’s mega-projects

BANGKOK, 17 June — The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have showed interest in giving loan support for Thailand’s mega-projects since they held the schemes are worth investment, local media reported Thursday.

Pichit Akarathit, President of MFC Asset Management Plc, an adviser on investment projects, was quoted by the Thai News Agency as saying that many financial institutions and fund managers had been keen on financing the large-scale infrastructure projects.

Included are the World Bank, ADB, International Finance Company, and foreign funds, he said, adding that the projects are expected to get off the ground in the fourth quarter of this year.

He believed the presentation would give investors proper understanding of the projects which could attract foreign investment in a large amount. — MNA/Xinhua

IRAQIS RUSH FROM CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL SHOP TO DUMP BAGS OF LIME ON THE ROAD, AS THEY TRY TO STOP SPREADING FIRE FROM A BURNING OIL TRUCK AFTER IT WAS STRUCK BY A SUICIDE CAR BOMB ATTACKER IN BAGHDAD, ON 17 JUNE , 2005. — INTERNET

HP opens first regional integrity server R&D centre in S’pore

SINGAPORE, 17 June — Hewlett-Packard has set up a research and development (R&D) centre for integrity server in Singapore, the first of its kind in the Asia-Pacific Region, Channel NewsAsia reported on Thursday.

Seeking after low-cost technologies in mechanical and electrical engineering for entry-class servers, the centre will develop next-generation Intel Itanium servers. “It extends the range of our current product line. The centre here will do hardware R&D,” Paul Chan, Senior Vice-President and Managing Director of Hewlett-Packard Asia Pacific, was quoted as saying.

Having splashed 12 million US dollars on the centre, the world-leading computer manufacturer expects to offer products to the global market by the end of next year.

The company believes that the 13-staff centre’s output may upgrade customers’ productivity and market shares with faster services and new revenue sources created. — MNA/Xinhua

Invited guests pose with enthusiasts wearing Star Wars characters for souvenir photos prior to the Japan premiere of the movie ‘Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith’ in Tokyo on 18 June , 2005. — INTERNET
British company plans to develop coal mine in Bangladesh

Dhaka, 17 June — The Asia Energy will soon submit a comprehensive plan to the government of Bangladesh for developing the Phulbari coal mine, in the country’s northern region, that could produce millions of coal a year.

Under the plan, the Britain-based company will invest about 1.4 billion US dollars to develop and extract coal from the country’s largest coal mine that has a total reserve of about 522 million tons of coal, the United News of Bangladesh reported on Thursday.

The company, which was engaged in carrying out a feasibility study on Phulbari mine, completed its test drilling operations on the 11-square-kilometre area on Thursday.

Chief Executive Officer of Asia Energy, Gary Lye was quoted as saying that Bangladesh would earn up to 250 million US dollars per year from the mine as royalty and revenue for a total period of 25 to 30 years.

Lye said under an agreement, the government will take three months to approve the development plan of his company. If the government approves the plan, the Asia Energy is hopeful to start its physical works by early 2006, he said, adding it will take one year and a half to develop the mine for going into production.

If every thing goes as per schedule, the production of coal from Phulbari coal mine will start in 2008, he added.

At full production, about 15 million tons of coal will be produced per year from the mine.

Executive Chairman of the official Board of Investment (BoI) Mahmudul Rahman appreciated the investment plan.

He said the Phulbari project would bring a great momentum in the economic life in the industrially backward northern region and create employment for thousands of people.

The production of coal from Phulbari mine will reduce the dependence of the country on its natural gas resources for electricity generation and other energy requirements, he added.

N-E China province sees fast growth of organic food industry

Harbin, 17 June — The acreage of organic food in northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, a major grain producer of China, has so far reached 2.32 million hectares, the latest statistics show.

This is 9.48 times the figure for 1999, according to statistics released from the on-going 16th China Harbin Fair for Trade and Economic Cooperation, held in the provincial capital Harbin.

The province produces 839 varieties of organic food, including dairy products, drinks, and native products.

The output of organic food reached 11.1 million tons by the end of last year, 10.5 times the figure for 1999. The output value of organic food totalled 32.7 billion yuan (3.95 billion US dollars) by the end of last year, nine times that for 1999.

Heilongjiang Province will expand its acreage of organic food to 3.33 million hectares by the year 2010.

The province has invested 275 million yuan (33.25 million US dollars) to support the organic food industry since 2000.

Nepali Govt enforces Travel Agency Regulations

Kathmandu, 17 June — The Nepali Government has approved and enforced a new Travel and Trekking Agency Regulations-2005, a government official said on Thursday.

The new regulations has dissolved the existing provision whereby travel or trekking agencies had to present four persons including the tour office and trekking officer and sign a bond for the concerned agency to register a company, said the official at Tourism Industry Division of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation.

The travel agency applying for a licence will have to deposit bank guarantee of at least 300,000 Nepali rupees (4,286 US dollars) as security bond, while the trekking agency will have to deposit at least 200,000 rupees (2,857 dollars), he said.

Renewal of the licence will cost 10,000 rupees (143 dollars) and the licence not renewed for six months after it is expired will be nullified automatically, he said.

Meanwhile, the country is also working to formulate a regulations regarding rafting, one of the characteristic tourism items in Nepal.

Tourism is one of the major foreign currency earners for Nepal, which boasts of unique landscapes and cultures, and earns about 170 million US dollars for the Himalayan kingdom every year.

In recent years, however, the country’s tourist industry suffered a downturn due to the anti-government insurgency.

“FAW” could drop net profit by half in first half year

Beijing, 17 June — FAW Car Co, China’s largest automaker, said its net profit could drop by over 50 per cent in the first half of this year due to rising costs, sluggish sales and falling car prices.

Local newspaper Beijing Daily reported on Thursday, quoting a notice of the company released on Wednesday, said the company’s net profit stood at 322.48 million yuan (39 million US dollars) in the first six months of 2004.

However, the notice did not elaborate on the company’s performance in the first half of this year.

The Changchun-based FAW Car Co. in northeast China’s Jilin Province, makes Red Flag sedans and Mazda 6 models under a technical license from Mazda Motor Corp.

Car sales in China reported a downward trend starting in May 2004 after the government tightened credit for car buying in a bid to control the spending and investment in overheating sectors, such as steel, property, and autos.

Although China’s car prices rose slightly in May, the sedan prices continue to fall by 7.93 per cent compared with May in 2004, the report said.

Chinese customers, nevertheless, have showed restraint in buying cars despite the falling prices. The rising fuel prices also pose a great concern, which induces them to turn to economy models instead of big size and luxurious ones.

Susilo denounces political sanctions from foreign arms suppliers

Jakarta, 17 June — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono asserted Wednesday his government would never buy weapons from countries which impose so many requirements and threaten with political sanctions.

“It is certainly not our choice to buy weapons only to face embargoes or other political sanctions,” the President said during a visit to the Surabaya-based shipbuilding PT PAL.

The US Government remains to impose military embargo on Indonesia for alleged Human Rights abuses by Indonesian officers in East Timor in 1999.

The US Government also banned Indonesia from deploying Hawk jet fighters during the anti-rebellion offensive in Aceh Province on a mutual agreement that the Britain-made aircraft would not be used against civilians.

The purchase of military equipment from foreign countries should not be followed by various requirements that eventually harm Indonesia, Susilo was quoted by the Antara news agency as saying.

Susilo also said the Indonesia during the Megawati Soekarnoputri's leadership turned to Russia in procuring military aircraft and so far has bought four Sukhoi jet fighters and two military helicopters.

A US soldier, member of Delta Company 1-184 Infantry, searches a car at a checkpoint during a raid south of Baghdad on 16 June, 2005.

INTERNET
Foreign funds in actual use in catering industry drops 36%

BEIJING, 17 June — Foreign funds China actually used in its catering industry totalled 950.5 million US dollars in the first five months this year, a year-on-year drop of 36 per cent, the Beijing-based Economic Information Daily said on Thursday, quoting a report released by the Ministry of Commerce.

During the period, 314 foreign-funded catering enterprises were set up, a decrease of 6.55 per cent compared with the same period last year, although the foreign funds under contractual use amounted to 346 million US dollars, up 22.62 per cent.

Meanwhile, the report also said the industry achieved 334.63 billion yuan (about 40 billion dollars) in retail sales in January-May period, a net increase of 50.72 billion yuan (6.13 billion dollars), or up 17.9 per cent, over the corresponding period of 2004.

In May, the volume of retail sales stood at 66.37 billion yuan (some 8.8 billion dollars), a year-on-year increase of 19.5 per cent, or 7 per cent higher than April. But the growth was 27.7 percentage points lower than that in May last year. The report predicted that the industry’s retail sales will hit 40.36 billion yuan (4.88 billion dollars) in the first half of 2005, a rise of 18 per cent over the same period of 2004. — MNA/Xinhua

Overweight policemen in Bangkok to receive weight-loss training

BANGKOK, 17 June — Up to 85 fat traffic policemen in Bangkok will have to undergo weight-loss programme designed by the Metropolitan Police Bureau to better observe their duty, local Press reported on Thursday.

All having waistlines over 40 inches were identified as overweight in check-ups of the capital’s 4,150 police officers in March.

“Being overweight hinders their operations and hurts the image of the traffic police,” newspaper Nation on Thursday quoted Major General Monti Jamroon, deputy Metropolitan Police commissioner as saying.

“Being overweight is also harmful to their health,” said Monti, who is in charge of the city’s traffic.

A local hospital has agreed to operate the weight control programmes for the extra-large policemen free of charge, according to Monti.

In the first stage, all 85 heavyweight policemen will participate in exercise sessions at the hospital at 4:00 pm everyday.

The hospital will also prepare diet dinner for the officers and give them booklets detailing what they should be eating for breakfast and lunch.

Having finished the two-week-long first stage, the authorities will check the officers’ waistlines again.

Those who are losing weight will continue on the same regimen for the remaining two weeks of the programme.

Meanwhile, a more stringent two-week programme is waiting for those who show no signs of getting fit.

The stricter programme will keep officers living in hospital, where they will be required to spend time eating properly and doing yoga, aerobics and other activities designed to shed fat.

A second waistline check is planned after the two weeks and two different programmes for officers who lose weight or not.

The last stage for still fat officers will be comprised of acupuncture treatment, regular exercise and diet regimen.

After completing the one-month observe, participants who do not lose any weight at all will continue on a stringent regimen at the hospital for another month.

“If any officer remains just as fat after the two-month-observe, we will assign that officer to a desk job instead and not have them working on the roads anymore,” said Monti. — MNA/Xinhua

World Bank funds Sri Lanka e-society development initiative

COLOMBO, 17 June — The World Bank has channeled 3 million US dollars to Sri Lanka for its e-society development initiative fund, the official Daily News reported on Thursday.

The fund will provide grants under two schemes called community granting scheme and partnership granting scheme, the paper said.

“Although Sri Lanka has a 90-per-cent literacy rate, there were poor in their IT literacy and latest reports say IT literacy in Sri Lanka is 9.8 per cent,” Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse was quoted as saying.

In Colombo, information technology (IT) literacy is 20 per cent and in other parts of the country it is less than 3 per cent, he added.

Under the community granting scheme, funds will be directly distributed to the community for their information and communications technology (ICT) implementations.

The total funds allocated for the partnership granting scheme is 200 million rupee (around 2 million US dollars). These funds are provided to government, non-governmental organizations and private sector institutes which handle projects in implementing ICT in rural areas, the paper said. — MNA/Xinhua

Senior Chinese official denies building aircraft carrier

BEIJING, 17 June — An official in charge of China’s shipbuilding sector denied here on Thursday the country is building aircraft carrier in Shanghai.

Zhang Guangjun, Vice-Minister of the Commission of Science Technology and Industry for National Defence (CSTIN), made the remarks at a Press conference when asked to confirm a report that China has built aircraft carrier in Shanghai.

Zhang said, “I don’t know from where you got the news. However, I, as a leader in charge of shipping building sector, know nothing about it.”

“I can say it clearly that there’s no such thing at all,” he said.

He told the Press that China adheres to taking the way of peaceful development and pursues independent foreign policy of peace and defensive national defence policy. China has a vast maritime space and its Navy has the responsibility to safeguard the nation’s maritime security, sovereignty and rights.

“As to building aircraft carrier or not, related governmental department will take all factors in consideration,” he said.

China’s shipbuilding industry is a sector building both civilian and military ships. Zhang said China would renew Navy’s arms equipment and use new type of battle ships.

He said China will also improve the level of informationization and precision of long-distance striking. China has been the world’s third biggest shipbuilding nation for the past consecutive years with its output growing by an annual average 26 per cent. — MNA/Xinhua

Chinese FM to attend int’l conference on Iraq

BEIJING, 17 June — Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing will attend the international conference on Iraq held in Brussels on 22 June, a spokesperson for the ministry announced here on Thursday.

Liu Jianchao, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said Li was invited by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Foreign Minister of Luxembourg, the rotating EU presidential country, Jean Asselborn.

Over 80 countries and international organizations have been invited to attend the conference, which is co-hosted by the European Union and the United States, according to earlier reports. — MNA/Xinhua

Greece unveils measures to improve tourism

ATHENS, 17 June — Greek Tourism Minister Dimitris Avramopoulos announced on Thursday a series of measures aimed to improve the country’s tourist product.

Speaking to reporters during a news conference, Avramopoulos said that messages sent by National Tourism Organization’s offices abroad were optimistic and were showing an increase in tourist arrivals in Greece.

He stressed the need for Greek tourism agencies to unite under one umbrella, and announced the creation of a Tourism Chamber of Greece to help towards achieving this goal.

He said that the Institute for Tourism Research and Forecasts would be upgraded to cover all statistics related with tourism. The minister said he would submit to Parliament a draft legislation on tourism and religious tourism.

He reiterated actions taken to combat profiteering during the summer months with widespread inspections currently made around the country.

He also disclosed that the ministry was awaiting the formal recommendation of an expert for the construction of a Formula One race track in Greece. — MNA/Xinhua

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“Although Sri Lanka has a 90-per-cent literacy rate, there were poor in their IT literacy and latest reports say IT literacy in Sri Lanka is 9.8 per cent,” Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse was quoted as saying.

In Colombo, information technology (IT) literacy is 20 per cent and in other parts of the country it is less than 3 per cent, he added.

Under the community granting scheme, funds will be directly distributed to the community for their information and communications technology (ICT) implementations.

The total funds allocated for the partnership granting scheme is 200 million rupee (around 2 million US dollars). These funds are provided to government, non-governmental organizations and private sector institutes which handle projects in implementing ICT in rural areas, the paper said. — MNA/Xinhua

Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 16 June, 2005. The monsoons arrived Wednesday in Bangladesh. INTERNET

Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 19 June, 2005

Member of Chinese team Le Defi climbs on the spinnaker during the first leg on the first day of the match races of the Louis Vuitton Cup 4, counting for the 32nd America’s Cup, in Valencia, on 16 June, 2005. — INTERNET

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I write this article based on the strength of my mother I have witnessed.

She came of age in the time when Myanmar girls were taught lessons at home. As soon as she could read she spent her spare time reading religious books, newspapers and informative publications. When she got married, she was unlike some housewives who devoted their whole lives to household chores in the kitchen, just spending money their husbands had earned. During the war time, she shared work for security of the house and businesses with father, who was not always at home. Whenever father was out, she braved all the challenges, protecting her two children.

After the War, father told us, my brother and me, about his experiences of reconstruction “I wanted to give more time together with my family members but I couldn’t do because I was the breadwinner in our family and I had to spend most of the time doing business. I achieved success in doing my business with good name because of your mum’s support. As a matter of fact, your mum is my congenial companion as well as my comrade”.

Life is full of challenges. Time and again, one has to face difficulties, and sometimes one has to battle against adversities. At such a time, mother shouldered heavier responsibilities for the family and made effective suggestions and gave encouragement to father to overcome all the difficulties he faced. Father once said to me that whenever he faced a failure mother encouraged him saying, “Well, nothing is worse than death. I know, now you feel exhausted both mentally and physically, but failure in this case should not stop your trying again. There is a lot of time to make better preparations and to try many times. So, there’s no need to lose heart”. He added, “The way she consoled me in her soft voice encouraged me right spirit. Supposing, at such a time if she asked me what we should do about the failure, then I would be totally depressed. If I kept on doing my work desperately without proper preparations anxiously to achieve success, I could make mistakes”.

I noticed something which displayed bold and decisive attitude of my mother. At that time, my father’s workshop was outside the town. Near the workshop were many large trees on which vultures roosted at night. Later, houses were built near these trees. One day, some people frightened the vultures away from their habitat. One of the vultures was caught in the barbed wire stretching over the roof of the workshop. There is a superstition of Myanmar people that if a vulture rests on the roof of a house, misfortune may come to the family members of that house resulting in the business of the house going to rack and ruin. One of the mechanics from the workshop said to my father, “Oh, sir, it was a bad omen. You should offer soon to members of the Sangha in case it might bring bad luck to you”. My father tried very hard to do well in his business. So, the mechanic’s words made my father a bit alarmed. “Oh dear! We’ll be in trouble, Ma Yin”, father said to mother. At that moment, the vulture escaped from the barbed wire. Wearing a smile on her face, mother said to father, “Don’t be superstitious about that”. Turning to the mechanic, she said, “Well, Mr Mechanic, you’re going home, aren’t you?” and opened the door. The mechanic looked askance at my mother and father and got out of the compound of our house. Being dissatisfied with mother’s words, father said, “It is serious. Why are you making fun of it?”. Mother said to father that no one was as kind to him as she was. Indeed the mechanic who frightened father was a drunkard, not a good man. Mother said that she noticed the mechanic’s mocking look when father was frightened about the bad omen. If she also showed worry about the incidence, the mechanic would mock their fears behind their back.

With a firm tone, mother said the family took refuge in the Three Gems and paid homage to the Buddha and recited Suttas regularly to ward off evil and harm. She assured father that they would not face any dangers. They offered soon to Buddha and members of the Sangha occasionally. She said, “If we offer soon to members of the Sangha tomorrow, the mechanic would think that we’re frightened by his words. So, we won’t do it”. Father seemed to agree to mother’s words. Next, he entered the house calmly. Father was right as he regarded mother as his comrade.

Father said to my brother and me that mother advised him that he should not earn money dishonestly. The improper earnings would benefit family members but he alone would suffer the evil consequences for the misdeeds. Then, his next existences would be in the four nether worlds. “Your mother said so like a preacher. In fact, your mother is also a true friend to me,” he said.

He said mother’s advice was a bit outdated, but we would realize her invaluable words in the long run. Father said, “Unless your mother is clever and good at guiding you, I don’t think you’ll become ones who are good at your studies and are praised and respected by others”.

The people have various types of attitudes and views. There are many housewives who have to do businesses in addition to their household chores. Such women might not be satisfied with my article. I wish these women to firmly say, “I’m not one of the women who deem household chores to be my world and devote myself to kitchen work”.

And there are a lot of female breadwinners. I would like to remind such women that they may be educated persons or entrepreneurs, and they win respects of men. So, they should exert greater efforts. In the jatakas and throughout the nation’s history are many heroines who defended and safeguarded the motherland bravely like men. There have emerged many women in the successive periods of Myanmar who are asked for advice and suggestions in serious cases by men. Brilliant and sharp women can play a crucial role in the historic events of the nation in any eras.

In Myanmar society there is a saying “It is woman that destroys the country” referring to bad women. Women who are sharp but anxious to be popular misusing their abilities and qualifications should take that point into consideration. Women and men are equally responsible for nation-building tasks and preservation of culture. However, such Myanmar women should not place too much reliance on their strong qualities lest they may be put on record in the list of the women who destroy the motherland.

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Sunday, 19 June, 2005
Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein meets with health personnel at 200-bed General Hospital in Kengtung. — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein comforts patients at Women’s Ward at Kengtung General Hospital (200-bed). — MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein cordially converses with trainees of Nurses Training School in Kengtung. — MNA

A variety of democracy systems are being applied in the world. It is impossible at all for Myanmar to copy a democracy system of western nations as there have been differences in culture, traditions, customs and way of life between Myanmar and those countries.

**Direct copy of Western...**

(from page 16)

Township on 14 June morning.

In the evening, the Secretary-1 and party enjoyed traditional dances of cultural troupes of Shan State (East) at Pyi Nyein Aye Hall of Triangle Region Command Headquarters in Kengtung. On 15 June morning, the Secretary-1 met with officers, other ranks and families of Kengtung Station at the hall. Also present on the occasion were Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing, Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint of the Ministry of Defence, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Wai Lin and senior military officers.

Lt-Gen Thein Sein instructed them to uphold Our Three Main National Causes, build strong, efficient and modern Tatmadaw and discharge respective duties conscientiously by joining hands with local people in implementing the seven-point Road Map for emergence of a discipline-flourishing democratic nation. Later, he cordially greeted the officers, other ranks and families.

At 11 am, they arrived at Kengtung Degree College where Minister for Education U Than Aung, Principal U Chit Swe and faculty members. After greeting them, the Secretary-1 gave instructions, saying that the development of human resource plays an important role in building a modern and developed nation. As the Government has created the opportunities to enable the youth in the entire nation including Shan State to easily pursue basic and higher education and science and technologies, faculty members are to bring out their pupils to become intellectuals and intelligentsia on whom the State can rely and those to have capabilities to participate in shaping a modern and developed nation.

Next, the Secretary-1 inspected construction of the two-storey degree college. Minister U Than Aung and Shan State Superintending Engineer U Thaung Htay conducted him round the site. In the afternoon, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein met with departmental officials, social organization members and local people at the town hall in Kengtung. Also present were Lt-Gen Aung Htwe, Commanders Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing and Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing, the ministers, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the Deputy Minister for Health and officials.

Commander Brig-Gen Min Aung Hlaing reported on the location and population of Shan State (East), rainfall, land utilization, cultivation of monsoon and summer paddy, local food sufficiency, growing of maize, groundnut sesame, sunflower, pigeon pea, cotton and sugarcane, reclamation of highland farmland, extended cultivation of rubber, production of meat and fish, progress of education, health, rural development and social tasks.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo explained functions and duties of the ministry. Next, he briefed them on the increase of crops cultivation and per-acre yield in the Shan State, assistance of agricultural technologies and fertilizers being provided by the Ministry to local farmers for extended cultivation of rubber, coffee, tea and other crops, and participation of local people for development of the regional agriculture sector.

Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt submitted reports on roads and bridges projects in border areas and implementation of health, education, agriculture and livestock breeding, energy, hydel power and information projects for development of the remote areas. Minister U Thaung presented reports on tasks of the Ministry of Science and Technology for development of human resources in the entire nation, and endeavours of the State to become outstanding youths in Kengtung region.

Minister U Than Aung explained the education promotion programmes of the Government being implemented education matters, opening of e-Education centres and nurturing of human resources in Shan State (East), success in school enrolment.

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programme and contribution of local authorities, wellwishers and social organizations to the enrollment of school-going children.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan reported on dissemination of knowledge about various subjects to enhancement of school-going organizations to the enrollment of local authorities, programmes and public cooperation in opening self-reliant village libraries. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Mya Oo also presented a report on discharging duties and providing of health care by the ministry for the emergence of strong and healthy human resources and for the longevity of citizens.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein said the Tatmadaw Government is striving day in, day out to build up a modern developed State, and at the same time, it is trying to shape a discipline-flourishing democratic nation after the seven-point Road Map has been laid down. In doing so, he said, stability of the State, community peace and rule of law are indispensable. Otherwise, the State cannot achieve progress.

In this region especially in the townships of Kengtung, Monghkat, Mongyan and Mongyang armed insurgencies emerged over 10 years ago. And as a result, there were many tragedies such as massacres and destruction of houses, villages, bridges and schools. Such tragedies will still be remembered by local people, he said.

That was why the government after assuming State’s responsibilities in 1988 endeavoured for ensuring the peace and stability and rule of law. So, 17 national armed groups returned to the legal fold, and many regions including this one have become peaceful and stable.

With peace and stability of the State, the government was able to implement the projects for construction of bridges, roads and airports and river-water pumping stations. To develop the national economy, the State has adopted and is implementing long- and short-term economic projects, and now has turned the last year of the third five-year short-term economic plan. Therefore, the Secretary-1 said, the percentage of economic progress is on the increase year after year. Per capita income has increased to K 160,000, and measures are being taken for the increase of up to K 200,000 by the end of this financial year. As the State economy is based on agriculture, people are urged to strive for the boosting of agricultural products.

The region is to try to ensure the self-sufficiency of rice and more cultivation of coffee, tea and rubber. The Secretary-1 added that as the region has vacant lands and bare mountains, it needs to grow other crops such as orange, lychee, mango and water melon. And surplus crops can be exported to neighbouring countries through border trade. People are urged to make a greater effort to raise their living standards.

Lt-Gen Thein Sein continued to say that for the development of the State, it needs not only intellectuals and intelligentsia, human resources, but also strong and able workers. That is why the State has opened universities, computer and technological colleges, 200-bed hospitals, nursing training schools and health care centres in the 24 development regions. He said by grabbing the opportunities created by the State, national citizens are to try to become intellectuals and intelligentsia.

As regards the process of transition to democracy, the government has already announced the seven-point Road Map. To be able to draw the State constitution on the basis of basic principles and detailed basic principles, the National Convention, the first step of the Road Map, is being held. It has already announced that the State constitution is to be approved in accordance with the wishes of the people.

A variety of democracy systems are being applied in the world. It is impossible at all for Myanmar to copy a democracy system of western nations as there have been differences in culture, traditions, customs and way of life between Myanmar and those countries. Myanmar will shape a democratic system with fully institutionalized discipline to be in conformity with its culture, traditions and way of life.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 underscored the need for the national people to live in the Union sharing weal and woe on the basis of Union Spirit, to strive together with the Tatmadaw in stamping out the dangers of destructive elements at home and abroad and not to believe the instigation of those saboteurs.

After the ceremony, the Secretary-1 greeted those present on the occasion.
Commander, Minister attend opening of bridges, street in Kayan Township

YANGON, 18 June — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe accompanied by USDA CEC member Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and Vice-Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa attended the opening ceremony of Kayan Creek Bridge (Anyasyo), Kayan Creek Bridge (Daw Nu) and Painkan Bridge and Daw Nu street, and inspected progress of agriculture and development tasks.

On behalf of donor Daw Yi Yi Nwe and local people, U Mya Aye explained the purpose of donating the bridges and street. Next, the donors handed over the documents related to the street and the bridges to Director U Kyaw Taing Aung of Division Development Affairs Committee. In attendance at the opening ceremony of Kayan Creek Bridge, Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, the chairman of township PDC and Donor Mr Aung Htet Sivasri formally opened the bridge.

The commander unveiled the stone inscription and sprinkled scented water on it. Afterwards, the commander and party arrived at Kainggong Monastery, paid homage to the presiding Sayadaw Agga Maha Gandharavacaka Pandita U Sobhita and offered the provisions to the Sayadaw. The commander and party proceeded to the Kayan Home for the Aged and cordially greeted the aged.

On arrival at the project site for greening of 30-mile Radius of Yangon City, Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe heard reports on the progress of the greening tasks by the officials. The commander and party then inspected the project site of Kayan Creek bridge. Commander Maj-Gen Myint Swe and the minister met with departmental personnel and townswomen at the office of Yangon Townstreet PDC and the commander made a speech. U Myo Nyunt, Chairman of the management committee for the Home for the aged accepted the cash totalling K 14.2 million for the Kayan Home for the aged donated by the wellwishers.

Head of Yangon Division Health Department Dr Hla Myint accepted K 8.5 million donated for Kayan Townstreet Hospital.

Wellwishers donated K 175.5 million for development of Kayan Townstreet. Later, the commander met with faculty members of Yangon East University.— MNA

Mass walk race, competitions held to hail World Olympic Day

YANGON, 18 June — Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint participated in the mass walk race activities organized by Myanmar Sports and Health Foundation hailing the World Olympic Day which falls on 23 June, in front of the grand stand at Aung San Stadium this morning. Chairman of the foundation Major Ye Htut (Member of Thirty Comrades) launched the activities.

Hailing the World Olympic Day, Myanmar Wushu Federation organized the Wushu competitions at the hall of Padonna Grounds. Officials presented prizes to winners in the Changgun, Nanquan and Gunshu events. Similarly, Myanmar Rowing Federation held the rowing competitions at Inya Lake. Likewise, Myanmar Table Tennis Federation, Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation and Myanmar Taekwondo Federation held respective competitions. — MNA

Emmeshed in Myanmar Pride

* Enmeshed, in Myanmar Pride Unwavered, through generations
* Not siding with any, entire nationals
* Do what is virtuous
  * Won’t be disturbed by anyone.
  * A new era, of generations down
  * For new strength, they are young, robust
  * The mundane, must work equally
  * Our organization
  * Is unmatured by any before,
  * Destructions not spawned by us
  * They may lay, impediments
  * We shall overcome, with our strides
  * Danger set aside, there’ll be peace
  * Moving left and right, our land will prosper
  * In equity, we shall endeavour
  * We shall stretch out, toward the goal
  * Who will ever be able to outshine us.

Aung Thu (Trs)
Hailing Myanmar Women’s Day - 3 July 2005

Myanmar-China friendly volleyball matches continue

YANGON, 18 June — The third match of Myanmar-China friendly volleyball continued at the National Indoor Stadium-1 (Thuwanna) this afternoon.

Present on the occasion were officials of the Ministry of Sports, officials of the Chinese Embassy to Myanmar, the president of the Central Working Committee for Myanmar Sports federation and members, President of Myanmar Volleyball Federation U Tun Myint and CEC members and fans.

In the third match, Sichuan national volleyball team played against selected volleyball team of Myanmar Volleyball Federation and beat Myanmar with 25-20, 22-25, 30-28 and 25-23. — MNA

All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Kayan Township PDC Chairman U Than Oo and wellwisher Mr Nathakrit Sivasri formally open Kayan Creek Bridge in Kayan.— YANGON COMMAND

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint takes part in mass walk race hailing 2005 World Olympic Day.— SPED

Minister of Kayan Home for the aged — Yangon Command
**Prize-presenting ceremony of Institute of Forestry held**

**YANGON, 18 June** — Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung attended the 1st ceremony of prize-presenting of the Institute of Forestry and hosting dinner to the graduates at the Forest Department yesterday evening, and delivered an address.

Also present on the occasion were directors-general and the managing director of the departments and enterprises, rector, advisers, officials, guests and graduates. After delivering an address, the minister presented the prizes and gifts.

On behalf of graduates, an outstanding student Maung Thein Saung expressed thanks. Next, dinner was hosted to those present. — MNA

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**CEC member attends closing ceremonies of USDA’s courses in Townships, Bago Division**

**YANGON, 18 June** — CEC Member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min attended the closing ceremony of USDA Executives’ Management Multiplier Course and National Culture and Moral Course at the office of DaikU Township USDA yesterday morning. Also present on the occasion were the secretaries of Bago Division USDA, the secretaries and executives of districts and townships and others.

The minister made a speech and presented the prizes to the outstanding trainees and the ceremony ended. At the office of Nyaunglebin Township USDA, the minister also attended the closing ceremony of summer courses and presented the prizes to the outstanding trainees.

Likewise, the CEC member attended the opening ceremony of USDA EMMC at the office of Kyaukda Township and presented the prizes to the outstanding trainees of the previous National Culture and Moral Course. In attending the closing ceremony of USDA EMMC and National Culture and Moral Course at the office of Pyu Township USDA, the minister gave the outstanding trainees the prizes and accepted the membership applications of USDA in Kanyutkwin and the ceremony concluded. On arrival at Nyaungbintha Hospital, the CEC member together with USDA members of Pyu Township took part in the tree planting ceremony. The minister heard reports on building of self-reliant Nyaungbintha-Kanyutkwin rural road, Thitpat Creek bridge and Nyaungbintha Station Hospital and then fulfilled the requirements.

The CEC member Maj-Gen Aung Min was in attendance at the closing ceremony of USDA’s courses at the office of Toungoo Township USDA, made a speech and presented the outstanding trainees the prizes. The ceremonies ended. — MNA

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**Third collective tree-planting ceremony held in Dagon Myothit**

**YANGON, 18 June** — Yangon City Development Committee Chairman Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin together with officials, inspected the third collective tree-planting of YCDC Parks and Playgrounds Department, along Maungmakan Kantha road in Dagon Myothit (South) and Dagon Myothit (North) townships and participated in planting of the trees.

Present on the occasion were YCDC Secretary U Myint Aung, Joint-Secretary U Tin Soe and committee members, Head of Parks and Playgrounds Department U Nyunt Pe and respective departmental heads, staff, officials, members and social organizations. Altogether 7,781 trees were planted on both sides of the roads in the townships. — MNA

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**Measures taken for proper drainage in Yangon City**

**YANGON, 18 June** — Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myint Swe and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected the upgrading of roads and pavements in the city this morning in Kyaukta townships; sanitation and dredging tasks being carried out along Banyadala Road inTamwaw township; and repaving of Banyadala Road in Tamwaw township.

During the inspections, the commander and mayor left necessary instructions. — MNA

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**Internal Revenue Dept holds coord meeting**

**YANGON, 18 June** — The Internal Revenue Department held a coordination meeting at the meeting hall of Shan State Hall in Taunggyi on 14 June, attended by Shan State Peace and Development Council Chairman Eastern Command Commander Maj-Gen Ye Myint, senior officials of division command, members of Shan State PDC, the staff officer of IRD and officials, heads of departments and guests.

Staff Officer of IRD U Than Myint reported on the performance of the department in 2004-2005 financial year. After hearing the report, the minister gave necessary instructions.

Next, the officials presented the prizes to the respective townships and the meeting continued. — MNA

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**A&I Minister receives Australian Ambassador**

**YANGON, 18 June** — Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo received Australian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Robert Joseph Davis at the ministry on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road at 3 pm.

Also present at the call were directors-general and managing directors of the departments and enterprises under the ministry.

They discussed matters related to the technological cooperation in the agricultural sector between the two countries. — MNA

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**Energy Minister receives guests**

**YANGON, 18 June** — Minister for energy Brig-Gen Lwin Tha received General Manager Ms Martine Valeix of Total E & P Myanmar Co Ltd at 11 am and Chairman of PTT Exploration and Production Co Ltd of Thailand at 11.30 am today at the ministry on Pyay Road.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Than Htaw, Director-General of Energy Planning Department U Soe Myint, Deputy Director-General U Thein Lwin, Managing Director of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise U San Lwin and officials. — MNA
Indonesia mulls hike in farm machinery duties

JAKARTA, 17 June—The Indonesian Ministry of Industry has proposed higher tariff on imported agricultural machinery to the range of 20 per cent to 30 per cent to protect domestic industry, a local newspaper reported on Thursday.

The proposed new tariff will apply to numerous products, such as hand tractor, rice mill and water pump, said Bisnis Indonesia.

Indonesia currently imposes duty of up to 15 per cent on agricultural machinery.

Chinese products top the Indonesian farm machinery and equipment market by controlling some 40 per cent of the market share, it said.

“People like to buy Chinese products because they are cheaper and a bit bigger,” said the newspaper.

Indonesia has agreed to increase its import duties from 15 to 30 per cent to protect domestic industry, a local newspaper reported on Thursday.

Qatar calls for greater attention on development

DOHA, 17 June — The Amir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani called on Thursday for greater attention on the role played by development in maintaining peace and security, the Qatar News Agency reported.

“As long as poverty threatens an increasing number of people worldwide, collective security could not be achieved,” Sheikh Hamad said when addressing the closing session of the two-day Group of 77 plus China summit.

“Combating poverty must remain top of the priorities of the developing countries,” he added.

Developing countries are in great need of serious global support to allow them to fulfill necessary social, health and educational programmes, the Amir said.

Sheikh Hamad said economies of developing countries are also in dire need of better international re-

response and greater UN participation in development and of a democratic approach in international deci-
making.

He also called on developed countries to fulfill their pledge of aid to developing countries in develop-
ment, debt relief, trade, commodities, science, tech-

nology and education.

“It is necessary to review the pledges already fulfilled and to set a schedule to implement those that remain to be fulfilled,” said Sheikh Hamad.

The G-77 plus China wrapped up their second summit in Doha Thursday, with participants from over 130 members adopting the Doha Declaration and a plan of action to promote south-south cooperation.

Canada’s trade-oriented sector boosts output in past four years

OTTAWA, 17 June — Canada’s trade-oriented sectors, especially manufacturing, have boosted output and efficiency sharply in the past four years, local Press reported on Thursday.

According to a report by Toronto-Dominion Bank, Canada’s economy has registered an overall cumulative increase in productivity of just 2.5 per cent since 2001, compared with 15.9 per cent for the United States.

But, forced to work smarter to com-
bate the pressures of the soaring Cana-
dian dollar and foreign competition, Canada’s trade-oriented industries have, in fact, boosted their productivity by anywhere from 5 to 12 per cent during that time.

By contrast, productivity among domestically oriented sectors, which are less vulnerable to those forces, has declined by between 0.4 and 10 per cent in the past four years.

Manufacturing, the most trade-orien-
ted sector relative to its size in the overall economy, has seen a cumulative productivity increase of 11 per cent since 2001, second only to wholesaleing.

Since 2003, manufacturers have begun to step up their investments in new machinery and equipment, and have managed to boost real output at an annualized rate of about 2 per cent, the report said.

Annual Arab Eco Forum opens in Beirut

BEIRUT, 17 June — An annual Arab Economic Forum opened here on Thursday to search for economic reforms and development in the region.

Some 800 participants from 20 countries attended the forum, during which participants would discuss investment opportunities in the Arab world and Arab capitals markets.

In an opening speech of the meeting, Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati pitched pitch for radical economic reforms and called on Lebanese politicians to unite to achieve that aim.

Called his economic programme the Beirut Charter, he noted that the programme stressed cleaning up the public sec-
tor and freeing the private sector.

“The economic situation requires radical and comprehensive solu-
tions,” he added.

Mikati stressed that the road to economic re-
forms and development requires national unity tan-

tamount to an economic Taif, a 1989 Arab-brooked peace accord that ended the 1975-90 civil war.

Lebanon is in the midst of Parliamentary elections that end on Sunday, after which the Lebanese President will consult with members of the new 128-member legislature to choose a new Prime Min-

ister.

Turkish Prime Minis-
ter Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who arrived here on Wednesday for an official visit to Lebanon, also at-
tended the forum meeting.

Beijing starts lucrative procurement for Olympic projects

BEIJING, 17 June — Beijing Olympic organizers said on Thursday that they will start a worldwide procurement of equipment and facilities that are needed for the 2008 Games.

“We welcome all qualified enter-
prises from home and abroad involved in hosting a Green Olympics,” said Lin.

Beijing plans to spend a total of 38 billion US dollars on the 2008 Games, including more than 2 billion on ven-
ues.
Italian Environment Ministry announces the Project Coastal Risk Analysis (CRA-TER), said Italian Environment Undersecretary Roberto Tortoli.

“We’re making a particular effort in terms of the environment, focusing on rescuing precious and unique ecosystems such as those along the coastal areas of Southeast Asia,” Tortoli said. As well as protecting wildlife, the project seeks to analyze and map earth movements, and monitor the environment in a bid to provide “natural” early warning systems.

MNA/Xinhua

Russian spacecraft carrying trash from space station dips into ocean

MOSCOW, 17 June— A Russian cargo spaceship carrying trash from the International Space Station (ISS) dipped into designated waters in the Pacific Ocean on Thursday, the Mission Control said.

The remnants of the Progress-M 52 spacecraft with more than one ton of space trash were sunk around 4:00 a.m. Moscow Time (0000 GMT) in a preset area between New Zealand and South America in the Pacific Ocean, a Mission Control official told Itar-Tass.

The disposal of space garbage would not harm the Earth’s ecology as the bulk of the waste was burned up together with the ship when it re-entered the atmosphere and only a few fragments were dumped in the ocean, experts said.

The ISS jettisoned the trash to make room for new supplies that will arrive with the Progress M-53 cargo ship.

The new Progress ship is scheduled to blast off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan Friday morning and dock with the ISS after a two-day journey.

Russia’s space programme has been the space station’s lifeline for more than two years since the suspension of US shuttle flights after the Columbia disaster, the US shuttle which disintegrated as it returned to Earth on February 1, 2003, killing all seven astronauts onboard.

Traffic resumes after gas leakage accident in Shaanxi Province

XI’AN, 17 June— Railway and road traffic resumed normal operation at around 4:40 a.m. on Thursday after being halted by a gas leakage accident for some 11 hours, according to local police sources.

The accident happened in Yangling of northwest China’s Shaanxi Province on Wednesday afternoon, causing no casualties.

A huge truck loaded with natural gas was locked under a viaduct for exceeding height limit at around 5:40 p.m. on Wednesday in Yangling, a stop on Lomhrai Railway, one of China’s east-west rail arteries.

The natural gas stored on the truck leaked through the damaged safety valve on top of the container. Traffic was immediately ordered to have a halt after the accident and some 12,000 local residents were evacuated. Firemen switched off electricity in nearby areas and took emergency measures to avoid explosion. The leaked gas was diluted to the safety level at around 8:40 pm on Wednesday. All the evacuees have returned home.

MNA/Xinhua

Indian farmers pluck flowers from a field at Galudan village on the outskirts of the western Indian city of Ahmadabad on 17 June 2005. —INTERNET

Nigeria to set up six centres for orphans

LAGOS, 17 June — Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo on Thursday directed the Women Affairs Ministry to set up six centres for orphans in Africa’s most populous country, state media reported.

In a speech read on his behalf to commemorate the 2005 World Day for the African Child, Obasanjo said the centres will provide care for the rising number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS and complement the safety net provided by the extended family system.

The President also said his administration had instituted programmes aimed at enhancing the total well being of the Nigerian children, citing the universal basic education as one of such programmes, the News Agency of Nigeria reported.

He noted that the education programme provides orphans as any other Nigerian child with viable options for earning a living and breaking the cycle of imminent poverty.

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua

US suspected tissue sent to England for mad cow confirmation

WASHINGTON, 17 June— Brain tissue samples from a suspected US beef cow began its trip to England on Thursday for final tests to confirm it is the second case of mad cow disease in the United States.

An Agriculture Department official is carrying the samples to the internationally recognized laboratory in Weybridge, England. The laboratory confirmed the so far only US case of mad cow disease in December 2003.

“We have all of the final results, we will share them very publicly,” said Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns in a statement on Thursday. The test results are expected to come out in about a week.

The department announced the suspected case on 10 June. The possible new case is one of the three suspected animals that were previously tested negative for mad cow disease. They were tested again with a different technology at the request of the USDA’s Inspector General who was reviewing the department’s mad cow testing programme. And the results showed one animal tested positive.

Johanns has said the meat of the suspected animal did not enter the food or feed chain.

MNA/Xinhua

100 kilos of cocaine seized in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 17 June— The National Military Police of Argentina on Thursday finished a one-month investigation, seizing 100 kilos of cocaine and capturing two presumed drugpushers.

A military police spokesman said the police made the captures Thursday morning when checking a truck carrying tyres in Zaratete, 120 kilometres northeast of the capital. Three tyres were found full of drugs.

The two occupants of the vehicle had been followed for a month due to their suspected relation with a drug-trafficking ring, said Commander Marcelo Torresi. The two men have been handed over to the federal justice.

“We set up controls and deployed over 100 men in the zone because we had information that the drug was going to be moved,” said the spokesman without identifying the detainees. —MNA/Xinhua

MNA/Xinhua

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MNA/Xinhua
River Plate edges Banfield 3-2 for Libertadores semis berth

BUENOS AIRES, 18 June — Ernesto Farias scored twice and Victor Zapata added another as River Plate edged Banfield 3-2 in the Copa Libertadores in the second half, “said River Plate president Jose Maria Aguilar. “I suffered tremendously while watching this match.”

River, the Copa Libertadores champion in 1986 and 1996, took the lead through Farias’ header in the 29th minute past 50,000 at Monumental Stadium. Under a drizzle, Zapata had flicked a centre pass to Horacio Ameli, whose header was nodded on by Farias.

Farias scored the second River goal in the 32nd when teammate Federico Dominguez banged a shot off one of the Banfield uprights and Farias booted in the rebound.

In the 34th, Banfield pressed the attack and Daniel Bilos headed in a goal from inside the area, the shot slipping past River goalkeeper Franco Costanzo to make the score 2-1.

But River restored its two-goal lead before the end of the half when Zapata took a cross from Luis Gonzalez and booted it in a ground-searing left-foot that went between the legs of Banfield goalkeeper Mariano Barbosa.

After halftime, Banfield continued to attack, and Antonio Barijho took a long pass from teammate Martin Andrizzi and converted the final Banfield goal from inside the area. —MNA/Xinhua

Guti prefers English club

MADRID, 18 June — Real Madrid midfielder Guti said on Friday that he would prefer a move to an English club if he leaves the Primera Liga side.

“I am keen to start a new chapter in my life,” Guti said on Friday that he would prefer a move to an English club if he leaves the Primera Liga side.

“I am keen to start a new chapter in my life, and I have always said that if I leave Real I would love to play in England. The Premier League would be ideal,” Guti told sports daily Marca.

The 28-year-old made 18 starts for Real last season but, after the arrival of coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo in December and Daniel Bilos headed in a goal from inside the area, the shot slipping past River goalkeeper Franco Costanzo to make the score 2-1.

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Hong Kong down Maldives 4-0 at AFC Women’s Championship

HANOI, 18 June — Hong Kong slammed Maldives with four goals, including three in the first half, while Thailand beat Indonesia 4-0 at the AFC Women’s Championship on Friday.

Hong Kong had the ball possessing dominance throughout the game, leaving few opportunities for Maldives to run past the field’s centre towards their territory, and no chances for them to break into the box. However, Maldives players, especially the goalkeeper and defenders had stronger fighting spirit and better performance in the second half.

Five minutes into the match, striker Kwong Wing Yan blasted home from close range after latching onto a low pass from right wing by striker Yau Ka Wai. After seconds of hustle outside the box, Yau delivered a light shot near the right post in the 15th minute, but Maldives goalie Abdul Azeez Yumna failed to make a clutch at the ball which was slippery due to rainwater.

In the 20th minute, midfielder Wing Kam converted a free kick from far range to give her team a 3-0 lead at half time. Six minutes later, she slammed the ball right to the post from a distance of some 30 metres.

In the first 20 minutes of the second half, all Maldives gathered together in their territory, forming a thick defence which effectively blocked their opponents’ attacks. In the period, the ball made back of Maldives’ net shake twice, but the goals were not recognized due to offside and hand-touching stances.

Yau, standing near the left post, netted her second goal at the game in the 66th minute after receiving a long pass from right wing by striker Wong Shuk Fan, sealing off a victory of 4-0 for Hong Kong.

“I am very happy to see the result. Maldives defenders are good. It’s difficult for us to organize attacks,” Hong Kong’s coach, Chi Chi Kong, said in the post-match Press briefing.

He said Hong Kong would make greater efforts in the approaching quarterfinal against host Vietnam who “play very, very well”.

Hong Kong, Group C runners-up with 3 points, will clash with Vietnam, Group A winner, on Sunday, while Taibee is to play Group D runners-up Singapore. Four participants at two other quarterfinals slated for Monday are Myanmar, Uzbekistan, India and Thailand.

The qualifying round of the AFC (Asian Football Confederation) Women’s Championship, taking in Vietnam’s Hanoi capital from 12-20 June, features 12 teams. The top 4 teams and 4 automatic finalists, namely China, Japan, South Korea and North Korea, will enter the final round slated for May 2006 in Japan. —MNA/Xinhua

Chelsea, AC Milan set for inaugural World Series of Football

WASHINGTON, 18 June — English Premier champions Chelsea and UEFA Champions League runner-up AC Milan will meet twice on US soil as part of the inaugural World Series of Football, organizers announced in Chicago on Thursday.

The European clubs will also face Major League Soccer clubs DC United and Chicago Fire in the four-match event to be staged 24-31 July here and in East Rutherford, New Jersey; Foxboro, Massachusetts and Landover, Maryland.

Chelsea will meet AC Milan on 24 July at Foxboro and 31 July in the New Jersey Meadowlands. AC Milan will face the Chicago Fire on their home turf here at Soldier Field on 27 July. DC United will host Chelsea on 28 July at FedEx Field, home of American football’s Washington Redskins.

“American soccer fans around the country will eagerly look forward to this opportunity for MLS clubs to match up against two of the world’s superpowers,” MLS commissioner Don Garber said. —MNA/Xinhua

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Round mass of rock
5 Lure
8 Plaintive poem
9 Snobshill (5-2)
10 Come to an end
12 Principalities equipment
13 Bay tree
14 Arister
17 Soft wet earth
18 Woodworker
20 Ordinary
21 Complete sum
23 Command
24 Bung or cork

DOWN
1 Cry of a sheep
2 Yorkshire river
3 Light hours
4 Scamp
5 Suspension of
6 Temporal
7 Deposit (anag.)
11 Puritan soldier
12 Backache
15 Distinguished
16 Putting surfaces
18 Seat
19 Monarch
22 Gentle knock

AC Milan players are seen here May 2005. English Premier champions Chelsea and UEFA Champions League runner-up AC Milan will meet twice on US soil as part of the inaugural World Series of Football announced in Chicago.—INTERNET
G-8 urged to tackle medical brain-drain in poor nations

LONDON, 18 June — Medical groups in Britain have called on the government to tackle the ‘poaching’ of overseas healthcare workers from developing countries at the upcoming Group of Eight (G-8) summit to be held in Scotland early next month.

The British Medical Association and the Royal College of Nursing have written to Prime Minister Tony Blair demanding urgent action to tackle the issue of medical staff migrating from developing nations, which they say is killing millions and compounding poverty, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) reported on Friday.

They urged leaders of the world’s wealthiest nations to address the exodus of healthcare workers from the developing world if they are to tackle global poverty. Sub-Saharan African countries are some of the worst hit by the “brain-drain”, they said.

The call echoed the World Health Organization estimate that one million more healthcare workers are needed in African countries to meet basic health goals, such as reducing childhood and maternal mortality.

Last month, British doctors warned in the Lancet medical journal that the country was crippling sub-Saharan Africa’s healthcare system by poaching its staff. James Johnson, chairman of the British Medical Association, referred to the consequences of poaching on the developing world as “absolutely catastrophic”, adding “there are large areas of Africa where there are no health workers of any kind.”

The letter praises the British Government for taking a “strong moral lead” on global poverty, but warns that efforts to deal with HIV and other health crises in the developing world are being hampered by the staff shortages.

MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Saturday, 18 June, 2005

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, rain has been widespread in Kachin, Chin and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Bago, Ayeyawady and Tanintharyi Divisions and scattered in remaining States and Divisions with isolated heavyfalls in Kachin, Rakhae and Mon States. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Putao (4.61) inches, Ann (4.01) inches, Mawlamyine (3.27) inches, Dawei (2.32) inches and Co Co Island (2.04) inches.

Maximum temperature on 17-6-2005 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 18-6-2005 was 69°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 18-6-2005 was 96%. Total sunshine hours on 17-6-2005 was nil. Rainfalls on 18-6-2005 were (0.16) inch at Yangon Airport, (0.24) inch at Kaba-Aye and (0.08) inch at central Yangon. Total rainfalls since 1-1-2005 were (19.37) inches at Yangon Airport, (16.81) inches at Kaba-Aye and (13.98) inches at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (12) mph from West at (11.05) hours MST on 17-6-2005.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 19-6-2005: Rain will be isolated in lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Divisions, scattered in upper Sagaing Division, Kachin, Chin, Shan, Kayah and Kayin States and widespread in the remaining States and Divisions with likelihood of isolated heavyfalls in Rakhae and Mon States, Yangon and Tanintharyi Divisions. Degree of certainty is 80%.

State of the sea: Temporary squalls with rough seas are likely off and along Deltaic Gulf of Mottama and Mon-Tanintharyi 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 19-6-2005: Some rain. Degree of certainty is 100%.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 19-6-2005: Isolated rain. Degree of certainty is 80%.

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MNA/Xinhua
The Secretary-1 then fulfilled the requirements. He said he and the ministers and party came to the region to attend the opening of government technical college for upgrading human resource of local people and inauguration of Tarkaw-Kengtung section of Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek Union Highway. He said there was no peace and stability in the region due to the armed conflicts and local people lost properties and lives.

The region lagged behind in development and the people suffered huge losses in education, health, economy and social values. All the people in the region realized that these evil effects occurred because of lack of peace and stability, he said. He said armed insurgency has been brought to an end and the region have become stable and peaceful under the Tatmadaw government. With the prevalence of peace and stability, the government made efforts for regional development, ensuring better transport and raising of living standard of the people. Nowadays, national races in the region enjoy fruits of stability and peace. He spoke of the need to maintain already-achieved better conditions for posterity through the Union spirit and national solidarity spirit. He also spoke of the need to ward off outside interference.

He said the government has laid down border region development project, special region development project and rural development project for equitable development in hilly, plain, border and inner regions. It is obviously seen that equal progress has been made in the whole country, he added. Lashio, Kengtung, Taunggyi and Panglong in Shan State have been designated as special regions, he said. The 200-bed General Hospital in Kengtung is the result of the development project. Kengtung technological college will be open soon, he said. Specialists are providing public health care service at the modern equipment-installed hospital. He urged health staff to give treatment to the people and to inculcate health knowledge and practices in them. He urged them to provide health care services for longevity of the people with the combination of kindness and goodwill.

The Secretary-1 and party inspected wards, intensive care unit, operation theatre, blood bank, X-ray unit and paediatric ward. They were conducted round by Deputy Minister Dr Mya Oo and officials. The Secretary-1 and party met trainees and course instructors of nursing training school in Kengtung and inspected regional development in Kengtung and its environs. The Secretary-1 attended the ceremony to put Tarkaw-Kengtung section of Meiktila-Taunggyi-Kengtung-Tachilek Union Highway into service in Kengtung and Tarkaw of Mongpyin

Noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded
(18-6-2005)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Inches</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Putao</td>
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<td>Mawlamyine</td>
<td>3.27</td>
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<td>Dawei</td>
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<td>Coco Island</td>
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